



# Epistle

December 2016

## St. Peter's Church, Milford, CT

email: [stpetersmilford@sbcglobal.net](mailto:stpetersmilford@sbcglobal.net) web: [www.stpetersmilford.org](http://www.stpetersmilford.org)



Here comes Christmas! I used to think it was the most desperate time of the year. My heart always wanted those around me to have a merry Christmas. As a father and as a priest, I worked very hard at “forced jollity”. But my heart was broken. Christmas in my family of origin was not “heaven on earth”. It was hell. It was something I didn’t talk about until long into my adulthood. When my friends heard stories about me, they would start to weep, and say, “That’s not normal. That’s wrong!”

One compassionate man with the gift of healing said to me that I could be free from my misery. He bade me to walk down Bethlehem’s chaotic and busy streets – to walk behind the inn and find the stable in starlight. He urged me to approach the manger, to kneel before it and, with faith and courage, to look into those brown eyes of that most beautiful Baby. God has healed me. I’m a living witness.

Christmas is the Feast of the Incarnation. God took on flesh, and took on sin and pain and injustice. His love is greater than all the evil in the world – all the brokenness and despair.

Be of good cheer! Christ is born! Merry Christmas!

Christopher

- Sunday Services**  
 8 a.m. Holy Eucharist *no music*  
 † † † †  
 10 a.m. Holy Eucharist *with music*  
 Childcare available  
 Coffee & Fellowship follows  
 † † † †  
 10 a.m. Church School  
 † † † †  
 Wednesday — Holy Eucharist & Healing  
 Thursday — Morning Prayer 8 a.m.  
 All weekday services held in the Chapel  
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**January 2017 Epistle**  
 Please email your submissions for the next Epistle by December 16, 2016.  
[Stpetersmilford@sbcglobal.net](mailto:Stpetersmilford@sbcglobal.net)  
 † † † †

- St. Peter's Purpose**  
 Sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ  
 Preparing Disciples  
 Caring for the Community  
 † † † †  
 St. Peter's Staff & Leadership  
*Ministers:* The Congregation  
*Bishop:* the Rt. Rev. Dr. Ian Douglas  
*Interim Priest:* the Rev. Christopher Leighton  
*Assisting Priest:* the Rev. Angela Rowley  
*Parish Administrator:* Kathleen Blixt  
*Music Director:* Fred Backhaus  
*Sexton:* Andy Thomas  
*Infant & Toddler Care Provider:* Amanda Sayers  
*Senior Warden:* Richard Durazzo  
*Junior Warden:* Conrad Green  
*Treasurer:* Sharon MacKenzie  
*Parish Clerk:* Beth Bell

### St. Peter's Transition Prayer

O Lord, we are filled with faith, energized by the power of your love, and united by the mission you have entrusted to us as we pray for our St. Peter's community. Guide the efforts for all involved in this process to bring a new rector to this church. May the richness, diversity and gifts of each person here be treasured and used in the service of your name. Let us view this moment of change and renewal, not as a threat to what has been, but as an invitation to build up the foundation which has been given to us, a transformative community of faith, one in purpose and dedicated ever more fruitfully to the building up of your Kingdom. We ask this through You who live and reign forever and ever. Amen

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### Christmas Service schedule

- Christmas Eve**  
 December 24 - Holy Eucharist at 4:30 p.m.  
 December 24 - Christmas Carols start at 10:30 p.m.  
 December 24 - Christmas Eve service at 11:00 p.m.  
**Christmas Day:** Holy Eucharist at 8:00 a.m.
-



## December Birthdays

12/01 Carolyn Chirico  
 12/02 Riley DeGregorio  
 12/05 Paul Smith  
 12/10 Marie Palmatier  
 12/11 Paul Erlacher Jr.  
 12/11 Robert Tremblay  
 12/14 Mead Franz IV  
 12/16 Cynthia Feliconio  
 12/19 Hayley Adams  
 12/21 Patrick Fleming  
 12/30 Jonathan Fraleigh

## December Anniversaries

12/01 Cynthia & Thomas  
 Feliconio  
 12/03 Carol & Bill Springsteen  
 12/19 Kathie & Richard Hebert  
 12/20 Laura Lee & Daniel Schultz  
 12/27 Judith Ann Johnston &  
 Don Warren Jr.  
 12/31 Cynthia & Scott Tummins

## Report from the Treasurer – October 31, 2016

Income year-to-date	\$255,771.77
Expenses year-to-date	<u>(262,476.81)</u>
Deficit	\$( 6,705.04)

Our income at the end of October was \$6,500 lower than we had anticipated in the Budget. Expenses for October are in line with our budget, however we had some expensive repair issues associated with the heating system.

