

The Epistle *E-news*

GRACE CHURCH

in New York City



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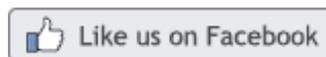
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**12/24 THE
PAGEANT
STREAMS LIVE
AT 4PM!**



Click [HERE](#).

*The Epistle E-
news goes on
recess until the
week leading to*

December 24-25, 2016

The Nativity of Our Lord



Dear Friends,

It is Thursday evening, December 21st as I type these words - the winter solstice. All is calm, all is bright. The choir has just finished rehearsing the magnificent carols and anthems they will offer at the Festival of Nine

Lessons and Carols on Christmas Eve. My sermon is not finished, but it never is on a Thursday. For the past few days I have been trying to pretend that this week is just like any other week, meaning that, among other things, I have to write a sermon by Sunday. Except that this Sunday happens to be Christmas Eve. As you can see in the schedule below, we will have Advent IV in the morning, and then with scarcely enough time to eat lunch, the hour will be upon us for three quite different celebrations of Jesus' birth at 4, 8, and 11 pm. Finally, on Christmas Day at 11 am the choir and clergy will come processing into the church yet again for a bright, happy Eucharist with carols and sermon (which I really do need to start writing!). The early weather forecasts are even predicting some Christmas Eve snow. (Do you remember two years ago, when it was 72 degrees outside on December 24? What a Grinchy trick that was.). This year, let it snow!

Allow me to offer three quick notes regarding our Christmas celebrations. First, regarding the pageant at 4 pm. If you are traveling, or even at home and coming to one of the other services, you can watch the pageant live by going to the homepage of the Grace Church website, or simply by clicking [here](#). This year's cast includes approximately 80 children who will be singing, running, and crawling over every square inch of the church as they

Sunday, Jan 7th.

Services Next Week

(To find service info, you may also visit our [website](#), updated weekly.)

WEDNESDAY, Dec 27

**6 p.m. Holy Eucharist,
in the Chantry**

Sermon: The Rev. Chase
Danford

SUNDAY, Dec 31

9 a.m. Holy Eucharist

Sermon: The Rev. Chase
Danford

Music: The Parish Choir

11 a.m. Holy Eucharist

Sermon: The Rev. Chase
Danford

Music: The Adult Choir

6 p.m. Holy Eucharist

Sermon: The Rev. Chase
Danford

Music: Hymns with
Instrumentalists

*(Sunday school on
recess today.)*

**Please pray
for...**

act out the night of our Savior's birth. It really is something to behold, so be sure to tune in online if you are able.

Second, bag checks. If you recall from my letter in this space last week, given the times in which we live, we have made the decision to check every bag and backpack of those attending our Christmas Eve services. Our ushers and security team are ready to help the process run efficiently and courteously. If at all possible, please consolidate your belongings and do not bring a large bag. If you must, please be cheerful when you are directed to one of two bag-checking stations in the narthex. We are trying to ensure the safety of everyone.

Third, at all Christmas Eve and Day services the entire offering we collect goes to the Vestry Fund for Outreach. It is from this fund that we make grants to agencies of mercy in the city working to combat homelessness and hunger. As you know from simply walking down any street, the need is great, so please be as generous as you possibly can be when the offering plate comes by in your pew.

I am looking forward to these wonderful, hectic days ahead. May your Christmas be merry and holy, both at the same time. See you in church.

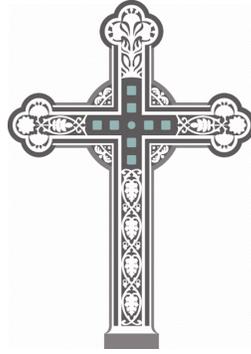
[The Rev. J. Donald Waring](#)
Rector



SUNDAY MORNING, DEC 24

9 AM Advent IV – HOLY EUCHARIST

The Parish Choir.



Those who suffer

Krista Kostenko
Adelaide
Peggy
Kimberly and Sandy
Josephine

***and those who
have died***

Steve Gano

**ADVENT
COLLECTIONS**

**Thanks to All Who
Gave!**

*"Since there will never cease
to be some in need on the
earth, I therefore command
you, 'Open your hand to the
poor and needy neighbor in
your land.'"*

-Deuteronomy 15:11

Our community at Grace
Church has contributed
184 hats, gloves, and
scarves, 390
undergarments and
socks, and 942
toiletries, to help provide
basic comfort to some of
our neediest neighbors in
New York City.

With special thanks to Henry

Sermon by the Associate Rector.

