



The Episcopal Church of St. Peter by-the-Lake

The Second Sunday after Christmas
January 4, 2026

Holy Eucharist Rite II: 8:30 AM & 10:30 AM



Be thoughtful, be silent, be reverent; for this is the house of God.

**Before the service, speak to the Lord; during the service, let the Lord speak to you;
after the service (and during the peace) speak to one another.**

Kings from afar

Matthew's account of the wise men who traveled from the East to pay homage to the Christ Child is also appointed for the celebration of the Feast of the Epiphany. Here we see that Jesus came for the salvation of the world and was recognized as the Son of God from the beginning, even by those outside the boundaries of Israel and Judaism. This story also foreshadows the conclusion of Matthew's Gospel in which the resurrected Jesus commands his Apostles to "make disciples of all nations" – Jew and Gentile alike.

Thus the 'Magi' followed the star until it came to rest over a house, where they found Mary with the holy child. Overwhelmed with joy, "they knelt down and paid him homage". The surroundings may have been anything but regal; but this was where the star had led them, so they could not be mistaken.

As they worshipped the child, they offered gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh – presents which also signified the giving of themselves. Gold represented royalty and kingship. Frankincense was made from the gum of a tree found in Asia and Africa which produces an aromatic smoke used in worship; it symbolized divinity and prayer. Myrrh, used in the ancient world to anoint bodies for burial, foretold the sacrificial death of Christ for the sins of the whole world. (Synthesis, January 2020)

Faithfully,

Father Ron

The Liturgy of the Word

Opening Voluntary: *How Brightly Shines the Morning Star* - Buxtehude

Opening Hymn: *"The First Noel"* (Stanzas 1,2,3,5) **Hymnal 109**

GENERAL ACCLAMATION **BCP pg. 355**

Celebrant: Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

People: **And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen**

The Collect for Purity **BCP pg. 355**

Celebrant: Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

8:30 am: *Celebrant:* Lord have mercy **BCP Pg. 356**
People: **Christ have mercy**
Celebrant: Lord have mercy

The Gloria (10:30 am) **Hymnal S 280**

Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his people on earth.

Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father, we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory. Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world: have mercy on us; you are seated at the right hand of the Father: receive our prayer. For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father, Amen

The Collect of the Day

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Celebrant: Let us pray

O God, who wonderfully created, and yet more wonderfully restored, the dignity of human nature: Grant that we may share the divine life of him who humbled himself to share our humanity, your Son Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

The First Lesson

Jeremiah 31:7-14

Reader: A reading from the book of the Prophet Jeremiah.

Thus says the Lord:

Sing aloud with gladness for Jacob, and raise shouts for the chief of the nations;
proclaim, give praise, and say,

"Save, O Lord, your people, the remnant of Israel."

See, I am going to bring them from the land of the north,
and gather them from the farthest parts of the earth,
among them the blind and the lame, those with child and
those in labor, together; a great company, they shall return here.

With weeping they shall come,
and with consolations I will lead them back,

I will let them walk by brooks of water,
in a straight path in which they shall not stumble;
for I have become a father to Israel, and Ephraim is my firstborn.

Hear the word of the Lord, O nations,
and declare it in the coastlands far away;
say, "He who scattered Israel will gather him,
and will keep him as a shepherd a flock."

For the Lord has ransomed Jacob,
and has redeemed him from hands too strong for him.

They shall come and sing aloud on the height of Zion,
and they shall be radiant over the goodness of the Lord,
over the grain, the wine, and the oil,
and over the young of the flock and the herd;
their life shall become like a watered garden,
and they shall never languish again.

Then shall the young women rejoice in the dance,
and the young men and the old shall be merry.

I will turn their mourning into joy,
I will comfort them, and give them gladness for sorrow.
I will give the priests their fill of fatness,
and my people shall be satisfied with my bounty, says the Lord.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 84: 1-8

Jerome Webster Meachen (b. 1930)



© 1956. Jerome Webster Meachen

- 1 How dear to me is your dwelling, O Lord of hosts! *
My soul has a desire and longing for the courts of the Lord;
my heart and my flesh rejoice in the living God.
- 2 The sparrow has found her a house
and the swallow a nest where she may lay her young; *
by the side of your altars, O Lord of hosts,
my King and my God.
- 3 Happy are they who dwell in your house! *
they will always be praising you.
- 4 Happy are the people whose strength is in you! *
whose hearts are set on the pilgrims' way.
- 5 Those who go through the desolate valley will find it a place of springs, *
for the early rains have covered it with pools of water.
- 6 They will climb from height to height, *
and the God of gods will reveal himself in Zion.
- 7 Lord God of hosts, hear my prayer; *
hearken, O God of Jacob.
- 8 Behold our defender, O God; *
and look upon the face of your Anointed.

