

# The Church of St. Peter

*A Parish in the Anglican Catholic Church  
Diocese of the Holy Cross*

19915 Cypress Church Rd. Cypress, TX 77433

[www.stpetersanglicanchurch.com](http://www.stpetersanglicanchurch.com)



**Parish Newsletter # 14**

**February 2022**

This sermon was preached recently by my good friend, Fr. Braddock, in Columbia, SC. The same can certainly be said of our parish:

It is interesting to stand here this morning and look at this altar and to recall the hundreds of Masses which have been said here. Or to think about all of prayers said in this church over the last thirty eight years. How many people have been baptized in that font? Or have been buried from this church? How many people have been touched by the Holy Ghost because of this parish: in a Sunday morning visit, at a funeral or wedding, or simply by seeing a full parking lot?

All this, in a world which seems to be aimless, which seems to be wandering in darkness and the shadow of death. There is a sense of collapse out there, of a meltdown, of an extreme atrophy that cannot be overcome. Sometimes, you could watch the news and get the sense that the end is near, while at the same time hearing that if we only do this or do that, we can save trees, whales, democracy, the planet, or humanity itself.

But really, there seems to be no end to the zeitgeist, the "spirit of the age." This is, in fact, the case, because human beings were created for eternity. We are not ourselves eternal; that is a characteristic for God alone. But God in his love created us to spend eternity with him, to be in a relationship with him and

with those created with us. Through our sin, through our pride, we have lost that. But the debt of Adam's sin was paid on the cross, by one who did not owe it. Here is the great irony: The one who owed nothing paid everything. And that has made all the difference. Jesus' death on the cross, at the darkest moment of human history, and his resurrection on the third day sparked a light which can never be extinguished. Every year at the great Vigil of Easter, we process the new fire through a dark church and the deacon cries out, "The Light of Christ!" To which all the faithful respond, "Thanks be to God."

Thanks be to God indeed, for the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Redeemer. Among the gods of the nations, the recurrent theme is the pouring out of human blood to appease the gods, their vengeance and their wrath. The God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob turns this on end when he offers his blood for us. The Blood of Jesus Christ, poured out on the Cross, is shed for us. God in the flesh died on a hill outside of Jerusalem for you. He knows our frailty and our inability to persevere under our own power and so he comes to us to bring us to him. Each and every one of us can see ourselves in the leper which Jesus heals in this morning's gospel reading. We are all burdened with our sins, but Jesus has come to heal us and set us free. Each of us can say, and will say, with the Centurion, "Lord, I am not worthy that thou shouldst come under

my roof: but speak the word only, and my soul shall be healed.” Jesus has invited us to come and be in a relationship with him. And this, on both a personal and corporate level. True love wins on the Cross, where Jesus overcomes sin and death, transcends the gap between man and God, unlocks the chains which bind us to the world, the flesh, and devil, and allows to attain to perfect freedom.

This is the Good News which we have heard and known and which our forefathers have told us. This is the Good News which we proclaim here today, and each and every day when we stand up and fight manfully under the banner of Christ. This is the Good News which this parish was founded to preserve and retell. Each time we celebrate the Eucharist, each time we read the Gospel, each time a new Christian is baptized into the death and resurrection of Christ, every time we make a decision to follow Christ instead of our own pride and lusts and inclinations, the light of Christ continues to spread and push back the darkness.

Now, lest we fall into a doomsday scenario, let us remember our history. Things seem bleak today. But in the fourth century, most bishops were heretics who denied the divinity of Christ. Saint Athanasius, St. Augustine, and others held the torch and faithfully lived and preserved the church. In the seventeenth century, the Church of England, from which we are descended, nearly ceased to exist. Saint Charles, King and Martyr, and others, faithfully stood against Cromwell and others, who wanted, ultimately, to reform the Church and the faith, beyond recognition. Whatever his other faults, and he had many, Charles died in part, to bear witness to the Catholic Faith, in its

English expression. He is an example to us all. Whatever our faults, and I speak for myself here, we too can bear witness for the faith. That is why this parish exists and has for thirty eight years stood on this corner as a witness to the majesty and the normality of the gospel of Jesus Christ. The majesty- Christ overcoming all, offering to all the same opportunity to live in and through him. The Normality- everyday life, every person, no matter who they are how severe their sins, Jesus comes to us, ready to speak the word and make us his.

### **This Month at St. Peter's**

Feb. 2<sup>nd</sup>, Candlemass, Low Mass at 10AM.

Feb. 4<sup>th</sup>, Friday, Bible Study on Samuel, David, and Saul at 11AM. Mass at Noon. Counsel and Confession from 2-4PM.

**Feb. 6<sup>th</sup>, The 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday after the Epiphany. 1928 BCP Mass at 8:30 AM. Sung Mass with Incense at 10:30 AM.**

Feb. 9<sup>th</sup>, Wednesday, Mass at 10AM.

Feb. 11<sup>th</sup>, Friday, Bible Study on Samuel, Saul, and David at 11AM. Mass at Noon. Counsel and Confession from 2-4PM.