Should you have any questions regarding our finances, please contact me.

Sharon MacKenzie, Treasurer

[smacknze@optonline.net](mailto:smacknze@optonline.net)

## Food Bank Donations

St. Peter's continues its weekly collection for the Milford Food Bank at the Milford Senior Center. There is always a need for staples such as cereals, pasta, and peanut butter and jelly. Those items would be especially welcomed. **Only unexpired items are accepted.** Outdated items will be discarded. Please do not donate fresh fruit and vegetables because they are unable to be used. *Please place all food donations in the basket located in the Narthex of the church. The basket will be brought up during the offertory, recognizing that these are a part of our gifts being offered to the Lord.*

## Altar Flowers

Flowers are a wonderful way to mark an event or a life, and help to support the ministry of St. Peter's parish. Flowers may be given in memory of a loved one, in celebration of birthdays, anniversaries, graduations, births or any occasion that you would like to celebrate. The suggested offering is \$30.00 to cover the cost of the flowers, but any donation is accepted. *If you are interested, please contact the Church office.*

## Coffee Hour

**Caring for our Community - Coffee Hour** is a ministry by and for those who attend services on Sunday morning. Coffee Hour is only possible through your participation. There is a sign-up sheet in the Parish Hall for you to host on your own, or as a group, and St. Peter's supplies the coffee. Kathie Hebert (203-506-5125 or [cody50@aol.com](mailto:cody50@aol.com)) and Nancy Lang have posted guidelines/instructions on the bulletin board in the hall, if needed. Coffee Hour is a great time to meet new parishioners and enjoy fellowship with your church family. Ask someone who has not hosted before to join you!

December 4 – Heifer Breakfast

December 11 – Barbara Lewis & Stacy Maslar

December 18 – The DeRubeis Family

December 25 – No Coffee Hour - Christmas

## Caring for your children

St. Peter's is pleased to care for your young children during the 10:00 a.m. service. Childcare is available for children through age 3. A trained special education/elementary education teacher, Amanda Sayers, and an assistant caregiver, who has participated in Red Cross and Safe Church training, provide care for the children in the nursery on the second floor of the education building. An usher will be happy to assist you in locating this room. Our Church School program meets during the 10:00 a.m. service for children ages 3-12. The children will be led to class by their teachers and returned in time for communion. Visitors are encouraged to have their children participate

## Church School & Youth Ministry

**Church School** meets during the 10:00 a.m. service. The children will be brought back into church in time to have communion with their families. The Youth Group meets on the first and third Sundays of each month. Newcomers and visitors are always welcome!

### Youth Group News:

The Saint Peter's Youth Group serves youth in grades 6-12 from a variety of towns and schools. All youth in these grades are welcome to our group regardless of where they stand in their faith. Our aim is to help each explore and grow in their knowledge of Jesus Christ and in their relationships with God and with each other. Students in 6<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> grade will meet from 4:00-5:30 and High Schoolers will meet from 5:00-7:00pm. We continue to meet the first and third Sundays every month.

Meetings include fun things such as scripture, games, and activities as well as meaningful Bible study, scriptural activities, and discussions. We will also be holding a **confirmation** program this year, so please get in touch with the office or Maureen Lucas as soon as possible if you are interested.

The youth group once again visited Orange Healthcare in November to host Bingo for the residents. A great time was had by all!

Youth group also celebrated their own Thanksgiving, cooking and breaking bread together and giving thanks to God for their many blessings and for each other. God continues to bless these youth and their leaders with growing faith and joy in Jesus Christ!



The first Saturday evening in December the youth will once again "Journey to Bethlehem" at High Acres

Church in Ansonia to visit the living nativity. This event is free and runs the first weekend in December- Friday, Saturday, and Sunday. Visit their website to find out more. <http://www.highacrescc.com/journey-to-bethlehem.html>

## Spiritual Adult Ed Programs

The Daughters of the King study group continues to meet monthly at 6:45 p.m. off site. The intent is to start a DOK chapter here at St. Peter's. For more information, contact Sandra Torriani at [storriani@aol.com](mailto:storriani@aol.com) or call her at (203) 874- 9010. The December meeting is scheduled for December 12.

Prayer Group, open to all, continues on the third Sunday of the month, at 11:45 a.m.

**Tuesday Morning Bible Study** continues to meet at 7:00 a.m. in the church library.

**Thursday Morning Men's Bible Study** meets at 7:00 a.m. at the Athenian Diner, also known as the Shiny Diner, in Milford. You are welcome to join in and do bring your Bible!

**Thursday Morning Women's Bible Study** meets from 9:30 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. in the rector's office. The group is studying the book of Genesis

## Adventure in Advent – December

This year, Advent began on Sunday November 27.

