



# St. Peter's Church

Franciscans of the Sacred Heart Province

JANUARY 2, 2022

## ***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



## **THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD**

They were overjoyed at seeing the star, and on entering the house they saw the child with Mary his mother. They prostrated themselves and did him homage. Then they opened their treasures and offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. - Mt 2:10-11

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](http://www.archchicago.org)
- [www.vatican.va](http://www.vatican.va)
- [www.usccb.org](http://www.usccb.org)
- [www.catholicstv.org](http://www.catholicstv.org)
- [www.ewtn.com](http://www.ewtn.com)
- [www.relevantradio.com](http://www.relevantradio.com)

**Saints' Days and Observances**

- Sun., January 2:** The Epiphany of the Lord
- Mon., January 3:** The Holy Name of Jesus
- Tues., January 4:** St. Elizabeth Ann Seton
- Wed., January 5:** St. John Neumann
- Thurs., January 6:** Christmas Weekday
- Fri., January 7:** Christmas Weekday
- Sat., January 8:** Christmas 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***

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***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:**

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- 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.

<b>Weekly Goal</b>	<b>\$12,000</b>
<b>Dec. 12-18</b>	<b>\$ 6,782</b>
<b>Difference</b>	<b>-\$ 5,218</b>

## THOUGHTS FROM THE PASTOR



Today, on this feast of the Epiphany, we are reminded by the liturgy that Joseph and Mary and the child had to escape persecution after the visit of the Magi. Today throughout the world, many people also are fleeing persecution, hunger and danger and have become refugees and migrants. A couple of years ago Pope emeritus Benedict XVI reminded us that, “...every migrant is a human person who, as such, possesses fundamental, inalienable rights that must be respected by everyone and in every circumstance.” Pope Francis continues to remind us through his words and actions of our responsibilities as Christians and as a Church to help refugees and migrants.



In the midst of the harsh debate and discussion about immigration issues in the USA and throughout the world, it is important that as Catholics, we keep before us the teachings

of the Church and the stance of Scripture in addressing this issue. The US Bishops Conference in their statement, **Welcoming Christ in the Migrant** can help us to look at this difficult issue from our Catholic perspective. They began that statement by saying,

*We live in an age when strangers in our midst have become a source of suspicion and fear. Jesus' command for us to welcome these strangers as we would welcome him is at odds with much of the prevailing sentiment expressed today. Debates over whether and how to address the migration phenomenon fill not only the halls of government but even community and parish halls. The historically generous American spirit has been replaced in some quarters with calls for isolation and restriction. In this fearful environment, how is a Christian to respond? Christ's call is unchanging: we are obliged to welcome the stranger, knowing that "whatever you did for one of these least brothers of mine, you did for me" (Mt 25:40). A disposition of openness and welcoming to the stranger signifies the same to Christ himself. Pope Benedict XVI highlights the importance of this dynamic in his first encyclical, *God Is Love (Deus Caritas Est)*. In it he stressed that "love of God and love of neighbor have become one: in the least of the brethren we find Jesus himself, and in Jesus we find God" (no. 15). [from US Bishops Statement on Immigration]*

As we recall the visit of the Magi, and the subsequent need of Mary and Joseph to flee with the child Jesus from their own homeland to Egypt to escape persecution, may our prayers be for those in our day who have had to escape persecution also. May those who seek a place to freely express their faith in Christ and freedom to express their views find a welcome in each of us who try to follow the Gospel ideals of welcome and acceptance. Just as many German, Irish, Polish, Italian, Vietnamese, Filipino and other immigrants found a welcome in the Archdiocese of Chicago in the past, so also may immigrants today receive that same welcome from all of us who profess the name of Catholic in this 21st century.

Next weekend we celebrate the feast of the Baptism of the Lord and the completion of the Christmas season. We then return to Ordinary Time in the Church's calendar on January 10 until the Season of Lent arrives on March 2, Ash Wednesday.

Thank  
You

As we begin this New Year of 2022, I wish to express a very heartfelt **THANK YOU** to all who helped with our Christmas Season Masses and celebrations. Though our celebrations were much simpler than in years past, we were still able to celebrate the

great mystery and gift of God becoming human for the salvation of the world. I also express a loud THANKS to our faithful parish staff, the Franciscan Friars who help at St. Peter's, and all of you who faithfully support the ministry here.

I especially want to express deep gratitude to all who contributed to the Pastor's Christmas Appeal. In the midst of the financial difficulties throughout the world, the on-going danger of COVID and its variants, the generous donations of so many of you helps us to continue to provide ministry here in the Loop to all who come. To all of our faithful benefactors, both those who help financially and those who help with the gift of your time and service, be assured of our prayers for all of you and your family.

As we begin the New Year of 2022, I encourage you to consider participating in one or more of the programs that will be offered by St. Peter's Church. Fr. Derran will again offer the Little Rock Scripture Study Program as well as a number of other programs in the coming months. Be sure and check the bulletin and the church website for more information.



As we begin the New Year, please remember to wear a mask, wash your hands often, avoid large crowds, and continue to follow health protocols of the city, state and Archdiocese. With vaccines and boosters widely available, let us pray that the danger of this virus may soon be lessened. As people who proclaim Respect for Life, let each one of us do our part to ensure the health of one another in the coming months.

