

THE KEYS



Church of St. Peter the Apostle
Anglican Catholic Diocese of the Mid-Atlantic States
www.dmas-acc.org

The Rev. Canon Peter Geromel, OHI, DMin - Rector
May/June 2026
<https://stpetersacc.org>

Rector's Ramble (In and Out of Brambles)

Tougher Back Then

During our 250th Anniversary as a Nation, we are being encouraged by many to remember, remember, the struggles, the pains, the heroism, the courage of the past. And it all puts us in mind that it was "Tougher Back Then," which has a way of saying, "You young bucks are a bunch of wimps." Now, all things considered, that's probably true. To be fair, however, I am not sure that our Founding Fathers would want to deal with nuclear threats, drone attacks, even cyber security, let alone trying to figure out gender identity crises and the complications of inflation, insurance and the health care industry. They would have! Yet, let's face it, they were well-educated gentlemen farmers in something akin to a third world economy/infrastructure and they were simply not raised to deal with "First World Problems." Each of us is equipped to deal with the struggles in which God has placed us, in the generation, day and age, in which He has placed us. That much is true. However, it is good for us to dwell occasionally on how it was "tougher back then." So, let's reach back a moment to what it was like to get to church two hundred plus years ago.

We are aware, of course, that during certain times in the colonies our ancestors were required to carry their guns to church because of the constant threat of hostile tribal attacks. Let's bring it to something even simpler. Heating. The last few weeks as the temperature has vacillated so much, I have found myself quite irritated with it being too hot or too cold in the church. I should remember it was "tougher back then." I found the following relevant information from *The Sabbath in Puritan New England*, 1891 by Alice Morse Earle. Chapter 8, "The Icy Temperature of the Meeting-House" tells us: "In colonial days in New England the long and tedious services must have been hard to endure in the unheated churches in bitter winter weather, so bitter that, as Judge Sewall pathetically recorded, "The communion bread was frozen pretty hard and rattled sadly into the plates." Sadly down through the centuries is ringing in our ears the gloomy rattle of that frozen sacramental bread on the Church plate, telling to us the solemn story of the austere and comfortless church-life of our ancestors. Would that the sound could bring to our chilled hearts the same steadfast and pure Christian faith that made their gloomy, freezing services warm with God's loving presence!"

We are reminded in the chapter that babies were expected to be baptized on the Sunday just after they were born! Winter babies beware – it's cold everywhere, especially in the font!

We are told that, "On bitter winter days Dr. Stevens of Kittery used to send a servant to the meeting-house to find out how many of his flock had braved the piercing blasts. If only seven persons were present, the servant asked them to return with him to the parsonage to listen to the sermon; but if there were eight members in the meeting-house he so reported to the Doctor, who then donned his long worsted cloak, tied it around his waist with a great handkerchief, and attired thus, with a fur cap pulled down over his ears, and with heavy mittens on his hands, ploughed through the deep snow to the church, and in the same dress preached his long, knotty sermon in his pulpit, while fierce wintry blasts rattled the windows and shook the turret, and the eight godly, shivering souls wished profoundly that one of their number had "lain at home in a slothfull, lazey, prophane way," and thus permitted the seven others and the minister to have the sermon in comfort in the parsonage kitchen before the great blazing logs in the open fireplace." There were, of course, "foot-stoves" to help warm up the box pews, and yet, some of the churches caught fire as a result and these contraptions were thenceforth forbidden! Later on, there were literally church wars fought over whether or not to buy a stove for the church building. These debates lasted well into the 19th century. Opposition to stoves appears to have been less about being austere and ascetic and more about concerns with fire hazards, people becoming overheated or fits of coughing as a result of the backdrafts.

Nevertheless, what a difference from then until now when, if the temperature is a bit high or low from what we would like it to be, it distracts us from the sermon and liturgy. Cars are certainly dangerous in the snow and ice, and breaking a hip is a real danger in bad weather, but what of our forebears? What trials they endured to "Keep the Sabbath Day Holy"! What would they think of our "First World Problems"? "Faith

of our Fathers!” “Living Still”? Let’s hope and **pray** – and this “faith and prayer” “shall win all nations unto [Him]”. It is good for us, at least, to reflect on these things occasionally.



Reredos done! Kudos to Clemens, Dan and Phil and George Mauney!

News and Announcements

May 10th: Rogation Sunday, Rogationtide Procession following 10 AM service.

(Blessing of home gardens may now be scheduled.)

May 11th: Rogation Monday, Mass at 12 Noon.

May 12th: Rogation Tuesday, Mass at 6 PM. Book Study following.

May 13th: Rogation Wednesday/Vigil of the Ascension, Mass at 6 PM.

May 14th: Ascension Day, Mass at 12 Noon & 7 PM.

May 17th, Tentative Graduation reception for our organist, Ellie.

May 23rd: Vigil of the Pentecost, 5 PM Vigil and Mass.

