



ST. PETER'S WAVE DECEMBER 2024

St. Peter's is a community called to Love, Worship, Proclaim, and Serve.

Dear Parishioners and Friends,

December is the last month in our calendar year, but it is the first month in our liturgical year. The new season of Advent begins on December 1st. Advent means “coming” and we are waiting to celebrate the coming of Jesus at his nativity on the 25th. There’s much to do as we wait.

So, the month ahead is filled with planning and preparation. Each year I grow increasingly aware of how busy and noisy December seems to be. The days fly by as the darkness lengthens to the shortest daylight of the year on the 22nd.

We wait. We plan. We prepare. And in the life of the parish this isn’t just in celebrating Advent and Christmas - it is also as we look forward to the new year, 2025!

Distance runners like to use the expression, “slow and steady, wins the race.” Perhaps we could use this expression for the month ahead. Try also to find some quiet, peaceful moments to concentrate on what Jesus’ birth means for you and for our world.

With every blessing for Advent and Christmas,

Grace, Peace, Love,
Bob



LITURGICAL NOTES “Alpha and Omega”

These are the first and last letters of the Greek alphabet used in the church to denote God’s eternity and infinitude- specifically for Jesus Christ. Jesus is described as the “Alpha and Omega” three times in the book of Revelation.

The 2 Greek letters are traced into the Paschal candle as the celebrant says “Christ yesterday and today, the Beginning and the End. All time belongs to him....” These letters also are often

seen in church appointments, such as on Altars and Altar rails, banners, and in other ways in many churches.



ADVENT

Advent stands at the beginning of the church's liturgical year, a time for all Christians to prepare for birth of our Savior, Jesus. A season primarily of waiting and reflection with a heavy dose of joyful expectation.

Again this year, I will be offering Evening Prayers and Reflection with Taize music. This service is meditative, reflective and led by the Spirit. It incorporates prayers, silence, scriptures, spiritual readings and Taize music. I invite and welcome you to come share in this time to deepen your prayer life and draw nearer to the Light during this season of Advent.

Advent Evening Prayers and Reflection with Taize music will be held on:

Thursdays, December 5th - 12th- 19th @ 5PM

Monday, December 23rd @ 5PM

Come, rest, reflect, rejuvenate and restore your soul.

Lisa+



VISIBLE

VESTRY

November 19, 2024

Our finances for this year are in good shape. Due to the new heating system, utility costs are down.

We have received 51 pledges totaling over \$100,000. for next year.

The Christmas Fair will be November 23rd from 10 – 2.

There will be one service on November 24th followed by a coffee hour and an Advent Wreath making party.

There will be a mandolin concert on Sunday, December 15 at 7:00 pm.

The services on Christmas Eve will be 4 and 7 pm. There will be caroling at 6:30 before the 7:00 service.

The vestry approved the diocesan auditor for next year.

The Giving Tree for Cataumet will be up for December 1 and 8 only as the facilities need the gift cards to distribute to the clients.

There will be a separate collection on November 24 for the Bishop's Fund to help with hurricane relief.

The boat over the front door will be coming down soon to be repaired.

We have a volunteer to do the plowing this year.

There will be no Bible Study on Tuesdays for 2 weeks.

The Search Committee is updating the profile and contacting seminaries for possible candidates.

There will be regional confirmations this year.

We will be donating \$300. to the Bourne Substance Free Coalition from donations made by parishioners.

We are hoping to get a Coffee Hour coordinator.



LECTORS' INTRO & CONGREGATION RESPONSES

The proper introduction to the lessons should simply be "A reading from ... (name of the book, for example: Exodus or Jeremiah or Romans, etc.). Lectors should just say these 4 words...no need to add "Book of..." or chapter and verse. Simply "A reading from". After the reading there are now two options: we can continue with "The Word of the Lord", or lectors may now say "Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church". In either case, the congregation's reply remains "Thanks be to God."



Brief Notes from Diocesan Convention November 9, 2024

More details on the Convention will be included in the Annual Report. If you have immediate questions, please see Ken Lihzis or Margery Buckingham, our Delegates to convention, or Lisa Platinitis, our Postulant who also attended the Convention.

Bishop Carol Gallagher will retire on January 1, 2025. Bishop Julia Whitworth will appoint an Assistant Bishop.

The Diocesan budget for 2025 is \$9,202, 896. This is less than '23 and '24.

St. Peter's assessment for 2025 is \$8,883. In 2024 it was \$7,072.

