

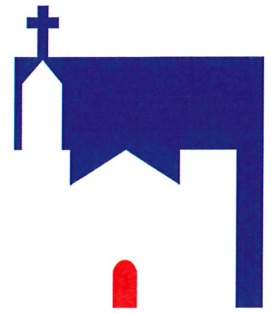
# Amazing Grace



## February 2025

GRACE EPISCOPAL CHURCH

315 Wayne Street  
Sandusky, OH 44870



### *~ Mission Statement ~*

*"In light of our confidence that 'God loves you. No exceptions',  
Grace Episcopal Church strives to be a welcoming community,  
inviting everyone to learn, serve, and share in Christ's love."*

The Most Rt. Rev. Sean Rowe, Presiding Bishop  
The Rev. Anne B. Jolly, Bishop, Diocese of Ohio

### **MASS**

**Sunday at 8:00 a.m. in the Chapel**

**Sunday at 10:00 a.m.**

**In-Person, livestreamed on Boxcast, and on Facebook**

**Daily Mass at 9am in the Chapel**

**(Wednesday, Thursday, Friday)**

**In-Person and livestreamed on Facebook**

**Tuesday at 5:30pm in the Chapel • In-Person and livestreamed on Facebook**

### **CHURCH OFFICE HOURS**

Monday through Friday, 8am - 3pm

### **CONTACT US**

Telephone	419-625-6919
Website	GraceSandusky.org
Church Office E-Mail	office@GraceSandusky.org
Fr. Seth Wymer, Rector	frseth@GraceSandusky.org
Barb Reszko, Postulant for Holy Orders	babrauniii@gmail.com
Randy Ruthsatz, Organist/Choirmaster	rarcpa@sbcglobal.net

### **Parish Staff**

Fr. Seth Wymer, Rector  
Barb Reszko, Candidate for Holy Orders  
Randy Ruthsatz, Organist/Choirmaster  
Debbie Chase, Parish Administrator  
Kelly Gerhardstein, Housekeeper  
Dr. Robert Speers, Parish Historiographer

## **RECTOR'S REFLECTION - FEBRUARY 2025**

Usually the February newsletter talks about Lent and joining our sufferings and pains to Jesus' on the cross, but this year Lent is pushed back to March so instead we can talk about the mysteries of Epiphany.

While we celebrated the Feast of the Epiphany on Monday, January 6<sup>th</sup>, its effects are still felt throughout the season between Christmas and the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord (Candlemas) called Epiphitide. This special season in the church's calendar is marked by the Magi following the star to the inn in Bethlehem, the Baptism of Jesus in the Jordan, and the changing of the water into wine at the wedding feast of Cana, as well as, the Gospel accounts of Jesus performing miracles that only the Messiah was supposed to do. All of these passages are about Jesus making himself and his mission known to his followers and to the world.



This Season of Epiphany could just as easily be called the Season of Evangelization. Both recall Jesus' ministry and our baptismal covenant to know Christ and to make him known to the world through the living out of our baptismal covenant. For the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord and the Second Sunday of Epiphany we renewed our baptismal covenant where we promised to:

- Continue in the apostles' teaching and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in the prayers (note: this means every Sunday and not just when we feel like it);
- Persevere in resisting evil;
- Proclaim by word and example the Good News of God in Christ;
- Seek and serve Christ in all persons; and
- Strive for justice and peace.

These promises are not just things that sound good that churchy people ought to do, rather they are how we are supposed to live our lives day-in and day-out. Our baptismal covenant is the blueprint for being a Christian in our world today.

In this season of Epiphany we blessed holy water using a prayer that exorcises salt, water, and chalk. These items are then used to bless the homes of parishioners and believers to drive away from it (and them) the power and influence of Satan so that peace, health, and happiness remain therein. If you have never had your home blessed I encourage you to reach out to schedule it and if you have had it done, there is nothing stopping you from having it blessed again. If you are interested please shoot me an email and we can get it scheduled ([frseth@gracesandusky.org](mailto:frseth@gracesandusky.org)).

