

January 2025

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

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Office: 609 492 7571
Parish Office Hours
Monday thru Thursday
9:00am - 2:00pm

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THE PARISH POST

HAPPY NEW YEAR
2025!

Welcome The Rev. Peter De Franco!

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

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

With great joy do I begin this ministry as your extended Supply Priest at Holy Innocents Church. Let me share with you some information on my background and family. You have already met my husband, Carl. We met at the Episcopal Church of the Redeemer in Morristown, N.J. on Christmas Eve in 1994. Over the past 30 years, we have moved from our initial home in Hopatcong, N.J. to different rectories and have settled into our present home in Toms River, N.J. We parent two fur children, our cats Pippa and Gemma. Until 2001, I worked for Verizon when all of us had land lines. In 2002, I completed a Master of Divinity Degree from Drew Theological School, Madison, N.J. and Anglican studies at General Theological Seminary in New York City. Twenty one years ago, I was ordained a priest at Grace Church in Madison, N.J. where I served as a seminarian and then curate for 5 years. For one year, I served as Associate Priest and Priest in Charge at Grace Church in Nutley and then for 13 years as Rector of St. Peter's Episcopal Church in Clifton, N.J. St. Peter's sponsored St. Peter's Haven, a homeless shelter for three homeless families and a food pantry which served over 300 families a week. We collaborated with the Jewish and Muslim communities and sponsored an annual educational event on the common religious heritage shared by these three faith communities. In 2017, I was called as Priest in Charge and then Rector of the Episcopal Church of St. John the Baptist in Linden where I served until 2023. Carl and some members of the church organized a Thrift Store which benefited the church. In the 1970's I spent 5 years as a monk at St. Joseph's Abbey in Spencer, Massachusetts. Abbot Thomas Keating, Fr. William Menninger and Fr. Basil Pennington, founders of the Centering Prayer movement, were members of that community. The monks ran two businesses to support the monastery: the Holy Rood Guild produces vestments for the liturgy and Trappist Preserves is known for their jellies, jams and preserves. I worked in Quality Control at Trappist Preserves. To cultivate this monastic background, I am a member of the Lay Cistercians of Gethsemani Abbey in Kentucky, a group of persons who commit themselves to monastic spirituality in the world. I have greatly enjoyed working with your Wardens Dave White and Pat Peacock and look forward to meeting all of you and working with you as we collaborate with God to build the Reign of God on Long Beach Island. Peace.

Fr. Peter De Franco

Minister of Music



Happy New Year!

Special thanks to our choir for making 2024 brighter for us. We are very fortunate to have such dedicated and faithful choir members! They will take their usual well deserved winter break and return in February. We always welcome new members, so come try us out- and bring a friend (or two!). We promise some wonderful music, and lots of laughter.

In addition to the choir taking their break, I will be taking off the month of January. I will surely miss worshipping and making music with you, but I am grateful to take some time off.

I am also grateful for Barbara Wheeler who will cover for me the weeks I am away. I would like to say I am counting my blessings, but frankly there are far too many to count!

Cheers to a New and Bright Year!

Ellen Dondero
Minister of Music
ejdondero@comcastnet



When I was laid low with Covid a while ago, I decided to finally write something for the Parish Post. I have been thinking about some of these things for quite a while. I do a lot of reading, first with books, then Kindle and finally with audio books (easier on the ageing eyes). Mostly I read novels, sometimes non-fiction. My recent choices in novels have included those on The Little Egg Harbor Yacht Club's book group list. In case you are interested here's the list:

The Husbands by Holly Gramazio

The Mysterious Case of Rudolph Diesel by Douglas Brunt (local author and club member)

The Northwoods by Daniel Mason

The Drowning Woman by Robyn Harding

My other love is legal and detective thrillers, especially James Patterson.

Here are a few things that I have noticed in the books I have read/listened to over the past couple of years:

A large majority of the characters, especially women, have green eyes. Now I have green eyes and I always thought they were not that common. I know green eyes are a variation of blue. So, I decided to investigate. Did you know that only about 2 percent of people in the world have naturally green eyes? Green eyes are a genetic mutation that results in low levels of melanin, though more melanin than in blue eyes. Green eyes don't actually have any color.

