



THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF ST. PETER'S IN ESSEX FELLS

# The Messenger

271 Roseland Avenue, Essex Fells, NJ 07021 • 973.226.6500 • stpetersef.org

DECEMBER 2024

FROM THE RECTOR

## 'Waiting for the Miracle'

Dear St. Peter's Family,

THIS PAST SUNDAY, I taught the first class for our 2025 Confirmation candidates. At the end, I walked them through the Nave to show them how all the different parts of the Church contribute to our work we call "liturgy." One of the candidates asked a seemingly simple, yet profound question, "Why do we use different words for things?" I told the class that everything we say and do during worship is intentionally odd to remind us that we are a community unlike any other we find in the world. So, we say odd things like, "The Lord be with you." We wear odd things like acolyte robes. We eat odd things like a tiny bit of bread and a sip of wine. In the words of our faith, we are a holy community that says and does holy things as an expression of our love for our God of holiness.



Our Church *Kalendar* reflects this truth, which is why it's traditionally spelled with a "k." The holy year doesn't begin on January 1, but on the first day of Advent. This time around, it's December 1. Of all the major seasons of the liturgical year, Advent is the only one with a triple focus. Easter is all about resurrection. For Pentecost, it's the Holy Spirit. But Advent is about arrival, or more accurately, arrivals. Here we ponder Jesus' first advent in the Incarnation of the Nativity. It's a time to pause and prepare ourselves for the joy Christmastide will bring. This requires us to wait, and as a profound sage once said, "the waiting is the hardest part." When we bust out our Advent calendars, it reminds us we have 25 long days until Christmas. Of course, we're excited about trees, treats, and presents, but we all know it is much more than that. What we are most looking forward to is celebrating Christ's birth together with our families and this parish family. And this anticipation is palpable.

Advent is also when we prepare ourselves for Jesus' second arrival. For the better part of 2000 years, the Church has debated the meaning of our Lord's return. But we must always connect it to his first coming, so it's really about one thing—joy. When Jesus arrived into the world, he transformed it and made it good once again. When he arrives again, he will complete this perfection of all of creation. So, Advent brings rebirth. For you. For me. For every quark of the universe. But here's the thing—those are the big "a" Advents. In the meantime, Jesus doesn't leave us on our own. By the Holy Spirit, Christ is present in us and in those we see in our daily lives. So, he is already here with an open invitation to become new again. And this is nothing short of a miracle.

*I wish you all a blessed Advent and a joyful Christmastide,*  
Nate

## STEWARDSHIP 2025

### **Walk in Love**

This year's theme is *Walk in Love*, taken from the Letter to the Ephesians: "Walk in love as Christ has loved us and gave himself for us, and offering and sacrifice to God" (Ephesians 5:2).



Our budget for 2025 is \$430,000. *Can we count on you?* You can pledge online here: <https://stpetersef.org/donate/pledge-form/> —our budget includes these commitments:

- *Staff Compensation*
- *Family Ministries, including St. Peter's Youth Program (SPY)*
- *Worship and Music, including new Acolyte vestments, Choir, and more*
- *Parish Utilities and Maintenance of the Church Campus*
- *Special Events, including the VolunPEER Presentation and educational refreshment*
- *Support for the Episcopal Diocese of Newark*
- *And much more!*

We are truly walking in love when we give offerings and sacrifices to God through St. Peter's Church. And when we give offerings and sacrifices to God through St. Peter's, we will grow together in love more than we could ever possibly imagine. Contact a member of the Vestry or Father Nate to find out more about how you can *Walk in Love* at St. Peter's.

## ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS

### **Advent Lessons and Carols**

#### **Sunday, December 15 at 4 pm**

Join us for our annual Advent Lessons and Carols Service, Sunday, December 15 at 4 pm. Lessons and Carols was developed by Dean Eric Milner-White for King's College Cambridge, England at the end of the First World War. He wrote: "The main theme is the development of the loving purposes of God ... seen through the windows and the words of the Bible." The service will be followed by a Dessert Reception in the Upper Room—*please let the Parish Office know if you can contribute to the reception* ([info@stpetersef.org](mailto:info@stpetersef.org)). The Parish Choir will present music by Melissa Dunphy, Stanley Glarum, André Thomas, and more. Everyone is welcome—invite a friend to this festive community event!



