

January 2026

Holy Innocents'
Episcopal Church
Pearl & Marine Streets
Beach Haven, NJ 08008

Church Email
hichurch08008@gmail.com
Website: www.hiecbh.com
Office: 609 492 7571
Parish Office Hours
Monday thru Thursday
9:00am - 2:00pm

Inside this Issue!

A Moment With Mtr. Erin 1	
Parishioner Spotlight	6-7
January Calendar	9



THE PARISH POST



A Moment With Mtr. Erin

A community of faith, sharing the love of the Holy Spirit, seeking and serving Christ in his creation.

Hello Holy Innocents' Parishioners!

I am looking forward to getting to know all of you very soon, but in the meantime, I'd like to tell you more about myself.

You may have already heard that I grew up in New Jersey. I lived in South River until I graduated from Rutgers in 1999. While I was growing up, my father's family lived in Ocean County (and both my grandfather, Jim Morey, and his brother, Harry, served as mayor of Berkeley Township). My aunt, uncle, and cousins still live in the area and are excited about me coming home!

I relocated to Pittsburgh to attend the University of Pittsburgh School of Law, which is where I met my husband, Jesse. I served as an Assistant Public Defender in Pittsburgh for ten years. My son, Max, was born in 2006, and I began a process of career discernment that led to work at Women's Center & Shelter, a local domestic violence shelter, for another ten years. I was raised in the Roman Catholic tradition, but began attending my local Episcopal Church, St. Paul's, when I moved to Mt. Lebanon in 2007, and was delighted to find a home in the Episcopal tradition.

During the time I was working at Women's Center & Shelter, I served on the Episcopal Church's delegation to the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women. This experience led me to begin discerning a call to ordained ministry. As part of this process, I began to serve as Director of Communications and Community Engagement at St. Paul's. Unfortunately, I was diagnosed with breast cancer in 2017, but once I fully recovered from treatment, I began more actively discerning this call. I enrolled in the Anglican and Episcopal concentration and M.Div. program at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary, and I graduated from seminary, and was ordained a deacon, Memorial Day Weekend of 2022. I began serving as Assistant Rector at St. Paul's that summer, and was ordained a priest there in December of 2022.

Jesse is still a full-time attorney, working in-house for a small healthcare company. Jesse is a native Pittsburgher. His father had some serious health issues this year, and Jesse is helping to care for him while he recovers. Max is now in his sophomore year at Loyola University in Chicago, with the goal of serving as a high school history teacher there after graduation.

I am currently participating in a joint doctoral program with Pittsburgh Theological Seminary and the University of Edinburgh in Scotland. I love reading, watching movies, and listening to all kinds of music. I also enjoy spending time hiking, camping and being outdoors, especially with my rescued dogs, Lilly and Zoie. Max is a huge baseball fan, I love basketball, and we all love hockey, and so my family enjoys watching sports together.

Continued on next page

A Moment With Mtr. Erin Continued

At St. Paul's, I developed close connections with many local community members and organizations, and was excited to collaborate with friends at places like our local synagogue, Turkish Cultural Center, police department, library, shelters, and social service providers. I am very excited about the way that Holy Innocents' works to connect with its local community, and I am looking forward to continuing and building these relationships. I love the connectedness of Beach Haven, and the natural beauty of Long Beach Island. And, I have to admit, I've REALLY missed having good pizza, bagels, and subs since I've left New Jersey, and I am looking forward to having great food again, within walking distance!

Yours in Christ,
Mother Erin



A Word from Fr. Peter

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

This January we shall engage in our annual meeting where we shall conduct some of the business work of the parish. Electing officers, receiving annual reports, voting on the 2026 budget might seem very mundane yet as an organization with its business needs these activities serve our community as the Body of Christ in the southern part of LBI. I am grateful to all of you who are so generous with your time and talents in making this parish function so efficiently.

January will mark the end of this community's transition between rectors. Many of us expected the process to conclude by September so we are grateful to the Search Committee and the Vestry in their diligence in identifying a new rector who will begin her time with Holy Innocents in February.

I want to take this opportunity to express my deep gratitude for working with you at Holy Innocents. This past year has proved to be a blessing for both Carl and me. In the 22 years of my priestly ministry, I have never worked in a congregation so focused on its Christian identity that rifts from power struggles or group conflicts never manifested itself. On the contrary, this community shows its deep Christian commitment in the unity and harmony of its members. Tertullian, a Church theologian from the second century, described Christians with this phrase: See how they love one another. Such a phrase rings especially true of Holy Innocents. The beauty of the Jersey Shore, only a block from our church, inspired our celebration of the Season of Creation and, because of this celebration, I have done more study of the depth of God's work as Creator. Carl and I deeply enjoyed our time at the Rectory which Carl considers a personal retreat house.

