



ST. PETER'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 14, 2025 - 8:00 A.M. & 10:30 A.M.

THE THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT (GAUDETE SUNDAY)

HOLY EUCHARIST: RITE II

The Third Sunday of Advent is historically known as Gaudete Sunday. Gaudete, Latin for "rejoice," refers to Philippians 4:4, "Rejoice in the Lord always," which was chanted in part as the introit for this Sunday. Rose, the traditional liturgical color for this day, symbolizes a lightening of the more penitential tone of Advent, anticipating with joy the nearness of celebrating Christ's nativity.

*This service booklet is used at both the 8:00 and 10:30 a.m. services.
The hymns, choral, and organ music listed are for the 10:30 service only.*

PRELUDE Wind Songs

Samuel Adler (b. 1928)

- I. The Wind at Peace
- III. Secrets Lost in the Wind

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

8:00 Kit and Kathy Baker

10:30 Sarah, David, Julie, and Michael Souza

The Advent Wreath is a visual symbol marking the progress of the season of Advent.

The candles for the First, Second, and Third Sunday of Advent are lit.

Lector A Reading from the Gospel according to Luke. (Luke 3:15-16)

As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, John answered all of them by saying, "I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire."

THE WORD OF GOD

- 8:00 *The People stand as the procession enters. The service begins with the Opening Acclamation.*
- 10:30 *The People stand and sing the hymn.*

HYMN 76: "On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry" (omit st. 5)

Winchester New

OPENING ACCLAMATION

Celebrant Blessed are you, holy and living God.
People **You come to your people and set them free.**

COLLECT FOR PURITY

Celebrant Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

TRISAGION

- 8:00 *Said three times*

Celebrant Holy God,
Holy and Mighty,
Holy Immortal One,
People **Have mercy upon us.**

- 10:30 *Sung by all, three times (Hymnal S 102)*

after Alexander Archangelsky (1846-1924)

All Holy God,
Holy and Mighty,
Holy Immortal One,
Have mercy upon us.

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Let us pray.

Stir up your power, O Lord, and with great might come among us; and, because we are sorely hindered by our sins, let your bountiful grace and mercy speedily help and deliver us; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever. **Amen.**

The People sit.

THE LESSON

James 5:7-10

Be patient, therefore, beloved, until the coming of the Lord. The farmer waits for the precious crop from the earth, being patient with it until it receives the early and the late rains. You also must be patient. Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near. Beloved, do not grumble against one another, so that you may not be judged. See, the Judge is standing at the doors! As an example of suffering and patience, beloved, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

Lector The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

CANTICLE *Magnificat* The Song of Mary

Luke 1:46-55

- 8:00 *Said responsively by half verse*

- 10:30 *Sung by the Choir*

Anglican Chant: W. H. Havergal

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,
my spirit rejoices in God my Savior; *

for he has looked with favor on his lowly servant.

From this day all generations will call me blessed: *

the Almighty has done great things for me, and holy is his Name.

He has mercy on those who fear him *

in every generation.

He has shown the strength of his arm, *

he has scattered the proud in their conceit.

He has cast down the mighty from their thrones, *

and has lifted up the lowly.

He has filled the hungry with good things, *

and the rich he has sent away empty.

He has come to the help of his servant Israel, *
for he has remembered his promise of mercy,
The promise he made to our fathers, *
to Abraham and his children for ever.

The People stand.

HYMN 75: "There's a voice in the wilderness crying"

Ascension

THE HOLY GOSPEL

Matthew 11:2-11

Priest The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.
People **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples and said to him, "Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?" Jesus answered them, "Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. And blessed is anyone who takes no offense at me."

As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: "What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? What then did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. This is the one about whom it is written,

'See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,
who will prepare your way before you.'

"Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he."

Priest The Gospel of the Lord.
People **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

THE SERMON

The Rev. Zack Rugenstone

A period of silence is kept. Then the People stand.

THE NICENE CREED

Celebrant Let us affirm our faith in the words of the Nicene Creed.

