

MASS INTENTIONS

Monday, December 27

St. John, Apostle and Evangelist 5:00 pm † Rosary 5:30 pm † Marilyn Kurtzman

Wednesday, December 29

St. Thomas Becket

8:25 am † Deceased members of the Guisinger Family

Thursday, December 30

Sixth Day within the Octave of the Nativity of the Lord

7:00 am † Roland Hirsh

Friday, December 31

Vigil of Mary, Mother of God

5:00 pm Rosary

5:30 pm † Caról Corso-Phinney

Saturday, January 1

Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God 9 a.m. † Fred A. Stuht Vigil of the Epiphany of the Lord

5 pm † Deceased member of Voytko & Ellish Families

Sunday, January 2

Epiphany of the Lord

7:30 am For Parishioners

9:30 am † Helen and Paul Schodorf

11:30 am † Huschka Family

IN GOD'S ARMS

Rosemary "TT" Ellery Dawson Frances Michalski Smith Joseph Sorrenti



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.



Jeannie Burkhalter Krista Marshall Aaron Blank Dina Riley Eilana Nélson MaKaya Butler Sharon Valdry Maria Loschińkohl 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 Josephiné Contra Marianne Cappadonna Ray Galuzny Richard Steele

Michael Krempel

John Stewart Ziegler

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
Joe Mink
Jennie Reale
Mary Nolan
Asha & Jon Papajcik

Josephine German

FROM THE PASTOR:

God's blessing to you and your family this Christmas season. May you have the privilege of spending time with family and friends during this special time of year. May you have the even greater privilege of truly experiencing the real joy of Christmas this year – God! The way we



do this is, firstly, to take time each day to turn away from worldly distractions so that, secondly, we are able to devote quality, one-on-one time with God. Remember that God is more personal and relational than any human person, even to the extent that He is the fulfillment of all human desires!

The glitter on the tree, the neatly wrapped presents, and even the beautiful music is not the reason for the season. God becomes one of us in every way but sin. He experiences every human situation – work, sleep, fatigue, hunger, pain, joy, temptation, and even death so that He could lead us to something greater – Himself. In becoming man and experiencing everything we deal with each day, God seeks to eliminate the false notion that God's ways and teachings are simply suggestions, rather than commands that bring about the lasting peace and joy we desire.

A quick, honest assessment of both ourselves and the world in which we live says that we need God. We aren't able to take care of things by ourselves, and our solutions for a multitude of concerns and problems seem to be more temporary than permanent. Yes, we need God and Christmas shows us that He is with us. Emmanuel means "God is with us." But don't forget, God needs us to do something – truly follow Him. Too often we allow ourselves to be enslaved by things of the world at the great cost of not knowing who and what God really is. Let this Christmas be different!

Be sure to devote time to prayer, spiritual reading, and personal reflection. This practice might seem like something only monks and scholars do rather than the ordinary person. However, throughout Christianity, both the young and old, rich and poor, educated and uneducated have made commitments to regular times of prayer each day. This is how we experience God's love, and find the strength to carry our crosses without becoming negative. Praying is how we also bring the goodness and power of God into the lives of other people, some of whom desperately need our prayerful assistance.

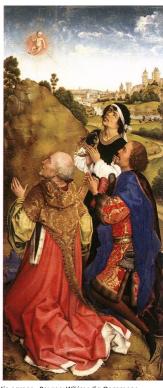
Christmas reminds us that each of us are wanted and loved by God. It is very comforting to know this about ourselves and our family and friends who have died. Sometimes we do not feel the love and compassion from other people as we want. Sometimes we might feel lonely or discouraged. In each of these cases, we turn to the God who clearly demonstrates His concern for us. Don't ignore or be complacent to THIS! Respond to God's invitation with obedience, joy, and daily prayer from your heart and soul.

Praying that your Christmas is merry and blessed, Fr. Miller For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him might not perish but might have eternal life. (John 3:16)

"I came so that they might have life and have it more abundantly." (John 10:10)







The Bladelin Altarpiece, or Middelburg Altarpiece, is a triptych painting created around 1450 by the Flemish painter Rogier van der Weyden, towards the end of his artistic career. Source: Wikimedia Commons

Ways to be more involved in your faith in 2022

As we celebrate the coming of God's promised Messiah whom prophets foretold and of whom the scriptures spoke, we recall that the birth of a tiny baby in a cattle shed defied the expectations of those who were awaiting a savior. In fact, Jesus defied expectations all of his life. But when the Christmas season comes to a close and we return to our daily lives, we often lose sight of what Paul Harvey would call, "...the rest of the story."