The Second Lesson

Ephesians 1:3-6,15-19a

Reader: A reading from the letter of St. Paul to the Ephesians.

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, just as he chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before him in love. He destined us for adoption as his children through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of his will, to the praise of his glorious grace that he freely bestowed on us in the Beloved.

I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, and for this reason I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers. I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

The Sequence Hymn: "As with Gladness Men of Old" (stanzas 1,2,3) Hymnal 119

The Gospel (standing)

Matthew 2:1-12

Reader: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

People: **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage." When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet:

'And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;
for from you shall come a ruler
who is to shepherd my people Israel.'"

Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage." When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

Reader: The Gospel of the Lord.

People: **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

**** Kid Chat with Fr. Ron**

(Following the Kid Chat, Children Preschool—5th grade may leave for Kingdom Kids)

The Sermon

The Rev. Dr. Ron Taylor

The Nicene Creed (standing)

BCP pg. 358

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God,
begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father.

Through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven:

by the power of the Holy Spirit

he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary, and was made man.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate:

he suffered death and was buried.

On the third day he rose again

in accordance with the Scriptures;

he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,

and his kingdom will have no end.
We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son.
With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.
He has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

The Prayers of the People Form III
(*said responsively by celebrant and congregation*)

BCP pg. 387

Father, we pray for your holy Catholic Church;
That we all may be one.

Grant that every member of the Church may truly and humbly serve you;
That your Name may be glorified by all people.

We pray for all bishops, priests, and deacons;
That they may be faithful ministers of your Word and Sacraments.

We pray for all who govern and hold authority in the nations of the world;
That there may be justice and peace on the earth.

Give us grace to do your will in all that we undertake;
That our works may find favor in your sight.

Have compassion on those who suffer from any grief or trouble;
That they may be delivered from their distress.

Give to the departed eternal rest;
Let light perpetual shine upon them.

We praise you for your saints who have entered into joy;
May we also come to share in your heavenly kingdom.

Let us pray for our own needs and those of others.
Silence

The People may add their own petitions.

**We have not loved you with our whole heart;
we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.
We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.**

Confession and Absolution

BCP pg. 360

Celebrant: Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Leader and People:

**Most merciful God,
we confess that we have sinned against you
in thought, word, and deed,
by what we have done,
and by what we have left undone.
We have not loved you with our whole heart;
we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.
We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,
have mercy on us and forgive us;
that we may delight in your will,
and walk in your ways,
to the glory of your Name. Amen.**

Celebrant: Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. **Amen.**

The Peace

Celebrant: The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People: And also with you.

Announcements

The Liturgy of the Table

The Offertory

How Lovely is Thy Dwelling Place

Hymnal 517

At the Presentation

Advent Doxology

Praise God from whom all blessings flow.
Praise God all creatures here below.
Praise God above ye heavenly host.
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

The Bidding Prayer

Celebrant: This is the table of our Lord, Jesus Christ. It is made ready for all.
So, come, you who have much faith and you who have little,
You who have been here often and you who have not been here long,
You who have tried to follow and those who struggle to find the path.
Come, because it is God who invites you.
It is God's will that those who desire to do so should meet God here.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING (Eucharistic Prayer A)

BCP pg. 361

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Celebrant: Lift up your hearts.

People: **We lift them to the Lord.**

Celebrant: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: **It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

Celebrant: It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. (Preface of the day.)
Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full, full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna in the highest.

The people kneel or sit.

Celebrant: Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself; and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all. He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself, in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me." Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Celebrant and People: **Christ has died.**

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

Celebrant: We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts. Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom.

All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ. By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever.

Danish 3-fold (10:30) And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

THE LORD'S PRAYER

BCP 364

Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy Name,
Thy kingdom come, thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
As we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen.

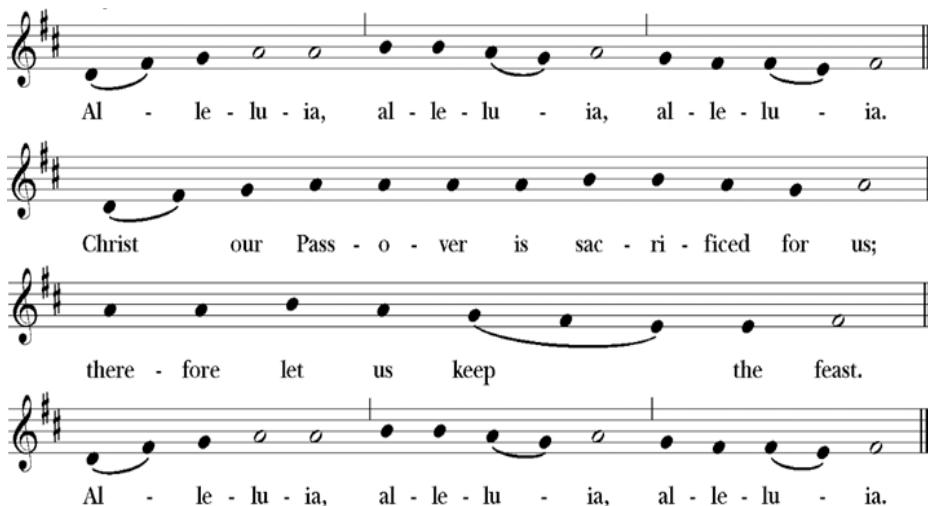
The Breaking of the Bread

Celebrant: Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.

