



St. Peter's Church

Franciscans of the Sacred Heart Province

AUGUST 22, 2021

WEEKEND MASSES

Saturdays

5:00 pm Vigil Mass for Sunday

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

Mondays through Fridays

10:30 am until 3:00 pm

Saturdays

12 noon until 4:30 pm

DEVOTIONS

St. Anthony Devotions on Tuesdays

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 BUILDING OPEN

Mondays through Fridays

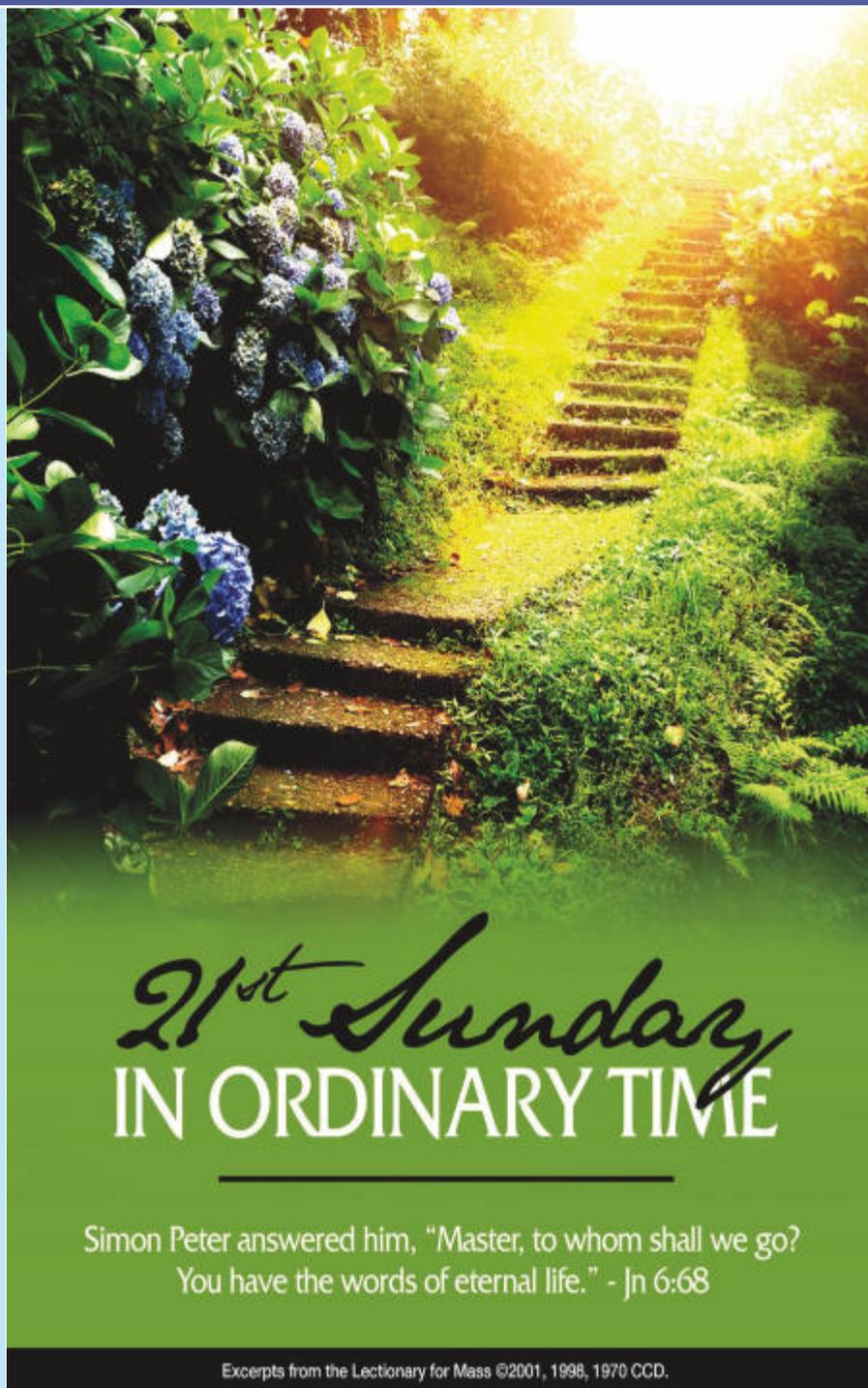
10:30 am until 3:00 pm

Saturdays

12 noon until 6:00 pm

Sundays

8:30 am until 12:30 pm



21st Sunday
IN ORDINARY TIME

Simon Peter answered him, "Master, to whom shall we go?
You have the words of eternal life." - Jn 6:68

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., August 22:** 21st Sunday in Ordinary Time
- Mon., August 23:** Ordinary Time
- Tues., August 24:** St. Bartholomew
- Wed., August 25:** St. Louis IX
- Thurs., August 26:** Ordinary Time
- Fri., August 27:** St. Monica
- Sat., August 28:** St. Augustine

ST. PETER'S STAFF

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Associate Director of Liturgy and Music

Coordinator of Liturgical Ministers

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Director of Environment and Sacristan

Phil Bujnowski 312-628-1254

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- Fr. Derran Combs O.F.M.
- Fr. Mario DiCicco O.F.M.
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- Fr. Ed Tverdek O.F.M.

