

# CLARKE PARISH

Grace Episcopal Church / St. Mary's Memorial Church

## THE EVANGELINE

December 8, 2021



## FROM THE OFFICE

COVID TRACKER  
Clarke County, VA

Dec. 6, 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 - 39  
Positivity - 15.76%  
Deaths - <10  
Eligible Population Fully

### Reflections

#### From the Rector

Dear Friends:

This Sunday, the third in Advent, is known as Gaudete Sunday. Gaudete comes from the Latin for "Rejoice". In Lent, we also have a Gaudete Sunday on the fourth Sunday but that is less well-known these days. Gaudete is a Sunday during a somber, sometimes penitential season when one can pause fasting and celebrate. We light a pink candle on this Sunday, although strictly speaking Grace should be lighting a pale blue candle now it has moved to the Sarum tradition. But both churches are currently Latin in their tradition for the Advent wreath and thus a pink candle will be lit at both churches.

This is a Sunday to pause and rejoice at the coming of the incarnation and of the Christ child!

Gaudete,  
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 11, 2021

### 5 pm in the McIntosh Chapel at GEC

Celebrant: Rev. Justin Ivatts  
Seminararian: Caroline Mitchell  
Lay Reader: Stuart Dunn  
Pianist: Wendy Oesterling

## Third Sunday of Advent

December 12, 2021

### 8 am at Grace Episcopal Church

#### Holy Eucharist (Rite I)

Celebrant: Rev. Justin Ivatts  
Seminararian/Lay Reader: Caroline Mitchell

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

#### Holy Eucharist (Rite I)

Celebrant: Rev. Justin Ivatts  
Seminararian: Caroline Mitchell  
Lay Reader: Gwendolyn Malone  
Pianists: Hailey Outland & Helena Goldberg

### 11:15 at Grace Episcopal Church

#### Holy Eucharist (Rite I)

Celebrant: Rev. Justin Ivatts  
Seminararian: Caroline Mitchell  
Lay Reader: Jim Greene  
Acolytes: Miles Ivatts & Gray Jones  
Organist: Wendy Oesterling  
Usher: Kim Schreckengost (December)

### [Click HERE - Lectionary Insert for Dec. 12, 2021](#)

Zephaniah3:14-20 / Canticle 9 / Philippians 4:4-7 / Luke 3:7-18

*The altar flowers at Grace Church are given to the glory of God  
by Tim Shepherd in loving memory of his mother, Lena F. Shepherd,  
and his brother, Robert H. Shepherd.*

## 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 8** - NO Wednesday Morning Bible Study

**December 11** - CONCERT: 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 / 10 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!

**FREE CONCERT** ■

*The Nutcracker*  
performed by the Main  
Street Chamber  
Orchestra and Blue  
Ridge Studio  
This Saturday,  
Dec. 11th  
3 pm  
Grace Church



## 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."

## Christian Education News



This month, our Christian Education Classes for both youth and adults will operate on an abbreviated schedule.

**Youth (little people)** - Ms. Kim will 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). Classes will reconvene on Sunday, January 9th.

**Youth (Confirmation)** - Ms. Katie will continue in-person lessons from the Confirm not Conform curriculum. Please meet in the classroom by 10:15 am. Classes will reconvene on Sunday, January 9th.

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

**Adult (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 on Sunday, January 9th 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 this 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.

## *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.

## 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 dozen 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.

## A Note from the Choir Loft

The Piedmont Singers presented their inaugural concert as an outreach ministry of Grace Church on Sunday, Dec. 5, to a wonderful audience of appreciative listeners and singers. The choir was comprised of 25 singers representing 17 different churches, including Grace. *Christmas In Our Hearts: Images of the Christ Child* included both new and familiar songs of the season, with the audience joining in singing several carols. The concert closed with *Some Children See Him*, a carol describing how children of all backgrounds see the baby Jesus, "like them, but filled with heavenly grace." The Piedmont Singers offer sincere thanks to all who helped make the concert possible, and we thank God for the privilege of being partners in ministry with the people of Grace Church and Clarke Parish. We look forward to seeing where God leads us together, singing *Soli Deo Gloria*, to the glory of God alone!



### 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



## With Heartfelt Condolences

Our prayers are lifted for long-time parishioner, McHenry "Mac" Lewis Stiff III, who passed peacefully into paradise on Saturday, November 27, 2021, at his home. Mac was 97 years old - a life well-lived. May light perpetual shine upon our friend, Mac.

A Memorial Service will be held at Grace Church on Thursday, December 30 at 11 am. Burial will be private.

Notes of condolence can be sent to the family at PO Box 196, Round Hill, Virginia 20142. Mac is survived by his daughter, Alice, two sons, John & James, and four grandchildren. Our prayers remain with them as they navigate through this difficult time.



## 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](#) 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](#) 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 | [www.clarkeparish.org](http://www.clarkeparish.org)**