



The Angelus September 2023

From the Rector's Desk

So much transition at Grace the past several months.

I learned a couple of weeks ago that Dcn Nicci would resign as parish administrator at Grace. Wardens and leadership received a copy of her resignation letter, too, immediately thereafter. The position that she was offered that allowed her to return to public health—in which she had worked previously for over fifteen years—was very much the right thing for her. I personally will miss her very much, not least because I could not have managed to start ministry here during a pandemic lockdown without her. I needn't go into all the personal qualities that made interacting with her so meaningful for all of us. You know that about her very well, too. So with joy, gratitude, and not a little grief, we say goodbye. And with all the blessings we can ask God to shower on her.

There are some articles in this issue of The Angelus that describe some of the details about the transition in our parish office. Please read them over for some more detail and some practical information about operations in the weeks following this change.

It was brought to my attention, though, that many did not receive the parish email in which Dcn Nicci informed everyone that she had resigned. Some did receive it. Who knows why this happened, but whatever the reasons, many apologies to all of you who were left in the dark. Dcn Nicci and I planned this transition fully once Dcn Nicci had resigned, and a central part of that planning was how to communicate with leaders and the parish. That included scheduling a parish-wide email from her telling everyone about this next exciting chapter in her life and in her ministry as a deacon. Again, many apologies to those of you who did not hear about this directly!!

Because the people of Grace are really stepping into roles and ministries, volunteers will carry some of the administrative load, as will I, until such a time as we can re-examine what we need in a parish administrator, write the right job description, and bring someone new on board. While saddened by Dcn Nicci's departure, I've had a great deal of fun working with people in our office, outside service providers, vendors, etc., during this time that is exciting, too.

I'm not a little excited about our new sexton, Mr Jorge Gonzalez. He begins Sept 1 and there is an article about him below. Please welcome Jorge. You will be delighted to get acquainted. And know how pleased he is to be serving God with you in this place.

We're going to do very well as a congregation after the many changes we've experienced the past three years. I cannot cease praising God and thanking God for all of you as leaders and servants. What have I done to deserve living among you as priest and rector?

In the meantime, I can imagine some of us having significant grief fatigue, some feeling unclear about what the near and further future of our congregation might be, some feeling some excitement about possibilities. None of these feelings are wrong. They just are. And I ask God to bless us all as we live together through yet more change.

Times of significant change are often times to ask what God is doing among us and calling us into. God speaks not only through the Bible or Tradition. God speaks through the unfolding events around us, on small and large scales. This year your vestry and I have been trying to practice what we call The Four Movements.

They aren't a magic formula or some latest gee-whiz guru process. The Four Movements are pretty classical practices for staying close to the heart of God and learning what God's will is for us. These Four Movements, then, help us "discern" what the path forward might look like.

The Four Movements are:

- ❖ Assume God is already doing what God wants to be done.
- ❖ Be honest with myself about my readiness to be open to what God is already up to, about my openness to following God.
- ❖ Listen deeply to what God is saying through people and events around us, in Scripture, in tradition, in our hearts through prayer, etc.
- ❖ Make decisions and act based on the first three movements.

These four Movements have helped your vestry and me get good agendas, have the right discussions, set good priorities, and stay focused on them. More to come, so stay tuned!

And as God wills, vestry and I continue to listen deeply as we continue to experience change and growth now.

Lord, have mercy. Thanks be to God!

Peace,
WLB+

Deacon Nicci Beeck Moves On In Her Career! Departs After Six Years as Grace Parish Administrator!

Dcn Nicci, our parish administrator, has resigned and her last day was August 25. She has asked that there be no party or purse for her, but it would be very loving if each of us got in touch with her and thanked her for her many years of wonderful service to Grace, as well as ask God's blessing on her as she resumes her career in public health, this time for Sheboygan County.

PLEASE NOTE! Dcn Nicci's email has been closed. Please use the following email addresses that for now will be monitored by Fr William, Mary Gallimore, and Tomomi Kanemaru:

parishadministrator@gracesheboygan.com OR office@gracesheboygan.com.

A Note from Deacon Nicci

(As was noted earlier in this Angelus, we discovered that many members of our parish family did not receive Dcn Nicci's email announcing her departure from us and her transition to new avenues of service in the county. Her message is reprinted here.)