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- Br. Vagner Ferreira O.F.M.
- Fr. Robert Hutmacher O.F.M.
- Fr. Robert Karris O.F.M.
- Fr. Gilbert Ostdiek O.F.M.
- Br. Bill Schulte 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
August 8-14 Total	\$ 3,979
Difference	\$ - 8,021

Mission Co-Op Collection

August 7-8

\$1,322

THOUGHTS FROM THE PASTOR



In John's Gospel today we hear that many of the disciples of Jesus were getting impatient with the message Jesus was sharing with them. He heard them murmuring among themselves, *"This saying is hard; who can accept it?"* Christ tells his hearers, *"The words I have spoken to you are Spirit and life."* However, Christ's call to live the Gospel way of life seemed too hard and as St. John notes in today's Gospel, *"As a result of this, many of his disciples returned to their former way of life and no longer accompanied him."*

We who live these many centuries after Jesus spoke to the crowds in Galilee also struggle to follow Christ's words and life. And as Jesus asked the Apostles, so he also asks us in these difficult times, *"Do you also want to leave?"* Though life is often very hard hopefully each of us will answer the Lord's question to us with the words of St. Peter in the Gospel, *"Master, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. We have come to believe and are convinced that you are the Holy One of God."*

The mis-information that seems to spread without basis in facts about COVID vaccines, the increasing disregard for the welfare of others, increasing unsafe driving practices on our streets and highways, the ease of obtaining lethal weapons and willingness to use them without any consideration of the consequences and what appears to be a growing lack of faith in God and respect for the dignity of all people all seem to weigh heavily upon our daily life.

In the midst of what might lead us all to despair, I find hope and strength in the practices of our faith that Pope Francis calls us all to live. Some of the bishops of our Church speak out strongly and boldly challenging us to respect ALL life and people. Committed clergy, religious and laity give us powerful witness of how to be faithful to Christ and loving to our fellow human beings.

There are more than enough pundits spouting on social media, radio waves, TV programs, in print media and others ways *"doom & gloom"* these days. However, the message of hope, of the dignity of all people and the call to work toward a society of respect for others is being proclaimed by many committed people.

On Wednesday, August 11, 2021 Cardinal Cupich issued a statement on the killing of Chicago Police Officer, Ella French, and the wounding of her partner during a routine traffic stop. In his statement Cardinal Cupich also addressed the need for all people of good

will to commit to protecting life. Officer French was committed to social justice. A little over a month ago, Officer French raced in her squad car to bring a 1-month old victim of a shooting to the hospital. That child survives today thanks to the quick thinking of Officer French.



The weekend that Officer French was killed there were over 73 shootings in Chicago with 11 fatalities. How long can a civilized city allow such tragedies to continue? As Cardinal Cupich points out in his statement, just because tragedy doesn't impact us directly, *"We are not released from the responsibility to understand WHY such violence plagues our city and our nation."* I have placed below the entire August 11, 2021 Statement of Cardinal Cupich. I highly encourage you to read his words and ask yourself what YOU might do to bring peace to our city and live daily the message of Jesus every moment of your life.

Statement of Cardinal Cupich on the Killing of Chicago Police Officer Ella French August 11, 2021

Saturday night, members of a Chicago Police Department's Community Safety Team stopped a vehicle for an expired license plate. Soon after, Officer Ella French, just 29 years old, was shot and killed by one of the occupants of the civilian vehicle. Another officer was badly wounded in the exchange of gunfire and remains in critical condition. We pray for him, for his family and friends, just as we pray for Officer French and her family and friends, as they cope with the terrible reality that their loved one was taken from them in another act of senseless violence. We can only imagine their pain, as we hold them in prayer and stand with them and all first responders who risk their safety every day to protect our communities and keep the peace.

They do this in a context of almost unimaginable complexity. A traffic stop turns deadly on a dime. One officer dead, the other fighting for his life. The alleged shooter, just 21 years old. Another suspect reportedly flees the scene, only to be detained by the neighbors whose fence he jumped to get away. Federal officials say the shooter obtained the weapon that killed Officer French through a straw purchase made by an Indiana man who bought the gun in Hammond — because his friend was ineligible owing to his criminal record.