11 AM Advent IV – MORNING PRAYER
The Adult Choir. Sermon by the Associate
Rector.

CHRISTMAS EVE, DEC 24

4 PM CHRISTMAS PAGEANT – Featuring our
cast of friendly beasts, angels, shepherds, and
villagers. Doors open at 3:30 pm.

(No 6 p.m. Service Today)

7:30 PM FESTIVAL MUSIC FOR THE ORGAN
Dr. Patrick Allen.

8 PM FESTIVAL OF NINE LESSONS & CAROLS
The Choir of Men and Boys with the Girls'
Choir. Sermon by the Rector.

**10:30 PM FESTIVAL MUSIC FOR ORGAN,
BAROQUE TRUMPET, VIOLIN & CELLO**
John Thiessen, baroque trumpet, Cynthia
Roberts, baroque violin, Allen Wear, baroque
cello & Dr. Patrick Allen, organ.

11 PM CANDLELIGHT CHORAL EUCHARIST
The Adult Choir. Sermon by the Rector.

**MONDAY, DEC 25 – CHRISTMAS
DAY**

11 AM HOLY EUCHARIST WITH CAROLS
The Adult Choir. Sermon by the Rector.

*(Details on the music
for Christmas services, click [here](#).)*

Stevenson, Cathy Minuse and sons Robert and James for spearheading, sorting, counting and delivering the donations to our recipient organizations, as well as Eric Sorensen who delivered 14 bags of candy to the Seamen's Church Institute for their Christmas at Sea program.

To find service information, you may visit www.gracechurchnyc.org, updated weekly.

THE SUNDAY FORUM is on recess for the remainder of Advent and Christmas, and will resume on January 21 (see description below).

DEC 24, 25, and 31 – SUNDAY SCHOOL AND CHILD CARE – Please note that Sunday school will not meet Dec. 24 or Dec. 31, but child care (through age 4) will be provided at morning services on both dates. No child care will be provided at Christmas Eve 4 pm, 8 pm, or 11 pm services or the Christmas Day service, but coloring sheets and other activities will be available at the back of the church on the children's bookshelf.

THE OFFERINGS AT ALL CHRISTMAS SERVICES will go to support the Vestry Fund for Outreach, which makes grants to help alleviate hunger and homelessness in our city. In 2017, grants from the Fund supported the food pantry at Church of the Village (13th St at 7th Ave) and Habitat for Humanity. Please give generously this Christmas!

Coming Soon

JAN 6 – BLESSING OF "THE HOUSE THAT GRACE BUILT" – In 2016–17 Grace Church adopted and re–built a house in Queens through Habitat for Humanity for a family in need of affordable housing. "The House that Grace Built," was made possible by the many people who contributed time and finances. (Thank you!) Now that the house is nearing completion, all are invited to gather there on Saturday, Jan. 6th at 3pm for the house blessing. [RSVP to Martha here.](#)

JAN 7 – AMAHL AND THE NIGHT VISITORS BY GIAN CARLO MENOTTI – The Adult Choir offers this dramatic sacred opera in the context of evening prayer, at 4 pm in the Church.

JAN 21 – I'VE BEEN TO THE MOUNTAINTOP – THE SUNDAY FORUM @10AM. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s last speech, "I've Been To The Mountaintop," delivered in Memphis on April 3, 1968 just before his murder, is an astonishing orchestral blending of central Biblical themes, especially the Exodus, the prophets, and the life and mission of Jesus Christ. Join us as we discuss how indispensable a Biblical sense of justice was to Dr. King's ultimate proclamation of good news. *Led by Parishioner Nicholas Birns, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Literature at NYU School of Professional Studies.*

JAN 9–26 CATHARINE LORILLARD WOLFE ART CLUB 121st Annual Open Exhibition at the National Arts Club, 15 Gramercy Park South, from January 9–26, 2018. Friday, January 19th from 5:30 to 8 pm Benefit Reception for the Travel and Research Fund of the Metropolitan Museum of Art. A minimum donation of \$25 per person is required to attend. <https://www.clwac.org/>. The Catharine Lorillard Wolfe Art Club was established at Grace Church in 1896 using an endowment left by Ms. Wolfe. The purpose at the time was to provide aid, counsel and exhibition opportunities to young women artists in New York City.

FEB 21 – ADULT BAPTISM CLASSES BEGIN – Wednesdays in Lent, there will be a class for adults who are interested in being baptized at the Easter Vigil (March 31st at 7pm), 7–8 pm in the Reception Room on 2/21, 2/28, 3/7, 3/14, 3/21, 3/28. *To sign up, please [email Martha here](#).*

EPISTLE E-NEWS ON RECESS NEXT WEEK!

The next issue will arrive in your inbox during the week leading up to Sunday, January 7, 2017. Wishing to you and yours a joyous Christmas and a blessed and happy New Year!

*To find service information,
you may visit www.gracechurchnyc.org, updated weekly.*

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www.gracechurchnyc.org

