



# St. Peter's Church

Franciscans of the Sacred Heart Province

MAY 15, 2022

## WEEKEND MASSES

Saturdays

5:00 pm Vigil Mass for Sunday

Sundays

9:00 am and 11:00 am

Weekday Masses

Mondays through Fridays

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

## ADORATION

Fridays in the Church

after the 1:15 pm Mass until 4:15 pm

## 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

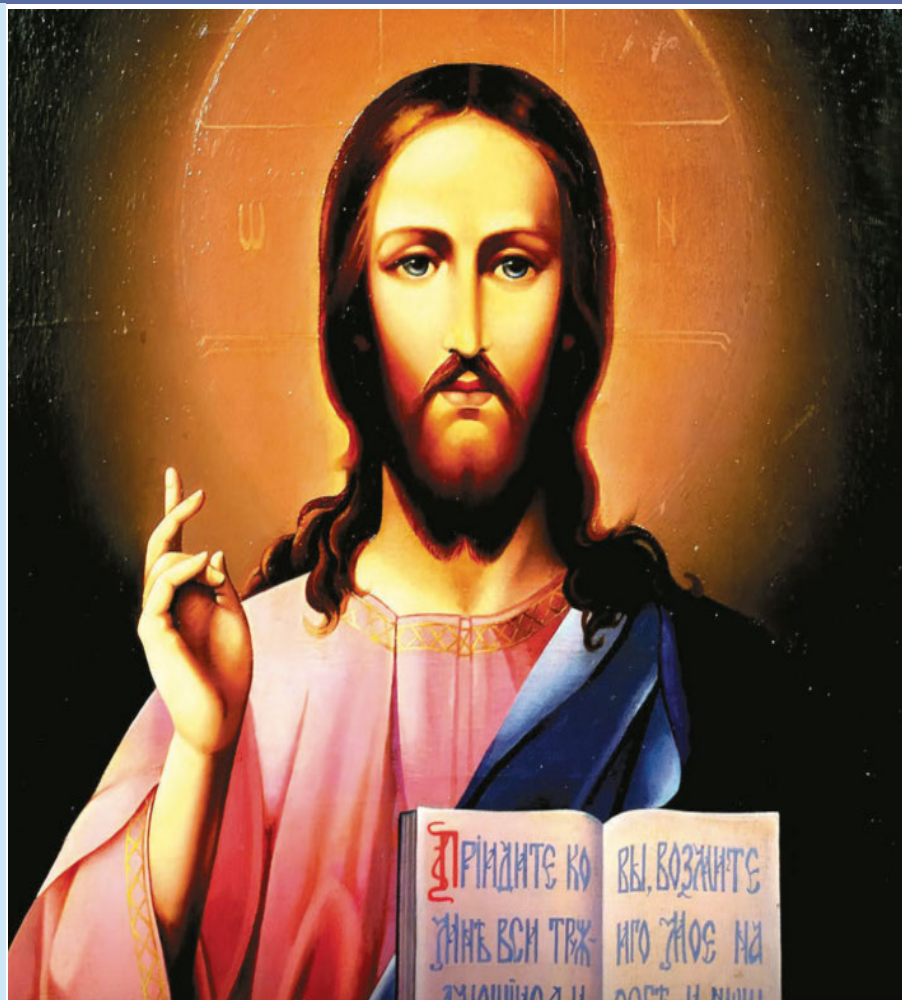
7:00 am until 4:30 pm

Saturdays

12 noon until 6:00 pm

Sundays

8:30 am until 12:30 pm



## 5<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY OF EASTER

[Jesus said,] "My children, I will be with you only a little while longer. I give you a new commandment: love one another."

