

Saint Peter ^{the} Apostle CATHOLIC CHURCH

551 N. Rush Street | Itasca, Illinois 60143 | 630.773.1272 | www.stpeteritasca.com



Restore • Renew • Rejoice

SCHEDULE OF MASSES

Saturday Vigil: 5:00 pm

Sunday: 8:30 am | 10:00 am | 11:30 am

Monday-Friday: 8:00 am

CONFESSIONS

Saturdays | 4:15 pm - 4:45 pm

Wednesdays | 8:30 am (*following 8:00 am Mass*)

First Saturdays | 8:30 am (*following 8:00 am Mass*)

Love



December 20, 2020
Fourth Sunday of Advent

From the Pastor



Dear Parish Family:

The Gospel reading today recounts the story of the Annunciation of the Birth of Jesus to the Blessed Virgin Mary (Luke 1:26-38). The story tells of an intimate conversation between Mary and the Angel Gabriel, when a young woman says “yes” to God. It’s easy to forget that the Virgin Mary was a young Jewish girl, probably in her early teens, who, we’re told, is “troubled” by the angel’s appearance – and by his greeting: *Hail, full of grace! The Lord is with you... You have found favor with God... you will conceive and bear a son.*

Yet, to this disturbing announcement of the angel, Mary says, “May it be done to me according to your word.” Those few words carry within them great meaning. With those words, something in the universe shifted gear. The long reign of sin and death is coming to an end.

This moment, this EVENT of the Annunciation of the birth of Jesus to the Virgin, is incredibly significant. So significant is the conception of Jesus within the womb of Mary, that the Church celebrates it each year, nine months before Christmas... March 25th is observed as the Feast of the Annunciation. This moment is so important that it’s remembered each Sunday... it’s put before us in a dramatic way every time we recite the Nicene Creed at Mass. *At the words that follow, up to and including “and became man,” we are to bow...* On Christmas, we’ll kneel at those words. But why?... Because they recall that singular moment in all of history, in all of the Universe, when GOD BECAME MAN... and took on our human flesh, becoming like us in all things, but sin. Think about it – it really is an INCREDIBLE MOMENT! And so, for centuries, the Church instructs us to BOW our heads in recognition of this moment when something in the universe shifted gear. Salvation had come!

And by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary, and became man: It’s only two lines in the Creed, it passes quickly. Often without notice. One gentleman once told me that he doesn’t bow his head, and noticed that others don’t either.... saying, “the line comes and goes so quick in the Creed, and besides, it’s uncomfortable, it feels odd to do, it doesn’t seem natural.” I guess that’s true. Humility and Awe in God’s presence doesn’t come naturally – they are virtues, paths to holiness, that we have to practice and cultivate in our lives. Bowing our heads, showing reverence, is yet another way to get our WHOLE body, our WHOLE self involved in our prayer... it helps us focus our effort, on what we are professing.

So today, when we recite the Creed, let’s all make the effort to follow the liturgy with a “lively faith.” And not only today, let’s remember today’s Gospel EVERY TIME we pray the Creed, and let’s be more aware of the mystery we proclaim. Hopefully, then, being drawn more and more into the liturgy, we will grow all the more in holiness, in our closeness to God.

The story of the Annunciation reminds us of that nearness of God. When Mary said... May it be done to me according to your word... those words not only changed her life, but also the life of the world. That “nearness” of God is so important, so necessary that over the centuries people have tried to become more and more aware of the presence of the Lord in our lives. On these days before Christmas, pray the Hail Mary very devoutly. Salute with great honor Our Lady with as much reverence as did the Angel Gabriel. And while you sit before the Nativity this Christmas meditate on Mary’s humility, and on the love of the Son of God who became Man for love of us.

May the Blessed Mother lead us closer to Her Son. Merry and holy Christmas to all!

