



St. Peter's Church

Franciscans of the Sacred Heart Province

DECEMBER 20, 2020

**PLEASE SEE PAGE 5
FOR CURRENT SCHEDULE**

WEEKEND MASSES

Saturday: 12:00 noon

Saturday evening: 5:00 p.m.

(Sunday obligation satisfied)

Sundays: 9:00 a.m., 11:00 a.m.,
12:30 p.m., and 6:00 p.m.

WEEKDAY MASSES

6:15 a.m., 7:15 a.m., 8:15 a.m., 11:40 a.m.,
12:15 p.m., 1:15 p.m., 5:00 p.m.

Consult bulletin for special Holy Day and
Holiday Schedules.

CONFESSIONS

Weekdays: 7:30 a.m.—6:00 p.m.

Saturdays: 12:00 p.m.—4:30 p.m.

Consult bulletin for special Holy Day Schedule.

DEVOTIONS/PRAYER

Mondays & Wednesdays:

Evening Prayer after 5:00 p.m. Mass

Tuesdays: St. Anthony devotions after
every Mass

Friday: Marian devotions after 1:15 p.m. Mass

Eucharistic Adoration:

Monday - Friday 1:45—4:45 p.m.

Benediction: Monday - Friday , 4:45 p.m.

OFFICE HOURS

Weekdays: 9:00 a.m.- 6:00 p.m.

Saturdays: 12 noon - 6:00 p.m.

