



# The Angelus

August 2023

## From the Rector's Desk

Our annual pilgrimage to our shrine at Grace, the American Proto-Shrine to Our Lady of Walsingham, is October 13 and 14 this year.

I've been wondering a lot how to get more people from Grace involved in this pilgrimage. I'm told that participation has waned significantly over the years and it appears to me, too, that I see fewer parishioners participating than I would have expected at an event the congregation sincerely believes is central to its identity and mission. So I ask myself often what it means that many speak the truth when they say the pilgrimage is of central importance and yet relatively fewer people participate, whether attending or helping in roles to make it all happen. It really is about the staff and choir pulling it all together, as far as I can tell up to this point in my life with you.

One response I have made in the face of this puzzling reality is to get some parishioners and staff, as well as a few clergy and lay people from elsewhere in the diocese, to form a group called the Guardians of the Shrine. I'm the initial chair of this group. A few observers say this group is markedly ahead in preparations than in previous years, simply because there are a few more people involved. Hats off to this fine group of ministers! We'll see the fruit of their labor come October! Thanks be to God!

When I ask real people at Grace why fewer from our parish get involved than one might expect, given the widespread and sincere insistence that it's so important in our common life, I hear pretty consistently that people aren't sure what to make of having a shrine, what it means, etc.; and just aren't clear as to what this Mary business is all about. As a result, there's little reason for many to come take part—whether attending a Mass, meditation, Benediction, or saying yes to getting the pilgrimage together ahead of time.

I've heard pretty consistently that they want more teaching from me about Mary, the shrine, etc. I can certainly do that, and I hope when I've previously offered reflections on Mary, the shrine, etc., in sermons or articles or conversations, that they have been of some help. I'm told pondering Mary more deeply in catechesis has been beneficial and enlivening since I've been at Grace. Thanks be to God!

But the ongoing ministry of the pilgrimage can't all depend on what Father does to convince or cajole people that Mary and the Shrine are wonderful and all should get involved. It depends on you, your willingness to go deeper in faith and get to know Mary. Martin Luther even said: "The more we love Jesus, the more we'll

love Mary. The more we love Mary, the more we'll love Jesus." How willing are we to do basic spiritual practices that might get us closer to her, like reciting the petitions and prayers known as The Angelus?

How willing are we to dig into how the communion of saints is who we belong to and to how our ongoing salvation depends on their support? How willing are we to lean into the reality of Mary among us in a particular way, like when she spread her love at a place called Walsingham, in England, many centuries ago?

And how willing are we to step out in faith and volunteer our effort and time to this central celebration in the life of our parish without being asked first?

I will certainly do even more teaching and preaching about Our Lady, Walsingham, and such, since you have asked. With great joy and delight. I will continue to try and spread interest and involvement on the part of clergy and lay in this diocese.

But when it comes to this pilgrimage and the devotion it is all about, I really need to ask our whole parish, what will you do?

Peace,  
WLB+

## **Save the Date! The 72nd Annual Walsingham Pilgrimage**



The 72nd Annual Pilgrimage to the American Proto-Shrine of Our Lady of Walsingham will be October 13-14. Details may be found at our website: [www.gracesheboygan.com](http://www.gracesheboygan.com). A luncheon will be served following The Commemoration Mass on Saturday, October 14; the cost is \$20 per person and reservations are accepted until October 1. For reservations go to <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60B0C45A8AB22A5FA7-2023>.

## **Opportunity for Giving**

Grace is participating with the other sponsoring churches (First Congregational and the Evangelical Free Church) to collect consumable items for the five Rohingya refugee families. We have placed collection bins in the narthex and in the church office. Following is a list of needed items: toilet paper, garbage bags, laundry soap, dish soap, non-toxic cleaning supplies, bar soap, shampoo/conditioner, body lotion, deodorant, toothpaste and toothbrushes (all sizes, soft), sanitary pads, paper towels. Thanks in advance for giving generously!