Why did Jesus come to us? The scripture verses above give an idea of what ought to go on once the Christmas season subsides. The verses remind us that Christmas is about much more than a newborn child in a manger. Christmas is about the gift...that God gave his Son for us. He didn't spare him. In the light of such a gift what should we do to "...make a return..." to the Lord?

God has blessed all of us with talents and abilities and each of them is as valuable and important as any other person's gifts. At Saint Peter's we have many ministries, programs and opportunities for you to offer yourself and your talents to God. Why not look them over and find one or two that match your gifts? The Body of Christ at Saint Peter's needs you!

If you don't see your skill set listed below, please call the parish center office (419) 524-2572 and offer your volunteer services anyway. You never know what other needs might crop up!

Pastoral Care

Volunteers* are always needed to assist with Nursing Home Outreach and, when the coronavirus is finally under control, Hospital Visitations. Contact Angie Dillon at ext. 3108/dillon.angie@myspartans.org

Liturgical Ministries

Lectors, Altar Servers, Ushers, Liturgical Decorators, Mass Coordinators, and Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion. Contact Bill Johnson at ext. 2113/ johnson.bill@myspartans.org or Angie Dillon at ext. 3108.

Music Ministry

The Choir and Contemporary Ensemble both need singers. The Hand Bell Choir is in need of a few more ringers. Instrumentalists are needed, particularly guitarists, flutists, a bassist, and a percussionist. Contact Bill Johnson at ext. 2113/johnson.bill@myspartans.org

Saint Peter's School

Cafeteria workers* are needed to help serve student lunches, wipe down cafeteria tables, and clean up after lunch. Contact Brenda Schuck at ext. 3110/schuck.brenda@myspartans.org

Parish Bereavement Ministry

The parish is in need of one or two more Funeral Luncheon Team Captains and Team Members. Contact Ann Harraman at 419-543-3272.

Parish and School Flowers and Greenery

Volunteers with a green thumb are always needed to help spruce up flower beds and keep the bushes under control. Contact Bob Vaccaro at ext. 2139, Vaccaro.bob@myspartans.org

More Ways to be more involved in your faith in 2022

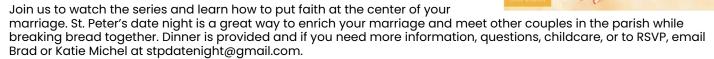


That Man is You!

That Man is You! honestly addresses the pressures and temptations that men face in our modern culture, especially those relating to their roles as husbands and fathers. The program harmonizes current social and medical science with the teachings of the Church and the wisdom of the saints to develop the vision of man fully alive! TMIY meets every Friday morning at 6:30 a.m. in the church basement.

Beloved

Understanding God's plan for marriage is one thing, living it out is another. Beloved: Living Marriage examines the day-today challenges of being united as husband and wife while maintaining individuality.



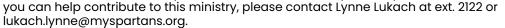


Feed the Needy

Our Feed the Needy Ministry serves meals to the community on most first and third Sunday's each month. Besides meals, we distribute items to those in need and pray with them. Everyone is welcome to assist when you can. Email Pam Taylor at teach621@aol.com for more information or to join the email list.

Prison Ministry

St. Peter's Prison Ministry has tended to the spiritual needs of prisoners for more than 100 years. If you would like to learn how





Youth Ministries

Parish School of Religion: Catechists/Teachers*, Volunteers*, and Classroom Helpers* are needed, especially for First Eucharist and Confirmation classes

Youth Leadership Team: We meet monthly to plan and implement our youth events! Our most recent Youth Event was coordinating the Walking to Bethlehem! This group is for 6th - 12th graders, but we would very happily welcome any adults who would also like to help to make this group a success

Praise and Worship Team! This is for Kindergarten - 5th graders! It is an opportunity for us to get together and praise God using our bodies and our voices! If interested, please use the contact information above.



Family Nights - Yes, we have those too where you can experience fun with your kiddos and other families in a spirit of fellowship! Keep your eyes peeled on the bulletin for more information!

