



GLORY
TO GOD
IN THE
HIGHEST
AND ON
EARTH
PEACE TO
THOSE
ON WHOM
HIS FAVOR
RESTS.

LUKE 2:14

The Nativity of the Lord—December 25, 2021

Ss. Peter and Paul Mission Statement

We are a Christ-centered faith community of love, service, and prayer.

Ss. Peter and Paul Parish

PO Box 238, Hortonville, WI 54944

Weekend Mass Schedule

Saturday: 4:30 PM, Sunday: 9:00 AM

Parish Office Hours

Monday-Thursday: 7:30 AM - 4:30 PM, Friday: Closed

Phone: (920) 779-6133 Fax: (920) 779-0166

E-Mail: parish@ssppp.org

Website: www.ssppp.org

Faith Formation: Phone: (920) 779-0551

Pastoral Leader—Greg Layton

Phone: (920) 779-6133 Cell: (920) 360-3902

glayton@ssppp.org

Priest Celebrant/Moderator.....Father Jim Jugenheimer

Priest Celebrant.....Father Patrick Costello

Outreach & Discipleship Coordinator.....Deacon Joseph Lehman

jlehman@ssppp.org

Parish Council Chairperson.....Julia Skowron

Finance Council Chairperson.....Susie Lamers

Treasurer TrusteeJeff Herman

Secretary Trustee.....Terri Batzler

Faith Formation Coordinator.....Lori Pugliese

lpugliese@ssppp.org

Faith Formation Assistant.....Vicki Tank

vtank@ssppp.org

Faith Formation Special Events.....Jane Hackstock

jhackstock@ssppp.org

Parish Secretary/Business Assistant.....Mary Vanevenhoven

parish@ssppp.org

Bookkeeper.....Geri Koeppel

puggeri@aol.com

Music Director.....Larry Manley

lmanley@ssppp.org

Custodian.....Karen Ruiz

kruiz@ssppp.org

Groundskeeper.....Alexander Bodoh

abodoh@ssppp.org

first Christmas for Mary and Joseph entailed dashed plans, isolation, danger, and threat of death. Not altogether different for many people around the world this Christmas.

But in the midst of all this chaos of the first Christmas was Jesus. In the midst of the chaos of Christmas this year, is Jesus. Hopefully we will keep him right there in the middle and he will not get pushed to the side because of the chaos caused by Covid. A baby brings a smile to everyone’s face. Meeting a baby is a warm, gentle and tender moment. Can you open your heart to allow the warmth, gentleness and tenderness of Jesus into your heart? People talk of making New Year’s resolutions. If Jesus has not been the center of your life or you have not prayed much, can you make a Christmas resolution to make Jesus the center of your life and keep him there by praying to him every day? Can spending time with Jesus every day be your Christmas gift to Jesus this Christmas? It would be a terrible waste not to get to know the Lord and instead only really meet him for the first time the moment you die. Why waste life on what is trivial and will not last? Every time you pray, every moment you spend with Jesus, will last into eternity. You get to know other people by spending time with them. Get to know Jesus by spending time with him. Can this Christmas change the course of history, change the course of the history of our lives?

The Christmas Truce as it is called, was the unofficial truce that sprang up in various places up and down the trenches between the Germans and the French and British soldiers in France in December 1914. It began with the Germans singing Christmas carols and then shortly after that the opposing sides played friendly football in no man’s land in the middle and took photographs



together with their personal cameras. From early January 1915 those photographs began to be published in newspapers to the astonishment and disbelief of everyone. The birth of Jesus changed the course of history in December 1914. The Christmas truce did not occur during the remaining three Christmases of World War I in 1915, 1916 or 1917 because it did not look good to have soldiers from opposing sides celebrating Christmas together. As we celebrate the birth of Jesus this Christmas, we also have the choice to allow the birth of Jesus to change the course of our history or be too embarrassed to let Jesus be the one guiding and leading us. If Jesus has not been the center of our lives or we have not prayed much, can spending time with Jesus every day be our Christmas gift to Jesus this Christmas?

May this Christmas season be a very blessed one!

