

Saint Peter ^{the} Apostle CATHOLIC CHURCH



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

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*)

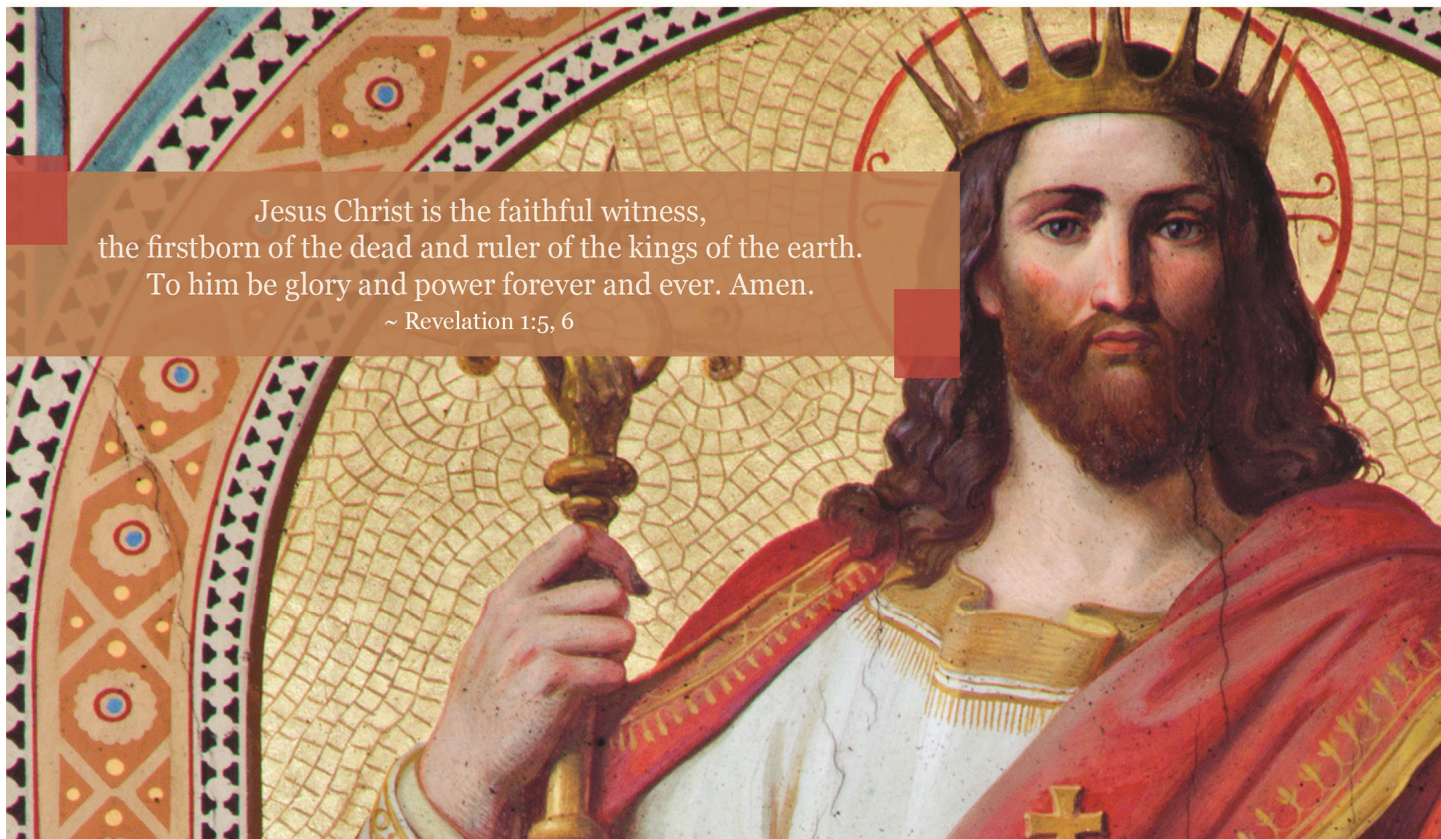
First Saturdays | 8:30 am (*following 8:00 am Mass*)

November 21, 2021

SOLEMNITY OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, KING OF THE UNIVERSE

Jesus Christ is the faithful witness,
the firstborn of the dead and ruler of the kings of the earth.
To him be glory and power forever and ever. Amen.

~ Revelation 1:5, 6



From the Pastor

Dear Parish family,

Another liturgical year draws to a close as we celebrate this Solemnity of Christ the King. The final line of today's Gospel is a fitting conclusion to the thousands upon thousands of sacred words that we have heard proclaimed in this church throughout the year: "Everyone who belongs to the truth listens to my voice."

Each Sunday we have gathered around the altar to listen to the truth of the Gospel. As we prepare to hear the final words of this liturgical year, let us pray that our reflection on Christ the King will continue to draw us closer to the Truth.

