

DECEMBER 12, 2021

Whoever has two cloaks
should share with the
person who has none.
And whoever has food
should do likewise.

Luke 3:11



THIRD
Sunday
OF *Advent*

SAINT PETER'S CATHOLIC CHURCH
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Mass Schedule:

Saturday: 5:00 p.m.
Sunday: 7:30, 9:30, 11:30 a.m.
Monday & Friday 5:30 p.m.
Tuesday & Thursday 7:00 a.m.
Wednesday (School Year) 8:25 a.m. & 9:35 a.m.

Sacrament of Reconciliation:

Saturday: 3:30 - 4:30 p.m. &
30 minutes before every Mass

Sacrament of Baptism:

Please contact the Parish Center to begin
plans for the baptism of your baby or child.

Sacrament of Marriage:

Arrangements should always be made at the
Parish Center office at least eight months
in advance of the ceremony.

Parish Office Hours:

Monday, Thursday, Friday: 9 a.m. — 3 p.m.
Tuesday & Wednesday: 9 a.m. — 6 p.m.
Saturday & Sunday: Closed

Bulletin Deadline:

Friday at 12 p.m., one week prior to
publication date. All submissions must be
in writing to bulletin@myspartans.org.

Parish Priests:

Fr. John Miller
Pastor
miller.john@myspartans.org/419.217.0228
Fr. Kevin Moebius
Parochial Vicar
moebius.kevin@myspartans.org

Deacon:

Mr. John Reef
Shut-ins/Homebound
reef.john@myspartans.org/419.529.3694

Pastoral Staff:

Ms. Angie Dillon
Liturgy Assistant
dillon.angie@myspartans.org/Ext 3108
*Hospital & Follow-up / Nursing Homes/Assisted
Living*

Mr. Bill Johnson
Director of Music & Liturgy
johnson.bill@myspartans.org/Ext. 2113

Ms. Lynne Lukach
Pastoral Associate
lukach.lynne@myspartans.org/Ext. 2109

Mrs. Elizabeth Wurm
Director of Religious Ed. & Youth Minister
wurm.elizabeth@myspartans.org/Ext. 2114

St. Peter's School:

Mrs. Laurie McKeon
Head of School
mckeon.laurie@myspartans.org/Ext. 2135

Mr. Jonathan Cuttitta
Principal, High School & Junior High
cuttitta.jon@myspartans.org/Ext. 3101

Mrs. Ashley Rastorfer
Principal, Elementary & Montessori
rastorfer.ashley@myspartans.org/Ext. 4101

Administrative Staff:

Mrs. Paula Nestor
Business Manager
nestor.paula@myspartans.org/Ext 2103

Mr. Jason Crundwell
Marketing
crundwell.jason@myspartans.org/Ext 2125

Ms. Kristi Reindl
Parish Administrative Assistant
reindl.kristi@myspartans.org/Ext. 2122
Prayer Pipeline

A PARISH OF THE SAINT JUAN DIEGO DEANERY, DIOCESE OF TOLEDO

MASS INTENTIONS**Monday, December 13***St. Lucy, Virgin and Martyr*

5:00 pm Rosary

5:30 pm Religious Vocations

Tuesday, December 14*Saint John of the Cross, Priest and Doctor of the Church*

7:00 am † Carl Leesburg

Wednesday, December 15*Advent Weekday*

8:25 am † Lucy Hauck

9:35 am † B. Dale Hurley

Thursday, December 16*Advent Weekday*

7:00 am † Edward Hirsch

Friday, December 17*Advent Weekday*

5:00 pm Rosary

5:30 pm † Joe & Virginia Boyd

Saturday, December 18*Vigil of the Fourth Sunday of Advent*

2:00 pm Wedding: Roley/Schreck

5:00 pm † Joan Romanchuck

Sunday, December 19*Fourth Sunday of Advent*

7:30 am † Daniel Martin Cheuka

9:30 am † Angela Oriol

11:30 am † For Parishioners

3:00 pm Advent Lessons & Carols

IN GOD'S ARMS

Patrick Boyer

***ETERNAL REST GRANT UNTO THEM O LORD.*****PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK OF OUR PARISH**

Names will only be listed for four (4) weeks. If you wish to have additional time, contact the Parish Center at (419) 524-2572.



