

The Weekly Epistle  
The First Sunday of Advent  
November 27, 2011  
GRACE CHURCH IN NEW YORK



Dear Friends,

When you come to church this Sunday you will notice something nice. The scaffolding is beginning to come down. For the past six months the chancel and sanctuary have been undergoing a critical floor-to-ceiling restoration of plaster, stone, and stained glass. Now for the first time since the beginning of last summer we will see the veil begin to lift. In the next few weeks the scaffolding will disappear completely from the chancel (the area where the choir normally sings), and we will be able to view some of the amazing work that has been accomplished. By Christmas, we will have everything back except the sanctuary (the area between the communion rail and the high altar). True, it will take some creative staging to get through Christmas Eve without the sanctuary, but having the pageant go on as always, and the choir back in place for Lessons and Carols will be a delight. I hope you will be with us through the Sundays of Advent to see it unfold - literally. And do plan on participating in the annual Advent offerings for the poor.

A happy Thanksgiving to you all, my friends.

The Rev. J. Donald Waring  
Rector

**Schedule of Services**

9:00 am

Holy Eucharist, Rite II

Sermon: The Rev. Linda Bartholomew

Music: The Parish Choir

*Nursery care for children ages 0-3*

*Sunday School for children ages 3-8 at 9:00 am*

11:00 am

Morning Prayer, Rite I and Sermon

Sermon: The Rev. Linda Bartholomew

Music: The Adult Choir

*Nursery care for children ages 0-3*

*Sunday School for children ages 3-12 during the sermon*

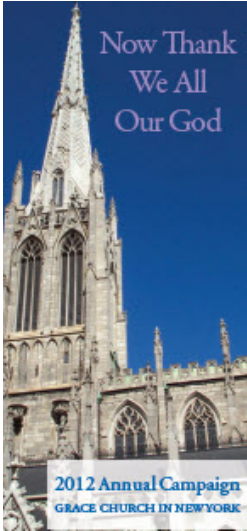
6:00 pm

Holy Eucharist, Rite II in the Chantry

Sermon: The Rev. Mary Catherine Young

Music: Hymns with instrumentalists

## Announcements



And let us also thank everyone so far who has made a financial pledge to the work of the Lord through Grace Church for the year 2012. In thanksgiving for all the blessings of this life, and to empower the ministries of the church for our own and future generations, please make your commitment to a financial gift for the coming year.

*To read the 2012 Annual Campaign brochure and/or make your pledge now, click the image of the brochure at left.*

*If you did not receive your annual pledge package in the mail, or if you have any questions about pledging, please contact Brian Hagan, Director of Development, at 212-254-2000 x119 or [bhagan@gracechurchnyc.org](mailto:bhagan@gracechurchnyc.org).*

### SUNDAY NOVEMBER 27

**THE LITURGICAL SEASON OF ADVENT** begins today - the short span of time that includes the four Sundays before Christmas. The word Advent derives from the Latin *adventus*, meaning arrival, or approach. In our worship, the hymns and Scripture readings take on a mysterious, urgent tone as we anticipate the coming of Christ. One-by-one we light the four candles of the Advent wreath. The Gospel readings shift to Mark. The liturgical color is purple. Today's 11 am service is a celebration of the Holy Eucharist to mark the beginning of a new Church Year.

**SUNDAY FORUM** is on recess today, and will resume next week.

**ADVENT WREATH MAKING** - On the first Sunday of Advent, Nov. 27 after the 9 and 11 am services, all are welcome to make Advent wreaths in Tuttle Hall. Following the 6pm service, wreath making will take place in the Honor Room. Volunteers are always needed and appreciated. If you wish to help, contact Maura Hooper at [mhooper@gracechurchnyc.org](mailto:mhooper@gracechurchnyc.org). (Please note there is a minimum suggested donation of \$15 per wreath.)



**SUNDAY SCHOOL FOR CHILDREN AGES 9-12** takes place on the 4th Sunday of every month (today) during the 11 am service in the McKittrick Room, located across from the current Sunday School classrooms. For more information, please contact Maura Hooper at [mhooper@gracechurchnyc.org](mailto:mhooper@gracechurchnyc.org).

**GUEST PREACHER AT 6 PM** - The Rev. Mary Catherine Young, the Episcopal Chaplain for Downtown Campus Ministry will be our preacher at the 6 pm Eucharist.