**Feb. 13<sup>th</sup>, Septuagesima. 1928 BCP Mass at 8:30 AM. Book Study at 9:30 AM. Sung Mass with Incense at 10:30 AM.**

Feb. 16<sup>th</sup>, Wednesday, Mass at 10AM.

Feb. 18<sup>th</sup>, Friday, Bible Study on Samuel, Saul, and David at 11AM. Mass at Noon. Counsel and Confession from 2-4PM.

**Feb. 20<sup>th</sup>, Sexagesima. 1928 BCP Mass at 8:30 AM. Book Study at 9:30 AM. Sung Mass with Incense at 10:30 AM.**

Feb. 25<sup>th</sup>, Friday, Bible Study on Samuel, Saul, and David at 11AM. Mass at Noon. Counsel and Confession from 2-4PM.

**Feb. 27<sup>th</sup>, Sunday, Quinquagesima. 1928 BCP Mass at 8:30 AM. 9:30 AM Book Study. Sung Mass with Incense at 10:30 AM.**

## Our Prayer List

*For our Parish, for its growth in sanctity,  
ministry, size, and financially.*

### *For the Unity of Christ's Church*

For ArchBp. Mark and Paul our Bp. & Bps. +Juan, + Chad, +Anthony, + Ryan. Frs. Geordan+, Micah+, Jim+, Sam+, Joshua+, Dcns. David, For all Religious: St. Benedict's Abbey, For all in Authority: Joseph President, and Gregg Governor. For all servicemen and women: Kyle, T.J., Andrew, Jacob, Preston, McKayla, Christoff, Kyle, Andy For all Children born and unborn & for their mothers: Nancy, Joanna, Nicole, Jacob. For those in sickness or in need: Rick, Robbin, Betty, Jimmy, Ashley, Mary, Reigna, Paula, Terrance, Staci, Ann, Ron, Brandon, Tyler, Janie, Sudie, Nicholas, Michelle, Cable, Melvin, Jody, Tom, Allen, Ali, Susan, Christin, Madison, James, Beatrice, Peggy, Joe, Jodie Beth, Pat, Brittany, Mary, Olga, Sherman, John, Rhett, Gabriella, Verna, Elden, Nema, Randy, Marissa, Evelyn, Joey, Ross, Catherine, Chad, Linda, Brenda, Ricky+, Ray+, Robert+, Michael+, +David. RIP: Emily, Colton, Angie, Ray, Mark, Katherine, J.C., Amber, Gene, Virginia, Jimbo, Dean, Kelly.

## Announcements:

Our **Annual Parish Meeting** is next Sunday, February 13<sup>th</sup> following the 10:30 AM Mass. Please make plans to attend.

On Sunday, February 13<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 AM we will begin a book study on C.S. Lewis's The Screwtape Letters. All are invited to join us!

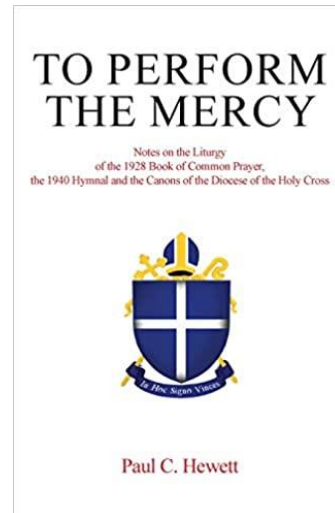
There is blessed chalk and copies of the prayer in the parish hall for the traditional Epiphany chalking of the doors of your home. If you are interested in an Epiphany house blessing please let Fr. Geddings know.

Pledge cards are available at the back of the Nave. Please place your pledge card in the offering plate or in the mite-box located at the back of the Nave.

Join us Fridays in the Parish Hall at 11 AM for a Bible Study on Samuel, Saul and David.

You may also support St. Peter's by giving online through Zelle: The Church of St Peter, [saintpeterscypress@gmail.com](mailto:saintpeterscypress@gmail.com)

## Check out Bp. Hewett's new book!



Available at Amazon, Kindle, and Barnes & Noble for \$8 (\$4 on Kindle).

“Our English language owes a tremendous debt of gratitude to the Book of Common Prayer, which first came out in 1549, and along with the King James Bible, became the spiritual springboard for the spread of the British Empire. These Prayer Book notes are for those interested in learning more about this Anglican distinctive, and our use of it in worship, "to perform the mercy" of our redemption in Christ. It is hoped that clergy, seminarians, lay readers and many among the laity will find the background material presented here useful devotionally and in the celebration of the Liturgy of our Church.”

This book is best read alongside the 1928 Book of Common Prayer. In this small book Bp Hewett gives the reader a good introductory overview of the Book of Common Prayer, the Prayer Book Tradition, along with notes on the Missal's used in our parishes, the 1940 Hymnal, and the Canons of the Diocese. This book would be very useful for newcomers to any Continuing Anglican parish, and for experienced laity and clergy.