The Keys

Church of St. Peter the Apostle — The Rev. Canon Peter Geromel, OHI, DMin - Rector
Anglican Catholic Diocese of the Mid-Atlantic States — Nov/Dec 2026
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From Bishop Johnson — ***A Cure for Loneliness***

Recently written by our Bishop and now a video found on our website at the Home Page.

We have never been more connected. And a lot of us have never felt more alone.

Your phone can connect you instantly with hundreds—maybe thousands—of people. You can know what someone ate for dinner, where an old friend went on vacation, what a stranger thinks about politics, and what someone you haven't spoken to since high school did last weekend.
You can have hundreds of followers and nobody to call when your life falls apart. You can spend hours interacting with people without actually being *with* anyone. Something is missing. And Christianity has something surprisingly powerful to say about it.

Jesus Didn't Teach Us to Pray "My Father" When Jesus' disciples asked Him how to pray, He gave them what Christians have called the Lord's Prayer for nearly two thousand years. And the first word matters. **Our.** Our Father, who art in heaven... Not *my Father.* **Our Father.**
Then notice what happens: Give **us** this day **our** daily bread. Forgive **us our** trespasses, as **we** forgive those who trespass against **us**. Lead **us** not into temptation. Deliver **us** from evil. Jesus could have taught us a completely individual prayer: *My Father...give me what I need...forgive my sins...protect me...deliver me.* He didn't.

Even when you pray the Lord's Prayer completely alone, you are forced to say **our, us, and we.** And Christians noticed this almost from the beginning. **A Christian Bishop Noticed This 1,800 Years Ago.**

Around A.D. 252, St. Cyprian, Bishop of Carthage in North Africa, wrote a short work called *On the Lord's Prayer.* The Church was still young. Christianity was illegal. Christians were periodically arrested and killed for their faith. And Cyprian explained something about the Lord's Prayer that sounds remarkably relevant today. Jesus, he said, did not teach us to say *My Father*, or *give me my daily bread.* We do not pray only for *my* forgiveness, *my* protection, or *my* deliverance. Why?

Cyprian wrote: **"Our prayer is public and common; and when we pray, we pray not for one, but for the whole people, because we the whole people are one."**
Think about that. **Because we the whole people are one.** Eighteen centuries ago, Christians understood something we are in danger of forgetting: Following Jesus isn't just about *Jesus and me.* It is about **Christ and His Body.**

When Jesus teaches you to pray, He immediately places other people beside you. **Our Father.** You cannot even say the prayer Jesus gave us without acknowledging that you belong to somebody else. **You Were Made for Communion.**
One of the great messages of modern culture is that you should become completely independent. Be yourself. Find yourself. Live your truth. Don't let anyone define you.

There is something worthwhile in learning to take responsibility for your own life. But taken too far, independence becomes isolation. Christianity offers a radically different vision. You discover who you are by discovering **whose you are**. You belong to God. And because you belong to God, you belong to a people. St. Paul describes the Church as the **Body of Christ**. Not a collection of religious consumers. Not an audience watching a religious presentation. Not a group of independent individuals who happen to believe similar things.

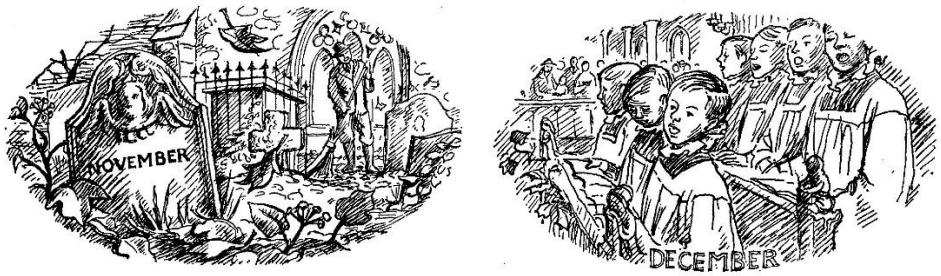
A **body**. "For as the body is one, and hath many members...so also is Christ." —1 Corinthians 12:12. Think about that. Christianity doesn't simply give you beliefs to accept. It gives you a **family to belong to. That's Why We Keep Saying "We"** Come into an Anglican Catholic church and listen carefully. You will hear something unusual. **We.** Again, and again.

In the General Confession: "We acknowledge and bewail our manifold sins and wickedness..." Not *those people's sins.* Not even simply *my sins.* **Our sins.** We stand—or kneel—before God together. Later, before receiving Holy Communion, we pray the Prayer of Humble Access: "We do not presume to come to this thy Table, O merciful Lord, trusting in our own righteousness..." Again: **We.** Then we approach the altar together.

Different ages. Different jobs. Different backgrounds. Different incomes. Different political opinions. Different struggles. One Body. One Lord. One Faith. One Baptism. One altar. One Eucharist. This is something social media cannot reproduce.

Church Isn't Content. For a generation accustomed to consuming almost everything through a screen, it is easy to begin treating Christianity the same way. Watch a sermon. Listen to a podcast. Stream a worship service. Read a devotional. Follow a Christian creator. Some of those things can be helpful. But they cannot replace the Church. Because Christianity isn't primarily content to consume. It is a life into which you are incorporated.

