



St. Peter's Church

Franciscans of the Sacred Heart Province

DECEMBER 12, 2021

SCHEDULE UPDATE

WEEKEND MASSES

Saturdays

5:00 pm Vigil Mass for Sunday

Sundays

9:00 am and 11:00 am

Weekday Masses

Mondays through Fridays

NEW—7:30 am, 11:40 am and 1:15 pm

CONFESSIONS

*Lower Level of the Church
Across from Book & Gift Shop*

Mondays through Fridays

10:30 am until 3:00 pm

Saturdays

12 noon until 4:30 pm

No Confessions on Sunday

DEVOTIONS

St. Anthony Devotions on Tuesdays

After the 7:30 am, 11:40 am and
1:15 pm Masses.

OFFICE HOURS

Mondays through Fridays

9:00 am until 4:30 pm

Saturdays

12 noon until 4:30 pm

Sundays

Office Closed

CHURCH BUILDING OPEN

Mondays through Fridays

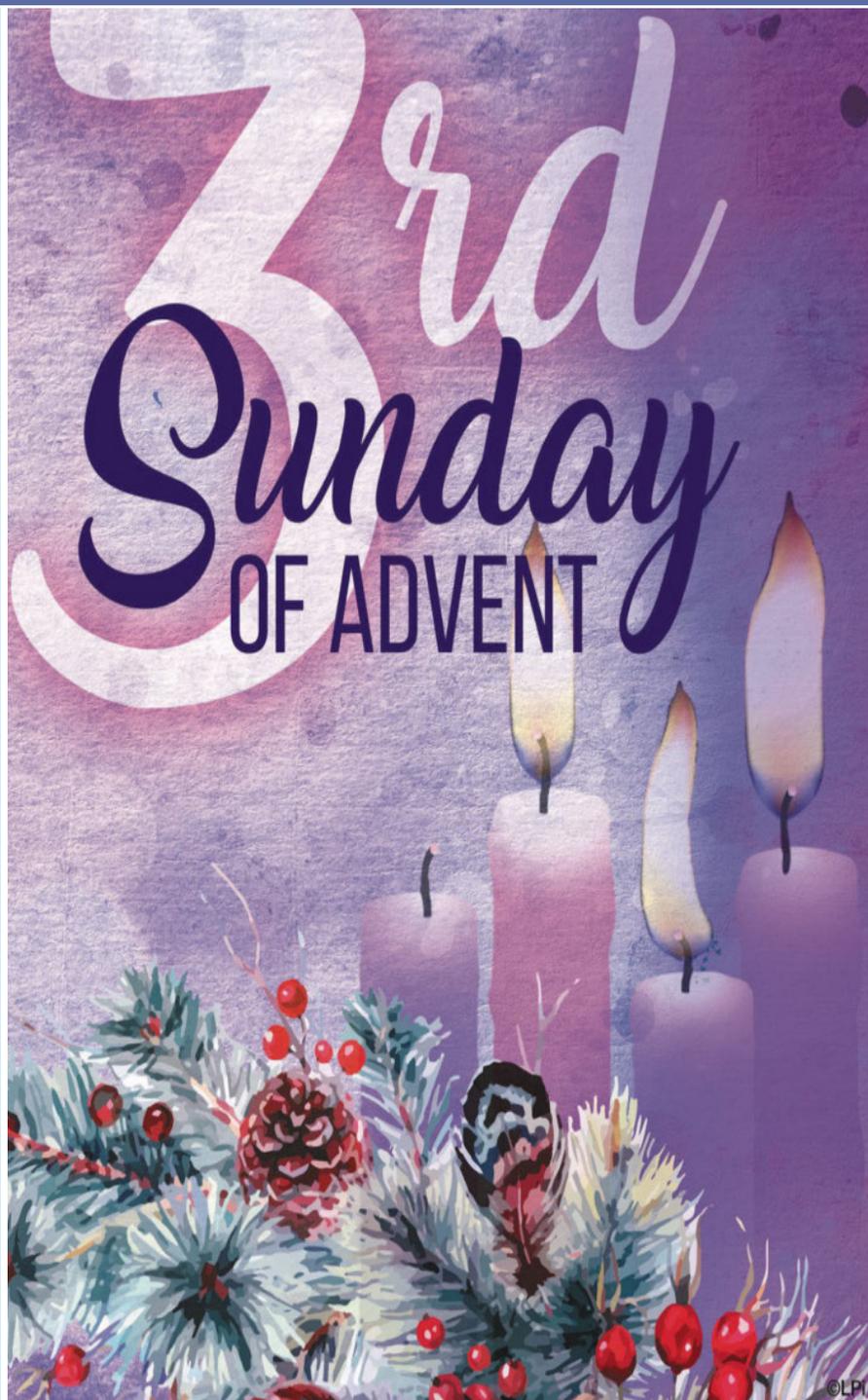
NEW—7:00 am until 4:30 pm

Saturdays

12 noon until 6:00 pm

Sundays

8:30 am until 12:30 pm



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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 12:** Third Sunday of Advent
- Mon., December 13:** St. Lucy
- Tues., December 14:** St. John of the Cross
- Wed., December 15:** Advent Weekday
- Thurs., December 16:** Advent Weekday
- Fri., December 17:** Advent Weekday
- Sat., December 18:** Advent Weekday

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

Mychael Ramos 312-853-2334

Communications & Events Director

Jo Ann Bednar 312-853-2376

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
- Fr. Don Blaeser 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.
- 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. Bill Rooney O.F.M.
- Fr. Carlos Ruiz O.F.M.
- Fr. Ed Tverdek O.F.M.

Part-time Friar Staff:

- Fr. Arthur Anderson 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.
- 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

Nov. 28-Dec. 4:

Total \$4,933

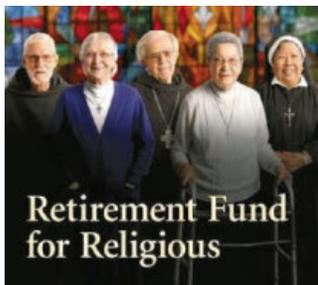
Difference -\$7,067

THOUGHTS FROM THE PASTOR



In 1988, the Catholic bishops of the United States launched the **Retirement Fund for Religious** to address the significant lack of retirement funding for Catholic sisters, brothers, and priests in religious orders.

