

# SAINT PETER'S NET

JESUS SAID TO PETER, "FOLLOW ME, AND I WILL MAKE YOU FISH FOR PEOPLE."  
MATTHEW 4:19

## From the Interim Rector

Dear Members and Friends of St. Peter's,

The Bishop is coming to St. Peter's Church on March 11, 2012 for his periodic Visitation.

This is an important event in the life of the parish. A bishop's visitation is our opportunity to reconnect with our diocese, the Diocese of Pennsylvania and the world wide Anglican Communion. The bishop is a representative of the historic connection we have from the time of Jesus when the Church was established to the present time. We affirm, as do all Catholic Churches that our bishops are in Apostolic Succession from the Church's earliest days. All Ordained clergy of the church also participate in Apostolic Succession.

Bishop Rodney R. Michel will be with us for a combined service at 10 AM on March 11<sup>th</sup>. His visitation will afford us many important opportunities. Bishop Michel will:

1. preach and celebrate the Holy Eucharist.
2. baptize children, youth and adults who are prepared for Baptism.
3. confirm persons who wish to reaffirm their baptismal vows and seek full fellowship in the one, holy, catholic Church.
4. acknowledge and "receive" persons from other catholic churches, who wish to make the Episcopal Church their church home.
5. meet with the vestry to discern the state of St. Peter's Church; review its canonical records of services, baptisms, confirmations, marriages and funerals. He will ask about our Strategic Plan for the future as a parish church.
6. be available for photographs and sign Prayer Books as requested.

I am alerting you to this historic visitation so that together we can make preparations for Baptism, Confirmation and Reception of those desiring these rites of the Church. This visitation should be viewed as an opportunity for fuller fellowship with the Church. Through Baptism, we are adopted into the Church; through Confirmation, we make an informed commitment to the Church. By being "Received" from another Catholic church, we acknowledge our oneness with the universal Church of Jesus.

The Church is poised to bless each of us as we move toward a fuller discipleship of Jesus.

Prayerful Blessings,  
*David*

**Mission Statement:** We are an inclusive, forward-looking Episcopal parish that seeks to grow in Christ through worship, education and fellowship, serves Christ by ministering to local and global communities and shares Christ in following His command to "Love one another as I have loved you."

**Vision Statement:** Our vision at St. Peter's is to be an inclusive, vibrant Christian community honoring our Episcopal heritage by achieving excellence in worship, mission, education and fellowship.

### Staff

Rev. Dr. Koshy Mathews, *Rector*  
Rev. David Hyatt, *Interim Rector*  
Rev. Kenneth Bullock, *Assisting Clergy*  
Rev. Joseph Dietz, *Deacon*  
Retta Sparano, *Liturgical Coordinator*  
Nicholas Lodico, *Organist/Choir Master*  
Judith M. Dougherty, *Parish Secretary*  
Maria Yanez, *Sexton*

### Vestry

2012 Geoffrey Scott  
Mary Tackett  
Henry Young  
2013 Anne Andrews  
Cindy Hammaker  
Clement Young  
2014 Tracy Parker  
Rebekah Ray  
Gary Russell

## What's Happening At St. Peter's February 2012

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## Deacon's Roundtable

One of the magazines I found to be helpful to me in my ministry is Christian History and Biography which, unfortunately, is now out of print. The summer 2006 issue was dedicated to Michelangelo.

One of the novels we had to read for Humanities Class when I was in college was "The Agony and the Ecstasy" which was filmed in 1965 starring Charlton Heston and Rex Harrison. This novel and film depicted Michelangelo during the period of his life when he was painting the ceiling in the Sistine Chapel under the patronage of Pope Julius II.

Michelangelo Buonarroti was born March 6, 1475. It may have been prophetic that he was named for St. Michael the Archangel. As a teenager, he was apprenticed to sculptors who worked in the gardens of Lorenzo de Medici. Lorenzo befriended Michelangelo and took him into his family where he was able to mingle with some of the sharpest minds and gifted humanists of the period. His spiritual formation was influenced by a Dominican friar and social reformer Girolamo Savonarola. The friar's criticism of the church's moral decay and external ceremonies and his preaching of salvation by faith continued to influence Michelangelo the rest of his life. It set a war in his soul between perfect physical beauty and perfect spiritual goodness.