All **We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father.
Through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven:**

by the power of the Holy Spirit
he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary,
and was made man.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son.
With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.
He has spoken through the Prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Lector Be patient, beloved, until the coming of the Lord, for the Judge is standing at the doors. Here is your God: He has cast down the mighty from their thrones, and has lifted up the lowly. As we have been lifted up by the Lord, according to his promise of mercy, let us also lift our intercessions to the Holy One, saying, "Our spirits rejoice in God our Savior; / Holy is the Name of the Lord."

The People kneel, as able.

We pray for the Church, remembering Sarah, Archbishop-elect of Canterbury; Sean, Presiding Bishop; Deon, our Bishop; and for the clergy and ministry leaders of St. Peter's. Let us be strong, walking the Holy Way as God's people without fear.

In our diocesan cycle we pray for St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Ironton, and the Episcopal Church of All Saints and Ascension, our Companion Community. In the Anglican Communion, we pray for the Episcopal Anglican Church of Brazil. Our spirits rejoice in God our Savior;

People **Holy is the Name of the Lord.**

Lector We pray for this and every nation, remembering Donald, our President, and Mike, our Governor. Through the governance and administration of leaders here and abroad, let there be peace, that the wilderness and the dry land would be glad, and that the desert would rejoice and blossom. Our spirits rejoice in God our Savior;

People **Holy is the Name of the Lord.**

Lector We pray for those in our parish and community, remembering David Westfall [and_____]. May those in need be strengthened in their hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near. Through our service to one another, let the lowly be lifted up; the hungry be filled with good things; and the poor have good news brought to them. Our spirits rejoice in God our Savior;

People **Holy is the Name of the Lord.**

Lector We pray with thanksgiving for the birth of Stanley Peter Wilson to Katelyn and Matthew Wilson. May our souls proclaim the greatness of the Lord for the promises he makes to his children for ever. Our spirits rejoice in God our Savior;

People **Holy is the Name of the Lord.**

Lector We remember those departed in the Lord, especially Mary Ann Margaretten [and _____]. May the ransomed of the Lord come to their rest, singing with everlasting joy upon their heads as sorrow and sighing flee away. Our spirits rejoice in God our Savior;

People **Holy is the Name of the Lord.**

Lector Let us pray for our own needs, and for those of others.

Silence is kept.

Celebrant Holy Lord, let us rejoice in you always, for you are near at hand: May we have no anxiety about anything, but in all things, through prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, make all things known to you, for you have blessed our land, and turned away the captivity of our sin; with rejoicing, we pray through the same Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

CONFESSION OF SIN

Celebrant Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Silence is kept.

Celebrant Most merciful God,
All **we confess that we have sinned against you
in thought, word, and deed,
by what we have done,
and by what we have left undone.
We have not loved you with our whole heart;
we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.
We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,
have mercy on us and forgive us;
that we may delight in your will,
and walk in your ways,
to the glory of your Name. Amen.**

Celebrant Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. **Amen.**

The People stand.

THE PEACE

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

After the Peace, the People sit.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BIRTHDAY AND ANNIVERSARY PRAYERS

THE HOLY COMMUNION

THE OFFERTORY

Everyone participating in worship is invited to make an offering in gratitude for God's generosity. If you would like to make an offering, you may scan the code to the right and follow the prompts.



ANTHEM

Alan Hovhaness (1911–2000)

Watchman, tell us of the night,
what its signs of promise are.
Traveler, o'er yon mountain's height,
see that glory-beaming star.
Watchman, does its beauteous ray
aught of joy or hope foretell?
Traveler, yes; it brings the day,
promised day of Israel.

Watchman, tell us of the night;
higher yet that star ascends.
Traveler, blessedness and light,
peace and truth its course portends.
Watchman, will its beams alone
gild the spot that gave them birth?
Traveler, ages are its own;
see, it bursts o'er all the earth.

