The Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ







Saint Peter's EPISCOPAL CHURCH

The Rev. Derek H. Miller Rector

The Rev. Joy Walton
Assisting Priest

Mr. Tom Hesson Organist

Assisting at This Service

Kaye & Doug Pryor	Altar Guild
Ken Robertson	Acolyte
Kennette Mitchell	Flower Guild
Judi Mahaffey	Flower Guild
Angela Mitchell	Intercessor
Brenda Sabino	Lector 1
Judi Mahaffey	Lector 2
Doug Pryor	Usher

December 24, 2022

9:30 pm Choral Prelude 10:00 pm High Mass It is our pleasure to welcome you to St. Peter's Church, we're glad you've found home here to celebrate this joyous Christmas Eve! Should you have any questions, our ushers, greeters and members are here to help.

Restrooms are located through the door to the left of the pulpit at the top and bottom of the stairs.

St. Peter's has Wi-Fi available on St. Peter's-GUEST (password: AveMaria!) and we encourage you to check in on, Facebook, Instagram or Twitter @StPetersEC. Let your friends know you are here with us today!

The Nativity of Our Lord

n this night we commemorate the humble and unseemly arrival of the infant Jesus into our world, marking the occasion by time spent with those we love and the singing of carols heralding joy and peace to all.

The whole world turns on this night. It is the time when heaven bends down to touch the earth. And nothing will be the same ever again. It is the night in which every "me" became "us" and every Christian community around the world is united in the life-changing proclamation the Christ the Messiah is born into our lives once more.

We hope that you will have a very Merry and blessed Christmas, experiencing the presence of Jesus as Emmanuel: God-with-us. And we pray you will come to see Christ in the face of everyone you encounter in this season.

Carols with the Choir

9:30 p.m.

The congregation is invited to remain seated quietly for the prelude music.

O Holy Night

by Cheryl Faber (on the Celtic harp)

Jesus Christ The Apple Tree

Elizabeth Poston

Lo, how a Rose e'er Blooming

Harm. Michael Praetorius

In Bethlehem Neath Starlit Skies

Waits' Carol

Infant Holy, Infant Lowly

Polish Carol

The Holly and the Ivy

Traditional Carol

Three Celtic Harp Selections:

by Cheryl Faber

The First Nowell

Noel, Noel

Away in a Manger (Two melodies-R.V. Williams and J.R Murray)

Venite Adoremus

arr. T. G. Hesson

(Duet sung by Tom Donohue and Alexa Fair)

In the Bleak Midwinter

Gustav Holst

Organ Prelude: A Christmas Medley

arr. T. G. Hesson

The St. Peter's Choir Under the direction of Tom Hesson

Sopranos

Becky Fisher, Sallie Roberts, Mallory Kubicek

Altos

Alexa Fair, Cheryl Faber

Bass

Tom Donohue, Tom Hesson

Christmas Proclamation (please stand upon the ringing of the bell)

The Twenty-fifth Day of December, when ages beyond number had run their course from the creation of the world. when God in the beginning created heaven and earth, and formed man in his own likeness; when century upon century had passed since the Almighty set his bow in the clouds after the Great Flood, as a sign of covenant and peace; in the twenty-first century since Abraham, our father in faith, came out of Ur of the Chaldees; in the thirteenth century since the People of Israel were led by Moses in the Exodus from Egypt; around the thousandth year since David was anointed King; in the sixty-fifth week of the prophecy of Daniel; in the one hundred and ninety-fourth Olympiad; in the year seven hundred and fifty-two since the foundation of the City of Rome; in the forty-second year of the reign of Caesar Octavian Augustus, the whole world being at peace,

JESUS CHRIST, eternal God and Son of the eternal Father, desiring to consecrate the world by his most loving presence, was conceived by the Holy Spirit, and when nine months had passed since his conception, was born of the Virgin Mary in Bethlehem of Judah, and was made man:

The Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ according to the flesh.

Introit (translation below)

Unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder; and his Name shall be called Angel of mighty Counsel.

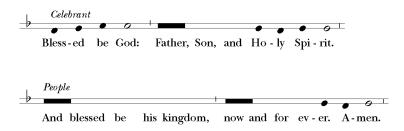
O sing unto the Lord a new song: For he hath done marvellous things. Unto us a Child is born...



Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning; Jesus, to thee be glory given; Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing;

Refrain

Opening Acclamation



Remain standing, as able, to sing:

Gloria Hymnal S-280

Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his people on earth. Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father, we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory. Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world: have mercy on us; you are seated at the right hand of the Father: receive our prayer. For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

Collect of the Day

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People And also with you.

Celebrant Let us pray.

The Celebrant says the Collect.

O God, you have caused this holy night to shine with the brightness of the true Light: Grant that we, who have known the mystery of that Light on earth, may also enjoy him perfectly in heaven; where with you and the Holy Spirit he lives and reigns, one God, in glory everlasting. *Amen.*

The people are seated.

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First Reading Isaiah 62:6-12

Upon your walls, O Jerusalem, I have posted sentinels;

all day and all night they shall never be silent.

You who remind the Lord, take no rest,

and give him no rest until he establishes Jerusalem and makes it renowned throughout the earth.

The Lord has sworn by his right hand and by his mighty arm:

I will not again give your grain to be food for your enemies,

and foreigners shall not drink the wine for which you have labored;

but those who garner it shall eat it and praise the Lord,

and those who gather it shall drink it in my holy courts.

Go through, go through the gates, prepare the way for the people;

build up, build up the highway, clear it of stones, lift up an ensign over the peoples.

The Lord has proclaimed to the end of the earth:

Say to daughter Zion,
"See, your salvation comes;

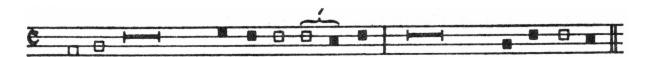
his reward is with him, and his recompense before him."

They shall be called, "The Holy People, The Redeemed of the Lord";

and you shall be called, "Sought Out, A City Not Forsaken."

The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.



- THE LORD is King; / let the ^earth re-joice; * let the multitude of / the isles ^ be glad.
- 2 Clouds and darkness are / round a-bout him, * righteousness and justice are the founda-/tions of^his throne.
- 3 A / fire goes^be-fore him * and burns up his enemies / on eve^ry side.
- 4 His lightnings / light up the world; * the earth sees it / and is^a-fraid.
- The mountains melt like wax at the / pres-ence^of the Lord, * at the presence of the Lord of the / ::whole earth.
- The heavens de-/clare his^right-eous-ness, * and all the peoples see / his glo-ry.
- 7 Confounded be all who worship carved images and de-/light in false gods. *

 Bow down before / him, all^you gods.
- 8 Zion hears and is glad, and the cities of / Ju-dah re-joice, * because of your judg-/ments, O Lord.
- 9 For you are the Lord, most / high o^ver^all the earth; * you are exalted far / a-bove^all gods.
- The Lord loves / those who^hate e-vil; *

 he preserves the lives of his saints

 and delivers them from the hand of / the wick-ed.
- Light has sprung / up for^the right-eous, * and joyful gladness for those who are^:/:true-heart-ed.
- Rejoice in the / Lord, you right-eous, * and give thanks to / his ho^ly Name.

Second Reading Titus 3:4-7

When the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, he saved us, not because of any works of righteousness that we had done, but according to his mercy, through the water of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit. This Spirit he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

All stand as able for the singing of the sequence hymn and procession of the Holy Gospel.

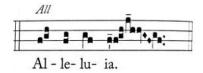
Alleluia

Dominus dixit ad me



The Lord hath said unto me:

Thou art my Son; this day have I begotten thee.



The Holy Gospel Luke 2:1-20

All remain standing for the procession and proclamation of the Holy Gospel.

Gospeller The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Saint Luke.

People Glory to you, Lord Christ.

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child.

While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see--I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,

"Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!"

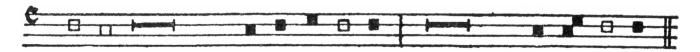
When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

At the end of the Gospel reading, the Gospeller and people say the following responsory:

Gospeller The Gospel of the Lord.

People Praise to you, Lord Christ.

Homily The Reverend Derek H. Miller



All stand as able and together sing:

WE BE-lieve in one God, the Father, / the Al-might-y, * maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen / and un-seen.

WE BE-lieve in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only / Son of God, * eternally begotten of / the Fa-ther,

God from God, Light from Light, true God from / ::true God, * begotten, not made, of one Being with / the Fa-ther.

