

GRACE NOTES—December 2022

MOTHER CATHY'S CORNER



Photo Credit: little plant via unsplash.com

O come

During Advent at Grace we usually sing the ancient hymn, *O come, o come, Emmanuel*. Recently we have sung two verses of this eight-verse hymn (#56 in our hymnal) on each of the four Advent Sundays. The text of the verses comes from what are called the “Great O antiphons” (because in Latin they all begin with “O”), which date back to about the sixth century. They are refrains used before and after the *Song of Mary*, known as the *Magnificat* which is part of Evening Prayer. The original is seven antiphons, used for the seven days prior to Christmas Eve. The antiphons each reflect one of the messianic titles of Christ:

17 December: *O Sapientia* (O Wisdom)

18 December: *O Adonai* (O Lord)

19 December: *O Radix Jesse* (O Root of Jesse)

20 December: *O Clavis David* (O Key of David)

21 December: *O Oriens* (O Dayspring)

22 December: *O Rex Gentium* (O King of the Nations)

23 December: *O Emmanuel* (O With Us is God)

The initial letters, after the “O”, also form a Latin acrostic *Ero cras*, meaning “Tomorrow I will be [there]”.

Our tradition at Grace is to begin the Christmas Eve celebration with a hymn which, in English, begins exactly the same way: *O come, all ye faithful*, summoning all the faithful, angel choirs, shepherds in the fields, and all Christians in heaven and on earth, to worship God come among us as a human infant.

Please come, and join us in welcoming the incarnation of God-with-us this Christmas!

A handwritten signature in cursive that reads "Cathy" followed by a plus sign.



CALLING ALL BAKERS.....BALDWINSVILLE COMMUNITY BAND HOLIDAY CONCERT



Bakers are needed to make 6 dozen or more festive holiday cookies for sale at the Baldwinsville Community Band Holiday Concert on December 14th at 7:00 P.M. Cookies, fudge or candies to be delivered to the church by December 11th. Sign up in the Welcome Area. For more information visit our website at GraceEpiscopal-Baldwinsville.org. Contact Jeannie LaMere with questions at 315.635.6398 or jeannielamere@gmail.com

Invite your friends and family as we host the Baldwinsville Community Band Holiday Concert on December 14th at 7pm. The music is sure to delight as we celebrate the season with a sing-a-long. Refreshments provided and we'll sell the cookie trays to patrons.

GIVE

Thank you to those who continue to support the church by bringing or mailing in your offerings. For those who would like to make a gift without having to write a check and use the postal system, please consider giving online by clicking the green button on the home page of our website that says, "Give." It is an easy and safe way to give to Grace. You may also contribute in this way for flowers, or to special efforts like Thanksgiving Meals.

When we give out of our abundance, there is always more than enough.

SYRACUSE HOME WORSHIP



Worship at Syracuse Home
for Evening Prayer is scheduled
at 3 pm December 11.

Readers, singers, musicians, and people to help residents with the bulletin are all needed. Please speak to Mother Cathy if interested in helping out.

Current COVID-19 Precautions

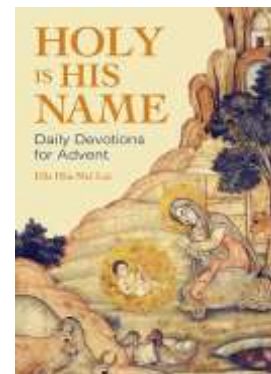
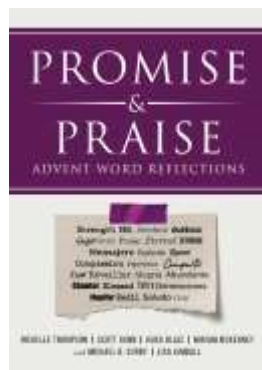
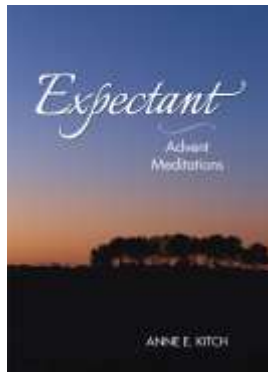
We will increase or decrease the ventilation, recommend or require masks and physical distancing, and other measures depending on the current status of Onondaga County.

During the school day, we require universal masking in common areas Monday through Friday during school hours until arrival at your destination. This requirement could change, and any changes will be reported in This Week at Grace and on the website.



Photo by Jan Kopřiva on Unsplash.com

ADVENT & CHRISTMAS RESOURCES



There are Advent Devotionals available in the Welcome Area. If you'd like to make a contribution, they are approximately \$5.50 each.

The following resources are credited to the *Messenger* of the Episcopal Diocese of CNY.