Good Afternoon Beloved of God~

After deep discernment and with complete trust in God, I have submitted my formal resignation from my position as the Parish Administrator of Grace Episcopal Church. My final day of employment will be Friday, August 25, 2023.

For the past six years, Grace has been more than a workplace for me. Within these sacred walls, I have experienced refuge, laughter, love, joy, support, friendship, Ordination, and forgiveness. I will forever offer praise and thanksgiving for the blessings received during time spent with each of you.

I know this question will be on your minds: "Where is she going?" Well, I am not going far . . .

Before I became the Parish Administrator of Grace in 2017, I was a Health Educator for Brown County Public Health for 18 years. I have accepted the same position for Sheboygan County Health and Human Services Public Health Division. I'll be right across the street from Grace, and it brings me joy to know that quite literally, our paths will cross.

It is my desire for the transition of my responsibilities to be as seamless as possible, and I will work with Fr William and the Vestry Wardens to ensure this occurs. Rest assured, a sound transition plan is in place.

Thank you for your confidence in, patience with, and understanding of me during my time as Parish Administrator. I leave Grace in confidence that all is well and all will be well.

In His service,
Deacon Nicci

Now, Who Will Do What Jobs?

The various duties in Dcn Nicci's job description have been distributed to volunteers and to Fr William. Here are some of the people to contact who are handling the parish administrator jobs that affect us most immediately:

- **Prep, proof, print Sunday and other worship booklets—Tomomi Kanemaru**
Please submit all your announcements, calendar items, prayer requests, etc., by NOON on WEDNESDAY.
- **Building compliance, building contractors, etc.—John Davis**
- **Scheduling Building Use—Pat Ford-Smith**
Please contact Pat for the use of ANY room at Grace at ANY time. It does happen that without scheduling through the office building use scheduler, confusion, hardship, and hurt feelings result. Pat

will take your building use request, consult with Fr William, and then confirm your request for building use.

- **Weekly parish email, now on THURSDAYS, as well as emailing the Angelus**—Mary Gallimore
- **Print and mail hard copy of the Angelus**—Cindy Weiss, Pat Ford-Smith, Mary Gallimore
- **Ordering office, altar, and other parish ministry supplies**—Mary Gallimore

Please note that Mary will not keep track of various stocks. People in charge of those ministries are responsible for that. But she will place orders as people request of her.

There are other of Dcn Nicci's duties that have been generously taken up by volunteers. But the above are probably the contacts for tasks we will need most and soonest. Contact Fr William with any other questions you have about this transition: wbulson@gracesheboygan.com AND 920.452.9659

New Office Hours, New Phone System, & Rector's New Office Hours

Our parish office will be open **Monday-Friday, 9 am-1 pm**.

Fr William's office hours will be **Monday-Thursday, 9 am-11:30 am**. His days off are Friday, and Saturdays, too, when he can get them.

We have a new phone system installed and supported by Rhyme, with the initial costs and set up funded generously by the Grace Walsingham Foundation. The system is much easier to use for office staff and volunteers, and makes it easier for callers to reach the desired extension more directly during office hours and when the office is closed. Thanks, Grace Walsingham and our volunteer receptionists, Cindy Weiss, Pat Ford-Smith, and Mary Gallimore!

Welcome Grace's New Sexton, Mr Jorge Gonzalez!

Please welcome our new sexton, Mr Jorge Gonzalez! He will begin officially on September 1. Jorge has lived in Sheboygan for some time and brings varied work experience and a warm smile as he works along with us at Grace. With his help, our beautiful building will continue to be the clean and inviting place it has always been. He will be doing floor mopping in our most trafficked areas, some dusting, and window cleaning.

Please know that our sexton position is somewhat reduced from what it has been in years past. This means, among other things, that we will continue to empty our own trash after events we host, set up our own tables and chairs, wipe down counters we use, etc. You all are so generous about doing this already. So, thank you!

A very special THANK YOU to Pat Ford-Smith, who has taken on so many cleaning tasks these many months, since we have been without a paid sexton, and to Jack Britton and Pat Miller for carrying this load, too. Blessings to any others who have done cleaning and whose names I am not aware of. Please thank this stalwart crew and please welcome Jorge when you meet him!

