

**This Sunday:
The Second Sunday in Lent
February 25, 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: Myrna Koonce

Crucifer: Wayne Franklin

Lector: Jan Tracy

Acolytes: Meredith Keniston and Eleanor Keniston

Usher: Cindy Sherwood

Coffee Hour Hosts: Rodney and Lenita Richard

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

Dear Friends,

At the evening Ash Wednesday service, I mentioned in my homily that among Eastern Orthodox communities, Lent is sometimes referred to as the season of “bright sadness.” That phrase captures the paradox of this season: yes we reflect on our mortality and on our shortcomings. We seek to enter more deeply into the suffering of Jesus as he makes his way to the cross, and we will grieve with those who saw him crucified on Good Friday. But behind and surrounding any sadness and solemnity of this season is the brightness which we will eventually behold at Easter.

“Bright sadness” is a paradoxical phrase, as is so much of the life of faith. At our Aging With Grace gathering yesterday, we had a lively discussion about Hospice and what it means to be make decisions about care and comfort as one approaches the end of one’s life. As one of our members noted, while people may think that Hospice care is about helping someone to die, it is more about helping someone who is dying to live well. As Christians, we trust in the paradoxical Good News of Christ’s resurrection: with him, we live into dying, trusting that we will die into life.

Lent can be a time to explore the paradoxes of our lives, and in the midst of any sadness or regrets about what we have done or left undone, to yet discern and discover the brightness of Christ’s presence with us.

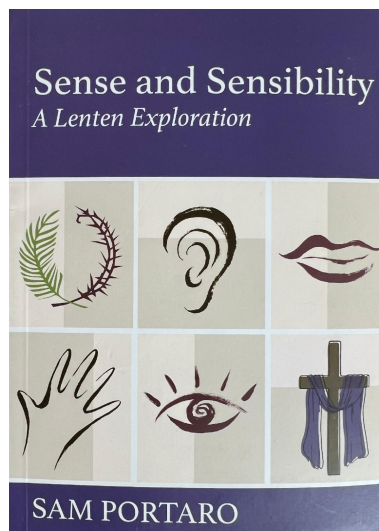
Faithfully,

Fr. Tom

Lenten Devotional Study: Sense and Sensibility

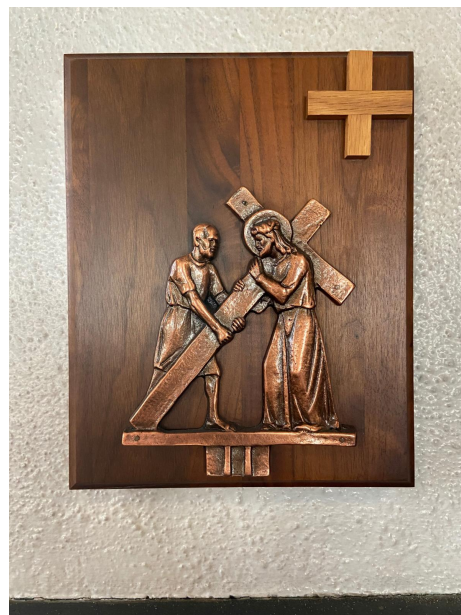
We meet on Zoom each Wednesday at 6:30 PM (followed by our regular Compline Service) for a conversation about the

week's readings.
The Zoom link is [here](#).



Stations of the Cross: Fridays at 5:30 on Zoom

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 Provides for St. Elizabeth's

The Youth Service Corps met on February 18th, bringing dental hygiene donations from various churches as well as purchases from Marden's to St. Elizabeth's Essentials Pantry. They helped to stock the shelves there and enjoyed pizza afterwards. Made up of middle and high school students from a number of area churches, the group meets once a month on the third Sunday afternoon of the month.



Another Way to Help Our Neighbors: The Hope Squad

Janene Gorham, who participates in the Hope Squad, shares this invitation with us:

Hope Squad was started a year ago in response to those living in tents and on the street, to minister to basic needs.

A retired Police officer and his wife, Matt and Nancy Brown purchased a used ambulance and converted into a way to deliver food , clothing , and hope to the tent encampments. Not only physical needs but treating these people with the respect and dignity all humans deserve. Many are now in shelters but still in need of food, clothing, and emotional support.

If able, please review the needs list below and donate what items you can. There will be a box in undercroft labeled HOPE Squad.