### **Nativity Pageant**

Calling all children interested in participating in this year's Nativity Pageant! The rehearsal will be on Saturday, December 21 from 9:30-11:30. Snacks will be provided, and a pizza lunch will follow. The Nativity Pageant will be present the Christmas Gospel story at the Christmas Eve 4 o'clock service. There is enough room for all our children from different ages, abilities and talents. Please encourage your child to participate. Copies of the pageant are available for children and parents. The children will also learn a special song for Christmas. To find out more, reach to Laura Copeland ([laura.n.copeland@gmail.com](mailto:laura.n.copeland@gmail.com)), Beth Manfre ([Bethmanfre@gmail.com](mailto:Bethmanfre@gmail.com)), or Mark Trautman ([trautman@stpetersef.org](mailto:trautman@stpetersef.org)).



## ADVENT REFRESHMENT

### **An Advent Blessing with Br. Ephrem**

Join us at 11:30 am on Sunday, December 15 in the Upper Room as we welcome Brother. Ephrem Archement from Holy Cross Monastery for *The Wonder of the Incarnation: Discovering the Radical Nearness of God in our Daily Lives*.

Brother Ephrem Arcement, OHC holds a PhD in Spirituality from The Catholic University of America. He is the author of three books: *Intimacy of Prayer: Wisdom from Bernard of Clairvaux*; *In the School of Prophets: The Formation of Thomas Merton's Prophetic Spirituality*; and *The Shape of the Church: The Seven Dimension of Ecclesial Wholeness*. He is an experienced retreat leader and visiting lecturer.

Brother Ephrem brings years of experience to his retreat ministry and has a particular interest in helping make the vitality of the Christian spiritual tradition understood and made accessible to all who are interested in deepening their spiritual lives. To RSVP and for more information, email [spm.peters@gmail.com](mailto:spm.peters@gmail.com) or the Parish Office at [info@stpetersef.org](mailto:info@stpetersef.org). *Everyone is welcome!*

SAINT PETER'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH  
ESSEX FELLS, NEW JERSEY

## AN ADVENT BLESSING

*The Wonder of the Incarnation: Discovering the Radical Nearness of God in our Daily Lives*

with Brother Ephrem Arcement, OHC  
from Holy Cross Monastery, New York

On: December 15,  
at 11:30 am,  
following fellowship,  
in the "Upper Room"

At: St Peter's  
Episcopal Church,  
271 Roseland Ave.,  
Essex Fells, NJ  
\*Parking is available  
behind the church  
All are Welcome!

About Brother Ephrem:  
Brother Ephrem Arcement, OHC holds a PhD in Spirituality from The Catholic University of America. He is the author of three books: *Intimacy of Prayer: Wisdom from Bernard of Clairvaux*; *In the School of Prophets: The Formation of Thomas Merton's Prophetic Spirituality*; and *The Shape of the Church: The Seven Dimension of Ecclesial Wholeness*. He is an experienced retreat leader and visiting lecturer.

Brother Ephrem brings years of experience to his retreat ministry and has a particular interest in helping make the vitality of the Christian spiritual tradition understood and made accessible to all who are interested in deepening their spiritual lives.

† As space is limited, kindly RSVP Eloise for registration confirmation at [spm.peters@gmail.com](mailto:spm.peters@gmail.com)

## ADVENT AND FAMILIES

### **Cookie Exchange: December 2**

Care and Connect invites you to a holiday cookie exchange. Bring a plate of 3-4 dozen cookies to share along with an empty container to take your cookies home. RSVP to Christine Doyle (301-802-7878, [doyle531@hotmail.com](mailto:doyle531@hotmail.com)),—light snacks and beverages will be provided.

### **Advent Celebration for All: December 8**

Join us for coffee hour after the 10 am mass on December 8 to make ornaments to help decorate the St. Peter's Christmas tree in the church narthex.

Each family can also make an Advent wreath to take home (suggested \$10 donation for supplies). This celebration is for folks of all ages!