Michelangelo's most important works were the *Pieta* (the Virgin Mary mourning over the dead body of Jesus), the statue of David (which remains standing in Florence today), the ceiling of the Sistine Chapel and the altar piece depicting *The Last Judgment*, and the design of St. Peter's Basilica in Rome. During his life time Michelangelo served no fewer than thirteen popes, each with their own agenda.

Painfully conscious of his own sinfulness and beginning to doubt his earlier preoccupation with ideal beauty, Michelangelo became more and more focused on Christ's redeeming sacrifice as the years went on. In one of his last

poems, he prayed, "My dear Lord, thou alone dost clothe and strip,/ And with thy blood purge and heal the souls/ From the infinite human sins."

One of Michelangelo's early biographers wrote, "His imagination was so powerful and perfect that he often discarded work in which his hands found it impossible to express his tremendous and awesome ideas." Michelangelo is recorded as saying, "For those who feel it, nothing makes the soul so religious and pure as the endeavor to create something perfect; for God is perfection, and whoever strives after it, is striving after something divine. True painting is only the image of the perfection of God, a shadow of the pencil with which he paints, a melody, striving after harmony."

The late John W. Dixon wrote, "Michelangelo's faith never wavered. Beyond tragedy, beyond despair, there was always hope, for, in his faith, God himself had taken human despair into himself. What could not be said in words could be shown in the formed image, both the tragic despair and the Way beyond despair. With hope there was the possibility of love. The largeness of his love is something of the measure of his greatness."

The Sistine Chapel ceiling is one of the ways that Michelangelo presents the grace of God told not only through significant scenes from Genesis, but a specific story of the divine and human action through creation, fall, and redemption. It depicts the Genesis narrative through the lens of the Gospel. Michelangelo brings the theme of divine grace, foretold and fulfilled from the very first moments of creation, into the present moment of the church's worship.

Michelangelo's art and sculpture is a fitting way for us to view Lent.

In Christ's Love,

*Deacon Joe*

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## Lenten Services



### ASH WEDNESDAY, February 22

**7:00 a.m. Eucharist; Imposition of Ashes**

**Noon Eucharist; Imposition of Ashes**

**7:30 p.m. Eucharist; Imposition of Ashes**

### STATIONS OF THE CROSS

*Every Friday – 7:00 p.m.*

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## Stack 'Em High Sunday Pancake Brunch February 19th



Enjoy a delicious brunch on Sunday, February 19<sup>th</sup> following the 10:00 a.m. service. Not only will the traditional pancakes and sausages be on offer, but a quiche and salad option also will be available. The cost is \$5 per person (\$3 for children under 5). Look for a fun Mardi Gras theme, bake sale and a raffle for a gift card ensemble or a lovely wine basket. Tickets for the brunch as well as for the raffle (3 chances for \$5.00) will be on sale after the 10am service on Sunday mornings leading up to the brunch. You may also purchase tickets on the morning of the brunch. All proceeds will directly benefit St. Peter's Youth Group activities. Please mark your calendar for this event filled with food, fellowship and fundraising for a great cause!

## Budget Address

Gary Russell

The following address was given to the congregation at 8:00 and 10:00 AM services on Sunday January 15, 2012 by Gary Russell, Senior Warden.

I would like to take a little of your time to bring you up to date on some current events.

Last week Bishop Bennison wrote a letter discussing the "state of the diocese". In this letter he said this, quote "Today 60 of our 141 churches (43%) are, or soon to become, "non-traditional", i.e. unable to sustain a traditional ministry with a full time priest, property and program". End of quote. Declining attendance and deficit budgets are taking their toll in main line Protestant churches of all denominations.

Here at St. Peter's church we are blessed with three excellent ordained clergy, beautiful worship space, an inspiring music program, a strong volunteer base, and a vibrant youth program. We have outreach programs that respond to Jesus' call to feed the hungry and advocate for the oppressed. In 2012 we will be making efforts to attract and retain new members, and strengthening our stewardship program. We are doing God's work now and we have a great future. We have no intention of becoming one of these churches so kindly referred to as "non-traditional".

