

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

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

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A Word from Fr. Peter

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

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

As we enter into the Season of Advent, many of us prepare to decorate our homes with beloved Christmas ornaments and our nativity sets. For many of us this season focuses our attention on Jesus and his birth. Some of us may recall helping our children understand the sacred character of this season with a birthday cake for Jesus. Such a focus shifts us away from the dominant secular celebrations which focus on gift giving and receiving and the economic boost which holiday spending creates.

During Advent, the church does not present us with a “cute baby Jesus.” We encounter the challenging character of John the Baptist and his threats of impending doom which marks the coming of our God. Only on the fourth Sunday of Advent do we hear the story of the visit of an angel to Joseph in a dream and the announcement of the birth of Jesus. Perhaps this alternative focus of the readings might alert us to the presence of an Adult Christ at Christmas. One of the most endearing stories involves the appearance of the Magi from foreign lands who come to Jerusalem searching for the King of the Jews. What if this story was showing us the acceptance of the Risen Christ by the Gentiles in the persons of the Magi and the failure of the scribes to follow their own advice to the Magi of going to worship the newborn King of the Jews? What if this story served as a reinterpretation of Isaiah 60: 3 with its assertion that “Nations shall come to your light and kings to the brightness of your dawn.” And “They shall bring gold and frankincense and shall proclaim the praise of the Lord.” (Isaiah 60:6) What if the Magi are visiting not the Infant Jesus but the Risen Christ? What if the story of the Magi should focus us on the Risen Christ?

If our hearts should focus on the Risen Christ where can we discover this Christ in our day? Jesus clearly tells us that he dwells among the least and the forgotten: “For I was hungry, and you fed me. I was thirsty, and you gave me a drink. I was a stranger, and you invited me into your home. I was naked, and you gave me clothing. I was sick, and you cared for me. I was in prison, and you visited me.” (Matthew 25: 35-36)

All too often, we have heard these lines from Matthew as an invitation to come to the aid of those in distress. What if we could see this passage as the place which Christ is showing us that place where we can discover Christ in our day? What if we could see the light of the star shining for us over the homes of the hungry and the outsider, the sick and imprisoned? What if we could meet Jesus in these people who usually live outside the circle of our lives? What if we could use the eyes of our faith to see Christ hidden in the mystery of Bread and Wine and then experience that same moment of encounter in the poor and sick?

I encourage you to use this season of Advent to search out the hidden Christ who dwells among us, the hidden Christ in Bread and Wine, the hidden Christ in the hungry and sick. May you be abundantly blessed this Advent.

Peace.
Fr. Peter



Words From Your Wardens



Bells will be ringing! Folks will be singing. The Christmas season is here and we are looking forward to our annual Messiah Sing on Dec. 6th at 4:00PM and Lessons & Carols on Dec. 12th at 7:00PM. Shoebox gifts, the Christmas Giving “Tree” items for children in need and St. Francis Food Pantry donations are due. See dates on calendar.

We would especially like to recognize and give a hearty THANK YOU to our Search Committee for a job well done! Diane Carter led the charge with a handoff to Mike Fahner while she recovered from surgery. Mike and Diane coordinated with the Diocese to get our ads running and led the Search Committee through the tedious task of reading resumes, profiles and obtaining references for candidates. They had a long search process, and we are incredibly grateful for their dedication and drive to find the candidate they felt best fit our needs. Please be sure to thank Diane, Mike, Maggie Aftanis, Howie Dumhart, Judy Hamilton, Bill Kehr, Kim Sparks, and Rich Vaughan when you see them. We all look forward to welcoming Mother Erin on February 1st!

As the Christmas season ramps up, take time to be in the moment, enjoy the frost on a window, the peace of the Holgate tree or the joy of a drive to view the Christmas lights. Take time to be thankful for all we have and the love that Jesus has for each of us.