One of the challenges of leaving a congregation lies in ending the relationships built during the past year. The purpose of this diocesan requirement allows the new priest to enter into a relationship with you without the former priest shadowing in the background. I am confident that Mother Erin will discover the exceptional character of this community and work to build up this community in ways only a long-term commitment would allow. As you enter into this new moment in your history, all of you will find a place in my prayer. God's Spirit will be at work among you creating new possibilities for this church in the community.

Peace. Fr. Peter



Helping Parishioners in Need

We'd like to grow this Ministry and need Volunteers to help. We know that a *few* can't help all the time, but *you* could help every once in a while *if we have many!*

DRIVERS Take a Parishioner to a doctor's appointment or shopping: Manahawkin, Cherry Hill, University of Penn, Medford, etc.

HOME HELP Check on a Parishioner to make sure that they have enough food, take trash out or simply be good company with a visit!

PHONE CALLS Call a Parishioner to make sure they are ok, especially if we haven't seen them recently in Church.

Call Judy Contreras to add your name to the list: 856-906-6725-Email: judyc3956@gmail.com



Do You Believe in the Power of Prayer? Would You Like to Join the List of People Who Pray? Thank you to everyone who has helped with prayers when requested. We have seen some amazing results! Recently, I have included some of you who are not officially members of our Prayer Ministry in my request for prayers. Most of you have replied with positive responses! If you don't want to be included in the future, please let me know. If you are not included and would like to be, please reach out to me. You do not need to come to our monthly gathering to offer prayers when needed. We can all use prayers at one time or another. If you'd like prayers for yourself or someone else, let me know and I will send out the information to the Prayer Ministry and other interested pray-ers. **Everyone is invited to join us in person! We meet the 3rd Wednesday of each month in our Chapel.** Judy Contreras 856-906-6723-Email: judyc3956@gmail.com



Our Annual Meeting & Brunch
Sun. Jan. 11th after Service
Please mark your calendars!

This December, we were able to fill the wish lists of 15 children with specific "wished for" gifts from Santa through the Children's Home Society of Toms River. 75 gifts were collected, five gifts per child. The ECW put the cherry on top with \$250 gift cards per family. I am beyond blessed. My job is easy because of all of you. We ask and you answer. Everyone's generosity is above and beyond. I am very proud of us. I love you all. ~ Maggie

Below are pictures of the sleigh loaded up and ready to go!!



A Health Update from Fr. Peter

Dear Sisters and Brothers ~ Many of you know that I have Follicular Lymphoma, a form of non-Hodgkin lymphoma which has impacted my digestive system and associated lymph nodes. I was first diagnosed with follicular lymphoma in 2020 which was treated with chemotherapy followed by immunotherapy. My oncologist has been monitoring me for developments and an issue arose in June. Follow up surgery in October confirmed that the follicular lymphoma has become active. The course of treatment will begin on January 5 and will include immunotherapy, oral chemotherapy along with medication to prevent infections. This process limits the viability of my immune system so I shall have to restrict my exposure in group settings without some form of protection. Winter brings a host of respiratory infections so I shall begin using a mask during parts of the celebration of the Holy Eucharist and during Coffee Hour.

I delayed the treatment since I am not symptomatic and wanted to get through the Christmas Season and its additional work. After I begin treatment I shall have three weeks with you at Holy Innocents. Considering the limited number of available priests to provide supply services, I plan to continue to minister among you until January 25.

I assure you that you cannot contract any disease or infection from me either because of this lymphoma or the treatments to address it. I shall intinct from the chalice when receiving Holy Communion.

I ask for your prayer for healing during this time. God has opened new options for us living with cancer and I trust that God will see me through this round of treatment and provide the strength to continue to minister among you. Peace. Fr. Peter

A Message from Rich Cashel

After more than twenty years leading Building and Grounds, I've decided it's time to put away my tools.

Serving our church over the years has been a real pleasure, and I'm grateful to everyone who volunteered their time and talents. Your friendship and willingness to help made my work truly enjoyable.

I hope to remain available, as much as possible, to consult and assist when needed.