-- -- * Through him^:/:all things were^made.

For us and for / our sal-va-tion *
he came down / from heav-en:

by the power of the / Ho-ly Spir-it *
he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary, AND / WAS MADE MAN.

For our sake he was crucified under / Pon-tius Pi-late; * he suffered death and / was bur-ied.

On the third day he rose again in accordance / with the Scrip-tures; * he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of / the Fa-ther.

He will come again in glory to judge the living / and the dead, * and his kingdom will / have no end.

WE BE-lieve in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giv-/er of life, * who proceeds from the Fa-/ther and the^Son.

With the Father and the Son he is wor-/shiped and glo-ri^fied. *
He has spoken through / the Proph-ets.

We believe in one holy catholic and / ap-os-to-lic^Church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgive-/ness of sins. *

We look for the resurrection / of the dead, and the life of the world / to come. A^men.

Prayers of the People

Officiant

Rejoicing in the love of God that has taken flesh among us in Christ Jesus, let us confidently bring to the Lord the petitions of our heart this Christmas night, saying: Lord, hear our prayer.

That the peace proclaimed by the angels in the shepherds' field might be realized in every field of war and every street of violence, let us pray to the Lord. *Lord, hear our prayer*.

That the child born to us might find in our hearts warm welcome by our openness to the needs of the homeless and the hungry, let us pray to the Lord. *Lord*, *hear our prayer*.

That in this time of gift-giving we might become more responsive to those burdened by injustice and those who mourn, let us pray to the Lord. *Lord, hear our prayer*.

That the rejoicing of this day might be a bond leading us to true communion of life and worship, let us pray to the Lord. *Lord, hear our prayer*.

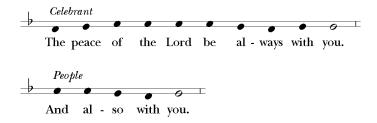
That the joy and consolation of the Wonderful Counselor might enliven all who suffer with disease and illness, let us pray to the Lord, *hear our prayer*.

We offer our additional prayers and thanksgivings, either aloud or in the quiet of our hearts.

Officiant

God of darkness and silence, you have pierced the quiet of this night by the utterance of your Word made flesh. May our words of praise and petition be strong echoes of your Christmas word, so that all might come to the peace you promise in Jesus, who is Lord and God this night and forever. **Amen.**

The Peace



The Ministers and People may greet one another in the name of the Lord, and then be seated for the announcements.

Announcements

Holy Communion

The priest says an offertory sentence. Representatives of the congregation bring forth bread and wine to the altar. After the table is set, all stand as able and join in singing the presentation hymn as the offerings are presented and placed on the high altar.

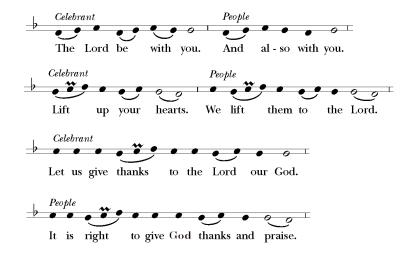
Presentation Hymn

Angels we have heard on high

Hymnal 96



The people remain standing. The Celebrant, whether bishop or priest, faces them and sings or says



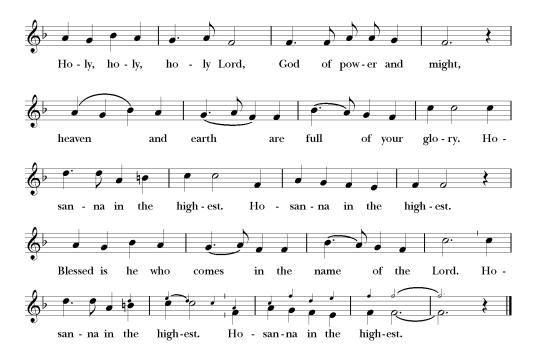
The celebrant then proceeds

It is truly right to glorify you, Father, and to give you thanks; for you alone are God, living and true, dwelling in light inaccessible from before time and for ever.

Fountain of life and source of all goodness, you made all things and fill them with your blessing; you created them to rejoice in the splendor of your radiance.