Deanery Events: There are plenty to be had for our middle school and high school students! In June we have YES or Youth Elect Service where the youth are able to go out and do good in the community (this is a weekend event). In June as well we travel to Steubenville! It is a fantastic three day retreat at Franciscan University! In July we hold our annual Vacation Bible School at the parish that is always in need of youth leadership! We cannot forget our cooperative effort with our sister parishes of Saint Mary's and Resurrection for Youth Nights with the Missionaries of Damascus!

Youth Ministry is about building friendships, building faith and having a whole lot of fun in the process! We hope you can join us! Contact Elizabeth Wurm at the email above or at the parish office at 419-524-2572 X 2114 to get information on how to get your child involved! We look forward to seeing you!

* Indicates that the particular volunteer must comply with Toledo Diocesan requirements regarding the protection of youth and vulnerable persons. In some cases a background check may be required. In other cases, completion of training required by the Diocese may be the only requirement.



Dear St. Peter's Family,

Merry Christmas! I want to take the time to reflect on my first semester as St. Peter's Head of School.

First and foremost, I want to thank the St. Peter's community for so graciously welcoming me back to the fold. Thank you so much for being so patient; thank you for your kindness; thank you for your well wishes and your generosity of treasure and spirit. A special thank you to those of you who gave me a bed, fed me a meal, shared



a great story, hug or smile over these past several months. The warm and giving heart of St. Peter's Parish has not changed a bit over the two decades I was away.

When I took this job, I was cautioned by many about the current challenges at St. Peter's School. While these challenges certainly exist, there are honestly so many great things happening in our school buildings every day that I am very optimistic about the future. Back at the beginning of the school year, I promised to honor the parish's investment in St. Peter's School by building thoughtful scholars, compassionate leaders, and impactful stewards. I am pleased to report that we keep that promise on every front. Here is a brief update of our progress:

Thoughtful Scholars: Strong academics are a hallmark of our school, with in-depth, meaningful, connected learning happening at all levels.

- Our Montessori preschool students use patterns to program Ozobot robots during STEM time while our sixth graders collect and test soil samples in our newly created outdoor science lab.
- Junior high students focus on algebraic formulas in preparation for our advanced high school Math curriculum, culminating in Calculus.
- Our fourth graders did an in-depth research project on the lives of their favorite saints, created and presented a multi-media presentation to share with the class, and then led our All Saints Day Mass, dressed as the saints they chose.
- The high school physics class built a working hoverboard to carry a student across the classroom.
- College acceptance letters are pouring in for our seniors, with students garnering admittance to selective universities across the nation,



including Seton Hall, Creighton, Kentucky, Ohio State, St. John's, and Xavier.

Compassionate Leaders: Recognizing that part of our school mission is to nurture and foster the Catholic leaders of tomorrow, St. Peter's School regularly and intentionally provides ongoing leadership opportunities.

- New this year, our Elementary School Student Council students, comprised of class representatives from first grade through sixth, are learning to become strong leaders and recently developed a recycling initiative to help our school and the community.
- The high school Spiritual Life Team is studying peer mentoring as they create special presentations to share with our elementary students on best behaviors and meeting the high expectations of St. Peter's School.
- St. Peter's students plan and lead Masses, acting as readers, gift bearers, and song leaders from first grade through high school. These embedded public speaking and leadership opportunities are essential requirements for all St. Peter's students.
- We expect every St. Peter's student to be a student leader, sharing his or her gifts, skills, and talents with others in pursuit of the common good.

Impactful Stewards: As a Catholic school and a place of faith, service to God, community, and others is an integral part of our school days from preschool through high school.

- This Christmas season, St. Peter's students collected enough warm weather gear and personal care items to fill 160 care bags which we donated to Harmony House for those in need.
 - CU XMPION
- Bringing Christmas cheer to our servicemen and women, our high school students teamed up with elementary students to
 - make Christmas cards and write inspiring letters to our troops who will not be home for the holidays.
- Showing compassion for all of God's creatures, the High School Key Club collected, donated, and delivered boxes of pet supplies to the Humane Society.

Whether raising funds for breast cancer awareness or cleaning up the grounds at Spartan Fields, our students understand the importance of giving back locally, nationally, and globally.

