

DECEMBER 19, 2021

Mary set out and traveled to
the hill country in haste
to a town of Judah,
where she entered
the house of Zechariah
and greeted Elizabeth.

Luke 1:39-40

FOURTH
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:

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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:

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

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MASS INTENTIONS**Monday, December 20***Advent Weekday*

5:00 pm Rosary

5:30 pm Isabel Stuht

Tuesday, December 21*St. Peter Canisius, Priest and**Doctor of the Church*

7:00 am † Fr. Raymond Sheperd

Wednesday, December 22*Advent Weekday*

8:25 am † Charles Eaton, Jr.

Thursday, December 23*Saint John of Kantry, Priest*7:00 am † Alt Family, Jeff,
Dorothy, William**Friday, December 24***Vigil of The Nativity of The Lord*

4:00 pm Rev. Gregory Hite

6:00 pm Elaine Johnson

8:00 pm For Parishioners

Midnight Rudolph "Rudy" Weiss, Jr.

Saturday, December 25*The Nativity of The Lord*

8:00 am For Parishioners

10:00 am For Parishioners

Sunday, December 26*Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus,**Mary and Joseph*

8:00 am † Rudolph "Rudy" Weiss, Jr.

10:00 am † Earl E. Hershey (Anniv.)

6:00 pm For Parishioners

FROM THE PASTOR

Christmas is very near! That means many of us are busy with social gatherings and completing our own preparations for Christmas. As you do so, please keep in mind the following parish related items.

First, this Sunday afternoon (3pm) you are invited to join me and our parish musical groups in church for Christmas Lessons and Carols. Knowing our musical talent here at St. Peter and the acoustics of the church, I'm looking forward to a wonderful hour of voices and instruments together with select Scripture passages. It's a great opportunity to be drawn deeper into the joy and wonder of Christmas. I hope to see you there.

Second, the students of our parish school are enjoying Christmas break this week and next week. As a result, the Wednesday Mass time will be the same as the summer schedule (7am) for the next two weeks. The parish office will remain open according to its normal schedule, with the exception of being closed the next two Fridays in observance of Christmas and New Year Day. If you have an emergency, you can still contact us priests via phone or text.

Third, you are invited to join your fellow parishioners this Tuesday afternoon to decorate the church. The group that does this each year are parish volunteers who are eager to bring the beauty of Christmas into our church. Their size has become smaller in recent years as their regular volunteers have aged. You could help decorate trees, hang garlands, move plants, or help with the heavier work of setting up trees or moving statues. The work in the church will start at 1:00pm and conclude at 5:00pm with pizza and fellowship in the basement. I hope to see you there!

Fourth, since Christmas this year occurs on Saturday, be sure to look closely at the Mass schedule for the entire three-day weekend. **All the Mass times are different than normal.** The church will be open at least one hour before every Mass. Advanced preparations have been made to ensure the sidewalks and parking lots are plowed and salted.

Lastly, the most important preparation for Christmas involves improving our love and devotion for God. Every person is a "work in progress" with this. We love God, but not yet to the fullest of our ability. Even the saints would say this. Each of us should be grateful for the progress we have made with this, but also eager for further growth and progress. An essential part of this growth involves the sacrament of Confession. Each of us needs the forgiveness and special graces this sacrament provides.

To make this sacrament as available to you as possible, two priests will be in the church this Wednesday and Thursday at 12noon, 3pm, and 6pm. I will be in the confessional and Fr. Kevin will be sitting in the front pew near the piano. We will remain in the church for at least 30 minutes, or until all confessions are heard. If it's been years since your last confession, you don't need to be anxious. Come to the sacrament knowing your sins and having sorrow for them, and the priest will do the rest.