## June Financial Focus

### FINANCIAL FOCUS FOR JUNE 2023

June Income.	YTD Income.	Annual Budget 2023
\$14,234.	\$179,664.	\$311,941
June Expenses.	YTD Expenses.	Annual Budget 2023
\$ 34,395.	\$175, 822.	\$377,66

## Vestry Notes for June

- Bob and Ann Hanlon presented information on the new Welcome Committee procedures. Greeters at each service will give a newcomer a welcome bag that includes an information brochure, most recent Angelus, a connection card, a Grace church mug and book by Arthur Michael Ramsey, "Introducing the Christian Faith."
- Treble Choir Discernment Committee will try to reschedule Grace's visit to St. James Episcopal Church in Evanston, Ill. within the month.
- Mary Snyder and Mary Gallimore head up the 175th Anniversary Committee. They plan to sell commemorative tee-shirts. The design would include a large Walsingham icon on the back and a shield with a date on the front. Other promotional items are in consideration. More details to follow.
- Fundraising: Robert McMillan gave an update on a brat fry. Plans to hand out postcards on the Blessing of the Hunters which takes place in November at All Saints Chapel was discussed.
- Video Equipment damaged during the lightning strike in 2021 is being installed. Discussion as to recruiting volunteers to run the equipment on Sundays. John Davis will follow up with Deacon Paul on volunteers from the Boy Scouts.
- Meals Ministry coordinated by Pat Sather reported that five volunteers are on hand to make and deliver meals to parishioners. To date two families have been served.
- Promotion ideas of Mass in the Grass, Walsingham Pilgrimage were presented by Shannon Luckey-Mueller.

## JMKAC features GEC's former Sr. Warden, artist Kristen Plucar



Kristen's exhibition title is *Regional Responses to the Art Preserve*, and it will be up through October 2023. She would love for friends from Grace to know they are welcome to come and see it anytime! The Arts Center is free and open Tuesdays through Sundays. Kristen's artwork is an illustration titled *Never Trust a Sleeping Hodag...*

## July's GMO (Grace Movie Outing)



Marcus Sheboygan Cinema had a special showing of National Lampoon's Vacation July 16, 2023 and Grace Church used the opportunity to have a second "Grace Movie Outing." Parishioners and their guests not only had all of row D, they had the entire theater to themselves! Many memorable laughs were triggered by the Griswold family, Cousin Eddie, Aunt Edna, the Wagon Queen Family Truckster, and Wally World. Marcus Sheboygan Cinema's website will continue to be monitored for upcoming movies that could be considered for another "Grace Movie Outing." If you have a movie request let Tom Crouse know.

## Diocesan Junior Camp



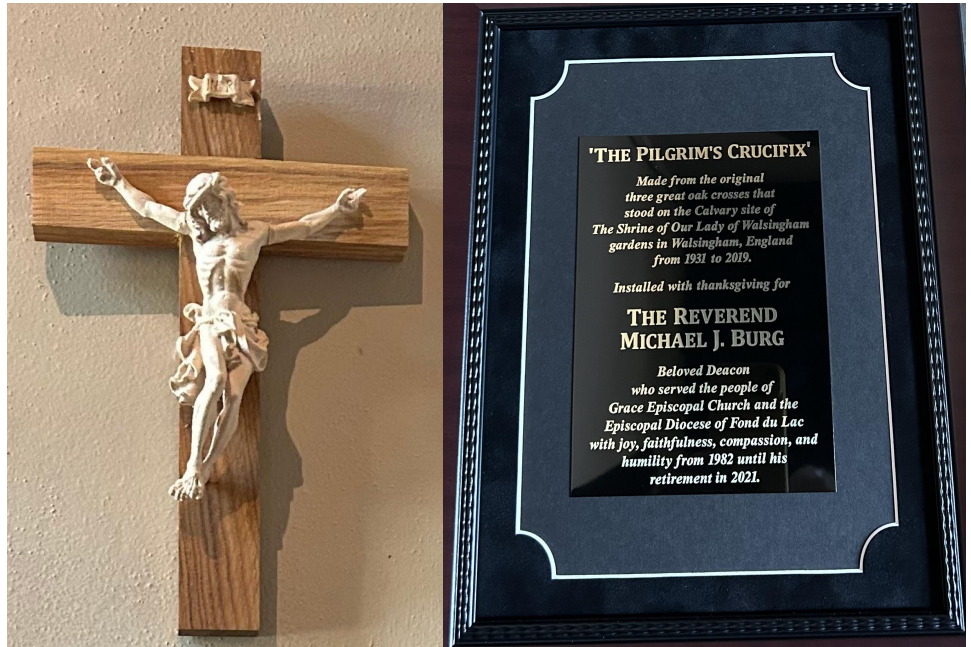
Grace Church was represented at the diocesan Junior Camp in July by Paul Aparicio, Jr. Paul is nine years old and will be in 4th grade at Grant School, Sheboygan. He has been attending camp since he was four years old (Kinder Camp.) This year's highlights for him included swimming, crafts and the game Five Hundred. He is especially proud of his achievement that he learned how to burp on command! He says he made lots of new friends and he had a fun, joyful time. Often on Sundays you will see Paul acolyting at the 10:15 service.

