

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

The Last Sunday after the Epiphany
Sunday, February 15, 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. Steve Koskinen, *Crucifer*

Mr. Galen Weibley & Ms. Anne Whitman, *Eucharistic Ministers*

Ms. Jan Tracy, *Lector*

Ms. Anita Chandler, *Usher*

Ms. Lenita Richard, *Videographer & Altar Guild*

Ms. Lenita Richard & Mr. Jonathan McCormick, *Counters*

Ms. Jane Noone and Ms. Anita Chandler, *Coffee Hour Hosts*

In loving memory of my grandmother, Jessie Beers Stillings, by Anita Chandler,
Altar Flowers

From the Rector

Dear Friends,

I am including again below some opportunities for Lenten practices. Our season begins on Wednesday, February 18th, with Ash Wednesday masses at noon and at 7 pm.

Before that, however, we have one last chance to sing "Alleluia" in our songs of praise before we refrain from using that word until Easter morning. We will once again "bury" the Alleluia this Sunday at the end of the service, and you will be invited to take home a personal Alleluia banner to decorate and bring for Easter. If you cannot be present at church on Sunday, you can find a banner to download and print [here](#). And we will be listening for your voice of praise on Sunday, however far from Washington Ave. you may be.

Faithfully,
Fr. Tom

Worship Opportunities During Lent

Ash Wednesday, February 18th

There will be masses at noon and at 7 pm, with the imposition of ashes at both services, and music at the noon service.

Do you have palms from last year's Palm Sunday mass? Bring them to church this Sunday - they are used to make ashes for this year's Ash Wednesday service.

Stations of the Cross on Wednesdays at Noon

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 - Wednesday March 4, early in Lent, and then on Wednesday March 25th. The Zoom link will be provided in the previous week's Key Notes.

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.

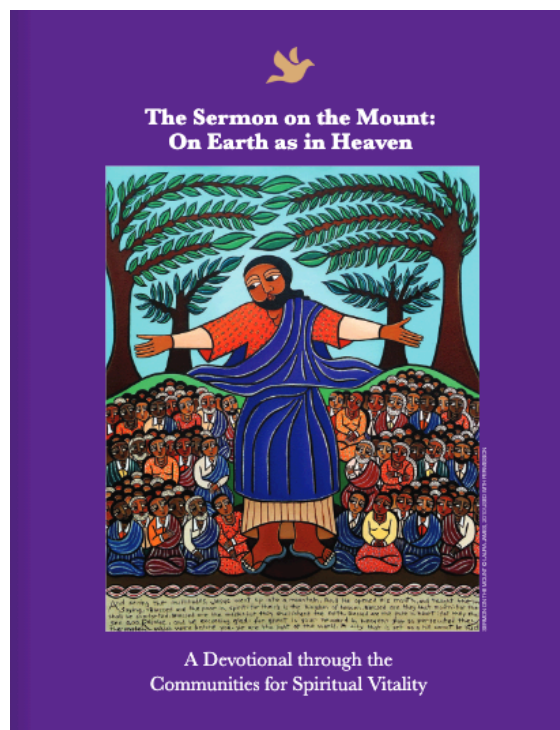
Compline

Compline will not meet on Ash Wednesday, February 18th. We will resume next week.

Remember These Other Prayers and Practices During Lent:

While we often think of Lent as a time to "give something up" it is also an opportunity to add a new prayer or devotional practice. Two such opportunities for daily devotions are listed below, as well as a book study group which will be offered online.

Also below, see the information on our Lenten Quiet Day with Fr. Martin Smith on Saturday, February 28th.



The Sermon on the Mount: On Earth as in Heaven

[The Communities for Spiritual Vitality](#), a Vermont-based initiative that supports lay formation across Province 1, has recently released its 2026

Lent-Easter Devotional. Included in the beautifully illustrated, 84-page booklet are contributions from Bishop Brown; Director of Faith Formation Emily Keniston; the Rev. Liz Marshall Casasola, rector of Trinity Church, Castine; Lio Cook, Church of our Father, Hull's Cove; and Larry Gilman, the Parish of St. Andrew and St. John, MDI. Read it online, order a printed copy, and learn about the seven weekly formation gatherings using the devotional [here](#).



Holy Habits Lenten Meditations from Sister Monica Clare

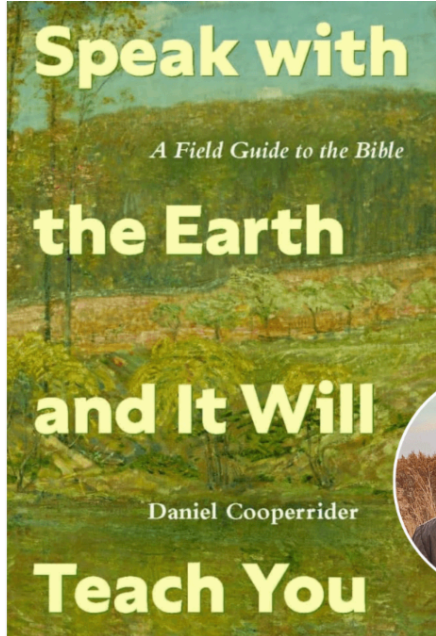
Episcopal Relief & Development (ERD) is offering daily Lenten Meditations inviting readers to reflect upon and deepen their spiritual practices.