Fr. Noesen



Mass Intentions



Sunday	December 20 (<i>Fourth Sunday of Advent</i>)
8:30 am	†Carolyn Mazzucchi
10:00 am	†Jeremiah McMahon
11:30 am	†Francesco Fricano
	†Stefano Fricano
	†Biagio Gariti
	†Biagio Loreto Gariti
	†Ann Konney
	People of the Parish
Monday	December 21 (<i>Late Advent Weekday</i>)
8:00 am	†Cheryl Fisherkeller
Tuesday	December 22 (<i>Late Advent Weekday</i>)
6:30 pm	†Pennamma Makil
Wednesday	December 23 (<i>Late Advent Weekday</i>)
8:00 am	†Clarence, Lorraine and James Koback
Thursday	December 24 (<i>Late Advent Weekday</i>)
8:00 am	The Intentions of Father Noesen
Thursday	December 24 (<i>Vigil: The Nativity of the Lord - Christmas Eve</i>)
3:00 pm	†Louise and Roy Kulpinski
5:00 pm	†Patricia Vitale
9:00 pm	†Biagio Gariti
10:30 pm	For Peace in The Holy Land
Friday	December 25 (<i>The Nativity of the Lord - Christmas</i>)
8:00 am	†Leroy LeVan
10:00 am	†Eckenhart Friederich
11:30 am	†Hillard and Sophie Bieschke
Saturday	December 26 (<i>St. Stephen, the First Martyr</i>)
8:00 am	†Robert Noesen
Saturday	December 26 (<i>Vigil: The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph</i>)
5:00 pm	†Mary S. Giannelli
	Jeanine Jahaske (<i>Special Intention</i>)
	†Philomenia Rucinski
	†Russell Schumacher
	†Andrzej Szymikowski
	For an End to Abortion
	People of the Parish
Sunday	December 27 (<i>The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph</i>)
8:30 am	†Remo and Frances Rosy
10:00 am	†Josephine Sweeney
11:30 am	†Benedykt Bak
	†Marie Cifaldi
	†John Elia
	†Anton and Elise Harteker
	†Anton and Emma Striegel

Advent Confession Schedule

Last Confessions this Advent...

In just a few days, Christmas will be here. Today, as we celebrate the Fourth Sunday of Advent, I invite you to continue your preparation for the great feast to come. Prepare your heart, as well as your home for the feast of Christmas.

Late Advent Confessions will be heard as follows:

- This weekend on Sunday following the 11:30 am Mass until all are heard
- This Tuesday, December 22, at 7:00 pm until all are heard
- This Wednesday, December 23, at 8:30 am until all are heard

These are the last scheduled Confessions before Christmas. Confessions resume Saturday, January 2 at 4:15 pm.

Especially as the rush of the season unfolds, it's important to take a few minutes of quiet time, alone, to ponder the great mystery of the Word of God becoming flesh! Taking stock of our lives and making a good confession of our sins is not only a wonderful way to prepare to receive the real blessings of Christmas, but also think how happy the Lord will be! What a wonderful gift to give Him for Christmas!

If you have been away from the Sacrament of Reconciliation for a while, I encourage you to receive the sacrament. The Lord is always waiting for you with great love, great mercy, and great forgiveness. Likewise, I encourage you, throughout the coming Christmas Season, to stop in Church this week during the daylight hours and to spend some time in quiet prayer with the Lord, really and truly present in the Blessed Sacrament. The church will be open for private prayer from 6:00am until 6:00pm each day this week before Christmas.

Jesus is waiting for you. Keep him at the center of your Christmas celebrations, and you'll see that you'll have the best Christmas ever!

Readings for the Week

Monday:	Sg 2:8-14 or Zep 3:14-18a; Ps 33:2-3, 11-12, 20-21; Lk 1:39-45
Tuesday:	1 Sm 1:24-28; 1 Sm 2:1, 4-8abcd; Lk 1:46-56
Wednesday:	Mal 3:1-4, 23-34; Ps 25:4-5ab, 8-10, 14; Lk 1:57-66
Thursday:	2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16; Ps 89:2-5, 27, 29; Lk 1:67-79
Friday:	<i>Vigil:</i> Is 62:1-5; Ps 89:4-5, 16-17, 27, 29; Acts 13:16-17, 22-25; Mt 1:1-25 [18-25] <i>Night:</i> Is 9:1-6; Ps 96:1-3, 11-13; Ti 2:11-14; Lk 2:1-14 <i>Dawn:</i> Is 62:11-12; Ps 97:1, 6, 11-12; Ti 3:4-7; Lk 2:15-20 <i>Day:</i> Is 52:7-10; Ps 98:1-6; Heb 1:1-6; Jn 1:1-18 [1-5, 9-14]
Saturday:	Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59; Ps 31:3cd-4, 6, 8ab, 16bc, 17; Mt 10:17-22
Sunday:	Sir 3:2-6, 12-14 or Gn 15:1-6; 21:1-3; Ps 128:1-5 or Ps 105:1-6, 8-9; Col 3:12-21 [12-17] or Hb 11:8, 11-12, 17-19; Lk 2:22-40 [22, 39-40]

Stewardship of Treasure

A Way of Life
St. Peter the Apostle

*Due to an early publication deadline,
figures were not available in time for this bulletin printing.
Weekly collection information will appear in next week's bulletin*

Financial figures reflect the parish fiscal year of July 1st through June 30th.

If you have any questions concerning the collection numbers, please feel free to contact the Business Office at 630-773-1272 (ext. 204).



INTRODUCING...
Electronic Giving with GiveCentral.

Please visit the parish website and look for the GiveCentral icon to link to the secure online giving portal.
You can also connect directly by visiting the website directly at givecentral.org/location/1251

This Week at St. Peter's...

