



The Angelus

February 2026

From the Rector's Desk

As a former Grace organist-choirmaster used to say at this time of year, "Soon Lent will be at our throats."

Ash Wednesday, the beginning of the season of Lent, is **February 18!**

Recall that Lent is indeed a period of fasting and penitence and almsgiving. These practices are among the most important practices in Catholic faith and growth. In returning to them ("turn around to"="repentance) we follow the practices of the saints before us who lead the way.

Please recall that fasting is not about gratuitously inflicting pain on ourselves, for pain's sake. Rather, fasting is an honored, effective practice because it's an essential beginning for detaching from all things that become false gods—even good things like food or material comfort or success of one kind or another. The discomfort of detaching in this way is the same discomfort that comes from, say, debriding a wound. It is for healing not punishment.

Penitence is likewise not at all about grinding ourselves into powder. Rather, it is about shedding everything that breaks the bond of life and love between us and God, us and other people. That bond the Scriptures and the saints call communion. Broken communion is loss of life. Restored communion is eternal life. The value of penitence, feeling honestly the burden and wounds of lost communion, is that it is the path to freedom and life.

Lent, penitence, fasting, and almsgiving are about detaching and preparing to receive—receive new life through the Resurrection of Jesus. "You bid your faithful people cleanse their hearts and prepare with joy for the Paschal feast."

What will your fast look like this Lent? How will you reduce the amount you eat and limit the kinds of food you eat?

How will you prepare to make confession with your parish priest or some other priest confessor you choose, and when will you schedule your confession?

To what or whom will you give support and material help, above and beyond regular charitable giving?

Peace,
WLB+

Annual meeting

Grace Church annual meeting was held on January 18 at which time vestry elections were held. Our new Senior Warden is Robert McMillan, Junior Warden is Tom Wright. Outgoing wardens, Mary Snyder and John Davis, were thanked for their years of service.

The 2025 vestry passed a by-law change regarding the vestry composition. Going forward in 2026 the vestry will consist of the Rector, Senior Warden, Junior Warden and six vestry members (prior number was nine plus Rector and Senior and Junior Wardens.) the six vestry members will serve three year terms with two of them rotating off every year. This will provide continuity in the vestry's make up. Going off the vestry are Jane Hanson, Jack Britton, and Tasha Crouse. They were thanked for their service to our church.

Nominations were held for the vacancies but not all positions were filled. At the vestry's February meeting the slate will be completed at which time the Angelus will publish the results.

Another-bylaw change was enacted as to the vestry meeting frequency. Minimal meeting frequency will be once a quarter and the plan now is to meet twice a quarter. A calendar schedule will be announced at a later date in the Angelus.

Rector, Senior and Junior Wardens, Deacon gave their addresses and annual ministry reports were presented as well as the budget for 2026. If you were unable to attend you may stop in the church office and get a copy.

Elected to be our diocesan delegates are Jack Britton and Tomomi Kanemaru.

We appreciate all those who contribute their leadership, time, and service to our parish family.

Stations of the Cross and Lenten Friday Simple Suppers

We will be hosting the Friday simple suppers following the Stations of the Cross at 6:00 pm, every Friday during Lent (February 20, 27, March 6, 13, 20, and 27.) Sign-up sheets can be found on the Narthex table. Please stop by and sign up if you are planning to attend or willing to provide the supper (it can be one or more hosts). Please indicate on top of the page. Remember, this is Lent so keep the suppers simple and meatless. Thank you.

If you have questions, please contact: Barb MacEwen 920-912-4505



Save the Date!

Next brat fray at Miesfeld's: **JULY 17, 2027**

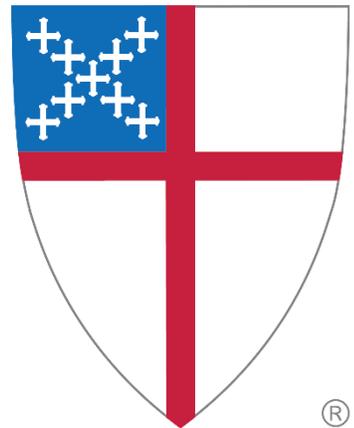
DID YOU KNOW?

Bishop Samuel Seabury was the first American Episcopal Bishop, and why the Episcopal Church flag has the Cross of St. Andrew on it?

Find out in this article by James Kiefer of the Mission of St. Claire.

The Commemoration of Bishop Samuel Seabury on November 14.

A crucial date for members of the Episcopal Church in the United States of America is the consecration of the first Bishop of the Anglican Communion in the United States.



During the colonial era, there had been no Anglican bishops in the New World, and persons seeking to be ordained as clergy had had to travel to England for the purpose.

After the achievement of American independence, it was important for the Church in the United States to have its own bishops, and an assembly of Connecticut clergy chose Samuel Seabury to go to England and there seek to be consecrated as a bishop.