The minimum total full-time clergy compensation package is \$90,951.

A Resolution was passed calling for all clergy and lay leaders to complete "Dismantling Racism through Racial Healing," a program developed by and for the Episcopal Diocese of Massachusetts, as part of our commitment to being an antiracist diocese.

Respectfully submitted,
Margery Buckingham

Diocesan Cycle of Prayer Advent 2024

Note: This Cycle of Prayer is arranged alphabetically by Deanery

Sunday, Dec. 1, 2024 First Sunday of Advent

Churches of the Alewife Deanery

Church of Our Savior, Arlington
St. John's Church, Arlington
Order of St. Anne & Bethany House of Prayer,
Arlington
The Standing Committee
Brotherhood of St. Gregory

Sunday, Dec. 8, 2024 Second Sunday of Advent

Churches of the Alewife Deanery

St. Paul's Church, Bedford
All Saints' Church, Belmont
St. Mark's Church, Burlington
The Officers of the Diocese
Racial Justice Commission

Sunday, Dec. 15, 2024 Third Sunday of Advent

Churches of the Alewife Deanery

Christ Church, Cambridge
St. Bartholomew's Church, Cambridge St. James'
Church, Cambridge

St. Peter's Church, Cambridge
Diocesan Disciplinary Board

Sunday, Dec. 22, 2024 Fourth Sunday of Advent

Churches of the Alewife Deanery

Episcopal Chaplaincy at Harvard, Cambridge
Lutheran Episcopal Chaplaincy at Mass. Institute of
Technology, Cambridge

The Society of St. John the Evangelist, Cambridge
Hospital Chaplaincies & Healthcare Chaplains

Sunday, Dec. 29, 2024 First Sunday after

Christmas

Churches of the Alewife Deanery

Church of Our Redeemer, Lexington
St. James' Church, Somerville
Christ Church, Waltham
Congregation of St. Peter at Christ Episcopal Church,
Waltham
Church of the Good Shepherd, Watertown



"Tis the season to "Deck the Halls with boughs of holly and sing fa-la-la-la-la-la-la la and that it exactly what is happening here at St Peter's this month of December!

The choir has been hard at work preparing for the annual Christmas Caroling prelude and Liturgy. We are looking forward to singing our favorite traditional carols as well as welcoming new songs of celebration to the newborn King.

In addition, the choir and musicians will be spreading some Christmas joy to the wonderful residents of Keystone Place with a holiday sing-a-long on Sunday December 22 at 1:30pm. This

is a season of giving, and I think the simplicity of bringing joy to a person is one of the greatest gifts you can give. Following the example of our Lord Jesus, who was born in simplicity, and not in a royal hospital suite, but in a lowly, simple stable where the animals were kept. "Love Came Down at Christmas" is simple and sincere poem by Christina Rossetti written in 1885, with the original title Christmastide.

"Love came down at Christmas, Love all lovely, Love divine. Love was born at Christmas, star and angels gave the sign. Worship we the God head, Love Incarnate, Love Divine, worship we our Jesus, but wherewith for sacred sign? Love shall be our token, Love be yours and love be mine. Love to God and to all, Love for plea and gift and sign." -Christina Rossetti

Let us keep the seasons simple and remember that Love is what it's all about.

Love, Peace and Joy,

Lisa 🎵



MEN'S

BREAKFAST

The second men's breakfast get together was held on November 2nd, at which we also had 10 attendees. The conversation was lively and touched on a variety of subjects, new and old.

Our next breakfast get together will be on Sat., Dec. 7 at 8:30am. As usual, we will gather at Persy's Place, 3198 Cranberry Highway, East Wareham. If you would like to attend, please add your name to the sign-up sheet posted in the narthex. If you forget to sign up, please call or text Jim Hankey at 781-534-2604. This will provide an accurate count of attendees for Persy's setup.

I look forward to seeing you at Persy's!
Jim Hankey

Spiritual Surprises for the Second Half of Life: An Advent Mini Retreat

Wise leaders and our own experiences tell us that the first half of life is about building up – our homes, our families, our careers and our reputations. The second half of life is more about letting go – downsizing our houses, losing loved ones, retiring from paid work, and becoming aware of our limited time here on earth. Our spiritual priorities also change. Our focus is more on our personal relationship with God and less on sin, dogma and judgement. If you are nodding in agreement or just curious, please join us on **Saturday morning Dec. 7th from 9:30 – 12:30** in Stephenson Hall for prayer, meditation and conversation about spirituality in the two halves of life. Our reading will be based on the book *Falling Upward* by Fr. Richard Rohr. Coffee and snacks will be provided.