- Monday December 21**
7:00 pm Knights of Columbus General Mtg. (Virtual)
- Tuesday December 22**
8:30 am Tuesday Evening Rosary (Virtual - Zoom)
7:00 pm Confessions (Church)
- Wednesday December 23**
8:30 am Confessions (Church)



Schedule

Saturday, December 26 | Sunday, December 27

Communion Ministers

- 5:00 pm Valerie Serzen
Pat Barbee
- 8:30 am Nancy Riley
Rose Ann Roll
- 10:00 am Mel Gerard
Bill Kolf
- 11:30 am Mary McNamara
Deacon Fred

Lectors

- 5:00 pm John Los
- 8:30 am Chris Aument
- 10:00 am Kevin Grisamore
- 11:30 am Chris Nagle

Christmas and End of the Year Giving to St. Peter the Apostle Parish

Please keep your parish in mind when making your Will and in doing your Estate Planning. Remembering the Church is a beautiful and fitting way to make a lasting memorial statement of faith for future generations. It is a statement of gratitude to Christ and His Church for the gift of Faith and for the nurturing of that Faith you have received in this life, which hopefully sustained you and helped you along to eternal life.

The Christmas Collection is an important part of our operating budget. Please consider a generous contribution to the parish for Christmas if you have not done so. Don't forget, with the New Year upon us, year-end giving is also a wonderful way to make a response of faith, help your parish in its mission to make the Lord Jesus known.

Call the parish office if you need assistance.

Thank you for your consideration and stewardship...
Living the Gospel of Jesus the Christ!



Don't let 2020 slip away without taking full advantage of your charitable giving!

When "checking your list" for tax-deductible donation options, please consider making a gift to St. Peter the Apostle Parish for your year-end giving.

Your support of St. Peter the Apostle Parish provides the opportunity to ensure the stability and growth of a Catholic "home" for current and future generations.

If giving by check or cash, please submit no later than **December 27, 2020** in order to receive credit for the current year. Envelopes can be dropped off at the Parish Center or in the collection basket.

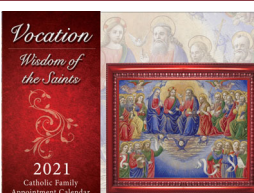
Online donations using [GiveCentral](https://givecentral.org/location/1251) can be made through December 31, 2020.

Donations are tax-deductible as allowed by law • Non-profit 501(c)(3) Federal Tax ID # 36-2345185

ST. PETER THE APOSTLE
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office@stpeteritasca.com



THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!



2021 Parish Calendars...

2021 Catholic Calendars will be provided again this year. However, due to publishing delays, calendars are late in delivery this year.
Thank you for your patience.

It is hard to believe we are already in Advent and Religious Ed is on Christmas break. RE got off to a great start with about 2/3 of our families opting for in-person classes and 1/3 choosing remote learning. At this writing, all classes are remote until the end of January. This is to ensure the safety of all our families, catechists, and staff throughout and after the holiday season.

Our families and Catechists are doing a marvelous job sharing the Catholic faith with the children of St. Peter. Seventh and eighth grades are preparing for the Sacrament of Confirmation and I was able to reschedule the Confirmation Retreat to a virtual event given by Net Ministries. Many of you may remember the Net team being at St. Peter's in prior years. They are a group of post college students on fire with the love of God and our Catholic faith who travel from parish to parish. They stay at the homes of parish families and I have been told the families who receive them are very blessed indeed.

Second graders are preparing for First Reconciliation at the end of January and Holy Communion in May. We do not know at this time when we will have Confirmation. Hopefully, we will have a better idea after the first of the year. We also have one student who will be received into the Catholic Church during the Easter Vigil in 2021. Please pray for all our children preparing for the Sacraments. Other classes are learning to pray with scripture, the Bible timeline, and all about the Holy Mass.

Wednesday and Saturday classes were blessed and delighted to have Fr. Noesen stop by and answer questions from students. He is going to do the same for our remote learning classes. Father also got us off to a good start by professionally cleaning the school to Covid standards, blessing all of our books and a photo of the Divine Mercy that many have put on front doors to keep families safe while trusting in Jesus and His mercy.

We also recently had internet installed at the school with the help of a Catholic Education Foundation Grant and the generosity of Religious Ed parents. This allows catechists to Zoom classes from the school and tap into online resources.

We are grateful to God for all the many gifts he has given to us. Faithful and dedicated catechists, parents who do everything they can to help their children participate in Religious Ed, Fr. Noesen's flexibility and willingness to participate in our program, and the engagement of all the children learning more about their faith. We are grateful for Zoom and to be able to see and interact with each other until we can meet again.

We are especially grateful to all of our families who have brought us into their homes and the many siblings and family pets we have met while parents stand by as IT professionals at-the-ready to fix any glitches while listening in on our classes.

