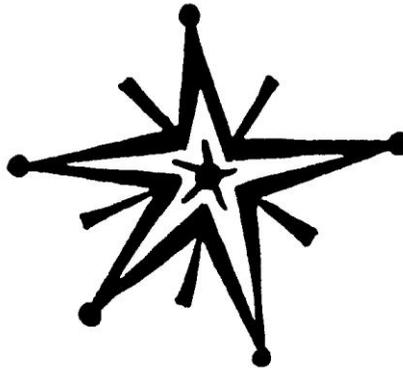


The Fourth Weekend after the Epiphany



Holy Baptism and Holy Eucharist
January 31, 2026 • 5 pm

WELCOME TO ST. MARY'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH!

Our mission is to be a Christian community of all ages
grounded in worship, well-being and service.

We hope you will experience God's own welcome here and return again and again. Find us online at www.smcportsmouth.org and on Facebook.

NOTES ABOUT WORSHIP AT ST. MARY'S

- If you are our guest today, please complete a welcome card and put it in the offering plate or give it to the greeter. This will give us a chance to learn your name welcome you more personally.
- It is our pleasure to welcome children and their parents at all services. We understand that children's energy and voices are gifts they may share during worship. That is how God made them and we are grateful they are worshipping with us. Feel free to step out and step back in as needed. Sitting as close to the front as possible helps them to see.
- If you have need, restrooms are accessible on both levels of the parish house.
- Text written in **bold** in this bulletin is to be spoken by all. When printed, the ✠ indicates an appropriate time to make the sign of the cross.
- All Christians are invited to the Holy Table to receive communion. If it is difficult for you to walk, please notify a greeter, and we will bring communion to you. If you do not wish to receive communion, you may come forward for a blessing. If you are interested in Holy Baptism, please speak with our rector, Jennifer. We welcome the opportunity to prepare people of all ages for baptism.
- Music Notes:
Our music books for worship include Wonder Love and Praise, WLP & The Hymnal 1982. Both can be found in the pew. Additional music can be found in the bulletin.

To find out what's happening at St. Mary's this week and in the coming weeks, visit our on line calendar by scanning the QR code below!



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The Holy Eucharist

Welcome and Announcements

Opening Acclamation

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

People **And blessed be his kingdom, now and forever. Amen.**

Celebrant There is one Body and one Spirit;

People **There is one hope in God's call to us;**

Celebrant One Lord, One Faith, One Baptism;

People **One God and Father of all.**

Collect of the Day

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Let us pray

Almighty and everlasting God, you govern all things both in heaven and on earth: Mercifully hear the supplications of your people, and in our time grant us your peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

The People may be seated.

First Reading: Micah 6:1-8

Hear what the Lord says:

Rise, plead your case before the mountains,
and let the hills hear your voice.

Hear, you mountains, the controversy of the Lord,
and you enduring foundations of the earth;

for the Lord has a controversy with his people,
and he will contend with Israel.

“O my people, what have I done to you?
In what have I wearied you? Answer me!

For I brought you up from the land of Egypt,
and redeemed you from the house of slavery; and I sent before you Moses,
Aaron, and Miriam.

O my people, remember now what King Balak of Moab devised,
what Balaam son of Beor answered him,

and what happened from Shittim to Gilgal,
that you may know the saving acts of the Lord.”

“With what shall I come before the Lord, and bow myself before God on high?

Shall I come before him with burnt-offerings, with calves a year old?

Will the Lord be pleased with thousands of rams,
with tens of thousands of rivers of oil?

Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression,
the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?”

He has told you, O mortal, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you
but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 15

read by all

1 Lord, who may dwell in your tabernacle? *
who may abide upon your holy hill?

2 Whoever leads a blameless life and does what is right, *
who speaks the truth from his heart.

3 There is no guile upon his tongue;
he does no evil to his friend; *
he does not heap contempt upon his neighbor.

4 In his sight the wicked is rejected, *
but he honors those who fear the Lord.

5 He has sworn to do no wrong *
and does not take back his word.

6 He does not give his money in hope of gain, *
nor does he take a bribe against the innocent.

7 Whoever does these things *
shall never be overthrown.

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 1:18-31

The message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. For it is written,

“I will destroy the wisdom of the wise,
and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart.”

Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of our

proclamation, to save those who believe. For Jews demand signs and Greeks desire wisdom, but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. For God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength.

Consider your own call, brothers and sisters: not many of you were wise by human standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; God chose what is low and despised in the world, things that are not, to reduce to nothing things that are, so that no one might boast in the presence of God. He is the source of your life in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification and redemption, in order that, as it is written, "Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord."

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

All may stand for the Holy Gospel.

Holy Gospel Matthew 5:1-12

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

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

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

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

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying:

"Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

"Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

"Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

"Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

"Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

“Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

“Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

“Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

“Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.”

Gospeller The Gospel of the Lord.

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

Sermon

The Rev. Dr. John Gregory Prior

Holy Baptism

Presentation and Examination of the Candidate

Celebrant The Candidate for Holy Baptism will now be presented.

Parents & Godparents We present Toby Lawrence to receive the sacrament of Baptism.

Celebrant Will you be responsible for seeing that the child you present is brought up in the Christian faith and life?

Parents & Godparents I will, with God's help.

Celebrant Will you by your prayers and witness help this child to grow into the full stature of Christ?

Parents & Godparents I will, with God's help.

Then the Celebrant asks the following questions of the parents and Godparents.

Question Do you renounce Satan and all the spiritual forces of wickedness that rebel against God?

Answer I renounce them.

Question Do you renounce the evil powers of this world which corrupt and destroy the creatures of God?

Answer I renounce them.