Joyfully,

Fr. Miller

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

Jeannie Burkhalter

Krista Marshall

Aaron Blank

Dina Riley

Eilana Nelson

MaKaya Butler

Sharon Valdrey

Maria Loschinkohl

John Ziegler

Marlene Ziegler

Dorothy Trinter

JoAnn Marbaugh

Gwen Yockey

Louise Steggall

Keith Combs

Mady Ziegler

Jeannine Klotz

Marilyn B. Williamson

Tom Powell

CMSgt. Joseph Basting

Peggy Basting Taylor

Kathy Carcione

Carol Pittenger

Alan Gallaway

Amy Malaska

David Donley

Jordan Hiser

William Scales

Kathy Deckard

John & Cindy Lloyd

Ben Hahn

Bill Joyce

Ezra Becker

Rose Mary Martin

Josephine Contra

Marianne Cappadonna

Ray Galuzny

Richard Steele

Michael Krempel

John Stewart Ziegler

Josephine German

Zayne Lee

JoAnn and Jack Zink

Bill, Linda and Cindy

Thompson

Brian Brown

Lois Barnes

Fred Dale

Jeffrey Corbin

Stephanie Corbin

Mary Ann Robertson

Sarah Brennan Shira

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.

ALL SOULS DAY CANDLES

If you have not picked up the cross and/or candle from the All Souls Mass, please do so before Christmas in the Parish Office.

PRISON MINISTRY CORNER

Last month was indeed rewarding and full for our parish prison ministry programs in both ManCI and RiCI. As noted in last week's bulletin, our ManCI brothers enjoyed a Thanksgiving feast, as well as celebrating Mass weekly as usual. The number of men seen at RiCI continues to increase. Here are the November statistics of total attendance at each service or gathering:

Mass, Confession, Adoration: 238

Music & Choir (with focus on Christmas Concert preparation): 226

Rosary Prayer: 138

RCIA/Catechism/Faith Enrichment: 42

Total number: 644



ADVENT LESSONS AND CAROLS



The St. Peter's Music Series will offer a Service of Advent Lessons and Carols this afternoon, 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!

FEED THE NEEDY

Feed the Needy meal for this Sunday, 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.

SUNDAY OFFERING



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

**As of November 2021
Sunday Collection**

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.**GIVING TREE THANKS!!**

On behalf of the St. Vincent de Paul Society, we would like to offer our sincere thanks to all parishioners who extended their kindness and generosity to the families and individuals supported through our Parish Giving Tree. We are continually amazed and grateful to have such a supportive and caring Parish who extend their outreach with love and support to our fellow brothers and sisters in need. You have been a blessing in their lives and may you be blessed with a Merry and Joyous Christmas!!!

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CHRISTMAS MASS REMINDER

As a gesture of evangelization, we wish to extend a welcome to all parishioners and visitors at Christmas time, so please do not plan to reserve seats or pews in church at any Mass.

Remember - do not park in emergency areas, or in designated areas available for rescue vehicles.

And please remember to lock your cars before coming into church.

LIGHT

All the darkness of the world cannot put out the light of one small candle.

—Anonymous

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.

FORMED®**PICK OF THE WEEK****December 19, 2021****WATCH****CHRISTMAS IN ROME:
A CELEBRATION OF THE NATIVITY**

Nowhere celebrates the birth of the Savior like Rome. This Christmas, marvel at the Holy City's festive celebration of the coming of the child Jesus in Bethlehem.



To set up your free account visit formed.org/signup and select our parish.

RECYCLING — FRIDAY, JANUARY 14**FOOD COLLECTION: JANUARY 15 & 16**

THROWBACK TO COCOA LADIES



School students were treated to hot cocoa or a Yoo-hoo with cookies after the Mass of the Immaculate Conception.

Prior to Vatican II, Catholics had to abstain from food from Midnight the night before until after daily Mass. Here at St. Peter's, students would be served hot cocoa and donuts after Mass.

A few of years ago, SPH alumna and Marketing Director, Kathy Morris '71 helped to revive a new form of this tradition for the school's 150th Anniversary.

SPIRITUAL LIFE GOES CAROLING

Last week, members of the Spiritual Life Class went through the school halls singing Christmas carols and passing out candy to fellow students in both buildings.

Our carolers continued singing even after the school experienced a campus-wide power outage.