We are also grateful to all of you who support our Religious Education program. We are so blessed to be a part of the wonderful St. Peter's family.

God bless you and have a very Merry Christmas and a New Year full of God's abundant blessings!

Toni Pietrowski and Kathy Frank



Christmas Schedule...

Please remember to sign-up in advance for masses.
Visit the parish website at stpeteritasca.com
for links to the sign-up pages

CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE

Thursday, December 24, 2020

(Christmas Eve Vigil Masses)

3:00 pm | 5:00 pm | 9:00 pm | 10:30 pm

Friday, December 25, 2020

(Solemnity of Christmas)

8:00 am | 10:00 am | 11:30 am

Join us for the Octaves of Christmas Weekday Masses

December 26, 28, 29, 30, 31 | 8:00 am

SOLEMNITY OF MARY, MOTHER OF GOD

Thursday, December 31, 2020 (Vigil Masses)

3:00 pm | 5:00 pm

Friday, January 1, 2021

8:30 am | 11:00 am

THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

Saturday, January 2, 2021

Vigil Mass: 5:00 pm

Sunday, January 3, 2021

Masses: 8:30 am | 10:00 am | 11:30 am

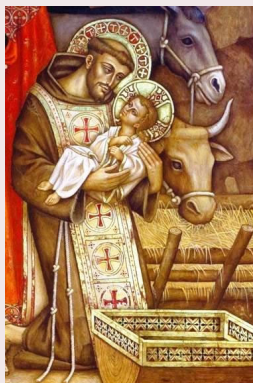
PLEASE NOTE:

The Parish Center will be closed for the Christmas holiday
December 21, 2020 through January 3, 2021.

Regular office hours will resume Thursday, January 4, 2021.

The First Christmas Creche...

Saint Francis of Assisi called it a “creche,” the French word for cradle. He spoke fluent French, and at his time, among the aristocracy, it was popular to use it. Francis created the first creche using real people, a real manger, a real OX and ass, and real shepherds. The Incarnation, Christmas, was a key component in the spirituality of St. Francis. He wanted to celebrate the Incarnation in a special way. He wanted to do something that would help people remember the Christ Child and how He was born in Bethlehem. Francis wanted people to see and experience how He lay in a manger with an ox and an ass standing by — how He lay upon the hay where He had been placed. The Incarnation, Christmas, was a key component in the spirituality of St. Francis. He wanted to celebrate the Incarnation in a special way. He wanted to do something that would help people remember the Christ Child and how He was born in Bethlehem. Francis wanted people to see and experience how He lay in a manger with an ox and an ass standing by — how He lay upon the hay where He had been placed. It was Christmas Eve in the year 1223. At the appointed time, Franciscan Brothers came to the “new Bethlehem” [a cave on a mountain in Greccio, Italy]. Men, women, and children from the area also came to celebrate. The torches they carried lit up the night as they approached the creche. Once again shepherds were walking in the night to come and adore Him. All were filled with joy over the mystery of the Incarnation. And a great tradition began.



As you gaze upon the Christmas Nativity scene, may you remember and celebrate again God's love for His creation. To show His abundant love, mercy, and forgiveness, He became a person like us. This is what the creche symbolizes. The night-time darkness had fled! The woodland clearing on a mountain near the small Italian village of Greccio was made bright as day with torchlight. The villagers cried out in surprise and awe as they beheld the Christmas Eve gift of St. Francis of Assisi. The chanting of the Franciscan Brothers echoed through the rocky hills as St. Francis stood in front of the manger. Overcome with tenderness, he watched as the villagers saw and felt the cold and poverty of the humble birthplace of the Little Brother of all Mankind. Then with a wondrous joy, St. Francis read aloud from the Holy Gospel. Those witnessing the scene saw Francis pick-up the figure of the Baby Jesus, which had turned, miraculously into a radiant, smiling, little child. He appeared to converse with the Baby Jesus. Since that deeply stirring night near Greccio, the Christmas creche has become a part of the world's Christmas celebration. And whether as a living dramatization, a large Nativity scene, or carved miniatures, it brings happiness to the hearts of adult and child alike. Gazing upon the creche with reverence brings us always closer to the two thousand year old, but ever new, Christmas Mystery.