Sunday Adult Forum Resumes on Sept 23, 9 am-10 am

Forum Schedule Set for 2023-2024

Please join us in St Mark's Room downstairs on the Sundays scheduled below for discussion of current events and ministries, Bible and life, how to pray, and the life with the saints. With excitement and gratitude to God, we present the Adult Forum schedule for the program year 2023-2024:



Reading Revelation Responsibly

All Sundays from September 23 through December 17

Led by Cindy Weiss

The book of Revelation, the last book of the New Testament, is one of the most loved, most hated, most confusing, most misunderstood, most inspiring books of the Bible. Reading together the book by Michael Gorman, *Reading Revelation Responsibly*, we will get a faithful and healthy grasp on this amazing vision of God's Kingdom and Love. Books are available for \$25 on Sunday mornings at Grace. Those looking for a discounted book price, please contact Fr William: 920.452.9659; wbulson@gracesheboygan.com

Migration Ministry and Grace Episcopal Church

All Sundays from January 7 through Jan 28, 2024

Led by Dcn Paul Aparicio

God's people Israel wandered in the desert with Moses, and Jesus Himself with His family was a refugee for a time. Come join Dcn Paul who leads Grace's St Alban's Guild for migrant and refugee ministry, as he describes the realities of immigration, Sheboygan and refugees, and Grace's witness in migrant ministry.

Basics of the Bible and the Book of Common Prayer

All Sundays from February 4 through March 17

Led by Fr William Bulson

How is the Bible put together and who wrote it? Is it the Word of God? How should we go about reading it? What does it have to do with real life in the 21st century? These are some of the questions—along with questions YOU will bring to the group—about the Bible.

Not only that, the Bible is something in our kind of Christianity that we use in prayer, for getting close to Christ and entering God's Kingdom, especially in our Prayer Book worship and daily life.

We'll learn how to use the practical structures for regular reading and pondering the Bible that our Book of Common Prayer provides, gain confidence in reading and pondering the Bible, and maybe be changed and equipped in the process.

Knowing Mary and Why She Matters

All Sundays from Apr 14 through May 12

Led by Fr William Bulson

We have a shrine with a Mary statue at Grace. But why? Does she really matter if we're not Roman Catholic? And what's with Our Lady of Walsingham? Why do we say Hail, Mary?

Mary has been central to life in Jesus from the very beginning. But why she matters and how has been lost at times in the Church and in the world's notions of what faith is all about. At Grace, we have a particular connection with her, too, through our devotion at our shrine to the left of the high altar in church.

Come and ask the questions you think are the dumb ones but that everyone else wants to ask, too. Let's get to know Mary as she mattered to Jesus, and, therefore, to us.



News from Love INC

Connie Schneider is Grace's Church Ministry Coordinator for Love INC. Please reach out to her (connieschneider@gmail.com) for more information, for questions, or for ways to get involved with Love INC.

- **Product drive for Gap Ministries and New Way Program**

August's product drive focused on specific items for the Personal Care Kit Ministry, Love Bucket Ministry, and New Way class participants. Cash donations are always welcome!!

- **New Way classes start Thursday, September 7th**

Registration opens August 7th

For information on classes, please visit our website: <https://www.loveincsheboygancounty.org>

- **Love INC is one of the beneficiaries for the Shane & Shane concert at the Weill Center**

WHERE: Stefanie H. Weill Center, 826 N. 8th Street, Sheboygan

WHEN: Friday, September 22 at 7:30 pm

- **6th Annual Fundraising Event — Living Out Love**

We hope you will join us for a fun-filled evening to support Love In the Name of Christ!

Our lively dinner auction will be held at Pine Hills Country Club in Sheboygan on Saturday, October 21 from 5:30-8:30 pm. Event cost is \$75 per person or \$600 per table of 8. Reservation information coming soon.

Grace Church Swag is coming!

With the help of local company, O'Callahan's, The 175th Anniversary Committee has created commemorative screen printed and embroidered wearables and other goods that will be unveiled on September 10th at Mass on the Grass. Orders will be taken at that time and beyond, with turnaround in approximately three weeks from order date. An online store will be created and the link published when it's available. Orders will be taken manually until the online version is set up. Items range in price from \$15 to \$50. Money made from purchases will be matched by a donation from the Grace Walsingham Foundation.