Advent means the arrival or appearance, the occurrence or development of a person, thing, or event. For Christians, Advent is the season of the preparation for the coming of Jesus. Our adventure began with four Sundays meant to prepare us for a godly celebration of Christmas. Let's focus on the coming of Jesus anew and afresh in our hearts THIS YEAR.

In this season, we also think of the second or final coming of Jesus, as if we might have a more meaningful celebration of Christmas if we lived as though his return were near.

Saturday December 3 - Advent "Quiet Day" - 9:00 a.m. to noon. The teaching will be on five individuals who were in Jesus' family tree.

Sunday December 4 - Visit by Nicholas, Bishop of Myra

Sunday December 11 - Special Advent readings, sermon, and music. Following the 10:00 service, parishioners can go caroling outdoors in the Milford center area with Christopher and Janet.

Sunday December 18 - Pageant (to be presented by all ages, not just children)

In addition, Evening Prayer will be held in the Chapel on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 6:00 p.m.

Let's plan to make Advent an adventure in 2016!

Christopher

## St. Peter's Picture Directory

St. Peter's is working on updating our Website directory. If you know how to work with the website, you can put your picture in yourself. Otherwise, please send a picture of yourself, or your family to the office. You can send digitally to: [stpetersmilford@sbcglobal.net](mailto:stpetersmilford@sbcglobal.net) or you can mail the picture to the office and we will mail it back to you. This is a great way for everyone to get to know one other, and also our Interim priest, Christopher, and our new rector. Know that this part of the website is secure and only available to St. Peter's members.

If you would like to have your picture taken for the directly, please see Conrad during coffee hour. He will gladly take it and post it to the Website. Or you can send him a selfie at [cagreen@optonline.net](mailto:cagreen@optonline.net).

## Let's Make Life Easier!

Let's help Christopher get to know us by wearing our Name Tags!

## Yoga for Body & Soul

The current session of Yoga will run until December 12<sup>th</sup>. The next session's dates will be announced in the January Epistle. Questions may be directed to Beth Bell at 203-877-8711 or email: [bellbeth@sbcglobal.net](mailto:bellbeth@sbcglobal.net).

**The Advent Wreath** is a devotion that marks the four weeks of Advent preparation prior to Christmas. Its four candles are mounted on a circle, symbolizing the eternity of Christ ("I am the Alpha and the Omega"). The candles reflect the vestment colors: three are violet—symbolizing penitence (a useful antidote to our consumer culture). Rose is the color for the Third Sunday of Advent, known as *Gaudete Sunday* from the Latin word meaning "to rejoice"—from the first line of the Introit—and provides a pause to the penitential spirit of Advent. An additional candle is lighted each week, symbolizing the gradual approach of the Light of Christ, which will forever dispel the darkness.

## St. Peter's Nativity Pageant

Prepare yourselves and your children for this year's pageant! The pageant/liturgy will include some readings we may not associate with Christmas, but which set the whole Nativity in context.

The story begins with the fall of Adam and Eve and their banishment in shame from the Garden – and our alienation from our Father. But He loves us so much that He was already making a way to draw us back to Himself. He promised to bring us back to Himself, and reclothe us, unashamed. He said He would send a Rescuer, born in Bethlehem, whose mother would be a

young woman with no husband. When our Rescuer, Jesus, was finally born, it was not in a way most people expected – but those who did recognize Him were filled with joy.

After the reading and portrayal of that part of the story, we will bring our offerings to the Baby Jesus in the manger. And we will celebrate Communion, remembering that He was born for us, and died for us, and rose again, to bring us back to God. Right before the end of the service, there will be a short reading about Jesus coming again to finally set everything right, the way God always intended things to be.

Come on Sunday December 18<sup>th</sup>, at 10:00 a.m., ready to see and hear and relive this truest and best of all stories!

## Ministry Sign-up

On November 13<sup>th</sup>, St. Peter's parishioners were invited to join in a ministry. We are still in need of members to participate in the various ministries St. Peter's offers. Please prayerfully consider this calling. We all have special talents to share. The more members there are the less frequently one will be scheduled to serve. Sign-up sheets are available in the back of the church or you can call the office if you are interested.

## Stewardship

Pledge information for 2017 has been mailed, but if you have misplaced it Stewardship packets are available on the table in the back of the church. This is a time to trust in the Lord's goodness by continuing to support our church so that we can go forward in strength - both financially and in the many ministries and missions we at St. Peter's love. Please prayerfully fill out your pledge card and either mail it or bring it to church and place in the offertory plate. It is never too late to fill out your pledge card. Thank you for being a contributing part of this family in Christ through the stewardship of your life and gifts!