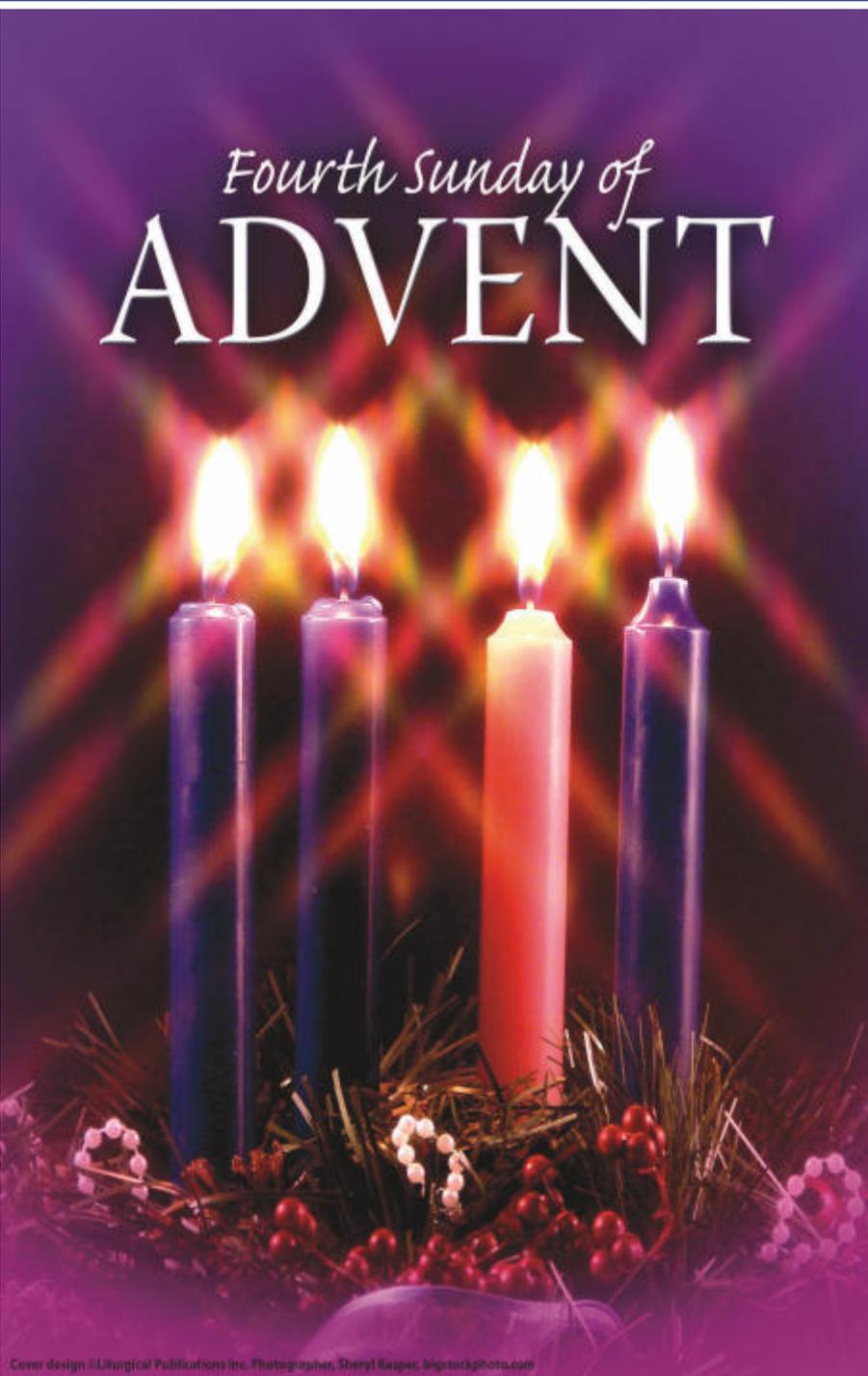
CHURCH HOURS

Weekdays: 5:30 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.

Saturdays: 11:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.

Sundays: 8:30 a.m.- 7:00 p.m.

Fourth Sunday of
ADVENT



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Catholic Resources

Please view the following websites for daily Mass, prayers and spiritual support:

- www.archchicago.org
- www.vatican.va
- www.usccb.org
- www.catholicstv.org
- www.ewtn.com
- www.relevantradio.com

Saints' Days and Observances

- Sun., December 20:** 4th Sunday of Advent
- Mon., December 21:** Advent Weekday
- Tues., December 22:** Advent Weekday
- Wed., December 23:** Advent Weekday
- Thurs., December 24:** Advent Weekday
- Fri., December 25:** The Nativity of Our Lord
- Sat., December 26:** St. Stephen

ST. PETER'S STAFF

Pastor

Fr. Michael J. Fowler O.F.M. 312-372-5111

Business Manager

Br. Clarence Klingert O.F.M. 312-372-5111

Programs Director

Fr. Derran Combs O.F.M. 312-372-5111

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Gilbert Mathews 312-853-2334

Communications & Events Director

Jo Ann Bednar 312-853-2376

Young Adult Ministry

Fr. Ed Shea O.F.M. 773-892-4134

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Gregory Ceurvorst 312-853-2412

Associate Director of Liturgy and Music

Coordinator of Liturgical Ministers

James Kapellas 312-853-2418

Director of Environment and Sacristan

Phil Bujnowski 312-628-1254

FRANCISCAN FRIAR STAFF

Friar Confessors & Staff:

- Fr. Michael Fowler O.F.M., Pastor
- Fr. Don Blaeser O.F.M.
- Fr. Johnpaul Cafiero O.F.M.
- Fr. Wenceslaus Church O.F.M.
- Fr. Derran Combs O.F.M.
- Fr. Mario DiCicco O.F.M.
- Fr. Tom Ess O.F.M.
- Br. Leo Geurts O.F.M.
- Fr. Kurt Hartrich O.F.M.
- Br. Clarence Klingert O.F.M.
- Br. Thomas Krull O.F.M.
- Br. William Lanning O.F.M.
- Fr. Ed McKenzie O.F.M.
- Br. Guillermo Morales O.F.M.
- Fr. George Musial O.F.M.
- Fr. Bill Rooney O.F.M.
- Fr. Carlos Ruiz O.F.M.
- Fr. Elric Sampson O.F.M.
- Fr. Ed Shea O.F.M.
- Fr. Ed Tverdek O.F.M.

Part-time Friar Staff:

- Fr. Arthur Anderson O.F.M.
- Fr. Abraham Joseph O.F.M.

In Residence:

- Br. Erlison Campos O.F.M.
- Br. Vagner Ferreira O.F.M.
- Fr. Robert Hutmacher O.F.M.
- Fr. Robert Karris O.F.M.
- Br. Bill Schulte O.F.M.
- Br. Marc Sheckells O.F.M.
- Br. Raymond Shuhert O.F.M.
- Fr. Paul Tuan O.F.M.



FRANCISCAN PROVINCE OF THE SACRED HEART

ORDER OF FRIARS MINOR

WEEKLY COLLECTIONS

Many thanks to those of you who have contributed to St. Peter's collection this past week. Your gifts are essential to our ministry, and we are grateful.

