



# The Angelus

April 2023

## From the Rector's Desk

Some of you know part of my ministry is as a chaplain for the Sheboygan Police Department. I would never have dreamed even five years ago that I would serve in this way. But as so many of you have shown and taught me, when we say we want God to be at the center of our lives, God will take us at our word and take us places that surprise us.

I've seen some amazing things as a police chaplain: we human beings in our glory and love, and we human beings in our darkness and decay. I'll spare you the details. But we don't need to listen to the police scanner to hear about what's best and worst in us human beings. That's because we already live it ourselves, in our own lives. At the most extreme and the most mundane of brokenness and sinfulness. At the most abundant and the most ordinary of love and joy.

When we contemplate the Paschal Mystery—the Crucifixion and Resurrection of Jesus—during Holy Week and Easter, let's remember that this doesn't just happen to Jesus in some story about long ago. The Crucified and Risen Jesus came to die and rise again in this world as it is and as we live it. For our hurts and sins right now. For a world that can be greedy, crazy, mean, lustful for power and sensation, idolatrous, unjust, and death-loving. For a world and humans that God first loved into being for radiant and eternal life in Love.

So this God of ours isn't a God Out There Somewhere. Our God is right here, Immanuel, God with us. In other words, if we want to know Jesus right here right now, in this world and during Holy Week and Easter, we need to know the God of Christmas. And the Word was made flesh and dwelt among us . . .

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

Peace,

WLB+

## Anglican Quote

This is a quote from Rowan Williams, who was Archbishop of Canterbury, 2002-2012.

“I have never quite managed to see how we can make sense of the sacramental life of the Church without a theology of the risen body; and I have never managed to see how to put together such a theology without belief in the empty tomb.”

## Love INC

Grace church's Love INC ministry volunteers Bill and Deb Gagin and Jean-Margaret Merrill-Beech served a meal on March 23rd for participants in the Love INC transformational classes held at Calvin Christian Reformed Church in Sheboygan. They provided, prepared, and served a meal which received not only many compliments but also applause for their efforts. Many thanks for your gracious and generous service.

This Ministry may be repeated for the Fall Classes beginning in September. When notified of specific dates available by Love INC, a sign-up sheet will be made available for anyone wishing to volunteer.

Additionally, on February 20th, Love INC of Sheboygan County held the Gap Kick Off Meeting and announced the Word of the Year—BUILD. In 2022 Love INC received 580 requests and serviced 100 households. Active volunteers numbered 242 with 8,481 volunteer hours recorded. There are 38 partner churches from 17 denominations. Goals for 2023 include expanding Connection Center call hours and adding new staff. The Board of Directors is discerning the Refugee Resettlement program as an additional program with Episcopal Migration Ministries.

—Connie Schneider, Grace's Church Ministry Coordinator for Love INC



## Rose Sunday



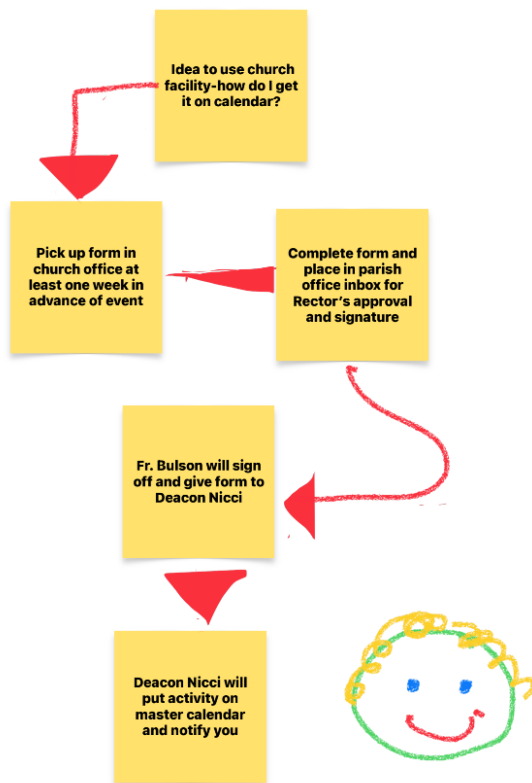
Rose Sunday is the fourth Sunday in Lent. It is also called Laetare Sunday (from the introit for the day, *Laetare Jerusalem* - Rejoice, O Jerusalem!) It is observed as a day of celebration within the otherwise austere season of Lent. The vestments for this Sunday may be rose, which is considered a lighter shade of the usual Lenten purple. The rose vestments here at Grace were donated by our late, beloved member, Bernie Markevitch.