People: Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia!

The Fraction Anthem

Hymnal S 154



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.
Christ our Pass - o - ver is sac - ri - ficed for us;
there - fore let us keep the feast.
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Administration of the Sacrament

Communion of the People

Communion Hymn “*We Three Kings of Orient Are*”
Ethan Graham, guitar

Hymnal 128

Post Communion Prayer (Celebrant and People) **BCP pg. 365**

Eternal God, heavenly Father, you have graciously accepted us as living members of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ, and you have fed us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood. Send us now into the world in peace, and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Blessing

Recessional Hymn: “*I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light*” **Hymnal 490**

The Dismissal **BCP pg. 366**

Celebrant: Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Closing Voluntary: *Break Forth O Beauteous Heavenly Light* – J.S. Bach

The altar flowers are given to the glory of God by Catherine Maslow

In honor of their 50th wedding anniversary.

SPBTL NEWS AND EVENTS

CENTERING PRAYER 10AM, Meets downstairs every Wed. Please join us!

COFFEE HOUR Sign up in Fotinos Hall or call the office.

MUSIC MINISTRY: Chancel Choir rehearsals, Wednesday 7PM in the Nave. **Handbell Choir** rehearsals Wednesdays @ 6:00 PM downstairs in the choir room.

COFFEE WITH THE CLERGY Gather in Fr. Ron's office at 9:30am on Sunday mornings for a relaxed, casual conversation based on questions you may have regarding faith, church, and society. We hope you can join us!

KITCHEN CLEAN 2026 We need for people to sign up for monthly kitchen cleaning in 2026. Please see the sign up sheet in the kitchen and sign up with a friend! Thank you.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS --- Please check your calendars in advance so we don't have missing servants. We will see these Special Servants next week, 1/11/25:

8:30 AM

Chalice Bearer—Jennifer Baker
Ushers - Chad Hamby
Acolytes - Cathy Melesh
Reader - Jennifer Baker

10:30 AM

Chalice Bearers— Diane Davis, Frances Smith
Ushers - Duane Rinkus, Jim Racz
Acolytes - Michelle & John Stewart
Reader - Andy Parton
LLR— Matt Gustis
Livestream -

2026 Dates to remember!

January 25th— Visit from Sister Madeleine Mary from the Community of St. Mary, Southern Province at both services. She will also be leading the Adult Forum in Fr. Ron's office at 9:30am.

January 20th—February 10th—Supper & The Word

February 1st—Bishop José visit and Confirmation at 10:30AM

February 8th— Annual Parish Meeting

February 17th —Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper

February 18th—Ash Wednesday

Financial Status as of Nov 30, 2025

	Actual YTD	Budget YTD	Variance YTD
Total Revenues	\$474,233	\$456,064	\$18,170
Total Expenses	\$462,867	\$456,030	(\$6,837)
Net Total	\$11,366	\$34	\$11,333

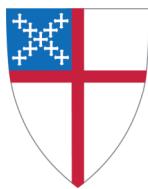
Note: Budget figures are adjusted to reflect Mother Tara's departure starting in June.

Scan the QR Code with your phone — this will take you directly to St. Peter's gift entry screen.