The degree to which we take seriously the epidemic of



gun violence will be measured by the effort we put into ridding our streets of illegal guns and weapons of war. Every day our elected officials fail to institute common-sense gun-reform laws, such as universal background checks and crackdowns on straw purchases, is a day we fail as a society to uphold the value of all human life.

By the same token, our commitment to protecting life will be judged by the work we put into building up the common good and redressing systemic injustice, not only through acts of remote charity — clicking to donate, posting to social media — but also through indispensable acts of proximate charity — giving food to the hungry, working to know our neighbors in need, no matter where they live. Committing acts of violence against the innocent can never be excused. But that does not mean we are released from the responsibility to understand why such violence plagues our city and our nation.

How can we understand such tragedies when none seems susceptible to logic? How can we make a difference when the crisis seems so enormous? There is no denying it: this has been a season of senselessness in Chicago, with gun violence rising and mass shootings becoming a regular occurrence. But we can never allow ourselves to become numb in the face of injustice, no matter how crushingly common it seems. (there have been more than 1,000 victims of mass shootings in Chicago over the past six years.) We shudder when we hear of the child hit by gunfire, but do we remember her name? We mourn the slain police officer, but do we see beyond the uniform? These questions are not meant to condemn, but to awaken us from the zombified state of polarization that suffuses our society today. We pick sides, even neighborhoods, rally with the likeminded, close ourselves to conversation with those who might disagree, derive meaning from the conflict, and gather ourselves into silos of politics, culture and even religion.

This is not what God wants for his family. Officer French's brother Andrew, an Iraq War veteran, wanted us to understand that his sister's decision to join the force grew out of her commitment to social justice. And we can see the evidence: According to the child's uncle, Officer French drove a 1-month-old and her mother to the hospital last month, after the baby suffered a gunshot wound to the head during a mass shooting in Englewood. The infant survived and is recovering. As Andrew French told the Chicago Tribune, "My sister's always been a person of integrity. She's always done the right thing even when nobody's looking." Of course, as Andrew knows, God was looking. God sees with the eyes of a loving parent. Even when we are beset by grief, feeling utterly alone, on the precipice of despair, God never abandons us, because we are his children, all of us.

Those who choose to run away from seeking some resolution of this plague of violence are like those who ran away from Jesus when he challenged them to believe in him and to "love your neighbor as yourself." As we pray the Peace Prayer at the conclusion of each Mass here at St. Peter's, may each of us seek to put those words into practice in our daily life.

May God's Spirit guide each of us in these difficult times and may our actions lead others to Christ and one another. May each us speak the words of St. Peter to Jesus, "You have the words of eternal life. We have come to believe and are convinced that you are the Holy One of God."

Fr. Michael



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.

Register Now for the 2021 Virtual Gala!

You must register to participate in the silent and live auctions. Bidding on auction items begins Sept. 27!

Please note...

If you are having any issues registering on the Gala site, please contact GiveSmart at 1-855-322-4483, choose Option 1, ID# 84479. Thank you!



PLEASE JOIN US!

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7th ANNUAL GALA

OCTOBER 2, 2021

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St. Peter's 7th Annual Gala

Sponsors & Auction Items Needed!

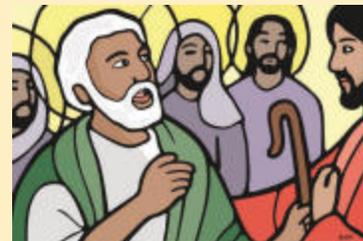
To help make this evening a success, we are seeking sponsorships and auction items including: vacation getaways, unique experiences, dinner and theater packages, tickets to athletic events, gift cards, jewelry, sports memorabilia, and golf packages. All donations are greatly appreciated and tax deductible.

Please contact Fr. Mario DiCicco at: **312-372-5111** if you would like to become a sponsor and/or donate an auction item.

**THIS WEEK'S
SCRIPTURE STUDY**

Joshua 24:1-2a, 15-17, 18b; John 6:60-69

“As for me and my household, we will serve the Lord.” Except when it gets to be too difficult, or when it means making an ethical decision that might make me less than popular with the people I



work with, or when it means using quality materials even though importing cheaper goods would increase profits, or when it means implementing fair pricing standards and responsible lending practices, or when it means conserving energy or disposing of waste products appropriately. “This saying is hard, who can accept it?”

We're all familiar with “John 3:16”. We see it at sporting events and on billboards. “God so loved the world...”. This certainly seems easy enough to accept. After all, doesn't everyone want to be loved? But how do we respond? Or do we even see any need to respond? John 3:16 doesn't say anything about responding. Isn't God's love free and unconditional?

