

Weekly E-News from Grace Episcopal Church _____December 17, 2021

Spotlight: A Nativity Pageant & "O" Antiphons

Join us for the Nativity Pageant this Sunday! With children and youths from the Grace Church Choristers, Sunday School, and Youth Group participating, this year's Nativity Pageant promises to be something special. We encourage you to join us for worship this Sunday at 10:00am, and be treated to the glorious story of Christ's birth as told by these youngsters. Invite friends and family, especially those with children to witness our youngest disciples share the Gospel!



Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of heaven belongs." (Matthew 19:14)

The Great "O" Antiphons of Advent & Choral Compline Sunday Night!

Sunday evening at 8:00 PM, the men of the Grace Church Schola will chant The Seven Great "O" Antiphons of Advent. A portion of the evening psalms that correspond to the appointed dates of each Antiphon, will be read in between each Antiphon to guide your prayers and meditations. Choral Compline follows immediately after the seventh Antiphon. The service will last about an hour, and is filled with chant, candlelight, and incense – a feast for the senses! Doors open at 7:30 PM.



Christmas Caroling Cancelled

Due to forecasted inclement weather, we've decided to cancel Christmas Caroling with Collegium Ancora which was scheduled on Saturday afternoon. We will definitely plan to try again next year! In the meantime, we will be singing many a Christmas Carol during our upcoming worship services from Christmas Eve through The Second Sunday after Christmas (January 2nd), so do come and join us in church!



Christmas Flowers & Music Dedications

You'll find Christmas Flower and Music dedication cards located in the pews, on the back table near the Baptismal Font, and in the Narthex literature rack. Thank you for printing your dedications legibly, and using the green flower envelopes. **Submit dedications along with your gift in the collections plate, or mail to arrive to the Church Office by December 20.**



Holiday Gift & Food Drive

The Outreach Ministry here at Grace Church is thrilled to partner with our neighbors at Trinity Academy for the Performing Arts (TAPA) for this year's Holiday Food & Gift Drive, and beginning this week we're also adding a children's book drive for families served by the food pantry St Peter's and St. Andrew's Episcopal Church.



In addition to this Holiday Food & Gift Drive, please see further down this email for an additional opportunity to help those less fortunate.

Please consider contributing in one or more of the following ways:

Donating children's books for the food pantry at St. Andrew's and St. Peter's

If you have lightly used children's books that a member of your family has outgrown, or if

you are moved to purchase a book or two for kids of varying ages whose families are served by the food pantry at St. Andrew's and St. Peter's, please bring those to Grace Church on either of the next 2 Sundays (December 12th and 19th).

Donating nonperishable foods and/or grocery store gift cards for TAPA

Items of interest include pasta, rice, beans, veggies, fruit, tuna, mac & cheese, pasta sauce, peanut butter, jelly, soup, milk, cake mix, cereal, oatmeal, condiments, toiletries and more.

Donating holiday gifts and/or gift cards for students in grades 7-12 for TAPA

Items of interest include arts & crafts sets, wireless headphones, board games, sports balls, exercise gear, duffles/totes, wallets, graphic tees, sticker sets, plush toys, travel mugs, journals, lamps, jackets/vests, winter clothing, and gift cards (including for stores, restaurants, Uber, Netflix, etc). Please leave any gift donations unwrapped.

Please either bring the items to leave under the Christmas Tree, located in The Pavilion, on Sundays now through December 19th, or bring directly to TAPA at the front door of their downtown location (275 Westminister Street) weekdays from 8:30am-4:30pm. You can also drop off grocery gift cards at any time in Grace's mail slot next to the parking lot entrance.

Many of you will remember that in years past we've had tags with requested gifts listed on them on the Advent Giving Tree, but this year we're simply inviting you to donate a gift from the list above.

Monetary donations to TAPA for the purchase of food and gifts

TAPA is also accepting monetary donations for the purchase of food and holiday gifts for students and their families. You can contribute using [TAPA's PayPal account here](#), or checks can be mailed payable to "TAPA" at 275 Westminister St., Providence, RI 02903, and indicating "Holiday Drive - Grace Church" on the memo line.