Authors seem to like the expression "s/he smiled though it didn't reach her/his eyes". I understand what the expression means but I question why so many authors seem to be using it recently. I don't remember that expression cropping up in books I have read over my lifetime, until the last few years.

Readers of audio books are of very mixed quality. I often encounter mis-pronounced words. Here's an example from a recent audio book: The word grimace occurred several times and was pronounced "grim-ace". In other cases, place names are butchered. I hope those readers didn't get paid overly much.

Those are my recent thoughts on books. What do you think? ~ *Submitted by Diane Carter*

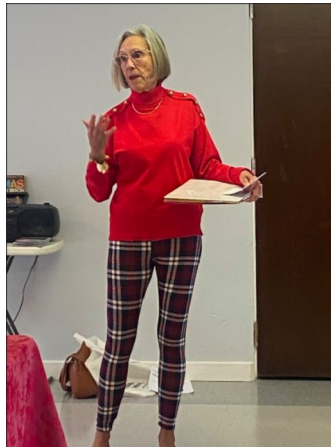
ECW UPDATE

Happy New Year to all our Holy Innocents' family and friends. May the Lord bless you and grant you peace. The ECW closed out 2024 with a Holiday luncheon last month in Martin Hall. Sixteen ladies enjoyed an afternoon of good food, fellowship, and fortune (we played a game where everyone got a present.). We were especially glad to see our very own Deacon Judy for the first time in quite a while. It was hard to tell who was most thrilled - Judy or us!

At a very brief meeting, we voted to hold our meetings on the third Tuesday of the month rather than the first Tuesday. We meet alternate months so our next meeting is Feb 18. If you are an Episcopal Woman, you are an automatic member. So come join us on **Feb 18th**.

It is with heavy hearts we bid farewell to our dear friend, sister in Christ, and faithful leader of the ECW for many years, Suzette Whiting. Rest in peace dear Sue, you will be greatly missed.

We wish all our Holy Innocents' Family and friends a happy and blessed New Year. ~ Melissa Wall



2024 HOLY HIKE @ Edwin Forsythe Wildlife Rescue

Our Holy Hike was a short but brisk cold walk on Saturday, Dec. 21st! We returned to the Jacobsen's home for hot chocolate & homemade cookies in front of the fire before engaging in a pictogram game of naming Christmas carols. Many thanks to Tom & Gail for their hospitality!

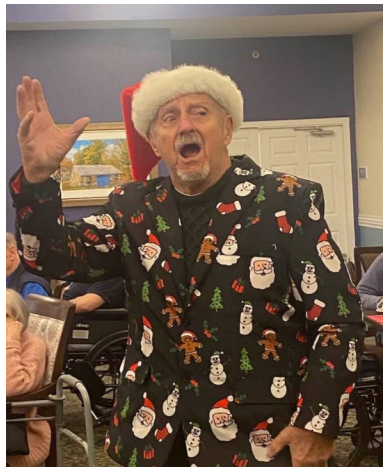


A Prayer for the New Year

Almighty God, as we step into this new year, we thank you for the gift of fresh beginnings. Renew our hearts and minds, guide our steps with your wisdom, and empower us to live with compassion and purpose, reflecting your love in all we do. May this year be marked by growth, service, and a deeper relationship with you, through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*



