

# Amazing Grace

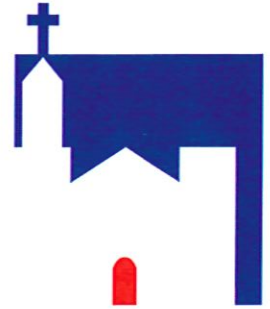


## May 2025

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

Saturday at 5:30 p.m.

Sunday at 8:00 a.m.

Sunday at 10:00 a.m.

In-Person, livestreamed on Boxcast, and on Facebook

Daily Mass at 9am  
(Wednesday and Thursday)  
In-Person and on Facebook

Tuesday at 5:30pm  
In-Person and on Facebook

**All services are in the Chapel during our Church renovation.**

### 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, Candidate for Holy Orders	babrauniii@gmail.com
Randy Ruthsatz, Organist/Choirmaster	rarcpa@sbcglobal.net

### Parish Staff

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



## RECTOR'S REFLECTION - MAY 2025

*Christos Anesti, Alleluia! Alithos Anesti, Alleluia!* In Greek Orthodox circles this greeting (one of the most joy-filled) expresses the happiness found in the Easter Proclamation, "Christ is risen from the dead, and by his death he has trampled upon death. And to those in the grave he granted life!" The reality of our Lord's resurrection is the cornerstone of our faith, yet there are those who try to discredit it on a pretty regular basis (wander on the Episcopal priest side of "X" [the social media platform formerly known as Twitter] for 10 minutes and you'll be shocked). While there may be some shock and awe at that statement (and rightly so), sadly it is not new. Even St. Matthew encountered resurrection-deniers (largely from the secular authority at the time) who spread the lie that Jesus' body was not raised, but was stolen (MT 28:11-15).



The question remains: If Jesus did not rise from the dead, what does that mean for our faith? My response would be: What faith? The bodily resurrection of Jesus has implications on our sacramental life - any chance of an afterlife is in limbo (pun intended), and any faith in the inerrancy of scripture gets called into question. Perhaps you've already thoroughly thought it through, but for those who've spent time in evangelical circles and are no longer part of them, the term inerrancy when mentioning scripture is likely to be a huge red flag. The empty tomb on Easter Sunday is the bedrock of who Jesus is and who he claimed to be with implications for us, his followers, to be able to gain eternal life. The Easter Proclamation is for us, we are those in the grave who have been granted life - if we choose to accept this new life offered to us in Jesus Christ. Each Sunday in Easter we renew our baptismal covenant, whereby we attest to being these new creatures in this new creation that Christ has started by putting an end to death: "O death where is your victory? O death, where is your sting (1 Cor. 15:55)?" These questions are the taunt of the early church who saw in the resurrection of Jesus a new beginning in a life of faith with a new end.<sup>1</sup>

Now that I am done with my light theological treatise on the resurrection of Jesus, onto things with the parish! I first want to give a huge a "thank you" to the many, MANY people who make Holy Week and Easter at Grace Church such a beautiful expression of our faith:

- To Randy Ruthsatz, Brandon Johnson, and the Grace Church choir for giving of their time and talents in selecting music for all the services and beautifully and prayerfully carrying out the sacred music during all of the services,
- To the Altar Guild in the constant change of altar dressings, hangings, and flowers in the church,
- To Debbie, for making sure all of the bulletins were run and in order so no one got lost,
- To Barb for being with us through Holy Week and for preaching on Good Friday,
- To Rick and Ellen for serving at the various services throughout the week, and the many lectors it takes to pull off the Passion Gospel and all of the readings for the Vigil; and
- To all who came and were a part of the various liturgies - while I would still do it if no one came (like we did during the pandemic), it means so much more when there are people in the pews to partake!

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See *The Day the Revolution Began* by N.T. Wright.



In May there are few things I would like to highlight that are a change from our norm. The first is that on Thursday, May 1<sup>st</sup>, there will be a group of men from Grace Church who will meet at Vita around 9:30a for some coffee and an attempt to solve the world's problems. Hopefully, those who are interested in joining in a judgment free discussion of current topics will join us!