## February 2023 Vestry Focus and Actions

- Shannon Luckey-Mueller volunteered to serve as Vestry Recording Secretary
- Vestry voted to accept the Rhyme bid to upgrade the phone systems
- Contract for cleaning at Grace was withdrawn by the service provider and we are once again seeking a person or company to provide regular cleaning of our facility. The budget allows for \$450/monthly
- Vestry moved to accept a \$12,500 bid to install a security door at the East end of office hallway

## Did You Know?

### *How do I get a meeting or activity on the church calendar?*



This procedure is for all vestry, ministry leaders, or anyone who wants to use the church facilities for any activity. Our parish administrator, Deacon Nicci Beeck, coordinates use of the facilities at Grace, which includes a master calendar. When requesting space for meetings or events there is a process that everyone is asked to follow:

1. The event request must be made at least one week in advance so that if there is a scheduling conflict it may be resolved in a timely manner. Please be aware there are ongoing meetings that are already in place on the calendar.
2. Event request forms are located on the parish office desk for completion and should be returned to the parish office inbox. Requests will be submitted to the Rector for his approval, and then Deacon Nicci will put it on the master calendar and notify you.

Thank you for adhering to these steps. If you have questions or need further clarification, Deacon Nicci can help you.

## Sunday Adult Formation

### **The Suffering Messiah in the Prophet Isaiah and the Gospel of St John. Entering the Paschal Mystery!**

On Sundays from 9:00-10:00 a.m. throughout Lent and Easter, Fr William is leading several weeks' reflection on selected passages in the prophet Isaiah. Isaiah will put us in touch with the God who knows our suffering and leads us back into life. This can illumine our reading of St John's Gospel, which we will read through entirely, and help us see its Truth more fully.

Questions? Contact Fr William: [wbulson@gracesheboygan.com](mailto:wbulson@gracesheboygan.com); 920.740.2308

## When is Easter? Why does the date change?

It all depends upon a given Christian tradition and which calendar is used. Easter is a moveable feast calculated by the first Sunday after the first full moon on or after the vernal equinox. This was promulgated by the Council of Nicaea in 325 A.D. Western Christianity uses the Gregorian calendar, while the Eastern Orthodox churches use the Julian calendar. Therefore, at times a difference of as much as 4-5 weeks can occur! This year we have Easter falling on April 9, and the Orthodox Easter will be on April 16. In 2025 both traditions will be the same, April 20.



## What's Behind the Scenes at Grace Church?

This month features some of the behind the scenes ministries that play an integral part of our worship at Grace Church. As Easter approaches take a moment to admire all the beauty of the church and what makes our services so special. Please take time to personally thank these ministry leaders verbally or better yet, a handwritten note. It would be greatly appreciated.

### *Altar Guild*

*(From our Altar Guild Chair, Claudia Fischer)*

I have been a member of Grace my entire life. I first joined the Altar Guild in 1995 when I was invited by Marian Keller. I took care of the clean up after the Thursday morning Mass while my daughter was in preschool across the street at St. Luke's. After some time, I was asked by Fr Sloane to head the altar guild and Marian was instrumental in designing the new sacristy and being there for a resource.

I have now been in charge for too many years! We currently have six other members serving on the Altar Guild. I would love to have a few more on the roster.

The Altar Guild cleans up the elements after each Mass and prepares everything that is needed for the next one that is scheduled. We follow the seasons of the church when choosing the vestments that are to be used at each Mass. We also wash and iron the small linens that are used at the Masses. A few times a year the silver chalices and ciboriums are polished along with a few of the candlesticks. We check the candles, holy water stoops, and supplies to ensure that there are no major disruptions in the continuity of the worship service and Eucharist. After you have been on the Altar Guild for a while, the preparation for Mass does not involve a great deal of time. Most times, you will spend about 30 minutes or so. Obviously, special Feast days might take a bit more time.