In order for this great work to be sustained, we also must tend to the fiscal health of our parish. To this end, I want to make you aware that the vestry is currently considering our budget for 2012. You might know that last year we approved a budget that had a \$12,000 deficit, that is; our expenses were \$12,000 more than our income. We passed that budget with the hope that things would get better during the year – they didn't. This year again we are faced with a deficit budget. Several years ago, under the leadership of Mike Logar, we passed a balanced budget for the first time in several years. We as a church need to face the realities of our circumstances and create fiscal policy that will

keep us healthy in every respect. We need to get there again.

I want to share with you some painful, but necessary facts that affect our financial health:

- For 2011, there were 27 underpaid pledges accounting for about a \$10,000 shortfall in pledge income. My belief is that sometimes folks just lose track of where they are – my hope is that they can catch up.
- In 2011, there were 23 pledges that were overpaid by \$6,300.
- For 2012, we have about \$195,000 in pledges so far, compared with \$202,000 last year.

In the meantime costs have gone up and income will go down. Here is what will need to be done to have a balanced budget in 2012:

- There will be no employee pay increases for 2012. That will be a savings of \$4,500 compared to a 2.8% COL increase recommended by the diocese.
- Instead of making \$8,000 in loan payments for the boiler loan, we will have to take the money out of savings this year.
- We will pay our mandatory diocesan assessment of \$8,000, but will not pay our voluntary pledge of \$3,000. This will be the first time in the last 15 years that we cannot pay a voluntary pledge.
- We will not contribute \$2,000 to Millennium Developmental Goals, an outreach that we have honored every year since we pledged it in 2008.
- We will make spending reductions in flowers, learning materials, kitchen, music, stewardship and honoriums (payments to guest speakers or short term consultants).
- Important ministries of Growth/New Member Ministry, Sunday School, Youth Group and Pastoral Care will be funded with a grand total of \$1,200 between them.
- There will be zero dollars allocated for the pantry or El Salvador mission.

Despite the worst economy in a long time, many of you have been very generous with your contributions whether through pledge or plate giving. We have been blessed with a wonderful expression of your stewardship with a successful capital campaign. My only purpose

of sharing these facts is to inform, so you can be aware of our true picture and be enabled to act in whatever way you can.

I have described what it will take to achieve a balanced budget in 2012. Here is what we can do about it:

- 1] If you are behind in your pledge for 2011, please make it up as soon as possible.
- 2] Reconsider your pledge for 2012 – if you decide you can amend your pledge, please send an email to our church secretary at the church email address: [stpeters@snip.net](mailto:stpeters@snip.net) before next Sunday.
- 3] If your personal circumstances permit, increase giving when possible.
- 4] We are working on several fundraisers for 2012 to augment our income and possibly fund some of the things I mentioned previously.
  - Next week after church we will have a presentation on how you can switch your electric supplier through our church portal which will save you money on your electric bill and the church will receive \$4.00 per month for as long as you are a customer.
  - We will be participating in a golf tournament on May 7 at the Bellewood Country Club in Pottstown along with Healing Hands and the Madieu Foundation. Our part will be to supply some volunteer help and hopefully some foursomes. We will share in the profits.
  - We are planning a Trivia Night to be held at the VFW sometime in May, a night of fun and fellowship and fundraising.
  - Due to little funding from the budget, our various ministries that need money to operate will be having their smaller fundraisers such as pancake breakfast (Feb. 19), car washes, hoagie sales, etc. These are all approved in advance by the vestry. You can help by supporting these fundraisers as you have in the past.
  - We will continue to look for fundraising opportunities.

Volunteer help is critical to making these fundraisers successful. Please answer the call to help whenever asked whether it's for a committee working on a program or a fundraiser.

Please email me with your comments at the email address [gwrccr@verizon.net](mailto:gwrccr@verizon.net). I invite you to attend the Annual Meeting on Sunday February 12 after church to learn more about our future together in 2012.

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## One Dollar A Day

Susan Madden-Cox



\$1 A Day...The Mission Committee Invites You to a Meaningful Lenten Devotion.

Last year, during the 50 days between Easter and Pentecost, you were so generous in your response to our *One Dollar A Day Campaign* to raise funds for St. Peter's El Salvador Mission and for Foundation Cristosal. The mission committee is inviting you to observe this devotion during the season of Lent in 2012, beginning on Ash Wednesday through Easter (also 50 days.)