## Outreach Dinner

On December 8<sup>th</sup>, St. Peter's Team 4 will be hosting our monthly outreach dinner. If you would like to help out, come to the Parish hall at 5:30 when we are setting up! You may also bring a food item. You can contact Richard Durazzo at 203-876-1047, if you have a question. If you would like to contribute, a main course item or a dessert or juice is always welcome. It is about an hour and a half of your time and is a great way to serve our local community.

## Carol's Giving Tree

This year St. Peter's will be providing gifts for four needy families for Christmas. Watch for the tree with the gift tags, to be ready December 4<sup>th</sup>.

Each gift request on the tree will have three tags as described below.

Tag 1: Take a tag from the tree, the tag will detail the information, take the tag and have a ball shopping!

Tag 2: This tag will have the recipient's name, and should be attached to the gift when returning the gift to St. Peter's.

Tag 3: Write your name and telephone number and place the tag in the box under the tree. Gifts need to be wrapped and returned by December 18<sup>th</sup>.

Thank you in advance for "Caring for the Community" and making their Christmas a true blessing.

## Heifer Breakfast

There will be a breakfast on Sunday, December 4<sup>th</sup>, after each service. Heifer is a marvelous way to help feed people for many generations. Heifer is a great way to "shop" for Christmas by purchasing an animal or part of an animal in honor of someone on your list. Bring your family and friends to enjoy a super breakfast. Suggested donation is \$7.00 for adults, \$4.00 for children ages 6-12, 5 and younger is free.

## Operation Christmas Child



Thanks to all who donated and helped fill the shoe boxes. When the boxes were completed, we enjoyed a celebration lunch together. We sent 36 boxes to 36 children somewhere in the world. They will receive the gift of knowing someone in the world cares for them and the greatest gift of all- the gift of JESUS in their lives.



*1 John 3:16-18 This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers. If anyone has material possessions and sees his brother in need but has no pity on him, how can the love of God be in him? Dear children, let us not love with words or tongue but with actions and in truth.*

During this season of Advent consider committing to an action of love, love for our neighbors. Join us in God's mission in Juarez, Mexico building a home for a deserving family and showing that God's love crosses all boundaries. If you would like to learn more about this great opportunity come to our next meeting on December 11th at 11:45 AM in the Taft building. There is plenty of room on the trip. The trip is scheduled for April 9-15, 2017. If you want more information but can't make it to the meeting contact Dee Green at [deegreen@optonline.net](mailto:deegreen@optonline.net) or Linda Roti at [ldroti@sbcglobal.net](mailto:ldroti@sbcglobal.net)

## Save the Dates:

**Juarez Mission Trip Pasta Dinner and Silent Auction** - A delicious Italian dinner and silent auction is planned for January 28th from 5:00 -7:00 p.m. to raise funds for our tenth mission trip to Colonia Anapra, Mexico. We will be building a home for a very deserving family. Please bring your friends, neighbors and families. The suggested donation is adults and children 13 years and older - \$10.00; children ages 12 to 6 - \$5.00; children 5 years and under are free.

The Juarez mission team is planning a Valentine's Day Breakfast on February 12th. Breakfast will be served after both the 8:00 and 10:00 services.

## 2016 MILFORD 5K Trick or Trot

St. Peter's raised \$532.00 for the homeless in the 5K Trick or Trot Run/Walk to support Beth-El Center. Maureen Lucas with members of the Youth group and Father Christopher and Janet participated. It was a beautiful sunny day. It was an uplifting event with lots of creative costumes and food. Jay Pinsince's great band the Elwoods were also there to entertain us. Thank you for your generosity!

## CHRISTMAS DECORATION FUND

If you would like to make a donation towards the Christmas Decorations, envelopes are located in the Church or you may use the form below. Donations can also be made through the E-Giving site located on our web site: [www.stpetersmilford.org](http://www.stpetersmilford.org) Donations need to be received in the Church Office no later than December 18<sup>th</sup> to be included in the Christmas Service Bulletin.

## CHRISTMAS FLOWER DONATION

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Memorial/Thanksgiving (circle one)

### Transition Update

November has been a very productive month for Transition. With all of the work that the teams have been doing for the past months we have been given the resumes of eight candidates who have applied for the Rector's position. With over 100 pages to digest, the Recruitment Team has reviewed them and are considering six of them for the position. They have been conducting Skype interviews with them and are planning to meet with and show them St. Peter's and the city of Milford.

Next they will be narrowing down the field to approximately three candidates for the Vestry to evaluate and interview. This most likely will occur in December.

I would also like to thank Rev. Christopher Leighton for leading us each week as we go forward in this process. His spiritual guidance has truly been a blessing for us.