*How to help:* Coffee hour will be hosted by SPY (St. Peter's Youth) and do bring a snack to share! We need help collecting greens for our Advent wreaths so if you have a few pine trees or holly bushes in your yard, please do a little pruning and bring the greens to church. There will be a bucket on the porch outside the Upper Room for the greens. Email the Parish Office ([info@stpetersef.org](mailto:info@stpetersef.org)) if you are planning to bring greens.

### **The Center for Family Services**

While this is a wonderful time for most, there are many that find this time a challenge. The children from *The Center for Family Services/The Patch* (ranging from birth to 21) and their parents/caregivers are involved in receiving counseling and services to strengthen the family and make them more independent. The children from the Patch program are kids that have

Cookie  
EXCHANGE

December 2nd 7:00 - 8:30 pm

Care & Connect would like to invite you to a holiday cookie exchange

Upper Room

Please bring a plate of 3-4 dozen cookies to share along with an empty container to take your cookies home.

RSVP to Christina Doyle  
[doyle531@hotmail.com](mailto:doyle531@hotmail.com)  
301-802-7878  
Light snacks and beverages provided

at least one incarcerated parent. You can help to make the holidays a little bit better by providing them with a gift. All gifts must be delivered to church by Sunday, December. 15. Contact Christine DiGiovanni (973-618-9345) for information. Thanks in advance for your kindness and generosity!

## MUSIC IN ADVENT

Advent means “coming” or “arrival.” This four-week preparation for Christmas is an anticipation of the feast of Jesus’ birth and a reminder that Christ will come again in great power and glory to judge both the living and the dead.

During the season, blue hangings are used the first, second, and fourth Sundays. The Third Sunday of Advent is called *Gaudete* Sunday, a day of celebration that marks the shift in emphasis from “The Lord is coming” to “The Lord is near,” and rose vestments are worn by the clergy. The *Gloria in excelsis* is replaced by the *Kyrie* and the liturgy begins with the penitential order (BCP page 351).



The preparation for the choral Eucharist begins with a *voluntary*—an Anglican term for *prelude*. It is said that an organ prelude serves to remind us that we are in church, getting ready to pray. Most organists play works based on chorales or hymn tunes for services, which helps to provide a musical invitation to congregational song in the service.

On the First Sunday of Advent, the voluntary will be Johann Sebastian Bach’s well known setting of *Wachet auf! ruft uns die Stimme* (*Wake up! a voice is calling*), and we will sing the hymn, ‘*Sleepers, wake!*’ *A voice astounds us* (*The Hymnal 1982, 61*).

On the Second Sunday of Advent, the voluntary will be another of Bach’s works, *Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland* (*Now come, Savior of the Nations*), and we will sing the hymn *Savior of the nations, come!* (*The Hymnal 1982, 54*). This hymn is well known through many transcriptions, including one for piano by the 19th century composer Ferruccio Busoni.

On the Third Sunday of Advent, the men of the choir will sing the Advent prose *Rorate caeli desuper* (*Drop down, heavens from above*), a paraphrase of Isaiah 45:8: “Shower, O heavens, from above, and let the skies rain down righteousness.” The voluntary will be a prelude based on that tune by the 20th century French composer Jeanne Demessieux.

On the Fourth Sunday of Lent, the voluntary will be *Fuga sopra il Magnificat*, a setting long thought to be by Bach, but likely composed by his pupil Johann Ludwig Krebs.

The Parish Choir will sing a traditional Introit at the beginning of each Advent Sunday as the Advent wreath is lit. *Introit* comes from the old beginning of the Eucharist: *Introibo ad altare Dei* (“I will go to the altar of God,” Psalm 43:4), and the text traditionally includes a Psalm verse and the *Gloria Patri* (see BCP page 141).

