

**This Sunday:
The First Sunday in Lent
February 18, 2024
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.

This Sunday's Ministers

Eucharistic Ministers: Lenita Richard and Myrna Koonce

Verger: David Savage

Crucifer: Fred Fowler

Lector: Steve Koskinen

Acolytes: Anica Hickey and Ava Kenniston

Usher: Anita Chandler

Coffee Hour Hosts: The Keniston Family

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

Other Ways to Enter the Church This Sunday...

The repair work of the exterior stonework of the church continues, and the contractors are currently working around and over the front doors. Please plan to use the entrance on Alton Street (which leads to the undercroft) or the elevator entrance in the parking lot this Sunday. Access through the front doors will not be available.



Dear Friends,

As you will notice above, we are being invited to enter the church through different doorways this Sunday. Coming in by a different way has been made necessary by the repair work being done.

Lent provides a similar invitation, not out of necessity, but because of our desire to draw closer to God. Read on in this newsletter and you will see that St. Peter's is providing

several opportunities to explore your relationship with Jesus Christ and your growth in faith. Whether we engage in a particular formation event, gather with others for fellowship over lunch, read the Lenten devotional booklet, or simply adopt some personal disciplines for Lent, we can meet Jesus in new ways. Not only can we come into church in new ways, we can then go out in new ways to follow Jesus as friends and servants of the gospel.

I hope that all of us can find new doorways to God being opened to us throughout the season of Lent.

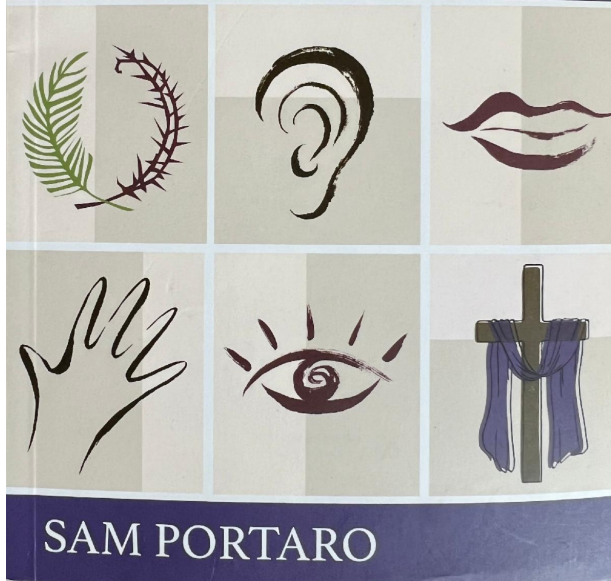
Faithfully,
Fr. Tom

Lenten Devotional Study: Sense and Sensibility

We will hold a half hour Zoom conversation each Wednesday at 6:30 PM (followed by our regular Compline Service). Books should be available at church by Sunday. Join us as we reflect on these daily meditations about how to engage our whole selves in our relationship with God. The Zoom link is [**here**](#).

Sense and Sensibility

A Lenten Exploration



SAM PORTARO

Stations of the Cross: Fridays at 5:30 on Zoom Starting this Friday, February 16th

You are invited to join this devotional service each Friday at 5:30 PM during Lent as we trace the last steps of Jesus from his arrest to his crucifixion. This service is on Zoom only, with the depictions of each station that surround us in the church displayed on the Zoom screen. The first service will be on Friday, February 16th, and the Zoom link is [here](#).



Youth Service Corps Meets this Sunday

The Youth Service Corps will gather at Marden's in South Portland on Sunday the 18th at noon to purchase dental hygiene products which will then be delivered to St. Elizabeth's Pantry. Our youth will also be bringing in donations that have already been brought to St. Peter's. So you can still bring some on Sunday to mass.

Aging With Grace Meets on Wednesday February 21 on Zoom at 3:00 PM

Our monthly gathering on Zoom will focus on two topics in the next months. We will start with a discussion about Hospice - what it is, what services are offered and also, what it is not. Fr. Tom who works as a per diem chaplain for Hospice of Southern Maine, will lead the conversation. We will be following that up with a discussion of Maine's Death With Dignity law, and what it means for someone who is terminally ill to obtain permission for assistance in dying.

Though not always easy topics to discuss, we can do so in

this group where we can trust each other and learn from one another. Do join us. The Zoom link for Feb. 21 is [here](#).

Gather For Lunch with the Merry Hearts

Come on down and join us on **Thursday 22 February at noon** for lunch in the undercroft.