- ⇒ *Journeying the Way of Love* – [Advent curriculum](#), [calendar](#), [bulletin inserts](#) (also in Spanish and French)
- ⇒ *Sermons That Work for Advent and Christmas* (coming Nov. 5; also in Spanish)
- ⇒ *Preparing to Become Beloved Community* – Advent curriculum (also in Spanish and French)
- ⇒ *AdventWord* - Gather prayers via a global, online Advent calendar.
- ⇒ *Prophetic Voices* podcast (coming Oct. 16)
- ⇒ Resources from Episcopal Migration Ministries, Episcopal Relief & Development, and more

NOVEMBER VESTRY MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

- Treasurer Dave Ferrari reported that the 2023 budget is in process, pending the result of our pledges. We are still awaiting the final report of our required audit.
- We are seeking to fill openings for 2 vestry members and 1 Jr Warden.
- Property work group recently washed the front windows of the church (Welcome Area).
- A portable mic has been purchased and is now available for use from the pews (such as for announcements, lector readings).
- Christmas Eve services: 4 PM with choir, organ and flute, and 7 PM with piano and hymns. Christmas Day 9 AM with hymns.
- Presiding Bishop Michael Curry will visit the diocese December 1-2, 2023. Next Diocesan Convention will be October 21, 2023.

FROM STEWARDSHIP AND VESTRY

If you have not already done so, please return your pledge card to the parish office as soon as possible!

Thank you.



John 15:4-5

Remain in me, as I also remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me.

I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing.

YOU'RE INVITED!

BALDWINSVILLE COMMUNITY BAND HOLIDAY CONCERT

& COOKIE SALE

December 14th, 7 o'clock at Grace Church

Home Baked Cookie Trays For Sale

COLOR & WONDER



Left: A rare occurrence of the birth of twin elephants at the Burnet Park Zoo Syracuse, New York



Bottom right: Diocesan Convention online.



HAVE YOU SEEN US ON YOUTUBE OR FACEBOOK?

Grace Church is now livestreaming to Facebook for our 11:00 AM Sunday services. We have several very regular attendees, and others find it convenient during travel or bad weather. Can't find our Facebook Page or YouTube Channel? Click the social media icons in the header and footer on our website GraceEpiscopalBaldwinsville.org.



COMMUNICATION COORDINATOR

OFFICE HOURS

TUES 12:00 PM - 5:00 PM WED 7:30 AM - 3:00 PM THURS 1:00 PM - 4:30 PM

Please contact our parish office
in case there have been changes to Maria's schedule

GRACE CHURCH NEEDS YOU !!!

The vestry is essential in helping Grace Episcopal Church continue its mission of "Being a visible sign of Christ's love, seeking and serving Christ in all persons".

We are in need of 2 Vestry Members and a Jr. Warden. Please, pray on it and consider helping out in this very important role. If you have any questions, PLEASE, reach out to a Vestry Member, the Wardens or Mother Cathy.

Thank you, Allen Wolf, Junior Warden

VESTRY MEMBERS NEEDED

Are you called to lead? The work of the vestry has two faces: leadership and management. As a vestry member, together with the rector and wardens, you will be expected to manage and lead.

Vestry members should be able to make the following commitments:

- Vestry meetings (1x per month, plus occasional additional meetings as needed);
- Committee work (usu. 1x per month);
- Vestry retreat (annual);
- Regular attendance at worship services (rotating services occasionally);
- Congregational events: coffee hours, meals, fundraisers, adult ed. programs, etc.;
- Diocesan meetings, as necessary;
- Annual meeting.
- Exercise confidentiality and practice healthy, honest, open communication patterns in the parish.

Qualifications

- ⇒ Eighteen years of age or older;
- ⇒ Baptized; (wardens must be confirmed)
- ⇒ Active member of the parish who is regular in worship attendance and contribution of time and talent and treasure.
- ⇒ Please prayerfully consider your calling to this important role.



ADVENT FORUM



Tuesdays at 1:00 pm.

Join us December 6, 13 and 20 for The Christmas Stories - a four-part series of video lectures and discussion with the Dr. Tripp Fuller and John Dominic Crossan based on Crossan's book, co-authored with Marcus Borg, *The First Christmas: What the Gospels Really Teach About Jesus' Birth*. Copies are available from the church office for \$11. A Kindle edition is available from Amazon.

CHRISTMAS FLOWERS

Order Poinsettias Now

Visit our website to order Christmas flowers or complete a form located in the Welcome Area. Plants are \$12 each and may be picked up following the Sunday December 25th 9 a.m. service. Please order by noon Wednesday, December 21 to ensure names are included in the Christmas bulletins.



CHRISTMAS SERVICE SCHEDULE



Christmas Eve

Saturday December 24

4:00 PM Candlelight Holy Eucharist with choir, organ & flute

7:00 PM Candlelight Holy Eucharist with hymns and piano



Christmas Day

Sunday December 25

9:00 AM Holy Eucharist Rite 1 with hymns

Feast of the Holy Name

Sunday January 1

8:00 AM Holy Eucharist Rite 1

11:00 AM Holy Eucharist Rite 2 with music



Services are live streamed to Facebook



FROM OUR FRIENDS.....