Now go see the rest on the video...



<u>News and Information</u>

Nov. 1st: Festival Holy Eucharist for All Saints' Day, 10 AM. Pledge Cards will be distributed. Evensong/Benediction 6 PM.

Nov. 2nd: All Souls Day masses, 12 Noon & 5:15 PM; reading of the departed lists.

Nov. 11th: Veterans' Day; St. Martin of Tours "Martinmas" mass at 5:15 PM.

Nov. 29th: First Sunday in Advent/Celebration of St. Andrew's Day at the 10 AM mass & fellowship hour.

Dec. 6: Annual Meeting after the 10 AM mass.

Dec. 12th or 13th: Advent Lessons & Carols with Festival of Santa Lucia, time TBD.

Dec. 24th: Christ-mass Eve – Family Service, 6 PM; Carols 10:30 PM; Midnight Mass 11 PM.

Dec. 25th: Christ-mass Day, Matins & Mass at 10 AM.

Dec. 27th: St. John's Day 8 & 10 AM.

Dec. 28th: Holy Innocents' mass at 5:15 PM.

NOVEMBER, 2026						
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
[1] 8:00 a.m. MP & HC 10:00 a.m. FHE, SS 6 p.m. Evensong & Benediction ALL SAINTS' DAY	[2] 12 noon HC 5:15 pm HC ALL SOUS' DAY	[3] 12 noon HC 5 pm EP	[4] 5 pm EP/5:30 HC	[5] 12 noon HC 5 pm EP	[6] 10 am MP & L, Ante-Communion	[7]
[8] 8:00 a.m. MP & HC 10:00 a.m. HE, SS TRINITY XXIII	[9] 5 pm EP	[10] 12 noon HC 5 pm EP	[11] 5:15 HC VETERANS' DAY	[12] 12 noon HC 5 pm EP	[13] 10 am MP & L, Ante-Communion	[14]
[15] 8:00 a.m. MP & HC 10:00 a.m. HE, SS TRINITY XIV	[16] 5 pm EP	[17] 12 noon HC 5 pm EP	[18] 5 pm EP/5:30 HC	[19] 12 noon HC 5 pm EP	[20] 10 am MP & L, Ante-Communion	[21]
[22] 8:00 a.m. MP & HC 10:00 a.m. HE, SS SUNDAY NEXT BEFORE ADVENT	[23] 5 pm EP	[24] 12 noon HC 5 pm EP	[25] 5 pm EP/5:30 HC	[26] 12 noon HC 5 pm EP	[27] 10 am MP & L, Ante-Communion	[28]
[29] 8:00 a.m. MP & HC 10:00 a.m. HE, SS ADVENT I	[30] 5 pm EP	**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.

	November 1	**November 8**	**November 15**	**November 22**	**November 29**
Coffee Hour	C. Pappas	E. Paisley	B. Von Claparede	V. Williams	G. Terrell
Epistoler 8 a.m.	D. Drysdale	G. Mauney	D. Drysdale	C. Von Claparede	G. Mauney
Epistoler 10 a.m.	G. Terrell	T. Paisley	G. Terrell	P. Williams	T. Paisley

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

DECEMBER, 2026						
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		[1] 12 noon HC 5 pm EP	[2] 5 pm EP 7:00 pm HC 7:30 pm Vestry	[3] 12 noon HC 5 pm EP	[4] 10 am MP & L, Ante-Communion	[5]
[6] 8:00 a.m. MP & HC 10:00 a.m. HE Annual Meeting 6:00 p.m. Evensong & Benediction ADVENT II	[7] 5 pm EP	[8] 12 noon HC 5 pm EP	[9] 5 pm EP/5:30 HC	[10] 12 noon HC 5 pm EP	[11] 10 am MP & L, Ante-Communion	[12]
[13] 8:00 a.m. MP & HC 10:00 a.m. HE, SS ADVENT III	[14] 5 pm EP	[15] 12 noon HC 5 pm EP	[16] 5 pm EP/5:30 HC	[17] 12 noon HC 5 pm EP	[18] 10 am MP & L, Ante-Communion	[19]
[20] 8:00 a.m. MP & HC 10:00 a.m. HE, SS ADVENT IV	[21] 5 pm EP	[22] 12 noon HC 5 pm EP	[23] 5 pm EP/5:30 HC	[24] 6:00 p.m. Family Service 10:30 Carols 11:00 p.m. FHE CHRISTMAS EVE	[25] 10:00 a.m. Matins, HC CHRISTMAS	[26]
[27] 8:00 a.m. MP & HC 10:00 a.m. HE, SS ST. JOHN EVANGELIST	[28] 5:15 pm HC HOLY INNOCENTS	[29] 12 noon HC 5 pm EP	[30] 5 pm EP/5:30 HC	[31] 5 pm EP	**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.

	December 6	**December 13**	**December 20**	**December 27**
Coffee Hour	M. Slayton	C. Pappas	S. Darby	Volunteer needed
Epistoler 8 a.m.	D. Drysdale	C. Von Claparede	D. Drysdale	G. Mauney
Epistoler 10 a.m.	G. Terrell	T. Paisley	G. Terrell	P. Williams

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)