**20s30s 4TH SUNDAY FELLOWSHIP** In place of our 4th Sunday dinner following the 6pm service, we will make advent wreaths. Please see the Advent Wreath Making announcement (above) for details.

### COMING SOON

**DEC 1, 2, 3 - THE CHORAL SOCIETY'S CHRISTMAS CONCERTS** A festive program featuring Randall Thompson's "Peaceable Kingdom," works by Gabrieli, Bernstein, Pärt and Billings, and audience carol sing will take place this year at the Church of Saint Mary the Virgin, 145 W 46th St. on Thursday, Dec 1 (8 pm), Friday, Dec 2 (8 pm), and Saturday, Dec 3 (3 pm). Tickets are \$25, available through Nov 30 at [www.thechoralsociety.org](http://www.thechoralsociety.org).

**DEC 2 - 20s30s INTER-PARISH CHRISTMAS PARTY** Join 20s30s from Episcopal churches in Manhattan and Brooklyn for a festive evening of cocktails, hors d'oeuvres, and caroling on Friday Dec 2nd from 7:30-9:30 pm at Church of the Ascension on 11th Street at 5th Ave. Admission to the party is a children's toy or financial contribution towards our Christmas toy drive. RSVP to Maura Hooper at [mhooper@gracechurchnyc.org](mailto:mhooper@gracechurchnyc.org).

**DEC 4 - SUNDAY FORUM 10 AM - CONTEMPORARY CHRISTIANS' SOCIAL**

**RESPONSIBILITY: AN INTRODUCTION** Economist and theologian Susan Lee will address contemporary Christian social responsibility, asking "What can we learn from the intersection of economics, politics, and Christian ethics about Christians' responsibility in a time of high unemployment and high government deficits?" *Today's presentation is part of our fall Sunday Forum series, "The Church and the City," which is looking at how the church manifests itself in the city both physically and metaphorically. Each presentation will include time for questions and answers and takes place in Tuttle Hall with coffee and refreshments.*

**DEC 4, 11, 18 - ANNUAL ADVENT DRIVES** will commence on Sunday Dec 4, with the collection of hats and gloves to be distributed at the Church of the Ascension's Food Pantry. On Sunday, Dec 11, we'll collect travel-sized toiletries and lip balm to be distributed by the Seamen's Church Institute, and on Sunday, Dec 18 ("Undie Sunday"), we'll collect new men's underwear to be distributed by the NYC Rescue Mission. All donated items may be placed in the baskets in the narthex. We thank you in advance for remembering our neighbors in need this season.

**DEC 4 - PARENTS' AFTERNOON OFF** On Sunday Dec 4th, children and youth are invited to join Miss Maura and several adult chaperones to see a 1:40 pm showing of The Muppets at Regal Union Square. Kids may remain at church after 11 am Sunday School and be picked up from Grace at 3:45 pm. The cost per child is \$20 for a pizza lunch and movie ticket. RSVP required by Friday Dec 2nd. Email Maura Hooper at [mhooper@gracechurchnyc.org](mailto:mhooper@gracechurchnyc.org) today!

**DEC 4 - AN ADVENT SERVICE OF LESSONS AND CAROLS** with works by Byrd, Gibbons, Palestrina, Tallis and others. Sung by The Adult Choir at 4 pm in the Church.

**DEC 11 - SUNDAY FORUM 10 AM - OUTREACH EFFORTS IN THE DIOCESE OF NY** with the Rev. William Clay Parnell, Archdeacon for Mission in the Diocese of NY. The Rev. Parnell serves as the Bishop's representative regarding the Diocese's witness to Christian ethics, mission and outreach, but will be working closely on a very practical level with its most hard-pressed communities. He oversees the Social Concerns Committee; the Congregational Life for Mission Commission; the Reparations Committee; the Children's Advocacy Committee and the Anti-Racism Committee.

**DEC 11 - CEREMONY OF CAROLS BY BENJAMIN BRITTEN** will be offered by the Girls' Choir, alumni and Ladies from The Adult and Parish Choirs at 4 pm in the Church.

**DEC 14 - THE ANNUAL COMMUNITY CAROL SING** will be led by the Rector with the Boys' and Girls' Choirs from 12:15-12:45 p.m. in the Church.

**JAN 13-15 ANNUAL PARISH RETREAT** at Holy Cross Monastery. Save the date!

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**DID YOU MISS A SERMON?**

Click below to read or listen to a sermon

<http://gracechurchnyc.org/online-sermons/>