



Angelus + December 2020

1011 NORTH SEVENTH STREET (ONTARIO AVENUE & SEVENTH STREET)
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Grace to you and peace, from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ!

I'm Fr. William Bulson, your new rector.

This is a "hello" article and will, of course, be incomplete. Future rector's articles will be more reflective, topical, and maybe sometimes even decently written!

I have to express my deep gratitude to the rector search committee chairs, Bob Hanlon and Polly Schmeiser, along with the whole search committee; our senior warden Kristin Plucar and the vestry; and the people of Grace for calling me to be here. Thank you to all the people who dropped off food for me my first week in town and allowed me time to get started unpacking. Thanks to our incredible staff who have made my entry unbelievably easy even during this crazy time. Thanks to all of you who have managed to say hello in person. Above all, I give thanks to God the Holy Trinity, Mary the Godbearer, and the saints for all they have done for me and for leading me here.

There's much that I could write about coming to be with you at the bizarre time we're in and how it makes it so hard for us to meet and get to know each other. I'll ask you again and again, though, during the next several months to be very patient with me as I learn in very practical terms what it means to serve in this parish during a pandemic and to love you. I'll do my best to learn new communications platforms, like Zoom, and use "classic" ones, like the phone, to make

contact and start serving with you. Again, please be patient with me as I start life with you as a pandemic rector.

What am I up to so far?

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Beginning the week of II Advent (December 13), I will offer set times during the week to distribute the Holy Communion, the Body of Christ, at Grace Church. We will try these times for a bit and then adjust as we need to. And we will follow the directions of our Bishop and the diocesan Covid Task Force to ensure everyone's safety. Please see the fuller article in this issue of Angelus for details on how we will offer communion.

Please do let me know of people who are shut-in or have limited mobility so that I can bring the Body of Christ to them. According to our Bishop's direction, we can now offer brief, 15-minute pastoral visits with confession and communion.

I'm praying Morning and Evening Prayer in Christ the King Chapel:

Sun-Thurs, 7:00 a.m., Angelus and Morning Prayer
Sun-Thurs, 6:30 p.m., Evening Prayer and Our Lady Shrine Prayers

This means regular prayer is ongoing at Grace, as the Prayer Book assumes in congregational life, and because I consider my first and last work as priest to be the Mass and the Daily Office with, for, and on behalf of you all, and for the life of the world.

These services will not be streamed online, and, because of Covid restrictions, we cannot yet invite anyone to attend the Daily Office. As soon as conditions allow and when our Bishop and Covid Task Force give the green light, we will open up attendance as much as we can to the Daily Office, and to weekday Masses when they resume. It's my hope, too, that eventually it won't be just a priest officiating at the Daily Office—we'll have others of the baptized officiating as soon as possible! Get ready to be asked!

I have also started regular office hours:

Monday-Wednesday

10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

Friday & Saturday are out of the office/days off

Of course, I'll be around the office at other times, too.

Give a call! Set up a time to meet!

I'm moving into chairing the next meeting of your vestry and hope to be ready with our vestry to conduct our annual meeting. Please be patient as we make plans and learn how to do this essential business during Covid! A new rector's arrival during Advent and a pandemic make what should be old hat into trying to ride a bike the first time—blindfolded during an earthquake.

With our liturgical ministers, I'm happy to announce our Christmas Eve and Day services, which can be viewed online:

December 24, Eve of the Nativity of Our Lord and Savior

4:00 p.m. Reading of Christ's Birth, Blessing of the Christmas Creche, and a Christmas Story

10:30 p.m. Said Mass

December 25, The Nativity of Our Lord and Savior

9:00 a.m. Said Mass

As with our Sunday Masses, we will observe Covid restrictions and will offer these services online only.

I had the honor of representing you all as your rector at the December 5 ordination Mass at Grace.

I had the honor of celebrating the Requiem Mass of Bernie Markevitch on Dec 10.

Let's do try and get to know each other as best we can. I'll reach out as I can to get to know you all. And please don't hesitate to call or email me—just to say hello. Meeting outside and precaution-observant get-togethers would be great!

We keep saying it is a strange and difficult time. And it is. Let's remember that we, the Church, have not only survived such as this and even worse, but have actually made it through hard times holier and more loving. Let's remember that for many of us our lives are terribly inconvenienced but not destroyed. Let's take heart that 2021 promises to offer change for the better for the life of the world and relief from our being separated from the Body. And let's remember that as the baptized, we give thanks to God not only for the ways in which we overcome what is bad in these times, we give thanks not only for the surprising goods that have come out of this time, but we also give thanks for the trial and suffering itself (I Thessalonians 5:18). Because it is precisely in this way that we are made fully one with the Crucified and Risen One, Who has joined us to Himself by water and the Spirit, by His own Body and Blood.