Our experience of kings, queens, and monarchies is rather limited as Americans. Our ordinary understanding of king is as authoritative ruler. Yet Jesus came to serve in this capacity in a completely new way that brought about the proclamation of the reign of His Father in Heaven. He embodied not what earthly kings stood for; he personified what the Prophet Isaiah envisioned. He is a humble servant whose reign is marked by justice, peace, and love. Today's Book of Revelation [1:5-8] says, "Jesus Christ is the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead and ruler of the kings of the earth. He too is a King who will come again... Behold, he is coming amid the clouds, and every eye will see him, even those who pierced him. All the peoples of the earth will lament him. He is the Alpha and the Omega, the one who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty."

The Gospel [John 18:33b-37] depicts Jesus as a humble king because he overcomes the powers of evil and chaos — not through domination and force of arms and angels — rather he served as King on this earth by emptying himself of all divine privilege. He did this by enduring bitter suffering, ridicule, judgement by Pilate and others and a shameful death. Jesus then and every day is a servant King because he gives his Father's reign a new meaning, a new significance. Jesus ruled through service to others rather than through intimidation, domination, and fear. He is the selfless one who always loves in the face of hatred and forgiving toward those who would kill him. Jesus is a just King because the reign of God for which he gave his life is grounded in truth, not lies and manipulation. For Jesus, Kingship is to be the very embodiment of truth, the truth he knew and witnessed as God's only Son. Again, "Everyone who belongs to the truth listens to my voice." This challenge he gave to Pilate, this final command, this final challenge he gave to all witnesses before his crucifixion.

Let us listen for Truth, let us model Jesus in truth so that we may always be open to hearing and understanding the messages of the Kingdom of God.

Is Jesus your King? Everyone who belongs to the truth listens to the voice of the True King of Heaven, the Alpha, and the Omega, the one who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty.

Have a good and holy week,

Fr. Noesen

Mass Intentions For The Week



Sunday	November 21 (<i>Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe</i>)
8:30 am	†Jean Matthies
10:00 am	†John Elia
11:30 am	†Lawrence, Virginia, and John Begley
	†Bruce Gariti
	†Carol Mazzucchi
	†Maria Terracciano
	Mary Booth - Special Intention
	People of the Parish
Monday	November 22 (<i>Last Week of Ordinary Time; St. Cecilia, Virgin and Martyr</i>)
8:00 am	†Charles and Phyllis Picardi
Tuesday	November 23 (<i>St. Clement I, Pope and Martyr; St. Columban, Abbot; Blessed Miguel Agustín Pro, Priest and Martyr; Weekday</i>)
8:00 am	†Jerry Riordan
Wednesday	November 24 (<i>St. Andrew Dũng-Lạc and Companions</i>)
8:00 am	†Biagio Loreto Gariti
Thursday	November 25 (<i>Mass of Thanksgiving; St. Catherine of Alexandria, Virgin</i>)
9:00 am	†Jerry Riordan
Friday	November 26 (<i>Weekday</i>)
8:00 am	†John DeBella, Sr.
Saturday	November 27 (<i>Vigil: First Sunday of Advent</i>)
5:00 pm	†Jerry Brice Sr.
	†Christopher Kosk
	†Charles Krasnewich
	†Margaret Maier
	†Antonia Recchia
	†John and Jean Sroka
Sunday	November 28 (<i>First Sunday of Advent</i>)
8:30 am	†Gilda Lazzaro
10:00 am	†Ted and Betty Hemstreet
11:30 am	†Hillard and Sophie Bieschke
	†Maryann Koback
	†Anthony and Michela Mannina
	†Denis McNamara
	†Dr. Joe Rizzo
	People of the Parish

Readings for the Week

Monday:	Dn 1:1-6, 8-20; Dn 3:52-56; Lk 21:1-4
Tuesday:	Dn 2:31-45; Dn 3:57-61; Lk 21:5-11
Wednesday:	Dn 5:1-6, 13-14, 16-17, 23-28; Dn 3:62-67; Lk 21:12-19
Thursday:	Dn 6:12-28; Dn 3:68-74; Lk 21:20-28
	Thanksgiving Day, Suggested: Sir 50:22-24; Ps 145:2-11; 1 Cor 1:3-9; Lk 17:11-19
Friday:	Dn 7:2-14; Dn 3:75-81; Lk 21:29-33
Saturday:	Dn 7:15-27; Dn 3:82-87; Lk 21:34-36
Sunday:	Jer 33:14-16; Ps 25:4-5, 8-10, 14; 1 Thes 3:12 — 4:2; Lk 21:25-28, 34-36



MASS OF THANKSGIVING

Thursday, November 25 | 9:00 am

Let's truly set the tone for a wonderful holiday of giving with thanks to the Lord!

Please bring non-perishable food items to donate to the Itasca Food Pantry. The food pantry van will be in the parking lot. Donations can be left at the van before entering church.

