



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

# The Messenger

271 Roseland Avenue, Essex Fells, NJ 07021 • 973.226.6500 • [stpetersef.org](http://stpetersef.org)

A P R I L 2 0 2 5

## Holy Week and Easter

HOLY WEEK BEGINS ON PALM SUNDAY, April 13. Known as the *Sunday of the Passion* (from the Latin *passio*, “suffering” or “afflicted”), it is also the Sixth Sunday in Lent. For many of us, Lent has been a time of looking back, taking stock, making confession, and pondering what might have been. While we tend to walk alone in our Lenten journey, our perspective in Holy Week is different. We lift our eyes and become transfixed upon a towel and basin, a borrowed cross, and an empty tomb—life-giving pictures of our redemption in Christ. In Holy Week, we walk the walk as a community.



On **MAUNDY THURSDAY** evening we begin the *Triduum*, the three-days’ space that continues through the Great Vigil of Easter on Holy Saturday evening. In these three days we recall Christ’s suffering, death, and resurrection. Through Christ we are saved and made free. These are “paschal” services—we remember the death and resurrection of Jesus, who is always risen, always present and always loves us through each of these three days’ celebration.

The traditional English name for this day is Maundy Thursday. “Maundy” comes from the Latin word *mandatum*, which means “commandment.” There are two traditional associations on this day: the institution of the Holy Eucharist and the command of our Lord to wash each other’s feet (John 13:4-5). The foot-washing ceremony is an ancient practice of the church meant to remind us of our duty to love and serve one another and the world. Jesus taught that strength and growth in the life of the Kingdom of God comes not by power, authority, or even miracles, but by such lowly service. After the communion, the altar is stripped of all cloths and ornaments, and the clergy of stoles just as Christ was stripped of his garments. The remaining sacrament is removed from the church and kept in reserve for Good Friday. The Eucharist will not be celebrated again until the Great Vigil of Easter on Saturday night. The service has no dismissal; rather, the church continues to watch and pray throughout the Triduum.

**GOOD FRIDAY** is the middle of the Triduum. The name “Good” refers to the old understanding of the word as “pious” or “holy.” Today is also known as “Holy Friday” or “Great Friday.” The Eucharist is not celebrated on this day. The Passion Narrative from the Gospel of John has been read at Good Friday services for centuries. It is customary for the congregation to take part in reading the Passion narrative, so that all may enter into the solemnity of the account of our Lord’s suffering and death. The Solemn Collects (BCP, page 277) are based on an ancient form of intercession used since the third century. The initial invitation begins with a paraphrase of John 3:16-18. It is said that this series of collects forms a comprehensive summary of the whole prayer of the Church for the fulfillment of Christ’s redemptive work.

**THE GREAT VIGIL OF EASTER** is observed on Holy Saturday evening. The service culminates in the first Eucharist of Easter when we proclaim and celebrate Christ’s victory

over death. The Vigil begins with the lighting of the New Fire. In the Old Testament, God chose fire as a sign of his presence, including the burning bush at Mount Sinai and the pillar of fire in the desert. The kindling of the new fire is, therefore, a vivid image of Christ among us. The paschal candle is lit, and then each person's candle is lit from this same flame. The great song *Exsultet* is then proclaimed. We listen to readings reminding us of God's work of redemption. Baptism and renewal of baptismal vows lead to the threefold proclamation: "Alleluia. Christ is risen. The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia." The church is filled with light as the *Gloria in excelsis* is sung and this year the resurrection story from the Gospel of Luke is read. The Vigil comes to its climax with the Holy Eucharist. Through baptism we are made sharers in the saving death and resurrection of Christ. As baptized members of Christ, we celebrate the Eucharist, the holy meal to which Christ invites his people.

We invite you to join us on the journey to the fullness of joy in knowing the resurrected Jesus, who is always with us. Come and experience the fullness of joy and the pledge of new life this Holy Week and Easter at St. Peter's

—Mark Trautman

## HOLY WEEK AND EASTER 2025

### PALM SUNDAY, APRIL 13

8 am and 4 pm, Eucharist  
10 am, Palm Procession, Choral Eucharist

### WEDNESDAY, APRIL 16

7 pm, The Office of Tenebrae  
*Chanted by the Parish Choir*

### MAUNDY THURSDAY, APRIL 17

7 pm, Choral Eucharist  
with Foot washing Ceremony

### GOOD FRIDAY, APRIL 18

12 noon, Outdoor Stations of the Cross  
7 pm, Liturgy of the Day & Communion

### HOLY SATURDAY, APRIL 19

7 pm, The Great Vigil of Easter

### EASTER DAY, APRIL 20

9 am, Family Eucharist with music  
*Easter egg hunt follows*  
11 am, Festal Choral Eucharist,  
*Choir and orchestra*

## 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).

The results include 6 new pledges, 24 increased pledges, and 31 at the same level. Three pledges decreased. The average pledge is \$2,884. You can pledge online here: <https://stpetersef.org/donate/pledge-form/> Contact a member of the Vestry or Father Nate to find out more about how you can *Walk in Love* at St. Peter's.