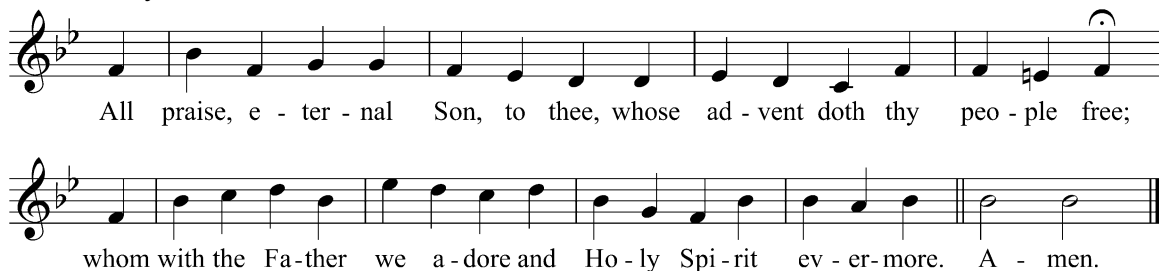
Watchman, tell us of the night,
for the morning seems to dawn.
Traveler, darkness takes its flight,
doubt and terror are withdrawn.
Watchman, let thy wanderings cease;
hie thee to thy quiet home.
Traveler, lo! the Prince of Peace,
lo! the Son of God is come!

– John Bowring

The People stand and sing.

THE PRESENTATION (Hymn 76, stanza 5)

Winchester New



– Charles Coffin, tr. C. Winfred Douglas

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Eucharistic Prayer B

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Lift up your hearts.

People **We lift them to the Lord.**

Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People **It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

Celebrant It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and every where to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

Because you sent your beloved Son to redeem us from sin and death, and to make us heirs in him of everlasting life; that when he shall come again in power and great triumph to judge the world, we may without shame or fear rejoice to behold his appearing.

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

SANCTUS ET BENEDICTUS

- 8:00 *Said by all*
- 10:30 *Sung by all (Hymnal S 127)*

Calvin Hampton (1938-1984)

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

The people kneel, as able.

We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus, your Son. For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

On the night before he died for us, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore, according to his command, O Father,

All **We remember his death,
We proclaim his resurrection,
We await his coming in glory;**

Celebrant And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine.

We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the new Covenant. Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we may be acceptable through him, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit. In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with the Blessed Virgin Mary, Peter, and all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation.

By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever. **AMEN.**

Celebrant And now as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

All **Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy Name,
thy kingdom come,**

**thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those
who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen.**

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

The Celebrant breaks the consecrated Bread.

A period of silence is kept.

FRACTION ANTHEM

Celebrant We break this bread to share in the Body of Christ.

People **We who are many are one body, for we all share in the one bread.**

Celebrant The Gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

ADMINISTRATION OF THE SACRAMENT

*All baptized persons are welcome to receive Holy Communion
by coming to the altar rail where you may kneel or stand.*

Please tell the clergy if you require gluten-free Bread.

*Crossing your arms over your chest will let the clergy know
you would like to receive a blessing but not the Bread and/or Wine.*

COMMUNIO *Dicite pusillanimes*

Plainsong, Mode 7

Say to those who are of a fearful heart: Be strong and fear not; behold, the Lord our God will come, and he will save us.

- cf. Isaiah 35

MOTET

Aaron Copland (1900-1990)

Help us, O Lord.
For with thee is the fount of life.
In thy light shall we see light.
Let us march and try our ways.
Turn to God.
It is good that man should wait.
It is good that man should hope for the salvation of the Lord.

- cf. Psalm 36:9

THE POSTCOMMUNION PRAYER

Celebrant Let us pray.

The People kneel, as able.

All **Almighty and everliving God,
we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food
of the most precious Body and Blood**

**of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ;
and for assuring us in these holy mysteries
that we are living members of the Body of your Son,
and heirs of your eternal kingdom.
And now, Father, send us out
to do the work you have given us to do,
to love and serve you
as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord.
To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit,
be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.**

THE BLESSING

Celebrant May the Sun of Righteousness shine upon you and scatter the darkness from before your path; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always. **Amen.**

The People stand and the procession leaves the church.

HYMN 59: "Hark! a thrilling voice is sounding"

Merton

THE DISMISSAL

Priest Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
People **Thanks be to God.**

VOLUNTARY Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland, BWV 661
(Savior of the Nations, come; Hymn 54)

J. S. Bach (1685-1750)

MUSIC NOTES The St. Peter's Choir sang Alan Hovhaness's "Watchman tell us of the night" for their 2020 recording *Longing for Home* (Regent Records) and have sung it at an Advent Carol Service, but this morning is the first time that it will be sung at a service of Holy Communion at St. Peter's. Hovhaness, who died 25 years ago, was a prolific composer who wrote more than 500 works during his lifetime. Many of Hovhaness's works are suffused with a unique kind of spirituality; they are "hushed, reverential, mystical, nostalgic." His anthem "Watchman, tell us of the night" combines simple materials in different ways to great effect. At the center is a more rhapsodic bass solo.

