



**ST. PETER'S WAVE
APRIL 2026**

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

Dear Parishioners and Friends,

Holy Week begins with Palm/Passion Sunday on March 29th. I will attend the Diocesan Clergy Renewal Service at the Cathedral in Boston on Tuesday in Holy Week. The Bishop will be blessing and distributing Holy Oil at this service for clergy to use in parishes. This will be my first time to participate since coming to Massachusetts in 2019.

We will have our regular services on Maundy Thursday at 12noon and at 6:30pm and also on Good Friday at 12noon and 6:30pm. The choir will sing at both 6:30 services. On Easter Sunday we will have our normal service times of 8am and 10am.

Holy Week and Easter Sunday are the most sacred days of the Christian year. I encourage you to attend our services at St. Peter's. You might also consider inviting someone you know who doesn't have a church home.

I will be away on vacation April 12 and 19. Fr. Tom May will be our supply priest. Some of you have met Fr. Tom at Bible Study or at Stations of the Cross or at 10am on Feb. 22. We are thankful that he has joined our extended parish family after serving for many years in the Diocese of New Jersey.

Blessings for Holy Week and the 50 Great Days of Easter.

Grace, Peace, Love,
Bob





LITURGICAL NOTES

CONFIRMATION

Confirmation is a mature public affirmation of faith (as first experienced in the promises of Baptism), with the laying on of hands by the Bishop. In Roman Catholic tradition dating back to the early church, the practice of baptizing infants was widespread. Obviously, a young child or baby cannot make a “mature affirmation of faith”. Thus, the Church developed this rite of Confirmation. The name “Confirmation” comes from two ancient Latin words meaning “with strength”. Confirmation in the Episcopal Church gives a person the chance to strengthen their baptismal promises.

The 1979 Book of Common Prayer placed this rite within the rite of Baptism (p.309). It is found as a separate rite in the first of the Pastoral Offices (p. 413). Included in the liturgy are forms for Reception and Reaffirmation. Reception is for those confirmed in another denomination who want to formally join the Episcopal Church. Reaffirmation is for those previously confirmed in the Episcopal Church who wish to make another profession of faith (usually after many years) in the presence of and with the blessing of the Bishop.

Bishop Julia will be visiting St. Peter’s on Sunday, June 21st. We hope to have candidates to present to her for these rites of renewal. Please speak with Fr. Bob if you have any interest or any questions.



Alleluia, Christ is Risen!

Easter proclaims the joyful news that Christ is risen. Yet the Gospel reminds us that the road into that joy was not the same for everyone. A week after the first Easter morning, the risen Jesus appears again to the disciples—this time for Thomas, who had missed the earlier encounter. Often remembered as “Doubting Thomas,” he simply voiced what many of us might have felt: he wanted to see before he could fully believe. When Jesus meets him, however, there is only peace, welcome, and an invitation to come closer.

In the Episcopal tradition, belief is not about having every mystery solved. It is about trust that grows over time—through prayer, worship, scripture, and the life we share

together. Faith often deepens through honest questions and patient seeking, just as it did for Thomas when he finally exclaimed, “My Lord and my God.”

This Easter season also marks a meaningful moment in my own journey with you. I am grateful to share that I have been officially accepted as a Candidate for the Priesthood. I can say with humility and gratitude that, at this point in the journey, there is no doubt about the direction to which God is calling me. I am deeply thankful to be walking that path with this parish as I continue my seminary formation.

A beloved prayer attributed to Richard of Chichester, whose feast day the Church keeps on April 3, captures this gentle, steady path of belief: *“Day by day, dear Lord, of thee three things I pray: to see thee more clearly, love thee more dearly, and follow thee more nearly.”*

That prayer feels especially fitting for Easter—and for the journey of faith we share. Belief, after all, is not a single moment of certainty but a life shaped day by day by the risen Christ, who continues to meet us where we are and lead us ever deeper into faith and joy.

Lisa ✙



Alan presented financial report. We voted to keep the day care upstairs and convert the basement to storage. We plan to update bathrooms and negotiate how to better share the space with the day care. We are in good shape financially.

Amy spoke about 4 new committees; see accompanying article.

Mark is going to start organizing downstairs to prepare for using the space for storage. This will free up the attic space for other uses. The framing around stained glass needs to be repaired. Mark found signs for Holy Week that he will put up.

Father Bob said that the bishop is scheduled to come on June 21. Folks can be received or confirmed or reaffirmed into the Episcopal church while she is here. Father Bob would like St Peter's to start a legacy/endowment fund for large future capital expenses. Father Bob spoke about his gratitude for Father Tom May for taking over communion at 10:00 on Feb 2 when Father Bob was away. Father Tom May attends bible study and other services here. He is retired but has decided to become an active priest again. He will be filling in occasionally when Father Bob is away.

Henry would like us to consider solar panels for the church. Henri will talk with Mark and prepare a presentation for our next vestry meeting.



Fishermen and Shepherds

To ensure its long-term health, St Peter's needs to grow. As we consider how best to grow, I think it is helpful to consider two aspects of Jesus' ministry. Jesus has been compared to both a fisherman and a shepherd. The vestry would like us to be better fishermen and shepherds. We are going to form four new committees to help us reach that goal. Two committees will focus on being better fisherman, two on being better shepherds.

Becoming better fishermen: casting our net

As 'fishers of men', it seems like our strategy has been more like lobsterman, setting a nice trap, and hoping a lobster wanders in. I think we need to get in our boats and cast our nets! (Like St Peter is depicted over our door and on our altar.) Father Bob is suggesting we explore the program "Invite, Welcome, Connect" to grow our congregation. We are starting a committee to investigate this program. Any members of the congregation are welcome to join this committee.