Our busiest seasons are Christmas and Holy Week. There are many more services to prepare for and we have to plan ahead to fulfill the needs of those Masses. As you may recall, Holy Week starts with Palm Sunday, but there are daily Masses, Maundy Thursday, the Good Friday service, Vigil, Easter Day and all of the daily Masses during the first week of the Easter Season. I believe that those who serve on the Altar Guild are fulfilling a vital ministry. The priest and deacon rely on us to have everything prepared to celebrate the Eucharist. I also believe that those that join the Altar Guild learn quite a bit more about how things are done and the terminology of what things are.



As someone who regularly attends the 8 a.m. Sunday Mass, I do not often get to enjoy many of our hymns. I do have a few favorites from different seasons. I like “The King Shall Come When Morning Dawns,” “Were you There?,” and “Jesus Christ is Risen Today! Alleluia!”

### *Custodial*

Jack Britton has been working to keep our floors clean since the departure of our Sexton. Apart from his attention to our floors (especially St. Nicholas Hall), Jack serves on the vestry, serves as a Lay Eucharist Minister, sings in the choir, and regularly participates in Shrine Prayers. Take a chance to thank Jack for his faithfulness when you see him.



### *Media Ministry*

Meet Maya McMillan, daughter of Robert and Mia McMillan and a senior at Plymouth High School. When Maya is not worshipping in the pew with her family, she acolytes, serves as a Lay Eucharistic Visitor, and this past year as an operator of our media system. (The Media Center is just off the altar area located in the remodeled old sacristy room.) She is one of three system operators (John Davis and Steve Gallimore are also on the team) who coordinate the broadcast of our worship services on the internet (<https://www.youtube.com/@graceepiscopalchurch-shebo9001>) each Sunday as well as other feast days. Many thanks to Maya and the team in providing this important behind the scenes ministry. We appreciate you.



### *Lay Eucharistic Visitors*

Lay Eucharistic Visitors (LEVs) are licensed by the Diocese of Fond du Lac to distribute previously blessed elements of Holy Communion to persons unable to attend regular worship services. LEVs represent the church to the homebound and serve as a reminder that they are an integral part of the Body of Christ.

Thank you to the following for carrying out this important ministry to the home bound in our parish: Rachel Annis, Jack Britton, Pat Ford Smith, Bill & Deb Gagin, Maya McMillan, and Diana Rogers.



### *Flowers*

*(From our Flower Chair, Pat Miller)*

I've been asked by a very sweet and persuasive Barb MacEwen to compose a short introductory bio about me, as much as this would never be considered my forte. My husband “Tim” and I joined the faith community known as Grace about four years ago. Tim was a “cradle” Holy Namer and I was from St. George’s of Elkhart Lake. But Tim became increasingly frustrated with the hierarchy of the Catholic Church and started to shop around for a new home. It didn’t take long before the welcome of Grace had us feeling at home.





Tim and I met at Crystal Lake (where I grew up) in 1967. We were married in 1971. I spent 20 years as an Army wife, living 6 years in Germany, 3 years in Hawaii, San Antonio, Texas, Denver, Colorado, New Jersey and Augusta, GA. We enjoyed every minute of those years.

While living in New Jersey I befriended a girl my age who turned out to be the master of all things arts and crafts (including tole painting, macramé, stained glass, and flower arrangement - just to mention a few) and she had the patience to share her talents with me.

Tim retired from the Army in 1990 and in 1993 we returned to Sheboygan, as his adopted mother was living in a local nursing home. One of the first people we met upon our return was Barb when she was still with the bank and she was so helpful. I worked for a local ophthalmologist, and Tim worked for Marsho Family Medical. I retired from ophthalmology around 20 years ago and became a full time NaNa for my grandchildren. God blessed us with 3 wonderful children (all living locally) and 8 grandchildren. The oldest grandchild is now 21 and the youngest will be starting high school next year. Tim is already semi-retired (working for Aurora 16 hours/week) and plans on full retirement at the end of this year. I love my small role in the Grace faith community and hope to continue to share my treasure and time as long as God gives me the strength to do so. I thank all of you for allowing me to do so and invite you to please critique positive or negative as you will.

## Sunday School Lenten Donation Drive



Our wonderful class of Sunday School children wanted to give back to the community as a part of their Lenten devotion this year. The students encouraged the rest of the congregation to join them in collecting items to benefit local charities, including the Food Bank, the Community Cafe, Safe Harbor, and Love INC. During the Sunday Mass, when the offering is brought forward, the students, too, bring their offerings in the "little red wagon."