[Adapted from “Vita Prima” by Thomas Celano. 1258 AD]

Mary in Advent

Matthew Bunson (editor, *The Catholic Answer* - osv.com)

The Blessed Mother bears many titles: Theotokos (“Godbearer”), Mother of God, Star of the Sea, Immaculate Conception, Queen of Heaven, Seat of Wisdom, and many more. All of them honor her in different ways and help us to appreciate more fully her role in the life of her Son, her rightful place in the Church and the reasons for loving and venerating her. Catholics, of course, do not worship Mary and never have, despite the erroneous claims of many Protestants and evangelicals to the contrary. Surprisingly, Martin Luther had a strong Marian devotion and called her the “highest woman and the noblest gem in Christianity after Christ.... She is nobility, wisdom, and holiness personified. We can never honor her enough” (Sermon, Christmas 1531). Sadly, the church which he founded and bears his name has, over the centuries, lost that affection and devotion for the Mother of our Savior. It is in the Scriptures that we can so appreciate especially the place of the Blessed Mother in salvation history, which means that we see her not just in the New Testament, but in the Old Testament as well. As the Second Vatican Council taught, these earliest documents, as they are read in the Church and are understood in the light of a further and full revelation, bring the figure of the woman, Mother of the Redeemer, into a gradually clearer light (Lumen Gentium, Dogmatic Constitution on the Church, #55).

As we journey through Advent and prepare ourselves for the Christmas season, the Virgin Mary in the Old Testament is revealed especially. Take just one example in Isaiah: “Therefore, the Lord himself will give you a sign: the young woman, pregnant and about to bear a son, shall name him Emmanuel” (7:14; see also Mi 5:2-3; Mt 1:22-23). In seeing Mary in the Old Testament, we appreciate those books as well. St. Augustine said, “The New Testament is hidden in the Old, and the Old is made manifest in the New.” Which is why finding Mary in the Old Testament permits us to see her Son even more clearly and to emulate her as disciples, she who is the first and greatest of the disciples. Vatican II memorably wrote: “The Blessed Virgin was on this earth the virgin Mother of the Redeemer, and above all others and in a singular way the generous associate and humble handmaid of the Lord” (Lumen Gentium, #61).





Thank you to all who contributed to the beautiful flowers
adorning our Church this Christmas season...

Mr. and Mrs. Paul Bochenek
Mr. and Mrs. Robert Bochenek
Mr. Earl A. Borre
Mr. and Mrs. Colin F. Bratkovich
Mr. and Mrs. Steve Castellano
Gerardine Cucci
Mrs. John Elia

Mr. and Mrs. Jeffery Green
Mr. and Mrs. Salvatore Guagliardo
Mr. and Mrs. Witek Kopacz
Malgorzata Madrzyk
Ana Munoz
Mr. and Mrs. John North
Linda Panzeca

Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Pietha
Jan Platek
Mr. and Mrs. James Ridgeway
Mr. and Mrs. Ronald G. Robertson
Mr. and Mrs. Dennis Rosy
Constance Wujcik

Donations made in honor or memory of...

The Affarano Family
Luigi Alfano
Giulietta Alfano
Luigi and Giulietta Alfano
The Allred Family
The Arrabito Family
The Banaszewski Family
The Barzyk Family
The Bobka Family
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The Herdzik Family
The Hoffman Family
Angie Holthaus
Thomas James
Lawrence "Buddy" Jett
The Keeton Family
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Joseph Kelly
Edward Kelly
The Kisla Family
Maryann Koback
Janaan Kolf
Edward Kryger
Mr. and Mrs. Anthony Kryger
Ralph and June Landers
Elizabeth Lisak
Leonard Lisak
Bronislawa Lokomska
Mr. and Mrs. Lore
Joseph and Adeline Magnus

The McAdam Family
Vincent and Louise McLarney
Don and Jim McLarney
The McMahan Family
The Mears Family
The Mondelli Family
The Moriello Family
Vito C. Pensa
Rosa Pensa
Helen Popelka
Emilio Ranallo
Filomina Ranallo
Giuseppina Ribauda
Frank and Evelyn Ritrovato
The Russo Family
Joseph Salvato
Rose Salvato
The Salvato Family
Andrea Sanzone
Michelle and Giovanna Sanzone
Mr. and Mrs. John Schaul
The Schlager Family
The Schonder Family
The Schumacher Family
Al and Isabel Serpico

Larry Serzen
Abele Sciuillo
Rosa Sciuillo
Louis Serzen
Harriett Serzen
Artie and Joey Sikorski
Deceased Members of
the Silchuk Family
The Slomiany Family
The Slowiak Family
Victor and Betsy Smith
The Spandau Family
Joseph V. Sularz
Helen Sularz
The Swenson Family
Marilyn Faulbee
Deceased Members of
the Thude Family
Mrs. Patricia Vitale
The Walters Family
Edward and Violet Weiss
The Wilson Family
Margaret Woods
Mildred Woods

Special thanks to Mike and Gina Pezza and



Ground Pros Inc.

for their generosity in providing flowers
to adorn the Church this Christmas Season



Prayer During a Pandemic

Courtesy of Our Sunday Visitor

Lord Jesus, we praise you! Hear our pleas, our good shepherd and divine physician. We implore your mercy in the wake of an outbreak of serious illness and disease.