SPECIAL SERVANT SCHEDULE
January and February 2026

DATE		1/4/2026		1/11/2026		1/18/2026		1/25/2026	
		FIRST SERVICE		FIRST SERVICE		FIRST SERVICE		FIRST SERVICE	
8:30		Chalice Bearer	Cathy Melesh	Jennifer Baker	Kathleen Wiley	Michele Moss			
	Usher	Ronnie Rudd	Chad Hamby		Tracy Engel	Helen Lungwitz			
	Acolyte	Tracy Engel	Cathy Melesh		Libby Motto	Michele Moss			
	Reader	Libby Willis	Jennifer Baker		Libby Motto	Cathy Melesh			
10:30		SECOND SERVICE		SECOND SERVICE		SECOND SERVICE		SECOND SERVICE	
	Chalice Bearer	Jim & Stephanie Heil	Diane Davis, Frances Smith	John & Michelle Stewart	Scott Major, Beccye Smith				
	Usher	Roger Simpson, Dick Lunney	Duane Rinkus, Jim Racz	Gra Wagner, Dave Pittinato	Joe Anzalone, David Plyler				
	Acolyte	Greta Gustis, Grace Finch	Michelle & John Stewart	Freya Gustis, Isabelle Dalton	Audrey Prouty, Bonnie Grant				
	Reader	Priscilla Foley	Andy Parton	Ginny Pretty	Frances Smith				
	Livestream Tech	Walter Smith, Cha Wuerdeman	Bill Reid, Andy Halasz	Beth Lunney, Cha Wuerdeman	Walter Smith, Beth Lunney				
	Lay Reader	Zoe Jarman	Matt Gustis	John Stewart	Cyndy Jarvis				
	Coffee HOUR								
	Altar Guild	A. Bowden	J. McPeak	C. Hatley	B. Smith				
	Flower	Catherine Maslow	Scott Major	Peggy White	Tricia and Mark Wagner				
	Bread Guild	Team 1	Team 2	Team 3	Team 4				
DATE		2/1/2026		2/8/2026		2/15/2026		2/22/2026	
		FIRST SERVICE		FIRST SERVICE		FIRST SERVICE		FIRST SERVICE	
8:30		Chalice Bearer	Cathy Melesh	Sheree Brady	Jennifer Baker	Kathleen Willey			
	Usher	Jennifer Baker	Steve & Cathy Hiney		Emily Gentry	Ron & Karen Horne			
	Acolyte	Cathy Hiney	Tracy Engel		Cathy Melesh	Libby Motto			
	Reader	Michele Moss	Susan Schuman		Sheree Brady	Karen Horne			
	Coffee Hour								
10:30		SECOND SERVICE		SECOND SERVICE		SECOND SERVICE		SECOND SERVICE	
	Chalice Bearer	Mary Sainsbury, Diana Mushill	Patty & Patrick Duggan	Hope Paasch, Elaine Jacobs	Jim & Stephanie Heil				
	Usher	Bob & Claire Tracy	Walter & Frances Smith	Diana Mushill, Mary Sainsbury	David Plyler, Duane Rinkus				
	Acolyte	Ethan Graham, Freya Gustis	Zachary Ireland, Ava Prouty	Jenny Hunter, Jack Dwyer	Ethan Graham, Diana Mushill				
	Reader	Freya Gustis	Lisa Anzalone	Elaine Jacobs	Hope Paasch				
	Livestream Tech	Bill Reid, Cha Wuerdeman	Beth & Dick Lunney	Walter Smith, Andy Halasz	Bill Reid, Andy Halasz				
	Lay Reader	Emeka Eziri							
	Coffee Hour								
	Altar Guild	A. Bowden	J. McPeak	C. Hatley	B. Smith				
	Flower	Patt & Jim Racz	Becky Smith		Brandy Rudd				
	Bread Guild	Team 1	Team 2	Team 3	Team 4				



The Episcopal Church of St. Peter by-the-Lake
8433 Fairfield Forest
Denver, North Carolina 28037 (704-483-3460)
<https://www.saintpeterbythelake.net/>

Jesus Christ, Head of the Church

Ministers: All members of the Church

The Rt. Rev. José A. McLoughlin, Bishop

Rector: The Rev. Dr. Ron Taylor

Christian Formation Director: Ginia Edwards

Director of Music: David Wilcox

Director of Music Emeritus: Leigh Ann Johnston

Licensed Lay Reader: Zoe Jarman

Ushers: Ronnie Rudd, Roger Simpson, Dick Lunney

Chalice Bearers: Cathy Melesh, Jim & Stephanie Heil

Acolytes: Tracey Engel, Greta Gustis, Grace Finch

Readers: Libby Willis, Priscilla Foley

Altar Guild Team 1 – Ann & Jim Bowden, Sherree Brady, Priscilla Foley, Vickie Jordan, Lara Readling, Gloria Reid, Frances Smith, Katie Hamby

Bread Guild Team 1: Libby Barger, Tracey Engel

Livestream Tech: Walter Smith, Cha Wuerdeman

Coffee Hour:

THE VESTRY

Senior Warden – Jessica Gustis

Junior Warden – Stephanie Heil

Tracey Engel, Pat Higbie, Gary Jarvis, Connie Mathis, Bill Reid, Mary Sansbury, Pamela Weed

Clerk of the Vestry: Daphne Wagner

THE STAFF

The Rev. Dr. Ronald B. Taylor, Rector

canismajorm41@yahoo.com

The Rev. Nick McDonald, Assisting Priest

Ginia Edwards, Director of Christian Formation

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David Wilcox, Director of Music

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Kate D'Amato, Parish Administrator

kate@spbtl.com

Sherree Brady, Finance Administrator

financeadmin@spbtl.com

Jim Heil, Treasurer

jheil164@yahoo.com

MISSION STATEMENT:
BE DISCIPLES:
ENGAGE THE WORLD