



St. Peter's Church

Franciscans of the Sacred Heart Province

DECEMBER 19, 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

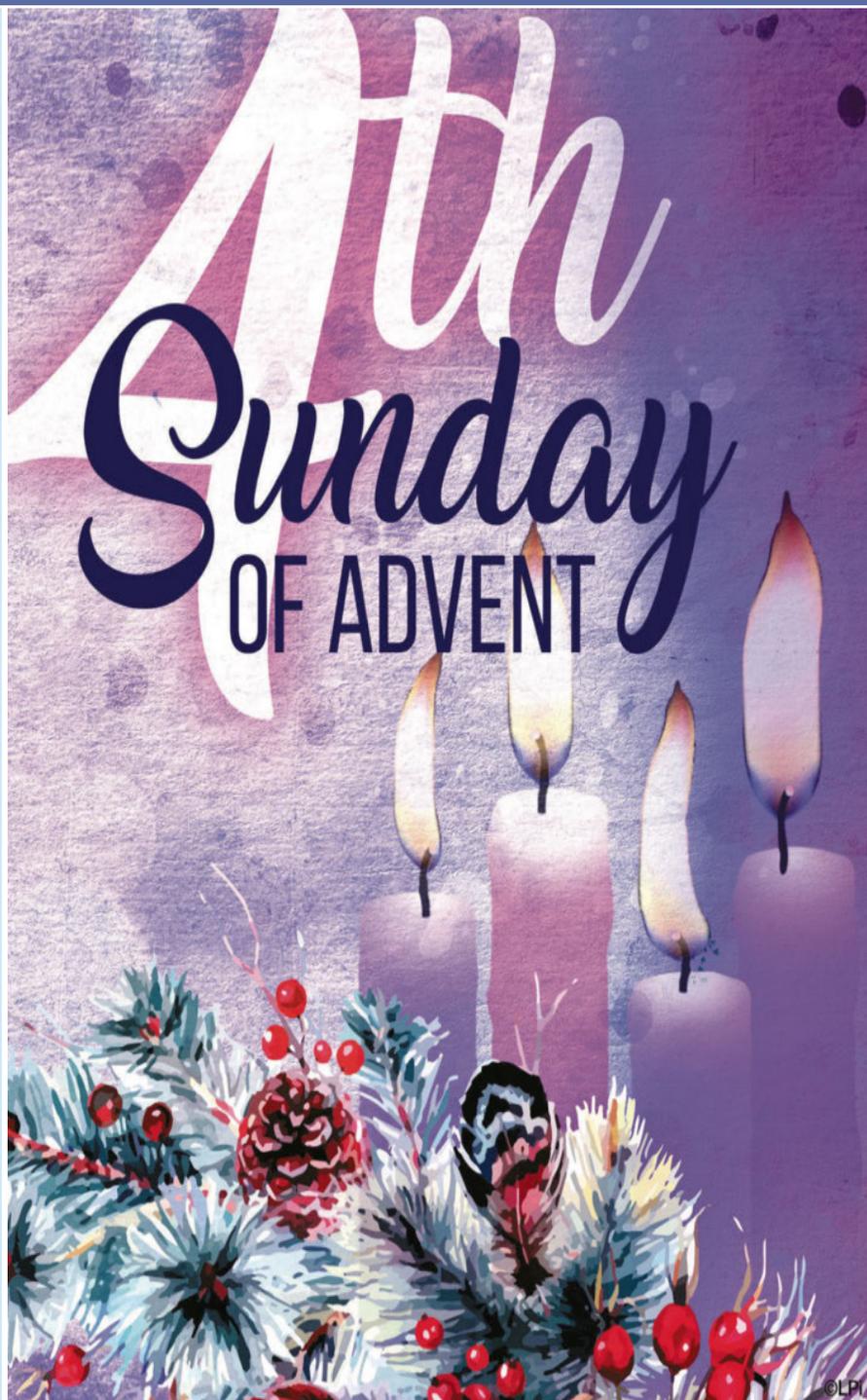
NEW—7:00 am until 4:30 pm

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 19: Fourth Sunday of Advent

Mon., December 20: Advent Weekday

Tues., December 21: Advent Weekday

Wed., December 22: Advent Weekday

Thurs., December 23: Advent Weekday

Fri., December 24: Advent Weekday

Sat., December 25: The Nativity of the Lord

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**

Dec. 5-11:

Total **\$4,933**

Difference **-\$7,067**

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 Saturday and we are invited to celebrate that great event. As we gather

for Mass, you are invited to join in singing with others our familiar Christmas carols. 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.”*

As we gather to celebrate the great feast of Christmas 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 2021 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 will come on Christmas 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 next weekend to celebrate this Christmas season of 2021 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-Thursday from 10:30 am until 3:00 pm. Please note there are no confessions scheduled for Friday, December 24 or Saturday, December 25. 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 Friday, December 24 the church is closed for cleaning and decorating for Christmas. Christmas Masses are Friday, December 24 at 4:00 pm and 7:00 pm. On Saturday, December 25, Masses are at 9:00 am and 11:00 am. Please remember that following the guidelines of the Archdiocese and City & State health departments, masks are still required at all Masses and functions at churches of the Archdiocese.