Countless throngs of angels stand before you to serve you night and day; and, beholding the glory of your presence, they offer you unceasing praise. Joining with them, and giving voice to every creature under heaven, we acclaim you, and glorify your Name, as we sing,

Sanctus Hymnal S-125



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The Celebrant continues the consecratory prayer telling of God's interaction with humanity throughout history, our need for redemption in Jesus Christ, and consecrates the bread and wine with the words Jesus used at the Last Supper. The full text is found in the BCP on page 372. Then the Celebrant says.

Father, we now celebrate this memorial of our redemption. Recalling Christ's death and his descent among the dead, proclaiming his resurrection and ascension to your right hand, awaiting his coming in glory; and offering to you, from the gifts you have given us, this bread and this cup, we praise you and we bless you.

Celebrant and People

We praise you, we bless you, we give thanks to you, and we pray to you, Lord our God.

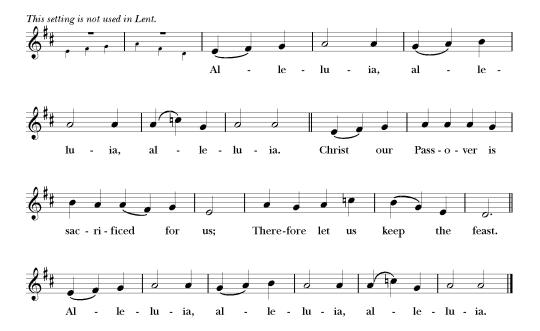
The Celebrant continues until

Through Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ, all honor and glory are yours, Almighty God and Father, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, for ever and ever. *AMEN*.

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



Fraction Anthem Hymnal S-155



Invitation to Communion

S hould I Receive Communion? What follows is Holy Communion, the sacred meal of the Christian faith. The Episcopal Church, as do all other denominations rooted in the historic Christian faith, affirms that the sacrament of Baptism is the ancient and normative entry point for receiving the sacrament of Eucharist. That being said, no one who comes forward to receive the bread and wine at communion is ever turned away from God's table. Wherever you are in your spiritual journey, the Episcopal Church welcomes you, and we invite you to explore with us what baptism may mean for you. Want to know more?

Please speak to our Rector, Fr. Derek, following the service (he LOVES talking about baptism!).

When receiving the Holy Communion, you may take just the bread if you prefer, or the clergyperson can provide a gluten-free wafer upon request. If you are not baptized or would prefer not to receive communion for any personal or religious reason, you are still invited to come forward at the time of communion to receive a blessing from the priest. (Please place your arms across your chest to indicate your desire to receive a blessing.) Above all, remember that we at St. Peter's practice radical welcome, because Jesus did the same!

Gluten free wafers are available - please let the priest know you desire gluten-free when you come to the altar rail.

If you are unable to come forward, please let the usher know and the ministers will bring the Sacrament to you in the pew.

Communion

In the beauty of holiness have I begotten thee:

as dew from the womb of the morning.

The Lord said unto my Lord:

Sit thou on my right hand until I make thine enemies thy footstool.

The Lord shall send the rod of thy power out of Sion:

be thou ruler, even in the midst among thine enemies.

The Lord sware and will not repent:

Thou art a Priest forever after the order of Melchizedek.

In the beauty of holiness...

Communion Hymn

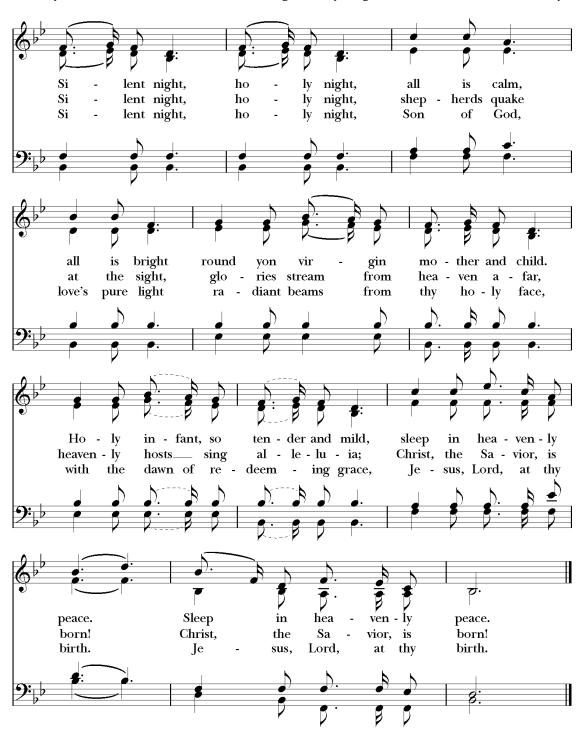
O little town of Bethlehem

Hymnal 78



After this song, the lights are dimmed and the congregation begin lighting their own candles as the choir begins to sing Silent Night, in the original language of this Carol, German.

