



St. Peter's Church

Franciscans of the Sacred Heart Province

JANUARY 10, 2021

A reservation is required to attend Mass. Please call 312-372-5111 to reserve a space at Mass.

Weekend Masses

Sundays
9:00 am and 11:00 am

Weekday Masses

Mondays through Fridays
11:40 am and 1:15 pm

Confessions

Lower Level of the Church
No reservation required.

Mondays through Saturdays
10:30 am until 3:00 pm

Devotions

Tuesdays

St. Anthony Devotions
After the 11:40 am and 1:15 pm
Masses.

Office Hours

Mondays through Fridays
9:00 am until 6:00 pm

Saturdays
10:30 am until 4:30 pm

Church Hours

Mondays through Saturdays
10:30 am until 3:00 pm

Sundays
8:30 am until 12:30 pm

*Please wear a face covering
and practice social distancing.*



THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD

This is what John the Baptist proclaimed: "One mightier than I is coming after me. I am not worthy to stoop and loosen the thongs of his sandals. I have baptized you with water; he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit." - Mk 1:7-8

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.

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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., January 10:** The Baptism of the Lord
- Mon., January 11:** Ordinary Time
- Tues., January 12:** Ordinary Time
- Wed., January 13:** Ordinary Time
- Thurs., January 14:** Day of Prayer to End Racism
- Fri., January 15:** Ordinary Time
- Sat., January 16:** St. Berard & Companions

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

Director of Public Safety

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

Director of Liturgy and Music

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
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- 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.
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- Br. Guillermo Morales O.F.M.
- Fr. George Musial O.F.M.
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- 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:

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- Fr. Abraham Joseph O.F.M.

In Residence:

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- 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.
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FRANCISCAN PROVINCE OF THE SACRED HEART ORDER OF FRIARS MINOR

WEEKLY COLLECTIONS

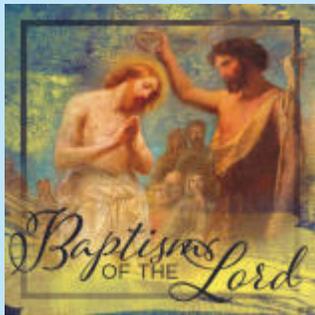
Many thanks to those of you who have contributed to St. Peter's collection this past week. Your gifts are essential to our ministry, and we are grateful.

Weekly Goal	\$ 12,000
December 20-26	Total\$ 4,747
	Difference\$ - 7,253
Weekly Goal	\$ 12,000
Dec. 27-Jan. 2	Total\$ 2,177
	Difference\$ - 9,823

THOUGHTS FROM THE PASTOR



On this second Sunday of the New Year 2021 we celebrate the feast of the Baptism of the Lord. Today we are reminded of our own baptism and God's call to each of us to live the Gospel. We are asked by the Church to reflect on how we might live our baptismal call each and every day of our life. Parents, Godparents, indeed all of us who are members of the Church, are reminded that no child grows in faith alone. The familiar saying, "*It take a village to raise a child,*" is never more clear than when we look at passing on our Catholic faith to children or those new to the faith.



As we all should know, becoming a Catholic, being faithful to Jesus Christ, living the Commandments of loving God and neighbor is not accomplished by the mere pouring of the baptismal water. Baptism only begins a life-long task of growing in faith and love of God and neighbor.

For over 2,000 years babies, young children, teenagers and older men and women, have had the saving waters of Baptism poured upon them in varied places throughout the world. Whether it was in the first wooden frame church, here in our present church or perhaps in an emergency in the hospital; St. Peter's Church has been a place where thousands have received new life in God through Baptism. That passing on of our faith and baptizing new members in the 21st century continues throughout the world.

In the Rite of Baptism for Children, the celebrant says, "*You have asked to have your children baptized. In doing so you are accepting the responsibility of training them in the practice of the faith. It will be your duty to bring them up to keep God's commandments as Christ taught us by loving God and our neighbor. Do you clearly understand what you are undertaking?*"

Parents rightly are the first teachers of their children in the ways of faith. The Rite of Baptism makes that point quite clear. Though the words I have placed below are addressed to parents and godparents, just before the Baptism, they are also directed to each of us who belong to this parish and who welcome new members through Baptism. As a baptized member of the Catholic faith, I invite you to reflect upon these words, taken from the 2020 revised Rite of Baptism, on this feast of the Baptism of the Lord.

"Through the Sacrament of Baptism the children you have presented are about to receive from the love of God new life by water and the Holy Spirit. For your part, you must strive to bring them up in the faith, so that this divine life may be preserved from the contagion of sin, and may grow in them day by day. If your faith makes you ready to accept this responsibility, then, mindful of your own Baptism, renounce sin and profess faith in Christ Jesus, the faith of the Church, in which children are baptized." (Rite of Baptism, 2020)

When we present our children or adults to receive Baptism it is the beginning of a life-long journey with God and incorporation into the Christian community.