Please continue to pray for the Team as they discern where God is leading us.

Thanks be to God

Rich Durazzo

### St. Nicholas to Visit Parish Dec. 4

The Bishop of Myra, better known to all of us as St. Nicholas, will make his annual visit to St. Peter's at the 10 a.m. Holy Eucharist on Dec. 4 to meet with the children at the start of the service.

St. Nicholas's visit offers a different perspective on the upcoming Christmas holiday, so please make sure your young ones attend that Sunday. His is the story of how a Byzantine bishop evolved into his alter ego Santa Claus and Father Christmas. More important, this saint, who is known as a faithful mirror of God's love for us, is one of Christianity's most beloved saints.

Who knows, We might also be able to convince the venerable saint to make an appearance at the fund-raising breakfast that morning and regale us with more stories of his fabled life.

The following is a prayer that Rev. Chuck Hoffman shared with us on Sunday, November 20<sup>th</sup> during service. This prayer is from St. Paul's Church in Darien, written by the Rev. Everett (Terry) Fullam.

### *- My Prayer of Commitment*

*I take God the Father to be my Lord,  
I take God the Son to be my Savior,  
I take the Holy Spirit to be my Sanctifier,  
I take the Word of God to be the rule of my life,  
I take the People of God to be my people.*

*And I now commit myself -  
- mind, body and spirit to my  
- Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.*

*And I do this freely, fully and forever.*

*In the Name of the Father and of  
the Son and of the Holy Spirit.*

*Amen*

### Evening Prayer Starts Nov. 29

This holiday season, take a break from the season's hectic pace and attend a contemplative service of Evening Prayer during Advent. Once again, the parish's Lay Eucharistic Ministers will be leading the short service of about 20-25 minutes as a peaceful and meditative alternative. Evening Prayer will be offered at 6:30 p.m. each Tuesday and Thursday this Advent, starting on Tuesday, Nov. 29. We will be using an adapted service of Night Prayer from the New Zealand Book of Common Prayer, which has proven to be a favorite service of those who have attended Evening Prayer in past years. The LEMs will lead the first week's services but they also encourage any lay person in the parish to be a leader on any of the other nights.

## Stained Glass Windows Project

We are hoping to start the work to preserve our stained glass windows soon after the first of the year. This project will entail replacing the window covers to allow much more sunlight to illuminate the windows and repairing several windows that are in immediate need.

### How was a contractor selected?

The Building Committee diligently examined four companies over the past two or three years and has brought three of those companies' quotes to the vestry for a final decision. After much discussion in Vestry it was decided to go with Bovard Studios in Fairfield, Iowa. Bovard uses a patented vented frame that will hold the laminated glass cover in place. This frame will allow proper venting of the space between the stained glass windows and the protective cover. Without proper venting, excessive heat buildup can cause the stained glass to expand to the extent that the window could bulge and eventually cause the glass to break. This problem can be seen in several windows in the church right now.

### How will the project proceed?

Bovard will send a crew and the equipment it needs from Iowa. Scaffolding or hydraulic lifts will be setup to access the windows. First, the windows that need to be repaired will be removed and plywood will be placed over the openings. When the window repairs are done, the contractor will then replace all the window coverings.

### How will the windows be repaired?

There are 5 windows slated to be repaired:

- the three large ones above the older altar in the chancel (the east side of the church);
- the window to the left of the Narthex door on the south side (a woman and angel are in the scene that has been described as the Annunciation);
- the second window from the left in the back of the church (the Transfiguration window on the west side).

The windows slated for re-leading will be removed and carefully crated for their journey to Iowa. Plywood will be installed to seal up the openings where the windows were removed.

In Iowa, the windows will be carefully documented through photographs and charcoal rubbings. This rubbing is used to ensure that the window is put back together as it should be.

The window will be carefully taken apart by cutting the lead came that holds it all together.

Each piece of glass will be meticulously cleaned and inspected for damage.

### What if there is damaged glass?

Damaged glass will be repaired using several methods to minimize the visual impact of the repair. Glass that is beyond repair would be replaced. Any painted glass would be accessed on an individual basis and would be touched up with plain paint if possible. Painted glass that cannot be repaired by painting will have to be replaced at an additional charge.

### How would the windows be reassembled?

Each piece of glass will have new lead came precisely cut to fit around it then it will be soldered together using the rubbing that was made earlier as a guide.

The window would be sealed to the lead came with a sealant that is brushed into all the spaces between the glass and the lead came. Whiting would be sprinkled and brushed onto the window, removing any sealant on the glass and helping the sealant between the glass and came to dry. This process also cleans the glass and leaves a nice patina on the lead came.

The windows will then be inspected, crated and sent back to the church.