- Jn 13:33a, 34a

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., May 15:** Fifth Sunday of Easter
- Mon., May 16:** St. Margaret of Cortona
- Tues., May 17:** St. Paschal Baylon
- Wed., May 18:** St. Felix of Cantalice
- Thurs., May 19:** Easter Weekday
- Fri., May 20:** St. Bernardine of Sienna
- Sat., May 21:** Easter 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.

|                    |                  |
|--------------------|------------------|
| <b>Weekly Goal</b> | <b>\$12,000</b>  |
| <b>May 1-7</b>     | <b>\$ 4,271</b>  |
| <b>Difference</b>  | <b>-\$ 7,729</b> |

## THOUGHTS FROM THE PASTOR



In early March I wrote in a couple of bulletins about the archdiocesan-wide spiritual renewal, called **Renew My Church (RMC)**. Since March, I have attended a couple of meetings with other Archdiocese churches in the

Downtown Grouping (Assumption Church, Holy Name Cathedral, Old St. Mary's Church, Old St. Patrick's Church, St. James Church and St. Peter's in the Loop Church). In our meetings, we looked at what are our strengths, challenges and opportunities to be a missionary presence here in the central downtown area of Chicago. Unlike some of the other groupings throughout the Archdiocese, our challenge was not to look at structural changes but rather how we all might cooperate with our unique parishes and challenges of being located in the downtown area.

This renewal (RMC) began a number of years ago as the leadership of the Archdiocese, in reflecting upon the presence of the Church, sought ways on how best to bring the Gospel message of Jesus Christ to others in our times. Numerous studies and the reality of our changing world challenge the Church today to find how best to invite people to encounter Jesus Christ and to become his disciples. The challenge of diminishing church attendance invites us to look at how we can best live our Catholic faith in the world today. A study completed before the COVID pandemic found that only 23% of Catholics in the USA attend Mass on a regular basis. If the Eucharist is the *"center of our faith"* then we are faced with growing struggles in nurturing the faith of all Catholics.

A concerning statistic is that of 24 to 39 year old young people. In that group, 36% claim to have no formal religious affiliation. Among those who do identify as Catholic, only 17% attend Mass weekly. Even beyond these statistics is my own observations and the observations of many other priests I know, throughout the country, that many of our regular Sunday Masses have few young adults in the congregation. I have heard many a parent or relative express their deep concern that their son or daughter no longer attends church and, for many folks, their children have even left the Catholic Church for various reasons.

The dangerous trap we could fall into is to think the Church is dying or not meeting the needs of people in our world today. When I have listened to people tell me of their concern and, in fact for some, their fear that the Church is dying, I remind them to study the history of the Church. I remind them that before Christ returned to his Heavenly Father at the Ascension, he left his disciples and us a message and a promise. Jesus said to

them [disciples], *"All power in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, until the end of time."* (Matthew 28:18-20)

Since Christ walked the soil of Galilee, the Church has continually needed to share the message of Christ in ways that makes sense for the hearers. Whether it has been changes in language, adapting the Gospel to cultures much different than first century Palestine, adapting church structures and ministers or many other ways our Church has preserved the message of Jesus and tried to share it in a way for all people to understand.

In a couple of paragraphs from the Archdiocese **RENEW MY CHURCH** booklet we read, *"Rather than retreat from the world, this is a time for the Church to increase its mission in the world. We have now entered what is being identified as a 'New Missionary Age' where, despite numerous challenges, the horizons of a humanity more fully prepared for the sowing of the Gospel' are opening before us"*. In response, the Church must approach her mission in traditionally Christian spaces with a *"renewed missionary impulse, an expression of a new, generous openness to the gift of grace"* that invites people to encounter Jesus Christ and to become his disciple. In this era of missionary outreach, as Pope Francis teaches us, we are called to be a *"Church which goes forth....forth from our own comfort zone in order to reach all the 'peripheries' in need of the light of the Gospel."*

As we undertake this work of renewal, we are reminded of the account of how St. Francis of Assisi received his calling to work for the renewal of the Church. As St. Francis was praying before the crucifix in the dilapidated Church of San Damiano, near Assisi, he heard Christ speak to him from the Cross, saying, *"Go, repair my house."* At first, St. Francis took the message literally. So he started rebuilding the physical building around him, brick-by-brick. However, soon he understood Christ was calling him not to reconstruct a material structure, but to *renew the Church itself*. This account, and the image of that crucifix, have been a guiding light for us in this time of renewal. Just as the crucified Christ gave St. Francis the mandate to renew the Church, we pray that Christ will inspire us to have the discernment necessary to know what we need to rebuild and what needs to be made anew in service of *renewing his Church*.





In my report to a recent meeting of the Downtown Archdiocese Church Grouping, I shared some of the challenges and vision that I see from my perspective as pastor of St. Peter's at this time. Some of the items I listed are also challenges facing all of us downtown churches. I include below a portion of my report.