Bill Ruhl	Marilyn B. Williamson	Ray Galuzny
Jeannie Burkhalter	Tom Powell	Richard Steele
Krista Marshall	CMSgt. Joseph Basting	Michael Krempel
Aaron Blank	Peggy Basting Taylor	John Stewart Ziegler
Dina Riley	Kathy Carcione	Josephine German
Eilana Nelson	Carol Pittenger	Zayne Lee
MaKaya Butler	Alan Gallaway	JoAnn and Jack Zink
Sharon Valdry	Amy Malaska	Bill, Linda and Cindy
Maria Loschinkohl	David Donley	Thompson
John Ziegler	Jordan Hiser	Brian Brown
Marlene Ziegler	William Scales	Lois Barnes
Dorothy Trinter	Kathy Deckard	Fred Dale
JoAnn Marbaugh	John & Cindy Lloyd	Jeffrey Corbin
Gwen Yockey	Ben Hahn	Stephanie Corbin
Louise Steggall	Bill Joyce	Mary Ann Robertson
Keith Combs	Ezra Becker	Sarah Brennan Shira
Mady Ziegler	Rose Mary Martin	
Elaine Johnson	Josephine Contra	
Jeannine Klotz	Marianne Cappadonna	

From the Pastor:

The rectory received a new addition this week – a Christmas tree! It's beautifully decorated with lights and ornaments. It has the appropriate balance between being over decorated and too stark. Accompanying the tree are other decorations in the rectory such as a few poinsettias and the aroma of fresh cut evergreens. If you looked closely, you might even see an elf lurking somewhere in the background. However, as wonderful as this is, the decoration would be incomplete if Fr. Kevin and I stopped at this point. Something more is needed. What?

The most important pieces to any Christmas decoration, whether in the church or in your home, is the angel at the top of the tree and a complete nativity set with Jesus, Mary, and Joseph, together with the shepherds and their flock of animals, and the magi approaching from the east. Does your home have these? Do you have various images (pictures, statues, etc.) of Jesus in your home? In this Christmas season, the "reason for the season" should be clearly visible and prominently displayed in our homes. If someone visited your home while you were away, would they know you are Christian by the images they saw or didn't see?

Just as we have pictures of family and friends in our homes, we should have pictures of Jesus and the saints. Jesus is not just a friend or family member, or the "reason for the season" but the Savior whom we celebrate this holy season. Jesus makes the eternal joy of heaven possible for us. He is our greatest love, joy, and hope. Consequently, Jesus should be displayed prominently throughout our home. When we look at a picture or image of Jesus, it invites us to think about Him more, to seek to love Him more, and to help others do the same. I invite you to decorate your home so that it announces and proclaims Christ.

As we think about Him, let us consider that Jesus's earthly mission was to bring an end to sin and help each of us to begin anew. In the gospel this Sunday, the crowds sense that the Messiah is near, so they ask John the Baptist what they should do. His answer to them was to turn from sin to God. That is the best gift we can give Jesus this Christmas, and the best gift we can give ourselves. In doing so, we move closer to heaven. So as we take to heart John the Baptist's words, we turn in trust and confidence to the one particular sacrament that Jesus gave us for the forgiveness of sins – Confession.

This sacrament is one of the most important gifts that God has given to us. It is where we experience His mercy and receive His forgiveness. That is why I make it available before every Mass. Additionally, you can receive the sacrament by attending the Tri-parish Penance Service this Sunday (Dec. 12) at St. Mary church. Four priests will be there for your convenience. It's one of our joys as priests to bring reconciliation, healing, and peace to all who attend.

With trust in Jesus,
Fr. Miller

DECORATING CHURCH FOR CHRISTMAS

We will be decorating the church for Christmas on Tuesday, December 21 from 1 p.m.—5 p.m. Much help is needed from people of all ages. Pizza and fellowship in the church basement afterward in the church basement.

This is a great opportunity for families as there are jobs for kids to adults. Please join us, young and old.

"Many hands make light work."

RCIA CHANGED TO OCIA - ORDER OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS

Following the trend of updating all liturgical texts to reflect greater fidelity to the original Latin, the U.S. bishops, meeting in Baltimore for their annual fall assembly, approved on Nov. 17 a revised English edition of the Order of Christian Initiation of Adults. The English version passed 215-0 with two abstentions.