Lastly, as the weather continues to stay cold, please remember that if you cannot make it to church on Sundays because of weather, we do have services throughout the week for you to avail yourself. Mass is where we meet our Lord and where he comes to meet us, it is the place where heaven and earth are joined for that brief time, it is a time of respite from the world and a place to refuel for the day ahead.

See you in church on Sunday,  
Fr. Seth | Rector



Below are some important dates of events taking place here and in the Diocese in February. If you have any questions or would like further information, please reach out to Fr. Seth or Debbie in the Parish Office.

Saturday, February 1<sup>st</sup>

Winter Convocation at Sawmill Creek Resort

Sunday, February 2<sup>nd</sup>

9a – Adult Faith Formation – Church Architecture  
10a – Children’s Chapel (3rd grade and below)  
11:15a – Outreach Committee Meeting (Guild Room)

Thursday, February 6<sup>th</sup>

6p-7p @ Sandusky Book Bar (2101 W. Perkins Ave): After Hour Office Hour (note: if the Sandusky Book Bar is closed this will be moved to the parish offices)

Sunday, February 9<sup>th</sup>

9a – Adult Faith Formation – Church Architecture

Thursday, February 13<sup>th</sup>

6p-7p @ Sandusky Book Bar (2101 W. Perkins Ave): After Hour Office Hour (note: if the Sandusky Book Bar is closer this will be moved to the parish offices)



Saturday, February 15<sup>th</sup>

4:30p-5:30p – 1st Community Meal of the Month  
5:15p – Evening Prayer in the Chapel

Sunday, February 16<sup>th</sup>

9a – Adult Faith Formation – Church Architecture  
10a – Children’s Chapel (3rd grade and below)  
11:30a – Vestry meeting

Thursday, February 20<sup>th</sup>

6p-7p @ Sandusky Book Bar (2101 W. Perkins Ave): After Hour Office Hour (note: if the Sandusky Book Bar is closer this will be moved to the parish offices)

Saturday, February 22<sup>nd</sup>

4:30p-5:30p – 2nd Community Meal of the Month  
5:15p – Evening Prayer in the Chapel

Sunday, February 23<sup>rd</sup>

9a – Adult Faith Formation – Church Architecture

**Mark your Calendars**

**TUESDAY, MARCH 4TH 4:30P-6:30P  
SHROVE TUESDAY PANCAKE DINNER**

**PLEASE PRAY FOR THOSE WHO  
PROTECT AND SERVE**

Ted Bertsch	Brian Michael Laws
Cameron Brace	Marcus Mettert
Chris Cheek	Kevin Poyer
Sam Freeman	Sean Poyer
Adam Hagelberger	Thomas Roesch
Joel Hagy	Cameren Scholl
James R. Hart, III	Jamison Shriver
Craig Lambert	Ayden Swinehart
Vance Lambert	Matt Trautman



**GIVING**

**YEARLY GIVING STATEMENT**

2024 Giving Statements were mailed in January. If you did not get it, or if you find an error, or have a questions about your statement, please call the Church Office at (419) 625-6919.

“Snowflakes fall, hearts race,  
and February wraps us all in  
love’s embrace.”

— Unknown





## EPIPHANY HOUSE BLESSINGS

During Epiphany Fr. Seth will be driving to all the corners of the parish boundaries blessing homes. One of the first things he started when he came to Grace two years ago was the blessing of homes during the Season of Epiphany.

If you had your house blessed last year you can have it blessed again (simply wipe the chalk marks off from last year before he shows up). If you are interested in having your home blessed please send him an email and he can get something scheduled [frseth@gracesandusky.org](mailto:frseth@gracesandusky.org).