CHRISTMAS GIVING TREE —

Light-up someone's holiday

It is time again for St. Peter's parishioners to pick an ornament from the **Giving Tree**. This project benefits Catholic Charities as well as local needy families.

Here is how it works:

Beginning this weekend, the giving tree is up and available for parishioners to select a "tag" with information about a gift for a needy person. Parishioners are asked to purchase a new gift as suggested on the "tag" (please no used items); wrap the gift and affix the "tag" securely to the package; and, return to the boxes in the back of church by **Sunday, December 11**.

Please note that each gift is designated for a specific individual and if you take an "tag" and do not return a gift, someone will be disappointed on Christmas.

St. Peter's is again providing the Christmas Giving Tree to help the less fortunate fulfill some holidays wishes.

In past years, Catholic Charities has provided a list of needy individuals and families for the Giving Tree program. This year, in addition to the Catholic Charities list, we would also like to ensure that those struggling within our own parish community are assisted.

If you are struggling with finances this holiday season or know of someone who is, please contact Fr. Noesen to make arrangements to participate in the Giving Tree program.



THE BELLS ARE RINGING!!!

If you can read music (*not really a requirement*), can count and want to be a part of a unique choir, the St. Peter Adult Handbell Choir is waiting for you. The choir is currently in need of three people to complete the ensemble.

Practices are Wednesday evenings from 6:15 to 7:15pm in the choir loft. The choir plays once a month at various masses. Our first mass will be on December 26th.

For more information or if you would like a free lesson to try ringing the bells first please call Linda Aiani at 630-773-8518.



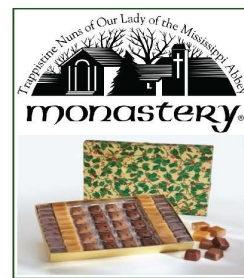
**KNIGHTS
OF COLUMBUS**
IN SERVICE TO ONE. IN SERVICE TO ALL.

ANNUAL ADVENT WREATH FAMILY EVENT

The Knights of Columbus invite all parishioners to its annual Family Advent Wreath-making program on **Tuesday, November 23, at 7:00 pm in Margaret Woods Hall**.

The cost is \$15 for base, greens and candles, or \$10 for greens and candles (if you have your own base).

Visit the parish website for a link to Sign-up for this event.



Candy for Christmas

Decorative Christmas Candy Gift Box (24 oz) - \$30.00 each

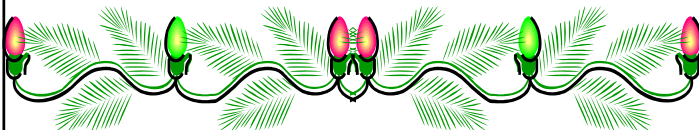
Please consider supporting this fund-raising effort for Saint Peter the Apostle Parish!

All proceeds from this fundraiser will support St. Peter the Apostle's Catholic Religious Education, as well as renovations needed at the school building.

Free shipping is included, and all orders will arrive at the parish before Christmas.

ORDER FORMS can be found on the parish website as well as the table outside of Margaret Woods Hall.

The deadline for ordering is November 29. Orders will be available for pick-up December 11-12.



Stewardship of Treasure

A Way of Life
St. Peter the Apostle

Sunday Collection Year to Date
Fiscal Week 20: 11/14/2021 \$ 8,878.00 \$ 202,620.71

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).



Electronic Giving is available using 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

There has been great progress made over the last three years towards paying off the original parish debt of \$2 million dollars. As of November 10, 2021, our capital project debt stands at \$346,102.14. Thank you for your stewardship and prayers.

Please keep Saint Peter the Apostle Parish in mind when making out 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.

This Week at St. Peter's...

Monday November 22
7:00 pm Knights of Columbus General Mtg. (Old PC)
Tuesday November 23
7:00 pm Advent Wreath Family Event (MW Parish Hall)
7:15 pm Tuesday Evening Rosary (Church)
Wednesday November 24
8:30 am Confessions (Church)
Saturday November 27
4:15 pm Confessions (Church)



The Parish Center will be CLOSED Wednesday-Friday, November 25-27, in observance of the Thanksgiving holiday.



Schedule

Saturday, November 27 | Sunday, November 28

Communion Ministers

5:00 pm Nancy Ferenzi
Bill Kolf
8:30 am Rose Ann Roll
Jim Ruffing
10:00 am Bill Kolf
Frank Vale
11:30 am Carmela Graziano
Mike Graziano

Lectors

5:00 pm Diane Blackburn
8:30 am Chris Aument
10:00 am Nancy Magnus
11:30 am Mary McNamara

CELEBRATING 50 YEARS OF CCHD

CATHOLIC CAMPAIGN FOR HUMAN DEVELOPMENT

WORKING ON THE MARGINS

www.usccb.org/cchd

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Please be generous in your gift to this weekend's Special Collection.