This year, ERD has partnered with [Sister Monica Clare](#)—Episcopal nun, best-selling author and unlikely TikTok star—to create meditations that explore the theme of “Holy Habits.” In her meditations, Clare reflects on the scripture readings for vespers (evening prayer) to encourage habits that support and strengthen a life of faith.

Beginning on Ash Wednesday, Feb. 18, all are invited to participate in “Holy Habits” by subscribing to daily emails, downloading resources for further study and including the meditations in community prayer, worship and gathering time. Explore the meditations [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
A Field Guide to the Bible
the Earth
and It Will
Daniel Cooperrider
Teach You

a Lenten Book Study


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



meet the author



THE
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CENTER

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.

Youth Service Corps Assists Maine Needs

St. Peter's parishioners and youth from other area churches gathered at the South Portland UCC on Sunday afternoon to prepare cleaning buckets for Maine Needs. The group put together 25 buckets, which will provide needed cleaning goods for people's homes. There was also time for a pizza lunch and a guessing game to determine just how much cleaning items can cost - many are not cheap!



Around the Parish

On Sunday February 8th, **Will Estrella** was welcomed as a member of the parish as he signed the Parish Book at the Sunday liturgy. Will could not be with us at the annual meeting, when this usually takes place. We welcome Will, who has already contributed much to our common life!

This Week at St. Peter's

*Ash Wednesday Mass, Wed. February 18th, 12 noon and 7 pm
Evening Prayer, Friday February 20th at 5:30 pm*

Coming Up at St. Peter's

*Vestry, Tue. Feb. 24th, 6:30 pm on Zoom
A Lenten Quiet Day with Fr. Martin Smith, Sat. Feb. 28th, 9am - 1pm*

Sunday Minister Rota for February

February 15, 2026

Mr. Steve Koskinen, *Crucifer*

Mr. Galen Weibley & Ms. Anne Whitman, *Eucharistic Ministers*

Ms. Jan Tracy, *Lector*

Ms. Anita Chandler, *Usher*

Ms. Lenita Richard, *Videographer & Altar Guild*

Ms. Lenita Richard & Mr. Jonathan McCormick, *Counters*

Ms. Jane Noone and Ms. Anita Chandler, *Coffee Hour Hosts*

In loving memory of my grandmother, Jessie Beers Stillings, by Anita Chandler,
Altar Flowers

February 22, 2026

Mr. Steve Koskinen, *Crucifer*

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

Ms. Anita Chandler, *Usher*

Mr. Will Estrella, *Videographer*

Ms. Janene Gorham, *Altar Guild*

Ms. Anita Chandler & Mr. Garrett Keniston, *Counters*

Mr. Rich Price and Mr. Paul Loven, *Coffee Hour Hosts*

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*

Pray for the repose of the soul of **Janet Blessing**, who died this week and for whom we have been praying.

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

Among the triumphs of Felix Mendelssohn's all too short life--he died at 38--were ten extended visits to England, where his skills as composer, pianist and organist excited enormous acclaim. In 1845, at the urging of his English publisher, he composed a set of six organ sonatas--suites, really--which are arguably the most important works written for the instrument in the century following Bach's death.

"Praise to the Lord, the Almighty" is based on Psalm 103:1-6 and Psalm 150:6, and is one of the most exuberant hymns in the hymnal. More than likely, the tune was associated with a much older, German chorale text, and Joachim Neander (1650-1680) wrote new words to fit an old tune.

"In Christ there is no east or west, in him no south or north; but one great fellowship of love throughout the whole wide earth." John Oxenham is one of the pen names for the English businessman William J. Dunkerly (1852-1941). Oxenham made his home in the U.S. for a time before returning to England, where he died at the age of 89. According to hymnologist Albert Bailey, Oxenham began writing "to relieve the tedium of long journeys . . . and soon discovered that he liked writing better than business." English literary scholar and hymnologist J.R. Watson notes that the hymn takes its opening idea from Rudyard Kipling's famous lines, "Oh, East is East, and West is West, and never the twain shall meet" from "The Ballad of East and West," published in 1892. However, the inclusive theme of Oxenham's hymn is the antithesis of Kipling's verse.

Our concluding hymn--"Ye Watchers and Ye Holy Ones"--was written by Athalstan Riley (1858-1945), one of the editors of "The English Hymnal" of 1906. An Oxfordian scholar, Riley translated a number of hymn texts from Latin and Greek, but this one seems to have been an original. The first stanza names the

nine orders of angels who praise God, and in stanza four, all are urged to "lift their voices" to the Holy Trinity. No one is exempt from singing!

Jeremiah Clarke (1674-1707) seemed destined to win a place as one of England's major musical figures: after serving as a choir boy at the Chapel Royal, he became organist at Winchester College at an early age. Subsequently, he won appointments to both St. Paul's Cathedral and the Chapel Royal, where his skill as player and composer gained great favor. ~HT

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