Greg

A Word From Our Pastoral Leader

Mary and Joseph must have assumed as they set out for Bethlehem that they would be able to get lodging for travelers (Luke 2:4-5). Since they did not have hotels.com, they were not able to book ahead and alas when they arrived, they had no place to stay. Their hopes were dashed just as the hopes of many people all over the world for Christmas this year have been dashed due to Covid. Mary and Joseph must have felt isolated, just like many all over the world this Christmas. The only people nearby that night were the local essential workers, the shepherds (Luke 2:8). Then matters got worse when sometime after Jesus was born, there was danger and the threat of death since the visit of the wise men provoked jealousy in Herod (Matt 2). So, the

*Ss. Peter & Paul Parish Staff
wishes all of you a
Blessed & Merry Christmas!*



Mass Intentions:

Tuesday, December 28	8:15 AM Communion Service
Wednesday, December 29	8:15 AM Mass
Thursday, December 30	3:00 PM Mass
Friday, December 31	8:15 AM Mass 2:00 PM Wedding Hannah Gerseth & Dalton Marden
Saturday, January 1	3:30 PM Confession 4:30 PM Mass Barb Baumgart
Sunday, January 2	9:00 AM Mass Ss. Peter & Paul Parish

Liturgical Ministers

January 1-2 The Epiphany of the Lord

Lectors

- 4:30 PM - Sharon Nejedlo
- 9:00 AM - Marti Faignant

Musicians

- 4:30 PM - Sarah Werner, Millie McHugh
- 9:00 AM - Choir, Guitars, Mckenzie Lantz

Mass Collections (November 30-December 13)

Envelopes.....	\$13,090.00
Loose	\$233.10
Building Fund.....	\$1,357.00

Automatic Withdrawal

Sacrificial Giving.....	\$1,750.00
Building Fund.....	\$300.00

About \$7,069 is needed weekly from Sacrificial Giving to support the parish's budgeted expenses for 2021/2022. Thank you for your support.

Faith Formation

Wednesday, December 29

No Faith Formation Classes



Monday, December 27

Parish & Faith Formation Offices Closed

Tuesday, December 28

6:00 PM Choir Practice

Wednesday December 29

1:30 PM Rosary at Care Partners

Sunday, January 2

Coffee & Donuts after 9:00 AM Mass

Recycle Your Christmas Cards

We are collecting used Christmas cards which are needed for the Giving Tree gift tags. You can bring your cards to the Parish Office during the weekday or to church on the weekend. We collect cards throughout the year along with Birthday, Anniversary and Get Well cards. (Save the cancelled stamps!)



Prayer Line

Call Sally at 779-6689 with prayer requests



Pillars Scrip Giving Tree

Reminder to those who would like to donate for the Pillars

Scrip Giving Tree to do so by Christmas. Please make checks payable to Pillars. Pillars will then purchase Scrip Cards with the donations from Ss. Peter & Paul.

Thank you for your generosity!

We Are Collecting...

- ◆ **Cancelled stamps:** Do not peel or steam off the envelope. Simply cut around the stamp leaving a quarter of an inch of margin. Stamps will be given to Hobby Therapy for wounded veterans in the VA Hospitals
- ◆ **Pop & Beer tabs:** 4-H Group are collecting for the Ronald McDonald House



Parish & Faith Formation Offices will be closed on Monday, December 27 & January 3

Scrip Tip

Pay your Kohl's Bill with Scrip!

Is it time to pay your Kohl's charge bill? Please remember to purchase Kohl's gift cards and use them to pay your Kohl's bill. Cards are available in stock in \$10, \$25, \$50 and \$100 denominations. Every \$100 purchase of Kohl's gift cards generates \$5 profit for the parish! Remember that this will cost you nothing extra – you'll be paying your bill anyway!



Snow Shovel Team

Hey all you lovely, generous people of Ss Peter and Paul: We really could use some



more able bodied folks to be on our snow shovel team, Monday through Thursday (day time). It's just for the sidewalks. The lots are taken care of by Kenny G. and company and Alexander will do weekends and evenings. We'll all be on a sort of a rotating schedule, a few people per snowfall, or all of us if it's a big, bad one. There are 2 snow blowers, including a garden tractor with a portable cab for winter and shovels at almost every entrance and a salt spreader.

Please consider helping us out. Many hands make light work, (or something like that) If you would decide to be so kind as to help us out, please call Deacon Joe at 920-757-1668.



First Friday Adoration & Mass

Please join us on Friday, January 7 for First Friday Mass. Adoration begins at 6:00 AM followed by Mass at 9:00 AM.

After Mass, brunch will be served in the gym. Please join us after brunch for games and activities. All are welcome!

(We need at least one volunteer to be present in church during Adoration. If you can help for 30 minutes or more, there is a sign-up sheet in gathering space.)

