



# The Church of St. Peter

*An Anglo-Catholic Parish in the Diocese of the Holy Cross*

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## Parish Newsletter # 2

January 2021

We had a wonderful Advent and Christmas this year! The festivities, complete with many fun activities; like the Greening of the Church and potluck are events we will look forward to next year. The ladies of the church did an excellent job decorating the church and parish hall. The cookie exchange and visit by St. Nicholas on Christmas Eve were also fun occasions. It is really a shame though that Fr. Micah was locked in the Sacristy during St. Nicholas's visit! I also enjoyed getting to meet several of your family members during the Christmas Holiday and, once the fear of COVID is past, I hope to have the opportunity to meet more of your families. We were so very happy to spend Christmas with you!

Now that Christmas and New Years are past...what next? Twelve Days of Christmas really help with the after "Christmas blues." But what do we look forward to now? Well – we have three weeks of Epiphany and the Purification (or Candlemas) to celebrate. – Bring your candles to church to have them blessed! – Then to top it off Lent is coming early this year. We will really have to enjoy Shrove Tuesday! Then we have the Transfiguration, the Annunciation, the Ascension, and plenty of other feast days and saints to celebrate! This is the joy of being an Anglican Catholic. Of course, we cannot feast all the time; too much of a good thing is not good. However, the more we follow the cycle of the Church's year the more we find the fast helps us to enjoy the feast, and how much brighter the feast is during the hard times. We have a joyous Easter to look forward to!

As we begin a New Year a little wary from last year, let us have hope and joy. We have plenty to look forward to this year, plenty to look forward to this month! Remember, no matter what happens the

Church is here to stay. The Church has outlived the rise and fall of Kingdoms and Empires, it has survived multiple plagues, persecution, and negligence, and two thousand years later it is still going strong. We have much to be thankful for this past year, and we have much to rejoice over in the coming year. *The Light shineth in darkness and the darkness overcame it not.*

Your servant in Christ,

Fr. Geordan Geddings  
*Rector*

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

Jan. 6th – Wed. Mass @ Noon, The Epiphany

Jan. 8th – Fri. Mass @ Noon, Octave of Epiphany

**Jan. 10<sup>th</sup> – The 1<sup>st</sup> Sun. aft. Epiphany**  
Mass @ 8:30AM & 10:30AM

Jan. 13<sup>th</sup> – Wed. Mass @ 10 AM.  
Epiphany Octave

Jan. 15<sup>th</sup> – Fri. Mass @ Noon.  
St. Paul, Hermit

**Jan. 17<sup>th</sup> – The 2<sup>nd</sup> Sun. aft. Epiphany**  
Mass @ 8:30 AM & 10:30 AM.

Jan. 20<sup>th</sup> – Wed. Mass @ 10 AM.

Jan. 22<sup>nd</sup> – Fri. Mass @ Noon.  
St. Vincent and Anastasius

**Jan. 24<sup>th</sup> – The 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday aft. Epiphany**  
Mass @ 8:30 AM & 10:30 AM.

Jan. 27<sup>th</sup> – Wed. Mass @ 10 AM  
St. John Chrysostom

Jan. 29<sup>th</sup> – Fri. Mass @ Noon  
St. Francis de Sales

**Jan. 31<sup>st</sup> – Septuagesima**  
Mass @ 8:30 AM & 10:30 AM

## *Epiphany Chalk*

One of the ancient traditions of Epiphany is the blessing of Chalk at the Epiphany Mass which is then distributed to the Parish. The blessed chalk is used to mark the doorposts of your homes with the initials: 20+C+M+B+21

The “C+M+B” stand for the traditional names of the Three Wisemen: Caspar, Melchior, and Baltassar. “C+M+B” are also the initials for the Latin phrase *Christus mansionem benedicat*: “May Christ bless this house.” The “+” signs represent the cross, and the “20” at the beginning and the “21” at the end mark the year.

It is an ancient tradition that calls upon God’s protection and blessing over the household for the coming year. This tradition harkens back to the book of Exodus and the first Passover when the Israelites marked their doorposts with the blood of a lamb and all in the house were kept safe from the plague when the Lord struck all the first born of Egypt (see Exodus 12:1-13).

The *prayer* said over the chalk specifically asks God that *those who will use it with faith in your most holy name, and with it inscribe on the doors of their homes the names of your saints, Casper, Melchior, and Baltassar, may through their merits and intercession enjoy health in body and protection of soul; through Christ our Lord.*

We certainly can use all the health in body and protection of soul that we can get this year. I encourage you to take some chalk home with you and write this sign on your doorpost, praying,

*Bless, + O Lord God almighty, this home, that in it there may be health, purity, the strength of victory, humility, goodness and mercy, the fulfillment of Thy law, the thanksgiving to God the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit. And may this blessing remain upon this home and upon all who dwell herein. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.*

*The traditional practice is for the head of the home to say this prayer and to mark this sign over the main door of the home.*

## **Our Prayer List**

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

*For all Bishops, Priests, & Deacons:* Bp. Paul C. Hewett, Fr. Geordan, Fr. Micah, and Fr. Garrin.  
*For all Religious:* Sr. Mary Grace and for St. Benedict’s Abbey (*this is Joanna’s sister*).

*For all in Authority;* Donald our President, and Gregg our Governor.

*For peace in our Nation*

*For the end of the Coronavirus, for all those who suffer from the virus and for all who minister to them.*

*For all servicemen and women:* Andrew, Jacob, Jessica, Preston, McKayla, Andy

*For Blessings received:* Tom’s Birthday,

*For all Children born and unborn & for their mothers:* Amos, Catherine, Aurora, & Walker.

*For those in sickness or in need:* Sonya, Francis, Kim, Michelle, Martin, Holly, Heather, Jolene, Marissa, Evelyn, Sadie, Joey, Nashirah, Ross, Susan, Virginia, Brittany, John & Dianne, Sandy, Ann, Lynne, Lori, Jerry, Jim, Faye, Jodie, Julie, Carrol, Verna & Tim, Patrick, Eleanor, Jimbo, Kristen, James, Madison, John & Rhetta, George, Anna, Sharon, Teresa, Jane, Terry, Carleton, Michael priest, Gene priest.

*RIP:* Kelly, Myrtle, Johnny, Alvin, Elsie,

## **Announcements:**

Join us Sunday’s at 9:30AM as we continue a **book study** on the classic theological work *On the Incarnation*, by St. Athanasius.

Thank you for donating to our canned food drive for the Cypress Assistance Ministries Food Pantry through the Holiday Season. Donations exceeded 50 pounds of canned food!

Our **Annual Parish Meeting** will be **February 7<sup>th</sup>**, after the 10:30 AM Mass.

It is that time of year to think about renewing **pledges**. Pledge cards may be found in the back of the Nave.

**Support St. Peter’s** by donating or pledging. Tithes may also be given online at: [www.stpetersanglicanchurch.com](http://www.stpetersanglicanchurch.com). Or through Zelle: The Church of St Peter, (281) 468-9525