Cross and Offertory Gift Bearers

Thank you to this weekend's cross and gift bearers:

	CROSS	GIFTS
5:00 pm	Cadan Anderson*	Reid Pan & family
8:30 am	—	—
10:00 am	Dior Hearn*	Owen Voypick** & family
11:30 am	—	Georgina Ghawi** & family

Please pray for the children and their families who are preparing for *Confirmation and **First Holy Communion.



Veterans Day Service at Usher Park

November 11, 2021

The recent Veterans Day Service at Usher Park was held to honor veterans who served our country with dedication, courage, and sacrifice to ensure our freedom. Participants included Master of Ceremonies, Tom Kryger; Robert "Gus" Gusanko, Officer of the Day from VFW Post #5167; Itasca Mayor Jeff Pruyn; police officers and fire fighters; members of the Itasca Lions Club and Knights of Columbus Council 10884; and, residents of Itasca and surrounding communities.

The service began with the Pledge of Allegiance. Deacon Fred Maier said the opening prayer, asking Almighty God for His continuous blessings upon us and thanking Him for the privileges of life and the blessings we enjoy in our country, the land in which we enjoy the hard-won and long-kept freedoms of speech, religion, assembly, and the pursuit of happiness. The opening prayer also asked our Holy Father for His mercy that we may find peace and a true and sure faith in Him, and the beauty of a humble spirit to continue to glorify the Lord in.

Due to age, health, and the passing of many members, the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post #5167 has been disbanded and will be merging with the Wood Dale Post. Mayor Pruyn commented on this sad news by praising the members of the VFW Post #5167 and thanking them for their continuous support in the Village of Itasca since 1964. They have been responsible for the Memorial Day and Veterans Day services over the years and were very instrumental in raising funds for the construction of the Armed Services Memorial in Usher Park.

A Veterans Day speech - a tribute to all veterans - was delivered by Tom Kryger. After this tribute, Fireman John Raschke played "Amazing Grace" on the bagpipes which was followed by "Taps" played on the Post Bugle.

Tom Kryger then read a farewell speech prepared by Robert "Gus" Gusanko from VFW Post #5167 and it is printed below:

"Over the years, Itasca's VFW Post 5167 has had some of the best comrades and friends anyone could ask for, from all branches of service, from many different conflicts and wars, and I will always be proud to say the Navy is the best. It hardens my heart, that our Post is disbanding. Some members will stay the course and merge with Wood Dale's VFW Post.

As we get older, one of the toughest parts has been saying goodbye to many of those friends. We are Veteran brothers forever, and we always remember that "All gave some, and some gave all.

Without the support of many organizations in Itasca, we may not have survived as long as we did. It is a long list. I will start with the many mayors, policemen, firemen, Knights of Columbus, Itasca Lions Club, Boy Scouts, all the volunteers that have helped sing the National Anthem, led the Pledge of Allegiance, or gave a speech; all the marvelous principals and teachers that allowed us to come into their schools to talk with the children; and let's not forget the residents of Itasca, who have always come out to our memorials and showed us nothing but respect.

To everyone here today: A big thank you and salute.
God bless you all and God bless America."

Deacon Fred Maier said the closing prayer. He asked the Lord's guidance for all of our Armed Forces, that through their efforts in helping other nations, we can bring the hope that peace may be found to halt all armed conflict in this world that He made for us.

Tom Kryger led the crowd in singing "God Bless America." The memorial service concluded with Robert Gus Gusanko and the first responders leaving the area to a round of applause for their dedicated service to our country.

Thank you, Robert Gus Gusanko, and all the veterans who were a part of VFW Post #5167, for your service to our country and for your 57 years of service to the community of Itasca.





Bishop Hicks' Column

November 2021 | The Synod on
Synodality: A worldwide listening tour



There is a difference between hearing and listening. Hearing is basically a physical function that involves the ears. On the other hand, listening is more of an internal process that uses the ears, but also involves the mind and heart. A couple of years ago, I was at a luncheon with a group of retired priests. For more than twenty minutes, the priests at my table discussed which hearing aid was the best. I sat there quietly as they discussed which ones felt more comfortable in the ear and which ones canceled out background noise. I thought to myself, "One day, I too will be addressing these same issues in my life." Towards the end of their discussion, one priest wisely added, "No matter how good these hearing aids are, they do very little to help us listen better ... that part is up to us!"

His point was well-taken. We can have the best hearing in the world, but it takes real attention and effort to be a good listener, too. Some people seem to have a natural gift to listen well. Nevertheless, you have probably encountered some people in our society who prefer to monologue instead of dialogue. To dialogue, one must embrace the humble position of not only speaking but listening, too.

