



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

Holy Eucharist
The First Sunday After the Epiphany
The Baptism of the Lord
January 12, 2025 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. Anne Whitman and Ms. Janene Gorham, *Eucharistic Ministers*

Mr. Thomas Ainsworth, *Crucifer*

Mr. David Savage, *Vergers*

Ms. Judy Howes, *Lector*

Ms. Robert Simmons, *Usher*

Ms. Janene Gorham, *Altar Guild*

Ms. Colette Desjardins and Ms. Janene Gorham, *Coffee Hour Hosts*

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

Dear Friends,

It is traditional for us on the First Sunday After the Epiphany to hear a Gospel account of the baptism of Jesus, and this year we will be hearing St. Luke tells the story. Whenever we hear the story of Jesus's baptism, we are invited to consider our own baptisms, and what it means for us to live out the promises made at our baptism.

While we will not be engaging in the renewal of baptismal vows at our mass on Sunday, I do invite you to reflect in the next few days on what it means to be a baptized Christian. In the Episcopal Church, among the questions asked of candidates being baptized (or parents, answering on their child's behalf) are these:

Will you continue in the apostles' teaching and fellowship, in the breaking of the bread, and in the prayers?

Will you persevere in resisting evil, and, whenever you fall into sin, repent and return to the Lord?

Will you proclaim by word and example the Good News of God in Christ?

Will you seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving your neighbor as yourself?

Will you cherish the wondrous works of God, and protect and restore the beauty and integrity of all creation?

To each question, we are invited to answer, "I will, with God's help."

As you prepare for church this Sunday, I invite you to consider

what it means to say "I will" each day. With God's help we not only will hear the story of Jesus' baptism, but be guided by the Holy Spirit to understand more deeply our own baptisms and how God is calling to us as beloved children, just as God once did with Jesus.

And if you have never been baptized, may our worship be a time for you to prayerfully consider requesting baptism and being more fully immersed in the life that Christ offers.

Faithfully,
Fr. Tom

Don't Forget: Our St. Elizabeth's Volunteer Morning is Tuesday January 14th

Join friends from St. Peter's and other area parishes to serve our neighbors at St. Elizabeths' Essentials Pantry on Tuesday morning, January 14th. We gather at St. Luke's Cathedral at 8:15 AM to help distribute essential goods to those who need them. Experienced hands will show you the way if you have never been before.

The Merry Heart Gather For Lunch on January 16th

Come for a warm lunch of soup, dessert, and good fellowship on Thursday, January 19th at noon. All are welcome, and the only agenda is to enjoy each other's company.

Annual Meeting Approaches: Sunday January 19th

The parish's Annual Meeting will be held on Sunday January 19th after the 9:00 AM Mass. Join us for brief coffee hour in the undercroft, followed by the meeting. We will receive the reports of various ministries for 2024, review the 2025 budget that has been approved by the vestry, and elect officers, other vestry

members, and diocesan convention delegates. We will also welcome persons who are joining the parish as they sign the parish register. All are welcome!

Youth Service Corps Goes Tubing Next Sunday

The next Youth Service Corps gathering will be a fun afternoon of snow tubing on Sunday, January 19th at Seacoast Adventure Park in Windham, starting at 2:30 PM. Please RSVP by this Sunday if you plan to attend.

SNOW TUBING WITH YOUTH SERVICE CORPS

**SUNDAY JAN 19 2:30 - 4:30 PM
SEACOAST ADVENTURE PARK
930 ROOSEVELT TRAIL, WINDHAM**



LUNCH IS NOT INCLUDED, BUT THERE'LL BE HOT COCOA!!

