

# FISHERMAN'S NET

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Saint Peter's Episcopal Church • Lakewood, Ohio  
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## Welcome Reverend Michael A. Lager

On behalf of the Search Committee and the Vestry, we are pleased and honored to announce that the Reverend Michael A. Lager has answered our call to serve as the next rector of St. Peter's Episcopal Church, Lakewood, Ohio.

Father Mike comes to us with a rich history, grounded in faith. He comes to us from St. John's Episcopal Church, Fort Smith Arkansas where he led a congregation similar in size to that of St. Peter's, since 2010. Raised in Columbus, Ohio, Father Mike attended THE Ohio State University. He received his Bachelor of Arts degree in the Bible from Evangel University in Springfield MO and his master's degree in Biblical Literature from Assemblies of God Seminary, also in Springfield. While there, Mike met and married Kim, a native of Nebraska and first grade teacher.

In 1995, Father Mike obtained his Master of Divinity from the Southern Baptist Seminary. That same year he entered the General Episcopal Seminary in New York City where, in 1996 he was granted a certificate in Anglican Studies.

Father Mike began his formal spiritual ministry as a Youth Minister at the Bethel Assembly of God Church in Shreveport, LA. He became Chaplain of the Sigma Chi Campus Ministry at the University of Louisville in Kentucky.

His first "assignment" in the Episcopal Church took place in Louisville at St. Matthew's Episcopal Church where he served as Associate Rector and on the Camp Program. He also chaired the Commission on Ministry

In 2000, Father Mike became Rector at St. Thomas Episcopal Church in Louisville, a suburban, family-size parish. He began a Family Service, a Contemporary Worship Service and a Saturday Service. During this period, he served as Chaplain to preschool and utilized Godly Play, a curriculum of spiritual practice for children which explores the mystery of God's presence in our lives.

In 2010 Father Mike accepted the call to St. John's in Fort Smith Arkansas. His ministry was heavily focused on outreach in a community which was occupied by a large homeless and addicted population. His many accomplishments at St. John's include a capital campaign to renovate the historic downtown parish. He began programs for Oxford House, Mourner's Path Grief Group and Marriage Enrichment. He received the Volunteer of the Year Award from The River Valley Equality Center and is serving the Diocese of Arkansas on the Executive Committee and as Standing Committee President.

Mike and Kim raised two girls, Madison who is a Predictive Analyst at Arc Best Technologies in Fort Smith, and Bentley, a technology consultant in Chicago. Mike and Kim love the outdoors and are particularly looking forward to exploring the Cleveland Metroparks and Bellwether Farms. I expect there are a few St. Peter's parishioners who will be happy to assist with that exploration!

Mike and Kim have notified St. John's of their plans. They will take the next several weeks to assist that community with the transition and to begin their journey to Cleveland. Father Mike will take the pulpit on Palm Sunday, April 2, 2023.

As we prepare to welcome Mike and Kim, let us pray for the people of St. John's. There is a pain we too have born and an uncertainty that we only now can move on from.

Please join me in thanksgiving as we welcome Mike and Kim.

*St. Peter's Vestry and Search Committee*

Dear Friends in Christ,

By the time this newsletter hits the press and goes into the mail the 113th Annual Meeting for St. Peter's Church, Lakewood will be "in the books." We'll have a new working vestry. You will have adopted an operating Budget for 2023. You will have heard an exciting report from the Search Committee for a new Rector. You will have heard a report from St. Peter's Foundation and, you will have heard a report from Senior Warden, Liz Crosby. In short, this annual meeting will not only have shared "the state of the church" with her members at Lakewood, Ohio but we will have organized ourselves to be about the mission and ministry of St. Peter's church for the calendar year 2023. Thanks be to God.

Key to that mission and ministry is our need to "grow our parish." Key to the success of keeping our parish momentum going is leadership. We must continue to pray for and raise up capable people to serve, oversee and keep the mission and ministry of St. Peter's Church going. And we must continue to raise up volunteers to assist with our committees and commissions as well as our outreach ministries.

