

GRACE NOTES — January 2023

MOTHER CATHY'S CORNER

In many seasons of the liturgical year it is easy to identify a theme, captured in a word or two. For example, Advent can be characterized by words like *preparation* or *waiting*, Christmas as *celebration*, Lent as *penitence*, and most of the season after Pentecost as *Christian Life*.

But what about Epiphany? The word itself means something like *showing forth* or *revealing*, but the question becomes: Showing or revealing what? The answer I learned in Sunday School is that it is the showing forth of Christ to the Gentiles, which makes sense, given that the magi, or wise men were almost certainly not Jews, but probably Zoroastrian priests from Persia. But another way of describing Epiphanytide is that it is a season captured in the word *glory*. During Epiphanytide some of the collects we pray include,

...Lead us, who know you now by faith, to your presence, where we may see your glory face to face

...Grant that your people, illumined by your Word and Sacraments, may shine with the radiance of Christ's glory

...Grant to us that we, beholding by faith the light of his countenance, may be strengthened to bear our cross, and be changed into his likeness from glory to glory

Notice something – WE are to be a part of that glory—the glory that is the center of the cosmos. Some of the other collects of Epiphanytide reflect the truth that we cannot do this ourselves, but only by God's grace:

...Grant that all who are baptized into his Name may keep the covenant they have made, and boldly confess him as Lord and Savior

...Give us grace, O Lord, to answer readily the call of our Savior Jesus Christ and proclaim to all people the Good News of his salvation

...Set us free, O God, from the bondage of our sins, and give us the liberty of that abundant life which you have made known to us in your Son our Savior Jesus Christ

...Mercifully accept our prayers; and because in our weakness we can do nothing good without you, give us the help of your grace, that in keeping your commandments we may please you both in will and deed.

Have you ever thought of yourself as one who shines with God's glory? As one whose vocation is to reflect God to others? What in your life might change when you further embrace your role to be God's light—God's Epiphany—in the world?

Cathy +



BAKING SEASONS BRIGHT.....



A special note of thanks – to all of you that worked so hard to make our cookie sale a huge success at the Baldwinsville Community Band concert. From the bakers, to the decorators, to the altar guild, to the properties crew, to parish life members, to parish members, to our communications coordinator and to Mo. Cathy, everyone pitched in to help out however they could. It was a wonderful event with live holiday music followed with homemade cookies and beverages. I think everyone went home with a warm feeling in their hearts. On top of that, a profit of approximately \$850 was made.

Sincere thanks to all,
Jeannie LaMere



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.

DECEMBER VESTRY MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

- Because a quorum was lacking for the November meeting, voting could not be held. October and November minutes were thus accepted at this meeting, as were the October and November financial reports.
- Dave Ferrari updated us regarding the status of the professional audit.
- The 2023 Grace Church budget was discussed. Motion made by Allen Wolf and seconded by Sue Purdy to accept the 2023 budget as presented, with changes as needed.
- The Clergy Housing Resolution was accepted.
- Laura Moreau reported 28 pledges (totaling \$74,336).
- Some memorial gifts received by Ann Makowiec will be dedicated to Properties.
- Annual Meeting is January 22, 2023 at 9:15 A.M.

EPIPHANY BLESSING FOR THE HOME

Over or on each doorway, with the blessed chalk, write: **20+C+M+B+23**

2023 is for the year and C, M, B are for the 3 Magi – traditionally named Casper, Melchior, and Balthasar, (and also for *Christus Mansionem Benedicat*, “May Christ Bless this House” in Latin).

As or after you write the inscription, either of the following prayers may be used:

Option 1

Leader The Lord be with you.

Response And also with you.

Leader Arise, shine, for your light has come and the Glory of the Lord shall be revealed.

Response And all flesh shall see it together, for the mouth of the Lord has spoken it.

Leader Let us pray.

Visit, O blessed Lord, this home with the gladness of your presence. Bless all who live here with the gift of your love; and grant that they may manifest your love [to each other and] to all whose lives they touch. May they grow in grace and in the knowledge and love of you; guide, comfort, and strengthen them in peace, O Jesus Christ, now and for ever. Amen



Worship at Syracuse Home
for Evening Prayer is scheduled
at 3 pm January 15th

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

ATTENTION PLEASE.....



- ⇒ If you have not already done so, please return your pledge card to the parish office as soon as possible. Thank you!
- ⇒ Grace Church Annual Reports are due via email to the office by January 4, 2023.
- ⇒ Office is CLOSED January 2nd and 16th
- ⇒ You're Invited! Our Annual Meeting is Sunday, January 22, 2023 at 9:15 A.M.
- ⇒ Grace Notes February Submissions are due January 24



This is the day the Lord acted; we will rejoice and celebrate in it! - Psalm 118:24

Sing to the Lord a new song! Sing to the Lord, all the earth! Sing to the Lord! Bless his name! Share the news of his saving work every single day! Declare God's glory among the nations; declare his wondrous works among all people. —Psalm 96:1-3

Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows. —James 1:17

Let God grant what is in your heart and fulfill all your plans. —Psalm 20:4

Because of the Lord's great love we are not consumed, for his compassions never fail. They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness. I say to myself, 'The Lord is my portion; therefore I will wait for him.

-Lamentations 3:22-24

INFORMATION FOR YOU.....



WEATHER POLICY

Our office will be closed when Baldwinsville schools are closed due to weather. Weekend closures will be announced via email, posting on our website, Facebook page, and on local media.



Photo Credit: Bob Wright —
Merry Christmas from Alaska

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. If you are sick or have any symptoms, please stay home.

Photo by Jan Kopřiva on Unsplash.com

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

A ROUND OF APPLAUSE.....



Special Thanks to

...drum roll please....

The Baldwinsville Community Band for providing the community with an evening of holiday music and cheer!

Jeannie LaMere for her leadership in coordinating the event and for overseeing the Grace Church Cookie Sale!

Thank you to all who contributed to our Christmas services, hospitality, bakers, musicians, snow removal, cleaning crew and greening of the church!



OUTREACH WINTER FOOD DRIVE 2023

Baldwinsville Food Pantry



Photo Credit to: ke-vin-IQAnyxH9TnE-unsplash

The Outreach Committee is hosting a winter food drive of non-perishable food items for us to deliver to the Baldwinsville Food Pantry at the end of January.

It seems food donations drop off after Christmas and the pantry has asked us to help fill the gap especially with soups, canned vegetables, pasta and pasta sauces.

We appreciate your help in assisting to decrease food insecurity in Baldwinsville by providing food requested and placing it in the Welcome Area. All non-perishable food items are welcome as this is an ongoing collection and food can be brought in any time of the year. However, we would like to make a delivery to the Food Pantry at the beginning of March. Thank you!

THANK YOU!

The Baldwinsville Community Band sent us a thank you card with the following note:

“December 14, 2022 -

To Mother Cathy and entire parish-

Thank you for opening your doors to us so we could resume rehearsals and eventually concerts- We hope to continue working (and playing) together!

Phil Sterling & the entire band”



Website: GraceEpiscopalBaldwinsville.org
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110 Oswego Street, Baldwinsville, NY 13027



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

WORSHIP



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