The second is that beginning on Saturday, May 3<sup>rd</sup>, we will start our Saturday evening Eucharist. This will begin at 5:30p and be in the chapel. It is my hope that people will avail themselves of this service so that way the services on Sunday are not over-flowing. The Saturday evening liturgy will have some music (more contemporary and not as much as the 10a service, and more than the 8a).

Thirdly, on Saturday, May 10<sup>th</sup>, our own Barb Reszko (at least for the remainder of this month) will be leading a training session on addressing those who come to church or are church shopping and have been harmed by other churches (those who are victims of trauma). We are hosting this class in our Mary Simpson Room and it is free to those who wish to come, so please help spread the word!

Lastly, on Sunday, May 25<sup>th</sup>, we will have a celebration for Barb as we wish her well and send her back to Toledo where God-willing and the people consenting, she will be ordained a deacon in June by Bishop Anne. Barb has been a joy to work with and we have all benefited from her preaching which has been both inspired and inspiring, so please plan to join this celebration.

Whew! I'm done for this month – more to come in June!

See you in church on Sunday,

Fr. Seth | Rector

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

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

***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.***

**THANK YOU!**

I want to take this opportunity to thank the many choir members Grace Church has!

Throughout the renovation of the church we will be hearing from many of them in different variations as Randy, Brandon, and the choir think creatively of providing meaningful music to those who attend the 10a Mass in the Chapel.

Congratulations to Drs. Cindy and Brian Zelis on the birth of their grandchild, Graham David Hoffman. He is the great grandchild of the late Dr. Gary Romp and Carole.





Below are some important dates of events taking place here and in the Diocese in May.

If you have any questions or would like further information, please reach out to Fr. Seth or Debbie in the Parish Office.

## Upcoming EVENTS

### Thursday, May 1<sup>st</sup>

9:30a @ Vita: Men's Coffee Clutch (judgment free discussion of today's hot topics)

### Saturday, May 3<sup>rd</sup>

8:30a-11a @ Osborn Park Soccer Fields – Soccer Saturday

5:30p in the Chapel – Vigil Mass

### Sunday, May 4<sup>th</sup>

9a Adult Faith Formation

10a Children's Chapel

### Saturday, May 10<sup>th</sup>

8:30a-11a @ Osborn Park Soccer Fields – Soccer Saturday

9a-3p in the Mary Simpson Room – Trauma Training

5:30p in the Chapel – Vigil Mass with Blessings for Mothers

### Sunday, May 11<sup>th</sup>

Mother's Day - Blessing for Mothers at both services today

9a Adult Faith Formation

### Saturday, May 17<sup>th</sup>

8:30a-11a @ Osborn Park Soccer Fields – Soccer Saturday

5:30p in the Chapel – Vigil Mass

### Sunday, May 18<sup>th</sup>

9a Adult Faith Formation

10a Children's Chapel

11:30a – Vestry Meeting in the Meeting Room

1p – Daughters of the King @ the Sorrowful Mother Shrine, Bellevue, OH

### Wednesday, May 21<sup>st</sup>

Kinship Board Meeting @ 5p

### Saturday, May 24<sup>th</sup>

8:30a-11a @ Osborn Park Soccer Fields – Soccer Saturday

4:30p-5:30p in the Mary Simpson Room: First Community Meal of the month

5:30p in the Chapel – Vigil Mass

### Sunday, May 25<sup>th</sup>

Celebration for Barb Reszko after both services

### Friday, May 30<sup>th</sup>

6:30p – Euchre Night in the Mary Simpson Room

### Saturday, May 31<sup>st</sup>

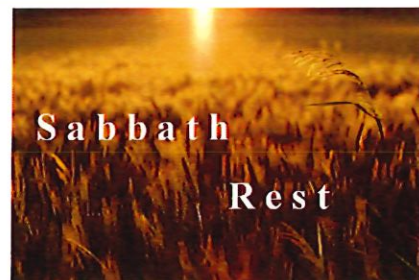
4:30p-5:30p in the MSR – Second Community Meal of the month

5:30p in the Chapel – Vigil Mass

### SABBATH DAYS

One addition to our monthly calendar you may notice is a second Sabbath Day for me on Fridays. One may wonder: Why does he deserve *another* day off? Given the addition of our Saturday evening service, the Vestry wanted to ensure I was taking adequate time for myself and for my family - a sentiment I am grateful to them for recognizing and ensuring that it happens!