Once the windows are back in place the protective cover frame would be secured to the building and the laminated glass would be installed.

### How long will this take?

As you can see this is a very big project that may take up to three months. We are hoping to start shortly after Christmas and have the project complete by Holy Week. However, after all this, our work to repair and preserve the windows will not be complete. We will have expended all available funds and repaired the stained glass windows that are in the greatest need of repair; there are several other windows that are in a deteriorating condition.

### Window tours:

I will be setting up short tours after Sunday services to show anyone interested the condition of our windows and explaining further the need for these repairs. It is my hope that the Lord will provide St. Peter's the funds necessary to repair all of our windows.

I ask you to pray for this project and keep in your hearts the need to preserve these wonderful windows that we as a parish and those coming after us will be able to cherish for centuries to come.



## Choose Forgiveness, Not Gossip

By Rick Warren —

***“Love prospers when a fault is forgiven, but dwelling on it separates close friends”***  
**(Proverbs 17:9 NLT, second edition).**

Let’s just admit it: When you have some crazy-maker in your life, and she’s (or he’s) just done the craziest thing *again*, it’s almost impossible not to get in the car, pull out your phone, and call somebody and say, “You won’t *believe* what she (or he) just did!” In fact, you may even be texting as she’s (or he’s) doing it! That’s what we do with crazy-makers. We want to tell somebody else. We want affirmation from somebody else. It’s the most difficult thing in the world to let go of it. It may feel good when we call someone to spread the word about the crazy-maker’s craziness, but it’s also unloving.

The Bible says to forgive even your enemies. Proverbs 17:9 says, *“Love prospers when a fault is forgiven, but dwelling on it separates close friends”* (NLT, second edition). What is gossip? It’s sharing information with somebody who is not part of the problem or the solution. That person might not have had anything to do with the situation, but you bring her into it so you can feel better about yourself. Gossip, in its essence, is a form of retaliation. You’re getting back at someone without talking to her. Instead, you’re talking about her behind her back.

Gossip is incredibly destructive. It is destructive to churches, families, and businesses. It is destructive to your life. It tears you up. It separates the closest of friends.

The worst thing about gossip is that the crazy-maker wins! All of a sudden, that person is controlling your conversation. She’s controlling your emotions. Your whole day is about gossiping about her instead of talking about some great thing that’s happening in your life. Don’t let that person win! Don’t let the crazy-maker win by choosing gossip.

The Bible says in 1 Peter 3:9, *“Do not do wrong to repay a wrong, and do not insult to repay an insult. But repay with a blessing, because you yourselves were called to do this so that you might receive a blessing”* (NCV).

You can gossip and miss out on God’s blessing. Or, you can choose to have positive conversations and use words that lift others up, and, in doing so, you will receive God’s blessing on your life.

### Talk It Over

- What are your strategies for avoiding or confronting gossip?
- Why do you think it is so hard to walk away from gossip?
- How can you turn gossip into a positive conversation?



## Preparing Disciples

### Daily Devotionals & Prayerful Resources:

#### Text versions:

Rick Warren's daily devotions from Saddleback: <http://profile.purposedriven.com/dailyhope/post>

Esoteric Episcopal Priest's musings - Barbara Crafton: <http://www.geraniumfarm.org>

Ministry of Evangelical group dedicated to servant ministry: <http://blog.leadlikejesus.org>

The Bible in One Year by Nicky Gumbel - Scripture with a commentary and life application: [www.htb.org.uk/bioy](http://www.htb.org.uk/bioy)

Society of Saint John the Evangelist - a single word to meditate on with a short reflection – “Brother Give us a Word”: <http://ssje.org/word>

Forward Day by Day Website: <http://prayer.forwardmovement.org>



#### For teenage girls and children:

For teenage girls: <http://hisprincess.com>

Interactive bible storybook for kids.: <https://bibleappforkids.com>

#### For parents:

<http://BibleLifeCoaching.com>

#### Audio, Video, & other Resources:

Rick Warren's daily devotions from Saddleback: Daily Hope radio series at [www.rickwarren.org](http://www.rickwarren.org)

Ministry of the British Jesuits - comes as an audio file: <http://www.pray-as-you-go.org>

Crosswalk, the intersection of faith and life dedicated to building up the Church, which is the body of Christ – text (many other resources): <http://www.crosswalk.com/devotionals>.