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WALL OF LOVE DONATIONS



High school students helped collect items to support the school's Wall of Love project. This past week, students in the elementary school made dozens of bags that included personal hygiene products, gloves, hats, and scarves for those in need in our community.

(We'll have photos from the Wall of Love in a future bulletin.)

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!



READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: Is 7:10-14; Ps 24:1-6; Lk 1:26-38

Tuesday: Sg 2:8-14 or Zep 3:14-18a; Ps 33:2-3, 11-12, 20-21; Lk 1:39-45

Wednesday: 1 Sm 1:24-28; 1 Sm 2:1, 4-8abcd; Lk 1:46-56

Thursday: Mal 3:1-4, 23-34; Ps 25:4-5ab, 8-10, 14; Lk 1:57-66

Friday: 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16; Ps 89:2-5, 27, 29; Lk 1:67-79

Saturday: Vigil: Is 62:1-5; Ps 89:4-5, 16-17, 27, 29; Acts 13:16-17, 22-25; Mt 1:1-25 [18-25]
Night: Is 9:1-6; Ps 96:1-3, 11-13; Ti 2:11-14; Lk 2:1-14

Dawn: Is 62:11-12; Ps 97:1, 6, 11-12; Ti 3:4-7; Lk 2:15-20
Day: Is 52:7-10; Ps 98:1-6; Heb 1:1-6; Jn 1:1-18 [1-5, 9-14]

Sunday: Sir 3:2-6, 12-14 or 1 Sm 1:20-22, 24-28; Ps 128:1-5 or Ps 84:2-3, 5-6, 9-10; Col 3:12-21 [12-17] or 1 Jn 3:1-2, 21-24; Lk 2:41-52

TODAY'S READINGS

First Reading — From Bethlehem-Ephrathah shall come forth for me one who is to be ruler in Israel (Micah 5:1-4a).

Psalm — Lord, make us turn to you; let us see your face and we shall be saved (Psalm 80).

Second Reading — We have been consecrated through the offering of the body of Christ once for all (Hebrews 10:5-10).

Gospel — Blessed are you who believed that what was spoken by the Lord would be fulfilled (Luke 1:39-45)

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BLESSING OF A CHRISTMAS MANGER

In its present form the custom of displaying figures depicting the birth of Jesus Christ owes its origin to St. Francis of Assisi, who made the Christmas crèche or manger for Christmas Eve of 1223.

The blessing of the Christmas manger or nativity scene may take place on the Vigil of Christmas or at another suitable time. When the manger is set up in the home, it is appropriate that it be blessed by a parent or another family member.

All make the sign of the cross as the leader says:

Our help is in the name of the Lord.

R/. Who made heaven and earth.

One of those present or the leader reads a text of sacred Scripture, for example, Luke 2:1 (lines 1-8) or Isaiah 7:10 (lines 10-15, the birth of Emmanuel).

Reader: The Gospel of the Lord.

R/. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ. The leader prays with hands joined: God of every nation and people, from the very beginning of creation you have made manifest your love:

when our need for a Savior was great

you sent your Son to be born of the Virgin Mary.

To our lives he brings joy and peace,
justice, mercy, and love.

Lord,

bless all who look upon this manger;
may it remind us of the humble birth of Jesus, and raise our
thoughts to him,
who is God-with-us and Savior of all,
and who lives and reigns forever and ever. R/. Amen.

AUDACITY

There is a spirit of audacity in our readings today. During a time of injustice and threat of invasion, the prophet Micah boldly announces that the God of insignificant Israel will raise up a leader from backwater Bethlehem, and this leader will bring justice and peace to the whole world. In the Gospel, Elizabeth and Mary, marginalized women, brazenly celebrate that their sons will be world-changing instruments of God. We further learn that this audacity is rooted in trust in God. The author of Hebrews describes the faithful obedience of Jesus. Mary is shown as the exemplar of faithful trust in God. This is the way God often seems to work, in the ordinary and marginalized in our world. Those who seem weak have learned to trust in God's strength. These have the audacity to become instruments of God's peace and justice.

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