Hope deferred makes the heart sick, but a longing fulfilled is a tree of life. Proverbs 13:12

Backpacks

Throw blankets

Handwarmers

Women's hoodies

Ladies long sleeve shirts (no sweaters)

Leggings

sweatpants - men & women's

Cough drops

Hot cocoa packets

Hot Cocoa powder in tubs

Oatmeal packets

Cheese Its & Goldfish individual packets

Hard candy or lollipops

Pop Tarts

Oversized Chocolate Bars (for Bingo prizes at shelter)

Bags of mini-sized chocolate bars

Single servings Apple Sauce

Individual Drink mix packets (they get so tired of drinking plain water)

Men's jeans waist 30-32

Puzzle books

Ageing With Grace Conversation about Hospice

Our monthly gathering yesterday focused on Hospice Care.

Those attending felt it was a valuable discussion, and the Zoom gathering was recorded. If you would like to listen, please let Fr. Tom know.

Next month, we will be meeting on Wednesday March 20 at 4 PM. (note change from 3 PM).



Gathering For Lunch with the Merry Hearts

On this sunny but chilly day we enjoyed homemade chicken noodle soup and biscuits, and the warmth of friendship around the table. Thank you to chefs Anita Chandler and Lenita Richard.

Please join any or every Thursday at noon in the undercroft. The only agenda is to enjoy a meal together and sharing in friendship and faith.

Vestry Meets on Monday February 26th at 6:30 PM

The vestry, our governing board, meets on Monday the 26th at 6:30 PM on Zoom. Anyone is welcome to attend. The

Zoom link can be found [here](#).

Compline Link

Join us for the Compline Prayer Service on Zoom on Wednesday, February 28st.

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.

Looking Ahead

Stations of the Cross: Friday February 23 on Zoom.

February Vestry Meeting: Monday February 26 at 6:30 PM on Zoom

Sense and Sensibility Conversation on Zoom: Wednesday, February 28 at 6:30 PM followed by Compline

Merry Hearts Lunch: Every Thursday at noon in the undercroft

Flower and Sanctuary Lamp Gifts and Easter Flowers

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.

You will find offering envelopes if you wish to make

donations for Easter flowers in memory or in honor of loved ones.

Sunday Minister Rota for March

March 3

Eucharistic Ministers: Janene Gorham and Myrna Koonce

Crucifer: Steve Koskinen

Lector: Cindy Sherwood

Usher: Lenita Richard

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

March 10

Eucharistic Ministers: Lenita Richard and Myrna Koonce

Crucifer: Wayne Franklin

Lector: Emily Keniston

Usher: Bob Simmons

Coffee Hour Hosts: Thora Easton and Steve Booth

March 17

Eucharistic Ministers: David Savage and Myrna Koonce

Crucifer: Fred Fowler

Lector: Judy Howes

Usher: Cindy Sherwood

Coffee Hour Hosts: The Hickey Family

March 24 Palm Sunday

Eucharistic Ministers: Janene Gorham and Myrna Koonce

Crucifer: Wayne Franklin

Lector: Anita Chandler

Usher: Tom Ainsworth

Coffee Hour Hosts: Cindy Sherwood

March 31 Easter

Eucharistic Ministers: Myrna Koonce

Crucifer: Tom Ainsworth

Lector: Wayne Franklin

Usher: Bob Simmons

Coffee Hour Hosts: Parishioners invited to bring sweets and savorys

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*
Beth, *friend of Lee Walters*

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

Sir George Dyson (1883-1964) was director of the Royal College of Music in London and composed music heard at the coronation of Queen Elizabeth in 1953. His broadcasts designed to introduce great music to the general public were popular features of BBC programming.

The words of "I Have Decided To Follow Jesus" are commonly thought to have been the last words of an Indian Christian who lived in the mid-1800's in the Assam region of India. When it was discovered that he and his family had converted to Christianity, the family was dragged into the village square, where the chief demanded that they renounce their faith in Jesus. The father cried out in his native tongue, "I have decided to follow Jesus, and I will not turn back!" Even when the lives of his family were threatened, he said, "Though none go with me, still I will follow!" And when he was given one more opportunity to deny his faith even at the point of death, he proclaimed, "The cross before me, the world behind me. No turning back."

The man and his family were martyred for their faith in Christ, but their courage and commitment to Jesus sparked a revival in the village, and even the chief who had ordered the killings exclaimed, "I, too, want to taste that faith."

How often a simple work which no one felt was worth claiming has become an all time favorite. Such is the case with "Fairest Lord Jesus": included in virtually all hymnals published in the past 200 years, its author is unknown. The melody, however, we can identify: it's by Richard Willis, who also wrote the tune for "It Came Upon The Midnight Clear."

"In the cross of Christ I glory" was composed while the author, Sir George Bowring, was in his early thirties. Appearing in *Hymns by John Bowring* (1825), the theme and language suggest a much more mature poet. Late 19th-century hymnologist John Julian suggests that Galatians 6:14 provides the basis for this hymn: "Far be it for me to glory except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ" (KJV). ~HT

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