The following is shared from the **Baldwinsville First United Methodist Church** Newsletter:

The Longest Night - A Service of Remembrance & Hope

*This candle lighting service is extended to all people in the Baldwinsville Community. On **Sunday, December 4 at 2:00 p.m.**, the Hands of Hope Group will once again host a remembrance service in the church Sanctuary.*

If you are grieving the loss of a loved one, the holidays can be a difficult time and we need the space and time to acknowledge our sadness and concern and to know that we are not alone. This is a special time to remember that person and light a candle in their memory. If you would like, come early so you may print your loved one's name on paper and set a framed picture on the altar table before the service begins. Fellowship in the dining room after the service with light refreshments. If you would like to make memorial donations for flowers, candles, cookies, or expenses, please contact Karen Picco (652-2917) or Lisa (635-6442).

The following information is shared from via an email from **St. James Church** via the diocese.....

This January, the Oswego Northern-Onondaga District of the Diocese of Central NY is offering Sacred Ground, a video-based, reading, and dialogue series on race and faith. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. said of racial dialogue:

But the end is reconciliation; the end is redemption; the end is the creation of the be-loved community. It is this type of spirit and this type of love that can transform opposers into friends. The type of love that I stress here is not eros, a sort of esthetic or romantic love; not philia, a sort of reciprocal love between personal friends; but it is agape which is understanding goodwill for all men. It is an overflowing love which seeks nothing in return. It is the love of God working in the lives of men. This is the love that may well be the salvation of our civilization.

The Sacred Ground series is part of the Becoming Beloved Community initiative of The Episcopal Church, a long-term commitment to racial healing, reconciliation, and justice in our personal lives, our ministries, and our society. The program invites participants to walk back through history in order to peel away the layers that brought us to today, and to do so in a personal way, reflecting on family histories and stories, as well as important narratives that shape the collective American story. It holds the vision of beloved community as a guiding star – where all people are honored and protected and nurtured as beloved children of God, where we weep at one another's pain and seek one another's flourishing.

Participation in this program is a commitment of time and energy. Anyone may participate, so invite your friends along for the journey. It is an ambitious process which, like following the turns of a labyrinth, can lead to spiritual discovery. Largely participation will be online. The Very Rev. Shelly Banner and The Rev. Anne Wichelns will be facilitating and will announce more details of how to sign up, when to meet, etc., by mid-December. For more information on the Sacred Ground series, go to: <https://www.episcopalchurch.org/sacred-ground/> on the Diocesan.

Website: This article was taken from the original announcement from the Diocese.

SHACKSBORO GIFT SHOP



[The 2022 holiday shopping season has begun at the Shacksboro Museum Gift Shop at 46 Canton St. in Baldwinsville.](#) The gift shop is open on Friday, Saturday and Sunday afternoons from noon to 4 p.m.

A LEGACY OF GRACE

Upon the closing of Grace Church, Mexico in October of this year, a carved wood altar desk made by a parish member was offered to churches in the district. Grace Baldwinsville received this beautiful item which matches the color of our altar, and coordinates with other historic items. It also provides a festive option for shorter celebrants. Thank you to the district and members of the former Grace Church, Mexico!



DECEMBER HIGHLIGHTS



December 6

1 PM Advent Forum

December 11

3 PM Syracuse Home; Cookies due; Board Games due

December 13

1 PM Advent Forum; 7 PM Parish Life & Parish Work Night

December 14

7 PM Baldwinsville Community Band & Cooke Sale

December 20

1 PM Advent Forum

December 21

Poinsettia orders due; 7 PM Finance

December 24

4 PM Candlelight Service with Organ, Choir & Flute

7 PM Candlelight Service with Hymns & Piano

December 25

9 AM Christmas Service with Organ & Hymns

December 26

Office Closed

December 27

No Holy Eucharist or Forum

December 28

7 PM Vestry

*“For last year’s words belong to last year’s language
and next year’s words await another voice.
And to make an end is to make a beginning.”*

— T.S. Eliot

DECEMBER OUTREACH

Christmas Bureau



The Outreach Ministry is collecting family games for the Baldwinsville Christmas Bureau. These are very popular Christmas gifts for area families. Any games are accepted, but we especially need those that are appropriate for families with older children and adults. Join us in helping the Christmas Bureau spread joy this holiday season! Please bring your donations of games to church by December 11.



Photo Credit: nik korba via unsplash.com



Photo Credit: ezequiel garrido via unsplash.com

FOR THIS MOMENT



Website: GraceEpiscopalBaldwinsville.org
office@graceepiscopalbaldwinsville.org
315 635 3214
110 Oswego Street, Baldwinsville, NY 13027



Tuesday 12:00 P.M. Holy Eucharist Rite 2
Sunday 11:00 A.M. Holy Eucharist Rite 2 with music & livestream
Sunday 8:00 A.M. Holy Eucharist Rite 1

WORSHIP



Grace Episcopal Church
P.O. Box 6, 110 Oswego Street
Baldwinsville, NY 13027 - 0006