I deeply appreciate the three gentlemen taking over my former responsibilities ~

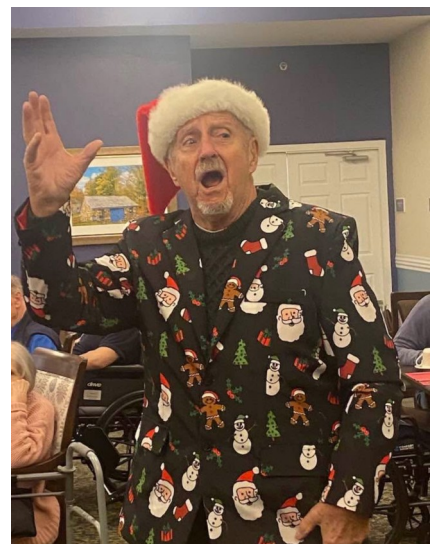
Dave White ~ Exterior Building & Grounds

Vince Contrearas ~ Interior Building

Larry Peacock ~ Memorial Garden

God bless and love to you all,

Rich Cashel



Environmental Education & Advocacy Committee



From the Environmental Education and Advocacy Committee

HAPPY NEW YEAR

As you're setting your goals and intentions for the year ahead, be sure to keep our planet in mind. Here are a few easy resolutions you can set and achieve that will have a positive impact on the environment.

Use a reusable water bottle

The US sends 20 billion water bottles to the landfill each year. On average, people only recycle about 25% of the water bottles they purchase. The cost of bottled water is much more expensive than drinking tap water, even though tap water is generally safe and convenient. Consumer Reports found that the cost to drink bottled water over the course of a year equates to about \$346, while drinking the same amount of water from the tap would only cost you about \$0.48. Keep a reusable water bottle in your bag, car, and at work so you always have one handy.

Cut water and energy use

There are simple things you can do to cut your water or home energy usage by 10% each day:

- Unplug electronics: About 75% of the electricity used to power your home devices is consumed while the products are turned off. The easiest thing you can do to conserve energy is to unplug devices around your home while they're not in use.
- Thermostat setting: You can save energy by keeping your thermostat at 68 degrees F in the winter and 78 degrees F in the summer while you're awake. You should turn your thermostat off while you're away and asleep to conserve more energy.
- Turn off the tap: You can save 8 gallons of water each day by turning off the tap while brushing your teeth. While washing dishes, you can also save 10 gallons of water in just 5 minutes by turning off the tap.

Use a Bike, or Walk

Biking and walking are not only good for the environment; they are also incredibly beneficial for the body and mind, as well. People who choose to bike or walk tend to suffer less from depression, anxiety, and other mental health issues. Getting exercise or running errands by biking or walking can help to increase blood flow, release endorphins, and reduce overall stress and lower your carbon emissions.

Learning more about climate change and the state of our environment is one of the best ways you can be able to advocate for the issues.

Keep informed and get involved.



Parishioner Spotlight is a regular feature in The Post. The purpose is to provide insights into the background and personalities of our fabulous parishioners!

December Parishioner Spotlight ~ Noah Dondero

I grew up in Holgate with my parents and as the youngest of 3 kids, with more family in Beach Haven. We were lucky enough to live close enough to our grandparents and cousin (Libby, who was the Parishioner



Spotlight a few months ago) that bike rides back and forth were the norm. From meeting Libby at the park between our houses, to swimming in my grandparents' pool, the bay, and weekly dinners, it was amazing to have grown up that close to so much family. The first picture collage includes cousin Nolan, me, Libby, cousin Brenna, Chloe, and Johnny; then Johnny, Chloe, and me with our father; and the three of us on the stairs.

That's also what I like most about LBI. With so relatively few people living year-round, you see familiar faces everywhere, always feeling welcomed and a part of the community. I also enjoyed the difference from winter to summer, the chaos and activity of the summer was fun and exciting for a couple months but I always loved the offseason.

Playing Manhunt through all the emptied yards, walking on an empty beach, building a sledding run down neighbors' stair cases, there was almost always something to occupy our time.

I've been a part of Holy Innocents' since I was born basically. I remember going to pre-school, playing in the sandbox or on the little jungle gym that used to be in Martin Hall (just a few years ago now). Once I was old enough, I would go to Sunday school during service and children's choir during the week, but my



favorite memories were at VBS. Water balloon fights in the parking lot, bible study, arts and crafts, and choir practice with my mom are just a few of the things I did at Holy Innocents' that I'll hold with me forever.