In El Salvador, so many people live with the hard reality of surviving on less than one or two dollars per day, a harsh existence considered to be the mark of "extreme poverty." We realized that in our daily lives here in Phoenixville, PA, one dollar (\$1) can seem inconsequential. It equates to a ¼ of our coffee house indulgence, the tax on an \$18 purchase, the change we thoughtlessly drop into the cup holder in our cars, a single bill we are willing to hand over to a friend (or a stranger) for just about any reason. The tensions of the current US economy may have us tightening our belts and making prudent changes in our spending, *but can we really say that we couldn't spare one dollar per day?*

At the same time we could take a good look at our habits of consumption in general. A wise and thoughtful member of our committee has this to offer: "Lent is the time of renunciation, a time we are supposed to fast and give alms. What if we ask people in our church and our friends to think about the people in El Salvador and other places who live on less than one dollar a day and, then ask them to enter into a commitment to let go a comfort worth a dollar from their daily life style...like one less cup of coffee per day during Lent or not eating meat one day during a week, or turning the thermostat down a degree during this time...then contributing *that* money to the missions?"

This is a way for the whole congregation to engage in this Mission of the Church in El Salvador. This is a concrete way for people to take part in Lent and at the same time help the mission, it can strengthen our overall resolve to reduce our consumption and at the same time benefit those in need.

Please look for your personalized collection bag which will be available at church on February 19. We too have dedicated our efforts to non-consumption and are busily stitching scrap fabric and twine into sweet coin pouches rather than spending and utilizing envelopes for this Lenten devotion. We'll stay in touch too, with ideas and inspirations to support you through the season.

We thank you in advance for your participation. Any new practice, if it is to create lasting meaning; pushes us somewhat out of our comfort zones, raises our awareness and serves the common good. We hope that this simple act of daily mindfulness and giving will become a blessing for you and others.

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## Hosting Sunday Coffee Hour

Barbara Rocchi, barb@rocchi.net (610-933-0792)



Sunday Coffee Hour seems to be a vital part of our fellowship together and enjoyed by all. We would like it to run as smoothly as possible and it does not need to be elaborate, cookies, cakes and light offerings are satisfactory. The signup sheet is always displayed in the kitchen, ready for you to choose a Sunday and add your name. If you have any questions, please contact me, Barbara Rocchi.

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## All Ministries and Parishioners

### Using The Kitchen



It is vital that the kitchen be kept clean and orderly at all times, a list of **HELPFUL HINTS** will be posted in the kitchen for everyone's convenience. An inventory list will also be posted so supplies can be ordered as soon as it is noted that they are needed. If you have any questions, please contact Barbara Rocchi, barb@rocchi.net (610-933-0792).

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## Sunday School

Cindy Hammaker



The Sunday School program continues to bring the children closer to each other and in developing their understanding of Jesus' lessons. In February, the children will enjoy

making Valentine cards for our shut-in parishioners. This activity will surely put a smile on faces as the children show how much they care for others.

Thank you parents for bringing your children to Sunday School every week. Not only are they learning invaluable lessons as they grow in their spirituality, but they are forming bonds with the other St. Peter's children in their class. These relationships will continue through their years at St. Peter's and serve to enhance their spiritual connections on many levels.

The Sunday School program can use some extra teachers to teach on a rotating basis or as a substitute. Please contact Anne Andrews if interested participating in this important and vital service of St. Peters.

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## Parish Wide Weekly Emails



St. Peter's sends out a weekly "parish wide" email containing information on "what is happening" at St. Peter's. Have **YOU** received them? If not, forward your email address to the Parish Office at stpeters@snip.net.

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## February Birthdays



- [2] Ron Druckenmiller, Zack Martin
- [3] Jake Vargo; [4] Brittney Rennie
- [6] Trey Warkala; [7] Naomi Grunwell
- [8] Lynn Fraker, Warren Campbell
- [9] Lisa Brock; [15] Robert Birkbeck
- [16] David Hyatt; [17] Bill Sullens; [18] Jan Wier
- [19] Ryan Wier, Michael Paster
- [20] Mike Logar; [21] Susan Krzemienski
- [22] Eric Quaintance; [26] Geoffrey Scott

## Vestry Candidates

### Susan Madden-Cox

I have been a member of St. Peter's since October 2007 after moving to the building across the alley from the church into what would become my new business and a temporary home for me and my kids. On my first Sunday here, I was greeted by the bishop which seemed an auspicious start and it quickly became clear that I was in the right place and had found a new church home just a few steps from my back door!