## ***Easter Flowers and Music***

*EASTER DAY IS APRIL 20, 2025*

Flowers and music regularly adorn our worship, especially at Easter, the holiest day of the Christian Year. They remind us visually and aurally that we are here for a celebration of the wonder and glory of God—we're here for a feast!

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. The names may be sent to the Parish Office or emailed to [info@stpetersef.org](mailto:info@stpetersef.org). Please make sure to deliver your gift and names no later than Monday, April 14.

Easter lilies and other beautiful plants are cherished traditions at St. Peter's and remind us of the new life and promise of the resurrection. Gifts to the Music Fund will help us provide a string ensemble for Easter Day.

The flowers and music help the entire community celebrate the joy of the Great Fifty Days of Easter which begins on Easter morning. The feast is foretaste of the Easter promise, where the song of "Alleluia" never ceases.

—Mark Trautman



## ***Altar Guild Invitations for you to consider...***

### *SUNDAY FLOWERS*

Do you wish to honor or recognize a loved one? A lovely way is to sponsor the Sunday Altar Flowers. Prominently placed next to the altar for Sunday services, names are listed in the weekly worship bulletin and *Life at St. Peter's* and included in the Prayers of the People. Many Sundays are available—contact the Parish Office ([info@stpetersef.org](mailto:info@stpetersef.org)) to reserve a Sunday or for more information. Weekly flowers are only \$50. Please indicate *flowers* on the memo line.

### *Altar Guild Welcomes You!*

Looking for a way to serve St. Peter's that is do-able and rewarding and doesn't take a lot of time? *How about considering Altar Guild?* Altar Guild is a quiet ministry of the church, but this quiet ministry offers a big contribution. Consider this:

- Membership in Altar Guild offers flexibility in time commitment;
- Membership in Altar Guild is an avenue to introduce young people to stewardship at St. Peter's;
- Membership in Altar Guild can be your introduction to church ministry.



*Everyone is welcome to join Altar Guild!* For more information, contact Alice Samuels ([inkyretired@aol.com](mailto:inkyretired@aol.com)) or Karen Mosher ([looker-mosher@msn.com](mailto:looker-mosher@msn.com)), or the Parish Office at [info@stpetersef.org](mailto:info@stpetersef.org).

## ***Mothering Sunday***

The Fourth Sunday in Lent has been called Laetare Sunday since medieval times. It is also known as Mothering Sunday and Refreshment Sunday. It marks a mid-way point between the penitential emphasis of Lent; after today, the prayers and readings point toward Christ's entry into Jerusalem and His crucifixion. It is a moment in season in which we are invited to ease our Lenten discipline for a day and refresh ourselves through feasting and resting. ***Thanks to Jill and Rick Hanifan for hosting and providing delicious treats, including the traditional simnel cake associated with this day.***



## ***God's Children Sing!***

Our Sunday School children are busily preparing a song for the 9 am mass on Easter Day. Singing is a vital part of Christian education and formation—we tend to believe what we sing; and of course there is the old saying, “those who sing pray twice.” This is a great opportunity for our children to lead our parish community in the work of worship. And take a moment to ask your young singer what Alleluia means! Contact Mark Trautman to find out more.



## **CHRISTIAN FORMATION**

Sunday, April 13 is Palm Sunday, the first day of Holy Week. The children will remain in church, and Sunday School classes will resume on May 4. The Adult Forum will take a break on Easter Day and resume on Sunday, April 27.

## **THE WORK OF MINISTRY**

### ***Care & Connect***

#### ***PRAYER CIRCLE FOR HEALING AND THANKSGIVING***

We have a lovely prayer group that meets twice monthly and is a brief extension of our Sunday morning service. We gather to focus our prayers of healing and thanksgiving for ourselves and others, both aloud and quietly in our hearts and minds. Our Prayer Circle meets immediately following the 10 am service in the All Saints' Chapel on the second and fourth Sundays of each month. There is plenty of time following our Prayer Circle to enjoy the special fellowship of coffee hour. If you are unable to come but have someone or something for which you'd like us to pray, please let me know.