\$28 PER PERSON FOR 2 HOURS OF TUBING

**SCHOLARSHIPS ARE AVAILABLE - CONTACT PETER AT
PRIEST@TRINITYCHURCHPORTLAND.ORG**

**RSVP BY SUNDAY, JANUARY 12TH TO AMBER
AT AMBER@STALBANSMAINE.ORG**

**AFTER YOU RSVP, YOU'LL RECEIVE A LINK TO AN ONLINE WAIVER.
THIS WAIVER MUST BE COMPLETED FOR EACH PARTICIPANT
BY TUE. JANUARY 14TH TO KEEP OUR GROUP RATE.**

**Aging With Grace Begins New Year with Lunch
Gathering on January 21st**

While the Aging With Grace group has met primarily on Zoom, we will meet for lunch in January. We will gather on Thursday the 21st, and while breaking bread together will continue our conversations about the blessings and challenges of growing older.



**Have Your Say: Teen / Tween Forum and Retreat
Feb. 7 - 9
Barbara C. Harris Camp and Conference Center,
Greenfield, NH**

Registration is open for *Have Your Say* 2025, a forum-style retreat open to middle and high school students from Maine and New Hampshire. This year attendees will explore the theme "Who Do You Say That I Am?" through art, conversation, and connection. It will be lots of fun! This event is "pay as you're able," which means households will choose if and how much they can contribute to making the event possible. Carpooling is available.

Need more information? Please speak to Emily Keniston.

Register [here](#).

The Gift of Flowers

You are welcome to make an offering of flowers in memory or in honor of loved ones for our Sunday mass. You can also make an offering for the lighting of the sanctuary lamp. The suggested donation for flowers is \$30 and \$10 for the sanctuary lamp. You can find signup sheets on the table under the bulletin board in the undercroft, or sign up online [here](#).

Thank you to all who made memorial gifts for our Christmas flowers. If you have not yet sent in donation, you may still do so, and we appreciate the gift. Donations of any amount are welcome for the Christmas flowers.

And are you interested in helping with flowers through the year and especially at Easter and Christmas? While we do not have a formal Flower Guild at the moment, we invite you to join a conversation towards the end of coffee hour this Sunday to talk about expanding the group of people who are committed to this ministry. And if you cannot be there this Sunday, do respond to this email expressing your interest, and we will keep you informed of developments.

Lost and Found

Two items were left in the pews in recent weeks: a pair of eyeglasses, with black and gray frames, and a men's cap, also black and gray. They will be in the undercroft on Sunday.

Word of the Week

A weekly note about the words Episcopalians use.

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

Yes, this is not a word used only by Episcopalians. But we will be seeing it a lot in the next few weeks. *Epiphany* is a Greek word meaning revelation. Throughout the Christian Church, it is used to describe the arrival of the wise men to the manger, when the Savior of the world was first revealed to Gentiles. Celebrated on January 6th, the Feast of the Epiphany is for some Christians, such as the Orthodox, the main celebration of Christmas. In our tradition it marks the end of the 12 days of Christmas.

From now until Lent, we will refer to each Sunday as those that come "after the Epiphany." The word has come to be used by anyone who refers to a particular moment or time in their life when they have come to a new understanding or revelation.

St. Peter's Calendar Looking Ahead

St. Elizabeth's Essential Pantry Volunteer Morning, Tue. January 14th at 8:30 AM, St. Luke's
Merry Hearts Lunch, Thu. Jan. 16 at noon, Undercroft
Annual Meeting, Sunday January 19th after the 9:00 AM Mass
Youth Service Corps, Sun. Jan 19 at 2:30 PM Seacoast Adventure Park
Aging With Grace Lunch, Tue. Jan. 21 at noon, Undercroft

Compline Link for January 15th

Compline has resumed and will meet on Wednesday, January 15th at its usual time at 7:00 PM. The Zoom link is [here](#). This link is good through February 19th.