On behalf of the parish staff and the Franciscan Friars, I would like to thank everyone who gave us gifts, sent cards, kept us in your prayers and remembered us during Christmas. We are deeply humbled by your support. Please be assured that you and all our benefactors are in our prayers. I encourage you and your family to pray this prayer as we begin this New Year.

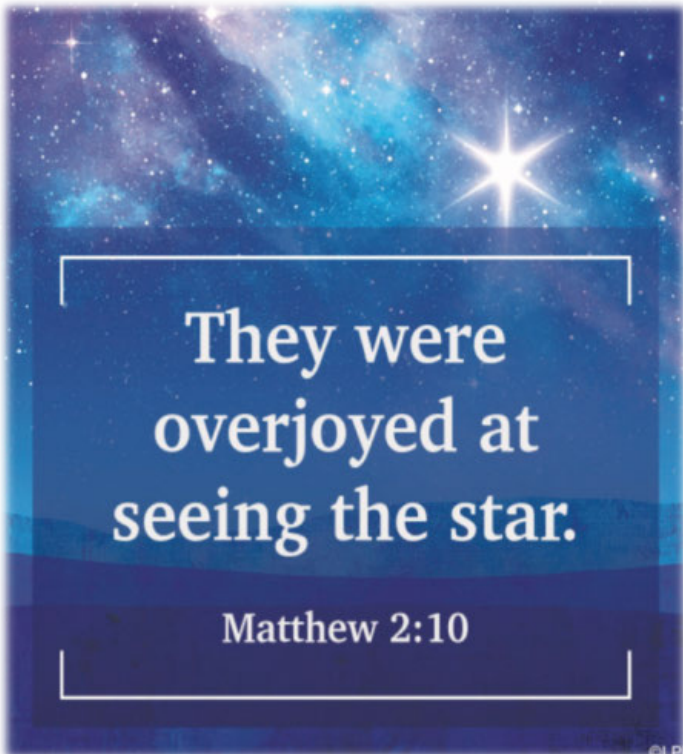
**PRAYER FOR THE NEW YEAR**

*In words or song we begin this New Year of 2022 joining with family and all creation in praying the Good News of salvation:*

Hark! The herald angels sing,  
"Glory to the newborn King;  
Peace on earth, and mercy mild,  
God and sinners reconciled!"  
Joyful, all ye nations rise,  
Join the triumph of the skies;  
With th'angelic host proclaim,  
"Christ is born in Bethlehem!"

**HAPPY NEW YEAR 2022 TO YOU ALL!!!**

**Fr. Michael**



**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](http://stpetersloop.org) or call **312-372-5111**.**

**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.**

# ENCOUNTER GOD'S LOVE



## St. Anthony Devotions

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



## Reconciliation at St. Peter's Church

**Mondays through Fridays  
10:30 am until 3 pm**

**Saturdays  
12 noon until 4:30 pm**

**Lower Level—Room C  
Directly across from  
St. Peter's Book & Gift Shop.**



## St. Peter's Church Safety Guidelines



**The Archdiocese of Chicago requires wearing a face mask or face covering when inside St. Peter's Church. Visitors should sanitize their hands upon entering the building. Please maintain social distancing. Thank you.**

## THIS WEEK'S SCRIPTURE STUDY

### *Luke 2: 1-14*

While many of us may still have our Christmas trees up, if you're anything like me it feels like Christmas was weeks – rather than just days – ago. Even the 'after-Christmas sales' are winding down. Hats and noisemakers have replaced Santas and snowmen on store shelves and there's nary a Christmas carol to be heard. And we might find ourselves asking, "What difference does it make anyway?" Or, perhaps more to the point, "What difference does Christmas make in our lives?"

Matthew's Gospel describes a world of class distinctions and crooked politicians and prejudice, a world divided between those who 'have' and those who 'have-not'. In other words, Matthew describes a world very much like our own. But then something happened, something that made a difference.

"And you, Bethlehem... from you shall come a ruler, who is to shepherd my people Israel." Shepherds were looked down upon. They spent their lives moving from place to place with their sheep – and they smelled like it. There were many shepherds around Bethlehem. "[B]ehold, magi from the east arrived in Jerusalem..." The magi were astronomers, the 'college professors' of their time. "They prostrated themselves and did him homage." Picture Harvard faculty bowing down before the janitor's son! "Then they... offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh." Evidently these men were also wealthy. It must have cost quite a lot to make such a trip, not to mention the cost of their gifts. Something was happening – something that would make a difference.

But that was 2000 years (or maybe just a few days) ago. Christmas is over and Valentine hearts have replaced Santa in the mall. But wait a minute – maybe that's OK. In fact, maybe that's exactly the point! Christmas isn't about political power or prestige – Christmas is about love. Christmas isn't about what we *get* – it's about what we *give!* Maybe we need to be more like the magi, more concerned about *bringing* gifts than *getting* them. Maybe that's what would make the difference! The magi went away changed, departing "...by another way." Can we say the same? Are we changed? What difference does Christmas make in *our* lives?

