

A Grace Note from the Rector  
December 14, 2023

Dear Ones,

The funeral for Don Curtis will take place on Saturday, **December 16 at 3pm**, with Visitation at 2pm at **The Episcopal Church of the Nativity**, 7300 Lantern Road, Indianapolis, IN 46256. Don's obituary is here: <https://www.legacycremationfuneral.com/obituaries/donald-curtis> Cards may be sent to Teresa Curtis, 1804 N Sandal Wood Drive, Yorktown, IN 47396.

### POINSETTIAS

**This weekend is the deadline** to dedicate a Christmas poinsettia plant in memory of or in honor of a loved one, there will be a sign-up sheet posted in the Parish Hall. A donation of \$20 to the Altar Flower Fund is recommended, but not required. A list of donors and memorials will be included in the bulletins on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. You may also contact Mark Mordue with the necessary information at: [markmordue@gmail.com](mailto:markmordue@gmail.com)

### 2023 GIVING TREE

Such a wonderful response to this year's Giving Tree! Please **have your gift under the tree by Sunday, December 17**, so that Santa Claus can get them delivered on time. Blessings to all of you who are participating!

### CHRISTMAS LITURGICAL SCHEDULE

Sunday, December 24	9:30am	Holy Eucharist for the Fourth Sunday of Advent
Sunday, December 24	<b>5:30pm</b>	Lessons & Carols followed by Holy Eucharist <i>In-person only, no Zoom</i>
Monday, December 25	<b>10:00am</b>	Holy Eucharist for Christmas Day <i>In-person only, no Zoom</i>
Wednesday, December 27	Noon	Midweek Eucharist: St. John's Day
Sunday, December 31	9:30am	Holy Eucharist: 1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday after Christmas
Wednesday, January 3		<b>No Noon Eucharist</b> this week
Sunday, January 7	9:30am	Liturgy of the Word – Jim Jeffery, <i>presiding</i> Mike Ashley, <i>preaching</i>

The **Reunification Discernment Team** for the Dioceses of Northern Indiana & Indianapolis is hard at work and has several resources available and events coming up! **Visit the Episcopal Indiana Reunification Discernment website** to stay up to date on the work of the committee and to view related documents including the committee's **report to Diocesan Convention**. The link is <https://www.episcopalindiana.org/>

You can also register for **events**, including **upcoming listening sessions**. Share potential benefits you see, concerns you have, and dreams you hold for the Episcopal Church in Indiana. (Meeting held via Zoom. Times listed in Eastern time zone.)

### GATHERING GRACE & A BETTER WAY – WINTER PROTECTION

New and gently used gloves, hats and scarves are still being accepted through Sunday. Gathering Grace Guests will receive your donations this Sunday; A Better Way will receive their winter items on Monday. Thank you for your generosity.

## CHRISTIAN MINISTRIES ~ ONGOING NEEDS

**Food Pantry:** Canned fruit, meats, and soup, crackers, cereal, pasta & pasta sauce, mac & cheese.

**Personal Care Items:** Bar soap, shampoo, toothpaste, dish soap, laundry detergent, toilet paper, lg/med diapers, towels, washcloths, blankets.

## YARN & YARNS

The next gathering for Yarn & Yarns needlework group will be Wednesday, December 20 at 10:00am at Grace Church. Bring your current project and join us!

## HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!

**Connie & Joe Turner** (December 14, 1997)

*O God, our times are in your hand: Look with favor, we pray, on your servants as they begin another year. Grant that they may grow in wisdom and grace, and strengthen their trust in your goodness all the days of their lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

Yesterday, the 13<sup>th</sup>, was the feast of St. Lucy, an early fourth-century martyr from Syracuse, a city in Sicily. In the old (Julian) calendar, December 13 was the shortest day of the year in the northern hemisphere. She is particularly popular among Scandinavians and other people of the far north. Malcolm Guite wrote this sonnet while leading an Advent retreat at Launde Abbey, a beautiful place hidden away in the soft folds of Leicestershire. One morning, on Saint Lucy's day, whose brief brightness is dedicated to the martyr saint who found the true dayspring and whose name means light, I walked in the abbey grounds, and this poem came to him.

### **Launde Abbey on St. Lucy's day**

St. Lucy's day is brief and bright with frost,  
In round cupped dew ponds shallow waters freeze,  
Delicate fronds and rushes are held fast,  
The low sun brings a contrast to the trees  
Whose naked branches, dark against the skies  
And fringed with glory by the light behind,  
In patterns too severe for tired eyes,  
Burn their bright beauty on the weary mind.  
Saint Lucy's sun still bathes these abbey walls  
And in her garden rose stalks stark and bare  
Shine in a frosty light that yet recalls  
The glory of the summer roses there.  
Though winter night will soon surround us here,  
Another Advent comes, Dayspring is near.

Wishing you a blessed wait in Advent,



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