The notion of Sabbath is one of the core tenants of the Law given to Moses by God, and it finds its origins in creation itself. While I am not in the office, please know that you and the parish at large are being prayed for during my recitation of the Liturgy of the Hours. I appreciate everyone's efforts in keeping communication with me during these days of rest to pastoral emergencies - it does allow me to unwind and enjoy time with the family. It also allows me to be a better priest to you all when I have time to refill my own tank.







6<sup>th</sup> Martha Speers  
 9<sup>th</sup> Susan Hunt  
 11<sup>th</sup> Debbie Gerold  
 Judy Porterfield  
 12<sup>th</sup> Andy Short  
 14<sup>th</sup> Tom Welch  
 16<sup>th</sup> Penelope "Pip" Pifer  
 23<sup>rd</sup> Patti Lippert

*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.***

**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

**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 June newsletter is **Monday, May 27<sup>th</sup>.**



**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 •

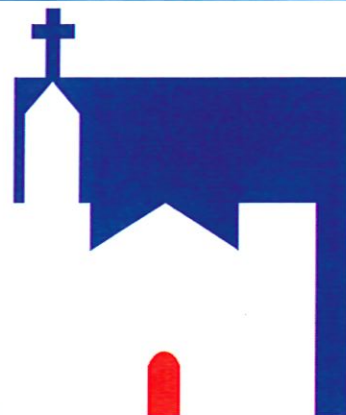
All Proceeds Benefit Erie County Charities  
 Our Store Is Staffed By Community Volunteers



• Donations Accepted, In Season •



# Church Renovation



In this third installment we are witnessing the beginning of the church work. All 60 pews will be removed and taken offsite where they will be stripped, repaired, painted, stained, and sealed before their triumphal return in 6 or 7 months! If you see a lot of trucks outside of the church you know why!

The pews at Grace tell an interesting tale of the beginnings of the church: In our polity, it is the vestry's role to assume any financial liability for the parish. This means that if the church cannot pay its bills it is the vestry's responsibility to pay them from their personal accounts (as an FYI this is still the case). So parishes, very early on, saw the need to have local business leaders on the vestry to pay for the start-up of a parish. Once the church was established and in order to free themselves from the financial burden of keeping their family and a church above water they would "rent" pews to parishioners for a year. The income from the pew rental would cover the cost of the expenses for the church that year (hopefully). And families would have the opportunity to move towards the front of the church or towards the back based on the change in their income from year-to-year. The dividers in our pews allowed the vestry at the time to "double" the income from renting a single pew to two different families!

Throughout this process those attending Sunday (or Saturday evening) masses will have the opportunity to go up into the church and watch the process from week-to-week. For those who enjoy a warmer climate you will be able to watch via our online camera that will be on the Facebook page during the services on the weekend. I hope everyone takes the opportunity to check in on the work being done from time-to-time.

Fr. Seth



## SOCCER SIGN-UP

On Saturdays in May, the Bay Area Soccer League has soccer games for the local children's leagues at Osborn Park. As part of our *Invite* group, we are again going to be there on these game days to give out coffee, water, and snacks for the parents and kids (there are no concessions for these games). We did this last fall and it was very well received.

What we need from you – volunteers to help with these Saturday morning events. It will only be a couple hours of your time (approx. 8:30-11am). A sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board outside the church office. If you have any questions, please speak with Becky Montague, Melissa Wymer, Fr. Seth, Debbie

## WE'RE ON FACEBOOK

Did you know that we have a Facebook page?  
Check us out:

<https://www.facebook.com/GraceEpiscopalSandusky/>

The Thrift Shop also has a Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/GraceSanduskyThriftShop/>

We stream the daily services and our Sunday 10am service.  
Visit us and give us a thumbs up!