Contemplative resources in both text, audio, and video: <http://www.contemplativeoutreach.org>

A new App called iPray has been released for the iPhone: the Book of Common Prayer. You can download iPray from the iTunes Store here: <http://itunes.apple.com/us/app/ipray-bcp/id431349318?mt=8&ign-mpt=uo%3D2>

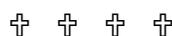
Ministry of the Brothers of The Society of Saint John the Evangelist (many other resources): <http://www.ssje.org/word>

**Morning Devotional** – This app wakes you up with an alarm in the morning and you spend five minutes in God's word and with reflection that the app provides for you. It's called "first 5" and is geared towards women. To access the app: <http://first5.org/>

#### Books:

My Utmost for His Highest by Oswald Chambers

Jesus Calling by Sarah Young



**If you have a favorite daily devotional and would like to share with the congregation, please contact us so we can publish it!**

DECEMBER 2016 LEADERSHIP/WORSHIP SCHEDULE

DATE	SERVICE TIME	ACOLYTE	LAY		LECTOR	READINGS	USHER	CHILD	CHURCH	
			MINISTER					GREETER	CARE	LOCK UP
<b>December 4, 2016</b>	8:00 AM	H. Kropitis	F. Callahan		K. Gammage	Isaiah 11:1-10 Romans 15:4-13	R. Kuhar B. Tremblay	E. Luysterborghs		
<b>Second Sunday of Advent</b>	10:00 AM	P. Bell I. Meade	D. Green B. Lewis		L. Roti R. Allsop	Isaiah 11:1-10 Romans 15:4-13	C. Russo B. Palmatier	B. Bell M. Saltzman	H. Adams	C. Green
<b>December 11, 2016</b>	8:00 AM	D. Gendreau	P. Fike		P, Strong	Isaiah 35:1-10 James 5:7-10	W. Christensen D. Blanchet	E. Luysterborghs		
<b>Third Sunday of Advent</b>	10:00 AM	S. Bell G. Lucas	C. Roti S. Winters		C. Franz B. Lewis	Isaiah 35:1-10 James 5:7-10	R. Durazzo K. Bell	S. Peck I. Love	M. Kiley	B. Bell
<b>December 18, 2016</b>	8:00 AM	H.Kropitis	D. Warren		S. Callahan	Isaiah 7:10-17 Romans 1:1-7	D. Johansen R. Kuhar	E. Luysterborghs		
<b>Fourth Sunday of Advent</b>	10:00 AM	A. Kiley I. Meade	D. Green P. Mangels		B. VanBrederode S. MacKenzie	Isaiah 7:10-16 Romans 1:1-7	K. Pegnataro B. Casey	K. Paglinco G. Schmitt	S. Meade	M. Saltzman
<b>December 24, 2016</b>	4:30 PM	A. Kiley H. Adams I. Meade	D. Pinsince J. Pinsince		C. Thompson R. Allsop	Isaiah 9:2-7 Titus 2:11-14	F. Hopkins B. McDonald	L. Kiley B. Duchon		
<b>December 24, 2016</b>	10:30 PM	P. Bell S. Bell	S. Winters B. Lewis		K. Gammage D. Blanchet	Titus: 3:4-7 Hebrews 1:1-12	R. Durazzo K. Bell	N. Yapo B. Bell		
<b>December 25, 2016</b>	8:00 AM	D. Gendreau	D. Green		S. Callahan	Isaiah 52;7-10 Hebrews 1:1-12	C. Russo W. Christensen	S. Peck	C. Green	

## JANUARY 2017 LEADERSHIP/WORSHIP SCHEDULE

DATE	SERVICE TIME	LAY			READINGS	USHER	GREETER	CHILD CARE	CHURCH LOCK UP
		ACOLYTE	MINISTER	LECTOR					
January 1, 2017	8:00 AM	LEM to do acolyte duties	B.Tremblay	D. Blanchet	Numbers 6:22-27 Galatians 4:4-7	P. Strong D. Blanchet	E. Luysterborghs		
	10:00 AM	P. Bell H. Adams	S. Winters C. Roti	B. Duchon M. Palmatier	Lessons & Carols	R. Eldridge F. Hopkins	N. Yapo M. Schmitt	S. Bell	C. Green
January 8, 2017	8:00 AM	H. Kropitis	F. Callahan	P. Strong	Isaiah 42:1-9 Acts 10:34-43	W. Christensen B. Tremblay	E. Luysterborghs		
	10:00 AM	A. Kiley G. Lucas	B. Lewis P. Mangels	C Thompson R. Allsop	Isaiah 42:1-9 Acts 10:34-43	B. McDonald R. Durazzo	L. Kiley G. Burrows	M. Kiley	R. Durazzo
January 15, 2017	8:00 AM	D. Gendreau	P. Fike	D. Warren	Isaiah 49:1-7 1 Corinthians 1:1-9	D. Johansen R. Kuhar	E. Luysterborghs		
	10:00 AM	S. Bell I. Meade	D. Pinsince J. Pinsince	L. Roti P. Mangels	Isaiah 49:1-7 1 Corinthians 1:1-9	B. Palmatier K. Bell	B. Bell M. Saltzman	S. Meade	B. Bell
January 22, 2017	8:00 AM	H. Kropitis	D. Warren	S. Callahan	Isaiah 9:1-4 1 Corinthians 1:10-18	P. Strong D. Blanchet	E. Luysterborghs		
	10:00 AM	P. Bell G. Lucas	D. Green B. Lewis	C. Franz S. MacKenzie	Amos 3:1-8 1 Corinthians 1:10-17	B. Casey K. Pegnataro	I. Love K. Paglinco	H. Adams	S. Winters
January 29, 2017	8:00 AM	D. Gendreau	S. Callahan	K. Gammage	Micah 6:1-8 1 Corinthians 18-31	B. Tremblay D. Blanchet	E. Luysterborghs		
	10:00 AM	A. Kiley H. Adams	D. Pinsince J. Pinsince	B. Vanbrederode B. Lewis	Micah 6:1-8 1 Corinthians 18-31	C. Russo R. Eldridge	G. Schmitt S. Peck	I. Meade	M. Saltzman