Our Holy Father has asked that the Church begin a process of "listening." It is called the Synod on Synodality. "In creating the opportunity for listening and dialogue on the local level through this Synod, Pope Francis is calling the Church to rediscover its deeply synodal nature. This rediscovery of the synodal roots of the Church will involve a process of humbly learning together how God is calling us to be as the Church in the third millennium." (*Vademecum* for the Synod on Synodality, section 1.1)

In other words, the entire people of God, not just the Diocese of Joliet, will enter into a process of "listening" to what the Holy Spirit is saying to the Church. Obviously, we need to listen to the Word of God in Scripture and to the living tradition of the Church, and we also need to listen to each other as we discern the signs of the time.

Specifically, to foster a Church that is synodal, the Holy Father has asked us to focus on communion, participation and mission. Recently, Pope Francis wrote, "The Holy Spirit needs you. Listen to Him by listening to yourselves."

I have heard officials in the Church refer to this Synod on Synodality as a worldwide "listening tour" that begins at the local Church to discern what the Holy Spirit is saying to us as to what the Church should be. In the Diocese of Joliet, our "listening tour" began with an inaugural Mass at our Cathedral on October 17. People from all over the diocese gathered as we launched this desire to listen to one another. We will continue to offer listening sessions that include our many councils and boards – such as the presbyteral council, pastoral council, women's council, etc. – as well as leaders of Hispanic ministry, religious orders, Catholic schools and religious education. Their comments will be collected, and a report will be sent to the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops. After that, there are timelines in which further discussions, drafts and findings will be collected at continental/regional assemblies. This synod process will then conclude with bishops and lay Catholics gathering in Rome in 2023 to discuss the themes and findings from this worldwide listening tour.

There are many people who are already wondering if this Synod on Synodality will lead to any changes in the Church. That is yet to be seen. However, as our society continues to become more polarized with often a preference of monologue over dialogue, this process of listening with open minds and hearts will hopefully give us the opportunity to not only hear one another but also to learn from, empathize with and love one another more deeply. Veni, Sancte Spiritus! †

Adsumus, Sancte Spiritus

We stand before You, Holy Spirit,
as we gather together in Your name.
With You alone to guide us,
make Yourself at home in our hearts;
Teach us the way we must go
and how we are to pursue it.
We are weak and sinful;
do not let us promote disorder.
Do not let ignorance lead us down the wrong path
nor partiality influence our actions.
Let us find in You our unity
so that we may journey together to eternal life
and not stray from the way of truth
and what is right.
All this we ask of You,
who are at work in every place and time,
in the communion of the Father and the Son,
forever and ever. Amen

'Priest, Prophet and King'

By Bishop Robert Barron

A classic characterization of Jesus is that he is priest, prophet, and king. As priest, he sanctifies, that is to say, he reestablishes the lost link between divinity and humanity; as prophet, he speaks and embodies the divine truth; and as king, he leads us on the right path, giving guidance to the human project. You might say that, as priest, he is the life; as prophet, he is the truth; and as king he is the way.

Not only is this *munus triplex* (triple office) a rich way to characterize the Lord; it is also a very good way to designate who the baptized are supposed to be. According to Catholic theology, baptism is much more than merely a symbolic sign of belonging to the church. It is the means by which a person is incorporated into Christ, becoming a member of his mystical body. Baptism, accordingly, makes the baptized an *alter Christus*, another Christ. This is precisely why, for example, every candidate for baptism is anointed with oil, just as, in the Old Testament, priests, prophets, and kings were anointed upon assumption of their offices.

So what does this look like in practice? How does it show itself in the lives of ordinary believers? Let us look at priesthood first. A priest fosters holiness, precisely in the measure that he or she serves as a bridge between God and human beings. In ancient Roman times, the priest was described as a *pontifex*, bridge-builder, and this remains a valid designation in the Christian context. The reconciliation of divinity and humanity produces in human beings a wholeness or integration, a coming together of the often warring elements within the self. The same dynamic obtains on a grander scale as well: when cities, societies, cultures rediscover a link to God, they find an inner peace. And therefore baptized priests are meant, first, to embody the harmony that God wants between himself and those made in his image and likeness. They affect this through their own intense devotion to prayer, the sacraments, and the Mass. In their cultivation of a real friendship with the living Christ, they act out their priestly identity and purpose. Then, they are sent out into families, communities, places of work, the political and cultural arenas, etc. in order to carry the integration they have