As we celebrate this feast of the Baptism of the Lord we also come to the completion of the Christmas season. We will return to green vestments and Ordinary Time tomorrow, Monday, January 11. The next change of seasons in the Church will be the beginning of Lent on February 17, Ash Wednesday.

As we come to the end of the Christmas Season and return to Ordinary Time we realize that the last few months, as well as the coming months are far from our ordinary experience. The on-going danger of the COVID virus has altered our "*ordinary*" way of life. Though vaccines are now being given to help prevent this disease it appears that it will takes months for everyone to have the opportunity to receive the vaccine. News reports these past few weeks are shocking in the growing number of those who have been affected by the virus. And even more tragic is the growing number of people here in Illinois, in other states and throughout the world who have died because of COVID.

What is even more tragic to me is the number of people who continue to deny the danger of this virus. If we say we respect all of life, I wonder how we can justify not wearing a mask in public. In the face of overwhelming scientific evidence of the danger of COVID and the steps we can take to help prevent the spread of this disease, there are still those who put themselves and countless others at risk because of behaviors that ignore medical advice on how to stay safe.

If you make one New Year's resolution this year I would urge you to resolve to do your share of helping prevent the spread of COVID. Resolve to wear a mask, wash your hands frequently, avoid large crowds, read responsible articles from trustworthy medical people about what actions you can do in the face of this disease and remember to pray for those afflicted with the virus. Keep in your prayers and do all you can to support our medical people, those who work in essential jobs (grocery workers, delivery people, those who clean and



disinfect buildings, first responders, firefighters, police, military personnel, etc) and all caregivers.

Last Sunday in his reflection, after praying the Angelus, Pope Francis offered the following greeting. I share it with you today for your reflection in the coming week. May you have a safe week.

Fr. Michael

Pope Francis, *Angelus*,
January 3, 2021, Vatican City



Dear brothers and sisters,

I renew to you all my wishes for the Year that has just begun. As Christians, we tend to shun the mentality of fatalism or magic; we know that things we

improve to the extent that, with God's help, we work together for the common good, placing the weakest and most disadvantaged at the centre. We do not know what 2021 holds for us, but what each one of us, and all of us together, can do is to take care of each other and of creation, our common home.

It is true, there is the temptation to take care only of our own interests, to continue to wage war, for example, concentrating only on the economic aspect, to live hedonistically, that is, seeking only to satisfy our own pleasure... there is that temptation. I read something in the newspapers that saddened me greatly: in one country, I forget which, more than 40 aircraft left, to enable people to flee from the lockdown and to enjoy the holidays. But those people, good people, did they not think about those who stayed at home, about the economic problems faced by many people who have been floored by the lockdown, about the sick? They thought only about taking a holiday for their own pleasure. This pained me greatly.

I address a special greeting to those who begin the new year with greater difficulties, the sick, the unemployed, to those who live situations of oppression or exploitation. And with affection I wish to greet all families, especially those in which there are young children or which are expecting a birth. A birth is always a promise of hope. I am close to these families: may the Lord bless you!

I wish you all a blessed Sunday, thinking always of Jesus who became flesh precisely to dwell with us, in the good things and the bad, always. Please, do not forget to pray for me. Have a good meal, and *arrivederci!*



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.

Please Note:

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

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
Monday through Saturday
10:30 am until 3 pm
Lower Level
No Reservation Required



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

THIS WEEK'S
SCRIPTURE STUDY

Mk. 1: 7-11

According to recent news reports, as water from the Jordan valley is diverted elsewhere the water level of the Dead Sea into which this water previously flowed is shrinking at a rate