# St. Peter's Episcopal Church

71 River Street, Milford, CT 06460 203-874-8562

e-mail: [stpetersmilford@sbcglobal.net](mailto:stpetersmilford@sbcglobal.net)

**December 2016**



*Sun*

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*Thu*

*Fri*

*Sat*

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
				<b>1</b> Morning Prayer Chapel 8:00 a.m.  Women's Bible Study Library 9:30—11:00 a.m.	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> Quiet Day TBA 9:00—12:00 p.m. Church
<b>4 Advent 2</b> Holy Eucharist 8:00 a.m. Church School 10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist 10:00 a.m. Heifer Breakfast after services  St. Nicholas Visit Liturgy Meeting 11:45 a.m..  Jr. Youth Group 4—5:30 p.m. Sr Youth Group 5—7:00 p.m. Taft Wing	<b>5</b> Yoga Class Parish Hall 7:45 p.m.—9:00 p.m.   shutterstock - 193934711	<b>6</b> Bible Study Library 7:00 am.  Executive Com Meeting Rector's Office 7:00 p.m.	<b>7</b> Holy Eucharist & Healing Chapel 12:00 p.m.  Choir practice 7:00 p.m.	<b>8</b> Morning Prayer Chapel 8:00 a.m.  Women's Bible Study Library 9:30—11:00 a.m.  Outreach Dinner (Team 4) 5:00 -7:00 p.m.	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>11 Advent 3</b> Holy Eucharist 8:00 a.m. Church School 10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist 10:00 a.m. Caroling after the 10:00 service Juarez Meeting after the 10:00 service	<b>12</b> Yoga Class Parish Hall 7:45 p.m.—9:00 p.m.  Daughters of the King Off Site 6:45 p.m.	<b>13</b> Bible Study Library 7:00 am.	<b>14</b> Holy Eucharist & Healing Chapel 12:00 p.m.  Choir practice 7:00 p.m.	<b>15</b> Morning Prayer Chapel 8:00 a.m.  Women's Bible Study Library 9:30—11:00 a.m.	<b>16</b> 	<b>17</b>
<b>18 Advent 4</b> Holy Eucharist 8:00 a.m. Church School 10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist /Nativity Pageant 10:00 a.m.  Jr. Youth Group 4—5:30 p.m. Sr Youth Group 5—7:00 p.m. Taft Wing	<b>19</b> <b>NO</b> Yoga Class	<b>20</b> Bible Study Library 7:00 am.  Vestry Meeting Rector's Office 7:00 p.m.	<b>21</b> Holy Eucharist & Healing Chapel 12:00 p.m.  Choir practice 7:00 p.m.	<b>22</b> Morning Prayer Chapel 8:00 a.m.  Women's Bible Study Library 9:30—11:00 a.m.	<b>23</b>	<b>24 Christmas Eve</b> Holy Eucharist 4:30 p.m. Carols 10:30 p.m. Holy Eucharist 11:00 p.m.
<b>25 Christmas Day</b> Holy Eucharist 8:00 a.m. <b>NO</b> Church School <b>NO</b> Holy Eucharist 10:00 a.m.  	<b>26</b> <b>NO</b> Yoga Class	<b>27</b> Bible Study Library 7:00 am.  Prayer Shawl Library 7:00—9:00 p.m.	<b>28</b> Holy Eucharist & Healing Chapel 12:00 p.m.	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b> <b>During Advent on Tuesday and Thursday evenings there will be Evening Prayer in the Chapel at 6:30 p.m.</b>