Peace & Blessings,
Pat & Dave

Minister of Music



Join Us for these Two Annual Events

All are welcome

A free will offering will be taken ~ reception after each event

Saturday, December 6, 2025 at 4 PM

Messiah Sing

Our guest choir and soloists will be the New Jersey Chamber Singers (NJCS), with Artistic Director & Conductor Matthew Zabiegala and organist Karen Miske.

The program will include holiday selection by NJCS. Stay for a quick bite at the reception before you head off to Beach Haven’s Community Arts Program’s Annual Tree Lighting, which begins at 7pm.

Come to sing or listen. If you are a singer, you are invited to bring a score or borrow one from us.

**If you’re coming to the Messiah Sing from the mainland or north end of the island, be sure to give yourself some extra time as the Ship Bottom Christmas Parade is also happening this day and there will be detours **

On Friday, December 12th at 7pm we will be having **Festival of Lessons and Carols**. Together, we will sing many traditional Christmas Carols, and the Choir of Holy Innocents’ will present choral music of a traditional nature as well as some carols in more contemporary settings. Special guest musicians are sure to enhance this already beautiful service. I hope to see you all there.

Ellen Dondero, Minister of Music
ejdondero@comcast



Bible Study

Jesus First Century Rabbi by Rabbi David Zaslow

Next Meeting: December 11

Join us in Martin Hall or via Zoom at 2pm

Text or email Leila Sullivan, 919-280-4602 for more info or Zoom Link

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

Christmas Shoe Boxes



CHRISTMAS SHOE BOXES

The church has organized a Christmas Shoe Box event for the children of All Saints Episcopal Church in Lakewood. Ruth McLaughlin purchased 30 plastic shoe boxes along with a list of possible little gifts. Boxes are in Martin Hall. Ages of children range from toddlers to 18 with more boys than girls. **Boxes will be collected on December 7th.**

The Giving Tree (*Table*)

THE GIVING TREE ~This year, we will support 7 families with 15 children varying in age, benefiting the Children's Home Society.

Directions:

1. Select a Tag
2. Match the color to the family
3. Match the child's name on your tag to sign up sheet
4. Match the number under the child's name & put your name and phone number
5. Buy Gift- Please tape the tag you choose to the gift- Do not wrap gift
6. Gifts need to be returned to church **no later than December 14th**



Rolls of gift wrap are appreciated

Thank you!! Any questions, call or text Maggie 609-709-6133

***ECW invites all Church Women
to a
Christmas Luncheon
Dec. 3rd, 11:30AM
at Buckalew's***

***Bring a wrapped \$15-20 gift for the Yankee Swap
Order from full menu • Check will be split • Cash preferred!***



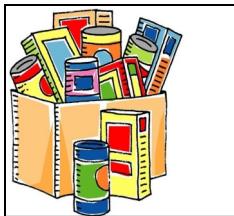
FLOWERS FOR CHRISTMAS

If you would like to memorialize loved ones with a donation toward Christmas Flowers, kindly send or drop off your donation to the church office or place it in the Sunday collection plate.

Forms will be available in the Sunday bulletins **until December 14th**.

Make sure the donor and recipient names are clearly written and please note "Flower Guild-Christmas" in the check memo.

All donations must be in the office by Tuesday, December 16th.



ST. FRANCIS FOOD PANTRY Please bring non-perishable food items to church and drop them in the Narthex. They will be delivered to St. Francis Food Pantry. Food Drive will continue until **Sunday, December 14th**.



Holy Innocents' is offering Tai Chi classes in Martin Hall on Wednesday at 9:30 am, (*except the 2nd Wednesday of the month, class will be at 11:00 am, as to not interfere with the Sandwich Ministry*).

Tai Chi is slow, gentle body movements to enhance mind, body and spirit and it is great for balance. For more information, please contact the church office at 609-492-7571.