As the lights are dimmed, all who are able are invited to kneel. The congregation joins in singing when the organ begins playing.



Post-Communion Prayer

Celebrant Let us pray.

All stand or kneel as able. The Priest and People together say

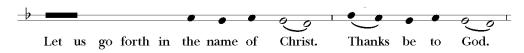
Eternal God, heavenly Father,
you have graciously accepted us as living members
of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ,
and you have fed us with spiritual food
in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood.
Send us now into the world in peace,
and grant us strength and courage
to love and serve you
with gladness and singleness of heart;
through Christ our Lord. *Amen*.

Christmas Blessing

May Christ, who by his Incarnation gathered into one things earthly and heavenly, fill you with his joy and peace; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always. *Amen*.



Dismissal



Postlude Joy to the World arr. Hesson

Everyone is invited to sing the1st verse of the postlude when clearly cued by the organ.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED: The church office will be closed December 26 to January 1. Normal hours will resume on Monday, January 2, 2023. Please contact Fr. Derek+ with any pastoral emergencies, by mobile: 443-756-2766 or via email: rector@stpetersec.org

ST. PETER'S CHRISTMAS CARD MAILBOX: Please bring your seasonal greeting cards for fellow parishioners. You will be able to drop them in the box outside the sanctuary door. In lieu of stamps, you may make a donation to support our Outreach programs. Look for cards sent to you in the alphabetized box in St. Joseph's hall during coffee hour.

ANNUAL MEETING &VESTRY NOMINEES: At this time we have 2 confirmed nominees Alexa Fair & Judith Kilroy. At our Annual Meeting we will be electing vestry members, recapping this ministry year, and discussing next year's ministry plans. We will be presenting bios for each of them in advance of our Annual Meeting. Mark Your Calendars! The Annual Meeting & Chili Cook-off are on January 22, 2023.

PRESCHOOL FALL ENROLLMENT: St. Peter's parishioners may start registering their children for Fall 2023 in January 2023. Contact Rita Wang <u>director@stpeterspreschool.org</u> with any questions.

HOSPITALITY HELP NEEDED: Coffee Hour is Resuming and we need people to help prepare and serve coffee and light refreshments. We ask that members sign up to serve on a regular basis. It works well to have 2 people (or 2 families) to provide and serve together. Members provide treats, make coffee, serve juice and clean-up. Suggested: 1-2 dozen treats, such as, bagels, pastries, quiche, fruit salad, muffins, cupcakes, donuts, cookies, etc. They can be homemade or store bought. St. Peter's provides napkins, plates, utensils, cups, coffee and other drink items. Please contact: **Squad@stpetersec.org** OR Call: **Judi** (443-794-6477).

2023 FLOWER DONATIONS NEEDED: Thank you to everyone who has graciously donated flowers and continues to donate! Flowers may be given in thanksgiving for, honor of, memory of or celebration of someone or something. We ask for a donation of \$55 to cover the cost of the flowers each week, which are tax deductible and will be acknowledged in the corresponding Sunday Bulletin. Please sign up to donate by emailing the Parish Admin at **parish.admin@stpetersec.org**. Donations can be made by mailing a check or paying on-line at **bit.ly/DonateSPEC**

DONATE ONLINE WITH TITHE.LY! Make a one time donation or set up regular giving. Tithe.ly allows for ACH transfers from your bank account, or payments with Debit, Visa, MasterCard, or Discover. If you choose to cover the transaction fees, that is also counted as part of your donation for tax purposes. Scan the QR code from your SmartPhone to access or go to: **bit.ly/DonateSPEC**.



FACEBOOK DONATIONS FOR ST. PETER'S: Many of you have seen requests for donations to charities on Facebook for your friend's birthdays and asked about when we could do this for St. Peter's...well now you can! If you have a Facebook account, you can select St. Peter's as your charity of choice for donations. We also have a donate button on our page.

