

# CLARKE PARISH

Grace Episcopal Church / St. Mary's Memorial Church

## THE EVANGELINE

December 1, 2021



## FROM THE OFFICE

COVID TRACKER  
Clarke County, VA

Nov. 30, 2021  
**RED ALERT** (High)

While we remain in either **RED** (high) or **ORANGE** (substantial), we will continue to require masks at all Clarke Parish services.

If we drop to **YELLOW** (moderate) or **BLUE** (low) for 14 consecutive days, we will lift the mask mandate.

**It MUST be 14 consecutive days though in accordance with CDC guidelines.**

Community Transmission  
**High**  
New Cases - 23  
Positivity - 28.71%  
Deaths - 0  
Eligible Population Fully

### Reflections

#### From the Rector

Dear Friends:

Advent should be a time of prayerful reflection and hoping for the coming of Our Lord. As we read scripture during Lent we read both of the coming of Jesus and the apocalyptic passages of preparation for the second coming.

During this season, I invite you to be countercultural and rather than seeing it as the start of Christmas to see it as a time to stop and ponder the immense gift of the Incarnation. To help you do this here are some resources from the Episcopal Church.

<https://www.episcopalchurch.org/advent-and-christmas-resources/>

Blessings,  
Justin+

#### Coffee with the Clergy:

Please join me on Monday afternoons at Cordial Coffee in Berryville from 2-4 pm (THIS MONTH on December 6th, 13th, and 20th). This time is meant for parishioners and community members alike to come down and share a cup of coffee/tea and some conversation with me. I hope to see you soon!



# UPCOMING SERVICE SCHEDULE

## Evening Taize Service

December 4, 2021

### 5 pm in the McIntosh Chapel at GEC

Celebrant: Rev. Justin Ivatts  
Seminarian: Caroline Mitchell  
Lay Reader: Penny Poe  
Pianist: Wendy Oesterling

## Second Sunday of Advent

December 5, 2021

### 8 am at Grace Episcopal Church

#### Holy Eucharist (Rite I)

Celebrant: Rev. Justin Ivatts  
Seminarian: Caroline Mitchell  
Lay Reader: Wendy Oesterling

### 9:15 am at St. Mary's Memorial Church

#### Holy Eucharist (Rite I)

Celebrant: Rev. Justin Ivatts  
Seminarian/Lay Reader: Caroline Mitchell  
Pianists: Hailey Outland & Helena Goldberg

### 11:15 at Grace Episcopal Church

#### Holy Eucharist (Rite I)

Celebrant: Rev. Justin Ivatts  
Seminarian: Caroline Mitchell  
Lay Reader: Ben Newlon  
Acolytes: Lily Bosworth & Robyn Preston  
Organist: Wendy Oesterling

### [Click HERE - Lectionary Insert for Dec. 5, 2021](#)

Baruch 5:1-9 / Malachi 3:1-4 / Luke 1:68-79 / Philippians 1:3-11 / Luke 3:1-6

*The altar flowers at Grace Church are given to the glory of God  
by Dev Morrison in loving memory of his parents, Norma & Dan Morrison*

## Christmas Poinsettia Flower Order Form



If you wish to donate a Poinsettia to help decorate the church for Christmas,  
please complete this form and return it (with payment)

NO LATER THAN 12/16/2021

GRACE CHURCH / PO Box 678 / Berryville, Virginia 22611  
\$15 per poinsettia

Given by: \_\_\_\_\_

In *memory*, *honor*, or *celebration* of: (please circle your choice)

\_\_\_\_\_

For St. Mary's Church, please contact Dorothy D. @ 304-229-4710

## Virtual Worship

For those of you still wishing to join us virtually instead of attending in-person worship, the 11:15 am service at Grace Church will continue to be live-streamed each week.

Please use the links below to view the service offerings.

These links are permanent and will not change week after week.