Guide our efforts to prevent contagion and make preparations to care for those most vulnerable. Assist all professionals and volunteers who work to eradicate the epidemic now spreading. May our actions be marked by your steadfast love and selfless service and never by panic or fear. Bestow your comfort and healing to the sick, sustain and strengthen them by your grace. May they know your closeness as they carry the cross of illness. And may all you have called from this life come to worship you eternally with all the saints as you grant consolation and peace to their mourners. Amen.

Holy Mary, Health of the Sick, pray for us.

St. Joseph, Hope of the Sick, pray for us.

St. Rocco, protector against epidemics, pray for us.



Needed: Devout Catholic PreK-12 Substitute Teachers

During these challenging COVID days, each Catholic school in the Diocese of Joliet is successfully implementing face-to-face instruction that honors the health and safety measures outlined in within its School Reopening Plan. As a result, several Catholic educators are needed to serve as substitute teachers at the Pre-School – Grade 12 levels. The substitute teacher candidate must love children and hold either a current Illinois Professional Educator License (PEL) or an Illinois Substitute License. Please complete an online application:

<https://www.applitrack.com/diocesefojoliet/onlineapp/>

No degree in education? No problem!

If you are called to this ministry, a degree in education is not a prerequisite to become a licensed substitute teacher. Individuals holding a BA in *any* discipline are eligible to apply for an Illinois Substitute License through the seamless process of transcript evaluation. For further information about obtaining a teaching license in this manner, contact Karen Udell, CSO Assistant Superintendent of Leadership and Personnel, at 815-221-6123.



“Peace in the Womb” Christmas Caroling

There are THREE opportunities to share the same good news that the angel proclaimed over 2000 years ago. The angels shared the good news with shepherds in the fields. We seek to share it with disillusioned and desperate men and women at an abortion clinic on Irving Park Road in Wood Dale. They do not need to be afraid. We are there for them with real help, compassion, and love. *That* is good news of great joy!

As the angels shared their message in song, we will be singing Christmas carols outside the clinic.

What: “Peace in the Womb” Christmas Caroling

When: Friday, December 18, 9:30 am - 10:30 am
Saturday, December 19, 9:30 am - 10:30 am
Tuesday, December 22, 9:30 am – 10:30 am

Where: Advantage Health Care
203 E. Irving Park Road, Wood Dale, IL

Why: At times music has the ability to touch hearts when mere words cannot. That’s why year after year folks all over the country go to abortion centers with carols of the Savior’s birth. Your voice is needed to share the angels’ message that joy entered the world through the birth of a child. We will be there with hope that Christmas miracles can still happen! Please join us!

Please contact parishioner, Nancy Magnus, at 630-606-5197 with any questions or for additional information.



If you would like information on Pro-life ministry opportunities or you or someone you know needs assistants, please visit the parish website for information and resources. You may also contact Nancy Magnus, St. Peter’s Pro-life Coordinator, at 630-606-5197.



In Memoriam

Our sympathy and prayers are with the family and friends of

Michael Ventresca
and
Patricia Vitale

May she rest in the peace of Christ.



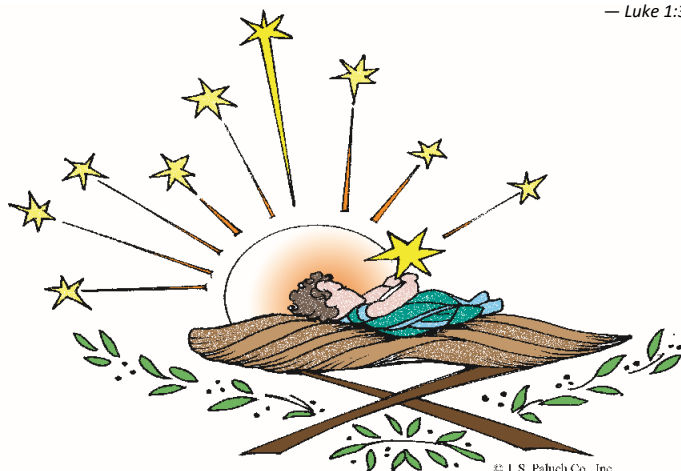
Join our Holy Father,
Pope Francis, in his December
prayers for the Church and
for the world:

For a Life of Prayer.

We pray that our personal relationship with Jesus Christ
be nourished by the Word of God and a life of prayer.

The child to be born will be called holy, the Son of God.

— Luke 1:35



NOTE: In the coming weeks, the sick list will be reviewed and long-standing names will be removed if not recently renewed.