St. Peter's Prayer List

The Church: Justin, Archbishop of Canterbury; Michael, Presiding Bishop of the Episcopal Church; Eugene, Bishop of Maryland; Derek, our Rector, Joy, our Assisting Priest

Recent Needs: Sebastian Reid, Darrell Reid, Katherine Schnorrenberg, Sachiko Rogers, Jeri Sheilds, Alex Wang, Midori Ataka, Mina Uhl, Sandy Smith, Earl Markowitcz

(Names remain on the Recent Needs Prayer List for 30 days unless notified otherwise.)

Ongoing Needs: Stephanie Reid, Phil Reid, Chuck Hersl, Sylvia Ramsey, Sabrina Mitchell, Scott Miller, Gwen Watts, Carlos Bonilla, Gigi Bonilla & Family, Bernadette Skelly, Bob Williams, Morris Powell, Sue & Steve Hartlaub, Butch Lanham, Ron Brueggeman, Tom Tozazini, Mary Lewis, Harrison Morson, Rebecca Light, Jennie Boyer, Ray & Rose Powell, Thomas Kirwan, Mary Mitchell, Jennifer Foster, Arthur Ronald Parham, Brian & Rick Kneeland, George Spencer, John Jordan

(Names remain on the Ongoing Needs Prayer List for 90 days unless notified otherwise.)

Homebound Members: Allie & Dick Suelflow, Frieda Gregory, Earl Elliott, Irene & Walter Closson

Repose of the Soul: Sonja Cowie, Jerry Sexton

(Names remain on the Repose of the Soul List for 30 days unless notified otherwise.)

Vestry and Officers: Doug Pryor, Stacie Parsells, Alexa Fair, Greg Busch, Jonnie Widener, Tom Donohue, Hal Clay, John Francis, Katie Shaw

Would you like to add someone to the prayer list or have an announcement featured here? Please submit names/announcements to the church office by email: parish.admin@stpetersec.org BY SUNDAY NIGHT.



In Celebration of Mina Uhl's 92nd Birthday from St. Peter's!

Katie S. Shaw: In Loving Memory of Parker R. Scott, Pauline Shaw, John Shaw, B.J. Wilson

Nancy Ritter: In Loving Memory of Kenneth G. Ritter. In Thanksgiving for Darren Ritter and Family and Linda Barnes

Kaye and Doug Pryor: In Loving Memory of Peter and Elizabeth Alfonsi & Charles and Anna Pryor

The Reverend Derek H. Miller: In Loving Memory of Patricia Jean Montgomery Harris

Katy DeHart: In Loving Memory of my late husband, William McCloskey.

Hal and Lauri Clay: In Loving Memory of Harold and Inez Clay and Judy Steenman

Ron Antlitz: In Loving Memory of my late wife, Sandy Antlitz.

Mina Uhl: In Loving Memory of the Apalucci, Miller, Davis, Snyder, Uhl, and Geis families

The clergy, vestry and members of St. Peter's Church welcome you to this most joyous celebration and wish you a very blessed Christmas and joyous New Year.

We hope you will think of St. Peter's as your spiritual home. If you are seeking a faith community, we invite you to learn more about the mission and ministry of St. Peter's Church by speaking to our clergy or members, or by visiting our web site at **stpetersec.org**.

You can connect with us on YouTube at YouTube.com/StPetersEllicottCity, follow us on Twitter @StPetersEC, and like us on Facebook www.facebook.com/StPetersEC. St. Peter's is a community rooted in Christ who welcomes all and serves the world in his name.



HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

Sunday, December 25th, 2022 (Christmas Day) 10:00 AM Mass with Carols

Sunday, January 1, 2023 (Holy Name) 9:45 AM Mass

Friday, January 6th, 2023 (Epiphany)
7:00 PM Mass

Hosted at St. Peter's with St. Mark's Choir Followed by Family Meal

Sunday, January 8th, 2023 (Epiphany 1)

9:45 AM Mass

Coffee Hour to Follow in St. Joseph's Hall

Sunday, January 15th, 2023 (Epiphany 2)

9:45 AM Mass

Coffee Hour to Follow in St. Joseph's Hall

Wednesday, January 18th, 2023 (Confession of St. Peter) 7:00 PM Mass

Praying and Pubbing With Pete