#### ***CROSS ROADS RETREATS, MAY 7 AND JUNE 4***

The next two Wednesdays Away retreats at Cross Roads sound wonderful! **May 7** is *Music and Meditation*: “Music can provide a way to communicate our feelings, especially when we have no words for them. Since ancient times music has provided an international language to communicate joy, sorrow, praise, and community. We will explore and listen to a variety of music that can be paired with scripture, psalms, and the Christian community.” **June 4** is *Move Like the Wind*: “At Pentecost, the Holy Spirit is said to have come as a great wind, reminiscent of Jesus' description of the Spirit in us (John 3:8). Wind carries things away. Wind fans flames, fills sails, brings rain, makes waves, and carries seeds and pollen through the air to germinate new life. How is the Holy Spirit moving like a wind in you?” This session will be led by Laurie Matarazzo who grew up at St. Peter's and whose father was the Reverend Norman Rice, associate rector under the Reverend Harold Onderdonk in the

1960s. *Wednesdays Away* is 9 am-3 pm, cost is \$50, and it is open to all, and a lovely lunch is served. Find out more at [www.crossroadsretreat.com/wednesdays-away](http://www.crossroadsretreat.com/wednesdays-away) or reach out to me.

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

## IN THE WIDER COMMUNITY

### St. Peter's Nursery School

It's been all about dinosaurs for our 3.5s! From learning about carnivores and herbivores to digging for fossils like real paleontologists and having a special *Dino Show and Tell*, we have been busing exploring the prehistoric world.

We made dinosaur fossils and dinosaur and volcano art, read dinosaur stories, practiced number recognition, and even imagined a world where dinosaurs still lived. Safe to say, this dino unit was a roaring success!

Contact director Jacquelyn Albietz at [stpetersessexfellsns@gmail.com](mailto:stpetersessexfellsns@gmail.com) to find out more about this important ministry.



### Christine's Kitchen

With the warmer spring temperatures, we tend to see an increase in visitors seeking food at Christine's Kitchen, a free lunch program served weekly in the Guild Hall at Holy Trinity Episcopal Church in West Orange. Please consider helping us make enough lunches for our hungry friends. Ways to help are easy and fun including making sandwiches, donating food items like oranges, granola bars and bottled water, or gathering with us to organize and hand out lunches. Come for a few minutes or stay an hour, whatever time you can share is appreciated! For more information call, text, or email Jennifer Vonderahe (773-575-2325 [jcvonderahe@gmail.com](mailto:jcvonderahe@gmail.com)).

### St. Peter's OpShop

Hop into the shop this week for *Spring-tastic Savings* on apparel, home goods and everything you'll need to dress and decorate for Easter! *Come check it out!* The OpShop at St. Peter's Church is open seasonally from mid-September until the end of May each year.

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

### Street Fair

Our beloved Street Fair is back this year, Friday June 6 from 4-10 pm. Please join us in welcoming our community for this fun-filled event. There's plenty of opportunities for everyone to help with this exciting ministry, first held at St. Peter's in the early 1930s. Contact Mary Shearin ([shearchaos38@gmail.com](mailto:shearchaos38@gmail.com), 973-590-1678), sign up: [www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0C4BAAAB2AAAF4C43-54421713-saint#](http://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0C4BAAAB2AAAF4C43-54421713-saint#/)/