## Deacon Mike Burg Honored

At the end of April Deacon Mike Burg was honored with a crucifix and dedication for his many years of service as our deacon. This plaque and crucifix can be viewed in The Our Lady of Walsingham Chapel.

*(The plaque reads, "The Pilgrim's Crucifix" Made from the original three great oak crosses that stood on the Calvary site of The Shrine of Our Lady of Walsingham gardens in Walsingham, England from 1931 to 2019. Installed with thanksgiving for The Reverend Michael J. Burg.*

*Beloved Deacon who served the people of Grace Episcopal Church and the Episcopal Diocese of Fond du Lac with joy, faithfulness, compassion, and humility from 1983 until his retirement in 2021.)*



## Organist and Choir Master Dr. R. Benjamin Dobby Remembered



A Memorial Service of Lessons and Music was held on Saturday, August 5, 2023 at Grace Episcopal Church. We gathered to honor our beloved Dr. Ben in music, Scripture, stories, laughter, and gratitude for his faith and for his faithful service amongst us. A reception followed the service in St. Nicholas Hall where family, friends, and colleagues were treated to glimpses of his delightful, dry humor in the form of collected pigs, esoteric book titles, and fortune cookies with quotations from him. Remember, "It'll be fine upstairs!"

## Brat Fry Monday, August 14

Grace Church brat fries are back! This time we will host a brat fry on Monday, August 14th at the Downtown Night (on Lakestreet) in Elkhart Lake. Event times are 5:00PM - 9:00 PM. Grace Church and All Saints Chapel are members of the Elkhart Lake Chamber of Commerce and this venue is a wonderful opportunity for outreach. Robert McMillan is chair of this event and he could use lots of volunteers. Please call him at 920-918-8678 to offer your help.



## Mass in the Grass

On Sunday, September 10, 2023 at 10:15 a.m. we will be celebrating the Holy Eucharist at Deland Community Center Pavilion and park (located at Deland Beach, west of Harbor Center Marina). Following the service we will celebrate the 175th anniversary of Grace Church with a picnic lunch, games, and lakefront activities.

Grace will also then introduce some of our "church merch" which will be available for sale in the coming months. Items will include sportswear, totes, and throw blankets, all sporting Grace Church logo, and commemorative of our 175th anniversary. Grace Walsingham Foundation (GWF) has granted Grace a matching grant for this project: every dollar spent on the merchandise will be matched by GWF, funds which will be directed to the Rohingya refugee ministry. In the coming weeks we will share with you a link to the catalogue in the weekly Friday round-up from Deacon Nicci.

### Mark Your Calendars



- Aug. 14 Brat Fry, Elkhart Lake
- 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
- Nov. 4 Blessing of the Hunters, All Saints' Chapel

**August Birthdays**

Steve Weinert	8/6	Bev Evans
Ben Crouse	8/8	Jean-Margret Merrel-Beech
Mary Tasche	8/12	Wayne Sather
Kathleen McClure-Muelemans	8/14	<b>August Anniversaries</b>
Mary Masey	8/15	Polly & Hank Bohenstengel
Starla Lares	8/15	Shannon Luckey-Mueller & Karl Mueller
Jeff Lynas	8/16	Susan McIntosh & Michael Boland
Danie Wilson	8/17	Louise & Frederick Trost
Connie Schneider	8/19	Joann & James Sorenson
Kevin Norwick	8/19	Andrea & Paul Aparicio

**Parish Staff**

8/24	The Right Reverend Matthew Gunter, <i>Bishop</i>
8/28	The Reverend William Bulson, <i>Rector</i>
8/29	The Reverend Paul Aparicio, <i>Deacon</i>
	The Reverend Deacon Nicci Beeck, <i>Parish Administrator</i>

**The Vestry**

8/4	The Reverend William Bulson, <i>Chair</i>
8/10	Mary Snyder, <i>Senior Warden</i>
8/17	John Davis, <i>Junior Warden</i>
8/18	Brian Heck, <i>Treasurer</i>
8/23	Helen Mullison, <i>Chancellor</i>
	<i>Vestry:</i> 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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