2021 Contributions: Contributions need to be received or postmarked by December 31 to qualify for a 2021 charitable donation deduction.

Mass Intentions 2022

Reminder if you haven't scheduled your 2 Mass Intentions for 2022 to do so as soon as you can— about 25 Masses left for 2022!

Need candy?? We have Vande Walle's candy bars for sale! They make great stocking stuffers and holiday treats for all those special people in your life!



All proceeds will benefit future youth mission trips. We have single bars and boxes of 40 available.



Cost: \$1.25 each; 5 for \$6; box for \$46.

Contact the Faith Formation office to place your order at 920/779-0551 or lpugliese@ssppp.org.

Or, use the self-serve counter (no change available) in the Gathering Space after Mass, or at the parish office.

Checks payable to Ss Peter & Paul



Thank you for your continued support of our youth!!

GOSPEL MEDITATION

ENCOURAGE DEEPER UNDERSTANDING OF SCRIPTURE

"He so loved us that for our sake He was made man in time, through Whom all times were made; was in the world less in years than His servants, though older than the world itself in His eternity; was made man, Who made man; was created of a mother, whom He created; was carried by hands which He formed; nursed at the breasts which He had filled; cried in the manger in wordless infancy, He the Word without Whom all human eloquence is mute (St. Augustine, Sermon 188)."

The miracle of what happens at Christmas is truly an awesome mystery. Revealed in the silent ordinariness of life is God's intimate love for humanity and all that he made. The Word, existing for all time, comes and dwells among us. God kisses us. We can seek and soar with playful delight as a joy never known before fills our heart.

Joy is best expressed through dance. There is just something truly wonderful about the self-abandon a beautiful melodic dance reveals. If we are able to let go and really be free, it



celebrates life in a way few other experiences really can. With the birth of Jesus Christ, God takes the Divine Dance to a deeper and more tangible level. We can now not only see what we believe but believe what we see! This most perfect dance is a call to beauty, innocence, truth, purpose, hope, faith, and love. Today we know, beyond doubt, that we are a necessary part of God's beautifully choreographed masterpiece of life and not just a random happening without real intent or purpose. We are loved, treasured, and blessed.

Accepting the truth of God's birth in time we also accept an invitation to dance with God. We can let go of what tethers us to anxious concerns and superficial securities. Throw caution to the wind and go with God. We have been blessed with talents, gifts, and life eternal. Follow the rhythm of the dance with joy and listen to what the Word who became flesh tells us about what the next steps can be. Today, heaven remains the same, but earth has been profoundly changed.

The angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for behold, I proclaim to you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For today in the city of David a savior has been born for you who is Christ and Lord. And this will be a sign for you: you will find an infant wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger." - Lk 2:10-12

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DECEMBER 25, 2021

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GOSPEL MEDITATION

ENCOURAGE DEEPER UNDERSTANDING OF SCRIPTURE

Families can be very difficult things to negotiate. This is true not only of our families of origin, the current family of which we are a part, the family of our Church, our society, and our global family as well. Everything human can be found in family stories. Those stories speak of wonderful life-giving successes as well as painful spirit-robbing abuses. Our greatest joys and our greatest wounds are usually connected with the experience of family. Our needs, experiences, and unresolved baggage often color what we bring to our familiar relationships. They contribute to our level of defensiveness, how guarded and protected we become, and what prejudices we believe.

In order to break the cycle of dysfunction we have to remember that it is not only by human effort that we negotiate the difficult and challenging events of our lives. There is a Divine Effort at work as well. For sure, the human effort can create quite a mess and easily destroy lives. This is true of



any family with which we are associated. Today's Feast of the Holy Family serves to help us understand that there is a Divine Story being told as well. It is a story of perseverance in the face of hardship, determination in the face of despair, healing when we see nothing but wounds, and light where there is darkness.

Do we believe that God is always working, guiding, restoring, and leading? Unless we do, we will never be free from the imperfections and wounds that bind us and never be able

to understand what it really means to forgive. Pope Francis tells us that the "light which comes from the Holy Family encourages us to offer human warmth to other families." While this is most certainly true, we can only really begin to do this when we realize that we are still works in progress, not anchored to the wounds and sins of our past, and still a leading star in God's continually unfolding story of love. The Holy Family persevered and radiated warmth because they knew they were not alone. We can too.

He went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was obedient to them; and his mother kept all these things in her heart. And Jesus advanced in wisdom and age and favor before God and man.
- Lk 2:51-52

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DECEMBER 26, 2021

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Luke 2:11

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