Our YouTube page:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCTT0nfgs77DzKrl2qx38Cg>

Our Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/Grace-Episcopal-Church-111667788869782>

## CHURCH NEWS

Always stay up-to-date with events and activities

*Church Calendar - Quick View!*



- December 4** - Evening Taize Service / 5 pm in the McIntosh Chapel
- December 5** - Piedmont Singers "Christmas in Our Hearts" Concert/ 4 pm at Grace Church
- December 7** - St. Mary's Vestry Meeting / 1 pm in the Parish House
- December 8** - NO Wednesday Morning Bible Study
- December 11** - Main Street Chamber Orchestra "The Nutcracker" / 3 pm at Grace Church
- December 11** - Evening Taize Service / 5 pm in the McIntosh Chapel
- December 15** - Wednesday Morning Bible Study / 10:30 am in the Conference Room (Social Time begins at 10:15 am)
- December 18** - Evening Taize Service / 5 pm in the McIntosh Chapel
- December 19** - Only one service of worship will be offered this morning beginning at 10:15 am @ St. Mary's. (NO 8, 9:15 or 11:15 am worship)
- December 19** - NO Sunday School Classes!
- December 19** - Service of Nine Lessons & Carols/ 6 pm at Grace Church
- December 20** - GEC Vestry Meeting / 7 pm in the Conference Room
- December 22** - Wednesday Morning Bible Study / 10:30 am in the Conference Room (Social Time begins at 10:15 am)
- December 24** - Christmas Eve Services / 5 & 11 pm at Grace Church
- December 25** - Christmas Day Service / 9:15 am at St. Mary's
- December 26** - Only one service of worship will be offered this morning beginning at 10:15 am @ Grace Church / Morning Prayer with Caroline
- December 27-31** - OFFICE CLOSED!

## TAIZE in Advent!



During the Season of Advent, Clarke Parish will offer special Saturday evening Taize services for our church family and the community. Everyone is welcome!

**These services will begin at 5 pm in the McIntosh Chapel at GEC every Saturday in Advent - Nov. 27, Dec. 4, Dec. 11, and Dec. 18.**

**What is Taize?** Taize is an ecumenical type of worship that originated in 1940 in the small village of Taize, which lies in the southern part of Burgundy, France, by a monk named Roger Louis Shutz-Marsauche. The practice has spread worldwide since it is non-denominational and seeks to unite all forms of Christianity. A candlelit, contemplative service highlighted by repetitive prayers and music, and periods of silence, Taize allows attendees the opportunity to be in peaceful prayer and unity with God and their own spirituality. "According to the official Taize Community, the repetitive songs allow people to continue to pray the songs in their heads even after the service is over. This keeps prayer going all day long in the followers' minds and hearts."

### HOLIDAY CONCERT

## The Piedmont Singers Present "Christmas in Our Hearts"

**THIS Saturday, Dec. 4 @ 7 pm**  
Grace Church, The Plains  
**THIS Sunday, Dec. 5 @ 4 pm**  
Grace Church, Berryville

The Piedmont Singers, musical outreach of Grace Church, will present "Christmas In Our Hearts: Images of the Christ Child" this Sunday, Dec. 5, at 4:00 pm. The concert is open to the public and free of charge. Donations will be gratefully accepted. Masks are required. We look forward to sharing with you exquisite musical "comfort food" for Christmas.

The poster features the Piedmont Singers logo at the top, which includes the text "a musical outreach surrounded by Grace". Below the logo is a painting of the Nativity scene. To the right of the painting, the text reads "presents Christmas in Our Hearts: Images of the Christ Child". At the bottom, the concert details are listed for both Saturday and Sunday, including the church names and addresses. A note at the very bottom states "Free and open to the public. Donations gratefully accepted. Masks required."/>

**Saturday, Dec. 4, 7:00 pm**  
**Grace Episcopal Church, The Plains**  
6507 Main St., The Plains

**Sunday, Dec. 5, 4:00 pm**  
**Grace Episcopal Church, Berryville**  
110 N. Church St., Berryville

*Free and open to the public.  
Donations gratefully accepted.  
Masks required.*

## Christian Education News



This month, our Christian Education Classes for both youth and adults will operate on an abbreviated schedule. Classes WILL meet on Sunday, December 5th and 12th ONLY. We will take the rest of the month off in observance of the holiday season. We will reconvene classes on Sunday, January 9th!