Annual Choir Christmas Caroling & Christmas Eve



Parish Prayer List January

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

Lara Sparks Deitz	Joan Connolly	Mary Ann Crewdson
Dennis	Connie Anderson	Christian Balint
Bob Hendricks	Christine Hendricks	Kathy & Walter
Ron & Kenny	Jeannine	Judy & Al
Joan & Linda Kelly	Chris C.	David D'Ambrosia
Barry Longenbach	Warren Lamon	Teri Keller
Gia	Cora	Frank M.
Ray M.	Joey	Sue P.
Ann White	George & Linda Huggler	Cindy Wood
Pierro Family	Lovas Family	Debbie & Joe Reising
Connie	Joe	Peg Appleget
Dcn. Judy	Jim Hanley	Fran
Lynne Weidmann	Alicia Magarelli	Jennifer
Keith Moore	Alycia Mullin	Diane
Florence Welharticky	Meg Neff	Rob Meyer
Chuck Hall	Leila Sullivan	Rob Greer
Tino	Florence Lamon	Melanie Harman
Shirley	Pat	Kathy Rice
Jessie	Bob & Barb Senst	Vince Contreras
Rich	Charles Sullivan	
Doug Hunter	Marie Kleber	
Family & Friends of Gerry Lutz	Family & Friends of Jim Sanders	
Family & Friends of Cynthia Clarke	Family & Friends of Louise Muth	
Family & Friends of Mimi Dodson	Family & Friends of Suzette Whiting	

Those serving in the military and other dangerous professions:

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

Coffee Hour Schedule ~ January-May 2025



Our weekly Coffee Hours are a marvelous opportunity for our parishioners to socialize, participate in various workshops, and welcome new members and visitors.

Our committee invites you to participate in another important way by providing an EASY refreshment to accompany the coffee and tea that is provided each week. Examples include bagels, cookies, bread, cupcakes, etc. These food items can be homemade or bought, and you DO NOT have to make the coffee!

If you would like to sign up for a week during the months of January through May, please locate the Coffee Hour Schedule that is posted on the bulletin board outside Martin Hall, or contact me and I will schedule you: Ellen Kehr (814)598-4973 or bkehrfl@comcast.net

The weeks that are unavailable are the second Sundays of each month because they are reserved for Vestry Birthday Cakes.

Thank you so much!

Have a Happy and Healthy New Year!!! ~ Ellen K.

5 + 1 things that Nature can teach us about spending Christmas

by [Jonna Saari](#), and Holy Hikes.



1. Peace

Nature does not ask questions, complain, or insist. It isn't impatient or anxious. In midwinter, nature is truly still and at peace. Go for a walk—only your footsteps can be heard. You can feel the energy of the sleeping earth under your feet. But to experience it, you must remember to stop and be absolutely quiet.

2. Unselfish Generosity

Above the silent ground, the Moon and the Sun ride across the sky day and night. They light our paths at all times and, without asking, paint the sky blue, purple, and red—creating mixes so beautiful even the most skillful painters would be jealous. All that we humans can do is enjoy the view and sigh, "Oh, how beautiful!"

3. Living in the Moment

At Christmastime, the northern part of Finland is covered with a thick layer of snow. In the south, the ground may appear bare but is covered with fallen leaves. Under nature's own winter blanket, the earth is resting and gaining its strength. In the spring, nature will blossom again in its full glory, but for now, it is dim, silent, and mysterious. Nature is not impatient; it is content with this very moment.

4. Gratitude

Underground, many animals are sleeping at Christmastime: bears, badgers, and others. Above ground, however, life is a struggle. Birds are doing all they can to find something to eat, as are moose and hares. Reindeer dig through the snow to find lichen beneath. Animals don't waste time wishing for more—they are grateful for every bite.

5. License to Relax

Nature doesn't apologize for not offering blooming flowers or gleaming waters in the winter. It doesn't suffer from a guilty conscience if it's not neat and tidy. Nature knows its value and takes a break when it's needed. Maybe you shouldn't worry about what other people might think either.

+1: Joy

After Christmas, the Sun begins to bathe the earth with its bright colors for longer and longer periods. In northernmost Finland, the Sun returns after Kaamos, the Arctic night, when it hasn't appeared for a month or more. Before long, you'll hear rivers and rapids roar and see plants emerge from the ground, growing taller and taller.

Christmas is a turning point for nature. Soon, the stillness of winter will end, and a new time will begin. Enjoy the rest now.