*By Vinal Van Benthem ofs*



Next Session Begins January 21, 2022

REGISTER NOW!

Program will take place via ZOOM on Fridays.



### THE SERMON ON THE MOUNT

Jesus' call to profound discipleship in the Sermon on the Mount is too often dismissed as special instructions for only the holiest and most exceptional Christians. In *The Sermon on the Mount*, Clifford Yearly challenges us to hear the sermon once again as Christ intended it, as our call to follow him whose life illustrated its every ideal. Yearly helps us to hear the Sermon on the Mount as a message for each of us, a challenge that is our constant call to renewal. 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.

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

#### Meeting Time and Dates:

#### ZOOM Sessions

Fridays, 12:00 pm-1:00 pm—Jan. 21, 28; Feb. 4, 11, 18, 25; March 4

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

To register, call 312-853-2376 or email [joannstpeters@gmail.com](mailto:joannstpeters@gmail.com).

### St. Peter's Church Presents

#### Author



Victoria Olivett

### Presentation and Book Discussion

Wednesday, January 12, 2022

12:15 to 1:00 pm

Lower Level—Room A

### *The Adventures of Francie Fitzgerald*

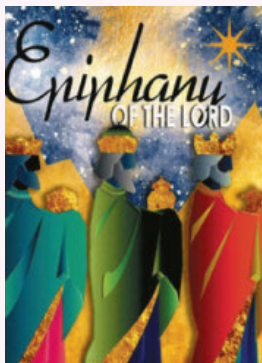
The book is about an Irish, Catholic immigrant family living in Newark, New Jersey in the 1880's. Francie, the fourteen year old, comes across a dead fox exhibiting symptoms of rabies. Francie and her friend Sean discover that a local youth also died of hydrophobia. She is afraid for her siblings since there are so many wild dogs roaming the neighborhood. What she dreads most occurs. Her brother and his friends are attacked by a rabid dog. Their journey leads them to Paris and Dr. Louis Pasteur and his life saving serum which correlates with today's Delta Variant and vaccinations. The novel shows great love, faith, and perseverance.



All invited to attend. Free will offering.



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



### January 2, 2022

### The Epiphany of the Lord

In his Apostolic Exhortation, *The Joy of the Gospel*, Pope Francis references a thought from Pope Benedict XVI: "Being a Christian is not the result of an ethical choice or a lofty idea, but the encounter with an event, a person, which gives life a new horizon and a decisive direction." Today we celebrate an encounter with the Person of Jesus Christ! This simple but holy event in time dramatically changes human life, pointing it toward a new horizon and giving it a decisive direction. This is a message and truth that is not meant to be shared with only a select few who qualify but with the entire world. Pope Francis continues saying, "Thanks solely to this encounter or renewed encounter with God's love, which blossoms into an enriching friendship, we are liberated from our narrowness and self-absorption. We become fully human when we become more than human, when we let God bring us beyond ourselves in order to attain the fullest truth of our being."

Look around at people. Where is life heading for them? What gives them direction? Even we who are people of faith can get distracted and lose our focus. God, in all of His fullness, is revealed in Jesus Christ and we can encounter Him! God is tangible, real, vulnerable, poor, and full of wonders, surprises, and opportunities. For those who are struggling and lost, today is a day of great joy. All they have to do is reach out and touch the truth of Christ. This presence is revealed in the poor, exploited, and vulnerable ones who cry out for compassion and love. But it is also found in the faithful ones who see in the Epiphany of God a liberation from structures and systems that hurt us, a narrowness of mind and heart that constricts us, and an absorption in our self-agenda that prevents us from seeing anything other than ourselves as important.

We have been given the charge of preaching this Good News. If only we could find a way to be more effective, it might stand a chance of doing what God intended it to do. There is always tomorrow and our memory of that bright new light that shone so brilliantly that Bethlehem night pointing us to truth and reminding us that we are loved. ©LPI

# ST. PETER'S BOOK & GIFT SHOP

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**Saturdays**  
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**Sundays**  
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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 20-June 5, 2022

**Holy Land and Jordan**  
 September 2-19, 2022

**Turkey Part Two and Dubai**  
 October 7-23, 2022

For information contact Fr. Mario at 312-888-1331 or email at [mmdicicco@gmail.com](mailto: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.

*Please* **DONATE**

If you would like to contribute to St. Peter's Church in this time of need, please go to the website [stpetersloop.org](http://stpetersloop.org) and click on the **Online Giving** link. Thank you for your generosity!

### Subscribe to the Bulletin Online!

If you would like to receive St. Peter's Church Bulletin electronically, please go to [www.stpetersloop.org](http://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 in the Lobby.



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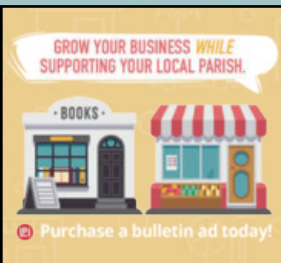
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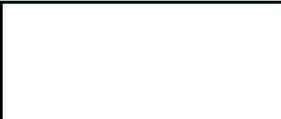
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