I had long had a curiosity about traveling the world in service, so with notice of St. Peter's second El Salvador trip in 2008, my 2 boys and I took a step towards a deeper connection with church and our own spiritual journeys. Soon I was helping to organize events for the mission committee, participating in services as a lector, returning to El Salvador 2 more times with my daughter and son and sitting on the Stewardship Committee this year.

I have always been an Episcopalian. I was baptized and confirmed at St. James in Lancaster, PA. I raised my own family at St. Peter's in the Great Valley, where I ran the Christian Education Committee and my kids sang in the choir. I have an English degree from Lehigh and my work as a yoga teacher, massage therapist and business owner is a true blessing where I get to explore the realm of spirit every day. My children; Kyle 24, Elliot 21 and Brigham 20 now feel completely at home at St. Peter's and in November of this year, we celebrated the baptism of my first granddaughter Roan. I love to write and to throw parties, think creatively and meet challenges.

Beyond these "me" facts though, I feel qualified to serve on the Vestry because I feel personally called to be responsible to this wonderful church community. I value St. Peter's for her diversity, dedication to mission, and youthful energy. I envision the great aspects of our parish expanding to further abundance, and I hope to be of service as it manifests for all of us.

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## John M. Magee, DDS

My name is John Magee and I will be running for vestry in February. I am a 47 year old dentist, married with two young children. We moved to Pennsylvania from Buffalo, New York in 2002 and have been members of St. Peter's church since 2004. While in Buffalo, we attended St. Andrew's Episcopal Church where I served two terms on their vestry.

I was baptized, confirmed and married at St. Andrew's and when we moved here, I was delighted to find a parish like St. Peter's which had so many similarities to my old church. As a "cradle" Episcopalian, I've been concerned about preserving our traditions and securing our future. I look forward to working with the rector and all fellow vestry members in order to help achieve this. I thank you for your consideration and support.

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### Retta Sparano

Since returning to St. Peter's as my spiritual home in 1998, I have had many opportunities to serve in various ministries. Those areas included:

- Food pantry, and meals for St. Mary's Shelter
- Several terms on the vestry, as clerk and 6 years as Accounting Warden
- Chair of Discernment Committee 2004-2006
- Member of budget, worship, communication and sabbatical committees
- Chair of Sabbatical Committee to apply for Eli Lilly Grant.
- Coordinator for Sunday coffee hour hosting
- Choir member

Serving on each of these committees, and especially as a vestry member, has given me a broad view of our parish, its mission and vision. My work background is financial, having worked in banking, in the finance department at Devereux, and currently as office manager in a real estate management company. I bring those skills, and a deep commitment to listening to

others and helping to make things happen. I would like to continue working with the vestry and clergy as we strive to meet our mission and vision goals, and so ask for your vote at our annual meeting.

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## Worship Service Participants

February – 2012

### Acolytes

- 5 Vernet Spence-Brown  
Libby Andrews, Will Tackett
- 12 D. J. Brock  
Sarah Hammaker, Thomas Hammaker
- 19 Kunal Hivale  
Courtney Logar, Stephanie Logar
- 22 7:30 p.m. Vernet Spence-Brown  
Brandon Rennie, Brittany Rennie
- 26 Jake Vargo  
Brittany Alling, Charlotte Roberts

### Greeters – 8:00 am

- 5 Lisa Scott
- 12 Glenn Murray
- 19 Joan Grunwell
- 26 Jack Susskind

### Greeters – 10:00 am

- 5 Mary Tackett, Judi Hans
- 12 Vernet Spence-Brown, Marva Young
- 19 Kim Thornton, Lisa Schiavone
- 22 7:30 p.m. Judi Hans
- 26 Mike Logar, Pat Howse

### Lectors – 8:00 am

- 5 Peggy Kandle  
Lisa Scott *chalicist*
- 12 Lisa Scott
- 19 Ron Gaugler
- 26 Todd Jackson