Committee to discuss Invite, Welcome, Connect

Task: Discuss how we can use this program to help St Peter's grow.

If you want to be part of this discussion talk to: Fr Bob, Barbara Johnson or Amy Farris

Becoming better fishermen: setting a better "trap"

The vestry thinks we need to be more intentional about being a welcoming church. So many vestry members said that the reason they initially liked St Peter's was because someone spoke to them the first time they came. I have also heard that recently people have come to St Peter's and felt it was a cold, unfriendly church and they never returned. We don't want anyone else to think that! My idea is to have a designated person every Sunday whose task is to look for any newcomers and talk to them. Look them in the eye and say 'I am glad you are here'; exchange the peace with them; invite them to coffee hour. I also would like this person to go to coffee hour and look for someone who is not talking to anyone and talk to them, introduce them to your friends. Our motto should be the saying "there are no strangers, only friends you haven't met."

Welcoming Committee

Minimum task: Make sure there is a designated person every Sunday to welcome newcomers

Growth: How can St Peter's be more welcoming?

The ask: We need volunteers to agree to be their most friendly selves every month or two. We will make a schedule and assign you a Sunday, you won't need to attend any meetings.

If interested, talk to: Fr. Bob, Amy Farris, Henri Masson, or Jim Hankey

Being better shepherds: Pastoral care

The vestry would like to see if we can do a better job taking care of our own flock. Currently, if someone is sick or bereaved and reaches out to the church, we put them on the prayer list and send a card. It would be lovely if we could do more. Maybe visit, maybe bring a meal, maybe pick up a prescription? Of course, we can only do as much as we have the volunteers for.

Pastoral Care Committee

Minimum task: Write cards to those who are sick/bereaved

Growth: consider the possibility of assembling volunteers and offering help

The ask: we need someone to write cards. We need to know if folks like this idea.

If interested, talk to: Fr. Bob, Amy Farris, or Mark Taylor

Being better shepherds: Outreach

The vestry would also like us to do a better job taking care of members of God's flock who do not belong to our church. In the past St Peter's did quite a bit to serve our local community. It would be lovely to revive that tradition.

Outreach Committee

The ask: ideas for outreach, volunteers

If you are interested, talk to : Fr Bob, Amy Farris, Connie Morrison or Melissa Scannell

The contact information for everyone is in the parish directory, or you can call the church office. We look forward to hearing from you and working together to grow St Peters.

Amy Farris, Senior Warden

amyreads42@gmail.com

MUSIC NOTES

“He is risen, He is risen!” — those triumphant words from Hymn 180 of *The Hymnal 1982* resound in our hearts each Eastertide as a powerful proclamation of our faith. Penned by Cecil Frances Alexander in the 19th century and set to the tune *Unser Herrscher* by Joachim Neander, this hymn beautifully captures the joy of Christ's resurrection and the hope it gives to all of us.

As we sing together, *“He has burst his three days' prison; let the whole wide earth rejoice!”* we were reminded that death has been conquered, and new life is ours through the risen Christ. The hymn's words and melody draw us into the Easter mystery — not just as a historical event we celebrate, but as a living reality that shapes our worship and daily living.

HE IS RISEN, HE IS RISEN, TELL IT OUT WITH JOYFUL VOICE!!!

I want to offer a heartfelt thank you to the wonderful choir and our dedicated musicians at St. Peter's, and especially to Liesl, our organist who *“tell it out, with joyful voice”* each

week. Their devotion, time, and beautiful music during Holy Week and well on into Easter Season lifts our parish into joyful praise and reflection.

May this Easter song and many others continue to lift our spirits in the days ahead, and may the truth that *He is Risen Indeed!* echo in all we sing and do.

Peace and Joy,
Lisa ✚
Director of Music



Our sixth get-together was held on March 7th. We had 12 attendees sign up, of which 11 were able to attend. As always, the conversation was lively and varied! Our next breakfast get-together will be on Saturday, April 4th 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 the Persy's setup.

I look forward to seeing you at Persy's!

Best regards,
Jim Hankey



RECURRING EVENTS

Sundays: 8am - Holy Eucharist Rite I
 10am - Holy Eucharist Rite II w/music
 (unless otherwise noted)
Tuesdays: 11am - Bible Study
Thursdays: 8:30am – TOPS
1st Saturday, 8:30am - Men’s Breakfast
3rd Tuesday, 5:00pm – Vestry
1st & 3rd Wednesday, 12n – Women’s Bible Study

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, Priest-in-Charge 703-772-7667
Lisa Platanitis, Director of Music/Choir
Liesl Crehan, Pianist/Organist
Kimberly Leahy, Parish Administrator
Robin Higgins, Newsletter Editor

2026 Vestry

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Alan Kershaw, Treasurer...508-224-4018 4553 Alan.kershaw@gmail.com	Aaron Willey, Asst. Treasurer...774-269- aaronwilley2007@gmail.com
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PALM SUNDAY, MARCH 29TH

8am ~ Blessing of the Palms and Holy Eucharist
10am ~ Blessing of the Palms with Holy Eucharist and choir

MAUNDY THURSDAY, APRIL 2ND

12pm ~ Liturgy of the Day with Holy Communion
6:30pm ~ Liturgy of the Day with Holy Communion and choir

GOOD FRIDAY, APRIL 3RD

12pm ~ Stations of the Cross, Liturgy of the Day and Holy Communion
6:30pm – Liturgy with Passion Gospel, Holy Communion and choir



EASTER DAY, APRIL 5TH

8am ~ Holy Eucharist
10am ~ Festival Eucharist with Choir
followed by Easter Egg hunt for young children

“All Are Welcome In This Place...”