Please Pray for the Sick of our Parish Family

Brian Beers	Carole Hatke	Harriett Pinkowski
Sue Bobka	Phil Hatke	Bonnie Pollock
John Booth	Jack Hayes	Megan Putzke
Janet Both	Ken Hemstreet	Brendan Reidy
Ken Buffo	Mary Hosters	Jerry Riordan
Theodora Calip	Shirley Janik	Ann Marie Rossi
Mike Carey	Brian Josephus	John Rossi
Jacqueline Castellano	Anne Keeton	Savannah Rose Russo
Eunice Cleveland	Debra Kelly	Roxanne Ruiz
Robert Cleveland	Joe Kryger	Alana Ruiz
Regina Conti	Ruth Kryger	Janina Sabat
Joseph Crocilla	Tom Kryger	Angela Scanlon
Collin Cummins	Rickie Kruzal	Mark Sgarbossa
Mary Cummins	Celeste Kucharczyk	Shauna Sheffer
Michael Cummins	JoLynn Lash	Marilyn Sieradzki
Paul Cummins	Sharon Laughlin	Wayne Slowiak
Margaret Del Preto	Pasquale Lopardo	Dan Sobucki
Angeline DiFranco	Eileen Marino	Belinda Sobucki
Charles DiFranco Jr.	Patricia McMahon	Sharon Sowers
Teresa Dunhac	Ann McNally	Karen Stewart
Scott Erickson	Jack McNally	Linda Szweida
Tracy Fink	Gene Mikulecky	Pat Tardi
Stephanie Fortino	Christopher Mizera	James Thompson
Sally Franz	Rich Mrugacz	Patricia Vitale
Dan Galuszek	Robert Neumann	Jennifer Weil
Joe Galuszek	Barbara Neumann	Helen Wilczko
Geri Gerard	Jean Nowobielski	Agnieszka Wisniewska
Mel Gerard	Don Olenek	Grzegorz Wisniewski
Mike Graziano	Vince Oraziatti	Ray Young
Gary Grote	Fred Oslager	Carol Zell
Joseph Halec	Anne Marie Pagni	Deacon Bob Ziomek

Published and/or announced prayer requests require permission from the named individual or their family. Names will be listed for six weeks, after which time you may call the Parish Center to renew your request.

Lord, hold our troops in your loving hands.

Protect them as they protect us. We ask this in Jesus' name. Amen

PFC Ryan Caspary, US Army 101st Airborne
LCpl James J. Cullotta, US Marines
SGT Michael D'Andrea, US Army
Maj Joseph DeHaven, US Army
CPT Steven Gregor, US Army
PFC Michael Helle, US Army
Cpl Brandon Helm, US Marines
PVT Aleksandra Juzwiak, Army National Guard
SGT Jacob Los, US Army
Major Ryan L. Morrissey, US Army
1stLt John Kenneth Murphy, US Marines
SGT Marcin Platek, US Marines
2LT Megan Putze, Army National Guard
Cpl MacLane Read, US Army
SGT Michael Schatzman, US Army
LTJG Albert J. Schrautemyer III, US Navy Pilot (Persian Gulf)
SGT Jeremy Schumacher, US Marines
Robert P. Woods Lt. JG. US Navy
Thomas Zablocki, US Marines
PO2 Benjamin Zubak, US Navy

RECTORY/PARISH CENTER**mailing address:** 551 N. Rush Street, Itasca, Illinois 60143**phone:** 630/773-1272**Web site:** stpeteritasca.com**Reverend Robert Noesen**, Pastor
phone ext. 208**Diane Blackburn & Patti Zubak**, Parish Secretaries
phone ext. 200 e-mail: office@stpeteritasca.com**Rev. Deacon Ron Searls**, Operations Manager
phone ext. 204 e-mail: business@stpeteritasca.com**Rev. Deacon Robert Ziomek**, Deacon
phone ext. 202 e-mail: deacon@stpeteritasca.com**Rev. Deacon Frederick Maier**, Director of Liturgy
phone ext. 201 e-mail: liturgy@stpeteritasca.com**Toni Pietrowski**, Director of Religious Education
phone ext. 216 e-mail: religioused@stpeteritasca.com**Kathy Frank**, DRE Assistant
phone ext. 215 e-mail: religioused@stpeteritasca.com**Knights of Columbus**
phone ext. 205 e-mail: knights@stpeteritasca.com**Italian Catholic Federation (Branch 418)** (Nick Tenerelli, Pres.)
phone: 847-224-9324**PARISH CENTER BUSINESS HOURS**

Monday - Thursday: 8:30 am - 2:00 pm

Friday-Sunday: CLOSED (or by appointment)

**TRAVELING?**Call 410-676-6000 or log onto www.masstimes.org for the location and schedule of Masses throughout the U.S.**PULPIT ANNOUNCEMENT AND BULLETIN DEADLINES****NOTE:** *Parish staff reserves the right to accept and/or decline, as well as edit, both pulpit announcements and bulletin submissions.***Pulpit announcement** requests are to be submitted to the Parish Center no later than the **Tuesday preceding** the weekend during which the announcement is to be made. Announcements may be submitted by phone at 630-773-1272 (ext. 200) or by e-mail to office@stpeteritasca.com.**Bulletin submissions** are to be submitted **no later than 8 days preceding** requested publication date. Notices and full page flyers will run for a maximum of two weeks, and priority will be given to items that are date sensitive. If possible, all items should be typed for legibility and accuracy and dropped off at the Parish Center or sent via e-mail to bulletin@stpeteritasca.com.**NEW PARISHIONERS**

Please visit or call the Parish Center (ext. 200) to register.

RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS (RCIA)

Adults interested in becoming Catholic or learning about the Catholic faith should contact the Parish Center for information.

BAPTISMS

The sacrament of Baptism is celebrated either during a weekend Mass or on the third Sunday of the month at 12:30 pm (immediately following 11:15 am Mass). Parents must attend a Baptism Preparation class prior to the Baptism. Classes are held in the Parish Center at 7:00 pm on the first Thursday of each month. Please call the Parish Center for more information.

Required paperwork **MUST** be submitted to the parish office **no later than ten (10) business days prior to the baptismal date or your date will be rescheduled.** This includes all necessary information regarding family records and godparents. Please read the **baptism planning information** provided before selecting a godparent. A sponsor certificate must be provided **by each godparent.** The proper **sponsor certificate** for St. Peter the Apostle is included with the baptism packet. Christian witnesses are most welcome to celebrate with the family and community, but please note they are not recorded as sponsors on the Baptismal Certificate or in the Baptismal Register.**WEDDINGS**

According to diocesan policy, the parish must be contacted six months prior to the intended wedding date. Please call the Parish Center (ext. 201) for information.

ANOINTING OF THE SICK

If you or someone you know is in need of this Sacrament, please contact the Parish Center at any time. Upon admission to the hospital, please make it known you.

IF YOU ARE HOSPITALIZED...

If you or a family member are admitted to the hospital, please contact the Parish Center to let us know. Due to federal regulations, most hospitals will not contact parishes unless you specifically request it. We want to visit parishioners in the hospital, but are often unaware of their hospitalization.

FRIDAY COMMUNION CALLS

Communion calls are made every Friday for those unable to attend Sunday mass due to health issues.

Please call the Parish Center at 630-773-1272 (ext. 200) to make arrangements.



If it is too difficult for you to walk to the front of the church to receive Communion, please know that at each Mass an Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion comes to the back of the church to distribute Communion. If you would like to have the Extraordinary Minister give you communion in the back of church, please let an usher know before Mass begins. At Communion time, when you see the Extraordinary Minister come to the back, please raise your hand so that they can see you and give you Holy Communion.

Welcome Guests and Visitors!

We're so glad you are here and invite you to walk the path to faith with us. The community of St. Peter the Apostle strives to grow closer to Christ in all that we do. We care for one another and together with Christ, we make a difference.

If you would like to become a registered parishioner, please fill out the information below and drop it into the collection basket at any mass or call the Parish Center at 630-773-1272 (ext. 200).

Family Name _____

Family Member Name(s) _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip Code _____

Phone _____

E-mail Address: _____

Food Pantry Needs Restocking

On your next trip to the grocery store, please consider adding a few non-perishable food items to your shopping cart to contribute to the **Itasca Food Pantry**.



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If you would like more information about the food pantry, please call Pat Tardi at 630-773-4703.

ARE YOU CONNECTED???

Do you receive St. Peter's electronic newsletters??

This is a great way to stay informed and receive reminders about events that you may have forgotten about or overlooked in the bulletin.

If you have access to e-mail, but do not receive the parish's electronic newsletters, then please visit the parish website at stpeteritasca.com to sign up; you may also send your e-mail information to bulletin@stpeteritasca.com.

Please be sure to provide your name together with your e-mail address.



And don't forget to connect with the parish on Facebook:



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Remember to invite your friends!!!

Do You Need Help with Food?

Catholic Charities has resources available to help those who are in need of food. Even if you may not have qualified for assistance in the past, Catholic Charities can help.

Please call our DuPage County office located in Lombard at 630-495-8008. To learn more about Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Joliet, visit our Web site at **www.cc-doj.org**

Reporting Incidents of Sexual Abuse

Sexual abuse is a sin and a crime. Victims of sexual abuse, in addition to contacting civil authorities, are asked to come forward in order to receive pastoral assistance. The Church has a responsibility to help victims of sexual abuse and to ensure that offenders are brought to justice.

Reports may be made to any pastor or to the Victims Assistance Coordinator at 815/263-6467. Contact DCFS at 1-800-25-ABUSE.

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