



**This Sunday:
The First Sunday after the Epiphany
The Baptism of our Lord Jesus Christ
The Holy Eucharist**

**January 7, 2023
9:00 AM**

Join us in person for our service.

Or join us by going to the Parish Facebook page for the online service:

<https://www.facebook.com/stpetersport/>

The worship leaflet can be found **here**.

There will be a coffee hour after the mass.

Sunday Morning Ministers:

Eucharistic Minister: Janene Gorham and Myrna Koonce

Crucifer: Tom Ainsworth

Lector: Anita Chandler

Usher: Cindy Sherwood

Coffee Hour Hosts: Patty Lamb, Bob Simmons, and Anita Chandler

Music Notes for this Sunday are found at the end of Key Notes.



Dear Friends,

Friday is the 12th day of Christmas, with the Feast of the Epiphany occurring on Saturday January 6. Though we will not be having a service at church on Saturday, I mentioned last Sunday that there is a way you can observe Epiphany at home. A long standing tradition of the day is to the mark with chalk the lintels over the doorways into and out of one's home with an inscription: 20 + C + M + B + 24.

In some cultures, January 6 is referred to as Three Kings Day, an occasion to mark the arrival of the Wise Men to worship at the manger (and our wise men at St. Peter's will have completed their journey and be at the foot of the creche this Sunday on the 7th). The C, M, and B of the inscription can refer to the traditional names given to those travelers

from the east: Caspar, Balthazar and Melchior. The three letters also represent the Latin words *Christus Mansionem Benedict*, which means, “May Christ bless this dwelling.”

I find this second meaning particularly evocative. The “chalking of the doors” is a way to mark off thresholds, and isn’t that something we do with other thresholds? A baby is born, crossing a threshold into new life, and prayers of thanksgiving are offered at church and at home. An infant is baptized, crossing the threshold into the Body of Christ, and we mark the occasion not with chalk, but with water and holy oil. And at the threshold of death, there may be prayers, anointing with holy oil and a prayer that reminds us of Christ’s eternal blessing.

What if every morning when I leave the house and when I return, I am reminded that Christ seeks to bless my life, my family, and the place where I dwell? And what if whenever I enter the home of another, be it the closest of friends, or someone living in a tent or a shelter, I am reminded that Christ is blessing them and the place where they dwell?

I invite us to consider all of the thresholds we cross in this year to come - both the physical and the figurative, and envisage Christ blessing our movement through them.

Faithfully,

Fr. Tom

PS A short liturgy for chalking the doors was handed out at church on Sunday. You can also find it [here](#).



Thank you...

to all who contributed to making our celebrations of this season so meaningful. I am not going to try and name names - I know I will miss some! Instead, think about all that goes into creating our liturgies and times of fellowship and the people responsible for them: coffee hour hosts, ushers, crucifers, lectors, eucharistic ministers, those who donated flowers and those who set them up, those who prepared the altar as they do every week and those who set up and will take down the creche. Then there are those who created the sonorous sounds of the season, and this year, those who contributed to the beauty of holiness as bearers of incense and the Christ Child, brought to the manger on Christmas Eve. And coordinating them all was our vergier. There are those who prepare our worship leaflets, not just during this season, but throughout the year. It is a time of welcoming visitors to the parish, and I thank all of you for extending a warm St. Peter's welcome to all who came through our doors. How grateful we all can be that so many enrich our life together!



On the sixth Day of Christmas... Carols of the Season

The Ladies of the Amethyst Project, led by our resident soloist, Mary Sullivan, presented a concert of carols and songs of the season at St. Peter's on Saturday, December 30. It was a gray and rather dreary afternoon, but the interior of St. Peter's glowed with the warmth, brightness, and rich sound of this performing group. Thank you to Mary and to Herb Taylor for their coordinating efforts in bringing this concert for us to share with the larger community. While there was no charge for the concert, donations for St. Elizabeth's Pantry were welcomed, and \$410 was raised to bring to the pantry from St. Peter's.

Vestry Budget Meeting on Monday January 8

The vestry will meet on Monday January 8 at 6:30 PM on Zoom to review and then approve the budget for 2024. If you have questions about how we commit our funds or have a request for funding in a particular area, you are welcome to attend the meeting. The Zoom link is [here](#). If you cannot attend, you can also speak to any vestry member before the meeting.

Current vestry members are: Anita Chandler, senior warden; Wayne Franklin, junior warden; Bob Simmons,

treasurer; Cindy Sherwood, clerk; Tom Ainsworth, Lorna Blackmer, Thora Easton, Linda Foster, Toby Goodyear, Judy Howes, Patty Lamb, Allison Schroth, and Jessie Vega.

Loving Our Neighbors at St. Elizabeth's

Our St. Elizabeth's Volunteer Morning is Tuesday, January 9th, starting at 8:30 AM. First time volunteers are welcome, and we join folks from other parishes to serve our neighbors. Anita Chandler, our representative for St. Elizabeth's can always provide you with more information.

Preparing for Annual Meeting on January 21

A reminder to those submitting reports: please send them to the rector by January 8. Thank you!

