

Grace in Advent and Christmas

Opportunities for Giving

- **Socks for St. Nicholas: December 6** is the feast of St. Nicholas. For centuries before American advertisers made Santa Claus famous, St. Nicholas was known as a protector of children and the needy and a defender against inclement weather as well as a gift-giver. We'll honor that St. Nicholas this year with another tradition associated with him—stockings, or rather, socks. Please bring new winter-weight socks—any size, child through adult—to church on December 6. A “special guest” will collect the socks at the coffee hour following the 10am service to distribute through our food pantry. (You can leave socks in the “stocking” in the Guild Hall if you can't attend the coffee hour.)
- **Food Drive for Pantry:** We are always in need of canned meat and chicken, and most especially canned tuna. We need canned fruit, especially peaches and pineapple chunks, in their own juices. Our clients often ask for the following personal hygiene items: shampoo, deodorant, toothpaste, size 4 and 5 diapers, disposable razors, dish detergent and feminine pads. On your next trip to the market, please add some of these items to your shopping list and bring them to church on **December 13**.
- **Fundraiser at Capitol Kids:** Purchases at Capitol Kids (8 South Carroll Street) benefit the Grace Food Pantry on Sunday, **December 6** from 11:00am to 5:00pm. (If you forgot to purchase socks for St. Nicholas, Capitol Kids has you covered.)

Opportunities for Study and Discussion

- **Book Study:** Read and discuss *The First Christmas* by Marcus Borg and John Dominic Crossan. Two meeting times: Sundays at 8:45am in the Library (**December 6, 13 and 20**); or Wednesdays at 7:00pm in the Library (**December 9, 16, and 23**).
- **The Virgin Mary in Art:** a tour of the Chazen Museum of Art collection with Maria Saffiotti Dale, Curator of Paintings, Sculpture, and Decorative Arts on Sunday, **Dec 6th** starting at 2:30pm. The group should meet in Paige Court by the security desk. Parking in the Lake Street ramp; see the Chazen web site for more information: www.chazen.wisc.edu. 800 University Ave.
- **An Overview of Visual Images of the Virgin Mary:** led by Professor Tom Dale. Adult forum, Sunday, **December 13th** at 11:45am in Grace's library.

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Opportunities for Fellowship

- **Evening Gathering of Young Adults at the Rector's House:** Every first Monday a dedicated crew of cooks makes a hearty meal for our shelter guests and others in need that is served in the Guild Hall. The menu varies but the dessert of choice is brownies with milk. Only so many cooks fit in the kitchen, but we'd like to encourage more involvement in this important ministry. So this month, we're inviting young adults (those without children, with or without partner/spouse) to join us to bake the brownies. We'll bake, have dinner, and get to know each other better (also important to us). If you aren't a baker, come anyway! You can provide a gallon or half gallon of milk. We'll gather at 5:30pm on Sunday, **December 6**. Please contact Corrie by December 3 if you plan to attend (corrienorman1959@yahoo.com) and/or can provide milk.
- **Caroling in the Courtyard:** Join us at 4:00pm on Sunday, **December 20** for informal caroling in Grace's courtyard. We will have a fire and hot cider to warm us.
- **La Posada:** A fiesta with typical food, Mariachi music and prayers to remember Mary and Joseph seeking shelter in Bethlehem on Tuesday, **December 22** 6:00pm in the Guild Hall. All members of the parish are welcome.

Opportunities for Worship and Reflection

- **Lessons and Carols:** Join us at 10:00am on **December 6** for this long-standing tradition at Grace Church. A beautiful mixture of Scripture readings and song.
- **Advent Quiet Day:** Saturday, **December 12** from 9:00am until 12:00noon. An opportunity to escape the busy-ness of the season and reconnect with its spiritual center. We will begin with Morning Prayer drawn from the traditions of Celtic Christianity. There will be a labyrinth, icons, readings and silence.
- **Compline:** There will be a brief service of Compline at 8:00pm on Wednesday evenings (**December 9, 16, and 23**). Join us in this contemplative service that draws on Benedictine and Anglican spiritual traditions.
- **Labyrinth:** Labyrinths have a winding but purposeful path leading from the edge to the center and back to the edge again. Grace's Chapel has a labyrinth laid out on the floor for the season of Advent.
- **Christmas Eve:** Worship services on **December 24** are at 4:30pm & 10pm (with music starting at 9:15pm).
- **Christmas Day:** The worship service on **December 25** is at 10:00am