The action still needs the approval of the Vatican's Congregation for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments before it takes effect. Please keep in prayer the catechumens and candidates preparing to celebrate the Sacraments of Initiation at St. Peter's, St. Mary of the Snows, and Resurrection Parishes. Our class meets Dec. 15, then resumes Jan. 5.

PRISON MINISTRY CORNER



Fr. Kevin and a team of parishioners had a wonderful luncheon with our brothers at ManCI the Wednesday before Thanksgiving. This letter from one of our brothers expresses the immense gratitude they all feel toward our St. Peter's Parish Prison Ministry teams:

"I would like to personally thank you for giving to the men here at the ManCI Catholic Community. Many of the brothers here have not experienced that depth of giving and care in a very long time. The banquet was awesome! We really appreciated the quality of food and the abundance as well. Psalm 146 says "He upholds the cause of the oppressed and gives food to the hungry. The Lord sets prisoners free."

Your presence made a huge impact on more than 50 lives, touching at least double the amount of brothers present Tuesday. Most of us brought the leftovers you packed up for us back to our blocks and gave meals to at least two men who really need to know that people care. Quite a few tears were shed! Thanks for being a vessel on that day; God ensures to His people that His promises are true.

Luke 14:13-14 says "When you give a banquet invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind, and you will be blessed. Although they cannot repay you, you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous." You gave food to the hungry and made us feel free for a few hours. I cannot repay you for your goodness, but I can make sure you know I am

ADVENT LESSONS AND CAROLS

The St. Peter's Music Series will offer a Service of Advent Lessons and Carols on Sunday, December 19, at 3:00 p.m. in the church.

Featuring the St. Peter's Traditional Choir, Hand Bell Choir and Chamber Orchestra, our celebration of Lessons and Carols provide us with a wonderful and prayerful way to prepare for the coming of our Lord in the mystery of the Incarnation at Christmas. Please join us in this beautiful celebration of the hymns, carols, and scriptures of the Advent season.

You will have the opportunity to take part in singing carols, and enjoying the beauty of the music and the church, and taking a rest from all the 'busyness' of the season. Please join us! Call 419-524-2572, ext. 2113 for more information.

FEED THE NEEDY

Feed the Needy meal for Dec. 19 is cancelled as it is at the same time as Advent Lessons and Carols. Our next meal distribution will begin again in January. God bless.

DIOCESAN CHOIR TOUR OF SPAIN

You are invited to join the Toledo Diocesan Choir on a marvelous Tour of Spain from June 14-23, 2022. The tour will include the celebration of Mass at the Toledo Cathedral on the Feast of Corpus Christi followed by the Eucharistic procession through the city. Madrid, Avila, the Abbey of Monsterrat and Barcelona are also on the itinerary. You are welcome to join with the Diocesan Choir as a singer or accompany the choir as a non-singing pilgrim.

For more information, please contact Paul Monachino—pmonachino@toledodiocese.org or 419-244-5182.

WEDDING BANNERS

III—Reagan Roley & Tyler Schreck

SUNDAY OFFERING	<i>As of November 2021</i>
	<i>Sunday Collection</i>
Sunday and Holy Day Collections	
Sunday Collection & Holy Day Collection:	\$343,640
Total Budgeted Sunday Collection To Date:	\$356,250
Sunday Collection Surplus/(Deficit)	(\$12,610)
School Collection	
Total School Collection To Date:	\$53,987
Total Budgeted School Collection To Date:	\$50,000
School Collection Surplus/(Deficit)	\$3,987

CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE CHANGES

Christmas Eve

4 p.m. | 6 p.m. | 8 p.m. | Midnight

Christmas Day

8 a.m. | 10 a.m.

Holy Family (Sunday Dec. 26)

8 a.m. | 10 a.m. | 6 p.m.

All Masses will be in the church.

THANK YOU!

Thank you to the amazing volunteers who worked so hard to make the many items which were sold at this year's Christmas Classic. This year we had the most volunteers ever, especially for making poticas on Saturday.

It was great to see some new and younger faces! Everyone did a fabulous job! Below are pictures from Sunday's event.



Spiritual Life students created a living nativity scene.



Elementary students sang carols while Santa and his elves helped to load vehicles with lots of sweet treats.



ORNAMENTS FOR OUR BAKERS

Elves in Mrs. Baker's Kindergarten class made ornaments for the Christmas Classic baking team. Proceeds from the Christmas Classic go to support teacher grants and other activities in our school.