Vestries across the Episcopal Church (and indeed all of Christendom) have taken a long hard look at parish membership over the past year. And in doing so what has been realized is that while some members of the church community have died, many others have become inactive or slipped away. Research and statistics show that when all is said and done, ALL communities of faith will have lost 30% of their active membership during the pandemic. There really is only one way to counteract this my friends in Christ, and that is to do the work of evangelism, to tell the old, old story of Jesus and his love. Research and statistics have also proven over and over again that the best form of evangelism is personal invitation. If we invite unchurched or de-churched family members and friends to come to worship with us, the church will grow. If we sit back and wait for inquirers and those "shopping" for church to come through our doors, find our website or our Facebook page, then the membership of our parishes will continue to shrink. I'm not sounding an alarm that hasn't already been going off but the pandemic has made all churches recognize that we can't go back to pre-pandemic "business as usual." There is work to do.

Winter Convocation 2023 which will be held in person on February 3rd and 4th at the Kalahari Convention Center in Sandusky will address this important work. Building upon her book, REAL CONNECTIONS, Joy Skjegstad will lead us in discovering practical ways we can develop deeper and more meaningful relationships with each other and our neighbors, which we know is foundational to our mission as Christians in the world. We will also welcome the Rev. Anne B. Jolly, our Bishop Coadjutor-elect for her first visit to our Diocese of Ohio since her election in November. Bishop-elect Anne will be the preacher for the Eucharist on Saturday morning and is eager to meet as many people from our Diocese as she can!

The month of February is also the month in which we remember the Rev.

Absalom Jones, the first person of African descent to be ordained to the priesthood of the Episcopal Church. The annual diocesan service remembering Absalom Jones will take place on the morning of February 11th at Trinity Cathedral in Cleveland. The Wilma Ruth Combs chapter of the Union of Black Episcopalians which is organizing this event cordially invites all members of parishes to attend this celebration. And, while our vestry will be ensconced at Bellwether Farm for their organization retreat, all other members of the parish are encouraged to visit our cathedral for this celebration— which will also recognize the late Rt. Rev. Barbara C. Harris on the occasion of her being added to A GREAT CLOUD OF WITNESSES, the liturgical calendar for the Episcopal Church.

Finally, the month of February is, this year, a blessed three additional weeks of Sundays after the Epiphany. What this translates to for clergy is four more weeks to plan for the Lenten Season which is GREAT because sometimes, in the greater scheme of the liturgical calendar, Ash Wednesday happens in a way which is right on the heels of the Christmas season! So we have a little more time to breathe and, perhaps, enjoy the winter weather, hunker down with our families, and prepare our hearts and minds for the six weeks of penitence leading up to Easter!

Ash Wednesday is February 23rd and there will be the imposition of Ashes and Eucharist at Noon and 7:30 p.m. on that day.

I'll end by planting a seed: As part of our Lenten observance, I hope to be able to initiate a simple supper of soup and salad immediately following a weekday celebration on Tuesday evenings. The Eucharist will take place at 5:30 p.m. Supper and Scripture study will take place at 6:15 p.m. Stay tuned!

With appreciation for your Companion ship on the Way

Fr. Brian K. Wilbert  
Interim Rector

## February Outreach Focus: National Multiple Sclerosis Society



**National  
Multiple Sclerosis  
Society**

The National Multiple Sclerosis Society is where I found compassion, trusted information, and reliable guidance during a scary time. If you know someone facing

a diagnosis, please share this information.

What is MS? MS is a chronic, often disabling disease of the central nervous system. Thought to be an auto-immune disease affecting nearly a million people in the US, there is no known cause or cure. Symptoms range from numbness, pain, blindness, cognitive issues to paralysis. An individual's MS progression is unpredictable, sometimes "coming and going" over months, or progressing leading to increased disability.

The National MS Society invests in research seeking a cure, advocates for patient's rights, facilitates education, and provides services to people with MS and their families. The Ohio Buckeye Chapter of the National MS Society serves Ohioans in a 64-county area. They believe no one should face a diagnosis alone, and should live their best life.