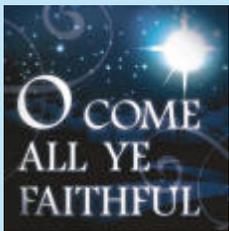
Weekly Goal	\$ 12,000
Nov. 29-Dec. 5 Total	\$ 1,600
	Difference\$ -10,400

THOUGHTS FROM THE PASTOR



Today as we light the four Advent candles we realize Christmas will soon be here. Whether we are ready or not the birthday of our Lord and Savior arrives Friday and we are invited to celebrate that great event.

Unfortunately, this year, due to COVID protocols, we cannot sing with loud voices our familiar carols. However, I encourage you to reflect upon the words of those carols and the important message of hope that they give to us in our time. The carol, **Joy to the World** speaks of a joy of the heart, a joy that calls us to realize we have been visited by God and offered eternal salvation. *“Joy to the world! the Lord is come; Let earth receive her King; Let every heart prepare him room, And heaven and nature sing, And heaven and nature sing, And heaven and nature sing.”*



While we are restricted in the number of people who may join us for each Mass this year be assured the Franciscans and those who gather for our Christmas Masses are keeping everyone in our prayers. We especially remember those who have been impacted by the COVID virus in our prayers. To those who have been ill, those who have lost loved ones to the virus, to the dedicated workers in hospitals, health care facilities, essential workers, first responders, the elderly and all who have been impacted by this disease I share with you our prayers and the words of the angel to the shepherds in Luke’s Gospel, *“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.”* (Luke 2:10)

A few days before Christmas of 1223, St. Francis of Assisi asked his good friend a man named John, who lived in the Rieti Valley of central Italy to come and visit him. St. Francis said to him, *“If you would like us to celebrate this feast day of the Lord in Greccio, then go there ahead of me and prepare what I tell you. I would like to portray the Child born in Bethlehem and to see somehow with my bodily eyes the hardship he underwent because he lacked all a newborn’s needs, the way he was placed in a manger and how he lay on the hay between the ox and donkey.”* (cf. *Thomas of Celano, First Life*) And from that humble request the tradition of the Nativity scene has down through time been reminding us of the birth of Christ.

We come together this Christmas 2020 with our own image of the Nativity scene, whether here in church or

in our homes, but united with St. Francis and countless others down the ages who have come to adore Jesus Our Lord and King. In the midst of presents and Santa Claus, bringing our laughter and tears, our frequent or occasional practice of the faith we all come today to worship together Emmanuel, *“God become one with us”*.



The Nativity scene reminds us how *“Christ Jesus, who though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God something to be grasped. Rather, he emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, coming in human likeness.... becoming obedient to death, even*

death on a cross.” (Phil. 2:8) As we gather to celebrate this Christmas season of 2020 may we all bow down in humble adoration of the Lord of the Universe.....Jesus Christ! Below you will find a prayer for blessing of your Christmas Tree and a Christmas Blessing for your home.

I remind you that confessions are scheduled at St. Peters this week Monday-Wednesday from 10:30am until 3:00pm. Please note there are no confessions scheduled for December 24. If you plan to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation at St. Peter's before Christmas please be sure to mark these days and times in your calendar.



On December 24 the church is closed for cleaning and decorating for Christmas.

Christmas Masses are on December 24 at 4:00 pm and 7:00 pm. On December 25 Masses are at 9:00 am and 11:00 am. Please call the church offices to reserve a place at one of the Christmas Masses. For the safety of everyone attending Masses in the Archdiocese at this time, we are restricted on the number of people who may attend. If you know someone who is not aware of the present restrictions please be sure and remind them to call the church if they plan to attend and register for one of the Christmas Masses.



Thanks to our great parish staff, dedicated volunteers, the Franciscan Friars and so many others we are able to provide Christmas Masses this year. Though our services will not be as celebratory as in other years we still can give thanks to God for coming among us so many years ago to offer peace and good will to all in our world.



On behalf of the Church staff and the Franciscan Friars, I wish you a Blessed Christmas season. May our celebration of the birth of our Savior remind each of us of our Baptismal call to faithfully follow the Lord Jesus.

May God bless everyone this holy Christmas Season!

Fr. Michael

BLESSING OF CHRISTMAS TREE



Lord our God, we praise you for the light of creation: the sun, the moon, and the stars of the night. We praise you for Jesus Christ, your Son: he is Emmanuel, God-with-us, the Prince of Peace, who fills us with the wonder of your love.