This mini retreat is led by parishioner Margery Buckingham who holds a Master's Degree in Spiritual Direction and a Master's Degree in Applied Spirituality.



MANDOLIN CONCERT

Our friend Sean Crehan and his mandolin orchestra will return for a concert on Dec. 15 at 7pm. Watch the weekly email for more information.



The next meeting of St. Peter's Substance Free Support group will be Mon., Jan.13 at 2:22pm. **(note date change due to holiday) All are welcome!!!**

We would like to thank the parish for your continued support. We recently received a large donation of coins from a very generous parishioner. He had been saving up for over 12 years! This week we gave the Treasurer \$300 from the donation jar to send to the Bourne group. They have recently held a program for parents and continue to put on demonstrations of the "Hidden in Plain Site" program.

We would love to have you join us as we discuss plans for our new year. Our group has presented educational programs and provided fundraising events for both the Bourne Substance Free Coalition and St. Peter's Parish. We began in 2017 when a group of parishioners who were concerned about the issues surrounding substance use and abuse and its effects on families gathered.

We have had to cancel several events due lack of helping hands. Our number of volunteers are aging out and getting burned out. PLEASE if you would like to see this ministry continue, WE NEED YOUR HELP!!!! Please prayerfully consider joining with us in our efforts. If you have any questions, please speak with any of our members or join us at our next meeting.

Larry Higgins, Celeste & Jim Hankey, Bob & Nancy Sherwood, Jane & Jim Lema, Donna Beers, Diane Bergeron, and Connie Morrison

Below are some information sources that are available in our area:

Massachusetts Substance Abuse Hotline 1-800-327-5050

Learn to Cope www.learn2cope.org

AA Zoom 425-436-6360 Access Number n 422932

PRAYER FOR A NEW RECTOR/SEARCH PROCESS

O God, you know us better than we know ourselves. Guide us in our search for a new clerical leader. empower each one of us to use our unique ministries, to share openly and honestly our thoughts, to respect the opinions of others, and to encourage humility, patience, and joy. Instill in us a vision of the Church's family; that guided by your Holy Spirit, we will be united in love and joyfully accomplish this mission of discovering the one you have called to serve with us as our rector. All this we ask through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

RECURRING EVENTS

Sundays: 8am - Holy Eucharist Rite I
 10am - Holy Eucharist Rite II w/music
 (unless otherwise noted)
Tuesdays: 11am - Bible Study (no B.S. on 12-3)
Thursdays: 8:30am - TOPS
1st Saturday, 8:30am - Men’s Breakfast
2nd Monday, 2:22pm - Substance Abuse Team
3rd Tuesday, 4:30pm – Vestry

DECEMBER EVENTS

Search Team: Tues. Dec. 4 @ 4:30pm
Women’s Bible Study: Wed., Dec. 4 & 18 @ noon
Evening Prayer: Thurs. Dec. 5,12,19 @ 5pm & Mon. Dec. 23 @ 5pm
Spiritual Surprises Retreat: Sat., Dec.7 @ 9:30am
Mandolin Concert: Sun. Dec. 15 @7pm

ST. PETER’S EPISCOPAL CHURCH-ON-THE-CANAL
165 Main St., PO Box 265
Buzzards Bay, MA 02532
508-759-5641

Email: saintpeters@verizon.net
Website: www.saintpetersbb.org

Staff

The Reverend Robert Malm, Interim Rector 703-772-7667
Lisa Platanitis, Director of Music/Choir
Liesl Crehan, Pianist/Organist
Kimberly Leahy, Parish Administrator
Robin Higgins, Newsletter Editor

Vestry

Celeste Hankey, Sr. Warden...617-710-5346
Alan Kershaw, Treasurer...508-224-4018
Robin Higgins, Clerk...413-329-4651
Patrick Davin....508-496-0863
Patti Metcalf...508-685-5582
Donna Tripp...508-264-1515
Mark Taylor, Jr. Warden...508-863-1259
Kathy Letzeisen, Asst. Treasurer...617-755-9357
Donna Beers...508-759-8283
Jack Kennedy...508-291-138
Melissa Scannell...508-566-1594



4:00pm

LESSONS & CAROLS w/HOLY COMMUNION

6:30pm

CHORAL PRELUDE

7:00pm

*NATIVITY of OUR LORD
FESTIVAL EUCHARIST*