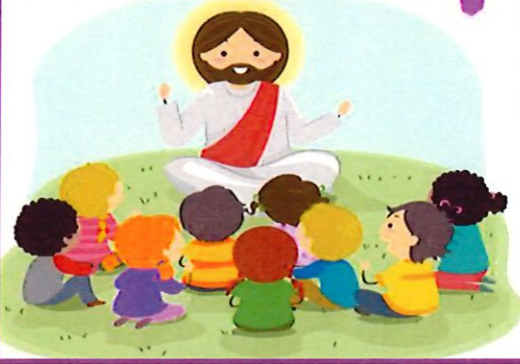


**CLOSED  
MONDAY**

Beginning in June and through August the Church Office will be closed on Mondays so that Debbie can use up some vacation time.



# Children's Chapel



Every 1st and 3rd  
Sunday

For children  
Preschool through  
3rd grade

## COMMUNITY MEAL

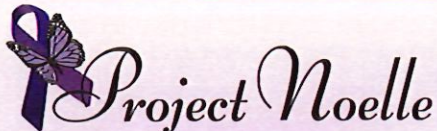
Our May Community Meal dates are **Saturday, the 24<sup>th</sup> and Saturday, the 31<sup>st</sup>**. We serve our meals in the Mary Simpson Room from 4:30 - 5:30 pm.



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).



We'd like to thank everyone who brought in donations to help Project Noelle fill Easter baskets. In Erie County alone they distributed 300 baskets to kids who have lost a parent to the opioid epidemic. Your generosity is a blessing.

## CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED

The Offices will be closed  
Monday, May 26<sup>th</sup>.

Our second Lenten project aside from Project Noelle was for Heifer International.



Thanks to your generosity we were able to send donations totaling \$1,522.00 to this worthy cause.

## Contributors:

Julie and Barry Geiger

Ellen and Jeff Mettert

Marcia Fordham

Jim and Mary Ellen Hart

Donna and Terry Andres

Barby Gravengaard

Becky Montague and Mike Antkowiak

Karen Wennes

Lisa and Jeff Fowler

Jo Pankow

Beth and Andy Short

Mary Toney

Rick Doyan

Katie Cummings

Ken Neiding

Robert and Martha Speers

Larry and April McCormack

Melissa and Seth Wymer

Roz Stevenson

Patty Pascoe

Howard and Bridget Holzhauser

Kitty and Steve Smith



## AFTER HOURS OFFICE HOUR

On Thursdays in May,

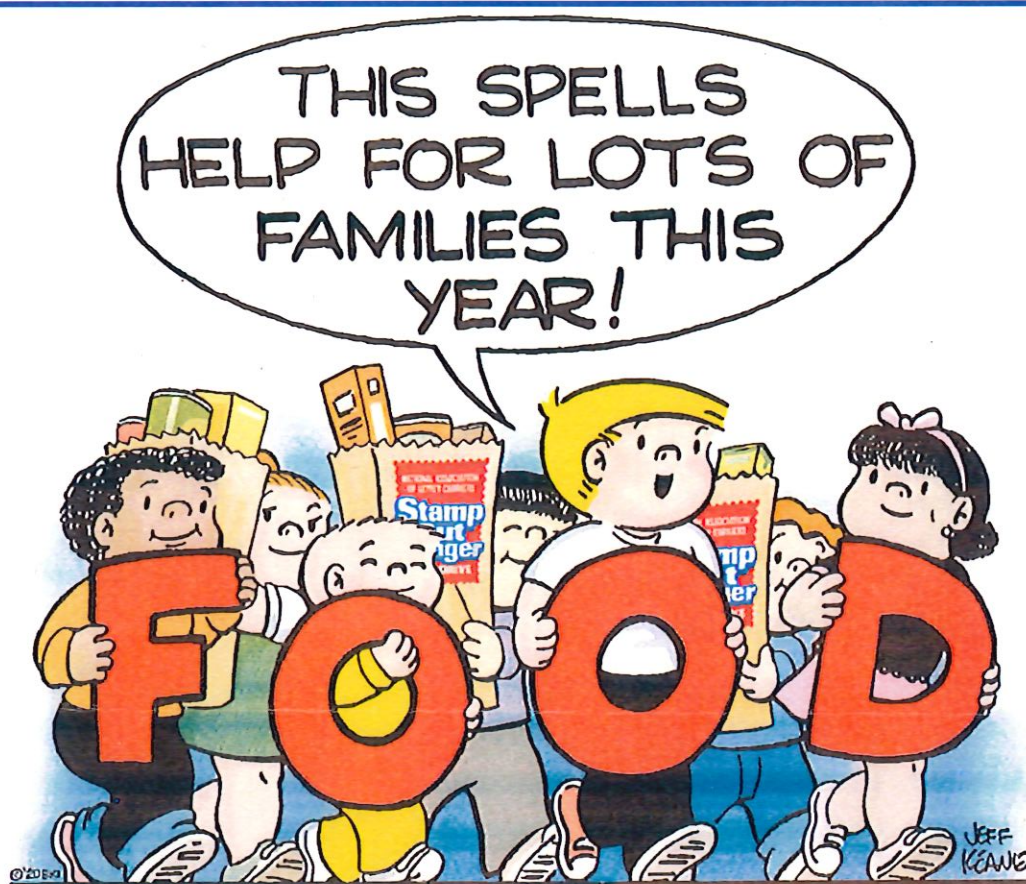
Fr. Seth has his after hours office hour  
at the church. Stop by if you want to chat!





