



Fr. John Inserra ~ Rector
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December 2016

A busy Advent and Christmas Season is upon us. There is so much exciting stuff happening in December I want to use this space to make you aware of it.

Sunday December 4th – We will have an Instructed or Narrated Eucharist at the 10am service. I have generally enjoyed doing this during Advent and Lent each year. Have you ever wondered why we do certain things in the service or what the meaning of our acts and rituals are? During this service, instead of a sermon that day we will pause throughout the service to explain and offer background on the actions we do during a normal Sunday service.

Saturday December 10th – Dream Day with Bishop Smylie from 10-2. Bishop Smylie will be here to meet with you and buy you lunch as he leads a day of vision and dreaming for the church and Diocese. He is coming to listen to you. Clergy will not participate in this event at his request, so he can spend more time with you all.

Sunday December 11th – Joy and Gumbo Sunday. The 3rd Sunday in Advent is Joy Sunday (pink candle Sunday.) We will have a guest preacher in Deacon Jay Albert from the Diocese of Louisiana, we will have special music as Alycia Vince joins our music team for the week, and we will have a Gumbo lunch following the 10am service. This will be a fun event for the whole parish to celebrate together with Joy. Any freewill offering that day will go to the Diocese of Louisiana for direct relief to the families affected by the summer floods.

Sunday December 18th – We will have healing prayer and anointing with oil after each service for anyone in need of physical and spiritual healing. This practice is something that dates to the time of the Apostles and is explained in the book of James. *Are any among you sick? They should call for the elders of the church and have them pray over them, anointing them with oil in the name of the Lord.* (5:14) This is a practice we have in the Tuesday service at 10am but wanted to make it available for those in need of it on certain Sundays as well.

More coming on Christmas Eve and Lessons and Carols in your Christmas Letter...

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Dr. John Milliken
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If you are regular reader of *The Crossed Keys*, you will recall that last month I wrote about the class on reading the Bible I would be teaching on Sunday mornings. (By the way, we will be continuing for several weeks yet. It is not too late to join us.) This month I want to share something from our first meeting and end with a Advent challenge.

As we approach any area of study it always makes sense to ask: why should we bother? This is true with the Bible as well. Many of us might have a vague sense that “we ought to read the Bible more,” but perhaps could not clearly articulate a reason why. Here are four.

Life: Jesus said, “The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.” (John 10:10) In this amazing statement, Jesus declares that he has come to give us what we all most deeply want: life. Not mere biological existence, but the whole and full life we were made for. He tells us that life is found *in him*. The place we find him, of course, is in the scriptures. There are other would-be saviors out there, things that call to us to follow them to find life. Jesus tells us plainly: their promises are false. Their aim is to steal from us, destroy what we have, and leave us for dead. In Jesus is life. If that’s what we really want, then we need to get to know him, and we get to know him in the Bible.

Light: In the beginning of John’s gospel we read, “In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind.” (John 1:4) With light we can see where we are and where we are going. Without it, we stumble. Apart from Christ, we live in darkness. In Christ, we live in the light of truth. This truth illuminates our circumstances and lights our path. Everything appears differently. If we want understanding, if we want to know where we are and where we are going, if we want to know the truth and be made free by it, then we need to dwell in God’s word. “Thy word is truth,” said Jesus (John 17:17).

Encounter: In Hebrews we read that “the word of God is alive and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart.” (Hebrews 4:12) The words of scripture are not just dead print on a page; they are “alive and active.” In them we can encounter God as he uses them to penetrate our hearts. That actually might sound like a reason *not* to read the Bible.

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St. Peter's Ministry Schedule · December 2016

LEMS	Lay Readers	Ushers Greeters	Acolytes
December 4			
A: Juanita Smith B: Juanita Smith C: Juanita Smith	7:30 Forrest & Sandy Asmus 10:00 Mike & Mary Beth Evers	7:30 Lois Hall 10:00 John & Pam Standish Robert & Jodene Prusak	Kate Alsup Nate Haworth Landon Alsup
December 11			
A: None B: Juanita Smith C: Juanita Smith	7:30 Laura Galloway 10:00 Stan & Shari Peddicord	7:30 Bill Courtney 10:00 Rick & Liz Rossa Mary Dailey Anne Vaughan	Aria Heyneman Quinn Heyneman Nate Haworth
December 18			
A: None B: Juanita Smith C: Juanita Smith	7:30 Sharon Bedard 10:00 Isabel Wallop Anne Vaughan	7:30 Donna Kuehne 10:00 Sandy Tharaldson Dorothy Goodwin Sarah Mentock Cara Nicholls	Corey Mentock Nate Haworth Bailee Mentock
December 25			
A: None B: Juanita Smith C: Juanita Smith	Christmas Eve-24th 4 :00 pm P & C Haworth Lee Helvey 9:00 pm L Greenough L Outland 10:00 am Christmas Day-25th Juanita Smith	Christmas Eve-24th 4:00 pm Vestry Christmas Eve-24th 9:00 pm Vestry	Christmas Eve-24th 4:00 pm Nate Haworth Bailee Mentock Corey Mentock 9:00 pm Bobby St. John Maria Black