## Join us for Evening Prayer

When: **5:15pm (On Community Meal Saturdays)**  
**In February - the 15<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup>**

How long: **20 minutes**

Where: **Chapel, Grace Episcopal Church, Sandusky, Ohio**

Who: **EVERYONE**

What to expect: **Pray and reflect together, Share God's love.**



## **Arts @ Grace**

This month we have a brand new artist displaying their work at Grace. Below is her bio. We hope that you will take the time to stop in the Mary Simpson Room to view her photos.

Greetings to all,

My name is Susan Shamhart and I am excited to be able to share some of my photos in your beautiful church. I was born and raised in Huron, Ohio, moved to Columbus in 1984, and returned to Huron in 1996. I have worked in the field of healthcare since 1983 in a variety of positions. I have been an avid lover of photography for a long time, and it became a passionate hobby during COVID. The COVID pandemic brought many changes and disruptions to everyday lives, which prompted people to seek different means of coping. I developed a daily coping routine of walking the Huron Pier to watch the sunrise, to help bring me a sense of peace and calmness prior to starting my work day. I then started taking numerous photos daily from various beautiful areas of Huron and began posting them on social media. I felt a need to share the photos in an effort to help remind myself and hopefully others, that beauty still surrounded us even in the midst of the pandemic or other difficult times.

I view photography as a therapeutic lens to practice mindfulness and presence. I hope that in sharing my photos it will impact others in a similar way.



At our Annual Meeting on Sunday, January 26<sup>th</sup> we celebrated Don Hanck, our Treasurer for the last 19 years. Don will be retiring at the end of this year.

In his honor we have renamed our Outreach and Mission Fund the Don Hanck Outreach Fund. Outreach is a strong passion for Don and an important part of what we are about here at Grace.





### AFTER HOURS OFFICE HOUR

On Thursdays in February, Fr. Seth has his after hours office hour at the Sandusky Book Bar, 2101 W. Perkins Ave., from 6-7pm.

*Stop by and chat!*

## Children's Chapel



**Every 1st and 3rd Sunday**

**For children  
Preschool through  
3rd grade**

### PLEASE PRAY FOR THOSE WHO HAVE DIED, ESPECIALLY

Patricia Biggs (January 19, 2025) - Janet Poyer's sister

Rich Staley (January 3, 2025)

Todd Wilkins (January 27, 2025) - Jenny Schoewe's son

Gracious God, nothing in death or life, in the world as it is or the world as it shall be, nothing in all creation can separate us from your love. We commend these our beloved ones into your loving care. Enfold them in the arms of your mercy. Bless them in their dying and their rising again in you. Bless those whose hearts are filled with sadness, that they too may know the hope of resurrection; for the sake of our Savior Jesus Christ. *Amen.*



### PASTORAL CARE

If you know of someone in the congregation who is ill, homebound or in the hospital please let the parish office or Fr. Seth know so that he can visit them. Fr. Seth's contact information is: 740.624.5818 and [frseth@gracesandusky.org](mailto:frseth@gracesandusky.org)



The deadline to submit information for the March newsletter is **Friday, February 21<sup>st</sup>.**



### WEATHER CLOSURES

In the event of severe weather this winter the church office *may* be closed. Please call first to be sure Debbie made it in.

For services - if the weather is extreme, please check our Facebook page before heading to church. We will post if we have to cancel or adjust services.

### DO YOU HAVE ANY FAMILY NEWS TO SHARE?

A birth, baptism, wedding, special event, have you moved? Drop us a note and we'll include it in our next newsletter [office@gracesandusky.org](mailto:office@gracesandusky.org)



### KROGER COMMUNITY REWARDS

We are registered with the Kroger Community Rewards Program. Please visit <http://kroger.com> and log into your Kroger account. Search for Grace Episcopal Church (Sandusky) either by name or **KW315** and then click Enroll. New users will need to create an account which requires some basic information, a valid email address and a rewards card. Please call the church office if you have questions.

## COFFEE HOUR



Every Sunday, after our 10 o'clock worship, we meet in the Mary Simpson Room for fellowship, coffee and sweet treats.

We couldn't do this without the help of those who host Coffee Hour.