CHRISTMAS 2021



GRACE CHURCH IN PROVIDENCE

300 Westminster Street
Providence, RI 02903
401-331-3225

www.GraceChurchProvidence.org



THE FEAST OF THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST: CHRISTMAS EVE

Friday, December 24th, 2021

A Festival of Lessons & Carols for Christmas
with Sung Holy Eucharist
5:00 PM

Festal Choral Eucharist with String Quartet
10:00 PM

Prelude Music begins at 9:30 PM

CHRISTMAS DAY

Saturday, December 25th, 2021

Festal Sung Eucharist
with Choral Quartet & Christmas Carols
10:00 AM

THE FIRST & SECOND SUNDAYS AFTER CHRISTMAS

Sunday, December 26th, 2021 & Sunday, January 2nd, 2022

Spoken Holy Eucharist
8:00 AM

Sung Holy Eucharist with Christmas Carols
10:00 AM

A SERVICE OF LESSONS & CAROLS FOR EPIPHANY

WITH THE BLESSING OF CHALK

Sunday, January 9th, 2022
4:00 PM

Helping Afghani Refugees

Grace Church will be working with the Dorcas International Resettlement Program, helping to place refugees from Afghanistan in homes in our area. There are sign up sheets located on the table in The Pavilion for two upcoming Saturdays in **January (1/8 & 1/22)** where we will need at minimum a team of 15 volunteers. There are also info packets about the volunteer work available. (please only take one if you are volunteering and please only take one per family). If you are interested in signing up to volunteer, please fill out the sign up sheet and Bill Galligan will contact you with more info once we have enough volunteers. All ages are welcome to help out!



DORCAS INTERNATIONAL
INSTITUTE OF RHODE ISLAND

In addition to the volunteer work, Dorcas is **ESPECIALLY** desperate for furniture. Gently used coffee tables, side tables, bedside tables, dining room tables and chairs, bureaus, area rugs in good repair and condition, bunk beds, couches and stuffed chairs. All without rips and unsightly wear. These can be brought to the Furniture Bank of RI, our space is in the back.

Address:

Furniture Bank of RI
70 Ernest St, Providence, RI 02905

Hours:

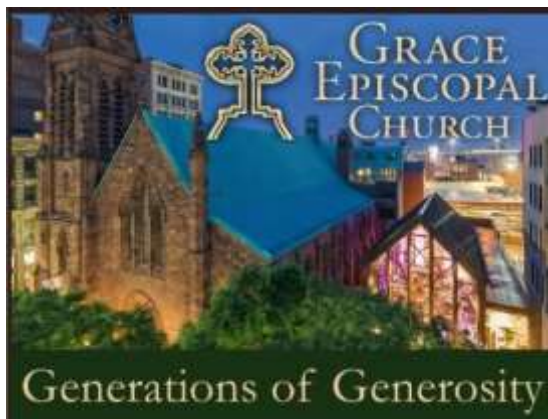
Tuesday - Friday 10:00 AM - 2:30 PM
Saturday 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM

If you need assistance with a truck to move larger items or if you have any questions about this volunteer opportunity please email Bill Galligan at wgalligan@gmail.com

Also, if you are someone with a truck or van and would be willing to help out with any large items please reach out to Bill.

December Stewardship Notes

As we head into this final month of 2021, we invite any parishioners who have not yet had an opportunity to submit a pledge form for the coming year to kindly consider doing so. Pledge cards can be found at the back of the church or in the literature rack in the narthex.



And speaking of year-end, this is a great time to ensure that your 2021 pledges are on track for completion. If anyone would like to inquire about their progress, please contact

Chris in the office either [by e-mail](#) or by phone at 401-331-3225.

If you have requested pledge envelopes for 2022, they will be available for pick-up after church on December 12th and December 19th. Please endeavor to retrieve your assigned set on one of those two Sundays, as the remainders will need to be mailed.