American composer Aaron Copland (1900-1990) wrote his Four Motets while a student of Nadia Boulanger in Paris. In the first of the set, "Help us, O Lord," Copland chooses phrases from Psalm 36 that speak to waiting and hope that are themes of the Advent season. In the Gospel reading, Jesus references a "reed shaken by the wind." The organ prelude is drawn from a suite of pieces that are meditations on wind by the German-born American composer Samuel Adler (b. 1928), who studied composition with Copland at Harvard University.

The final organ voluntary, from the Great Eighteen Chorale Preludes of J. S. Bach (1685-1750), is one of the more familiar settings from that collection. Perhaps due to the frequency with which they are now heard, modern listeners may not fully appreciate the kind of apocalyptic treatment of the familiar Advent chorale melody "Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland" receives in Bach's hands. The third setting in the Great Eighteen, BWV 661 is a terrifying setting for full organ. The initial subject scrambles disjunctly and eventually careens down from E-flat to F-sharp, relishing the uncompromising intensity of its minor-key tonality. The melody, when it enters, thunders forth from the pedal and is today undergirded by a 32-foot reed stop that Bach so admired in the large organs of his day.

ALTAR FLOWERS

Given to the glory of God in loving memory of Lisa Carnan Miller, by Bruce and Susan Miller.

Given to the glory of God in thanksgiving for Richard Sinden,
by his grandchildren William and Margaret.

THOSE SERVING IN WORSHIP TODAY

8:00 A.M.

<i>Celebrant</i>	The Rev. David Hodges
<i>Preacher</i>	The Rev. Zack Rugenstone
<i>Organ</i>	David Sinden
<i>Lectors</i>	Bob Cocking, Brig Buettner
<i>Ushers</i>	Rich Huck, Tony Randazzo
<i>Altar Guild</i>	Claudia McMillin

10:30 A.M.

<i>Celebrant</i>	The Rev. David Hodges
<i>Preacher</i>	The Rev. Zack Rugenstone
<i>Assisting Clergy</i>	The Rev. Dr. Nathan Haydon
<i>Musicians</i>	The St. Peter's Choir David Sinden, Organist and Choirmaster
<i>Acolyte Masters</i>	Jim Gilbert, Julie Ferrie
<i>Acolytes</i>	Liam Schafer, Teddy Haffenreffer Reid Haffenreffer, Hattie Sokolich
<i>Lectors</i>	Roberta Hmiel, Bruce Ryder
<i>Ushers</i>	Doug Adderton, Matt Sokolich, Connie Lohr, Jimmy Howe
<i>Altar Guild</i>	DeWayne Trainer, Nancy Grimes
<i>Monday Counters</i>	Jerry and Cathie Wille

PRAYER LIST

For Family and Friends: David Westfall, Stanley Peter Wilson

For the Men and Women of the Armed Forces: Alexandra Maranto

For the Faithful Departed: Mary Ann Margaretten

For Those Committed to Our Ongoing Prayers: Lee Arten, Victor Belyan, Bev Bouchard, Virginie Brightman, Craig Campbell, Wendell Covington, Ralph Dacey, Kathryn Dewein, Margaret Ruth Dewein, Bonnie and Rich Essick, Prissy Evans, Nolan Fagan, Teenie Followell, Garth Fort, Don Franz, Margie Franz, Christy Garesche, Annette Goldman, Maria Greider, John Hartman, Emily Hintz, Jeff Hirsch, Jack Howard, Ian, Mike Kolman, John Marshall, Kary Matthews, Sharon Trainer Mauney, Bob Messey, Cheryl Meyer, Randy Meyer, Liza Nash, Chris O'Connor, Maddie O'Keefe, David Orlowski, Holly Parks, Kimberly Penning, Howard Price, Chi Chi Rassieur, Sara Rigel, Judith Roos, Hudson Rosencrans, Sally Russell, June Sellenriek, Martha Shaffer, Jill Smock, Dewayne Stapes, Abbot Thomas, Mia Tiefenbrunn, Anne Wetzel, Rolla Wetzel, and Goldie Wirth