We have a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board outside the office for anyone who wishes to bring in something to share and to host.



### COMMUNITY MEALS

Our January Community Meal dates are **Saturday, the 15<sup>th</sup>** and **Saturday, the 22<sup>nd</sup>**. We serve our meals in the Mary Simpson Room from 4:30 - 5:30 pm.



Donations of fresh fruit and desserts are always needed and appreciated. These donations help keep the cost of the meal down.

If you can help, items can be dropped off at the church the week before the meal(s) between 8am and 3pm or the Saturday of the meal after 3pm.

Interested in possibly being one of our cooks? Helpers? Questions? Please contact Lisa Fowler([lisa.fowler@bex.net](mailto:lisa.fowler@bex.net) or 419-602-7969).



7 <sup>th</sup>	Brandon Johnson
10 <sup>th</sup>	Norma Homberger
19 <sup>th</sup>	Jewlia Jardon
20 <sup>th</sup>	Jessica Fritz-Pifer
23 <sup>rd</sup>	Steven Rankin
24 <sup>th</sup>	Donna Andres

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*Watch over your children, O Lord,  
as their days increase;  
bless and guide them wherever they may be.  
Strengthen them when they stand; comfort them when  
discouraged or sorrowful;  
raise them up when they fall;  
and in their hearts may your peace  
which passes understanding,  
abide all the days of their lives;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

***Our apologies if we missed your birthday.  
Please advise the church office  
of any changes or omissions.***



I want to take this opportunity to thank Debbie Chase and Ellen Mettert! In addition to the duties they do as members of the Altar Guild, they also take on the books of the Thrift Shop during the months that Donna and Terry Andres head south for the winter – so thank you Debbie and Ellen!



**Grace Episcopal Thrift Shop**  
301 East Market Street • Sandusky, OH 44870  
**419-626-5453**

**Hours: Tuesday-Friday: Noon-4pm  
Saturday: 10am-1pm  
Closed Sunday & Monday**

• **Clothing, Decor and Housewares** •

**All Proceeds Benefit Erie County Charities  
Our Store Is Staffed By Community Volunteers**



• **Donations Accepted, In Season** •





Our first Euchre Night was Friday, January 17<sup>th</sup>. We had a good crowd for our first time together. Newbies were taught the basics by Fr. Seth and Becky Montague and those already knowing the game had a great time.

*Looking forward to our next Euchre Night!*

Such a joyous day as Jewlia Jardon was baptized on Sunday, January 19<sup>th</sup>, embracing God's love and stepping into a new chapter of faith! We're so thankful to witness this beautiful moment and to support Jewlia as she follows Christ. May this be the beginning of a lifelong journey of faith and grace.





February 2025						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 Winter Convocation
2 Mass 8am Chapel  Adult Faith Formation 9am  Mass 10am Church Children's Chapel  Outreach Committee mtg 11:15am	3 Rector's Sabbath	4     Tuesday Eucharist 5:30pm in Chapel	5 Daily Eucharist 9 am in Chapel	6 Daily Eucharist 9 am in Chapel   After Hours Office Hr - Sandusky Book Bar 6pm	7 Daily Eucharist 9 am in Chapel	8
9 Mass 8am Chapel Adult Faith Formation 9am  Mass 10am Church  DOK meeting 1pm - Grace	10 Rector's Sabbath	11  Thrift Shop Steering Committee Mtg 9am   Tuesday Eucharist 5:30pm in Chapel	12 Daily Eucharist 9 am in Chapel	13 Daily Eucharist 9 am in Chapel   After Hours Office Hr - Sandusky Book Bar 6pm	14 Daily Eucharist 9 am in Chapel  Food card giveaway 9am  Happy Valentines Day	15 Community Meal 4:30p – 5:30p  Evening Prayer 5:15pm - Chapel
16 Mass 8am Chapel Adult Faith Formation 9am  Mass 10am Church Children's Chapel  Vestry Meeting 11:30am	17 Rector's Sabbath	18     Tuesday Eucharist 5:30pm in Chapel	19 Daily Eucharist 9 am in Chapel	20 Daily Eucharist 9 am in Chapel   After Hours Office Hr - Sandusky Book Bar 6pm	21 Daily Eucharist 9 am in Chapel	22 Community Meal 4:30p – 5:30p  Evening Prayer 5:15pm - Chapel
23 Mass 8am Chapel Adult Faith Formation 9am  Mass 10am Church	24 Rector's Sabbath	25     Tuesday Eucharist 5:00pm in Chapel	26 Daily Eucharist 9 am in Chapel	27 Daily Eucharist 9 am in Chapel   After Hours Office Hr - Sandusky Book Bar 6pm	28 Daily Eucharist 9 am in Chapel	