found like a holy contagion. If baptized priests stop praying, stop going to Mass, stop frequenting the sacraments, they will become, in short order, like salt that has lost its savor. What does it mean for the average baptized person to be a prophet? A person is a prophet in the measure that he or she bears the truth of God. G.K. Chesterton said that in an upside-down world such as ours, the prophet is the one who stands on his head so that he might see things aright. This is why, of course, prophets have always appeared more than a little insane. In fact, the Hebrew word for prophet, "*nabi*," has the overtone of madman. Well, of course: in a world that has lost its bearings, those who speak the divine truth will, perforce, appear unhinged. How does one cultivate this salutary madness? Baptized prophets should exercise their brains by studying philosophy, theology, spirituality, church history, and the lives of the saints. And they can't be satisfied with reading superficial tracts designed for children. Augustine, Origen, Bernard, Thomas Aquinas, Ignatius, John Henry Newman, Chesterton, and Ratzinger beckon. If those classic authors are a bit intimidating, Fulton Sheen, C.S. Lewis, Peter Kreeft, George Weigel, and Robert Spitzer provide more accessible but still meaty fare. Having been illumined, these prophets are then sent out into their worlds as beacons of light. God knows that in our increasingly secularized society, such illumination is desperately needed, but if baptized prophets stop studying and stop speaking, they are like lamps over which a bushel basket has been placed.

Finally, what does it mean for the ordinary Catholic to be a king? In the theological sense, a king is someone who orders the charisms within a community so as to direct that community toward God. In this way, he is like the general of an army or the conductor of an orchestra: he coordinates the efforts and talents of a conglomeration of people in order to help them achieve a common purpose. Thus, a Catholic parent directs her children toward the accomplishment of their God-given missions, educating them, shaping them interiorly, molding their behavior, disciplining their desires, etc. A Catholic politician appreciates the moral dimension of his work, and legislates, cajoles, and directs accordingly. A Catholic private equity investor saves a company that provides indispensable jobs in a declining neighborhood, etc. How does one grow in the capacity to exercise kingly leadership? One can do so by overcoming the cultural prejudice in favor of a privatized religion. Most of the avatars of secularism would accept religion as a personal preoccupation, something along the lines of a hobby. But such an attenuated spirituality has nothing to do with a robustly Biblical sense of religion. On the Catholic reading, religious people—the baptized—come forth boldly and publicly and are more than willing to govern, to be kings, out of religious conviction. If you are looking for examples of what I'm describing here, look no further than William Lloyd Garrison, Dorothy Day, Martin Luther King and Fulton Sheen. Baptized kings who refuse to reign are like a hilltop city covered in clouds. The key to the renewal of our society is a recovery of the deepest meaning of baptism, to become priestly, prophetic, and kingly people.



THE
SON OF MAN
WILL
SIT UPON
HIS
GLORIOUS
THRONE

Ways to Prepare for Advent

The word *Advent* comes from the Latin *adventus*, which means a coming, approach, or arrival. In the Church, it refers to the period encompassing the four Sundays prior to Christmas. It is a time of penance, of turning away from sin and hopeful, joyous preparation for the coming of the Savior. This is what makes Advent special for Christians: the recognition that Christmas is not just “the birthday of Jesus,” but a celebration of his coming into our world *today*, here and now. How does he come into the world today? Jesus is “born”—becomes physically tangible—through the celebration of the sacraments. It is by eating the Eucharist, washing in the waters of Baptism, being anointed with the oil of Confirmation and so on, that Jesus’ friends become part of the living Body of Christ (the Church) in the world today. For Catholics, then, every celebration of the Eucharist and the other sacraments is like a little Christmas. During Advent, Christians prepare for this here-and-now coming of Christ by remembering the long years during which Israel waited for the coming of the Messiah, and by looking forward to the final coming of Christ at the end of time. You will hear both themes reflected in the Church’s readings during Advent.

Here are some practical ways that you can prepare to fully celebrate Advent with your kids. Remember, you don’t have to do it all—just choose a few practices to focus on, and see whether they work for your family.

Get or make an Advent wreath

The Advent wreath is one of the most familiar and beloved symbols of Advent. Children love lighting the candles, one each week, as a way of counting down the time until Christmas. Darkening the room and praying by candlelight is also a good way to signal to children that we are entering a very special time.

Advent wreaths usually consist of four candles, three violet and one rose, set in a circular wreath (usually made of evergreen branches). One candle is lit for each Sunday of Advent, with the rose candle being lit on the third Sunday (Gaudete Sunday, from the Latin word for “rejoice”). The violet (or purple) candles represent the penance and sacrifice we undertake to help us prepare for the Lord’s coming at Christmas; the rose candle represents the rejoicing of the faithful at the mid-point of Advent. You can purchase Advent wreaths inexpensively; on the other hand, you might find it more fun to make your own.

Set up a nativity scene

St. Francis had the brilliant idea to create a scene depicting the nativity of Jesus as a way of teaching the people about the meaning of the Incarnation. Displaying a nativity scene (or manger set) in your home during Advent is a great way to remind everyone (not just little kids) about the true meaning of Christmas: the Creator of the universe entering into creation in order to save it. Here are a few ideas for ways to use your nativity scene:

- When setting up the manger, don’t put out the baby Jesus; save that until Christmas Eve (or morning).
- Some families like to have the baby Jesus appear in the manger overnight on Christmas Eve. That way, everyone can stop by the manger to greet the baby Jesus before opening presents.