**ALL MINISTRY REPORTS FOR THE ANNUAL REPORT WILL BE DUE TO
THE OFFICE NO LATER THAN
MONDAY, DECEMBER 8TH**

Holy Innocents' Episcopal Church
Marine Street, Beach Haven, NJ
please join us - all are welcome

Messiah Sing

Saturday December 6, 2025 at 4pm

featuring

New Jersey Chamber Singers

come to sing along or listen
bring your own score, or borrow one of ours



Lessons and Carols

Friday December 12, 2025 at 7pm

choral and congregational singing
featuring vocal and instrumental soloists

free will offering will be taken at each event
a reception will follow

for more information please call 609.492.7571

or email ejdondero@comcast.net

Environmental Education & Advocacy Committee



Environmental Education and Advocacy Committee

December Activities



Thank you to the National Audubon Society for offering these Holiday projects

The holidays are often a busy time in the kitchen. Make time to whip up tasty treats for birds, too. These festive goodies will attract an array of avian visitors outside your home.

Suet Wreath

Materials:

- Bundt pan
- Large pot
- Wide ribbon
- 3 blocks rendered suet (available at garden centers)
- 1/2 cup additive-free nut butter
- 9 cups bird seed
- Dried fruits and berries

Steps:

- 1 Over low heat, melt three blocks of suet in the pot. Stir consistently and do not boil.
- 2 Once the suet melts, add nut butter and stir until fully melted. Remove from heat.
3. Add the bird seed to the melted suet.

Environmental Education & Advocacy Committee

4. Spray the bundt pan with cooking spray, sprinkle the bottom with berries and fruit, and fill with liquid suet.
5. Refrigerate overnight to harden, and then remove the mold from the pan.
6. Tie a ribbon around the wreath and hang outside three feet or less from a window to prevent deadly post-meal collisions.

Bird-seed Ornaments

Materials:

- 2 cups birdseed, such as Audubon's cherry wild mix
- 1 tablespoon unflavored gelatin
- 2 tablespoons cold water
- 1/3 cup boiling water
- 12 cookie cutters
- Needle
- Thread

Steps:

1. Combine gelatin and cold water and let sit one minute.
2. Add boiling water and stir until the gelatin is dissolved.
3. Add birdseed and stir the mixture thoroughly to combine.
4. Fill cookie cutters with the seed mixture; press firmly to fill the mold completely. Refrigerate overnight.
5. Let ornaments come to room temperature and gently remove from molds.
6. Use a needle to pull the thread through the ornament, at least a half-inch from the edge, and tie knot.
7. Hang the ornaments from tree branches or your fire escape (if allowed).

Scrumptious Garland

Materials:

- Air-popped popcorn (unsalted and unbuttered, and preferably stale)
- Whole peanuts in the shell (unsalted, preferably raw)
- Cranberries (dried or fresh)
- Apple slices (dried)
- Orange slices (fresh)
- Thread
- Needle

Steps:

1. Unspool a 4-foot-long section of thread; tie a knot or two a couple of inches from one end, and thread and secure a needle at the other.

Environmental Education & Advocacy Committee

2. Thread the ingredients one at a time. Consider starting with an orange or apple slice to provide a secure anchor to build upon, and create your own alternating pattern of ingredients.
3. When only a few inches of thread remain, tie a double knot close to the final item.
4. Repeat steps 1-3 to obtain desired length.
5. Starting at the top of the tree, drape the garland on the branches in a downward spiral, tying on new strands as you go.



*Holy Innocents' Episcopal Church
410 S. Atlantic Ave., Beach Haven*

All Are Welcomed

CHRISTMAS EVE & DAY

Christmas Eve

- 4:30 Family Service
- 7:00 Caroling in the Church
- 7:30 Holy Eucharist w/Special Music by choir as well as congregational singing

Christmas Day

- 10:00 AM Said Holy Eucharist

Call 609-492-7571 M-Th. 9-2
for more information



In the Spotlight

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 ~ Cliff Wymbs

Beach Haven is one of my favorite places, especially in the summer. I appreciate the warm weather during the day and the cool breezes that come in at night. These sea breezes make it comfortable to spend time outside, whether I'm sitting on a porch or taking a walk. The towns themselves have a relaxed atmosphere, and I like the sense of community and tradition that comes with returning year after year.