May 24th: Pentecost Sunday, Mass at 8 AM and 10 AM.

May 25th: Monday in Whitsun Week, Mass at 12 Noon.

May 26th: Tuesday in Whitsun Week, Mass at 6 PM.

May 27th: Wednesday in Whitsun Week, Mass at 6 PM.

May 28th: Thursday in Whitsun Week, Mass at 12 Noon.

May 31st: Trinity Sunday, visit by Fr. & Mrs. Harbold.

June 4th: Corpus Christi, Mass at 12 Noon.

June 11-12th: DMAS Synod.

June 24th: Nativity of St. John Baptist, Mass at 6 PM.

JULY (not June) 26th: Bishop Johnson’s Parish Visit.

MAY, 2026

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
[31] 8:00 a.m. MP & HC 10:00 a.m. HE TRINITY SUNDAY	LEGEND: HC - Holy Communion; FHE – Festal Holy Eucharist; HE - Holy Eucharist; SS – Sunday School; PG - Prayer Group; EP – Evening Prayer; MP – Morning Prayer; P&HU – Prayers and Holy Unction				[1]	[2]
[3] 8:00 a.m. MP & HC 10:00 a.m. HE 6:00 p.m. Evensong & Benediction EASTER IV	[4]	[5]	[6] 6:00 pm HC	[7] 12 noon HC	[8]	[9]
[10] 8:00 a.m. MP & HC 10:00 a.m. HE EASTER V (ROGATION SUNDAY)	[11] 12 noon HC ROGATION MONDAY	[12] 6:00 pm HC ROGATION TUESDAY	[13] 6:00 pm HC ROGATION WEDNESDAY	[14] 12 noon HC 7:00 pm HC ASCENSION DAY	[15]	[16]
[17] 8:00 a.m. MP & HC 10:00 a.m. HE SUNDAY AFTER ASCENSION	[18]	[19]	[20] 7:00 pm HC 7:30 pm Vestry	[21] 12 noon HC	[22]	[23] 5:00 pm Vigil & HC VIGIL OF THE PENTECOST
[24] 8:00 a.m. MP & HC 10:00 a.m. HE WHITSUNDAY	[25] 12 noon HC	[26] 6:00 pm HC	[27] 6:00 pm HC	[28] 12 noon HC	[29]	[30]

IN THE LORD'S SERVICE

If you cannot fulfill your assigned duty because of an urgent reason, PLEASE SECURE A REPLACEMENT.

	May 3	May 10	May 17	May 24	May 31
Coffee Hour	E. Paisley	L. Olver	V. Williams	G. Terrell	M. Slayton
Epistoler 8 a.m.	D. Drysdale	C. Von Claparede	G. Mauney	C. Von Claparede	D. Drysdale
Epistoler 10 a.m.	T. Paisley	P. Williams	G. Terrell	T. Paisley	P. Williams

Altar servers and ushers will be assigned as available before each service.

JUNE, 2026						
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	[1]	[2]	[3]	[4] 12 noon HC CORPUS CHRISTI	[5]	[6]
[7] 8:00 a.m. MP & HC 10:00 a.m. HE 6:00 p.m. Evensong & Benediction TRINITY I	[8]	[9]	[10] 6:00 pm HC	[11] 12 noon HC	[12]	[13]
[14] 8:00 a.m. MP & HC 10:00 a.m. HE TRINITY II	[15]	[16]	[17] 6:00 pm HC	[18] 12 noon HC	[19]	[20]
[21] 8:00 a.m. MP & HC 10:00 a.m. HE TRINITY III	[22]	[23]	[24] 6:00 pm HC NATIVITY OF ST. JOHN BAPTIST	[25] 12 noon HC	[26]	[27]
[28] 8:00 a.m. MP & HC 10:00 a.m. HE TRINITY IV	[29]	[30]	LEGEND: HC - Holy Communion; FHE – Festal Holy Eucharist; HE - Holy Eucharist; SS – Sunday School; PG - Prayer Group; EP – Evening Prayer; MP – Morning Prayer; P&HU – Prayers and Holy Unction			

IN THE LORD'S SERVICE

If you cannot fulfill your assigned duty because of an urgent reason, PLEASE SECURE A REPLACEMENT.

	June 7	June 14	June 21	June 28
Coffee Hour	B. Von Claparede	S. Darby	C. Kurstedt	C. Pappas
Epistoler 8 a.m.	D. Drysdale	C. Von Claparede	G. Mauney	D. Drysdale
Epistoler 10 a.m.	T. Paisley	P. Williams	G. Terrell	T. Paisley

Altar servers and ushers will be assigned as available before each service.

2026 Vestry (term end): Clemens Von Claparede (?27), Dan Drysdale (?27), George Mauney (?28), Ted Paisley (?28), George Terrell (?26), Vicki Williams (?26)