Music in church—like candles, flowers, and vestments—helps to remind us that we are in the presence of the holy and the sacred. I hope the music in this Advent season brings us all closer to the holy mysteries we celebrate with great joy every Sunday. —Mark Trautman

## Christmas Flowers and Music

Special flowers and music adorn our worship, especially at Christmas. If you wish to write a check, please mark “Flowers” or “Music” in the memo line. Please let the Parish Office know if you are giving your gift in thanksgiving or in memory of loved ones, and clearly print or type each name or intention. Send names to [info@stpetersef.org](mailto:info@stpetersef.org) or send via regular mail to the Parish Office. **Please make sure to deliver your gift and names to the Parish Office no later than Friday, December 20.**

Poinsettias, greens, and special music are cherished traditions at St. Peter's and remind us of the joy of the birth of Jesus. Gifts to the Music Fund will fund a string quartet for the late Christmas eve service. *Thank you for your generosity!*

## **CHRISTIAN FORMATION**

### **WELCOME TO THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH:**

#### *Confirmation and Reception*

If your child is interested in being Confirmed, it is time to register them for Confirmation classes today. Adult Confirmation instruction is also available. You can download the form here: <https://stpetersef.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/11/ConfirmationForm.pdf>. If you are an adult who is interested in being Received into the Episcopal Church, let Father Nate know today! For more information, please contact Father Nate at [darville@stpetersef.org](mailto:darville@stpetersef.org). *Please pray for all those who are preparing for Confirmation or Reception.*

#### *Sunday School*

Help our children live into the season of Advent and get ready to enter the Mystery of Christmas together by making a point of attending church and Sunday School. Taking time during Advent can be so good for the soul! Classes begin at 10 am on Sunday, December 15 and 22—children join their parents at The Peace. Children will be in church on Sunday, December 1, 8, and 29. Find out more at <https://stpetersef.org/christian-education/>

#### *Family Worship, December 8*

We are looking for three readers, two ushers, and two young people to carry the elements at the offertory. This ministry is a vital part of our worship on Sunday, and a wonderful opportunity for youth to be a part of our liturgical leadership. If you can serve, please email Dana Leach at [leach@stpetersef.org](mailto:leach@stpetersef.org), and please plan to arrive early that day. Readings are always available ahead of time online at <https://www.lectionarypage.net> and service bulletins may be found on our website at <https://stpetersef.org/sermons/>.

#### *Newly Baptized*

Congratulations to Florence Rose, daughter of Lindsay and Connor Thompson, newly baptized on Christ the King Sunday into Christ's one, holy catholic and apostolic Church.



## **NEWS FROM 'CARE & CONNECT'**

**Contact Dana Leach ([leach@stpetersef.org](mailto:leach@stpetersef.org), 201-694-6543)**

### *Wednesdays Away, December 4 at CrossRoads*

Wednesdays Away on December 4 is: "Holy Darkness, Holy Light: Advent has dawned! The journey of darkness to light is upon us. You are invited into the havens of quiet and stillness as we begin this season of Advent." Time is 9 am-3 pm, cost is \$50, and it is open to all. More at <https://www.crossroadsretreat.com/wednesdays-away/>. This is a lovely way to enter the spirit of Advent.

*Prayer Circle: Second and Fourth Sundays*

Our next gathering will be Sunday, December 8, immediately after the 10 am mass in All Saints' Chapel. This is a brief continuation in prayer as we focus our prayers for ourselves and others both aloud and quietly in our hearts and minds. If you have anyone or anything specific you would like us to name aloud please either come and voice those prayers, reach out to Dana Leach.

*Occasional Meal Ministry*

Occasionally a parishioner needs a light meal to get through a tough time. Just a quart of soup or simple meal to lighten their load for a day or two. We are developing a list of people who might have an extra quart of soup in their freezer or a little free time to put together a light meal. This is an easy commitment—pitch in as you are able. Reach out to Dana Leach.

*St. Peter's Youth Spaghetti Dinner and Fundraiser*

Thanks to all who helped make this SPY event a wonderful success! We raised \$280 and had a great evening of fun and fellowship!



## IN THE WIDER COMMUNITY

### St. Peter's OpShop

Come and see our latest displays for the Christmas holiday season and do your shopping with us! We offer quality clothing, accessories, jewelry, home goods, vintage collectibles, art, books and small furniture—all at incredibly low prices!

Volunteers staff this not-for-profit thrift shop founded in 1943 to provide gently used quality clothing for those in need. The Op Shop offers clothing, but art, small furniture, home goods and vintage collectibles are available. Proceeds from sales support community outreach programs as well as a significant donation to the St. Peter's Church budget and Rector's Discretionary Fund.

