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# Onward

A newsletter for  
and about the people of  
St. Peter's Church

JANUARY 2017

## Mark Your Calendar for these January 2017 Dates

January 8 & 22	SPY
January 15, 22 & 29	Sunday School
January 8	Family Church
January 11 & 18	Lectio Divina Bible Study



*Here's to the blessing of the year,  
Here's to the friends we hold so dear,  
To peace on earth,  
Both far and near.*

Dear friends,

With deep gratitude, I would like to thank this wonderful parish for the privilege to serve as the assistant rector these past two-and-a-half years. During our time together, I've learned a tremendous amount and benefited greatly from all of the various experiences we've shared as a parish. I feel fortunate for the wonderful memories and relationships that have blessed my time here, and the many joys of being a member of this community. Though, as Sally Munson would say, there were plenty of "spicy meatball" moments, I'm thankful for what I've learned and the love and support I've received.

It will be a difficult adjustment for me to no longer worship with you on Sundays and holidays. Not only was I ordained a priest at St Peter's, but I presided at my first Eucharist and performed my first Baptism inside our beautiful church. I will also miss the pastoral relationships that I have developed with so many of you. It will be particularly difficult to no longer study and pray with the faithful people that join together on Wednesdays for Lectio Divina and the Healing Eucharist, but these events will continue as part of St. Peter's life with Father Morris.

I am beyond thrilled that I will continue to minister to SPY in a quarter-time capacity, and blessed that I will continue to journey with the youth of our parish. Though I felt uncertain at times this past year about what was next for me, I never questioned my calling to remain with SPY. The youth of our parish make me feel only proud and fulfilled.

Friends, as I continue to hold you in prayer, I ask that you pray for my family. This is an exciting time with many changes and new responsibilities. I know the Holy Spirit is guiding and embracing all of us. I look forward to seeing you at SPY events (Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper!) that shape our common life together. God bless.

Peace,  
*Father Anthony+*

### **(Vestry Notes Continued)**

**Discussed the Proposed Budget for 2017.** The budget is set to be approved at the January 2017 Vestry meeting on January 18, and will be presented at the Annual Meeting.

**Set the date** for the Annual Meeting for **Sunday, January 29** after the 10 am Eucharist. State of the parish reports will be given, new Vestry members and Delegates to Convention elected, and the Proposed Budget presented to the congregation.

*The Rev. Robert Corin Morris, D.D.*

Interim Rector

[angelhold@earthlink.net](mailto:angelhold@earthlink.net)

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### ***The Altar Guild***

The Altar Guild is seeking the reverent and faithful to join our ministry. Our team sets God's table for the Eucharist each Sunday, a service vital to our worship.

We work in a team of 3 each Sunday. You would serve for two Sundays 4-5 times a year as your schedule permits.

Please consider carving out a little time for this rewarding, spiritual, and vital ministry. Do you feel called to serve?

Please contact Lisa Beland ([lbeland@kpm.com](mailto:lbeland@kpm.com)), Karen Mosher ([looker-mosher@msn.com](mailto:looker-mosher@msn.com)), or Trish McCabe ([trishtm@verizon.net](mailto:trishtm@verizon.net))

### ***Health & Healing***

Thank you to all the wonderful carolers at Crane's Mill on the 4th - around 25 strong, young and old. Special thank you to John Pivarnik and the St. Peter's choir.

Also Health & Healing delivered 23 miniature trees to parishioners to remind them that St. Peter's cares about them especially during the Christmas season. Special thanks to those who helped deliver the trees...Fr. Anthony and Elves Judy Himes, Lisa Beland and Leslie Young. And a big thank you to Kathy McLaughlin for picking out and bringing beautifully decorated trees ready for delivery.

# SPY

Saint Peter's Youth (SPY) Group is open to all interested youth from 6<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> grade. SPY is divided into two sections: Junior SPY (Grades 6-8) and Senior SPY (Grades 9-12). SPY has two meetings scheduled in January.

Sunday, January 8<sup>th</sup>

Jr. SPY 4:00 – 5:30 pm

Sr. SPY 5:30 – 7:00 pm

Sunday, January 22<sup>nd</sup>

Jr. SPY 4:00 – 5:30 pm

Sr. SPY 5:30 – 7:00 pm

## January Dates

Jan 1st - Holiday, no Sunday School

Jan 8th - Family Church

Jan 15th, 22nd & 29th - Sunday School

Any questions or to become involved with Sunday School or Family Church give me a call or send me an email.

Peace & Faith,

*Dana Leach*

[scottdanaL@aol.com](mailto:scottdanaL@aol.com), [973-364-7544](tel:973-364-7544).