The answer would, of course, be “yes”. But there's another part – *our* part. Do we *accept* God's love? Because if we do, then we must choose to be bound to God just as accepting the love of a friend means that we are bound to our friend. We cannot accept God's love on Sunday morning and then turn around and ignore it on Monday! A little further on, in John 3:19, we read “...the light came into the world but people preferred darkness...because their works (the things that they did at home – and at work – like choosing whether or not to make an ethical decision, cast the dissenting vote, pay a just wage, etc.) were evil.” Here's where it starts to get hard. No wonder Jesus says that no one can do this unless they have the Father's help! Did we really think we could handle this on our own?

“Do you also want to leave?” The answer seems obvious on Sunday morning but what if Jesus was to ask the question at 10:00 A.M. on Monday? Do we choose to accompany Jesus *every* day? Or do we prefer to “...return to our former way of life” from Monday through Friday?

By Vinal Van Benthem ofs



Next Session Begins September 3

Register Now!

Program will take place *in person on Thursdays* and via **ZOOM on Fridays.**

EUCCHARIST IN SCRIPTURE

The Eucharist in Scripture explores the biblical theme of meals shared in faithful fellowship and in covenant relationship with God. Old Testament meals and promises provide a foundation for gospel meals with Jesus, culminating in the Last Supper as it is understood throughout the New Testament. Jesus' bread of life discourse and the early church's practice of "breaking bread" are also explored. Commentary, study and reflection questions, prayer, and access to online lectures are included.

Fr. Derran Combs, O.F.M., Ph.D. will facilitate the ZOOM sessions and some of the in person sessions.

Registered participants are asked to prepare by reading the assigned lessons in advance from the textbook.

Meeting Time and Dates:

In Person Lower Level of Church
Thursdays, 12:15-1 pm—Sept. 9, 16, 23, 30; Oct. 14

ZOOM Session

Fridays, 12:00 pm-1:00 pm—Sept. 3, 10, 24; Oct. 1, 15

\$15 Program Fee payable by cash or check includes book.

To register, call 312-853-2376 or email joannstpeters@gmail.com.



Healing Hearts ~ Mending Lives
Reconciliation Outside the Box

Tues., Sept. 7, 12:15-1 pm
Lower Level Auditorium



Presented by
Fr. Derran Combs, O.F.M., Ph.D.

For decades, St. Peter's Church has been known as the place to go in the Loop for a prayerful celebration of the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Spiritual healing and the mending of relationships with God and others occurs when the sacrament is celebrated well. However, the challenge is to continuously strive to maintain good relationships with people on a daily basis. The reality is that in our daily interaction with people—whether at the workplace, at school, at home, or in the public arena—people experience breeched trust among colleagues or schoolmates, shattered friendships, and painful disassociation with family members.

Our monthly *Healing Hearts* presentations attempts to help individuals restore such broken relationships with family, friends, co-workers, and associates with the hope of reestablishing heartfelt trust and affection.

UNITY:

The Spirituality for Today's World



Presented by Fr. Tom Ess, O.F.M.

Fridays, 12:15-1 pm

Sept. 10, 17, 24 and Oct. 1

Lower Level Auditorium

Old ways are crumbling and passing away—and for many Catholics, so is their faith. But the Holy Spirit has given us the way to go forward. It is by way of the spirituality of unity, the spirituality of communion. Pope St. John Paul II told us: "To make the Church the home and school of communion [unity]: that is the great challenge facing us in the third millennium...Let us have no illusions: unless we follow this spiritual path, external structures of communion will serve very little purpose." Fr. Tom Ess, who has lived the spirituality of unity-communion for more than forty years, will conduct the four sessions which will include presentation and participation.



Psychology At Lunch

Mondays

12:10-12:55 pm CDT

Presented on ZOOM
To Participate

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- Sept. 27: Control and Fear of Humiliation**

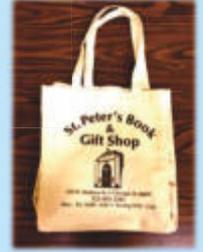


Psychologist Dr. Jerry Hiller and Marilyn Rochon MA, LCPC guide participants in the pursuit of stress relief, self-acceptance, self-efficacy, and developing a sense of purpose. Participants learn to increase self-confidence, navigate through loss and depression, and improve relationships with themselves, others and God. The sessions combine practical psychology with the life-giving ways of St. Francis of Assisi.



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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

2021 Pilgrimages with Fr. Mario DiCicco O.F.M.

Holy Land Pilgrimage
September 10-21, 2021



Turkey & Greece
Following in the
Footsteps of St. Paul
October 8-23, 2021



Please contact Fr. Mario for brochures at 312-888-1331 or email at mmdicicco@gmail.com.



October 30-November 8, 2021

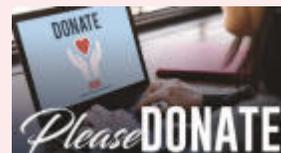
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If you would like to contribute to St. Peter's Church in this time of need, please go to the website stpetersloop.org and click on the **Online Giving** link.



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