**CHALLENGES:** The impact of the COVID pandemic has drastically touched the Loop and everyone who lives and works downtown. The Franciscan and lay staff of St. Peter's have begun discussions on exactly what should be the focus of our ministry today? We very much accept that "Renew My Church" is a part of our Franciscan heritage and a vital part of the future presence of the Church in the Loop for those who live, work or visit this part of Chicago.

St. Peter's has always struggled with adequate Financial Support but somehow with the grace of God and the generosity of our benefactors and visitors, we continue to be a viable presence of the Church here in the Loop. The support of our Franciscan Provincial administration has been very helpful in keep us viable. I look forward to discussing how we, and other Downtown churches, can share our Resources now and in the future.

While St. Peter's is very accessible to anyone downtown or using public transportation the expense of parking a car in the Loop is very high especially on weekdays. I believe we need to look at how we outreach to many people in the Loop, especially students, those living in the Loop, the homeless on the streets, and others. We also need to discuss with the Secular Franciscan Fraternities associated with St. Peter's how we might work together in ministry. A growing concern I have as pastor is the aging of the Franciscan Friars living and working at St. Peter's and the reality of having fewer men available for our present ministry or any increase in future ministry.

**VISION:** In the next months, St. Peter's will be developing our vision for the church and what the future holds. Our province of Franciscans (Sacred Heart Province) along with five other USA OFM Provinces will become one province in October 2023. This will bring unforeseen challenges but also will hopefully offer us new ways of how best to minister to the People of God and evangelize in Chicago and in Boston, New York, Phoenix and San Francisco where the Franciscans presently staff downtown churches with similar locations like St. Peter's.

All of us pastors of the Archdiocese Downtown Churches are committed to fostering and promoting the renewal of our faith in the areas in which we all serve. We plan to continue our discussions to renew our Church and to involve more and more of those in our congregations in this ongoing renewal of our faith.

We live in difficult and challenging times and the Church (everyone of us who believe in Jesus) are challenged to commit ourselves to bringing Christ's message of the Gospel to others. I'll be sharing more in the coming months about how we might **Renew My Church** here at St. Peter's.

**Fr. Michael**

**NOTE:** This is an advance notice that due to preparations for our special concert that will be held in church on June 3 & 4 there will **NOT** be Adoration and Benediction on Friday, June 3. Please be sure and mark your calendars of this change for June 3.

**MINISTRY SCHEDULE FOR JUNE 13-17:** The Franciscan Friars meet every three years in a gathering called a *Provincial Chapter* to discuss our Franciscan life, elect our leadership, pray together and renew our Franciscan calling. This year we will gather in St. Louis, Missouri from throughout our Province from June 13 to June 17. With the merging of six of the U.S. Provinces in October 2023 this may be the last time we friars of Sacred Heart Province come together as a separate province. Because many of us from St. Peter's Friary will be attending this gathering, there will be some significant adjustments in the church schedule June 13-17. I will share more information in coming bulletins and on our web site.

**Fr. Michael**

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

**Mondays through Fridays**

**Mass Times:**

**7:30 am, 11:40 am and 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 3:00 pm**

**Saturdays**

**12 noon until 4:30 pm**

**Lower Level—Room C**

**Across from St. Peter's Book Store**

**For further information please view the website [stpetersloop.org](http://stpetersloop.org) or call**

**312-372-5111.**



**St. Peter's Church**  
**CELEBRATING 175 YEARS**  
 Anniversary Concerts

June 3rd and 4th | 7:30 PM

**Concert Program:**  
 The Chicago Sinfonietta plays Mozart's Violin Concerto in G featuring Paolo Castellani, violin

The World Premiere of The Nature Suite By Robert M. Hutmacher, OFM

Fr. Bob's The Nature Suite consists of 16 pieces that reflect his life in the natural beauty of the Midwest that is flavored by the legacy of Francis of Assisi.

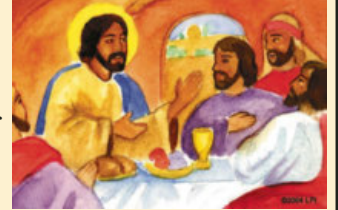
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## THIS WEEK'S SCRIPTURE STUDY

### Rev. 21: 1-5a

“Then I, John, saw a new heaven and a new earth.”  
 What if each one of us substituted our own name for John's? What would we see?




