



ST. PETER'S WAVE February 2025

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

Dear Parishioners and Friends,

The name for the 2nd month of the calendar year, February, comes from the Ancient Latin word, februum, meaning “purification”. In pre-Christian Rome it was long-standing practice to have a mid-winter purifying or cleansing – physically and spiritually. Many pagan rites were used to cleanse, purify homes, crops, and even individuals. We might think of this as an early “Spring Cleaning”.

But once Christianity grew, spread, and became the religion of the Emperor Constantine, “The Purification of Mary” was celebrated beginning on February 2, 40 days after the birth of Jesus. As we learn from St. Luke’s Gospel (2:22), Mary was following the ancient Jewish law (Lev. 12:2-8). This day was also, more importantly, when Jesus was presented in the Temple and was proclaimed “a light for revelation...” Thus, the popular practice of blessing and using candles became part of the liturgy for “Candlemas”.

Many years we begin Lent in February. This is a season of self-reflection, prayer, and cleansing as we prepare for Easter. Easter Sunday is rather late this year, so February will be a continuation of the Epiphany season.

I encourage you to use the well-known prayer that comes at the start of the Holy Eucharist – The Collect for Purity (BCP p. 323 or p. 355). We ask God to constantly “cleanse the thoughts of our heart...” so we may love God “perfectly”.

Grace, Peace, Love,
Bob+



LITURGICAL NOTES

Morning Prayer

The first services found in the Book of Common Prayer are simply called "The Daily Office," p.35. This begins with Morning Prayer and includes Evening Prayer, Noonday Prayer, Order of Worship for the Evening, Compline and Daily Devotions.

Most Episcopalians are familiar with Morning Prayer as a Sunday service, since this was part of the Anglican tradition dating back to the Reformation. The Holy Eucharist replaced Morning Prayer as the principal Sunday service beginning in the 1970's in many parishes. At St Peter's we celebrate Morning Prayer on Sundays when a priest is not available to preside at The Eucharist.

The early church followed the practice of Judaism by "sanctifying the day" with worship in the morning, at noon and in the evening. By the 6th century the church followed the practice outlined by Saint Benedict to praise God 7 times a day (see Ps. 119:164).

For centuries cathedrals, monastic communities and larger parish churches followed this daily schedule- Matins, Lauds, (in the morning) Prime, Terce, Sext (in the midday- often at 9am, 12n, 3pm) Vespers, and Compline (in the evening). Archbishop Thomas Cranmer revised this ancient pattern of daily worship and gave us Morning and Evening Prayer in the first BCP. in 1549. Our current BCP. (1979) expanded the Daily Office with options for Rite I and Rite II, along with the other services.

It is a rich part of our tradition and practice to offer daily prayers- corporately, publicly or individually, privately. Our faith is enriched by daily readings from scripture, including the psalms; by prayers; and by praises. When we use Morning Prayer for our services on Sunday, it is a reminder of the call to pray daily, remembering the words of the Psalmist, "This is the day the Lord has made, let us rejoice and be glad in it..." (118:24).



VISIBLE

VESTRY

January 21, 2025

Our finances are looking good.

We have received 54 pledges totaling \$105,000.

The budget for 2025 was approved by the vestry.

The slate of Vestry candidates for 2025 has been completed to be presented at the Annual Meeting.

We are looking for delegates – for convention and Deanery meetings.

The snow plowing will be done by Bruce Wetzel.

The Theological Education fund was discussed.

We are going to ask the congregation for a discussion on having one service whenever we have a 5th Sunday of the month.

Annual Meeting is February 9th at 9am following a joint service and refreshments

There are some maintenance issues to be addressed: cracked beam in the church, frames around the stained glass windows, drains in the parking lot, increasing the columbarium.

Mark Taylor has been repairing/refinishing the pews.

There has been some interest in becoming an acolyte – Fr. Bob is the trainer.