### Lectors – 10:00 am

- 5 Courtney Logar, Jake Vargo  
Libby Andrews *intercessor*  
Phil Howse, JoAnn Arnold *chalicists*
- 12 Carol Smith, Curt Quaintance  
Carol Russell *intercessor*  
Vernet Spence-Brown *chalicist*
- 19 Retta Sparano, Vernet Spence-Brown  
Jan Wier *intercessor*  
Carol Russell *chalicist*
- 22 7:30 p.m. Beverly Burkhardt, Marty Bloem  
JoAnn Arnold *intercessor*  
Ron Gaugler *chalicist*
- 26 Iris Blanche, Henry Young  
Megan Druckenmiller *intercessor*  
Peter Druckenmiller *chalicist*

### Ushers

- 6 Jim Tackett, Curt Quaintance
- 12 Bruce Alling, Sam Smith
- 19 Jon Martin, Carl Rennie
- 26 Steven De Prado, Erik Paulson

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## Events For The Month Of



### Parish Office Hours

**Tuesday – Wednesday – Thursday – Friday**  
**8:00 a.m. until Noon [unless otherwise noted]**

#### 1) 7:00 Worship Committee Meeting

#### 2) Noon Soup Kitchen

7:00 Narcotics Anon to 8:30 – Smith Room

7:00 Sphere College to 9:15 p.m. – Fifer Room

**3) 6:30 First Friday Evening Prayer**

5) 8:00 Eucharist  
8:30 Adult Choir Rehearsal  
9:00 Bible Study in Rector's Office  
10:00 Choral Eucharist  
Children's Chapel; Sunday School  
11:00 Treble Choir Rehearsal

7) Noon Soup Kitchen  
12:30 PACA Meeting  
2:00 Sphere College to 4:00 p.m.–Fifer Room

8) 10:45 Service at Sanatoga Manor

9) Noon Soup Kitchen  
7:00 Narcotics Anon to 8:30 – Smith Room  
7:00 Sphere College to 9:15 p.m. – Fifer Room

11) 9:00 Pantry OPEN

12) 8:00 Eucharist  
8:30 Adult Choir Rehearsal  
9:00 Bible Study in Rector's Office  
10:00 Choral Eucharist  
Children's Chapel; Sunday School  
*Annual Parish Meeting*  
2:30 Girl Scout Meeting  
**4:30 Youth Group**  
**4:30 Knitting Group in Rector's Office**

14) Noon Soup Kitchen  
2:00 Sphere College to 4:00 p.m.–Fifer Room

15) 10:45 Service at Spring Mill Senior Living

16) Noon Soup Kitchen  
7:00 Narcotics Anon to 8:30 – Smith Room  
7:00 Sphere College to 9:15 p.m. – Fifer Room

**19) DEADLINE: March NET articles / dates**

8:00 Eucharist  
8:30 Adult Choir Rehearsal  
9:00 Bible Study in Rector's Office  
10:00 Choral Eucharist  
Children's Chapel; Sunday School  
11:00 Treble Choir Rehearsal  
11:30 Stack'em High Pancake Brunch

21) Noon Deanery Clericus  
Noon Soup Kitchen  
2:00 Sphere College to 4:00 p.m.–Fifer Room

**22) ASH WEDNESDAY**

**7:00 a.m. Imposition of Ashes, Eucharist**  
**12:00 Noon Imposition of Ashes, Eucharist**  
**7:30 p.m. Imposition of Ashes, Eucharist**

23) Noon Soup Kitchen  
7:00 Narcotics Anon to 8:30 – Smith Room  
7:00 Sphere College to 9:15 p.m. – Fifer Room

**24) 7:00 Stations of the Cross**

25) 9:00 Pantry OPEN

26) 8:00 Eucharist  
8:30 Adult Choir Rehearsal  
9:00 Bible Study in Rector's Office  
10:00 Choral Eucharist  
Children's Chapel; Sunday School  
Noon Liturgy Meeting in Rector's Office  
2:30 Girl Scout Meeting  
**4:30 Youth Group**  
**4:30 Knitting Group in Rector's Office**

28) Noon Soup Kitchen  
2:00 Sphere College to 4:00 p.m.–Fifer Room  
7:00 Deanery Plenary Mtg-Epiphany, Royersford  
**7:00 Vestry Meeting**