

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

The First Sunday in Lent
Sunday, February 22, 2026
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](#).

Coffee hour will be held after the mass.

This Sunday's Ministers:

Mr. David Savage, *Verger*

Mr. Steve Koskinen, *Crucifer*

Ms. Anica Hickey and Ms. Marya Hickey, *Torch Bearers*

Ms. Emily Keniston & Mr. Steve Booth, *Eucharistic Ministers*

Mr. Will Estrella, *Videographer*

Ms. Lentia and Mr. Rodney Richard, *Ushers*

Ms. Janene Gorham, *Altar Guild*

Ms. Anita Chandler & Mr. Garrett Keniston, *Counters*
Mr. Rich Price and Mr. Paul Loven, *Coffee Hour Hosts*

From the Rector

Dear Friends,

I often list in Key Notes opportunities for our growth as disciples of Jesus Christ. Sometimes these are events or studies that folks have shared with me. Occasionally, there are events that I myself have participated in. Such is the case with two below that I wish to highlight.

I hope you can make time to be with us on Saturday, February 28th as we gather with Father Martin Smith for a quiet morning of reflection and prayer. Martin is not only a priest, a gifted retreat leader, and author of numerous books, he is also a personal friend. He has been with us for several quiet Advent evenings, and his visit during Lent provides him with an opportunity to spend more time with us. See details below for the shape of the morning. I am also delighted that he will join us on Sunday the 1st for our mass as well.

Also in this week's Key Notes is information about a pilgrimage Bishop Brown will be leading to the Holy Land in January of 2027. Having been both a pilgrim and a coleader on some past pilgrimages, I can highly recommend this trip. Iyad Qumri, a Palestinian Christian, has deep knowledge of all the places being visited and a lively faith. He and his family members will be superb tour guides to the various places that some describe as "the fifth gospel." My guess is that the trip will soon fill up, so if you are interested, do sign up!

Please let me know if you have questions about this pilgrimage. Kathleen McCormick has also been a pilgrim, and I am sure she will gladly answer questions and share her experiences as well.

Whether we are looking to the next few weeks or the next year, may you find ways to be a follower of the Way of Jesus Christ.

Faithfully,
Fr. Tom

Our Lenten Quiet Day with Fr Martin Smith: Saturday, February 28th from 9 am to 1 pm

We will gather for a morning of Lenten reflections with Fr. Smith. There will be coffee and refreshments in the undercroft from 9 to 9:30. Fr. Smith will then give three separate reflections, interspersed with quiet time for prayer and meditation. We will end the day with a half hour for conversation with each other starting at 12:30 and concluding at 1 pm. There is no charge; donations will be welcome. See details on the theme of the day below.

Time for some 'Holy Cancellation'
A Lenten Quiet Morning
Led by Fr Martin Smith



The two New Testament words that we translate as forgive, actually mean 'to cancel' and 'to let go.' Lent is specially a time when we celebrate God's constantly renewed cancellation of everything that puts us in the wrong. And it is the season when we seek the Spirit's help to do our own timely work of holy cancellation. Forgiving others, and letting go of resentment. Canceling our 'subscriptions' to ideas and authorities that the gospel shows to be false. Canceling those inner voices that distract us from the love of God. Join us for a quiet morning of reflection and prayer in which we will receive guidance for the holy 'cancel culture' we foster as disciples of Christ.

9 am to 1 pm
Saturday February 28th
St. Peter's Episcopal
Church
678 Washington Ave.
Portland, Maine

stpetersoffice10@gmail.com
207-775-1179



Fr Smith is the author of widely read books on contemporary spirituality and one of the Episcopal Church's most respected leaders of retreats.

QUMRI PILGRIMAGES LTD.



A Journey to the Holy Land

Visit the Holy Land with Bishop Brown and Deirdre Good, Th.D Thursday, Jan. 28 - Monday, Feb. 8, 2027

For more than 30 years, family-owned Qumri Pilgrimages has guided Christians on experiences to deepen their relationships with Jesus in the Holy Land. This pilgrimage is a unique opportunity to walk through the land where Jesus was born, lived, died and was resurrected. Together with Bishop Brown and Deirdre Good your journey will take you to such holy sites as the Western Wall, Capernaum, Church of the Nativity, and the Garden of Gethsemane; you will not just "visit," these sacred places, you will "live" them.

Download an itinerary [here](#). Please complete [this form](#) to express your interest in joining the pilgrimage and for more details.

**Youth Service Corps Meets on Sunday March 8
RSVP by this Sunday to perpare. See below for details.**

YOUTH SERVICE CORPS EVENT

SUNDAY MARCH 8TH
12:00 PM - 2:00 PM



MEET AT TRINITY EPISCOPAL CHURCH
580 FOREST AVE, PORTLAND



COME PACK FOOD TO
SUPPORT END HUNGER
NEW ENGLAND, PART OF
THE OUTREACH PROGRAM

ENJOY PIZZA AND GAMES AFTERWARDS

YOUTH SERVICE CORPS, WE NEED YOUR HELP TO
REACH THE REQUIRED 60 VOLUNTEERS!

RSVP ASAP (BY SUNDAY FEB. 22)

TO AMBER BURKS

YOUTH SERVICE CORPS COORDINATOR

AT AMBER@STALBANSMAINE.ORG.