For ministry schedule changes contact Juanita Smith at

Just for Kids

Christmas Jokes/Riddles

1Q. What do you get when you cross a snowman with a vampire?

2Q. What do you call a snowman in the summer?

3Q. What do you get when you cross an apple and a Christmas Tree?

4Q. Which elf was the best singer?

5Q. How do sheep say Merry Christmas in Mexico?

6Q. What do elves learn in school?

7Q. What Christmas Carol is a favorite of parents?

Answers:

- Q1- etibtsorF
- Q2- elddup A
- Q3- elppaeniP
- Q4- yelserP siFLE
- Q5- !dadviaN eceelF
- Q6- teba-flE ehT
- Q7- thgiN tneliS



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
HE: Holy Eucharist SS: Sunday School HS: Healing Service SRS: Sugarland Ridge				1 Red Door 10-3 pm Choir Practice 6:30 pm	2	3
4 <i>Advent 2</i> 7:30 HE I 9:00 SS 10:00 HE II	5	6 10:00 HS 1:00 SRS	7 Women's Council 9am	8 Red Door 10-3 pm Choir Practice 6:30 pm	9	10 <i>Bishop Smylie's Visit</i> 10 am-2 pm
11 <i>Advent 3</i> 7:30 HE I 9:00 SS 10:00 HE II Guest Speaker 10a.m. Gumbo Fest 11:30	12	13 10:00 HS 1:00 SRS	14	15 Red Door 10-3 pm Choir Practice 6:30 pm	16	17
18 <i>Advent 4</i> 7:30 HE I 9:00 SS 10:00 HE II	19	20 10:00 HS 1:00 SRS	21 <i>Vestry</i> <i>5:30pm</i>	22 Red Door Closed	23	24 <i>Christmas Eve Services</i> 4 pm & 9 pm
25  10:00 AM One service	26 <i>Offices will be closed</i>	27	28	29 Red Door Closed	30	31



- 12/01 Stephanie Kendrick
Pamela Woodward
Quinn Heyneman
- 12/02 Shirly Wimmer
Kacey Outland
- 12/04 Shane Karajanis
- 12/05 Rick Thompson
- 12/06 Jaci Fritz
Jodene Prusak
David Standish
- 12/07 Tobie Alsup
- 12/08 Brayton Fox
Peter Kaminsky
- 12/09 Stan Peddicord
- 12/11 John Inserra
PJ Treide
- 12/12 Jadyann Outland
- 12/13 Donna Kuehne
- 12/14 Lorene Smedley
- 12/15 Vesta Gale
Jacqueline Harrod
David Kiester
Wendy St. John
Jenny Berens
Craig Luplow
- 12/16 Rick Dowdy
Jacomien Mars
Isaac Fritz
- 12/18 Holly Belus
Kelsey Chamberlain
- 12/19 Barbara Benepe
Ethan Odom
- 12/20 Joyce Carroll
Kristene Seals
Kate Alsup
- 12/21 David Hackert
Emma Enloe
- 12/24 Michael St. John
- 12/16 Dee Meyer
Lynne Outland
- 12/27 Peggy Sorvik
- 12/28 Sarah Inserra
Mary King
Brian King
- 12/30 Sally LaBore
Rob Connor
- 12/31 Matthew Henderson



The Prayer Shawl Ministry

St. Peter's Prayer Shawl Ministry has reached out for many years to those who are sick, hurting or for someone who needs a special hug to warm the heart.

If you love to knit or crochet, prayer shawl kits are now available with complete instructions on a table in the Parish Hall.

Once your shawl is complete, just return it to the church office. Thank you!

Christmas Poinsettias

We are receiving orders for the Christmas Poinsettia Memorials.

They are \$25.00 each

You may contact the church office to place your order or via email:



Church Office: 674-7655

Email: www.stpeterssheridan@gmail.com

Please finalize your order by 20th of December.