Thursdays at Noon Concerts

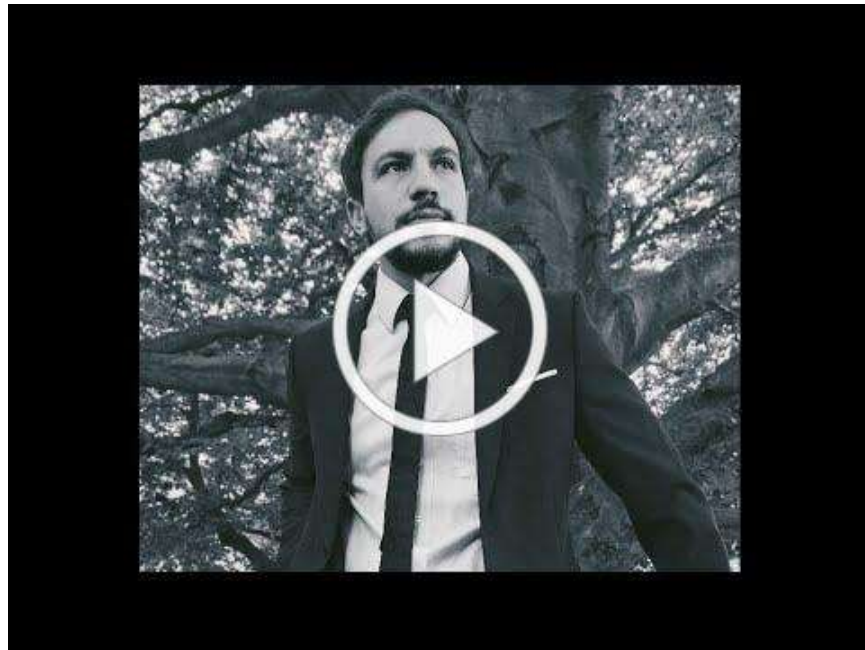
On Thursday, December 16th at 12 Noon, our guest recitalist was pianist Juan Carlos Rios, Director of Music at The Church of the Redeemer in Providence. Juan played a program of music by J.S. Bach, Claude Debussy, and Robert Schumann.



To watch the recorded concert, please [click here](#) or on the image below.

**This was our final Thursdays at Noon Concert for 2021!
The series will resume on February 3, 2022.**

To view Juan's program, [please click here.](#)



Bookmarks detailing the line-up of Thursday performers are available on the information tables in the rear of the church. We hope you join us and bring along friends!

For a complete list of performers and videos of previous concerts, please check out the Thursdays at Noon Concerts webpage on the Grace website by [clicking here.](#)

Sunday Morning Worship: The Fourth Sunday of Advent: December 19, 2021

Every Sunday Morning, Grace Church offers a 'live-stream' broadcast of our Sunday morning eucharist service. We hope this experience allows those who are not able to join us in person on Sundays to participate in the worship life at Grace.

~ Sunday Morning Links ~

YouTube: [Click here!](#)

Facebook: [Click here!](#)



This service will be live-streamed to the [Grace Church Facebook Page](#) and the [Grace Church YouTube Channel](#). Please use the links provided below to watch. The service will also be archived on the [Grace Church website](#), [Vimeo](#), Facebook, and YouTube pages for 'on-demand' viewing after Sunday morning. We hope this experience allows those who are not able to join us in person on Sunday to participate in the worship.

If you would like to download or print the service leaflet for The Fourth Sunday of Advent, [please click here.](#)

IN-PERSON ATTENDANCE POLICY:

All individuals are kindly asked to wear masks indoors at Grace Church when attending worship or other events.

Regardless of how you choose to participate in our worship life together,
ALL ARE WELCOME at Grace Church!

December 19, 2021 The Fourth Sunday of Advent

Purify our conscience, Almighty God, by your daily visitation, that your Son Jesus Christ, at his coming, may find in us a mansion prepared for himself; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

For the texts of the readings for The Fourth Sunday of Advent [please click here.](#)

[Click here](#) for the latest from the Episcopal News Service. And for current news from the Episcopal Diocese of Rhode Island, [please click here.](#)