**Youth (little people)** - On the next two Sundays, Ms. Kim will be back in the classroom to continue working with the children on a special painting project - The Days of Creation. Please meet in the classroom by 10:15 am and be prepared to get creative (and messy).



**Youth (Confirmation)** - On the next two Sundays, Ms. Katie will continue in-person lessons from the Confirm not Conform curriculum. Please meet in the classroom by 10:15 am.

**Youth (Confirmation)** - Sunday, December 12th @ 6 pm - Confirmation students, parents & mentor dinner @ The Herndon's house. Please remember to RSVP.

**Adult (Sundays)** - On the next two Sundays, Caroline Mitchell will lead the class on an exploration of Advent. Adult classes begin at 10:15 in the Parish House at St. Mary's. Classes will reconvene in January with an in-depth study of the Virgin Mary led by Rev. Ivatts and Ned Burks.

**Bible Study (Wednesday)** - The Wednesday Bible Study group will NOT meet next week (12/8) but will have classes on Dec. 15th and 22nd @ 10:30 am to continue their discussion of Heaven and Hell led by Rev. Ivatts. The Wednesday group will then take the remainder of December and all of January off before reconvening weekly lessons.

## CLARKE COUNTY HOLIDAY GIFT PROGRAM

### *Community Outreach*

Please help us spread holiday cheer throughout our community!



Clarke Parish has again partnered with our local Dept. of Social Services agency to help community members in need this holiday season. We have 'adopted' a bunch of people from the 'Angel Tree' who are in need of some extra love and assistance right now.

**We need your help** - In these difficult and uncertain times, the demand for assistance is greater than usual. Let's come together as a parish to lend a hand and help our neighbors!

If you would like to sponsor an individual (11 adults / 8 children) this holiday season, please contact Robin in the church office ASAP at 540.955.1610 OR [amzgrace@verizon.net](mailto:amzgrace@verizon.net). We have requests from children, teens, adults, and the elderly - wherever your heart lies, we can match you with an appreciative recipient. Will you lend a hand? Still facing the challenges of COVID in our lives, the majority of our adult and elderly adoptees would prefer gift cards to local retailers instead of specific items. Walmart, Martins Grocery, the Dollar General Store, and Amazon gift cards seem to be the overwhelming favorites. That's pretty easy, right? The children too like gift cards, but they also have specific 'wish list' items like coloring books, lego sets, jigsaw puzzles, pop-its, arts & craft supplies, etc...

I'd like to encourage our readers (congregants and friends) to please consider supporting this important program. Your help can be as simple as buying gift card(s) and sending them in the office OR simply making a monetary contribution and we'll do the shopping.

With Heartfelt Blessings -  
Robin McFillen,  
Parish Administrator & Director of Christian Education / Youth Activities

**ALL DONATIONS MUST BE RECEIVED IN THE CHURCH OFFICE BY 12/8/21!**

## *The Backpack Program*

## Holiday Food Drive

The Backpack Ministry is in full swing for the 21-22 school year. Clarke Parish is currently packing 36 bags each week that are distributed to two schools in Clarke County. Our volunteers are absolutely awesome as they are always reliable and extremely generous in so many ways.



We are getting geared up for our holiday packing and can use your help. When you are out shopping, consider adding any of the following items to your grocery list and dropping it off in the donation box in the Parish Hall.

- Canned Pasta (spaghettios, ravioli, etc.)
- Canned Chili/Stew
- Vienna Sausage
- Tuna
- Ramen Noodles
- Fruit Cups/Bags

As always, many thanks for your support.