IN HUMILITY

In humility is the greatest freedom. As long as you have to defend the imaginary self that you think is important, you lose your peace of heart. As soon as you compare that shadow with the shadows of other people, you lose all joy, because you have begun to trade in unrealities, and there is no joy in things that do not exist.

Thomas Merton, Trappist monk
From: Daily Wisdom for a New Century

The humble man
makes room for progress,
The proud man
believes he is already
there.

Dr. John continued...

Who wants to have the thoughts and attitudes of his heart exposed before a holy God? The one who wants to be healed. If we are to experience that full life of which Jesus speaks we need to be changed on the deepest levels. And this is work that God alone can do as we open the recesses of our hearts to him. Encounter with God means being changed by God. Though that change may be difficult and painful, it is always for our good. The God whom we encounter is a God of love.

Obedience: If we call ourselves Christians, what are we saying? To be a Christian is to be, literally, a “little Christ,” to be a disciple of the master, to pattern our lives after his. This means we are called to devote ourselves to scripture for two reasons. First, because Jesus himself studied, knew, and loved scripture. Second, because we cannot follow him if we do not know him.

So here’s the Advent challenge. If these reasons seem compelling to you, why not start a new habit of engaging with scripture? The Gospel of Luke is especially appropriate this time of year, since it contains so much material surrounding Jesus’ birth. Luke has 24 chapters; starting December 1st and taking one chapter a day, that brings us right up to Christmas. As you read, you might find it helpful to begin with a simple prayer: “Lord, open my eyes and my heart to hear your voice today in your word.”



24. Isaiah 9:6

For 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 Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.

MERRY CHRISTMAS

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Fr. John Inserra continued....

A note about the roofing project. The roofing replacement project was delayed due to the snow and will begin with the Chapel roof on November 28. This is the worst roof on our building and is currently leaking. They are estimating a week for the Chapel and during that time the Chapel will be closed for services. After that if weather permits, they will move on the parish hall roof, which is also in bad shape. Please be aware of the equipment around the parish parking area as the project continues.



United Thank Offering

Sharing Blessings with Thanksgiving and Love

UTO is a spiritual and financial partner in the mission work of the Episcopal Church.

Parishioners are asked to daily collect pocket change as a thank offering to God, reflecting on our own blessings.

All UTO funds go to support grants for ministries at home and overseas. Last year a donation of \$651.76 was received which came through by your generosity and thankful giving.

Our UTO "Ingathering" takes place every May and November. However, we are extending the UTO giving through the month of December.

(UTO boxes are available in the church office however other containers work perfectly).

Thankful Living /Thankful Giving



“Kindness is like snow- It beautifies everything it covers.”

-KAHLIL GIBRAN

Joy and Gumbo Sunday



for Flood Relief in the Episcopal Diocese of Louisiana

December 11, 2016

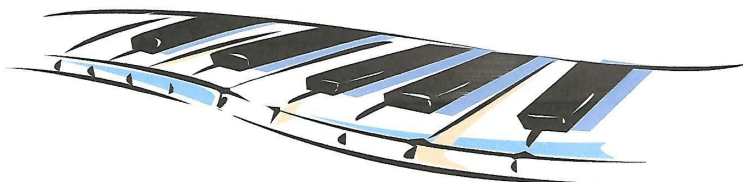
10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist

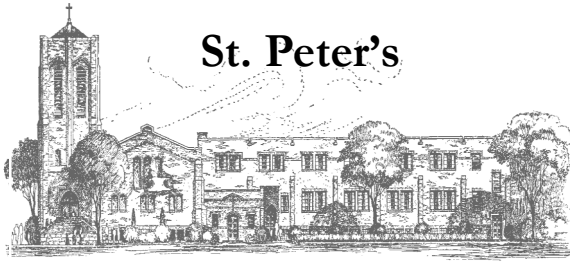
- *** Special guest preacher Deacon Jay Albert from Trinity Episcopal Church in New Orleans.
- *** Special performances by St. Peter's music team

11:30 a.m. Gumbo in the Parish Hall

- *** Join us for gumbo, sides, dessert, and fellowship.
- *** Free-will donations accepted with all proceeds going toward flood victims.

**DON'T MISS THE FUN!
INVITE YOUR FRIENDS AND FAMILY!**





St. Peter's

Episcopal Church

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Office Hours

9:00 am to 2:00 pm
(Monday - Friday)

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For ministry schedule changes contact Juanita Smith at 673-4928