The OpShop at St. Peter's Church is open seasonally from mid-September until the end of May each year. Proceeds from OpShop sales support a variety of community outreach programs. Cash or check only: <https://www.facebook.com/TheOpShop>



### St. Peter's Nursery School

Mark your calendars for a tasty way to support St. Peter's Nursery School! On Monday, December 2, from 4-8 pm, head to Panera in West Caldwell (804 Bloomfield Avenue) for our *Dine Out Fundraiser*. Thirty percent of proceeds will benefit St. Peter's Nursery School when you use the code FUND4U:

✔ *At online checkout* ✔ *In the Panera App* ✔ *Or at the kiosk in-café*

Share this with friends and family—it's a great excuse for dinner out/take out while giving back to our school community!

Visit our website at [www.stpetersnurseryschool.com](http://www.stpetersnurseryschool.com), or contact director Jacquelyn Albietz at [stpeterssexfelsns@gmail.com](mailto:stpeterssexfelsns@gmail.com).

### ANNUAL PARISH MEETING—Sunday, January 19, 2025

The Annual Meeting of St. Peter's Church will be Sunday, January 19, 2025, following the 10 am Eucharist. Come cast your vote for your Warden, Vestry Members, and Diocesan Convention delegates. Those elected to the Vestry, and those elected to represent the parish in Diocesan capacities are expected to be faithful in their attendance at worship and to set an example in stewardship.

***The Episcopal Church defines the qualifications of votes and officers to be elected:***

- The voters shall be baptized, at least 16 years of age, domiciled in the Parish, of good moral character, adhering to this Church and to no other religious body, regular attendants at the services of the Church in said Parish, meaning thereby those who are more frequently present than absent, and regular contributors to the current expenses of the Parish in the manner prescribed by the Vestry.
- The qualified voters shall elect such officers who shall be communicants in good standing. The term "communicant" shall be taken to mean a person who has been confirmed by a Bishop of this Church or by a Bishop of a Church in communion with this Church or has been received into this Church by a Bishop of this Church, and who shall have received the Holy Communion at least once during the preceding year.

## **ANNUAL REPORT**

Each person in charge a committee or program should prepare a written report about the ministry and activities of your group or committee.

Financial reports are due, including receipts—opening balance, receipts, (list categories, not single items), total receipts, balance and total. Disbursements (list categories, not single items), total disbursements, year’s closing balance disbursements, and closing balance.

Treasurers must include reports of monies in all saving accounts using the same information above.

Many thanks in advance for your continued leadership, cooperation, and timeliness.

***All submissions for the Annual Report are due in the Parish Office by Monday, January 13, 2025; email to [info@stpetersef.org](mailto:info@stpetersef.org).***



## **VESTRY NOMINATING COMMITTEE**

POSITIONS OPEN INCLUDE:

- *Six Vestry position: one for warden, two for two-year terms; three for three-year terms*
- *Three delegates to Diocesan Convention*
- *Three alternates to Diocesan Convention*

## **CALLED TO SERVICE: VESTRY**

### ***What does the Vestry do?***

It is the legal governing body of the parish, the “board of trustees.” With the rector as its leader, it sets policy and goals and oversees the finances and property. In addition, it has another equally important role: providing leadership to implement the ministries that serve the parish and the wider community. The Vestry actively supports the work and ministry of the parish



**Who can run for Vestry?**

Any baptized member of the Episcopal Church who has been a member of St. Peter’s in good standing for at least one year, is at least 16 years old, makes a regular financial contribution to the parish, and worships regularly at St. Peter’s.

**Is there an expected time commitment?**

Yes. A standard term is three years. The Vestry meets once each month. And, because every vestry member’s voice counts, our goal is for members to allow no more than three unexcused absences from regular meetings in a year.

**What do we look for in a vestry member?**

Someone who is involved in some parish ministry, and preferably (but not necessarily) has shown some leadership ability. They should keep informed about the parish and be willing to contribute to working out solutions to issues that arise. Every Vestry member should work respectfully with other members and participate in discerning the parish’s vision and encouraging its ministries. The Vestry affords people the opportunity to share a variety of their own gifts and talents.

**How are Vestry members chosen?**

Candidates are nominated by the Nominating Committee, whose recommendation must be approved by the Vestry, and they are elected at the annual meeting.