## Making Your Confession

We can make confession with our priests in the Episcopal Church!

### Hours to Make Confession During Holy Week:

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, 6:30-8:00 p.m.

Thursday, 7:00-8:00 p.m.

Friday, 10:00 a.m.- 12:00 p.m.

Your priest will be waiting for you in the confessional room at the back of the church to welcome you warmly at any time during those hours. Also, you can make an appointment at any other time. Just call or email Fr William: 920.740.2308;

[wbulson@gracesheboygan.com](mailto:wbulson@gracesheboygan.com)

Ordinarily, we make confession to our parish priest. But if that seems too hard for you, don't hesitate to ask Fr William for a recommendation (don't worry, he'll understand) or contact some other local priests, like Fr Paul Coey at St Peter's in Sheboygan Falls, or Mother Michele Whitford at St Paul's in Plymouth.

Please do remember that confession—or Reconciliation of a Penitent—in the Episcopal Church is less a legal transaction to avoid God's capricious punishment and more like opening up about our sin-sick souls to receive deep healing and righting of our consciences.

Check out in the Book of Common Prayer, pages 316-317 (especially 317), and pages 446-451.

## Mark Your Calendars



- **Palm Sunday**, April 2, Masses at 8:00 a.m. and 10:15 a.m.
- **Monday in Holy Week**, April 3, Mass at 6:00 p.m.
- **Tuesday in Holy Week**, April 4, Mass at 6:00 p.m.
- **Wednesday in Holy Week**, April 5, Mass at 6:00 p.m.
- **Maundy Thursday**, April 6, Mass and Stripping of the Altar at 6:00 p.m. immediately followed by the Vigil before the Altar of Repose
- **Good Friday**, April 7, Veneration of the Cross and Mass of the Presanctified at 1:00 p.m.
- **Holy Saturday**, April 8, service at 9:00 a.m., GREAT EASTER VIGIL Mass at 6:00 p.m.
- **Easter Sunday**, April 9, Masses at 8:00 a.m. and 10:15, with gala reception following the 10:15 service
- **GEC Night at the Movies**, Thursday, April 20, 7:00 p.m.

## Congregational Living

The clergy and lay people at Grace Episcopal Church want to be with you when you need us most. If you are ill, planning a medical intervention, or experiencing a medical event, please know that Father William, Deacon Paul Aparicio, and Lay Eucharistic Ministers are at the ready to offer you the full support and comfort of the sacraments and loving presence.

Additionally, if for any reason you would like a visit or a call or a meeting with Father William, please call or email him directly (920.740.2308, [wbulson@gracesheboygan.com](mailto:wbulson@gracesheboygan.com)), or contact the church office and let staff know of your need. Your request will be attended to promptly. While Father William's office hours are quickly filled, he is readily available for a meeting outside of office hours (Tuesdays 10:30 – 12:00, and Wednesdays 1:30-5:30). All you need to do is ask!

### April Birthdays

Jay Maki	4/5
Alexandrea Hammes	4/5
Charlie Burgett	4/8
Gracie Burgett	4/8
Jasmine Palmer	4/11
Mary Ann Neuses	4/13
Benjamin Maki	4/16
Steve Gallimore	4/19
Marlene Roeseler	4/22

Karl Mueller	4/22
Clifton Bartels	4/23
Joyce Wessel	4/25
Jon Fischer	4/25

### April Anniversaries

Pat & Wayne Sather	4/2
Martha & Scott Gedemer	4/4
Anne & Bob Hanlon	4/8
Connie & LeRoy Schneider	4/16
Beth & Cory Bouck	4/16

### Parish Staff

The Right Reverend Matthew Gunter, *Bishop*  
The Reverend William Bulson, *Rector*  
The Reverend Paul Aparicio, *Deacon*  
Dr R Benjamin Dobey, *Organist Choirmaster*  
The Reverend Deacon Nicci Beeck, *Parish Administrator*

### The Vestry

The Reverend William Bulson, *Chair*  
Mary Snyder, *Senior Warden*  
John Davis, *Junior Warden*  
Brian Heck, *Treasurer*  
Helen Mullison, *Chancellor*  
*Vestry*: Jack Britton, Tasha Crouse, Mary Gallimore, Jane Hanson, Shannon Luckey-Mueller, Robert McMillan, Jean-Margaret Merrell-Beech, Pat Sather, Connie Schneider

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