REJOICE

The prophetic writings we hear in today's scriptures call us to rejoice and celebrate the goodness of God. Zephaniah, Isaiah, Saint Paul, and John the Baptist in Luke's Gospel all follow the rich tradition of the Biblical prophets, a tradition that reaches full expression in Jesus. The prophets warn that human failings have truly disastrous consequences. All are summoned to repent, and to change their lives. Today we hear the Good News that God's gracious love exceeds and overcomes all human corruption. God has not given up on us. Indeed, God keeps pursuing us, and eagerly seeks to reconcile with us. God's initiative to set the world aright culminates with Jesus, whose coming John the Baptist announces. John's prophetic message summons us to join in God's reconciling work, by living generously and justly in our daily lives. As we rejoice in God's grace, we then extend the fruits of this grace to all.

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"In this season of Advent, we are called to expand the horizons of our hearts, to be amazed by the life which presents itself each day with newness." - Pope Francis, Angelus, 2016

As we continue through the season of Advent, our school community truly is expanding the horizons of our hearts, lighting Advent wreaths, celebrating seasonal Masses, singing Christmas music, and making blessing bags for those in need. We are all filled with hope and anticipation as we prepare for the coming of our Lord.

In keeping with the season and a fullness of heart, there have been many moments these past few weeks, both big and small, that are not only amazing but also show a newness here at our school. On November 30, St. Peter's School participated in the Richland Gives campaign, a terrific fundraising initiative sponsored by the Richland County Foundation that provides additional funds for those organizations that raise the most money and engage the most donors on Giving Tuesday.

Due to the generosity of so many, St. Peter's School came in third overall and second in the large non-profit category raising \$23,445 and earning an additional \$6,250 in bonus grants. In addition, St. Peter's School had by far the most individual donors out of the 86 non-profits who participated in Richland Gives. Talk about amazing! Our remarkable showing in Richland Gives is about much more than just the money (though the money is pretty great). Our results show that hundreds of people support our school and its mission. Our results show the entire community that St. Peter's School is vibrant, alive, and thriving. Our results show that we have a significant place in the local philanthropic community and want to be a strong force for good. These are very important indicators of newness here at St. Peter's.

In addition to the terrific response to the Richland Gives campaign, the St. Peter's community also came out in full force last weekend to support the Christmas Classic. Though this much anticipated St. Peter's tradition was once again a drive-thru event, the poticas, rum cakes, and other treats were as delicious as ever. We can't thank Ann Brown and her team of bakers enough for their tireless effort on behalf of our school. Due to their hard work and baking prowess, the Christmas Classic raised more than \$10,000 for the Spartan Family Association, which uses these funds to provide grant opportunities for our faculty and underwrite special projects for our students. Thanks as well to the SFA, Jamie Stima and Lew Friend for getting us all in the Christmas spirit.

Huge thanks to all of you who continue to give so generously of your time, talent, and treasure to St. Peter's. Your gifts are powerful on so many levels. Thank you for believing in our school, for supporting our students, and for shaping our future. We are so very blessed here at St. Peter's School. Once again, I am "amazed by the life which presents itself each day with newness."

With faith and gratitude,

Laurie McKeon

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SPELLING BEE WINNERS

Congratulations to Daniel McGuire, Natalie Lindsey, Julianna Williams, and Lily Richlovsky who all qualified for the Richland County Virtual Spelling Bee in January! These students were the "top four" from the St. Peter's Spelling Bee this week.

Huge thanks to Miss Hill who helped plan and coordinate this event for our Spartans!!

TRANSFER TO ST. PETER'S SCHOOL

If your child currently does not feel comfortable or safe in their school environment — a mid-year transfer to St. Peter's is always an option.

St. Peter's provides an educational environment rooted in the Catholic faith and values with high academic standards.

We would love to have your child join us for the rest of the 2021-22 school year and beyond.

If you would like to know more about St. Peter's School, please contact Jason Crundwell, (419) 989-1771 or visit our website to setup a tour and meet with our principals.

Also, watch this space for more information about our 2021-22 enrollment events! Open House is Sunday, January 30!



END OF THE YEAR CHARITABLE GIVING

The end of the year is fast approaching, and it is time to think about those last-minute charitable deductions and reduce your 2021 tax burden. Here are a few ways that may work for you.