Let your blessing come upon us as we illumine this tree. May the light and cheer it gives be a sign of the joy that fills our hearts. may all who delight in this tree come to the knowledge and joy of salvation. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.
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CHRISTMAS BLESSING OF HOME

(The head of the household leads the prayer)

Lord God of heaven and earth, you revealed your only-begotten Son to every nation by the guidance of a star. Bless our home and all who live here. Fill us with the light of Christ, that our concern for others may reflect your love. Through Christ our Lord. Amen
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Mass Schedule

Christmas Eve

Thursday, December 24

*4 pm & 7 pm—Church Opens at 3 pm
4 pm Mass Live Streamed on YouTube*

Christmas Day

Friday, December 25

9 am & 11 am

The church will be closed after the 11 am Mass for the day.

New Year's Eve Mass

Thursday, December 31

5 pm

New Year's Day Mass

Friday, January 1, 2021

10 am

*Reservations are required to attend all Masses.
Call 312-372-5111 to reserve a space at Mass.*

A Prayer of St. Francis of Assisi

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace;

Where there is hatred, let me sow love;

Where there is injury, pardon;

Where there is doubt, faith;

Where there is despair, hope;

Where there is darkness, light;

And where there is sadness, joy.

O Divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek to be consoled, as to console;

To be understood, as to understand;

To be loved as to love;

For it is in giving that we receive;

It is in pardoning that we are pardoned;

And it is in dying that we are born to eternal life.





Reconciliation at St. Peter's Church

December 21 through December 23

Two Confession Rooms will be available
Monday through Saturday
10:30 am until 3 pm

No Confessions on December 24.

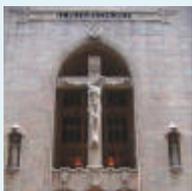


ZOOM Mass Schedule Sundays at 5 pm

As we continue to face the coronavirus pandemic, we will also continue to celebrate a weekly Mass on ZOOM here at St. Peter's. **Fr. Ed Shea OFM** will celebrate the Mass every Sunday at 5:00 pm until further notice. **To access the ZOOM Mass, use the following Code and Password:**

<https://zoom.us/j/7738924134>

Password: EdSheaOFM



St. Peter's Church Mass Schedule Mondays through Fridays Mass Times: 11:40 am & 1:15 pm

Sundays

Mass Times: 9 am and 11 am

Church Open for Mass 8:30 am until 12:30 pm

A reservation is required to attend Mass.
Please call the Church Office at **312-372-5111**
Monday-Friday between 9:00 am and 6:00 pm
or on Saturday between 10:30 am and 4:30 pm.

Confession

Mondays through Saturdays
10:30 am until 3 pm

Room B in the Lower Level Auditorium

For further information please view the website stpetersloop.org or call **312-372-5111**.

Everyone entering the building must wear a face mask at all times and practice social distancing.

THIS WEEK'S SCRIPTURE STUDY

Luke 1: 26-38

If the angel Gabriel appeared to you how would you respond? How would you feel if you were asked to give birth to Jesus? Speaking for myself, if an angel of the Lord ever appeared



to me I'd probably be too frightened to reply! Maybe that's why, whenever we hear about an angel appearing to someone, one of the first things they say is "do not be afraid". Mary was frightened, too.

When we picture the Annunciation, the event Luke describes in this Sunday's Gospel, we usually picture Mary kneeling at prayer. But Luke doesn't say that. Luke only says "the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a town of Galilee...to a virgin...and the virgin's name was Mary." Since we aren't told exactly what Mary was doing at the time many artists have chosen to depict her praying. But what if the angel had come in the middle of the morning and found Mary sweeping the kitchen floor? Or if he had come later in the day and found her helping Ann prepare the evening meal? Would the angel have sped back to heaven, certain that the time was unworthy of so profound an invitation? Would the holy cards seem less 'holy' if the pictures of the Annunciation showed Mary going about the duties of her parents' household? Or, on the other hand, would the everyday duties necessary to taking care of a household seem more holy if we pictured Gabriel greeting Mary in the kitchen?

The truth is that we are all, to use Dorothy Day's words, *entertaining angels* at every moment and in every encounter, whether at home or at work, at school or at play, at rest or at prayer. The question is, how do we respond to the heavenly visitors God sends into our lives? Do we send them away, frightened and convinced that we are unworthy of the visit? Or, whether we're kneeling in prayer or on our knees scrubbing the kitchen floor, do we, like Mary, invite them in, trusting that the Holy Spirit will come upon us right where we are?