**How does the Nominating Committee work?**

It accepts suggestions from parishioners, discusses possible candidates, decides who it thinks should be nominated, makes sure people are willing to run, and presents a proposed slate to the Vestry. The approved nominees are then announced to the parish.

**How do I nominate someone?**

You may complete and give this form to Fr. Nate or a member of the Nominating Committee, or put it in the alms basin, or send it to the Parish Office. ([info@stpetersef.org](mailto:info@stpetersef.org)) You may nominate yourself or someone else.

**Here are my suggestions for Vestry and/or Diocesan Convention:**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

**I recommend the following person(s) for:**

Vestry \_\_\_\_\_

Diocesan Convention \_\_\_\_\_

*Please make sure each nominee is willing to be considered. Deadline for nominations is January 6, 2025.*



**CHRISTMAS SERVICES**

**December 24, Nativity Pageant and Eucharist, 4 pm**

**December 24, Festal Choral Eucharist at 11 pm**

**December 25, Christmas Day Eucharist at 10 am**

**December 29, First Sunday after Christmas, 10 am**

**January 5, 2025, Second Sunday after Christmas, 8 am, 10 am, 4 pm**

## DECEMBER 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 <b>Advent 1</b> HE, 8 am, 4 pm, Chapel 10 am, Church (Children remain in church)	2 Cookie Swap	3 NS Board, 7:30 pm	4 Handbell Choir, 7 pm	5 OpShop, 11 am-2 pm Parish Choir, 7:30 pm	6	7 Altar Guild, 10 am OpShop, 10 am-2 pm
8 <b>Advent 2</b> HE, 8 am, 4 pm, Chapel 10 am, Church <b>Advent Event after 10 am service</b>	9	10 Vestry, 7 pm	11 Handbell Choir, 7 pm	12 OpShop, 11 am-2 pm Parish Choir, 7:30 pm	13	14 Altar Guild, 10 am OpShop, 10 am-2 pm
15 <b>Advent 3</b> HE, 8 am, 10 am 11:30, Advent Program 4 pm, Lessons & Carols	16	17	18 Handbell Choir, 7 pm	19 OpShop, 11 am-2 pm Parish Choir, 7:30 pm	20 <b>Flowers and Music gifts due</b>	21 <b>St. Thomas</b> Altar Guild, 10 am OpShop, 10 am-2 pm Nativity Pageant Rehearsal, 9:30-11:30 am
22 <b>Advent 4</b> HE, 8 am, 4pm, Chapel 10 am, Church	23 <i>NS Closed all week</i>	24 <b>Christmas Eve</b> Eucharist and Pageant, 4 pm Festal Choral Eucharist, 10 pm	25 <b>Christmas Day</b> Eucharist with carols, 10 am  <i>Parish Office closed until 12/30</i>	26 <b>St. Stephen</b>	27 <b>St. John the Evangelist</b>	28 <b>The Holy Innocents</b> Altar Guild, 10 am OpShop, 10 am-2 pm
29 <b>Christmas 1</b> Eucharist with carols, 10 am (Children remain in church)	30	31	1 January <b>The Holy Name of Our Lord Jesus Christ</b>	2 January OpShop, 11 am-2 pm Parish Choir, 7:30 pm	3 January	4 January Altar Guild, 10 am OpShop, 10 am-2 pm

# JANUARY 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 <b>The Holy Name of Our Lord Jesus Christ</b> Handbell Choir, 7 pm	2 OpShop, 11 am-2 pm Parish Choir, 7:30 pm	3	4 Altar Guild, 10 am OpShop, 10 am-2 pm
5 <b>Christmas 2</b> HE, 8 am, 4pm, Chapel 10 am, Church SPY Event	6 <b>The Epiphany of Our Lord Jesus Christ</b>	7	8 Handbell Choir, 7 pm	9 OpShop, 11 am-2 pm Parish Choir, 7:30 pm	10 SPY Lock-in	11 Altar Guild, 10 am OpShop, 10 am-2 pm
12 <b>1 Epiphany: Baptism of Our Lord</b> HE, 8 am, 10 am, 4 pm Care-Connect, 11:15	13 <b>Annual Reports due</b>	14	15 Handbell Choir, 7 pm	16 OpShop, 11 am-2 pm Parish Choir, 7:30 pm	17	18 Altar Guild, 10 am OpShop, 10 am-2 pm
19 <b>Confession of St. Peter (tr.)</b> HE, 8 am, 4pm, Chapel 10 am, Church <b>Annual Meeting</b>	20 <b>Martin Luther King Jr. Day</b> Office Closed	21 Diocese of Newark 150th Anniversary Speaker Series	22 Handbell Choir, 7 pm	23 OpShop, 11 am-2 pm Parish Choir, 7:30 pm	24	25 <b>Conversion of St. Paul</b> Altar Guild, 10 am OpShop, 10 am-2 pm
26 <b>3 Epiphany</b> HE, 8 am, 4pm, Chapel 10 am, Church Care-Connect, 11:15	27	28 Diocese of Newark 150th Anniversary Speaker Series	29 Handbell Choir, 7 pm	30 OpShop, 11 am-2 pm Parish Choir, 7:30 pm	31	