Question Do you renounce all sinful desires that draw you from the love of God?

Answer I renounce them.

Question Do you turn to Jesus Christ and accept him as your Savior?

Answer I do.

Question Do you put your whole trust in his grace and love?

Answer I do.

Question Do you promise to follow and obey him as your Lord?

Answer I do.

The Celebrant addresses the congregation, saying

Will you who witness these vows do all in your power to support this person in his life in Christ?

People **We will.**

The Celebrant then says

Let us join with him who is committing himself to Christ and renew our own baptismal covenant.

The Baptismal Covenant

Celebrant Do you believe in God the Father?

People **I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

Celebrant Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

People **I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead.**

Celebrant Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

People **I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.**

Celebrant Will you continue in the apostles' teaching and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in the prayers?

People **I will, with God's help.**

Celebrant Will you persevere in resisting evil, and, whenever you fall into sin, repent and return to the Lord?

People **I will, with God's help.**

Celebrant Will you proclaim by word and example the Good News of God in Christ?

People **I will, with God's help.**

Celebrant Will you seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving your neighbor as yourself?

People **I will, with God's help.**

Celebrant Will you strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being?

People **I will, with God's help.**

Prayers for the Candidate

Celebrant Let us now pray for this person who is to receive the Sacrament of new birth.

Leader Deliver him, O Lord, from the way of sin and death.

People **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Leader Open his heart to your grace and truth.

People **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Leader Fill him with your holy and life-giving Spirit.

People **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Leader Keep him in the faith and communion of your holy Church.

People **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Leader Teach him to love others in the power of the Spirit.

People **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Leader Send him into the world in witness to your love.

People **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Leader Bring him to the fullness of your peace and glory.

People **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Celebrant Grant, O Lord, that all who are baptized into the death of Jesus Christ your Son may live in the power of his resurrection and look for him to come again in glory; who lives and reigns now and for ever. **Amen.**

Thanksgiving over the Water

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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

Celebrant We thank you, Almighty God, for the gift of water. Over it the Holy Spirit moved in the beginning of creation. Through it you led the children of Israel out of their bondage in Egypt into the land of promise. In it your Son Jesus received the baptism of John and was anointed by the Holy Spirit as the Messiah, the Christ, to lead us, through his death and resurrection, from the bondage of sin into everlasting life.

We thank you, Father, for the water of Baptism. In it we are buried with Christ in his death. By it we share in his resurrection. Through it we are reborn by the Holy Spirit. Therefore in joyful obedience to your Son, we bring into his fellowship those who come to him in faith, baptizing them in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

At the following words, the Celebrant touches the water

Now sanctify this water, we pray you, by the power of your Holy Spirit, that those who here are cleansed from sin and born again may continue for ever in the risen life of Jesus Christ our Savior. To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory, now and for ever. **Amen.**

May Almighty God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has given us a new birth by water and the Holy Spirit, and bestowed upon us the forgiveness of sins, keep us in eternal life by his grace, in Christ Jesus our Lord. **Amen.**

The Baptism

*The candidate is presented by name to the Celebrant,
who then pours water upon the child, saying*

Toby Lawrence, I baptize you in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

When this action has been completed, the Celebrant prays saying

Let us pray. Heavenly Father, we thank you that by water and the Holy Spirit you have bestowed upon this your servant the forgiveness of sin, and have raised him up to the new life of grace. Sustain him, O Lord, in your Holy Spirit. Give him an inquiring and discerning heart, the courage to will and to persevere, a spirit to know and to love you, and the gift of joy and wonder in all your works. **Amen.**

*Then the Celebrant places a hand on the newly baptized person's head,
marking on the forehead the sign of the cross and saying*

Toby Lawrence you are sealed by the Holy Spirit in Baptism and marked as Christ's own forever. **Amen.**

Celebrant Let us welcome the newly baptized.
Celebrant and People **We receive you into the household of God. Confess the faith of Christ crucified, proclaim his resurrection, and share with us in his eternal priesthood.**

Peace

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.
People **And also with you.**

Greet one another with a sign of God's peace.

HOLY COMMUNION

Offertory

If you would like to make an offering there is a plate at the rear of the church, or if electronically, please use the QR code below.



Please stand as the gifts are brought forward.

Eucharistic Prayer B

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.**

The Celebrant continues...

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:

Sanctus and Benedictus

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

The Celebrant continues...

Celebrant Therefore, according to his command, O Father,
All **We remember his death,
We proclaim his resurrection,
We await his coming in glory.**

The Celebrant continues...

By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory are yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever. **AMEN.**

The Lord's Prayer

Celebrant And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

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

A period of silence is kept.

Fraction

Celebrant and people **Lamb of God you take away the sins of the world: have mercy on us. Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: have mercy on us. Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: grant us peace.**

Please come forward at the invitation, "The gifts of God for the people of God.

Post Communion Prayer

Celebrant Let us pray.

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.

Blessing and Dismissal

The celebrant offers a blessing

Celebrant Let us go forth into the world, rejoicing in the power of the Spirit.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Liturgical Ministers

Altar Guild: Jennie Nestlerode, Carol Brierley

Greeters: Murry Edwards, Lisa Lyons

Lector and Intercessor: Rick Updegrove

Crucifer/Server: Jennie Nestlerode

St. Mary's Episcopal Church

324 East Main Road, Portsmouth, RI 02871

(401) 846-9700 ♦ www.smcportsmouth.org

The Reverend Jennifer L. Pedrick, *Rector*

The Reverend Dr. John Gregory Prior, *Associate Rector*

Michael DiMucci, *Pastoral Musician*

Karen Laroche, *Pastoral Associate of Administration*

Jon Walker, *Property Manager*