ANNOUNCEMENTS

WORSHIP & MUSIC

ADVENT CAROL SERVICE

A Service of Lessons and Carols for Advent will be held today at 5:00 p.m. This popular service reflects the Advent season's growing anticipation. The St. Peter's Choir sing music by G. P. da Palestrina, Aaron Copland, Judith Weir, Francis Pott, James MacMillan, Matthew Martin, Jessica Nelson, and Kerensa Briggs. A recital of Advent music, played by organists Joseph Arndt and David Sinden, begins a few minutes after 4:30 p.m. A reception will follow the service.

FINAL DAYS TO DONATE TO CHRISTMAS FLOWERS

Today and tomorrow are the final days to donate to our Christmas Flowers fund to beautify the sanctuary for the Christmas season. We hope that you will contribute \$50.00 or more to the cost, in loving memory or in honor/thanksgiving of loved ones. You may make your donation and acknowledgment by scanning the QR code or complete a green "Christmas Flowers" form found in the narthex and undercroft. All donations and acknowledgments must be placed by tomorrow, Monday, December 15, to be included in the Christmas service booklets. Thank you!



BLUE CHRISTMAS SERVICE

For many, Christmas can be an occasion to seek solace rather than celebration. Remembering that God shares in our sorrows as well as our joys, all are welcome to attend a "Blue Christmas" service on Wednesday, December 17, at 5:30 p.m.

CHRISTMAS SERVICES AT ST. PETER'S

St. Peter's will offer three services for Christmas Eve and one on Christmas Day:

Christmas Eve - December 24

- 4:00 p.m. Christmas Pageant and Holy Eucharist: Family friendly and led by the children of St. Peter's
- 6:00 p.m. Holy Eucharist: A merry, traditional service with the full choir
- 9:00 p.m. Holy Eucharist: An intimate and festive gathering with carols

Christmas Day - December 25

- 10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist: A joyful and quiet celebration of the birth of our Savior

CHILDREN & YOUTH MINISTRY

CHILDREN'S CHAPEL AND SUNDAY SCHOOL

- Children's Chapel is offered in Grace Chapel from 10:15 to 10:25 a.m. All children and parents are invited. Children are then escorted down to their Sunday school classes.
- Sunday School classes begin at 10:30 a.m.
- Nursery is offered in the lower level of the Little Building from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon.

Please contact Didi Noelker, Director of Children & Family Ministries, at dnoelker@specstl.org with any questions.

YOUTH GROUP

St. Peter's Youth Group meets tonight at 5:00 p.m. in the confirmation classroom downstairs (or, as the St. Peter's youth recently renamed it: "SPY HQ"). All youth, grades 6-12, are invited to be part of this Sunday evening community where we share in discussions about faith, life, and how the two intersect - plus have plenty of fun along the way. This week we will be getting together to have our annual Christmas party! For more information, contact the Rev. Zack Rugenstone at zackr@specstl.org

SAVE THE DATE FOR THE CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

We would love to have your child involved in this year's Christmas Pageant. Children, age 4 to Grade 5, will have costumed parts, and students in Grade 6 and above will be the readers. It is a remarkable experience for a child to help recreate the story of the Nativity during the service of Holy Eucharist on Christmas Eve, December 24, at 4:00 p.m. There will be one mandatory rehearsal on Saturday, December 20, at 10:00 a.m. More information will be coming to families soon. Please contact Didi Noelker if you have questions at dnoelker@specstl.org

STEWARDSHIP & PARISH LIFE

ST. PETER'S GUILD

All are welcome to gather with the St. Peter's Guild on Tuesday, December 16, at 10:30 a.m., for a book review and lively discussion of "JFK: The Last Dissenting Witness" by Bill Sloan. Together, we'll explore the book's insights, its historical context, and the questions it continues to raise more than sixty years later. Come for good conversation, fresh perspectives, and the chance to engage with a story that still fascinates and challenges. Lunch will follow at 11:45 a.m. at a location decided that day. We look forward to seeing you there!