We need someone that can work on the website.

We have been approached about having a carnival on our property – more information will be requested.

Fr. Bob has been asked to hold a monthly service at Keystone.

The Substance Abuse Ministry team will be holding a game night April 23rd.



The fourth men's breakfast get together was held on January 4th. Attendance was down a bit to 7, most likely due to conflicts during the busy holiday season. Nevertheless, the conversation was once again lively and touched on a variety of subjects, new and old.

Our next breakfast get together will be on Saturday, February 8th (**NOTE: this is the second Saturday in February**) at 8:30 AM. 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.

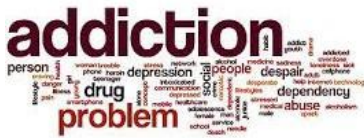
I look forward to seeing you at Persy's!
Jim Hankey



CHRISTMAS FAIR RE-CAP

A Christmas Fair Summary Meeting will take place **on Wednesday, February 5th following the Women's Bible Study. (Approximately 1:30)**. This will be a quick meeting to discuss how the fair went and if we as a parish would like to do this again next year and if so, to settle on a date. I'd also like to talk about what we did well and any areas we can improve upon. If you are unable to meet at this time, please feel free to reach out to me through email with any input regarding the fair and the possibility of one next year and if you would be willing to participate.

Hope to see you there, or to hear from you soon!
Patti :)



S.A.M. (Substance Abuse Ministry)

New name, same great Ministry. Our continuing goal is to raise awareness on issues surrounding substance abuse and support efforts for families and caregivers. Our monthly collection jar helps to support the Bourne Substance Free Coalition. They continue to reach out to young people and parents through prevention initiatives like "Hidden in Plain Sight", and by providing motivational speakers and awareness campaigns in the spring.

We would like to thank the parish for their continuing support. We raised \$300.00 with our collection jar out on the second Sunday of every month. Our attempts for a family game night fell short due to a lack of committed participants, but we will try again in April if we can enlist more volunteers from the congregation.

At a recent meeting we discussed a new state law that makes treatment and coverage for substance abuse issues more affordable for victims and families. The full law H. 5143 can be found at Mass.gov. If you would like to learn more about our mission, please join us at one of our meetings on the second Monday of each month at 2:22PM at the church.

Sincerely Submitted,
Substance Abuse Prevention and Support members: Celeste & Jim Hankey, Jane & Jim Lema, Nancy & Bob Sherwood, Donna Beers, Larry Higgins, Diane Bergeron, and Connie Morrison.



The Search Committee is putting the final touches on the 2025 update to our Parish Profile. Our revision includes updated financial information, our new Vestry and Search Committee members, new activities happening, and highlighting how St. Peter's experiences continued growth by providing updated attendance and membership numbers. We have also created a letter to be distributed to several seminaries in the hopes that a "soon to graduate" candidate may be interested in St. Peter's and settling here in Eastern Massachusetts. These schools include Berkley Divinity School at Yale, Bexley Hall Seabury Western, Church Divinity School of the West, Episcopal Divinity School at Union, General Theological, Nashota House, and Virginia Theological.

As always, we thank you for your continued support and prayers for our beloved St. Peter's.

Yours In Christ,

Larry Higgins, Donna Beers, Matthew Bruce, Nancy Kennedy and Patti Metcalf

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
Thursdays: 8:30am - TOPS
1st Saturday, 8:30am - Men's Breakfast **note chg. Of date to Feb.8
2nd Monday, 2:22pm - Substance Abuse Team
3rd Tuesday, 6:30pm - Vestry

FEBRUARY EVENTS

Wednesday, Feb. 5
1:30pm – Christmas Fair recap
Sunday, Feb. 9
9:00am – Combined service Holy Eucharist Rite I w/music
10:00am – ANNUAL MEETING
Wed., Feb. 5 & 19
12:00pm – 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, 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
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Melissa Scannell...508-566-1594