Susan Catlett, Coordinator

## Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols

Sunday, December 19 at 6 pm  
Grace Church, Berryville



Please join us at Grace Church for this special service of Lessons and Carols on Sunday, December 19 at 6 pm. In addition to a morning service (Eucharist) at St. Mary's beginning at 10:15 am, these will be the only services offered by Clarke Parish this day.

The service of Lessons and Carols is based on one first used at Truro Cathedral in 1880 at the instruction of Bishop Edward Benson (later Archbishop of Canterbury). The nine lessons were read by different officers of the Church beginning with a chorister and proceeding in a definite order with the Bishop reading the final lesson. The service was later adapted for use at King's College Chapel, Cambridge University, in 1918 by the Dean, the Very Reverend Eric Milner-White, who also wrote the Bidding Prayer.

The readings trace the history of God's redeeming acts: from humanity's fall from grace, through the expectant watchfulness of the people of Israel, and finally to the birth of the Messiah. The readings reach their dramatic conclusion with the solemn proclamation of the God who became flesh and who dwells with his people.

Together, we will listen, rejoice, and proclaim this great mystery of God's Incarnation that we might worship him in spirit and truth. May each of us know the love, joy, and peace made manifest in the birth of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

PLEASE SUPPORT THE PARISH

## Holiday Fundraiser!

Looking for a last-minute gift? We can help!

These engraved, 30oz RTIC Tumblers are stainless steel, double-wall vacuum insulated, and are suitable for hot or cold

beverages. It will keep your drinks ice-cold longer or your coffee/tea nice and hot! The included splash-proof lid with flip-top closure resists spills and is straw-friendly too.

**\$26.50 each / supplies are limited!**  
(we're down to our last 16 tumblers)

Stop by the office or email Robin at [amzgrace@verizon.net](mailto:amzgrace@verizon.net) to get yours today! ALL proceeds benefit our youth activities and Sunday School program.



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More music for the seasons of Advent & Christmas  
*The Winchester Chapter of the  
American Guild of Organists*

WAGO has prepared a "Virtual Advent & Christmas Lessons & Carols" with lessons, prayers, and music for viewing through January 5. It is a lovely compilation of sound, photos, and videos, including Lesson 8, Luke 2:15-20 (The shepherds go the manger), read by Clarke Parish Rector, the Rev. Justin Ivatts, and our very own Piedmont Singers presenting "Jesus, Jesus, Rest Your Head," both recorded in Grace Church. You may also recognize Michael Forest from Shenandoah Conservatory, a good friend of Clarke Parish, as well as Carol Westervelt and the Rev. Rob Banse, music director and interim Rector of Christ Church, Millwood.

The entire program is beautiful. You can find this special presentation at <http://winchesterago.com/>. I know you will enjoy it!

Wendy O.  
Director of Music, Clarke Parish

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## Online Giving

It's as easy as 1,2,3...

We have partnered with [Tithe.ly](https://www.tithe.ly) - a trusted platform to provide a simple, convenient, and secure way to continue supporting our ministry through online giving from anywhere at any time.

Please consider this option to make a pledge or one-time payment to the church. You can also set up recurring payments, and likewise, you can utilize [Tithe.ly](https://www.tithe.ly) to give to the General Fund, Grace Giving, St. Mary's Giving, the Rector's Discretionary Fund, the Backpack Program, or 'Other' by selecting from the drop-down menu options.

**[Click HERE to Give Online Now](#)**

The [Tithe.ly](https://www.tithe.ly) link is also available by visiting the Parish Website at [www.ClarkeParish.org](http://www.ClarkeParish.org)

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Grace Episcopal Church & St. Mary's Memorial Church | 540.955.1610  
[amzgrace@verizon.net](mailto:amzgrace@verizon.net) | [www.clarkeparish.org](http://www.clarkeparish.org)