As we prepare to celebrate the Christmas Masses, the beauty of the Church, the music, the liturgy and indeed all the wonderful things about St. Peter's Church this Christmas season is due to the hard work and dedication of many, many people. Thanks to our great parish staff, dedicated volunteers, the Franciscan Friars and so many others we are able to continue to provide a strong presence here in the Loop continuing a presence that was begun over 175 years ago.

As we complete our four weeks of Advent preparations, we give thanks to everyone who continues to support the church by your donations to St. Peter's Church. During these days before Christmas may you find some time for quiet and peace to reflect upon the wonders of this feast....God has become one with us and offers each of his eternal salvation. May God bless you all!

Fr. Michael



BLESSING OF A 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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**ST. PETER'S CHURCH
CHRISTMAS MASS
SCHEDULE**

Christmas Vigil Masses
Friday, December 24
4:00 pm & 7:00 pm
Church Opens at 3:00 pm

Christmas Day Masses
Saturday, December 25
9:00 am & 11:00 am
No Sunday Vigil Mass Today
The church will be closed after the 11 am Mass.

Feast of the Holy Family Masses
Sunday, December 26
9:00 am & 11:00 am

**Mary Mother of God
New Year's Day Vigil Mass**
Friday, December 31
5:00 pm

**Mary Mother of God
New Year's Day Mass**
Saturday, January 1, 2022
10:00 am
No Sunday Vigil Mass Today

Epiphany of the Lord Masses
Sunday, January 2, 2022
9:00 am & 11:00 am

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.



THIS WEEK'S SCRIPTURE STUDY

Luke 1: 39-45

Clare is a Physician's Assistant. She had always found herself attracted to science and biology courses and her job as a Physician's Assistant came as no surprise to those neighbors who had known her as the kid on the block who could often be found tending baby birds who had fallen out of their nests or caring for the stray dog or cat who wandered into her yard with a torn ear or broken leg.



After graduation from high school Clare went on to become a Certified Nursing Assistant but she still had the feeling that she wanted to do more. She went back to school and took more courses in chemistry, biology, physiology, psychology and dozens of other "ology's." She earned her R.N. but still Clare felt God was calling her to more. She didn't want to be a doctor but she enjoyed working closely with the doctors in the hospital so, again, Clare went back to school. A serious student, she pored over her books and took copious notes in all her classes. She memorized the names of medications and their uses; and she asked questions, always wanting to know what was being done and why. She even went on rounds with the doctors, but Clare was always watching and listening with her heart as well as with her eyes and ears.

"Mary set out...in haste..." to the home of her cousin, Elizabeth, and the baby in Elizabeth's womb "leaped for joy." It had taken many years for Elizabeth to become pregnant. Now she would bear a son and name him John. As he grew into manhood John, like Clare, would begin to follow his call. He, too, would study the teachings of another – his cousin, Jesus. John did not want to be the Christ. But even before his birth he knew he would be called to do God's will in working closely with Him.

Clare does God's will for her as a Physician's Assistant. John did God's will for him as God's herald. How do we do God's will? Do we believe that God called us even before we were born?

By Vinal Van Benthem ofs



**St. Anthony
Devotions**
Tuesdays
After the
7:30 am,
11:40 am &
1:15 pm
Masses.

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.**



**GOSPEL MEDITATION
ENCOURAGE DEEPER UNDERSTANDING
OF SCRIPTURE**

December 19, 2021 ~ 4th Sunday of Advent

St. Augustine tells us that a “Christian is a mind through which Christ thinks, a heart through which Christ loves, a voice through which Christ speaks and a hand through which Christ helps.” As we look around and out at the world, we do not have to search too far before we come face to face with inequity and injustice. There is so much unfairness, prejudice, anger, hatred, violence, and want. The stories of human heartache, people being hurt, deprived of life’s necessities, loneliness, and sickness are far too commonplace. For many of the world’s ills, the vices of greed, lust, pride, gluttony, and jealousy are clearly among the more significant root causes.

Why doesn’t God just step in and fix this mess? After all, God created this world, and one would hope that he would step up and take some measure of responsibility for it! Once we sit with this thinking for a while, we can begin to realize just how flawed it really is. God did take responsibility and God did fix the problem! God sent us Jesus Christ as the divine solution to the world’s ills. It is not God who has shirked responsibility, we have. We are the ones who continually fail to set our own personal needs, wants, and securities aside so that One more powerful than us can use us.

Mary had to set her needs aside in order for the Son of God to come into the world. Put simply, Mary listened and believed. Having opened herself to being an instrument of the Divine, God could use her as his mind, heart, voice, and hand. She became God’s vessel so that God’s greatness could reach the ends of the earth and peace could come upon the world. God’s fix for the world’s difficulties is you and me. We are the ones who confess that Jesus Christ came into the world as the Son of God, the Prince of Peace, and herald of justice. All we have to do is believe, as did Mary, that what has been spoken to us by the Lord will be fulfilled. Then, we can step aside and be the Christians we claim to be. What a difference it would make if every person who professed to be Christian truly understood that their one and only vocation is to be God’s instrument. What a beautiful, equitable, and just world it would be.

©LPi



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

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12 noon until 5:00 pm
Sundays
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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