IRA Charitable Rollovers

If you are 70 ½ or older, you can elect to make a qualified charitable distribution from your IRA. This distribution will lower your overall taxable income for the year. More seniors are taking advantage of this option and are making a one-time distribution to cover all their annual stewardship gifts for the year.

Transfer of Appreciated Stocks

The President's Build Back Better Act includes tax increases on capital gains taxes for certain individuals. If you donate appreciated stock, you make a charitable gift and avoid paying the capital gains taxes. These transfers can be done electronically, so contact the Development Office for more information. Stock transfers should be initiated by December 22 to guarantee they will be completed before the end of the year.

Elimination of the 60% Charitable Limit

Under the CARES Act, Congress temporarily modified the contribution limits for individuals and allows individuals who itemize to deduct qualified charitable contributions up to 100% of their adjusted gross income. The excess contributions will be carried forward for the next five years. These changes only apply to cash contributions made to a 50% charity, excluding supporting organizations and donor-advised funds. Stock donations and gifts to private foundations are still subject to the 30% of AGI rule.

Eliminating the contribution limit creates a huge opportunity for donors who want to make a significant impact to charities this year. Under these rules, a donor could take a significant distribution from their IRA, rather than the annual \$100,000 limit, donate it to charity, and take a deduction for the full amount. If you're considering leaving a large portion of your IRA to charity in your estate, this may be a year to consider a large gift, especially if you are expecting to have a taxable estate. You could benefit from tax savings and also see the benefits your charitable donation produces during your lifetime.

Gifts can be made to St. Peter's School and the Msgr. Dunn Foundation are tax-deductible. If you have any general questions on you can call the Development Office for more information. For specific questions related to your personal situation, please contact your tax professional or an investment advisor for more information.

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LIGHTING THE ROSE CANDLE

Traditionally, Advent wreaths are constructed of a circle of evergreen branches into which four candles are inserted, representing the four weeks of Advent. Ideally, three candles are purple, and one is rose, but white candles can also be used.

The purple candles symbolize the prayer, penance, and preparatory sacrifices and goods works undertaken at this time.

The rose candle is lit on the third Sunday, Gaudete Sunday, when the priest also wears rose vestments at Mass; Gaudete Sunday is the Sunday of rejoicing, because the faithful have arrived at the midpoint of Advent, when their preparation is now half over, and they are close to Christmas.

The progressive lighting of the candles symbolizes the expectation and hope surrounding our Lord's first coming into the world and the anticipation of his second coming to judge the living and the dead.

RETIREMENT FUND FOR RELIGIOUS

Say thank you to the senior sisters, brothers, and religious order priests who devoted their lives to serving others. Please donate to the Retirement Fund for Religious at Mass today. Learn more at retiredreligious.org.



READINGS FOR THE WEEK

- Monday:** Nm 24:2-7, 15-17a; Ps 25:4-5ab, 6, 7bc-9; Mt 21:23-27
- Tuesday:** Zep 3:1-2, 9-13; Ps 34:2-3, 6-7, 17-19, 23; Mt 21:28-32
- Wednesday:** Is 45:6b-8, 18, 21b-25; Ps 85:9-14; Lk 7:18b-23
- Thursday:** Is 54:1-10; Ps 30:2, 4-6, 11-12a, 13b; Lk 7:24-30
- Friday:** Gn 49:2, 8-10; Ps 72:1-4ab, 7-8, 17; Mt 1:1-17
- Saturday:** Jer 23:5-8; Ps 72:1-2, 12-13, 18-19; Mt 1:18-25
- Sunday:** Mi 5:1-4a; Ps 80:2-3, 15-16, 18-19; Heb 10:5-10; Lk 1:39-45

TODAY'S READINGS

First Reading — Shout for joy! Sing joyfully! Be glad and exult! The LORD, your God, is in your midst, a mighty savior (Zephaniah 3:14-18a).

Psalm — Cry out with joy and gladness: for among you is the great and Holy One of Israel (Isaiah 12).

Second Reading — Rejoice! The Lord is near. Make your requests known to God (Philippians 4:4-7).

Gospel — John tells his hearers to share their possessions with the needy; be honest; do not threaten or accuse others falsely (Luke 3:10-18).

776400 **800** bulletins please

St. Peter Church

104 W First Street

Mansfield, OH 44902-2199

419-524-2572

Attn: Jason