## APRIL 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3 <i>OpShop, 11 am-2 pm</i> <i>Parish Choir, 7:30 pm</i>	4	5 <i>Marge Vere Requiem, 11 am</i> <i>OpShop, 10 am-2 pm</i>
6 <b>Lent 5</b> <i>HE, 8 am, 4pm, Chapel</i> <i>10 am, Church Confirmation Class</i>	7 <i>AA, 7 pm</i>	8	9 <i>Handbell Choir, 7 pm</i>	10 <i>OpShop, 11 am-2 pm</i> <i>Parish Choir, 7:30 pm</i>	11	12 <i>Altar Guild, 10 am</i> <i>OpShop, 10 am-2 pm</i>
13 <b>Palm Sunday</b> <i>Palms/HE, 8 am, 10 am, 4 pm</i> <i>C&amp;C, 11:15</i>	14 <b>Monday in Holy Week</b> <i>AA, 7 pm</i>	15 <b>Tuesday in Holy Week</b>	16 <b>Wednesday in Holy Week</b> <i>Tenebrae, 7 pm</i>	<b>17—TRIDUUM</b> <b>Maundy Thursday</b> <i>OpShop, 11 am-2 pm</i> <b>Eucharist and Footwashing, 7 pm</b>	<b>18—TRIDUUM</b> <b>Good Friday</b> <b>Stations of the Cross, noon</b> <b>Liturgy, 7 pm</b>	<b>19—TRIDUUM</b> <b>Holy Saturday</b> <i>Altar Guild, 10 am</i> <i>OpShop, 10 am-2 pm</i> <b>Great Vigil, 7 pm</b>
20 <b>Easter</b> <i>HE, 9 am and 11 am, Church</i>	21 <b>Easter Monday</b> <i>AA, 7 pm</i> <b>Office Closed</b>	22 <b>Easter Tuesday</b> <b>Office Closed</b>	23 <b>Easter Wednesday</b> <b>Office Closed</b>	24 <b>Easter Thursday</b> <i>OpShop, 11 am-2 pm</i> <b>Office Closed</b>	25 <b>Easter Friday</b> <b>May Messenger Deadline</b> <b>Office Closed</b>	26 <b>Easter Saturday</b> <i>Altar Guild, 10 am</i> <i>OpShop, 10 am-2 pm</i>
27 <b>Easter</b> <i>HE 10 am, Church</i> <i>Fr. Nate away (no 8 am/4pm)</i> <i>C&amp;C, 11:15</i>	28 <b>St. Mark the Evangelist (tr)</b> <i>AA, 7 pm</i>	29	30 <i>Handbell Choir, 7 pm</i>	27 <i>OpShop, 11 am-2 pm</i> <i>Parish Choir, 7:30 pm</i>	28	29 <i>Altar Guild, 10 am</i> <i>OpShop, 10 am-2 pm</i>

## MAY 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 <b>Sts. Philip &amp; James, Apostles</b> OpShop, 11 am-2 pm Parish Choir, 7:30 pm	2	3 Altar Guild, 10 am OpShop, 10 am-2 pm
4 <b>Easter 3</b> HE, 8 am, 4pm, Chapel 10 am, Church Mark Trautman away	5 AA, 7 pm	6	7 Handbell Choir, 7 pm	8 OpShop, 11 am-2 pm Parish Choir, 7:30 pm	9	10 Altar Guild, 10 am OpShop, 10 am-2 pm Caldwell Woman's Club, 2 pm
11 <b>Easter 4: Good Shepherd Mother's Day</b> HE, 8 am, 4pm, Chapel 10 am, Church C&C	12 AA, 7 pm	13	14 Handbell Choir, 7 pm	15 OpShop, 11 am-2 pm Parish Choir, 7:30 pm	16 Diocese of Newark 150th Anniversary Concert, 7 pm (Christ Church in Short Hills)	17 Altar Guild; OpShop; Diocesan Anniversary Eucharist, 10:30 (St. Peter's in Morristown)
18 <b>Easter 5</b> HE, 8 am, 4pm, Chapel 10 am, Church SPY meeting	19 AA, 7 pm	20	21 Handbell Choir, 7 pm	22 OpShop, 11 am-2 pm Parish Choir, 7:30 pm	23 <b>June Messenger Deadline</b>	24 Altar Guild, 10 am OpShop, 10 am-2 pm
25 <b>Easter 6</b> HE, 8 am, 4pm, Chapel 10 am, Church C&C	26 <b>Rogation Day</b> AA, 7 pm <b>Memorial Day</b>	27 <b>Rogation Day</b>	28 <b>Rogation Day</b> Handbell Choir, 7 pm	29 <b>Ascension Day</b> OpShop, 11 am-2 pm Parish Choir, 7:30 pm	20	31 <b>Visitation of the BVM</b> Altar Guild, OpShop, Confirmation at Our Saviour, Denville

## 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 March 26. Please feel free to email news and events to [info@stpetersef.org](mailto:info@stpetersef.org)**

### ST. PETER'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH 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)

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

Jim Irwin and Mary Shearin, *Wardens*

Christine Albano, David Cowell, Barbara Gargiulo, Erika Grothues, Sarah Latson, Kurt

Vonderahe, *Vestry Members*

### LITURGY & FORMATION 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)

**Eucharistic Ministers/Chalicians:** Father Nate Darville, [darville@stpetersef.org](mailto:darville@stpetersef.org)

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

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

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

**St. Peter's Youth (SPY):** Father Nate Darville, [darville@stpetersef.org](mailto:darville@stpetersef.org)

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

**St. Paul's Shelter:** Liz Irwin, [lizcirwin@comcast.net](mailto:lizcirwin@comcast.net)

**Christine's Kitchen:** Jennifer and Kurt Vonderahe, [jcvonderahe@gmail.com](mailto:jcvonderahe@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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St. Peter's Episcopal Church • 271 Roseland Avenue, Essex Fells, NJ 07021 • 973.226.6500