If you are newer to the community, please consider officially becoming a member of the parish. Those who join have voting rights at the annual meeting, as well as making a commitment to support the parish through contributions of time, talent and treasure. If you are interested or have questions, please speak to Fr. Tom.

Looking Ahead

Vestry Budget Meeting on Monday January 8 at 6:30 PM on Zoom

St. Elizabeth's Pantry volunteer Morning on Tuesday, January 9

Annual Parish Meeting on Sun. Jan. 21 after the 9:00 AM mass

Youth Service Corps Tubing Party on Sun. Jan 21

Aging With Grace Zoom Gathering on Wed. Jan.24 at 3:00 PM

Compline Link

Join us for the Compline Prayer Service on Zoom on Wednesday, January 10.

Here is the service for Compline.

The Zoom link is **here**. This link will be the same through February 14.

Sunday Minister Rota for January

January 7

Eucharistic Ministers: Janene Gorham and Myrna Koonce

Crucifer: Tom Ainsworth

Lector: Anita Chandler

Usher: Cindy Sherwood

Coffee Hour Hosts: Patty Lamb, Anita Chandler, and Bob Simmons

January 14

Eucharistic Ministers: David Savage and Myrna Koonce

Crucifer: Steve Koskinen

Lector: TBD

Usher: Bob Simmons

Coffee Hour Hosts:

January 21

Eucharistic Ministers: Lenita Richard and Myrna Koonce

Crucifer: Wayne Franklin

Lector: TBD

Usher: Anita Chandler

Coffee Hour Hosts: The Parish, for annual meting

January 28

Eucharistic Ministers: Janene Gorham and Myrna Koonce

Crucifer: Tom Ainsworth

Lector: TBD

Usher: Cindy Sherwood

Coffee Hour Hosts: The Hickey Family

Weekly Prayer List

Prayers For Parishioners, Families, and Friends

Ann Marie Cady

Allison Schroth

Francisco Andreu

Steve Secord

Diane Dalton

Judy Howes

David and Dino Rice

Robert Stillings

Linda Foster

Fred Fowler

Peter Haskell, *friend of Allison Schroth*

Martha and Steve Gagliardi, *friends of Fr. Tom*

Tommy Valente, *friend of Don and Ann Marie Cady*

Jane Reiha, *friend of Judy Howes*

Brenda Pappalardo, *friend of Judy Howes*

Stephen and Rebecca Seraniche, *friends of Dino Rice*

Marge Devine, *family member of Allison Schroth*

Jimmy Devine, *family member of Allison Schroth*

Sharon Bay, *family member of Ann Bay*

Fuji Sprott, *friend of David and Dino Rice*

Steve Garnett, *friend of Cindy Sherwood*

Pam, *friend of Cindy Sherwood*

Sally, *friend of Cindy Sherwood*

If you wish to add or return persons to the prayer list, please contact our Prayer Ministry Coordinators:

Allison Schroth, at: 207-807-1315

ASchroth@maine.rr.com

or

Emma Bond at: 207-619-3662

emma.e.bond@gmail.com

A Prayer for Those We Love

Almighty God, we entrust all who are dear to us to your never-failing care and love, for this life and the life to come, knowing that you are doing for them better things than we can desire or pray for; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

From *The Book of Common Prayer*

MUSIC NOTES FOR THIS SUNDAY

Somewhat surprisingly, Bach's setting of the beloved German hymn *The Old Year Now Hath Passed Away* is tinged with sadness, reflecting, perhaps, the composer's sense of human mortality and the uncertainty of earthly life. (After all, during the past year, twin sons had died in childbirth.) At the same time, the work projects an element of supplication, and may be seen as an entreaty for God's mercy in the year that lies ahead.

The impetus for "Shall We Gather At The River" was a severe heat wave in Brooklyn, NY. Rev. Robert Lowery, the pastor of the Hanson Place Baptist Church, was nearly overcome, and lay down on the sofa in his office. As he recalled many years later, "Visions of the future passed before me with startling vividness. The imagery of the apocalypse took the form of a tableau. Brightest of all were the throne, the heavenly river, and the gathering of the saints..."

As I mused, the words began to construct themselves. They came first as a question and inquiry, "Shall we gather?" Then they broke in chorus, "Yes, we'll gather." On this question and answer the hymn developed itself. The music came with the hymn."

Lowery continues: "A different appreciation of it was evinced during a visit to London. I had gone to a meeting in the Old Bailey to see some of the most famous Sunday school workers in the world. They were present from

Europe, Asia, and America. I sat in a rear seat alone.”

“After there had been a number of addresses delivered in Various languages, I was preparing to leave, when the chairman of the meeting announced that the author of ‘Shall We Gather at the River?’ was present, and I was requested by name to come forward.”

“Men applauded and women waved their handkerchiefs as I went to the platform. It was a tribute to the hymn; but I felt, when it was over, that, after all, I had perhaps done some little good in the world ...”

Johann Pachelbel (1653-1706) is historically significant in several ways. A fine composer in his own right, he taught Johann Christian Bach, Johann Sebastian's older brother, who in turn served as his younger brother's primary teacher. Thus, it is fair to say that JSB practically grew up in Pachelbel's shadow. While many of Pachelbel's works are smooth and polished; his organ toccatas often exhibit high spirited virtuosity. ~HT

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