The Merry Hearts is a just let's get together, relax and perhaps learn a little more about each other group. No pressure to sit on a committee, help raise funds, polish silver or cook! Oh, and reservations are not required!

Hoping that you'll join us to celebrate Washington's birthday, and yes, there will be cake and ice cream, however the fire department won't allow candles, too many needed!

Anita Chandler & Lenita Richard
Coordinators

Looking Ahead

Stations of the Cross: Friday February 16 on Zoom.

Youth Service Corps: Sunday February 18 at noon

Aging With Grace Gathering on Zoom: Wednesday, February 21 at 3:00 PM

Sense and Sensibility Conversation on Zoom: Wednesday, February 21 at 6:30 PM followed by Compline

Merry Hearts Lunch: Thursday Feb. 22 at noon in the undercroft

Upcoming Diocesan Formation Events for Youth and Adults

Emily Keniston is Director of Formation for the Diocese of

Maine, and she shares this news about formation experiences for us all:

Have Your Say Youth Retreat

Friday, March 8- Sunday, March 10

Register [here](#)

Current middle and high school youth from the Episcopal dioceses of Maine and New Hampshire are invited to a retreat, **March 8-10** (Friday night to Sunday at lunch) at Barbara Harris Camp and Conference Center in New Hampshire. (Current 5th graders are welcome- we know many districts include 5th grade in middle school.) The event is free to attend, with the option of churches or families contributing whatever they're able to offset the cost of the program (option in the registration form).

Participants will share in prayer, community building, fun, and discernment about how youth experience God at work in the world right now, and what they want their church to do about it. Members of leadership from both dioceses will be present to talk with young people and hear their thoughts and experiences. The Barbara Harris Camp and Conference Center is a beautiful spot next to a lake in the woods of New Hampshire. We will be sure to be outside quite a bit, so outdoor gear befitting the weather will be necessary! Participants will bring sleeping bags and stay in a camper cabin together as a group, and eat meals together in the dining hall. Assistance in finding carpools is available. Please write to ask any questions you may have or to share specific needs for young people in your community!



Province I Formation Network Conference and

Retreat

Thursday, March 14 - Saturday, March 16

Register [here](#)

The annual Province I Formation Network Conference and Retreat takes place March 14-16 at the St. Methodius Center in Contoocook, N.H. Those involved in formation for any age, or in any capacity, are invited to attend. Entitled “Reduce, Reuse, Recycle: Christian Formation in 2024,” the conference will offer time in large and small groups to discuss: What do we need to let go of, what do we need to reuse, what do we need to recycle? There will be time to discuss specific topics, as well as free time built into the schedule for personal retreat. Thanks to a Province I grant, the cost to attend is significantly reduced and for folks in Maine, there is an option to apply for an additional grant to make the event free to attend. Please email me if you're interested!

This event is for anyone involved in any type of formation ministry- that includes in households, parishes, communities and dioceses. There are options for both single and double rooms and all meals are included.

Summer Finale at Camp Bishopswood

Friday, September 13- Sunday, September 15*

Registration coming- Save the Dates!

Summer Finale is a tradition in the Episcopal Diocese of Maine during which time individuals and households, friends old and new, gather at our beautiful diocesan summer camp to experience God, creation and fellowship together. There are regular times of prayer and reflection groups, as well as lots and lots of open time to be on the waterfront, explore nature trails, sip hot cocoa on the Great Porch with your favorite book, and much more. Please join us for a time of rest, rejuvenation, and celebration of all that God has shared with us. And remember, this is not just for families- everyone of any age is encouraged to attend! Accommodations include camper cabins, but there are also rooms available with bathrooms. Meals are eaten together in the dining hall, and there is an option to come only for the

day on Saturday, but not to spend the night. Please be in touch with any questions.

*Please note this is a different week than Summer Finale is typically held, so mark your calendars!

Zoom-based offerings

Conversations with Noted Speakers Series with Province I

Monthly on the 3rd Thursday at 7 PM

Zoom link

here: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86854778005>

The Conversations with Noted Speakers series is an ongoing Zoom-based workshop-style conversation that is free for all. Linnae Peterson from The Episcopal Church in New Hampshire and co-convenor of the Province I Faith Formation Network, invites speakers to share monthly on topics related to formation in today's church. Tomorrow night our own Melinda Corey from the Diocese of Maine is presenting on intergenerational models of formation! Please join us!

