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

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**The First Sunday of Advent**  
**November 30, 2025**  
**9:00 a.m.**

Join us in person for our service. Or join us by going to our livestream on the St. Peter's YouTube page [here](#).

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

There will be a coffee hour after the mass.

**This Sunday's Ministers:**

Ms. Janene Gorham & Mr. Jake Mahon, *Eucharistic Ministers*

Mr. Fred Fowler, *Crucifer*

Mr. David Savage & Mr. Steven Koskinen, *Torchbearers*

Ms. Anne Whitman, *Lector*

Ms. Cindy Sherwood, *Usher*

Ms. Lenita Richard, *Videographer*

Ms. Judy Howes, *Altar Guild*

Ms. Meredith Tipton & Mr. Jonathan McCormick *Counters*

## From The Rector

Dear Friends,

Today's *Key Notes* comes a day early, as tomorrow many of us will be celebrating Thanksgiving. In the midst of so much uncertainty in today's world, we at St. Peter's have much for which to be thankful. Advent begins this Sunday, and with it, as you will read below, come invitations to observe the season through daily devotions, contemplative craft work, and gift giving for those without our resources.

We can be grateful for the generosity of members of our parish, as we note the giving in our annual stewardship campaign and our successful capital campaign. That generosity is also demonstrated week after week in the offering of person's time and talent in our worship and in all the work we are about to maintain our spaces and to serve others.

Above all, we can be grateful that we worship a God who fully revealed the nature of divine love in our Savior, Jesus Christ, whose presence we palpably feel each week as we gather together.

I encourage you to think of all that you can be grateful for, and to express that gratitude to God. As the German priest and mystic once wrote, "If the only prayer you ever said was "thank you," that would be enough.

Faithfully,  
Fr. Tom

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## **A Prayer for Thanksgiving Day**

Almighty and gracious Father, we give you thanks for the fruits of the earth in their season and for the labors of those who harvest them. Make us, we pray, faithful stewards of your great bounty, for the provision of our necessities and the relief of all who are in need, to the glory of your Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

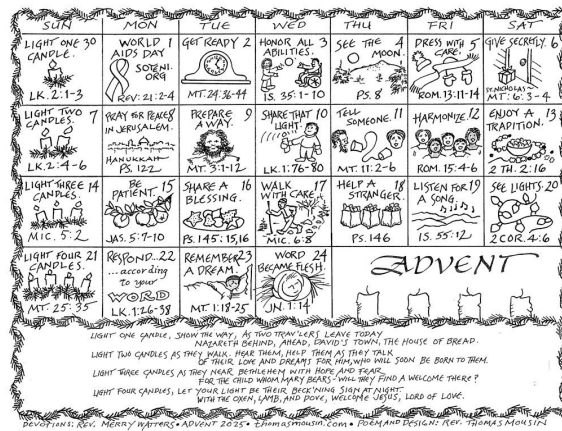
From *The Book of Common Prayer*

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## **Devotional Advent Calendar Now Available**

The annual Advent calendar created by our rector is now available and can be found [here](#).

There are also copies printed on cardstock available at church



## Contemplative Crafting May Be For You

Would you like to create some focused, contemplative time for yourself this Advent? If so, you are warmly invited to join a new Contemplative Crafting group forming to experience quiet contemplation supported by individual hand projects.

When: 11am - 12:30pm on Wednesdays 3, 10, & 17 December

Where: Bethany House, 10 Alton St. Portland, Maine (next door to St. Peter's Episcopal Church)

Format: Following a brief period of greeting each other and gathering, we will settle into our individual crafts and work silently. Members of the group will take turns reading a short text aloud, loosely following the Lectio Divina method of contemplation. The goal is that the repetition of the text will help us focus our minds, and the crafting will help us focus our bodies, so that we can leave behind the busy-ness of the holiday season and enter into waiting and preparation for Christmas.

What is this about Crafting?: Keeping our hands busy helps us quiet our minds. If you knit or do other stitchery, bring that. You can also bring your mending, or your coloring book and pencils, or anything that you can sit with individually to work on in the group. The only projects that won't work are those that require talking or are otherwise noisy, take up a lot of space or time to set up/dismantle, or are so complicated that none of your mind is left for contemplation. Lap-based projects are best, but there is a large table where several people can work on a flat surface.