A Pilgrim's Way with Grace

By Deacon Paul Aparicio

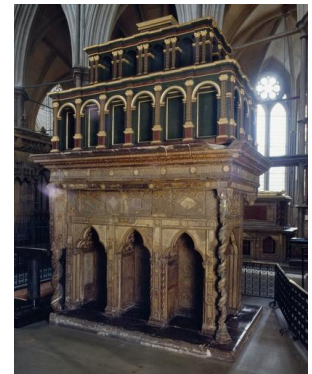
The Shrine of Our Lady at Grace has been a place of solace and respite for my mother and me for many years, especially after we immigrated and were far away from England. Each time we have ventured back to



England and made our way to Walsingham, the ethos has been similar. Whether we are sitting in silence in the Holy House or strolling through the gardens, Walsingham continues to be a beacon for weary pilgrims and seekers of Our Lord. Last fall, I was blessed to return to this spiritual home with more family, Andrea and the kids, along with our Parish family. For me, this was a return to many sites in London and in the Norfolk region and for others it was their first time. My visits in the past have

offered self-reflection and a focus on my faith journey. This time around I had the blessing of watching my children visit these places first-hand and watch their eyes light up at the history and legacy of all the faithful before us. Here are three moments that touched my soul.

The first was in London at Westminster Abbey. The fortune of traveling as an organized group is that from time to time you get the inside track depending on who you are with. Our guide throughout London has a close relationship with the Abbey staff so we had the privilege of climbing some short stairs behind the High Altar and sitting next to the tomb of Edward the Confessor. We were allowed a few moments to sit in silence and offer prayers much like the monarchy of old would do. Our guide then directed us to some cutouts along the side of the shrine. She shared that the cutouts were there for the faithful to kneel in silent prayer. As I knelt down and bowed my head forward into the cutout, the sound of the Abbey and all the visitors went silent and my prayer was that much louder as I meditated. I envisioned the many faithful leaders of the Church in generations past performing the same act in the midst of whatever busy-ness was in their day. The wonderful legacy that intertwines our parish with all other Anglicans was present in that moment.



The next two were at Walsingham. You will often see Andrea wrangling Margaret on Sunday morning and to some degree wrangling was needed in England. This time around I wanted to make sure Andrea had her own time of contemplation and prayer in the Holy House without this responsibility. During the Holy Rosary, Andrea and other pilgrims attended while I remained in the gardens with Margaret. What a joy it is to wander with a toddler. Most of the gardens are at two to three feet in height so it is easy to stroll by without much attention but for Margaret it was a place of Eden with bees flying from bud to bud. I will forever treasure those moments with her which brings me to the final moment.

On Monday evenings at Grace, you will regularly hear Leona and Paul Jr. praying the Holy Rosary. This is a practice that Andrea and I introduced to them the prior year and when you raise children in the Church parents always wonder if the formation will hold. Towards the end of our visit to the Holy House, I was blessed to witness both of them and their nana, Ellen, sitting in silence with a gaze on Our Mother. The power of the Holy Spirit moving in and between us continues to amaze me and catch me by surprise with intense joy. I am grateful for all the experiences we had on this pilgrimage and will treasure witnessing my loved ones seek Christ in these Holy Sites.



July Financial Focus

July Income	YTD Income	Annual Budget 2023
\$ 14,214	\$ 193,878	\$ 311,941
July Expenses	YTD Expenses	Annual Budget 2023
\$ 19,242	\$ 195,063	\$337,664

Vestry Notes for July

1. Walsingham Pilgrimage has had low Grace Church attendance in the past. Fr Bulson has established the Walsingham Guardians made up of lay people as one means to further involve the congregation in this event.
 - a. Supply music leaders planning songs for a musical mass and benediction
 - b. There is interest in expanding devotion of Mary and the shrine outside the parish
 - c. A couple who have been involved for years in the pilgrimage would like to get married in the shrine. They are involved in setting up a pilgrim hostel along the Wisconsin Way, a band of shrines and Mary sites located across the southern part of Wisconsin. They would like All Saints Chapel and our Walsingham Shrine to be added to the route.
2. Mass in the Grass plans are in motion for volunteer and equipment needs. A complete printed booklet will be provided.
3. Jr Warden John Davis is getting a quote for another door to be located outside the choir room to isolate the church for safety reasons.
4. Live stream equipment has been completely replaced to our new requirements. We are still receiving technical support as required.
5. Fr Bulson reported on the Trialogue and steering committee activities. It is anticipated that our diocesan pledge will jump from 12% of our budget to 23%.
6. A budget committee consisting of parishioners will be formed by Tom Wright and Mary Snyder. Robert McMillan has been asked to chair this committee.