For most of their lives, elder religious worked for little to no pay. There were no 401(k) plans or pensions for them or their religious communities. Religious communities are financially responsible for the support and care of all members. Income, earnings, and expenses are managed separately from the parish and diocesan structures of the Catholic Church. According to the National Religious Retirement Office, only 5 percent of the religious communities providing data to the National Religious Retirement Office are adequately funded for retirement; 40 percent have 25 or fewer members. Many small communities struggle to care for elder members due to a lack of financial resources and personnel.

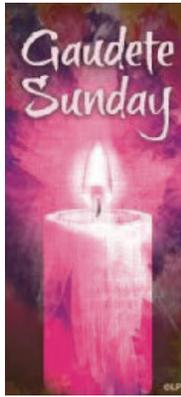


With rising health-care costs and a lack of retirement savings, hundreds of US religious communities struggle to provide for aging members. The additional challenges brought about by Covid-19 have compounded an already difficult situation. Proceeds

from the Retirement Fund for Religious collection offer these communities critical funding to help meet their ongoing eldercare expenses.

In a letter about this collection to parishes in the USA, Sr. Stephanie Still, PBVM (National Religious Retirement Office) wrote, *"Recognizing that your own parish and parishioners may also be confronting financial difficulties, I ask simply that you do what you can to help address the needs of senior religious and their communities. In good times and bad, senior Catholic sisters, brothers, and religious order priests have dedicated themselves to service and acts of mercy. Today, they pray for an aching world. Yet years of serving for little or no pay have left their religious communities without enough retirement savings. Your gift to the Retirement Fund for Religious helps provide medications, nursing care, and other necessities."*

There will be a second collection after communion at Masses today for the **Religious Retirement Fund**. On behalf of the many retired women religious sisters and retired religious priests and brothers, I thank you for your generous assistance.



The Third Sunday of Advent has traditionally been called "Gaudete" Sunday. "Gaudete" is Latin for "rejoice". We are halfway through the Advent season. As we light the third candle on our Advent wreath, we are reminded that the Christmas season draws closer each day. For those planning on celebrating the Sacrament of Penance before Christmas, I remind you to be sure to note the times when confessions will be offered here at St.