Join us **Friday, May 30<sup>th</sup>** for our next Euchre Night! Bring a partner or just bring yourself (we'll find you a partner). Don't know how to play but want to learn? We will have a table and teachers there for you. The fun starts at 6:30pm in the Mary Simpson Room.

Snacks and non-alcoholic beverages provided. If you want to bring your own "refreshment", you are most welcome to.



# LETTER CARRIERS' FOOD DRIVE

## MAY 10, 2025

PUT YOUR NON-PERISHABLE DONATION IN A BAG BY YOUR MAILBOX.  
WE'LL DELIVER IT TO A LOCAL FOOD BANK.

\*Labor Donated

NALC, Branch 100



# ***SAILING AWAY TO DISASTER***

***MURDER MYSTERY DINNER***

sponsored by

***ERIE COUNTY CASA PROGRAM***

**SATURDAY, MAY 17, 2025 AT 6:00 P.M.**

***TEN FIFTY EIGHT EVENT CENTER***

**1058 Cleveland Road • Sandusky, Ohio**

**TICKETS \$60 EACH OR 2 FOR \$100**

Corporate Sponsorships available for \$650 (includes 8 event tickets)

Visit [eriecountycasaohio.org](http://eriecountycasaohio.org)  
for tickets or scan this QR code  
for more information, call 419-621-0324



**DINNER THEATER • SILENT AUCTION**

**RAFFLES • CASH BAR**

**LIVE UNITED**



**FUNDRAISER FOR ERIE COUNTY CASA**

**(Court Appointed Special Advocates – for children)**

**For tickets or questions, contact: Andy Short (CASA Board Member) at (269) 967-4138**



May 2025						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 Men's Coffee Vita 9:30am  After Hours Office Hour 6pm	2 Rector's Sabbath	3 Soccer Saturday 8:30am  Evening Eucharist 5:30pm
4 Mass 8am Chapel Adult Faith Formation 9am Mass 10am Church Children's Chapel	5 Rector's Sabbath	6  Mid-Week Eucharist 5:30pm	7 Daily Eucharist 9 am  Choir Practice 7pm	8 Daily Eucharist 9 am  After Hours Office Hour 6pm	9 Rector's Sabbath  Food card giveaway 9am	10 Soccer Saturday 8:30am  Trauma Training for Churches 9am  Evening Eucharist 5:30pm
11 Mother's Day  Mass 8am Chapel Adult Faith Formation 9am Mass 10am Church	12 Rector's Sabbath	13 Thrift Shop Steering Committee Mtg 9am  Mid-Week Eucharist 5:30pm	14 Daily Eucharist 9 am  Choir Practice 7pm	15 Daily Eucharist 9 am  After Hours Office Hour 6pm	16 Rector's Sabbath	17 Soccer Saturday 8:30am  Evening Eucharist 5:30pm
18 Mass 8am Chapel Adult Faith Formation 9am Mass 10am Church Children's Chapel Vestry Meeting 11:30am DOK- Sorrowful Mother Shrine 1pm	19 Rector's Sabbath	20  Mid-Week Eucharist 5:30pm	21 Daily Eucharist 9 am  Kinship Meeting 5pm Choir Practice 7pm	22 Daily Eucharist 9 am  After Hours Office Hour 6pm	23 Rector's Sabbath	24 Soccer Saturday 8:30am  Community Meal 4:30p – 5:30p Evening Eucharist 5:30pm
25 Mass 8am Chapel Adult Faith Formation 9am Mass 10am Church Celebrating Barb Reszko after both services	26 Rector's Sabbath  Church Offices Closed	27  Mid-Week Eucharist 5:30pm	28 Daily Eucharist 9 am  Choir Practice 7pm	29 Daily Eucharist 9 am  After Hours Office Hour 6pm	30 Rector's Sabbath  Euchre Night 6:30pm	31  Community Meal 4:30p – 5:30p Evening Eucharist 5:30pm