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

We hope you enjoy getting to know the people of Holy Innocents'!
January Parishioner Spotlight ~ Leila González Sullivan

I am the closest thing to an army brat you can find, but my Dad was not in the army, he was more of an adventurer. I was born in Chicago, where my parents were studying and got married; we then moved to Japan, and later Puerto Rico and back to the U.S. As we moved around, I attended about 17 schools and colleges, culminating in a doctoral degree at the University of Arkansas. I identify strongly as a Latina and try to visit Puerto Rico, my father's native land, as often as possible.

In terms of a profession, for over 40 years I have been an educator and leadership trainer, starting in community colleges, where I served as president of three colleges, and ending at North Carolina State University as a professor of higher education. Learning and educating are still at my core. A picture is of me and one of my doctoral students.



As a Pisces, Long Beach Island is my true home. We bought our first house for summer stays here in 1984 and, after that one was destroyed by Hurricane Sandy, we built our new house, which is now our permanent home. I still heave this great sigh of joy when I cross over the causeway, and I feel a deep sense of peace as I walk along the ocean.

In 2012, Deacon Judy, my dearest friend, convinced me to join Holy Innocents' trip to Israel. It wasn't on my bucket travel list and as a "fallen away" Catholic, it was appealing but I wasn't sure I belonged. I did go, loved my fellow travelers and Father Frank, and had several life changing experiences. The pictures from the Israel trip show me being blessed in the Jordan River and riding a camel (as well as one of Father Frank on a camel).



I started visiting Holy Innocents' during the summers, but it took the subsequent four years to decide I wanted to make a full commitment to the Episcopal faith. I found in Holy Innocents' a loving community that welcomed me, a home for my enduring spirituality, and an appreciation for music as a central part of prayer.

Since that time, I have become more involved in our ministries, including serving as Chalice Bearer, Usher, Book Club leader, Warden, and Vestry member.

As I consider how to share my talents and energies, I constantly work on social justice issues. That focus began with my undergraduate college days and has continued throughout my career and finally in the past ten years while we lived in Maplewood as a board member of the Community Coalition on Race in Maplewood/South Orange, two towns striving to be truly integrated and welcoming to people of all backgrounds.

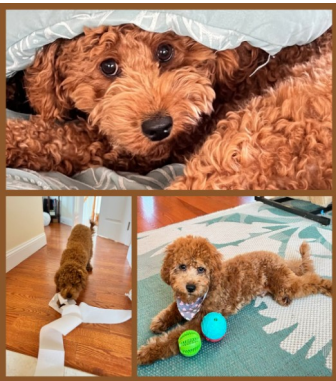
Parishioner Spotlight continued...

Even more recent is my devotion to Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense. I do phone banking to new members each Tuesday and am always ready to talk to parents, our community, and the general public about how to safeguard our children by securing all guns in our own homes and encouraging others to do the same.

I love to travel and have done many river cruises in Europe with my dear friend Deacon Judy. I still have the dream of visiting Scotland and doing a safari, but for now I'm planning a trip to the Greek islands with my grandson, Mark, this coming June.



Finally, some more lighthearted information. I have been married for 56 years



to Charles Sullivan, a lawyer and lover of cross-words, and we have two daughters and an adopted nephew, all of whom have blessed us with five grandkids. Pictures are of Charles and me and of our two daughters, Meg and Moira. The latest addition to our family is Rocky – just a few pictures will show some of the ways that he keeps us moving. My favorite music is jazz and country; my favorite colors are aqua and purple; I'm studying photography and Italian and hope to meet others who are doing so. My favorite line in Scripture is (and was our wedding song) ...



"To everything there is a season and a time for every matter under heaven." Ecclesiastes 3: 1-8



**Our Annual Congregational Meeting is scheduled for
Sunday, January 12, 2025 in Martin Hall immediately
following worship service.**

A light fare of foods will be served



THANK YOU SO MUCH to those who were able to provide gifts selected from our giving tree and to Maggie Aftanis for organizing the bags, overseeing, organizing, and transporting all the gifts! All of the families were so thankful for the gifts & gift cards from the ECW!