Monthly Formation Conversations with Mainers

Monthly Zoom calls on the 4th Thursday 10-11 AM

Zoom link

here: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81358099635>

Each month formation practitioners of all varieties (household, parish, diocesan and community) come to share in conversation. There are typically no agendas, but rather an opportunity to share ideas and questions, and to build relationships across our diocese. Please join us if you're able!

Compline Link

Join us for the Compline Prayer Service on Zoom on Wednesday, February 21st.

Here is the service for Compline.

The Zoom link is **here**.

Please note: When you join for Compline during Lent, we will be finishing up reflections on our Lenten book study that meets at 6:30 PM. The link for both the book study and Compline are the same.

Sunday Minister Rota for February

February 18

Eucharistic Ministers: Lenita Richard and Myrna Koonce

Verger: David Savage

Crucifer: Fred Fowler

Lector: Steve Koskinen

Acolytes: Anica Hickey and Ava Keniston

Usher: Anita Chandler

Coffee Hour Hosts: The Keniston Family

February 25

Eucharistic Ministers: Myrna Koonce

Crucifer: Tom Ainsworth

Lector: Jan Tracy

Acolytes: Meredith Keniston and Eleanor Keniston

Usher: Bob Simmons

Coffee Hour Hosts: Rodney and Lenita Richard

Flower and Sanctuary Lamp Gifts

*The altar flowers this past Sunday were given
by Anita Chandler in loving memory
of her grandmother, Jessie Stillings.*

It is a tradition during Lent to refrain from placing flowers at the altar. Donations are still welcome for the lighting of the sanctuary lamp each week. A suggested donation is \$10, and can be placed in the offering plate with any memorial information. One can also sign up on the church website by going to the worship page.

Weekly Prayer List

Prayers For Parishioners, Families, and Friends

Ann Marie Cady
Allison Schroth
Francisco Andreu
Steve Secord
Diane Dalton
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*
David Turner, *cousin of Craig Mousin*
Tammy, *friend of Craig Mousin*

Please remember in your prayers the family of **Barbara Joy Harris**, sister of Betsy Pope, who died last week.

Please remember in your prayers the family of **David Rice**, as they give thanks for his life at a service in Florida on Monday afternoon.

May Barbara and David each rest in peace and rise in .glory

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

Ich ruf' zu dir, Herr Jesu Christ (I call to Thee, Lord Jesus Christ) is one of the best-known of Bach's Lenten chorale settings. Albert Schweitzer suggested that the throbbing pedal line might represent the yearning of a penitent soul.

During his long and distinguished career as a Lutheran pastor and scholar, Martin Marty (b.1928) was recognized as one of America's leading theological intellectuals. A professor at the University of Chicago's Divinity School, he was awarded over 60 honorary doctorates, and taught some of the later generations' most significant theologians and pastors. Concerning our Offertory hymn, Dr. Marty had this to say, "I like this hymn because it actually mentions "the pilgrim way of Lent" ... and develops the subject so well. Don't you love how the third verse ends with a hopeful glimpse of the resurrection?! There's an ingenious musical device in the left hand of the accompaniment known as a "walking bass", a series of steadily moving quarter notes that give the impression of footsteps. While the melody may

go slower or faster, the walking bass stays constant -- a perfect allusion to the opening text about "walking once more the pilgrim way of Lent."

"Be Thou My Vision" is beloved throughout the Anglican Communion, no more so than in the United States, Canada and the UK. Part of its popularity can be attributed to its memorable tune, *Slane*, an Irish folk song which was harmonized in the early 20th century by the Welsh composer David Evans. The tune takes its name from the Hill of Slane, where according to legend, St. Patrick built a massive bonfire on Easter Eve, defying the orders of the High King Laoghaire who had forbidden any fires while his own was burning on the Hill of Tara (10 miles distant) as part of a pagan festival. Enraged, Laoghaire hightailed it to Slane with a retinue of soldiers, but after arresting Patrick and sentencing him to death, was intrigued by his prisoner's account of the Holy Trinity. He freed Patrick and allowed him to continue preaching the Gospel, although he himself never converted to Christianity.

Florence Beatrice Price (1887-1953) was the first black woman in the United States to be recognized as a major composer when, in 1933, conductor Frederick Stock premiered her First Symphony with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra at the Chicago World's Fair. A fine pianist and organist, Price graduated with honors from the prestigious New England Conservatory of Music, and was much admired by the great contralto Marian Anderson, who frequently included her spiritual arrangements on recital programs. ~HT



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