Peace,
WLB+



Merry Christmas from Bernie Markevitch

Thank you for your patience with this late-in-coming Angelus.

Bernie had written this article for the December Angelus months ago, so we set out on a mission to find it so it could be included. Praise be to God, it was found! And so one final time . . . Bernie's Voice.

After the Walsingham Pilgrimage in October, the choir started to work on the music for Lessons and Carols, Advent and Christmas Eve. Back in the day when George Damp was organist and choir master, we started to work on the music for Christmas Eve and that was before we got the new organ. Dr. Damp worried about a lot of things. He taught organ at Lawrence University and he had to drive down for our Wednesday night rehearsals and had to come back for Sunday mornings.

As we were rehearsing one Wednesday, he kind of sighed and made a comment about our old organ and whether or not the wheeze-old instrument would even make it to Christmas. I simply said, "Well, Paula can always play her harp!" That comment simply stopped the rehearsal! George looked at her in astonishment, the sopranos were clucking, "You play the harp?" Paula turned every color but green and said, "You can't believe anything he says." (How could such a secret be kept all these years?) Well, it certainly relieved the tension in the choir room.

I told Bryon Zimmerman the story and we decided to take the joke further. Bill Roenitz gave me a wallet size graduation picture photo of Paula, and Bryon made a sign and demo-CD announcing the opportunity to buy Paula's Holiday CD:

*Paula Tauschek Roenitz plays
"Songs of the Seasons" on her harp*

On Christmas Eve, we set it on the tract table in the Narthex for all to see, except those chatty Episcopalians were too busy chatting and noone saw the poster. It was 10:25 and the choral concert started at 10:30, so I grabbed Barbara Quasius, pointed out the poster to her and said, "We have to get upstairs to sing," making sure she had seen the display. Well, she got the women all worked up because we were in the loft until the end of midnight mass-but she told them she saw the CD for sale in the Narthex.

Our Paula has many talents; the harp is not one of them.

We all had a good laugh and for years afterward, I always looked for harps for Paula to wear or hang on the tree and the poster with the CD hangs in her powder room.

Merry Christmas!



P.S. One Christmas Eve, several years later, Ben Dobej invited a harpist from Milwaukee to accompany some special Christmas music. I proudly told him our Paula was the principal harpist with the Ozaukee Symphony. He was somewhat surprised!

From the Senior Warden

Romans 8:35-39

35 Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? 36 As it is written, "For your sake we are being killed all day long; we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered." 37 No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. 38 For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, 39 nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Dear People of Grace,

I must confess. I recently played a little hooky from church on a Sunday morning. I slept in, took a walk on the lakeshore, and spent some time in prayer. I was thinking about God's love as I was looking at the lake; the expanse and the depth of it; the space that it affords me; how nothing can separate me from it. In response I prayed that I could extend this life-giving love to the world around me.

This reminds me of Grace's mission: to bring all persons to the knowledge and love of God, and to respect the dignity and freedom of every human being. I am thankful to be part of a community of faith that is centered around Jesus, that truly delights in worship, and serves one another and the world as an extension of God's love.

As Senior Warden, I have seen Grace respond with love and faithfulness during a very difficult year. We have had to suspend in person worship because of Covid 19, and yet we are able to gather together via Grace Abounds to pray and offer our worship to God. We have committed and caring clergy who continue to lead us. We continue to pray for one another and the world daily. We reach out via phone, Zoom, and email to connect with one another. Behind the scenes food is being provided for those who are sick or who

have lost loved ones, or for those who are struggling. We are still the Church that God has called us to be.

We enter into the Advent season with joy, anticipation and hopefulness. We celebrate the Light of Christ together, and we give thanks for God's gift of a faithful pastor in Fr. William and the beginning of his ministry with us.

We do continue to face challenges ahead. One of the things that keeps Senior Wardens awake at night is the church's financial resources. As a vestry we knew that we were looking at a budget deficit for the coming year, but we were not expecting the added impact of Covid 19 when the year began. As we plan for 2021, our preliminary budget shows us with a deficit of \$50,000 plus. Many factors contribute to this, not least of which is the impact of the coronavirus coupled with over a year of being in a state of transition. If this deficit remains, Grace may be looking at some deep cuts that could impact our ministries in a significant way. As one year comes to a close and a new year begins, I ask that as you discern about your financial giving, that as God leads, you would consider a gift, new pledge, or additional pledge to help us close this deficit gap.

I thank you all for your generosity and graciousness toward me and toward one another. I am so thankful to be part of this body of Christ that seeks to love God, our neighbors, and the world.

Christ's Peace,

Kristin Plucar
Senior Warden

We will distribute Holy Communion in small groups starting the week of December 13 (II Advent)!