- You can also wait to put out the wise men. When you do put them out (perhaps on Gaudete Sunday, the third Sunday of Advent), consider placing them someplace far away from the manger, moving them a little bit closer every day until they “arrive” on the Feast of the Epiphany.
- Another custom is to cut up small snips of paper to be “hay” for the baby Jesus; place the hay in a little bowl or cup near the manger. Every time your younger children do a good deed, they can place a piece of the hay in the baby Jesus’ bed to get it ready for his arrival.
- Use the manger set to tell the Christmas story to little children as the story unfolds in the Sunday and weekday readings throughout Advent. For example, hold the Mary and angel figure as you paraphrase the reading about the Annunciation.
- Manger sets can be pricey—and fragile. Consider buying a nativity set second-hand, or make your own.

Have an Advent Tree

Do you set up your Christmas tree the weekend after Thanksgiving, then take it down on New Year’s Day? This year, try waiting to fully decorate your tree until Christmas Eve. Instead, let your bare tree be an “Advent Tree,” a symbol of our waiting for the coming of Christ.

This doesn’t mean that you have to leave the tree completely bare. You can put on a single string of lights during the first week of Advent, then add another string of lights every Sunday until Christmas. Some families also add one decoration per day during Advent. Other families hang Jesse Tree ornaments on their Advent Tree (see below).

If you go this route, you may also want to keep your Christmas tree up for the whole Christmas season, which ends at the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord (the weekend after Epiphany, in mid-January).

Make a Jesse tree

Another Christmas-tree alternative during Advent is to make a Jesse tree, which is a tree decorated with ornaments based on symbols of Old Testament events preparing for the coming of Christ. It might include an ark or rainbow to depict Noah and the flood, for instance, and a ladder to represent Jacob’s ladder.

Keep an Advent calendar

An Advent calendar, as the name implies, marks off the days of Advent. Some elaborate Advent calendars have a door to be opened for each day, with candy or a prize behind each door. You can purchase these at your local retailer or online.

If you want to observe the spirit of Advent, though, look for a more spiritually focused Advent calendar. The U.S. Catholic bishops provide an Advent calendar on their website, with activity suggestions for each day.

Another simple way to do an Advent calendar that builds on your Advent Tree is to make a decorative paper chain: every day, your kids can add a single link to the chain. You can have them decorate the link with a Jesse Tree symbol, or write a phrase from the day’s Scripture readings on it...the possibilities are endless.

A PRAYER TO CHRIST THE KING

The prayer to Christ the King below gives us a great answer to the often-asked question "Who's in charge here?" When we say that "I am the captain of my ship, the master of my soul," and don't seek God's guidance, our boat is often in danger of capsizing in the choppy waters of life's vicissitudes.

Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ can provide a safe harbor instead! This prayer can be prayed any time of the year, not just on the feast day of Christ the King on the last Sunday in November.

*O Jesus Christ, I acknowledge you as universal King.
All that has been made has been created for You.*

Exercise all Your rights over me.

I renew my Baptismal Vows.

I renounce Satan, his pomps and his works;

I promise to live as a good Christian.

*And, in particular do I pledge myself to labor,
to the best of my ability,*

*for the triumph of the rights of God and of Your Church.
Divine Heart of Jesus, to You do I offer my poor services,*

laboring that all hearts may acknowledge

Your sacred kingship,

and that thus the reign of Your peace

be established throughout the whole universe.

Amen.

In Memoriam

Our sympathy and prayers are with the family and friends of

Vito Mariani

and

Dwayne Tracy

May they rest in the peace of Christ.

The Book of the Dead

It is a good and holy thought to pray for the dead... On the stand next to the Paschal Candle, near the sanctuary in church, is the Book of the Dead.

Throughout the month of November, you are invited to write the names of all those people in your own life who have gone home to God. The Book of the Dead will remain near the sanctuary throughout the month for you to list the names of the faithful departed. Please call or visit the parish office to have Masses said for your deceased loved ones. What better way to remember them with love? The Mass is the greatest gift of prayer given to us by the Lord and it benefits us and all those we remember in prayer before our God. Especially during November, but throughout the year, remember the words of Scripture... It is a good, holy, and pious thought to pray for the dead. To offer prayer and sacrifice on their behalf. [Maccabees 12: 43-46]

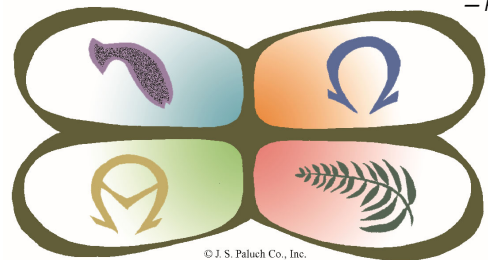
Please Pray for the Sick of our Parish Family