## MAY RESPONSIBILITIES

	May 4 Third Sunday of Easter	May 11 Fourth Sunday of Easter	May 18 Fifth Sunday of Easter	May 25 Sixth Sunday of Easter
Ushers/Greeters	VOLUNTEERS NEEDED	VOLUNTEERS NEEDED	VOLUNTEERS NEEDED	VOLUNTEERS NEEDED
Lector/Chalice Bearer 8AM	Debbie Chase	Kitty Smith	Mark Pifer	Debbie Chase
Lector/Chalice Bearer 10AM	Jeff Mettert	Jim Hart	Janet Poyer	Janet Poyer
Lector/Chalice Bearer 5:30PM (Saturday)	Amy Fox	Amy Fox	Amy Fox	Amy Fox
Livestream	Jeff Fowler	Jeff Fowler	Jeff Fowler	Jeff Fowler
Altar Guild	Barby Gravengaard	Ellen Mettert	Marcia Fordham	Barby Gravengaard
Coffee Hour	VOLUNTEER NEEDED	VOLUNTEER NEEDED	VOLUNTEER NEEDED	VOLUNTEER NEEDED



We're excited to have partnered with CleverGiver for online fundraising! Donate smart by shopping online through them, and they will donate a % of every dollar you spend. Thanks in advance for supporting **Parish of Grace Church** at [www.CleverGiver.com](http://www.CleverGiver.com)

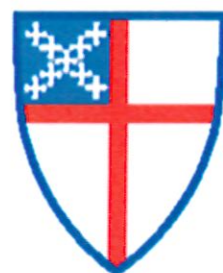


### 5 Little-Known Benefits of CleverGiver

- 1. Many Times Better Than Amazon Smile (which is no more)** - With CleverGiver, you will be able to donate five to eight times more than Amazon Smile used to. It's 1.2% on purchases at Apple, 2.4% at Walmart.com, 3% at Target.com, 3.6% at Lowe's, 4.2% at Wayfair, and so on.
- 2. Matching First-Purchase Cashback 100%** - Each shopper's first purchase cashback is 100% matched by CleverGiver – doubling the amount (available for donations) in the shopper's account.
- 3. Customers Don't Pay a Penny More** - Whenever you shop with your favorite brands through CleverGiver, you do not pay more than you would've paid going to their websites directly. CleverGiver donates out of the commissions they receive from these brands, sharing the larger chunk of their revenue with the nonprofits supported by their users.
- 4. Ability to Support Multiple Nonprofits** - Unlike all other similar services (which allow you to support only one nonprofit at a time), CleverGiver allows each shopper to designate up to three nonprofits to support, including the exact percentage of funds that should go to each. There's also a fourth option which is cashback.
- 5. Generous Referral and Welcome Bonuses** - CleverGiver rewards its individual users for referring new shoppers (new members without previous or existing accounts). Use your custom referral link and as soon as your referral accumulates \$7.00 in CleverGiver Credit from purchases (not in other referral bonuses), both you and your referral get \$7.00 each.



**God loves you.  
No exceptions:**



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