Elkhart Lake Brat Fry



WE DID IT! The All Saints/Grace Church Brat Fry at The Downtown Night Event in Elkhart Lake on August 15th was a huge success. A huge thank you goes out to Robert McMillan for organizing and the many volunteers (Mia, Maya, and Jostin McMillan, Art Imig, Steve and Mary Gallimore, Jack Britton, Jeff Krueger, Mike Newton, Bill and Deb Gagin) who put in a total of 51 hours of labor. With gratitude we also thank an anonymous parishioner for donating the delicious Johnsonville brats which sold out! (The crowd consumed 200 brats and 220 hamburgers!) We netted a profit of \$1,582. It is anticipated that as Chamber members Grace Church will again participate next year in this successful endeavor and we look forward to more volunteers.

Anglican Quote

Here is a quote from Evelyn Underhill. She was an English Anglo-Catholic in the late 19th and early 20th centuries and a great writer. She wrote a lot on prayer and practice, faith and life.

Nothing in all nature is so lovely and so vigorous, so perfectly at home in its environment, as a fish in the sea. Its surroundings give to it a beauty, quality, and power which are not its own. We take it out, and at once a poor, limp dull thing, fit for nothing, is gasping away its life. So the soul, sunk in God, living the life of prayer, is supported, filled, transformed in beauty, by a vitality and a power which are not its own.

Come, Let us Sing to the Lord!

The Grace Church Choir welcomes all singers and aspiring singers to join us! Young or old, new or returning, confident or unsure, all are welcome. Rehearsals on Wednesdays from 7:30-8:30 pm start Sept. 20.



Holy Hour and Benediction, September 9, 6 pm!

And Once Each Quarter of the Year!

Holy Hour and Benediction are a way of connecting with Jesus very warmly and intimately, while also being in awe of Him.

Holy Hour:

Holy Hour begins at 6 pm.

At Holy Hour, the round communion Bread, the Body of Christ, or “Host,” is placed in a special vessel on the altar, for us to see and gaze upon.

So, Holy Hour isn’t exactly a “service.” It is time simply to be reverently in the presence of Christ Himself, to be close to Him. In silence, this can be done in many ways that suit our temperaments, bodily limitations, prayer experience, etc.

Benediction:

Then comes Benediction, around 7 pm. It will last about 20 minutes.

With some very short hymns accompanying, Benediction is simply receiving a blessing as the priest makes the sign of the Cross over us with the Blessed Sacrament.

The faithful then depart in loving silence.

O Come, let us adore Him!

Mark Your Calendars



- Sept. 9 Holy Hour & Benediction, 6:00 p.m.
- Sept. 10 Mass in the Grass, 10:15 a.m.
- Oct. 4 Blessing of the Animals
- Oct. 13-14 72nd Annual Walsingham Pilgrimage
- Oct. 21 Love INC fundraising banquet
- Nov. 4 Blessing of the Hunters, All Saints' Chapel



(Service of Benediction during the Walsingham Pilgrimage of October 2020)

September Birthdays

John Keller
Steven Fischer
Joann Sorenson
Lan Pwen Paw
Pat Sather
Eli Klinzing

Louise Davis
9/8 Bill Gagin
9/9 **September Anniversaries**
9/11 Katy & Steve Larson
9/15 Polly & Steve Schmeiser
9/24 Pat & Tim Miller
9/28 Mary Snyder & Tom Wright

9/29
9/29

9/4
9/12
9/18
9/18

Parish Staff

The Right Reverend Matthew Gunter, *Bishop*
The Reverend William Bulson, *Rector*
The Reverend Paul Aparicio, *Deacon*

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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