Peter's before Christmas. This week and next week, we will have two priests on duty during the hours when we are offering confessions. Please remember the last day we have confessions scheduled before Christmas is on December 23.

As Advent quickly moves along, I encourage you to be sure and take some time for quiet in your life to reflect upon the great mysteries we celebrate at this time of the year. In the midst of Christmas parties, baking, Christmas sales and bargains, writing Christmas cards and the thousand and one other things before us at this time of the year, be sure and take time to listen in the quiet of your heart to the voice of God.

If you are placing a nativity scene in your home I have enclosed below a [Blessing Prayer](#) (from the US Bishops' Conference) that might be said with your family members gathered around your home Nativity Scene.

*God of every nation and people,
from the very beginning of creation
you have made manifest your love:
when our need for a Savior was great
you sent your Son to be born of the Virgin Mary,
To our lives he brings joy and peace,
justice, mercy, and love.
Lord, bless all who look upon this manger;
may it remind us of the humble birth of Jesus,
and raise up our thoughts to him,
who is God-with-us and Savior of all,
who lives and reigns for ever and ever. Amen*
© USCCB, 1989

Today, December 12, we also celebrate Our Lady of Guadalupe. It was in 1531 that Mary appeared to Juan Diego (The feast of St. Juan Diego was celebrated on December 9) on Tepeyac hill outside Mexico City. Mary, under the title of Our Lady of Guadalupe, is patroness of the Americas and recently was designated as patroness of Respect Life.





On this feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe I share with you a few words from Pope Francis speaking about Our Lady of Guadalupe..... *With Mary's appearance to the Indian Juan Diego.... ".....No longer is anyone a servant, but we are all children of the same Father, brothers and sisters together. The Holy Mother of God not only visited these people, but she chose to remain with them.*

She left her sacred image mysteriously imprinted on the 'tilma'/cloak of her messenger in order that we might keep in mind the symbol of Mary's covenant with these people, conferring her spirit and tenderness." [Pope Francis 12-12-14]

In our troubled and violent world, perhaps we need to go to our mother, Mary for guidance. In the midst of our present day danger of COVID, cultural struggles and unrest, perhaps we need to gaze upon the image of Guadalupe and place our concerns and needs before the Mother of God.

The image is not some magic thing that will change the world..... but it is the symbol of peace and serenity that can come into our lives..... if we but place our trust in the promises of God.



The Season of Christmas is just two weeks away. I encourage you to use the Advent-Christmas reflection insert that is found in today's church bulletin. On the reverse side of the insert you will find the Advent-Christmas Schedule of services for St. Peter's Church.

And if in the Loop, stop in St. Peter's for a few moments of quiet and peace with the Lord. The church is now open Monday-Friday from 7:00 am until 4:30 pm for prayer.

May you have a prayerful week reflecting upon the mysteries we celebrate in this Advent Season. And may each of us continue to pray and work for peace in our city and world.

Fr. Michael



Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe Sunday, December 12 Festive Mass ~ 11:00 am Bi-lingual English/Spanish

St. Peter's Church: 110 W. Madison St. Chgo., IL. 60602-312-372-5111 · stpetersloop.org

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.

**St. Peter's Church
FRIARS' BOOK SALE**



**WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 15
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 16
10:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. each day
ST. CLARE AUDITORIUM
ALL BOOKS JUST \$1 EACH!**

We friars love to read and we want to share with you some of the books we've read and no longer need. Theology, spirituality, history, behavioral sciences along with lots of novels—fill your bookcases!

BRING YOUR SHOPPING BAGS!



St. Peter's Church-110 W. Madison St. Chgo., IL 60602-312-372-5111

**ST. PETER'S CHURCH
MASS SCHEDULE**

Mondays through Fridays

Mass Times:

7:30 am 11:40 am & 1:15 pm

Saturdays

Mass Time: 5:00 pm

Vigil Mass for Sunday

Sundays

Mass Times: 9:00 am and 11:00 am

CONFESSION

Mondays through Fridays

10:30 am until 3 pm

Saturdays

12 noon until 4:30 pm

Lower Level Auditorium

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

**THIS WEEK'S
SCRIPTURE STUDY**



Luke 3: 10-18

“What should I do?” People may use different words but what they are really asking is “What is God’s will for me?” My answer is much like Luke’s response in today’s Gospel – do what you are already doing, but do it well. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. is quoted as saying that if you are a ditch digger you should dig ditches so well that when you die all the angels in heaven will say, “There lived a great ditch digger!”