Your contributions this month will enable services for people with MS, such as a cooling vest or grab-bars, and fund promising research. If you are able, please join my "Dessert First!" team at the

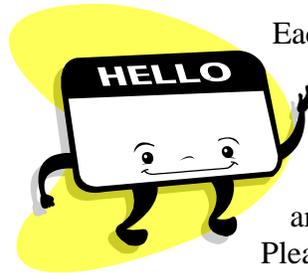
Walk MS event, on May 6, 2023 at CSU's Wolstein Center.

St. Peter's faith, kindness, and generosity make my heart happy in February, and always. Thank you. ~ Kathy Woolner

**For more information or to register to walk on May 6 (free) and/or donate,**

<https://mssociety.donordrive.com/participant/Kathy-Woolner>

## Name Tags



Each Sunday, you are invited to write out your name on a name tag and wear it so everyone will know who you are... Permanent name badges are available for ordering!

Please call the office if you would like to place an order for a badge (red background with white lettering). The badges are available with magnetic backs or pins. (Please remember: anyone with a pacemaker should not order a magnetic back badge.) The cost of the badge is \$8.50. Call 216-226-1772 or e-mail [office@stpeterslakewood.org](mailto:office@stpeterslakewood.org) the office with questions or to place an order.

## 2023 Winter Convocation

*February 3 - 4, 2023*

*Kalahari Resort, Sandusky*

*(7 pm Friday to 3:30 pm Saturday)*

### "Becoming Beloved Community"

The Episcopal Diocese of Ohio's Winter Convocation will take place Friday and Saturday, February 3 - 4, 2023, at Kalahari Resort and Convention Center. If you have not attended a diocesan Convocation, you are encouraged to attend. This can be a fun, family activity.

Convocation Registration including Reception and Lunch is \$49 for adults 18 or older, \$10 for those 17 or younger) and \$79 for a family of adults and children living in the same household. For more information, contact Antoinette Taylor at 216-774-0476, or via email at [ataylor@dohio.org](mailto:ataylor@dohio.org), or visit the Diocese of Ohio website at [www.dohio.org](http://www.dohio.org).

## Homeless Sleepout...



After a Covid hiatus, St. Peter's Youth will be participating in the Annual Homeless Awareness Sleep-out!

The "One Night Without a Home" Sleep Out is a common part of many Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Weeks. This event is an opportunity for participants to spend a night outside to discuss, think, and learn about homelessness.

This year, the Sleep-out will take place on Saturday, **FEBRUARY 18<sup>th</sup>** and continue throughout the night. It will conclude with the 10:00 a.m. service on Sunday morning. We are in need of adults to take shifts and watch over us through the night. If you are available, please contact Leah.

## VIRTUAL SUNDAY COFFEE HOUR

*Join us for a VIRTUAL SUNDAY COFFEE HOUR at 11:15 a.m.*



Virtual Coffee Hour will be held the second Sunday of each month at 11:15 AM. All members of St. Peter's are invited to join the online conversation and connect with our

church community.

**On Sunday, February 12 at 11:15, pour yourself a cup of coffee and join us.** Mark your calendar now for future virtual coffee hours on the second Sunday of the month. We look forward to welcoming you.

Login to Sunday Coffee Hour via ZOOM at 11:15 a.m. Sundays. You can get to brunch by using this link in your internet browser:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82813898119?pwd=VU5QMjI0UmJkdTBudmJQRVphNTRVUT09>

**Meeting ID: 828 1389 8119**  
**Passcode: 18001**

**Thank you, and you, and you,  
and you and you.....**



By the time you are reading this it will be close to February but nevertheless I need to acknowledge those parishioners who helped on back on Dec 17 & 18.

**BRASS POLISHING:** A small but mighty crew of Scott and Mary Fitz, Gina Massetti and Neil Green came in that icy morning and polished our brass so that it sparkled for our Christmas services. Jeff Tennent, who is sole person who has the knowledge of the correct order to reassemble of our baptismal font top, polished it at his home as he was not available to join us on Saturday, Dec. 17. I personally want to thank them as I was not able to contribute due to a schedule conflict.

