

*Opening wide our doors and hearts
in the name of Jesus Christ Our Lord and Savior*

Holy Eucharist
The Fourth Sunday of Advent
December 22, 2024 9:00 AM

Join us in person for our service.

Or join us by going to our livestream on the St. Peter's Facebook page [here](#).

The worship leaflet can be found [here](#).

There will be a coffee hour after the mass.

This Sunday's Ministers:

Ms. Lenita Richard and Mr. Thomas Ainsworth, *Eucharistic Ministers*

Mr. Fred Fowler, *Crucifer*

Mr. David Savage, *Verger*

Ms. Anica Hickey, *Lector*

Ms. Cindy Sherwood, *Usher*
Ms. Anne Whitman, *Altar Guild*
The Hickey Family, *Coffee Hour Hosts*

Music Notes for this Sunday's service can be found at the end of Key Notes.

Dear Friends,

Here we are approaching the last Sunday of Advent. Do take time to look at the offerings at St. Peter's in this next week, from our service on Sunday for the Fourth Sunday of Advent, to Christmas Eve at 7 PM, and then a wonderful concert on Saturday the 28th at 4 PM, and our own Lessons and Carols service on Sunday the 29th. Information about all is below.

And if you are not surrounded by the sounds of many opening presents on Christmas morning, you may want to attend the service at St. Luke's Cathedral at 10 AM - a lovely service in a beautiful setting.

If I do not have a chance to see you before Christmas, I send my very best wishes to you for a joyful Christmas, with the prayer that our celebration of Christ's birth will renew you with the tidings brought by the angels to the shepherds, and to us all: for unto us is born a Savior!

Faithfully,

Fr. Tom

Weekly Stewardship Update: There is Still Time to Make a Pledge



We are happy to report that 38 families or individuals

have now pledged \$72,234.

Thank you, generous and faithful givers!

Pledges continue to come in and we welcome them.

If you have not yet done so, please fill out a pledge form and return to church or mail to the church address. Pledge forms can be found at church or [here](#).

Youth Service Corps Prepares Warming Kits for Maine Needs

The Youth Service Corps at St. Peter's this past Sunday, with youth from six different churches attending. The group prepared warming kits for Maine Needs, as well as Lego packets for children receiving healthcare. There was lunch with pizza, some games, and Fr. Tom provided a tour of the church. Thank you to the Hickey family for helping to prepare the undercroft and providing such gracious hospitality to our guests.



Bring Your Gifts for Children This Sunday

Anica Hickey reminds us that gifts from the Giving Tree need to be brought to church this Sunday. Please wrap your gift, and attach the ornament with the gift description and card, and bring to the undercroft on Sunday.

Presents will be delivered for Christmas!

Thank you so much for helping our neighbors this Christmas!

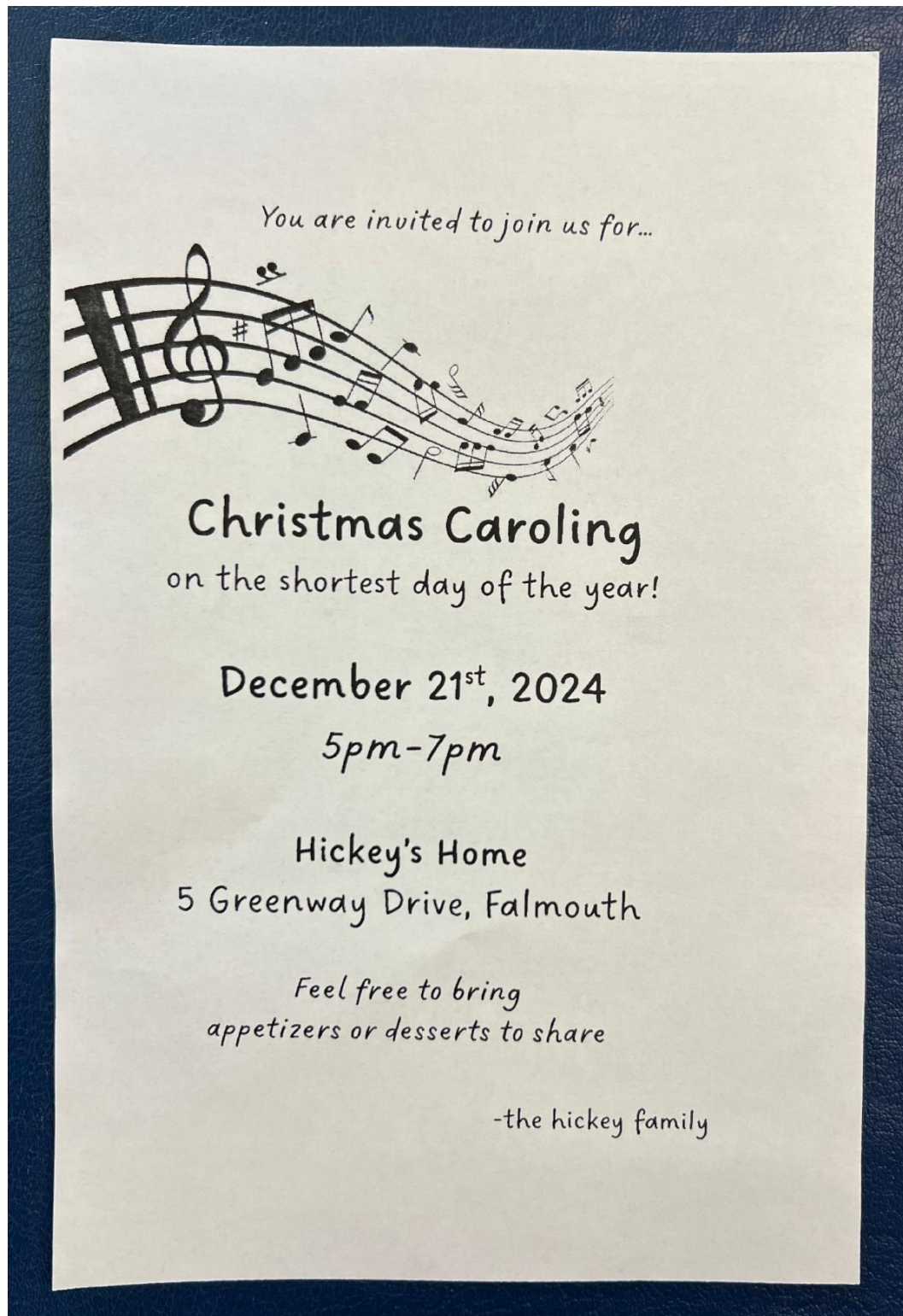
And thank you Anica, for extending our love to our neighbors!