Joann Anderson	Mel Gerard	Julie Mulcahey
Michelle Anderson	Mike Graziano	John North
Sue Bobka	Gary Grote	Raffaela Olenek
Elio Campanella	Virginia Halac	Holly Vana
Mike Carey	Martha Hayes	Tom Vana
Gerri Ciucci	Ken Hemstreet	Harriett Pinkowski
Eunice Cleveland	Mary Hosters	Bonnie Pollock
Robert Cleveland	Anne Keeton	Brendan Reidy
Regina Conti	Rickie Kruzell	Ann Marie Rossi
Marie Costable	JoLynn Lash	John Rossi
Colin Cummins	Lilly Lima	Wayne Slowiak
Mary Cummins	Anthony Mazzucchi	Fr. Miroslaw Stepien
Michael Cummins	Gene Mikulecky	Linda Wuerffel
Paul Cummins	Christopher Mizera	Barbara Jean Zecchin
Jeanne Finn	Richard Mrugacz	Carol Zell
Gerri Gerard		

Published 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.

*Jesus Christ is the faithful witness,
the firstborn of the dead and ruler of the kings of the earth.*

— Revelation 1:5



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**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
SGT Michael Helle, US Army
Cpl Brandon Helm, US Marines
PVT Aleksandra Juzwiak, Army National Guard
CMC Mike Kaszubowski, US Navy
SGT Jacob Los, US Army
Major Ryan L. Morrissey, US Army
1stLt John Kenneth Murphy, US Marines
Kevin Noesen, US Coastguard
SGT Marcin Platek, US Marines
2LT Megan Putze, Army National Guard
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**Pastor** **Reverend Robert Noesen**
phone ext. 208**Assisting Priest** **Reverend Larry Brunette****Deacon** **Rev. Deacon William Bevan****Deacon** **Rev. Deacon Robert Ziomek**
e-mail: deacon@stpeteritasca.com phone ext. 202**Director of Liturgy** **Rev. Deacon Frederick Maier**
e-mail: liturgy@stpeteritasca.com phone ext. 201**Deacon Candidate** **Mr. Anthony George****Parish Secretary** **Patti Zubak**
e-mail: office@stpeteritasca.com phone ext. 200**Bulletin/Communications Coordinator** **Diane Blackburn**
e-mail: bulletin@stpeteritasca.com phone ext. 200**Parish Accountant** **Missy Rubino**
e-mail: business@stpeteritasca.com phone ext. 204**Director of Religious Education** **Toni Pietrowski**
e-mail: religious@stpeteritasca.com phone ext. 216**DRE Assistant** **Kathy Frank**
e-mail: religious@stpeteritasca.com phone ext. 215**Assisting Musicians** **Steven Basaillon, Larry Lalonde,**
Joanne Nagle, Michelle Nagle, Geoff Pautsch**St. Peter's Pro-life Ministry Coordinator** **Nancy Magnus**
phone: 630-606-5197**Knights of Columbus** 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**.**CONFESSIONS**Weekly on Wednesday at 8:30 am (*following Mass*)

Weekly on Saturday - 4:15-4:45 pm

First Saturdays at 8:30 am (*following Mass*)**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 11:30 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.

HOSPITALIZATION NOTIFICATIONS AND SICK/HOMEBOUND ARRANGEMENTS

Due to hospital admitting policies, it is necessary to inform the Parish Center when hospitalized parishioners would like a visit from Fr. Noesen or a deacon. Likewise, please call if you would like a visit while convalescing at home or at a facility.

Additionally, before being admitted to a hospital for surgery, it is advisable to call Fr. Noesen to arrange to receive the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick.

Please contact the Parish Center at 630-773-1272 (ext. 200) to arrange for communion visits to the homebound.

FUNERALS

It is the responsibility of the parish to bury their dead.

The funeral director will contact the Parish Center regarding arrangements. Funerals are ordinarily celebrated at 10:00 am.

For more information, please read guidelines for Funeral Planning on the parish website.



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.



MAKE SAINT PETER THE APOSTLE PARISH YOUR SPIRITUAL HOME!

Welcome, New Parishioners — Register Today

Week after week, many people worship with us on a regular basis, and, in fact, regard Saint Peter the Apostle Parish as their "spiritual home." Part of the Catholic life and our Catholic identity is that we as Catholic people identify ourselves not only with the Universal Church - with over one billion other members, but we are also part of a "local Church."

If you attend Saint Peter the Apostle Church on a regular basis, and regard this parish as your "spiritual home," we encourage you to register as a parishioner. You are most welcome as part of our Parish Family.

Please fill out the form below and someone from the Parish Office will contact you to complete your registration. Return this form either through the mail or drop it in the Sunday collection. You can also register by calling the parish office or by visiting the parish website.

Welcome to Saint Peter the Apostle Parish!

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:



facebook.com/SaintPeterApostle.Itasca

Remember to invite your friends!!!

Invitation to Register!

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: _____

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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