**SALLY FAREWELL RECEPTION:** I want to thank ALL (too numerous to list) who help with the lovely reception. It takes a village or a parish to pull off such a reception. **THANK YOU!** Yes, Tom Newman is staff but we are blessed to have him and his help that weekend I am very grateful for.

*~ Amanda Chambers*



**February 22, 2023**

Ash Wednesday Liturgy, Imposition of Ashes and Holy Eucharist

12:00 p.m.

7:30 p.m.

**St. Cecilia's Guild**

*Saint Cecilia*

St. Cecilia Guild will not meet in February. Please save the date for tea at Emerald Necklace Inn at noon on March 22. Please email Lorna with your RSVP by Wednesday, March 15. You will be billed individually at the time of the meal. The cost is \$25.00 plus tax and tip. They take cash and credit cards. For more information you can check the Emerald Necklace website

<https://www.emeraldnecklaceinn.com/tea-room-menu/>

If you have any questions, please contact Lorna at [ljcookie1@gmail.com](mailto:ljcookie1@gmail.com) or 440-455-1603.

**Coffee Hour & Fellowship**



Now that the cooler days have arrived, we are gathering after the 10:00 service with coffee and lemonade. As long as Covid trend is low, we will gather inside in our "regular" spot outside

the chapel. Please stop by and enjoy some wonderful St. Peter's fellowship. You are missed!

~ Amanda Chambers

**Altar Flowers**



Worship in our church is an experience of beauty. Every element of the service—the architecture, the altar hangings, the music, the people in the pews, and more—draws us closer to God by inviting us to bring our very best and laying it upon the altar. The flowers that bedeck that altar are an important and beautiful symbol of what we offer to God in our worship.

Altar Flowers have an added dimension to the worship... not only do they create beauty, they are then given to shut-ins, folks celebrating momentous occasions and special events, or just someone who needs a "pick-me-up!" Every member of the parish is invited to contribute to the beauty of our worship by giving the altar flowers on a particular Sunday to the glory of God and in memory, thanksgiving, or celebration for people or events that are important.

As of this printing, there are no Sundays "taken" for altar flowers. All Sundays are available (except during Lent.) If you would like to make a gift of altar flowers, you may do so by contacting the office at 216-226-1772. Seasonal flower arrangements are \$60. Call or stop by the office to reserve a date. Thank you in advance for your generosity and for contributing to the beauty of our worship.

***St. Peter's Foundation:***

If you are considering St. Peter's Church Foundation in your giving and estate planning, and would like more information, please go to St. Peter's website at [www.stpeterslakewood.org](http://www.stpeterslakewood.org), and click on the link to the Foundation. You may also call the church office for assistance. This is an opportunity for you to give to the future of our church, in building and in mission.

*Happy Valentine's Day*

# February Events

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
			<b>1</b>	<b>2</b> Choir 7:30 pm	<b>3</b> Bible Study, 8:00 am  Diocesan Convocation @ Kalahari →	<b>4</b>
<b>5</b> Holy Eucharist, 8:00 & 10:00 am	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b> Choir 7:30 pm	<b>10</b> Bible Study, 8:00 am  Vestry Retreat @ Bellwether →	<b>11</b>
<b>12</b> Holy Eucharist, 8:00 & 10:00 am  Virtual Coffee Hour 11:115 am  Youth SouperBowl	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> Community Meal, 6:00 pm	<b>15</b> <i>Fisherman's NET deadline</i>	<b>16</b> Choir 7:30 pm	<b>17</b> Bible Study, 8:00 am	<b>18</b>
<b>19</b> Holy Eucharist, 8:00 & 10:00 am	<b>20</b> President's Day  OFFICE CLOSED	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b> Ash Wednesday  HE noon, 7:30 pm	<b>23</b> Choir 7:30 pm	<b>24</b> Bible Study, 8:00 am	<b>25</b>
<b>26</b> Holy Eucharist, 8:00 & 10:00 am	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> Normandy Service, 3:00 pm  Lenten Supper & Eucharist, 5:30 pm				



## February Celebrations

Below is a list of birthdays and anniversaries for the month of February. If you are celebrating a milestone this month and are not on the list, please E-mail or call the church office to update your files.