Contact Meredith Tipton (mltipton1 at gmail.com) or Elizabeth

## Advent Giving Tree

Once again, Anica Hickey will be coordinating and organizing an Advent Giving Tree during the season. Gift tags on the tree can be picked so that you can purchase a specific gift for a child who might otherwise not see any gifts under their tree. There will be details and instructions on when to return your gift to the church in the undercroft where the tree will be located.

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## St. Peter's Stewardship Campaign for 2026

Thank you to all who have made pledges for 2026. After our Ingathering of Pledges on Sunday, we can report that 32 families or individuals have pledged a total of \$64,852 for 2026.

This is a great start, and we know we can do more. Last year, our pledges totaled \$72,484 by 39 families or individuals. We hope to exceed both amounts this year.

If you have not yet made a pledge, please consider doing so today.

A letter from the rector is [here](#).

A Pledge Form for 2026 is [here](#).

Stewardship Answers and Questions are [here](#).

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## **An Update on our Capital Campaign**

Campaign co-chair Lenita Richard reported at the vestry meeting last night that \$255,784 in commitments have been made to the campaign by 30 individuals or families. Of the total pledged, \$39,001 has already been received. Thank you to all who have made commitments.

Are you still planning to make a commitment? A commitment form can be found [here](#).

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# YOUTH SERVICE CORPS EVENT

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 14TH  
12:00-2:00 PM

WILLISTON-IMMANUEL  
UNITED CHURCH  
156 HIGH STREET, PORTLAND

COME JOIN US FOR PIZZA, HOT  
COCOA AND COOKIES! YOU'RE  
INVITED TO DRESS UP LIKE AN ELF  
TO BRING THE HOLIDAY SPIRIT  
WHILE WE MAKE WARMING KITS TO  
DROP OFF AT MAINE NEEDS.



PLEASE RSVP BY THU DEC 11  
TO AMBER BURKS,  
YOUTH SERVICE CORPS  
COORDINATOR, AT  
AMBER@STALBANSMAINE.ORG

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## Compline Link for December 3rd

Compline will meet on Zoom on Wednesday, the 3rd at its usual time, 7:00 PM. Connect with our special gathering by clicking the Zoom link [here](#).

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## This Week at St. Peter's

Compline, Wed. Nov. 26th, 7 pm, Zoom  
Thanksgiving Day Service at St. Luke's Cathedral, 10 am  
Search Committee, Tues. Dec. 2nd, 6:30 pm, Zoom

### **Dates to Keep in Mind**

*Bishops Thomas Brown and Rob Hirschfeld Visit, December 7th*  
*St. Elizabeth's Essential's Pantry, Tue. Dec. 9, 8:30-11 am, St. Luke's*  
*Youth Service Corps, Sun. Dec. 14<sup>th</sup>, 12-2 pm, Williston-Immanuel*  
*United Church*  
*Vestry, Tue. Dec. 13th, 6:30 pm, Zoom*  
*Christmas Eve Mass, December 24th at 7 pm*  
*Christmas Day Worship at St. Luke's Cathedral, 10 am*  
*Ceremony of Carols Concert, Saturday, December 27th, 4 pm*

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## **Sunday Minister Rota for December**

### **December 7, 2025**

Ms. Anne Whitman & Ms. Lenita Richard, *Eucharistic Ministers*  
Mr. David Savage, *Verger*  
Mr. Garrett Keniston, *Thurifer*  
Ms. Judy Howes and Ms. Janene Gorham, *Torchbearers*  
Mr. Galen Weibley, *Crucifer*  
Ms. Judy Howes, *Lector*  
Mr. Thomas Ainsworth, *Usher*  
Mr. Bob Simmons, *Videographer*  
Ms. Lenita Richard, *Altar Guild*  
Mr. Garrett Keniston & Ms. Lenita Richard, *Counters*  
Mr. Wayne & Ms. Mary Franklin, *Coffee Hour Hosts*