My family has always been musical, with everyone going to school for some form of music. The second collage shows my family as we have grown up, including my cousins – still having fun. And we can be serious – as in the picture taken at my brother Johnny's wedding and when we play in an ensemble. Throughout high school I was in every



Parishioner Spotlight Continued

part of the music program I could have been, from marching band and indoor drum line, to choir and the school musical. I loved doing a little bit of everything. After high school I went to William Paterson for Sound Engineering Arts with a focus in classical trumpet. The degree has a strict curriculum for recording studio work, with the whole first year of classes just understand terminology before even touching a recording console, but it left the musical aspect pretty open. While you had to meet certain requirements, it was pretty open for everyone to basically do what they liked. I got to play in concert band, brass quintets, brass band, and sing in the university choir.

I currently live in Fair Lawn, working as a post-production sound engineer and a bartender. While I enjoy living in North Jersey, every time I come down to visit, I miss LBI a little bit more, especially when the weather is warm.



Christmastime at Holy Innocents'



Parish Prayer List January

If you need to add or delete a name, please contact Lisa Halpin, our Parish Administrator

Lara Sparks Deitz	Mary Ann Crewdson	Dennis
Christian Balint	Warren Lamon	Ann White
Pierro Family	Lovas Family	Debbie & Joe Reising
Connie	Joe	Peg Appleget
Dcn. Judy	Lynne Weidmann	Meg Neff
Rob Meyer	Tino	Melanie Harman
Pat	Kathy Rice	Jessie
Rich Cashel	Charles Sullivan	Doug Hunter
JoAnn King	Ellis Barbieri	Judy Hamilton
Cindy Wood	Diane	Ray M.
Gia	Jeannine	Phil
Frank	Fran Iozzi	Johnny Johnson, Jr.
Bill Bentley	Dr. John	Scott
Nellie Riley	Mike Phillips	Adam Baulderstone
Chris Mercer	Katie Gillis	Frank, III
Will Locovare	Ollie	Ben Giannico
Bill O'Connell	Glenn Servetah	Mary K.
Pat Strocchia	George Balch	Barbara Wheeler
Devin Hone	Barbara	Rick Rosenbaum
Flood Family	Kay DiCicco	Joe Verrone
Rose Federici	Anna & Matteo Mannino	Scotty Camarote
Don Deitz	Priscilla Ruoff Harvey	Gail South
Erma Green	Keith Aclin	

Those serving in the military and other dangerous professions:

Paul Bailey, Justin A. Dumhart, Joseph Alexander, Danny Melega, Andrew Wall, Brandan White

2026 Altar Donations



By donating money for our Altar Flowers, you have an opportunity to celebrate a special birthday or occasion, to honor someone special, or to remember family and friends who are no longer with us. **The cost for one bouquet of flowers is now \$50.**

You are also encouraged to take a bouquet of flowers after the 9:30 service along with a card that notes the flowers were used in our Sunday celebration of the Lord.

Flowers that are not taken are delivered to a church member celebrating a birthday/anniversary or someone who has been unable to physically attend church services.

You may also opt to donate the expense of oil for our candles. **The cost of Candle Oil contributions is \$10 for Altar Candles and \$20 for the Sanctuary Candle.**

These are weekly opportunities. Those contributing and those remembered will be recognized in the specified Sunday Bulletin.

Your contribution should be in the form of a check made payable to "Holy Innocents' Episcopal Church" with a notation "Altar Candles" or "Flowers" in the check memo.

The 2026 calendar for Altar Donations is available now in the ambulatory.

JANUARY 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 7:30pm AA Mtg. Clam-Diggers 9:00pm Compline (FB) 	2 <i>Parish Office Closed</i>	3 
4 <i>The Feast of the Epiphany</i> 9:30am Rite II	5 9:00am MP (FB) 9:15-10:15am Chair Yoga	6	7 9:30-10:30am Tai Chi Classes in MH	8 1:30pm Book/Bible Study 4:30pm BHCAP 7:30pm AA Mtg. Clam-Diggers 9:00pm Compline (FB)	9 <i>Parish Office Closed</i>	10
11 <i>The First Sunday after the Epiphany</i> <i>The Baptism of Our Lord Jesus Christ</i> 9:30am Rite II ANNUAL MEETING	12 9:00am MP (FB) 9:15-10:15am Chair Yoga	13 	14 9:30-11:00am Sandwich Ministry 11:00am Tai Chi Classes in MH	15 1:30pm Book/Bible Study 7:30pm AA Mtg. Clam-Diggers 9:00pm Compline (FB)	16 <i>Parish Office Closed</i>	17 
18 <i>The Second Sunday after the Epiphany</i> 9:30am Rite II BAPTISM	19 <i>Parish Office Closed</i> Martin Luther King Jr. Day 9:00am MP (FB) 9:15-10:15am Chair Yoga	20	21 9:30-10:30am Tai Chi Classes in MH 4:00pm Prayer Ministry	22 1:30pm Book/Bible Study 7:30pm AA Mtg. Clam-Diggers 9:00pm Compline (FB)	23 <i>Parish Office Closed</i> 	24
25 <i>The Third Sunday after the Epiphany</i> 9:30am Rite II <i>*Healing service in Chapel</i> Fr. Peter's Last Sunday	26 9:00am MP (FB) 9:15-10:15am Chair Yoga	27 	28 9:30-10:30am Tai Chi Classes in MH	29 1:30pm Book/Bible Study 7:30pm AA Mtg. Clam-Diggers 9:00pm Compline (FB)	30 <i>Parish Office Closed</i>	31 