## How to Make Your Pledge Commitment Online for 2025

- Go to the <https://stpetersef.org/donate/pledge-form/>
- Donate > Pledge Form
- Complete the form
- Click 'Pledge' button



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### STAY CONNECTED!

Webpage: [www.stpetersef.org](http://www.stpetersef.org)

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/St.PetersEssexFells>

OpShop Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/TheOpShop>

OpShop Instagram: [@opshopstpeters](https://www.instagram.com/opshopstpeters)

The next deadline for the monthly *Messenger* will be December 30. Please feel free to email news and events to [info@stpetersef.org](mailto:info@stpetersef.org)

### ST. PETER'S STAFF

The Rev. Nathaniel Darville, *Rector*, [darville@stpetersef.org](mailto:darville@stpetersef.org)

Mark A. Trautman, *Director of Music and Administrator*, [trautman@stpetersef.org](mailto:trautman@stpetersef.org)

Dana Leach, *Care and Connect*, [leach@stpetersef.org](mailto:leach@stpetersef.org)

DJ Elmore, *Bookkeeper*, [bookkeeper.stpeters@gmail.com](mailto:bookkeeper.stpeters@gmail.com)

Toby West, *Property Manager*, [twest.stpeters@gmail.com](mailto:twest.stpeters@gmail.com)

### THE VESTRY OF ST. PETER'S CHURCH

Mary Shearin and Wayne Copeland, *Wardens*

Valerie Felix, Jim Irwin, Christine Albano, Eloise Monzillo Hiris, David Cowell, Kurt

Vonderahe, *Vestry Members*

### LITURGY LEADERS

**Altar Guild:** Alice Samuels, [inkyretired@aol.com](mailto:inkyretired@aol.com), Karen Mosher, [looker-mosher@msn.com](mailto:looker-mosher@msn.com)

**Acolytes:** Christine DiGiovanni, [adigio1552@aol.com](mailto:adigio1552@aol.com)

**Lectors:** Kathleen McLaughlin, [kathleenmcl27@gmail.com](mailto:kathleenmcl27@gmail.com)

**Ushers:** Wayne Copeland, [waynecopeland@keyconsult.com](mailto:waynecopeland@keyconsult.com)

**Chalicists:** Father Nate Darville, [darville@stpetersef.org](mailto:darville@stpetersef.org)

**Music Program:** Mark A. Trautman, [trautman@stpetersef.org](mailto:trautman@stpetersef.org)

### OUTREACH MINISTRIES

**St. Peter's Opportunity Shop:** Stephanie Kent and Dawn Ruggiero, 973-226-0337

**David St. George Outreach Fund:** Erika Grothues, [davidstgeorge.committee@gmail.com](mailto:davidstgeorge.committee@gmail.com)

**Vacation Bible School:** Jack and Sarah Latson, [spfvbs@gmail.com](mailto:spfvbs@gmail.com)

**St. Peter's Nursery School:** Jacqueline Albietz, [stpetersessexfellsns@gmail.com](mailto:stpetersessexfellsns@gmail.com).

### EPISCOPAL LEADERSHIP

The Most Reverend Sean Rowe, *XXVIII Presiding Bishop and Primate of The Episcopal Church*

The Right Reverend Carlye J. Hughes, *XI Bishop of Newark*

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