One of my favorite things about Holy Innocents' is how close it is to home. My commute to Sunday service is only about 30 seconds, which makes it easy to attend regularly. I first started going because my wife is an

Episcopalian, but I've come to enjoy the church community and the familiar routine of Sunday mornings.



Jeannette (Bond) and I were married in 1977 (see our wedding picture). The most recent “anniversary” picture is from 2023. We have two adult children, Kate and Mike. They are with us in a picture from 2016, and we are pictured at Kay's graduation with a degree in Chemical Engineering in 2014.

When it comes to food, homemade clam chowder is at the top of my list. I like making it myself, and it's a dish

that reminds me of the shore. For drinks, I prefer something simple, a cold beer to go with the meal.

My favorite season is fall. I like the cooler temperatures, the changing leaves, and the general feeling of winding down after summer. My favorite color is powder blue. It's a calming color that I associate with both the sky and the ocean.



For music, I mostly listen to country. I enjoy the stories told in country songs and the straightforward style of the music.

A favorite line of scripture for me is, “The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want.” I heard this line often in grammar school because Psalm 23 is so short with six verses, but it stuck with me because of its message of reassurance.



One thing that might surprise people is that I can get sideline passes to Rutgers football games. It's a unique perk that has made for some memorable experiences.

Jeannette and I live in Arizona in the winter and Beach Haven in the summer. A few pictures will show some of our enjoyment of nature.

Finally, I am about to retire after 26 years as a professor. I'm looking forward to having more free time, spending it with family, and continuing to enjoy the simple things that matter most to me—good food, good company, travel and time at the shore.

Parish Prayer List December

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 | Milten Giannico |
| Bill O'Connell | Glenn Servetah | Mary K. |
| Pat Strocchia | George Balch | Barbara Wheeler |
| Devin Hone | Rick Rosenbaum | Flood Family |
| Kay DiCicco | Joe Verrone | Rose Federici |
| Anna & Matteo Mannino | Scotty Camarote | Don Deitz |
| Priscilla Ruoff Harvey | Family & Friends of TJ Patton | Family & Friends of Pete White |

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.

DECEMBER 2025

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|  | 1 9:00am MP (FB) 9:15-10:15am Chair Yoga | 2 | 3 9:30am-10:30am Tai Chi 10:00am-12:30pm Choir Rehearsal 11:30am ECW Christmas Luncheon at Buckalew's | 4 7:30pm AA Mtg. Clam-Diggers 9:00pm Compline (FB) | 5 <i>Parish Office Closed</i> | 6 4:00pm Messiah Sing 7:00pm Beach Haven Tree Lighting |
| 7 <i>The Second Sunday of Advent</i> 8:45am Choir 9:30am Rite II CHRISTMAS BOXES DUE! | 8 9:00am MP (FB) 9:15-10:15am Chair Yoga Ministry Annual Reports Due | 9 | 10 9:30-11:00am Sandwich Ministry 11:00am Tai Chi Classes in MH 11:00am-2:30pm Choir Rehearsal w/lunch break | 11 2:00pm Book/Bible Study 7:00 Vestry Meeting 7:30pm AA Mtg. Clam-Diggers 9:00pm Compline (FB) | 12 <i>Parish Office Closed</i> 7:00pm Lessons & Carols |  |
| 14 <i>The Third Sunday of Advent</i> 8:45am Choir 9:30am Rite II St. Francis Food Drive & Giving Tree Gifts Due! | 15 9:00am MP (FB) 9:15-10:15am Chair Yoga | 16 Christmas Flowers Forms Due Today!! | 17 9:30am Tai Chi Classes in MH 3:30pm Choir Caroling/Dinner Party 4:00pm Prayer Ministry-Chapel | 18 2:00pm Book/Bible Study 7:30pm AA Mtg. Clam-Diggers 9:00pm Compline (FB) | 19 <i>Parish Office Closed</i> |  |
| 21 <i>The Fourth Sunday of Advent</i> 8:30am Choir 9:30am Rite II Decorate the church after service | 22 9:00am MP (FB) 9:15-10:15am Chair Yoga 9:30am Altar Guild to Clean & Polish | 23  | 24 <i>Parish Office Closed</i> 9:30am Flower Guild decorate 4:30pm Holy Eucharist 7:00pm Caroling in Church 7:30pm Holy Eucharist | 25 <i>Parish Office Closed</i> 10:00am Christmas Day Said Service 7:30pm AA Mtg. Clam-Diggers 9:00pm Compline (FB)  | 26 <i>Parish Office Closed</i> | 27 |
| 28 <i>Feast Day of the Holy Innocents'</i> 9:30am Rite II *Healing service in Chapel | 29 <i>Parish Office Closed</i> 9:00am MP (FB) 9:15-10:15am Chair Yoga | 30 <i>Parish Office Closed</i> | 31 <i>NEW YEAR'S EVE</i> <i>Parish Office Closed</i> 9:30am Tai Chi Classes in MH | 1  <i>Parish Office Closed</i> 7:30pm AA Mtg. Clam-Diggers 9:00pm Compline (FB) | 2 <i>Parish Office Closed</i> | 3 <i>Parish Office will re-open January 5th</i> |