## FEBRUARY RESPONSIBILITIES

	February 2 Presentation of Jesus in the Temple	February 9 Fifth Sunday after Epiphany	February 16 Sixth Sunday after Epiphany	February 23 Seventh Sunday after Epiphany
Ushers/ Greeters	<b>VOLUNTEERS NEEDED</b>	<b>VOLUNTEERS NEEDED</b>	<b>VOLUNTEERS NEEDED</b>	<b>VOLUNTEERS NEEDED</b>
Lector/Chalice Bearer 8AM	Amy Fox	Debbie Chase	Amy Fox	Mark Pifer
Lector/Chalice Bearer 10AM	Jeff Mettert	Becky Montague	Ellen Mettert	Amy Fox
Acolytes	Ellen Mettert	Rick Doyan	Ellen Mettert	Rick Doyan
Livestream	Jeff Fowler	Don Lenhart	Don Lenhart	Jeff Fowler
Altar Guild 10AM	Ellen Mettert	Marcia Fordham	Barby Gravengaard	Judy Porterfield
Coffee Hour	<b>VOLUNTEERS NEEDED</b>	<b>VOLUNTEERS NEEDED</b>	<b>VOLUNTEERS NEEDED</b>	<b>VOLUNTEERS NEEDED</b>

### **PLEASE PRAY FOR THOSE IN NEED OF COMFORT OR HEALING**

Amelia	Jenny, Dave, &	Nancy
Barbara	Tate	Pauline
Betty & Mike	JoAnn	Richard, Lisa &
Bev	Joe	Missy
Bob	Joea & Neill	Ron & Alice
Caine & Owen	Judy & Jim	Ron & Rene
Dawn	Karen	Ruth
Doug & Beth	Kate	Sr. Rosemary
Dudley & Linda	Kris	Steve
Emily	Lauren	Steve & Kathy
Emily & baby	Marie	Sue
Ernie	Matthew	Vona, Stewie &
Jeff	Mia	Alizander
Jeff & Nancy	Michael	Wayne
	Mike, Shelly &	
	Derrick	

***If you, a family member, or a friend is in need  
of Pastoral Care, or is hospitalized,  
please call the Church Office at 419-625-6919.***

The Absalom Jones  
Fund for Episcopal  
HBCUs supports  
two institutions  
affiliated with The  
Episcopal Church  
since the 1800s:



**ABSALOM JONES FUND**

Saint Augustine's University in Raleigh, North Carolina, and Voorhees University in Denmark, South Carolina. In 1804, Absalom Jones became the first African American to be ordained a priest in The Episcopal Church. His witness to the way of Jesus included efforts to abolish slavery and to lift up all those cast down. He understood that education is the key to empowerment. We honor Absalom Jones by supporting our HBCUs, which prepare the talented leaders who will continue the work of building a more just and humane society.

**On Sunday, February 9<sup>th</sup>,** at Grace, we will take a special offering for the Absalom Jones Fund and submit it to this vital cause.