There are countless more examples of how St. Peter's School is fulfilling its mission to provide the highest quality Catholic education in the area. I am infinitely grateful every day for our incredible staff and inspiring school families who are fully committed to making this happen.

If your children are not currently part of the St. Peter's School family, I invite you to come to learn more about our school on Sunday, January 30, 2022, for our annual Open House.

During this particular season of hope and gratitude, please know just how very grateful I am to our Parish family for the support you all provide to ensure that Catholic education remains vibrant and growing here at St. Peter's. Again, you have my solemn promise that we will use our resources wisely to build scholars, leaders, and stewards who will go out and transform the world for the greater glory of God.

Yours in faith and gratitude,

Laurie McKeon Head of School

FAMILY LIFE

Christmas celebrates the Incarnation, the "en-flesh-ment" of God as a human person. In Jesus, God is bodily present in the human story. Today we honor the Holy Family, helping us to see that God is active in daily family life. God is near at hand, amidst the tensions, joys, and uncertainties of family life.

As our Gospel passage describes, even with family miscommunications and with limited understanding of Jesus' mission, the Holy Family persevered in their life together. Like many family conflicts, there was no immediate or clear resolution of the issues raised by Jesus and by Mary. God's intentions for the family, and for Jesus, were still unfolding. They continued to stay connected with each other and with God. Within the turbulence of family life, they trusted God to actively sustain and guide them into an uncertain future. We are invited to follow their example.



READINGS FOR THE WEEK

1 Jn 1:1-4; Ps 97:1-2, 5-6, 11-12; Jn 20:1a, 2-8 **Monday:** Tuesday: 1 Jn 1:5 - 2:2; Ps 124:2-5, 7b-8; Mt 2:13-18 Wednesday:1 Jn 2:3-11; Ps 96:1-3, 5b-6; Lk 2:22-35 **Thursday:** 1 Jn 2:12-17; Ps 96:7-10; Lk 2:36-40

Friday: 1 Jn 2:18-21; Ps 96:1-2, 11-13; Jn 1:1-18

Nm 6:22-27; Ps 67:2-3, 5, 6, 8; Gal 4:4-7; Saturday:

Lk 2:16-21

Sunday: Is 60:1-6; Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-13;

Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6; Mt 2:1-12

READINGS FOR SUNDAY, DECEMBER 26

First Reading – Hannah gives her son Samuel back to the LORD, leaving him in the temple at Shiloh: "As long as he lives, he shall be dedicated to the LORD" (1 Samuel 1:20-22, 24-28) or Sirach 3:2-6, 12-14.

Psalm – Blessed are they who dwell in your house, O Lord (Psalm 84) or Psalm 128.

Second Reading — We are children of God when we believe in the name of God's Son, Jesus Christ, and love one another just as he commanded us (1 Jn 3:1-2, 21-24) or Colossians 3:12-21 [12-17].

Gospel — Joseph and Mary find the lost Jesus in the temple in the midst of the teachers, listening to them and asking questions (Luke 2:41-52).



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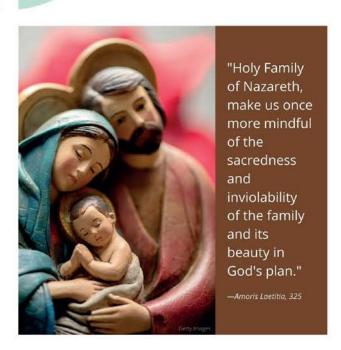
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We celebrate the Feast of the Holy Family on the first Sunday after Christmas! This feast day is a reminder to us of the example Mary and Joseph set for all of us in welcoming Jesus into their lives. The Holy Family serves as a model for us all in which to live in faith and simplicity.

Prayer for Family Commitment

Dear God our Father, you have called all Christian families to be a sign of your love to the world.

Help us to be generous with the gifts of life and love that you have showered on our family. May we share them so that our homes become true signs of unitive and fruitful love.

Let us never forget to thank you each day for all that sustains us and to look to Christ, who comes to us in the events of family life, in the sacraments of the Church, and in service to the poor.

In all of this, our family becomes a living expression of your Church, a hallowed home of life and love. By the power of the Holy Spirit, may all of us—spouses, parents, and children— share, as members of his Body, in Jesus' mission to build a civilization of love. Father, we ask this in Jesus' name in union with the Holy Spirit. Amen.





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