Jay is an architect. Several years ago he and one of his college classmates partnered with two other architects to form their own firm. Since then they have hired additional architects and a small support staff and moved into a larger facility, which they designed and built around the needs of their growing endeavor. Along the way they've had to learn to deal with different personalities and work styles. They've attended classes and conferences on management and conflict resolution, determined to create a healthy and affirming work environment for themselves and for their employees. “Then I, Jay, saw a new heaven and a new earth.”


Jay and his associates are also aware of their responsibility to be good stewards of the earth. Looking ahead to the needs and opportunities of the 21<sup>st</sup> century they have begun to develop a new vision of what they do and how they do it. One of the ways in which they are making their vision real is by designing buildings that are environmentally innovative. Currently they are in the process of putting together plans for an entire complex of buildings – residential and commercial – that will use and conserve solar heat and energy and incorporate recycled materials wherever and whenever possible. “Then I, Jay, saw a new heaven and a new earth.”

God promises a “...new heaven and a new earth...” and then invites us to use our gifts as co-workers in the ongoing work of creation. The architect sees a new world based on sustainable energy and conservation of resources. The bioengineer sees a new world where people with disabilities live with dignity and independence. The farmer sees a new world where the earth is tended with care and food produced responsibly. The list goes on and on, people envisioning a “...new heaven and a new earth...”, seeing with new eyes. “Then I, (your name), saw a new heaven and a new earth.” What do you see? What gift do you bring?


*By Vinal Van Benthem offs*



**Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament**  
**Fridays in the Church**  
**after the 1:15 pm Mass**  
**until 4:15 pm**



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



**Confessions at St. Peter's**  
**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.**





### Celebrating 175 Years of Ministry!

**TICKETS ON SALE NOW!**  
*The Franciscan Friars and Lay Staff of St. Peter's Church cordially invite you to*



## ST. PETER'S 8TH ANNUAL GALA

**Thursday,  
July 14, 2022  
5:30 to 8:30 pm**

Union League Club  
of Chicago  
65 W. Jackson Blvd

**Tickets \$225  
Open Bar  
Heavy Appetizers  
Silent Auction  
Live Auction**

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**Sponsors & Auction Items Needed For St. Peter's 2022 Gala!**

Please help make this year's gala a success. We are seeking sponsorships and auction items including: vacation getaways, unique experiences, dinners, gift cards, jewelry, sports memorabilia, and golf packages. All donations are greatly appreciated and tax deductible.

For more information, please contact Fr. Mario DiCicco, Gala Coordinator at 312-372-5111 or email [mmdicicco@gmail.com](mailto:mmdicicco@gmail.com).



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**Mind, Body and Soul Skills for the Journey.  
Moving Forward in Our Transitions**

**May 16:** Get Rid of Your Psychological Clutter

What price do you pay and what is your purpose, for holding on to what holds you back from growing? Clear out what keeps you stuck, and discover new strategies. Are you a late bloomer?

**June 6:** Learn to Trust your Intuition

Now is the time to breathe new life into your living. Listen to your little voice to guide your journey. Learn ways to discern and act.

**June 20:** Hesitation: Stop Waiting for Permission to Live

What is the purpose of waiting for permission to dare to live with your Creator's gifts!

**June 27:** "If Only I Had More Courage."

Distinguish bravery from courage—to do what life requires without worrying about approval. What's different about the times when you act in spite of anxiety? Realize, and take in, everyday courage.

**July 11:** 6 Ways To Reduce Your Vulnerability To Anxiety

Identify life patterns that make you more vulnerable to anxiety; discover healthy alternatives.



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.



**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**.

For information regarding Spiritual Direction, please call **312-372-5111**.

# ST. PETER'S BOOK & GIFT SHOP

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*5th Sunday*  
**OF EASTER**



"I give you a new commandment: love one another. As I have loved you, so you also should love one another. This is how all will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."  
 - Jn 13:34-35


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

**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.

**St. Peter's Church Safety Guidelines**




The Archdiocese of Chicago has made mask wearing optional for all those entering the church building. It is encouraged to continue to wear masks and to stay safe while inside St. Peter's Church. Visitors should sanitize their hands upon entering the building. Thank you.



**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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