St. Elizabeth's Winter Coats and Boots Drive

St. Elizabeth's Essentials Pantry will be accepting winter coats, boots, and gloves, mittens, and hats through the end of December. New or good quality used goods may be left in the basket in the undercroft for delivery to St. Elizabeth's. Thank you for helping our neighbors in need.

Caroling, Caroling... An Invitation from the Hickey Family



Word of the Week

A weekly note about the words Episcopalians use.

The word of the week is **Sanctus**.

Again, here is a word we see every Sunday in our worship

leaflet. From the Latin for "holy," the Sanctus is the hymn of adoration and praise that we sing each week following the opening words (or Preface) of the Great Thanksgiving. It begins with the words, "Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of Hosts," based on the song of the seraphim as recored in Isaiah's vision of the Lord in the temple (see Isaiah 6:1-3).

As we sing these words, we are "joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven" in an ongoing song of praise that is being eternally sung.


Christmas at St. Peter's

Tue. Dec. 24: Christmas Eve Candlelight Service
Solemn Mass at 7:00 PM with music including guest soloist, Michele Kennedy See the end of Herb Taylor's Music Notes below for more information about our guest soloist.

Wed. Dec.25: Christmas Day Service **at St. Luke's Cathedral**, with the Bishop of Maine presiding and preaching

Sat. Dec. 28: Christmas Concert at 4:00 PM
Benjamin Britten's *A Ceremony of Carols* and Other Seasonal Tunes, featuring Mary Sullivan and the Amethyst Project Singers and the Amethyst Chamber Ensemble (see more info below).

Sun. Dec. 29: A Service of Lessons and Carols at the 9:00 AM Service



A Ceremony of Carols & other seasonal tunes


SATURDAY, December 28th

at 4:00 PM

St. Peter's Episcopal Church
678 Washington Ave, Portland, ME

*Prolong the festivities to enjoy Benjamin Britten's
Ceremony of Carols and other seasonal tunes.*

*Featuring
the Amethyst Project Singers,
anchored by the professional singers of the
Amethyst Chamber Ensemble,
harpist Virginia Flanagan
and organist Sean Fleming*



FREE and open
to the public
An offering by the
community of St. Peter's

Christmas Flowers

Friday is the last day to submit names for Christmas flower donations. These names, in memory or in honor of loved ones, are printed in the Christmas worship leaflets.

Help adorn the church with flowers for our Christmas celebrations. Donations of any amount are welcome in memory or honor of someone, and those names are listed in the worship leaflets for Christmas. You can submit your request online

[here.](#)



St. Peter's Calendar

Looking Ahead

Christmas Eve Service, Wed. Dec. 24th at 7:00 PM

Amethyst Chamber Ensemble Concert, Sat. Dec. 28th, at 4:00 PM

Annual Meeting, Sunday January 19th after the 9:00 AM Mass

Compline Will Not Be Held on Christmas Day or New Year's Day

We will not be holding Zoom Compline services for the next two weeks. Compline will resume on Wed. January 8th at its usual time at 7:00 PM. The Zoom link will be in a future Key Notes.