CHRISTMAS EVE BREAKFAST

The Tuesday Morning Breakfast Club and The Guild are sponsoring a breakfast Christmas Eve morning that is open to all! Breakfast will be from 8:00 to 9:30 a.m. in the Undercroft. Contact John Walker at jlwalkerstl@outlook.com or Michael Newport at michaelwnewport@gmail.com with questions.

END-OF-YEAR GIVING

We invite you to reflect on the blessings of this past year and consider making an end-of-year gift to support the mission of St. Peter's. Your generosity enables us to provide meaningful ministries, maintain our sacred spaces, and serve as a place of faith and community for all who seek it. Please note that **all offerings for 2025 must be postmarked on or before Wednesday, December 31, 2025**. There are many ways to give, including one-time gifts, charitable IRA rollovers, stock donations, or by starting or updating your online giving. Visit www.specstl.org/give. Thank you!

FRIDAY MORNING PRAYER GROUP

The Prayer Group is open to all. The group meets on Fridays at 10:00 a.m. in the Elliot Room. This group also focuses on the current week's Gospel to prepare for a more meaningful Sunday worship experience. For information, please contact Sally Lemkemeier at lemkemeier@aol.com.

OUTREACH

THANK YOU FOR A WONDERFUL GIVING TREE SEASON!

Thank you to everyone who participated in this year's Giving Tree. Your generosity has been extraordinary - over 450 gifts were collected! Every gift purchased will support our Outreach Ministry partners - Welcome Neighbor, the Urban League, and GiFT - as well as the ongoing ministries that place hope and practical help into the hands of those who need it most. Whether you chose a tag from the tree, ordered online, or helped spread the word, you played a meaningful role in making this season brighter for individuals and families across our community. Thank you for embodying the love and generosity at the heart of Advent this season.

FORMATION

RECTOR'S FORUM AND BREAKFAST

This season, we welcome guest speakers from across our parish and the wider St. Louis community to join us for Rector's Forum. Each week will bring a new voice, a new perspective, and a new opportunity to explore how faith connects with the world around us. Come enjoy a hearty breakfast (beginning at 8:45 a.m.) and conversation/speakers (beginning at 9:15 a.m.). The cost of breakfast is \$9. Kids under 5 eat free!

Upcoming Rector's Forums:



December 14: Dr. LaChrisa Crenshaw, The Youth & Family Center

LaChrisa Crenshaw from the Youth & Family Center (YFC) will share the powerful, ongoing story of an organization that has been strengthening St. Louis families for more than 135 years. The YFC continues to respond to the needs of low-income families with dignity, creativity, and care. LaChrisa's presentation will offer a look at the center's current initiatives and its transformative vision for the whole family.



December 21: Dr. Isaac Arten, St. Peter's Theologian in Residence

Dr. Isaac Arten will offer a rich and accessible exploration of the Incarnation. Drawing on scripture, theological tradition, contemporary insights, Dr. Arten will reflect on what it means for God to enter fully into human life, and how this central mystery of the faith shapes our understanding of grace, hope, and the dignity of every person. His presentation will invite us to consider how the Incarnation continues to transform the Church's life and our own daily practices of faith.



January 4: Constance Vale, Chair of Undergraduate Architecture, Washington University

Constance Vale provides an illuminating conversation on one of the most transformative forces shaping our world today: Artificial Intelligence. Constance will lead us through an exploration of how AI is reshaping the ways we design, build, communicate, and even understand what it means to be human. With examples from her work and her forthcoming book, *Digital Decoys*, Constance will guide us through the promises and challenges of an era in which our built environment increasingly responds to—and is shaped by—intelligent technologies. This conversation will open a window onto the ethical, creative, and civic questions that emerge as architecture and AI evolve together.

IS YOUR USED IPHONE LONELY?

Do you have a gently used iPad or iPhone (12 or higher) that you no longer use? Consider giving it a new home! The church is looking for a few of these devices to help with administrative and communication strategies. Please contact Jacquelyn at jacquelynv@specstl.org or call the church office at (314) 993-2306 if you have questions or would like to donate a device.