However, the English bishops were forbidden by law to consecrate anyone who would not take an oath of allegiance to the British Crown. He accordingly turned to the Episcopal Church of Scotland.

When the Roman Catholic king James II was deposed in 1688, some of the Anglican clergy (including some who had been imprisoned by James for defying him on religious issues) said that, having sworn allegiance to James as King, they could not during his lifetime swear allegiance to the new monarchs William and Mary.

Those who took this position were known as non-Jurors (non-swearers), and they included almost all the bishops and clergy of the Episcopal Church in Scotland.

Accordingly, the monarchs and Parliament declared that thenceforth the official church in Scotland should be the Presbyterian Church.

The Episcopal Church of Scotland thereafter had no recognition by the government, and for some time operated under serious legal disabilities.

However, since it had no connection with the government, it was free to consecrate Seabury without government permission, and it did. This is why you see a Cross of St. Andrew on the Episcopal Church flag.

In Aberdeen, 14 November 1784, Samuel Seabury was consecrated to the Episcopate by the Bishop and the Bishop Coadjutor of Aberdeen and the Bishop of Ross and Caithness. He thus became part of the unbroken chain of bishops that links the Church today with the Church of the Apostles.

In return, he promised them that he would do his best to persuade the American Church to use as its Prayer of Consecration (blessing of the bread and wine at the Lord's Supper) the Scottish prayer, taken largely unchanged from the 1549 Prayer Book, rather than the much shorter one in use in England.

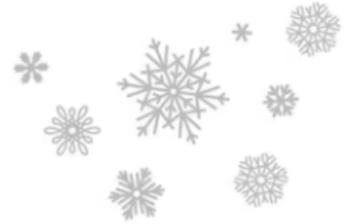
The aforesaid prayer, adopted by the American Church with a few modifications, has been widely regarded as one of the greatest treasures of the Church in this country.

written by James Kiefer

We give you thanks, O Lord our God, for your goodness in bestowing upon this church the gift of the episcopate; and we pray that, joined together in unity with our bishops and nourished by your holy sacraments, we may proclaim the Gospel of redemption with apostolic zeal; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

Rectory Open House

The annual rectory open house hosted by Fr. William Bulson and Tomomi Kanemaru was held on Friday, January 9th. Many parishioners came to celebrate the festivities.



Ladies of Grace Gathering! Tuesday, February 10th



Next Ladies of Grace Gathering is set for **Tuesday, February 10, 2026** in the home of **Rachel Annis**. Please sign up on the Narthex. Ladies of Grace meet once a month for Rosary prayer, singing, a bible reading, and to share needs of family/friends, and the sick. Tea, coffee, & bites to follow. If you have not attended before, please know all ladies are welcome each month.

Scout Appreciation Sunday - February 8th

We are blessed to welcome our Scouts on February 8th this year to celebrate Scout Sunday. This occasion marks each year the founding of the Scouting Movement in America. Scouts BSA was founded on February 8th, 1910, and it was within a year later when Troop 1 was founded at Grace Episcopal Church, becoming the first Troop in Wisconsin. On the 8th we welcome Troop 801 (formerly known as Troop 1) and Pack 3801 into our Sanctuary to hold them up in prayer and recognize our longstanding relationship.



Mark Your Calendars

- **February 2nd**
Presentation of our Lord Jesus Christ in the Temple
- **February 18th**
Ash Wednesday
- **February 20th**
Stations of the Cross, & Simple Suppers – Fridays in Lent (6pm)
- **February 21st**
Vestry Retreat/Orientation
- **March 29th**
Sunday of the Passion: Palm Sunday

February Birthdays

Beth Bouck	2/5
Brian Munro Jr.	2/6
Ellen Aparicio	2/11
Robert McMillan	2/11
Jeff Middlesworth	2/13
Tim Miller	2/15
Deb Gaglin	2/16
Alison Weinert	2/18
Carver Beeck	2/20
Helen Mullison	2/21
Nancy Imig	2/25
Clever Soe Lin	2/28

February Anniversaries

John & Dianna Keller 2/10

Parish Staff

The Rt. Rev. Matthew A Gunter, *Bishop*
The Reverend William L. Bulson, *Rector*
The Reverend Paul D. Aparicio, *Deacon*
Clayton Logue, *Organist-Choirmaster*
Crystal Lopez, *Parish Administrator*
Greg Allen, *Sexton*

The Vestry

The Reverend William L. Bulson, *Chair*
Robert McMillan, *Senior Warden*
Tom Wright, *Junior Warden*
Brian Heck, *Treasurer*
Vestry: Sarah Bernhardt, Leslie Kohler,
Fr. Jack Connelly, Doug Jenkins,
and Steve Weinert



Grace Episcopal Church

1011 N. 7th Street

Sheboygan, Wisconsin 53081

920.452.9659

Email: office@gracesheboygan.com

www.gracesheboygan.com