JANUARY 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 <i>Parish Office Closed</i> 	2 7:30pm AA Mtg. Clam-Diggers 9:00pm Compline (FB)	3 <i>Parish Office Closed</i>	4 <i>10:30am Cynthia Clark Funeral Liturgy</i>
5 <i>Second Sunday after Christmas</i> 9:30am Rite II	6 9:00am MP (FB) 9:15-10:15am Yoga 	7	8 9:30am-11:00am Sandwich Ministry	9 7:00pm Vestry 7:30pm AA Mtg. Clam-Diggers 9:00pm Compline (FB)	10 <i>Parish Office Closed</i>	11 <i>11:00am Joyce Vitulli Committal</i>
12 <i>The First Sunday after the Epiphany The Baptism of Our Lord Jesus Christ</i> 9:30am Rite II ANNUAL MEETING	13 9:00am MP (FB) 9:15-10:15am Yoga 	14 	15 4:00pm Prayer Ministry	16 7:30pm AA Mtg. Clam-Diggers 9:00pm Compline (FB)	17 <i>Parish Office Closed</i> 	18
19 <i>The Second Sunday after the Epiphany</i> 9:30am Rite II	20 <i>Parish Office Closed</i> <i>Martin Luther King Day</i> 9:00am MP (FB) 9:15-10:15am Yoga 	21	22 	23 7:30pm AA Mtg. Clam-Diggers 9:00pm Compline (FB)	24 <i>Parish Office Closed</i>	25 
26 <i>The Third Sunday after the Epiphany</i> 9:30am Rite II	27 9:00am MP (FB) 9:15-10:15am Yoga 	28 	29	30 7:30pm AA Mtg. Clam-Diggers 9:00pm Compline (FB)	31 <i>Parish Office Closed</i>	

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THE BISHOP IS COMING!!

**VISITATION DATE HAS BEEN RE-SCHEDULED TO
FEBRUARY 23RD**

Anyone interested in being confirmed or received into the church,
please get in touch with a Warden or see Lisa in the office.

The canonical purposes of a visitation are for the bishop to examine the
condition of the congregation,
oversee the clergy, preach, confirm, preside at the eucharist, and
examine parochial records.

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!

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

5th - Debbie Iosso
 12th -
 19th - Debbie Hunter
 26th - The Cashels

JANUARY FLOWER GUILD

5th - Sherry Johnson
 12th - Joyce Hillyer
 19th - Kim Sparks
 26th - Carol Hammond

JANUARY ALTAR GUILD

5th - Chris Burlaga, Jackie Sparks
 12th - Carol Hammond, Chris Burlaga
 19th - Jeanne Cashel, Carol Hammond
 26th - Jackie Sparks, Diane EntriKin

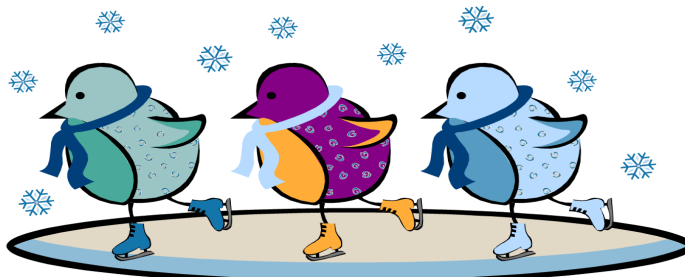
JANUARY USHERS & GREETERS

5th - Gail Jacobsen, Mike DeCicco
 12th - Bob Weidmann, Sue Hughes
 19th - Mike Fahner, Mike DeCicco
 26th - Bob Weidmann, Sue Hughes



JANUARY COFFEE HOUR SCHEDULE

5th - TBD
 12th - TBD
 19th - TBD
 26th - TBD





Holy Innocents' Episcopal Church

**Pearl and Marine Streets
Beach Haven, New Jersey 08008
609-492-7571**

**Sunday Morning ~ 7:30 a.m.
Rite I Worship Service
(May 25th through Labor Day)
Sunday Morning ~ 9:30 a.m.
Rite II Worship Service with music
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Donate your way.

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