The
Engleside Inn

Hotel • Restaurant • Bar

Sushi Bar • Sand Bar

Open Year Round

Engleside Avenue on the
Ocean Beach Haven

SURFLIGHT®
THEATRE
BEACH HAVEN, NEW JERSEY

Musicals, Plays,
Children's Theatre,
Concerts, Comedy

SHOW PLACE
Ice Cream Parlour

Featuring our Singing Waitri
Open mid-June to Labor Day

Beach Haven, NJ

www.surflight.org
609.492.9477

MURPHY'S
Fresh
MARKETS

Your local
full service
grocery store
for over
40 years!

Murphysmarkets.com

Catering

PROUDLY SERVING SOUTH JERSEY

Medford	Tabernacle	Beach Haven
Stokes Rd.	Medford Lakes Rd.	South Bay Ave.
609.654.8422	609.268.8301	
609.492.5100		



Larry Peacock

for all your
Real Estate needs



**G. ANDERSON
AGENCY**

Your LBI Real Estate Partners

OCEANFRONT *TIKI* BAR & RESTAURANT

SEA SHELL
Open to the Public

TIKI BAR & BEACH BAR
MARTINI + WINE BAR
LUNCH, DINNER & TAKEOUT
FIRE PITS ON BEACH
PALM TREES
53 HOTEL ROOMS

THESEASHELLRESORT.COM

THANK YOU ALL!!!

Please be sure to patronize
& thank the businesses
that so very generously
purchased ads for
this Parish Post year!

The Hughes Family
~ The Hillman Family
~ Larry & Pat Peacock
Murphy's Family of Stores
~ The Surflight Theatre

These ads greatly help defray
our publishing costs!



Father Peter's Contact Information

Phone: 973-886-5104

Email: revpdefranco@gmail.com

*Please reach out for pastoral needs or
other questions.*

January Birthdays



Stokes B. Carrigan, IV	04	Margaret Rose Kleber	18
Sydney Stevens	05	Richard L. Vaughan	18
Justin Dumhart	12	Edith Dumhart	21
Judith Krom	13	Susan D. Walls	26
Diane Entrikin	17	Jonathon Goddard	30

January Anniversaries

Barry & Nicole Baxter 22

Jerry & Gail South 22

Howard & Edith Dumhart 30

WE LOVE OUR VOLUNTEERS!

The following parishioners have graciously volunteered to assist with our worship and/or have donated either candles or flowers for the altar for the month of January.

JANUARY ALTAR DONATIONS

4th - Debbie Iosso
 11th - Ruth McLaughlin
 18st - Ruth McLaughlin
 25th - Jeanne & Rich Cashel

JANUARY FLOWER GUILD

4th - Kim Sparks
 11th - Carol Hammond
 18st - Joyce Hillyer
 25th - Artificial Flowers

JANUARY ALTAR GUILD

4th - Chris Burlaga, Jackie Sparks
 11th - Melissa Wall, Jackie Sparks
 18st - Jackie Sparks, Jeanne Cashel
 25th - Carol Hammond, Melissa Wall

JANUARY USHERS & GREETERS

4th - TBD
 11th - Larry Peacock, Dave White
 18st - TBD
 25th - TBD

Thank you to everyone who contributed to Coffee Hour on 2025!

The 2026 Coffee Hour Schedule will be posted on the bulletin board outside Martin Hall.
 The second Sunday of each month is reserved for Vestry.

All other Sundays are available for signup. Please consider participating this coming year.

Happy New Year!
 Ellen Kehr





Holy Innocents' Episcopal Church
Pearl and Marine Streets
Beach Haven, New Jersey 08008

Sunday Morning ~9:30 a.m.
Rite II Worship Service with music
609-492-7571



Donate your way.
Give one time, anytime or
set up a recurring donation.