Theresa is a sales clerk at a ‘big box’ store. From the day after Thanksgiving until Christmas she works 10-hours a day, 7 days a week. This year her store stayed closed on Thanksgiving Day but opened early for “Black Friday”. And while business was still a bit slower than usual, the post-Covid mood was good. Things had begun to turn around and feel a bit more ‘normal’, so Theresa didn’t mind having to work the extra hours. She realizes that an upturn in the economy has given people more money to spend on gift-giving and that increased “Black Friday” sales, both in-store and online, mean that people are finally able to buy their children some of the special gifts they’ve been asking for. Besides, helping people find just the right item makes Theresa smile, and when Theresa smiles her customers smile, too.

“What should we do?” “...[S]hare...stop collecting more than what is prescribed ...be satisfied.” It’s not really all that difficult. Just do what you are already doing, but do it well. Are you a lawyer? “...[D]o not falsely accuse...” Are you a mortgage banker? “...[D]o not practice extortion...” Are you a healthcare professional? Be compassionate. Do you work in food service? Maintain a clean and wholesome environment. Theresa is only doing her job but the way she does it makes all the difference. Theresa does her job well. People walk away from her checkout counter feeling just a little bit happier than when they came in. I suspect that when Theresa dies the angels will say, “There lived a great store clerk!” When we die, what will the angels say about us?

By Vinal Van Benthem ofs



CATHOLIC FILM SERIES

GUADALUPE

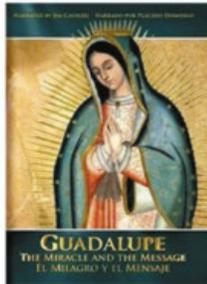
TWO PART VIDEO

MONDAYS

DEC. 6 & DEC. 13

12:15-1 pm

Lower Level



This film traces the history of the Virgin Mary's appearance to Juan Diego. It features interviews with leading theologians, historians and experts on the scientific inquiries into the miraculous image. The film explores the mysteries and the relevance of the Guadalupe apparition to the modern world.

Series discussion questions after viewing.

All are invited to attend. Free will offering.



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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



Presented by
Br. Guillermo Morales O.F.M.
and **Sr. Fran Sulzer FSPA**

Meets in Lower Level—Room A
Tuesday, Dec. 14

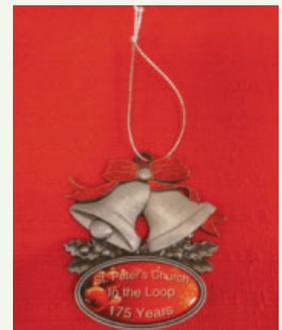
GDS is not a study, discussion or prayer group, but it is conducted in a prayerful context.

For information, please contact:

Sr. Fran Sulzer FSPA
fmsulzer@gmail.com

Br. Guillermo Morales O.F.M.
gamorales05@gmail.com

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8:30 am until 12:15 pm

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2022 Pilgrimages with Fr. Mario DiCicco O.F.M.

Columbia, Ecuador and
Galapagos Island
January 14-20, 2022



Holy Land
A Lenten Journey
March 19-30, 2022



Shrines of Mary
France, Spain & Portugal
April 19-May 7, 2022



Sardinia, Sicily,
Southern Italy
May 24-June 9, 2022



Holy Land and Jordan
September 2-19, 2022



Turkey II and Dubai
October 2022 (dates TBD)



For information contact Fr. Mario at
312-888-1331 or email at mmdicicco@gmail.com

Memorial Votive Candles



St. Peter's is currently accepting
reservations for the memorial votive
candles within the Church. Once lit,
the candles burn 24 hours a day for
one year. A plaque in front of your candle notes
who it is lit in honor of. Applications are available
at the front office of St. Peter's. The cost is \$150.
Please call 312-372-5111 for further information.



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. Thank you for your
generosity!

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