Sunday Minister Rota for December

December 22

Ms. Lenita Richard and Mr. Thomas Ainsworth, *Eucharistic Ministers*

Mr. Fred Fowler, *Crucifer*

Mr. David Savage, *Verger*

Ms. Cindy Sherwood, *Usher*

Ms. Anne Whitman, *Altar Guild*

the Hickey Family, *Coffee Hour Hosts*

December 24 Christmas Eve

Ms. Anne Whitman and Ms. Emily Keniston, *Eucharistic Ministers*

Mr. Thomas Ainsworth, *Crucifer*

Mr. David Savage, *Verger*

TBD, *Torch Bearers*

Ms. Merideth Keniston, Ms. Ava Keniston and Ms. Eleanor Keniston, *Lectors*

Mr. Bob Simmons, *Usher*

Ms. Janene Gorham & Ms. Anne Whitman, *Altar Guild*

December 29, 2024

Mr. David Savage and Ms. Janene Gorham , *Eucharistic Ministers*

Mr. Garrett Keniston, *Crucifer*

Ms. Anita Chandler + others, *Lectors*

Ms. Anita Chandler, *Usher*

Mr. David Savage, *Altar Guild*

Ms. Lorna Blackmer, Ms. Jane Noone, and Ms. Gerry Dongo, *Coffee Hour Hoss*

Weekly Prayer List

Prayers For Parishioners, Families, and Friends

Ann Marie Cady

Allison Schroth

Francisco Andreu

Diane Dalton

Dino Rice

Robert Stillings

Fred Fowler

Mary Ann Hoy

Barbara Vessey

Cindy Sherwood

Galen Weibley

Fred Madore

Peter Haskell, *friend of Allison Schroth*

Martha Gagliardi, *friend of Fr. Tom*

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

Jane Reiha, *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*
Fuji Sprott, *friend of Dino Rice*
David Turner, *cousin of Craig Mousin*
Tammy, *friend of Craig Mousin*
Beth, *friend of Lee Walters*
Pam, *friend of Anita Chandler*
The Kutasi Family, *friends of Allison Schroth*
Glenn, *spouse of Caroline Loupe*
Janet Blessing, *neighbor of Jane Noone*
Kelly Marie Bell, *friend of Allison Schroth*
Earle, *friend of Cindy Sherwood*
Grace, *family member of Jessie Vega*
Kay Gross, *friend of Jane Noone*
Lisa Gorham, *daughter of John & Janene Gorham*
Gerald and Anita Talbot, *friends of Anita Chandler*
Janine W., *friend of Anita Chandler*
John Manchester, *friend of Tom Mousin*
Peter Munro, *brother of Emily Hickey*

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*

NOTES ON THIS WEEK'S MUSIC

Although a widely published and much admired composer, Iowa native Alice Jordan chose Des Moines as the base of her professional activity, and showed little interest in pursuing the higher profile that guest professorships and residencies would have brought. Her husband, Frank Jordan, was a noted organist and college dean, and Alice composed extensively to provide new music for church use and recitals.

Our sequence hymn was ostensibly translated by the Scottish

scholar John Brownlee (1857-1925) from the Greek, but no original has been found. It's possible that it was a John Brownlee original, although the thoughts of the hymn certainly reflect the early Greek emphasis on light and salvation. The last stanza ends with a translation of the famous second-coming phrase, "Maranatha"--"Even so, Lord Jesus, quickly come!"

Christina Rossetti (1830-1894) was widely acknowledged as one of the major poets of the Victorian period, and her work continues to be widely read. The daughter of a professor of Italian literature at King's College, London, she published in 1885 a volume of poems entitled, *Time Flies*. It was well received, but the greatest praise was given to one of its seemingly simplest poems: *Love Came Down at Christmas*, which Queen Victoria copied out by hand to place in her Bible.

Louis Claude Daquin (1694-1772) was widely considered to be the finest French organist of his era. Born into a family of Jewish intellectuals, he played for King Louis XIV at the age of 6 and was courted by the French aristocracy ever afterward. In 1739 he was named official organist to the king, and in 1755 received the additional appointment as titular organist of Notre Dame Cathedral. ~HT

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Our beloved resident soloist Mary Sullivan will not be available to sing at St. Peter's Christmas Eve. But, instead, we will be privileged to welcome Michele Kennedy, whose bio speaks for itself: Praised as "an excellent and impassioned" soprano possessing "a graceful tonal clarity that is a wonder to hear" (San Francisco Chronicle), Michele Kennedy is a versatile specialist in early and new music. Her recent venues include Carnegie Hall, Davies Symphony Hall, Lincoln Center, Tanglewood, and Washington National Cathedral.

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