Worship Opportunities During Lent

**Stations of the Cross at Noon: Please Note Change in Dates:
Tuesdays, March 3rd and March 24th**

The Stations of the Cross service will meet as it has on Zoom, and this year, but at a new time: rather than meeting every week, we will meet for two times at noon - Tuesday March 3, early in Lent, and then on Tuesday March 24th. The Zoom link for both services is [here](#).

Evening Prayer Offered on Fridays in Lent

An Evening Prayer service will be offered each Friday during Lent at the church at 5:30 pm. Galen Weibley will lead these services, starting on Friday, February 20th. Evening Prayer is one of the services that is part of the Daily Office in the Book of Common Prayer. Here is another opportunity to engage in a prayer discipline for the season of Lent. Galen will welcome your attendance and you can let him know of your interest when you see him in church.

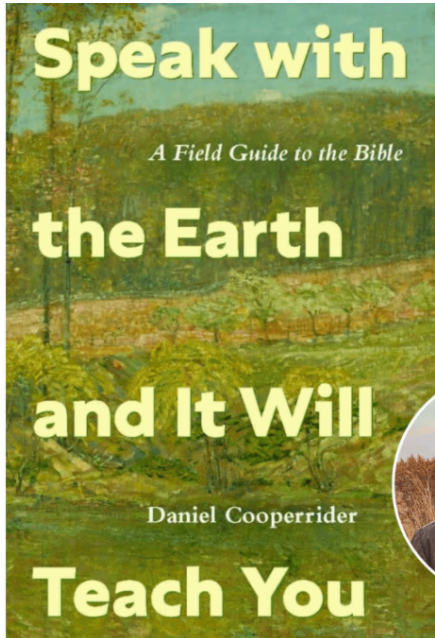
Compline

Compline will meet on Wednesday, February 25th, at its usual time, 7:00 PM.

Connect with our gathering then by clicking the Zoom link [here](#).

A Lenten Book Study Offered About Care of the Earth

The BTS Center is offering an online book study of *Speak with the Earth and It Will Teach You: A Field Guide to the Bible*, by Daniel Cooperrider. Learn more about this weekly gathering [here](#).



**Speak with
the Earth
and It Will
Teach You**
A Field Guide to the Bible
Daniel Cooperrider

a Lenten Book Study
5 Tuesdays • Online
February 24 – March 31, 2026
4:00 – 5:30pm (ET)

meet the author

THE DAMASCUS PROJECT

THE BTS CENTER

This Week at St. Peter's

Evening Prayer, Fri. Feb. 27, 5:30 pm, at church

Vestry, Tue. Feb. 24th, 6:30-8:30 pm, Zoom
Compline, Wed. Feb. 25, 7pm, Zoom
Evening Prayer, Fri. Feb. 27, 5:30 pm, at church
A Lenten Quiet Day with Fr. Martin Smith, Sat. Feb. 28th, 9am - 1pm

In the Coming Weeks

Compline, Wed. Feb. 25, 7pm, Zoom
Evening Prayer, Fri. Feb. 27, 5:30 pm, at church
Parish Breakfast, Sun. Mar. 1, after the Sunday Liturgy
Stations of the Cross, Tue. Mar. 3, Noon, Zoom

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
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*

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, friend of Lenita and Rodney Richard
Mary Lou Toye, aunt of the McCormicks
Cathryn Buckley, sister of Judy Howes
John Richard, brother of Rodney Richard

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

or

Emma Bond: 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 SUNDAY'S MUSIC

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.

Our Offertory hymn, "Now Quit Your Care," is more lively than many Lenten hymns. One reason is that the tune is borrowed from a

17th c. French Christmas melody. But there's more to it than that. The author of the text, Percy Dearmer (1867-1938) is credited with the revival and spread of traditional and medieval English texts. With Ralph Vaughan Williams and Martin Shaw, he promoted both artistic and folkloric hymnodic scholarship. He was theologically and socially progressive: as a canon of Westminster Abbey he ran a canteen for the unemployed and promoted the public ministry of women.

William Williams (1717-1791), who composed the lyrics for "Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah," was not merely an important figure in the religious life of Wales; he was also one of the most important influences on the Welsh language, not just in his own lifetime, but on into the 19th and 20th centuries. He is particularly known as a hymn writer and his ability earned him the accolade *y pêr ganiedydd* ("The Sweet Songster"), echoing the description of King David as "the sweet psalmist of Israel."

Louis Marchand (1669-1732) was by all accounts the leading French organist/harpsichordist of his day. Most of the prominent Parisian churches sought to gain his services as organist, and at an uncommonly young age, he joined the court of Louis XIV as music director of the Royal Chapel at Versailles. Unfortunately, Marchand's keyboard virtuosity was matched by an arrogant personality, and when the king good-humoredly spoke of the shape of the organist's hands, Marchand retaliated by ridiculing the size of Louis' ears! This insult could hardly be overlooked, and Marchand wisely departed immediately for an extended tour of Germany. Here, all seemed to be going well until he rashly challenged J.S. Bach to an organ-playing contest. He concealed himself in the church where Bach was practicing, quickly realized that he would suffer an ignominious defeat, and fled at dawn the next day. ~HT

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