Thanks be to God, we now have a way to receive the Holy Communion and pray together in brief gatherings of small groups or in household groups! Following the direction and support of our Bishop and the diocesan Covid Task Force, we will begin distributing Holy Communion in church in groups of four (4) people (1 priest + 3 attendees) or with 1 household group and 1 priest. We will try this approach for a bit and see how it works, modifying over time as we need to.

Here's how it will work:

We'll sign up as individuals or households on our website through Sign Up Genius—at least 24 hours in advance!—for the following 15 minute slots. Once the three available slots have been filled and/or the 24 hour-in-advance deadline has passed, sign up for that slot will be closed. Here are the slots:

Mondays and Tuesdays	Wednesdays and Thursdays
3:00-3:15 p.m.	5:00-5:15 p.m.
3:20-3:35 p.m.	5:20-5:35 p.m.
4:40-3:55 p.m.	5:40-5:55 p.m.
4:00-4:15 p.m.	6:00-6:15 p.m.
4:20-4:35 p.m.	6:20-6:35 p.m.
4:40-4:55 p.m.	6:40-6:55 p.m.

To help keep each other safe and observe our Covid precautions, please sign up at least 24 hours in advance! It will not be possible to sign up any later than 24 hours prior to a given slot. And to lovingly and responsibly observe our attendance limits, please refrain from “dropping by” if you think there might be a slot available at the last minute. Our ability to offer distribution of Holy Communion will depend on our faithfully and closely observing our scheduling process and attendance procedures. Such precise observance is not meant at all to make the gathering of the faithful seem like boot camp, but to ensure that the family of God can take a great leap closer to the fullness of life we so long for.

- We will come in through the south doors of the church proper (NOT the glass doors!) and gather in socially-distanced chairs in front of the chancel steps. Please touch only those things or surfaces that are absolutely necessary in order for you to come in and participate. Understandably, the desire will be strong to walk around, revisiting spaces in the church that we have missed these past months, and to touch and handle things that mean so much and call out to us. Please also refrain from going into the other parts of the building.
- We will follow the order for “Communion Under Special Circumstances” provided in the Book of Common Prayer.
- We will leave immediately after the service through the south doors of the church. Please refrain from going into other parts of the building. Please do meet up with those you have attended with, but outside or some other convenient place where observing Covid precautions is possible. Please refrain from gathering at the back of the church or in the doorways.
- Clean up will take place immediately after a given slot is over and before the next one begins. To make clean up as easy as possible and to ensure the safety of our brothers and sisters, please touch only those things and surfaces that allow you to come in and participate and depart.

It is so strange and frustrating to meet in this way in order to share in the Body that gives us life. But as we gather in this way, we are actually in the best company possible—the Communion of Saints. There have been so many martyrs and confessors who have met under such or even more straitened circumstances, for even the most meagre portion in our common life. What can seem so senseless and arbitrary in plague and persecution has always and ultimately been used by God for good (Genesis 50:20). Let's gratefully and humbly take this chance to gather as we can and we must! Give thanks to God for all things (I Thessalonians 5:18)!

December Birthdays

Andrea Aparicio	12/1	Kree Hae	12/25
Bill Roentiz	12/1	Andrew Manzoline	12/26
Bob Wood	12/4	Wayne Knocke	12/27
Nancy Erickson	12/6	Katy Larson	12/27
Steve Larson	12/9	Pat Ford Smith	12/28
Emily Boland	12/10	Tom Yedica	12/28
Roman Klinzing	12/10	McKenna Schumacher	12/29
Lilian Whitford	12/11	Frederick Trost	12/30
Tom Wright	12/11	Robert Beech	12/31
Dcn. Paul Aparicio	12/17	December Anniversaries	
Zach Sorenson	12/17	Tom & Jessica Ambelang	12/27
Dee Crouse	12/21	Danie & Kent Wilson	12/31

Parish Staff

The Right Reverend Matthew Gunter, *Bishop*
 The Reverend William Bulson, *Rector*
 The Venerable Michele Whitford, *Priest Associate*
 The Reverend Michael Burg, *Deacon*
 The Reverend Paul Aparicio, *Deacon*
 Dr. R. Benjamin Dobey, *Organist Choirmaster*
 The Reverend Nicci Beeck, *Deacon, Parish Administrator*
 Julie Davidson, *Sexton*
 Nick Whitford, *Director of Youth and Family*

The Vestry

Kristin Plucar, *Senior Warden*
 Ed Clabots, *Junior Warden*
 Brian Heck, *Treasurer*
Vestry: Randie Barrows, Jack Britton, Sutton Cecil, Amelia Fitzsimmons, Luke Fitzsimmons, Helen Mullison, Stuart Schmidt, Mary Snyder

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