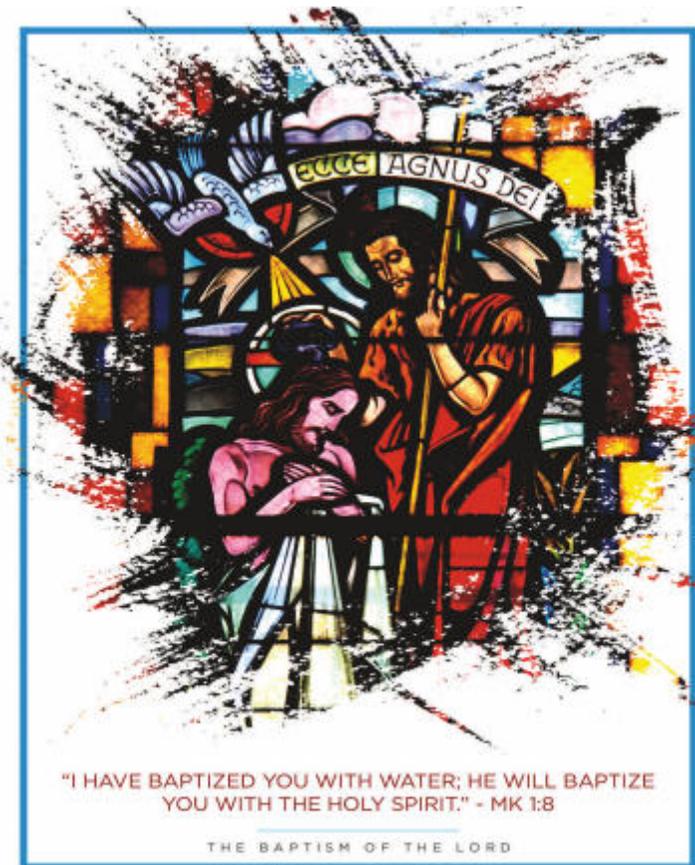


of more than one metre per year. The Red Sea-Dead Sea Conveyance is a planned pipeline intended to carry water from the Red Sea to replenish the Dead Sea and to provide potable water to Jordan, Israel and the Palestinian territories. The project represents a rare example of cooperation between Israel, Jordan and the Palestinians. It would seem that water, albeit it salty and almost unusable, is so precious that even people divided by war will come together in order to preserve it.

What do we think of when we think of water? We know we need water to drink but what about all the other things we do with water? Here in mid-Wisconsin we enjoy boating and fishing, swimming and water skiing. We bathe in water. We use water to cook our food. But we also realize that water can be dangerous. A person can drown and die in water. In times of drought water can mean the difference between bringing a crop to harvest and watching clouds of dusty soil blow away on a hot, dry wind. When rains are heavy entire towns can be destroyed, homes swept away in torrential floods. The presence or absence of water can literally mean the difference between life and death.

Is it any wonder, then, that we use water when we baptize. For John the Baptist water baptism symbolized cleansing from sin. At Jesus' baptism water came to symbolize much more. "On coming up out of the water He saw the heavens being torn open..." Jesus, the Messiah, would reunite heaven and earth in an unbreakable bond of love. As the waters of Baptism poured around Him "...the Spirit ...descend[ed] upon him...". In Baptism the Spirit has also been poured out upon us. Do we understand what that means? Are we open to all that Baptism requires of us? Is our Baptism a sacrament of unity? A pipeline of grace? Or an excuse for war in a divided world?

By Vinal Van Benthem ofs





**January 10, 2021
The Baptism of the Lord**

We need history. We need it in order to understand ourselves, personally and collectively. The pieces of our histories may not have always been the most positive, honest, exemplary, dignified, proud and best moments of our lives, but they are ours. We have to acknowledge, remember, accept, and often heal them. We cannot forget them or pretend that they never existed. As horrible as the atrocities of events like Auschwitz, brutal injustices committed throughout the human journey, or personal painful experiences in our own stories, we need to remember. These times when humanity in general or people in particular have lost their way are times that need to be reconciled and redeemed.

If we lose the memories, we will make the same mistakes again. The human soul needs a strong sense of affirmation, direction, and clear purpose. Without these essentials, we will easily run amuck and repeat the sins of our past. God's voice throughout history has spoken precisely about this! We are reminded through the voices and example of many prophets and witnesses not to make the same mistakes again, come back to center, discover the purpose given to us by God, maintain a sense of proper direction, seek healing for wounds and be reconciled to our Creator.

Baptism is so incredibly important for the salvation of humankind, not only eternally but here and now. Our existence depends upon it. It gives us the affirmation we need from God by gifting us with the same intimate relationship Jesus had with the Father. We are blessed with the direction and clear purpose we need in order to be productive stewards and faithful Christians. Baptism calls us to remember, accept, and deal with the sins and inequities of our past regardless of how hurtful and serious. We consciously choose to turn away from them and put on the new life of Christ. To do this well, we must look hard and long at our sins and failings, listen to what they are saying and learn from them. If we ignore the past, collectively or personally, or pretend that it never happened, we will never grow. We will surely die.

People need to hear the message, lived and spoken, delivered by the baptized members of the Body of Christ. It is an essential message of hope that is layered with visions of justice, peace, reconciliation, redemption, blessing, and healing. It is a message that helps us remember what has gone before, the graces and the sins, and bring ourselves by God's help where we need to be. We are called to do much more than sit home behind our closed doors. We have a message to deliver. Are we ready to do so? ©LPi



**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. 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.

***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



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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.



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



Subscribe to the Bulletin Online!

If you would like to receive St. Peter's Church Bulletin electronically, please go to www.stpetersloop.org. Go to the Bulletin section on the home page and click on the link "Subscribe to our Publications". You can sign up to have the bulletins emailed to you. If attending Mass or going to Confession, bulletins are available at the Security Desk.



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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