### **December 14, 2025**

Ms. Janene Gorham & Mr. Jake Mahon, *Eucharistic Ministers*  
Mr. Fred Fowler, *Crucifer*  
Ms. Anne Whitman, *Lector*  
Ms. Cindy Sherwood, *Usher*  
Ms. Lenita Richard, *Videographer*  
Ms. Judy Howes, *Altar Guild*  
Ms. Meredith Tipton & Mr. Wayne Franklin, *Counters*  
TBD, *Coffee Hour Hosts*

### **December 21, 2025**

### **December 28, 2025**



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## Weekly Prayer List

### Prayers For Parishioners, Families, and Friends

**Ann Marie Cady**  
**Allison Schroth**  
**Francisco Andreu**  
**Diane Dalton**  
**Dino Rice**  
**Robert Stillings**  
**Pat Fowler**  
**Mary Ann Hoy**  
**Barbara Vessey**  
**Fred Madore**  
**Alan Biagiotti**  
**Jane Noone**  
**Marc Lombe and family**  
**Linda Foster**  
**Garrett Keniston**  
**David Savage**  
**Kevin Curty**  
**Paul Loven**

**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*  
**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*  
**Peter Munro**, *brother of Emily Hickey*  
**Todd Cheney**, *father of Matt Cheney*  
**Jay Sprout**, *friend of Tom Mousin*

**Sandy Woolley**, *friend of Judy Howes*  
**Amanda and Chris Conant**, *friends of Jane Noone*  
**Pam**, *friend of Cindy Sherwood*  
**Michael King**, *friend of Anita Chandler*  
**Amy Carter**, *friend of Fred and Priscila Madore*  
**Norma and Joe Kennedy**, *friends of Jane Noone*  
**Mary Jo Floyd**, *relative of Fr. Tom Mousin*  
**Frank Beal and Lela Michie**, *friends of Lenita and Rodney Richard*  
**Mary Lou Toye**, *aunt of the McCormicks*

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

Allison Schroth: 207-807-1315, [Aschroth207@gmail.com](mailto:Aschroth207@gmail.com)  
or  
Emma Bond: 207-619-3662, [emma.e.bond@gmail.com](mailto: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*

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### **NOTES ON THIS SUNDAY'S MUSIC**

George Frederic Handel (1685-1759), like his contemporary Bach, saw no reason not to make a good tune do double, Bach's short setting of *Savior of the Nations, Come* is among his most poetic compositions. Indeed, its haunting overtones of mystery and expectation have led many organists to make playing it at the beginning of Advent an annual ritual. The original Lutheran chorale of 1524 features a text adapted by Martin Luther which itself dates from the 12th century. The song was the predominant hymn for the First Sunday of Advent for centuries.

Our opening hymn--"Hark, A Thrilling Voice Is Sounding"--dates from the 5th century. The text is based on Romans 13:11 and Luke 21:25. The changes in the adjective modifying "voice" in the first line reflect the development of the English language. Originally, the word was "awful"...meaning, "inspiring awe." Once this was no longer appropriate, the word was changed to "herald"....suggesting "one who brings advance

notice." Except "herald" came to have so many secular associations that it seemed inappropriate for a hymn text. Finally, in the mid-19th century, the great English translator, Edward Caswell, suggested "thrilling," and this adjective has stuck!

During Advent, it's customary in the Anglican Communion to substitute a seasonally appropriate alternative to the "Gloria." This year, we'll be introducing the latest of Fr. Tom's beautiful Advent poems, set to a new tune by Frances (Robin) Drake.

Our closing hymn--"The King Shall Come When Morning Dawns"--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!"

The Couperin family were a musical dynasty of professional composers and performers. They were the most prolific family in French musical history, active during the Baroque era (Seventeenth—Eighteenth Centuries). Louis Couperin (1626-1661) and his nephew, François Couperin *le grand*, are the best known members of the family. Originally a fiery--and overtly suggestive--Spanish dance, by the 17th century, the chaconne had evolved into a stately instrumental movement in 3/4 time organized around an oft-repeated harmonic progression. In the organ literature, the *Chaconne in G minor* is one of the most popular examples of the form. ~HT

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