THIS WEEK AT ST. PETER'S

Sunday	Dec. 14	The Third Sunday of Advent		
		8:00 a.m.	Holy Eucharist	
		8:45 a.m.	Parish Breakfast	
		9:00 a.m.	Nursery Care Opens	<i>Little Building</i>
		9:15 a.m.	Rector's Forum	<i>Undercroft</i>
		10:15 a.m.	Children's Chapel	<i>Grace Chapel</i>
		10:30 a.m.	Holy Eucharist	
			Sunday School	<i>Classrooms</i>
		11:30 a.m.	Coffee Hour	
		5:00 p.m.	Advent Lessons and Carols	
			St. Peter's Youth Group Christmas Party	<i>SPY HQ</i>
Tuesday	Dec. 16	7:30 a.m.	Morning Prayer	<i>Grace Chapel</i>
		8:30 a.m.	Zoom Bible Study	<i>Online</i>
		10:30 a.m.	The Guild	<i>Undercroft</i>
Wednesday	Dec. 17	7:30 a.m.	Rector's Bible Study	<i>Elliot Room</i>
		5:30 p.m.	"Blue Christmas" Holy Eucharist	<i>Grace Chapel</i>
Thursday	Dec. 18	7:30 a.m.	Morning Prayer	<i>Grace Chapel</i>
		10:00 a.m.	Centering Prayer	<i>Grace Chapel</i>
		5:15 p.m.	Probationers Rehearsal	<i>Choir Room</i>
		6:00 p.m.	Choristers Rehearsal	<i>Choir Room</i>
		7:15 p.m.	Choir Rehearsal	<i>Choir Room</i>
Friday	Dec. 19	8:00 a.m.	A.A.	<i>Classroom</i>
Sunday	Dec. 21	The Fourth Sunday of Advent		
		8:00 a.m.	Holy Eucharist	
		8:45 a.m.	Parish Breakfast	
		9:00 a.m.	Nursery Care Opens	<i>Little Building</i>
		9:15 a.m.	Rector's Forum	<i>Undercroft</i>
		10:15 a.m.	Children's Chapel	<i>Grace Chapel</i>
		10:30 a.m.	Holy Eucharist	
			Sunday School	<i>Classrooms</i>
		11:30 a.m.	Coffee Hour	
		5:00 p.m.	St. Peter's Youth Group	<i>SPY HQ</i>

WELCOME TO ST. PETER'S

If you are visiting St. Peter's, we would love to share more information with you about our shared life and ministry! Please take a red welcome bag on your way out the door. In it you'll find information about our worship, formation, and fellowship opportunities as well as information for families. You can also scan the QR codes below to get connected with us and learn more.



New Visitor Form



Give Online



News & Events

THE PARISH STAFF

The Rev. David Hodges, *Rector*
The Rev. Dr. Nathan Haydon, *Associate Rector*
The Rev. Zack Rugenstone, *Youth and Young Adult Minister*
The Rev. Luke Jernagan, *Assisting Priest*
The Rev. Jay Kanzler, *Assisting Priest*
The Rev. Susie Skinner, *Assisting Priest*
The Rev. Valerie Patton, *Assisting Deacon*
Dr. Isaac Arten, *Theologian in Residence*
David Sinden, *Organist and Director of Music*
Janet Rouse, *Director of Stewardship & Parish Life*
Pam Brown, *Finance Manager*
Didi Noelker, *Director of Children & Family Ministries*
Jacquelyn VanWeelden Lewis, *Parish Coordinator*
John Auble, *Communications Director*
Mallory McClelland, *Office Assistant*
Lisa Reynolds, *Playgroup Director*
Regina Clay, *Sexton*

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THE VESTRY

Cyd Alloway, Peter Boumgarden, Barbara Brinkman (*Secretary, ex officio*),
Margaret Carmichael, Clark Davis, Amy Hilmer, Rich Huck (*Senior Warden*),
Noelle Miles, Tim Noelker, Logan O'Connor, Michael Orlowski,
William Schoenecker, Traci Scudi, Matt Sokolich, and Ann Sutter Spann (*Junior Warden*)



ST. PETER'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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