**Our Outreach Grant Fair, for those who received grants in 2023,  
was again held virtually this year.  
In this, and future newsletters we will publish their reports.**

**ST. PAUL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH, OREGON, OH**

St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Oregon, OH wishes to thank you for your generous outreach grant in 2023-24! Unfortunately, we were unable to use the grant as submitted because Pastor Julie was unable to secure any way to purchase bread for the monthly food pantry at a reasonable cost. Sadly, the bread outlet backed out and Kroger wasn't interested. However, we put the money to great use as it enabled us to purchase the "extras" at the pantry. We recently discovered that we are the only Food for Thought food pantry that consistently offers these items. For example, last year we provided cat and dog food to many families monthly as well as 2 rolls of toilet paper to all who attend. Adult hygiene products (tampons, pads, disposable briefs, bed pads) that cannot be purchased with any government assistance were also very appreciated. The number of families coming to our monthly pantry skyrocketed this year to over 200, where we used to average 150.

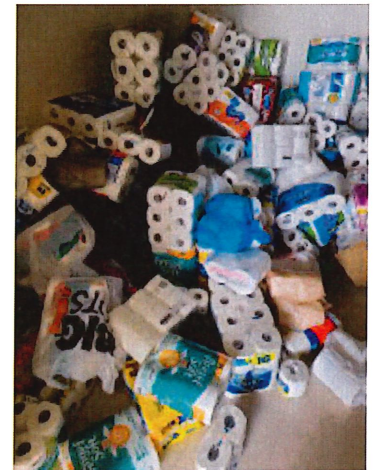
See below for a link to our website page on our monthly food pantry.  
<https://www.stpaulschurchoregon.org/mobile-food-pantry.html>



Feminine Hygiene Products

Toilet Paper

Pet Food



**LOST AND FOUND**

We have a few things in the office  
(glasses, hair clip, the magnetic back from a nametag)  
that have been turned in over the last few months.  
If yours, please see Debbie or Fr. Seth.





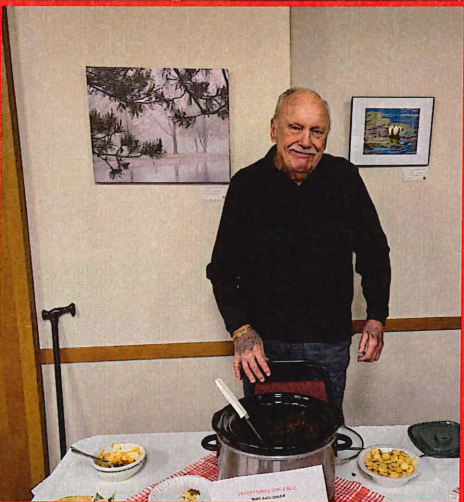
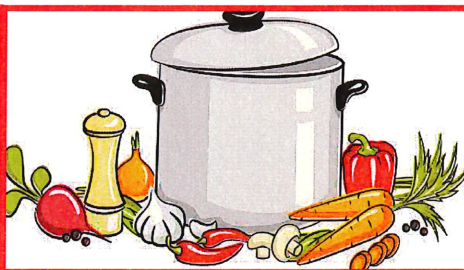
After our Annual Meeting on January 26<sup>th</sup>  
we enjoyed chili and fellowship at our 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Chili Cook-Off!

We had seven cooks bring in their own signature chili - Kelly  
Gerhardstein, Becky Montague, Mike Antkowiak, Lisa Fowler,  
Melissa Wymer, Zach Jardon and this year's winner, Jewlia Jardon.

We all left with full bellies and not a drop of chili left!

***Congrats to Jewlia on taking home the chili trophy  
as champion of our 3rd Annual Chili Cook-Off!***

Thank you to all our cooks for making this a fun day for everyone.

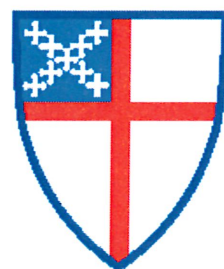


**CHILI  
COOK OFF**





**God loves you.  
No exceptions.**



**The Episcopal Church Welcomes You. [www.dohio.org](http://www.dohio.org)**