



# St. Peter's Anglican Church

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

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## Parish Newsletter # 1

**December 2020**

Dear Parish,

Joanna, Therese, and I are so happy that you called us to come and serve you, and I am honored to serve as your Rector. We really are blessed to have moved here when we did, especially with the surprises we have had this year, to be so close to the talented hospitals and doctors that helped Therese, and to serve a parish with the financial security to get us through the Coronavirus shutdowns. Your acts of kindness have been so appreciated too, especially the meals you provided for us and the money raised to help us cover medical expenses. We are truly blessed and overjoyed to serve you, and we look forward to the Christmas Season here at St. Peter's!

Christmas is right around the corner, and the Coronavirus does not seem to be going away anytime soon, and it is time to reconsider our church pledge. Why do we pledge? We ask our parishioners to pledge because it helps us to set and plan for our budget this coming year. In this time of uncertainty, with so much facing our nation and community, it is worth remembering that pledging is

not only about our tithes or money, but includes our time and talent too. "Time, talent, and treasure" are three valuables everyone has regardless of the amount of money we have, or of how we have been effected by the Coronavirus. After all, it's not all about money. The Mass reminds us of this in which we present three things to God, our tithes and offerings (our money), the oblation (the bread and wine for Holy Communion), and *ourselves, our souls, and bodies*. Why do we do this? We offer and present these gifts along with ourselves *to be a reasonable, holy, and living sacrifice* unto God. We are called as Christians, as Anglican Catholics, as people, to be a sacrifice to God.

Our parishioners do a wonderful job of sharing their *time, talent and treasure*. Your generosity has been and continues to be overwhelming. I am amazed at the dedication and devotion of our parishioners; from all the work that goes into the Fall Bazaar, to our dedicated altar guild and altar servers, the men and women who weekly clean the church, the several handymen who fix things both

great and small, the children's bulletins, the beautiful altar flower arrangements, our Diocese-famous coffee hour, the wonderful sound engineers, those who come weekly and tend to the church flower beds, and our diligent vestry and treasurer. We have so much to be thankful for! I simply want to encourage you to keep up this incredible service. There is a lot facing the world, our nation, and our community, but remember the Church is here to stay.

With the effects of the Coronavirus still to be seen, we understand if you must decrease your pledge, however, remember your pledge is not a sign of how you are doing financially, but rather one part of your offering to God. St. Peter's is grateful for your pledge, whether big or small, and we are grateful for your participation in parish life!

Your servant in Christ,

Fr. Geordan Geddings  
*Rector*

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

Dec. 2<sup>nd</sup> – Wed. Mass @ 6PM, St. Peter Chrysologus

Dec. 4<sup>th</sup> – Fri. Mass @ Noon, St. Clement of Alexandria

Dec. 6<sup>th</sup> – The Second Sunday in Advent  
Mass @ 8:30AM & 10:30AM

Dec. 9<sup>th</sup> – Wed. Mass @ 6PM.  
Conception of the BVM.

Dec. 11<sup>th</sup> – Fri. Mass @ Noon, Octave of the BVM.

Dec. 13<sup>th</sup> – The Third Sunday in Advent  
Mass @ 8:30 AM & 10:30 AM.

Dec. 16<sup>th</sup> – Wed. Mass @ 6PM. Ember Wednesday.

Dec. 18<sup>th</sup> – Fri. Mass @ Noon. Ember Friday

Dec. 20<sup>th</sup> – The Fourth Sunday in Advent

Mass @ 8:30 AM & 10:30 AM.

Followed by the Greening of the Church and Potluck!

Dec. 24<sup>th</sup> – Christmas Eve Mass @ 7PM  
With Cookie exchange and St. Nicholas after Mass!

Dec. 25<sup>th</sup> – Christmas Day Mass @ 10:30 AM

Dec. 26<sup>th</sup> – Sat. Mass @ Noon, St. Stephen. BCP.99

Dec. 27<sup>th</sup> – Sunday, St. John, Apostle & Evangelist. Mass @ 8:30AM & 10:30 AM.

Dec. 28<sup>th</sup> – Mon. Mass @ Noon. Holy Innocents BCP. 102.

***Ever have trouble explaining what the “Angelic” oops...I meant “Anglican” Church is? Here is a helpful blurb from Fr. Geromel***

### ***A familiar church***

The Anglican church tradition is well-known to you, whether you realize it or not. It is the church of writers like Shakespeare, Jane Austen, the Scotsman, Walter Scott, and detective thrillers Agatha Christie and Dorothy Sayers. John and Charles Wesley were Anglican priests the whole of their ministries. Numbering among other Anglican ministers were authors Jonathan Swift of Ireland, who wrote *Gulliver’s Travels*, and Lewis Carroll, who wrote *Alice in Wonderland*. C.S. Lewis, perhaps the best-known Christian writer of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, said, “I am a very ordinary layman of the Church of England.” Theologian J.I. Packer was one. So is Alister McGrath and Bishop N.T. Wright. George Washington, Robert E. Lee, Edmund Burke, William Wilberforce, who helped abolish the slave trade in the British Empire, – resilient and persevering characters of the past – all of them were unpretentious Christians living their faith the best they could, in “quietness and confidence,” humbly and in the Anglican way.

### ***With familiar worship***

The Book of Common Prayer and Anglican worship is familiar to you as well. Its phrases and terms have become almost as important in the English language as the King James Bible (and that version too is read from every Sunday by Anglican Catholics). “To have and to hold . . . for better for worse, for richer for poorer, in sickness and in health . . .,” “Erred and strayed,” “Ashes to ashes, Dust to dust,” “We commit his body to the deep,” “Here endeth the lesson,” all these are from the Book of Common Prayer. Anglican hymns like *Amazing Grace* or *O Come, O Come Emmanuel* mark the times and seasons in your life. They are a common cultural heritage and it is no surprise that the words are like old friends. Many denominations in the 20<sup>th</sup> century borrowed heavily from the Prayer Book in their worship services – the Presbyterian *Book of Common Worship* (1947), The Methodist *Book of Worship* (1964), The Lutheran *Common Service Book* (1917) – to name just a few. Some have remarked in surprise after visiting that they grew up practically worshipping with the Book of Common Prayer and never knew it!

*Fr. Geromel is a priest in our Diocese, he currently serves St. Peter’s Anglican Catholic Church in Virginia.*

## **Announcements:**

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

We are collecting **canned fruit, pumpkin, and pie filling** for the Cypress Assistance Ministries Food Pantry through the Holiday Season. Donations will be collected near the information table in Murphy Hall.

It is that time of year to think about renewing **pledges**. We ask that you consider making a pledge. Pledge cards may be found in the back of the Nave.

**Advent Calendars**, wreaths, and Devotionals are available in the parish hall! You are welcome to take one home with you!

**Missing something?** We have some items in the Parish Hall seeking their owner.

Please do not trim the church's Sago Palms, they help provide us with palms for Palm Sunday. *Go ye and trim no more...*

**Support St. Peter's by donating or pledging.** Tithes may also be given online at:

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

## **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 her Monastery, 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, Matthew, Preston, McKayla, Andy

For Blessings received: Birthdays: Karen Desantis (12/3), Pat Williams (12/13), for George and Donna's Anniversary.

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

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