## Family Church

Family Church is the second Sunday of the month; this month it is January 8th. Our children do a spectacular job reading and serving in so many ways! I would love each child in the Sunday School program to participate at least once during the year! Please reach out to me if your child (ren) would like to help.

We had another WONDERFUL family church on December 11th! Many thanks to our readers, Jack Latson, Jonathan Spell and Matthew Egan who all read beautifully! Thanks also to our ushers, Ben D'Avella and Luke Latson who were so helpful! The elements were carried so carefully by Kevin Egan and Colin Carr, and Cailin Egan was the perfect Priest's Assistant! I had many people approach me after church to complement me on the children. Yay!! And thank you!!

## *Thank you for your Christmas Donations!!*

Once again the parishioners from St. Peter's provided Christmas gifts to the children from Family Intervention Services and Patch! We truly have made such an impact on each of these children's thoughts and feelings about Christmas and provided aide to numerous families during their toughest times! Thank you so much for all of your support!

## Church School

Happy New Year!! Sunday School has been going great! Serena Watkinson is teaching PreK-K with Katie Butler as her greeter and they have a strong and mighty group. Mary Beth Weber is back in the saddle for 4th-6th grade and I know her 10+ years of teaching Sunday School will continue to strengthen the class. Beginning in January the 1st-3rd grade will be taught by Sarah & Emily Blake - YAY! Emily has years of experience working with our children at VBS and both were greeters for unit 1 so have been in the classrooms with our children all year. I am beyond thrilled to have these SPY members involved in Sunday School in a teaching capacity.

Reminder: Sunday School meets during the 10:00am service and is for children PreK-6th grade. The children come up to "big" church approximately at the peace to join their parents for the Eucharist.

**New Year's Resolution:**

## **COME TO CHURCH!**

**Give the gift of a strong religious foundation to your children for the New Year. (Plus it is fun!!)**

## **Lectio Divina Bible Study**

When: 1st & 3rd Wednesday of every month

January 11th & 18th

Where: In the main church

Lectio Divina (Divine Reading) is an ancient, monastic approach to praying the Bible, in which one encounters the Word of God through prayer, silence, and contemplation. Though sharing in similarities to the traditional bible study, Lectio Divina puts a particular emphasis on silence and listening for God's presence in one's life. The beauty of Lectio Divina is found in its simplicity and accessibility for people wherever they may be on their faith journey. At St. Peter's we offer group Lectio Divina. No prior experience is necessary to enjoy this simple, yet profound form of prayer. Contact Father Anthony for further information.



*Our young parishioners proudly help out during Family Church*



## ***A Word From the Interim Rector: Epiphanies for the Asking***

Have you had an important “aha” in your life? A time when a situation suddenly became clear to you? Or a bright idea seemed to come out of nowhere? Any of these may be an “epiphany” — a “manifestation” or “showing.” There can be epiphanies small and great in our lives, and, if we keep sinking out taproot into God’s Spirit, some of these ‘showings’ may even bring a word from God into our hearts. We can ask for such guidance, so long as we are open to being surprised!

As the twelve day celebration of Christmas ends on January 6 we enter the church season of Epiphany: The Manifestation of Christ to the World. On the Sundays of Epiphany at St. Peter’s this year we will have a special preaching series on “The Many Faces of Christ” highlighting the different aspects of his ministry, and how the Spirit of Christ carries on the same work in our lives and in the world at large. I have invited our two pastoral assistants, Vincent Corso and The Rev. Susan Negrotto, to preach on this theme, each on one the eight Sundays of Epiphany, along with my sermons on the theme.

## ***New “Omega: The Way to the Heart of God” Sunday Forums***

Fr. Morris will offer three new “Omega” Forums at 11:30 am - 12:30 pm on Sundays Feb. 5, 12, 19. Each will have its own Study Guide, available a week before the forum. Topics to be covered: *How Can I Allow the Best in Me to Thrive?*, *Becoming God’s Partner*, and *Life Eternal, Both Here and Hereafter*. You do not have to have participated in the Fall Omega Sessions. Open to all!

## ***December Vestry Notes***

**Ratified an extension of Fr. Morris’s contract** through June 2017, or the arrival of a newly elected Priest, with the option to extend if mutually agreeable.

**Decided** to ask for a consultation with Bishop Beckwith about the possibility of a Priest-in-Charge who would be chosen from among candidates put forward by the Bishop’s Office and St. Peter’s Vestry and Search Committee. This person would be eligible for election as Rector after a period of two to three years.

**Accepted the resignation of Mario Verrico** from the Vestry, with thanks for his service.

**Received a Report from the David St. George meeting** outlining their proposed distribution of funds to the SPY Mission Trip.