By Vinal Van Benthem ofs



St. Peter's Church

Virtual Advent Lecture Series

View on St. Peter's YouTube Channel!

Advent Before Christmas:

Celebrating the Incarnation in Word and Song-

December 1

Fr. Robert Hutmacher, O.F.M.

Mary in Advent Through Scripture and Art

December 8

Fr. Johnpaul Cafiero, O.F.M.

The Real Christmas Story:

Unveiling the Truths within the Infancy Narratives

December 15

Fr. Ed Shea, O.F.M.

Where Are You? What Are You Looking For?:

Biblical Reflections on the Mystery of Advent

December 22

Fr. Derran Combs, O.F.M.

From Virus to Virtue:

Finding Hope and Joy at Christmastime

Volunteers Needed—Can You Help?

An important part of insuring the safety of everyone who comes to St. Peter's are our dedicated volunteers who help our security team with welcoming folks to the church, taking touchless temperatures and making sure everyone who comes has a mask. Our greeters for the Masses help direct people to our pews, guide them for receiving communion and welcome all who come to Mass in church.

As the restrictive guidelines continue we have become aware that we need a few more volunteers to help with welcoming people to the church, help with directing people who have come for confession to their place and volunteers to help as ushers for the Masses. **If you are able and willing to help as a volunteer please contact James Kapellas at 312-853-2418.** Your assistance will help us to continue to offer people an opportunity for confession and an opportunity to come to Mass on weekdays and weekends.

Fr. Michael



Little Rock Scripture Study

Register for the

2021 Winter Session

Program will take place via ZOOM!

Panorama of the New Testament

Beginning with Gospels and Acts and continuing through the letters and final book of the bible, *Panorama of the New Testament* invites us into familiar scenes but with a wide-angle lens to capture the big picture. For newcomers to Bible study, this is a wonderful place to begin to put the pieces together; for seasoned Bible students, this study identifies major themes that emerge throughout the New Testament books. Commentary, study and reflection questions, prayer, and access to recorded lectures are included in the 4 Lessons. Fr. Derran Combs, O.F.M., Ph.D. will facilitate the ZOOM sessions.

Before tuning into the Little Rock ZOOM live sessions, registered participants are asked to prepare by reading the assigned lessons in advance from the textbook.

Meeting Time and Dates:

Fridays, 12:15-1 pm—Jan. 8, 15, 22 & 29, 2021

\$12 Program Fee payable by cash or check includes book. To register please contact Jo Ann Bednar at 312-853-2376; or email joannstpeters@gmail.com.



**Introduction to Mark's Gospel:
Sunday Readings Cycle B**

Presented by

Fr. Robert Karris, O.F.M., Th.D.

View on St. Peter's YouTube Channel!

SESSION ONE

General Introduction Lectionary, Pericope-itis, Reading Mark's Gospel in One Seating

SESSION TWO

Fundamentals Outline, Time and Genre

SESSION THREE

Food and the Pox (sic) Romana, The Tale of Two Banquets

SESSION FOUR

The Twelve, Disciples, and the Fallible Followers

Join Fr. Robert Karris as he presents us with a solid introduction to Mark's Gospel. As the liturgical year that features Mark's Gospel moves along, people can return to his presentations for guidance and refreshment. Fr. Robert will challenge his viewers to read Mark's Gospel, to bring their bibles to each session, and to be proactive and not passive recipients.



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Spiritual Direction is a way of listening for God's wisdom and understanding in our daily life by talking about our relationship with God and others.

Sr. Fran Sulzer FSPA, D. Min. and **Br. Guillermo Morales OFM** will work with persons who contact them for an appointment. Sr. Fran is also a counselor for people who choose or need a more clinical approach. Appointments can be made for times between **10:30 am and 3 pm.**

To contact Sr. Fran email:

fmsulzer@gmail.com

To contact Br. Guillermo email:

gamorales05@gmail.com



Please wear a mask or face covering when entering St. Peter's Church. All visitors must have their temperature taken and hands sanitized prior to entering the church. Thank you.



If you would like to contribute to St. Peter's Church in this time of need, please go to the website stpetersloop.org and click on the **Online Giving** link.



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