Sunday Minister Rota for January

January 12

Ms. Anne Whitman and Ms. Janene Gorham, *Eucharistic Ministers*

Mr. Thomas Ainsworth, *Crucifer*

Mr. David Savage, *Vergers*

Ms. Judy Howes, *Lector*

Ms. Robert Simmons, *Usher*

Ms. Janene Gorham, *Altar Guild*

Ms. Colette Desjardins and Ms. Janene Gorham, *Coffee Hour Hosts*

January 19

Ms. Emily Keniston and Mr. Thomas Ainsworth, *Eucharistic Ministers*

Mr. Garrett Keniston, *Crucifer*

Mr. David Savage, *Verger*
Mr. Thomas Ainsworth, *Lector*
Ms. Anita Chandler, *Usher*
Ms. Judy Howes, *Altar Guild*
Mr. Richard Price and Mr. Paul Loven, *Coffee Hour Hosts*

January 26

Mr. David Savage and Ms. Lenita Richard, *Eucharistic Ministers*
Mr. Steven Koskinen, *Crucifer*
Mr. David Savage, *Verger*
Ms. Anne Whitman, *Lector*
Mr. Thomas Ainsworth, *Usher*
Mr. David Savage, *Altar Guild*
The Keniston Family, *Coffee Hour Hosts*

Please Keep Bishop Chilton Knudsen in your prayers

Bishop Knudsen is currently hospitalized at Harbor Hospital in Baltimore.

She welcomes emails and notes. Email her [here](#); cards and letters may be sent to 719 Maiden Choice Lane, #HR 439, Catonsville, MD 21228.

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*
Sandy, *friend of Judy Howes*

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

Both the text and tune of "Shall We Gather at The River" were written by Dr. Robert Lowry during the Civil War and while a heat wave and epidemic were making life miserable and, in many cases,

deadly, for the citizens of New York City. Dr. Lowry later recalled:

“One afternoon in July 1864, when I was pastor at Hanson Place Baptist Church, Brooklyn, the weather was oppressively hot, and I was lying on a lounge in a state of physical exhaustion. I was almost incapable of bodily exertion, and my imagination began to take to itself wings. 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. My soul seemed to take new life from that celestial outlook. As I mused the words began to construct themselves. They came first as a question of Christian inquiry. ‘Shall we gather?’ Then they broke out in chorus, as an answer of Christian faith, ‘Yes, we’ll gather.’ On this question and answer the hymn developed itself. The music came with the hymn.”

"How Firm A Foundation" is a hymn so well known and loved that Andrew Jackson requested it as he lay on his deathbed, and Theodore Roosevelt and Woodrow Wilson both asked that it be sung at their funerals. It was sung on Christmas morning, 1898, by American troops engaged in the Spanish-American war, and since it was popular in both north and south during the Civil War, Robert E. Lee, like T.R. and Wilson, asked that it be sung at his funeral. The exact origin of the rousing tune is unknown, but it first appeared in the collection called *The Sacred Harp*, published in 1844.

Our Sequence Hymn, "Christ, When for Us You Were Baptized" was written in 1973 by Episcopal priest, Virginia native, and prolific hymn author, F. Bland Tucker in response to a request for a hymn text for the Baptism of our Lord. Dr. Tucker was 78 years old at the time and had not penned a hymn in about 20 years. Despite his doubts, the effort proved successful, and his fine text is paired with the 17th century tune, *Caithness*, which is named for a remote county in Scotland.

Charles Coffin (1676-1749) who either wrote or translated "What Star Is This, With Beams So Bright" was a French theologian and Rector of the University of Paris. His career was not without controversy, however. He was sympathetic to the Jansenist movement--which sought to blend elements of Calvinism with the traditional teachings of the French Catholic Church--and was branded a heretic by Pope Innocent X.

When George Frederick Handel (1685-1759) first conducted his Water Music, it was an instant success and has enjoyed unflagging popularity ever since. Part of its appeal, no doubt, lies in the tale that the ever-strong-willed Handel and his patron, King George I, were reconciled after a bitter quarrel when the composer provided such delightful musical accompaniment for a royal barge excursion on the Thames. Apocryphal as that account may be, the Water Music is second only to Messiah on Handel's hit parade.
~HT

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