### Birthdays in February



Feb 01      Andy Fitz  
Feb 03      Craig Cook  
Feb 05      Thomas Baker  
Feb 13      Liz Crosby  
              Henry Bish  
              Grace Karchmer  
Feb 14      Doug Bradfield  
Feb 15      Robert Wolverton  
Feb 17      Sheena James  
              John Yingling  
Feb 19      Pat Wielinski  
              Alison Demaline  
Feb 20      Hilary Bickerton  
Feb 21      Jim Cofer  
              Alison LaRosa  
Feb 23      Megan Schwartz

Feb 24      Phillip Callesen  
              Abby Williams  
Feb 25      Martha Taylor  
Feb 27      Angie Whidden  
              Pete Wheeler  
Feb 28      Don Blesse  
              Kevin St. Clair  
Feb 29      Mary Elaine Patrinos



### Wedding Anniversaries in February

Feb 13      Fred & Sarah Bauer

## Parish Prayer Rota for February

Please use this parish prayer rota in your daily prayers. We will pray for all the families and individuals in the parish serially over the course of a few months, we'll then start over again. Clip this page and keep it with your daily devotions for easy access.

Feb 1	Bill Grane Bob Gray	Feb 16	Alison LaRosa Mark, Margarita, Maggie & John Lekan
Feb 2	Neil & Joyce Green Mike, Jennifer, Jacob & Elisa Hammarlund	Feb 17	Cindy & Ernest Lemmerman Bob Lewis
Feb 3	Tucker Handley Sarah Hankey	Feb 18	Emily Malquest Matt & Sara Marscher
Feb 4	Nancy Harris Tony, Lauren & Caleb Hinkston	Feb 19	Gina Massetti Colin McConnell
Feb 5	Sue Hofelich Gerry & Tolisa Horning	Feb 20	Dennis McCready, Amanda Wolf & Victor Cottrell Jan McDonough
Feb 6	John House Dan & Matthew Hout-Reilly	Feb 21	Kate McHale Kay McKelvey
Feb 7	Joanne Hull Bob Hulligan	Feb 22	Robin McNutt Sumner & Penny Mead
Feb 8	David Hulligan Joseph Jacoby	Feb 23	Michael Miller Dave Mitzo
Feb 9	Richard Jacquemotte Sheena James & Mary Elaine Patrinos	Feb 24	Robert Moncrief Vikki Mowery
Feb 10	Susan Jensen Keith, Monica & Fletcher Jochum	Feb 25	David Murphy David & Robin Nash
Feb 11	Lowell Johnson Lorna Jordan	Feb 26	Meredith Nash Richard & Jane Nash
Feb 12	Dan Karchmer, Sunita Mathew & Grace Joseph, Price, Eddie & Grace Kasl	Feb 27	John & Patricia Neumann Judy Ogden
Feb 13	John Keller Roger & Carol Kienzle	Feb 28	Al & Jo Oldenburg Dorothy O'Neill
Feb 14	John Krebs & Joyce Barrett Robert Kuhlenschmidt & Robin Ingram		
Feb 15	Dan & Sally Lammers Jason, Christine, Abby & Sara Lance		

✂ Don't forget to clip this page.

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216-226-1772

The Rt. Rev. Mark Hollingsworth, Jr., Bishop of Ohio

The Rev. Dr. Brian K. Wilbert, Interim Rector

Leslie Hannan, Parish Administrator

Tom Newman, Sexton

Eric Mazzone, Bookkeeper

Bryan Mitnaul, Organist and Choirmaster

Liz Crosby, Senior Warden

Steve Bickerton, Junior Warden

Joanne Hull, Clerk

Dan Lammers, Treasurer

Vestry members: Jan McDonough, George Filko, Anne Marie Foti, Ryan Vogelgesang,

Martha Taylor, John Neumann, Betsy Yingling, Lilia Stanton

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*Sunday Services: 8:00 a.m. & 10:00 a.m.*

*Website: [www.stpeterslakewood.org](http://www.stpeterslakewood.org)*

**St. Peter's is on FACEBOOK; Like US!!**