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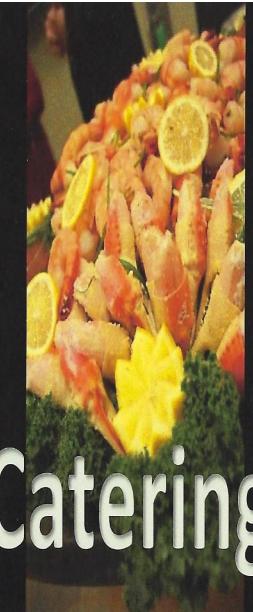
Musicals, Plays,
Children's Theatre,
Concerts, Comedy

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Father Peter's Contact Information

Phone: 973-886-5104

Email: revpdefranco@gmail.com

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

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!

December Birthdays

| | | | |
|-----------------------|----|-------------------|----|
| Marjorie Anderson | 02 | Jo-Ann Bray | 17 |
| Ruth McLaughlin | 10 | Colette Southwick | 17 |
| Francis W. Kleber, IV | 13 | Florence Boulden | 26 |
| Bruce Hillyer | 14 | Curtis Logan | 26 |
| Richard Cashel | 15 | Carol Kirby | 29 |
| Meg Neff | 16 | Carol Hammond | 29 |



December Anniversaries

Thomas & Gail Jacobsen 09

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 December.

DECEMBER ALTAR DONATIONS

7th - Tom & Gail Jacobsen (*Candles*)
14th -
21st - Jeanne Cashel (*Candles*)
24th - Christmas Flowers
25th - Christmas Flowers
28th - Christmas Flowers



DECEMBER FLOWER GUILD

7th - No Flowers During Advent
14th - No Flowers During Advent
21st - No Flowers During Advent
22nd - All Prepare for Christmas
28th - Sherry Johnson

DECEMBER ALTAR GUILD

7th - Jackie Sparks
14th - Carol Hammond, Chris Burlaga
21st - Jeanne Cashel
22nd - All Prepare for Christmas
24th - Jackie Sparks, Melissa Wall
25th - TBD
28th - Jeanne Cashel, Diane Entrikin

DECEMBER USHERS & GREETERS

7th - Sue Hughes, Melissa Wall
14th - Bob Weidmann, Mike Fahner
21st - TBD
24th - TBD
25th - TBD
28th - TBD



Thank you to all who have provided refreshments this year! Our Coffee Hour Sign-up Schedule for January will be posted outside on the bulletin board outside Martin Hall. Your participation is greatly appreciated!!



Our Annual Meeting & Brunch *Sun. Jan. 11th after Service*

Please mark your calendars! See Pat if you want to help with Brunch.



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**



★
For unto
you is
born this
day in the
city of David
a Saviour, which
is Christ the Lord.
Luke
2:11