

OUR LADY OF PEACE CHURCH

January 17, 2021



2ND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Jesus turned and saw them following him and said to them, "What are you looking for?" They said to him, "Rabbi"—which translated means Teacher—"where are you staying?" He said to them, "Come, and you will see." - Jn 1:38-39a

FROM THE DESK OF FATHER STAN



My dear friends,

A post-Christmas gift from Pope Francis'

As a kind of final thought on the Christmas Season, even though our decorations are now put away and we are no longer singing carols, I wanted to share with you a section of Pope Francis' homily for Christmas Eve Mass. The Holy Father's practical reflection on the essence of Christmas is a fruitful message for thoughtful reflection and meditation.

"For us a child is born," Isaiah prophesied. "For us is born this day a Savior," we repeated in the Psalm.... Yet what do these words—*for us*—really mean? They mean that the Son of God, the one who is holy by nature, came to make us, as God's children, holy by grace. Yes, God came into the world as a child to make us children of God. What a magnificent gift! This day, God amazes us and says to each of us: "You are amazing". Dear sister, dear brother, never be discouraged. Are you tempted to feel that you were a mistake? God tells you, "No, you are *my* child!" Do you have a feeling of failure or inadequacy, the fear that you will never emerge from the dark tunnel of trial? God says to you, "Have courage, I am with you." He does this not in words, but by making himself a child with you and for you. In this way he reminds you that the starting point of all rebirth is the recognition that we are children of God.... This is the undying heart of our hope, the incandescent core that gives warmth and meaning to our life. Underlying all our strengths and weaknesses, stronger than all our past hurts and failures, or our fears and concerns about the future, there is this great truth: we are beloved sons and daughters. God's love for us does not, and never will, depend upon us. It is *completely free love*....

To us a son is given. The Father did not give us a thing, an object; he gave his only-begotten Son, who is all his joy. Yet if we look at our ingratitude towards God and our injustice towards so many of our brothers and sisters, a doubt can arise. Was the Lord right in giving us so much? Is he right still to trust us? Does he not overestimate us? Of course, he overestimates us, and he does this because he is madly in love with us. He cannot help but love us. That is the way he is, so different from ourselves. This is his secret for entering our hearts. God knows that the only way to save us, to heal us from within, is by loving us: there is no other way. He knows that we become better only by accepting his *unfailing love*, an unchanging love that changes us. Only the love of Jesus can transform our life, heal our deepest hurts and set us free from the vicious circles of disappointment, anger and constant complaint....

In the lowly manger of a darkened stable, the Son of God is present. But this raises yet another question. Why was he born at night, without decent accommodation, in poverty and rejection when he deserved to be born as the greatest of kings in the finest of palaces? To make us understand the immensity of his love for our human condition: even to touching the depths of our poverty with his *concrete love*. The Son of God was born an outcast, in order to tell us that every outcast is a child of God. He came into the world as each child comes into the world, weak and vulnerable.... As he did in Bethlehem, so too with us, God loves to work wonders through our poverty.

Once again we will be collecting Valentine cards for our parish homebound and those who live in area nursing facilities. You may buy or make the cards and bring them to the church at weekend Masses where there will be collection boxes at the side entrance.

DEADLINE IS SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 7!





Saturday, January 16

4:00P *Phyllis Choleva*
by her family

Sunday, January 17

8:00A *John Bak*
by Paul & Emily

10:00A *Frank Galvis*
by Jackie & Mark

Saturday, January 23

4:00P *John Pelis, Jr.*
by his wife, Marilyn

Sunday, January 24

8:00A *Edward Zewinski*
by his wife, Ginette

10:00A *Steven Saharceski*
by the Daignault family

DAILY MASS

Monday, January 18

8:00A *Agnes Zaniewski*
by the Women's Group

Tuesday, January 19

8:00A *James Cade*
by his family

Wednesday, January 20

8:00A *Pat Caloon*
by John

Thursday, January 21

8:00A *Martine Doyan*
by Aunt Cecile Chartier

Friday, January 22

8:00A *Holy Communion Service*

Our Lady's Window

January 20 *Martine Doyan* by Aunt Cecile

WEEKLY COLLECTION

January 10, 2021

Regular collection/mail \$2,472.00

On-line \$719.00

Thank you for your continued support especially during the pandemic.

CORRECTION

The Ste. Cecile Society President is Peggy Sevrens and Vice-President is Yvette Bissell.



2021 Boxes of Contribution Envelopes are available before and after Mass at the rectory porch entrance or come to the rectory Monday thru Thursday 8:30A-12:00P.

LUCKY NUMBER CLUB

In this year of Covid 19, our Social Justice Commission continues to help our community. Once again, we encourage you to join at a cost of **\$60.00 a year**. Last year we had enough money from the beginning of the year to help our community in substantial ways. We urge you sign up in early January so that you can enter your number into the drawings for 1 of 2 Terrazzo's Restaurant **\$50.00** gift certificates and/or 1 of 15 beautiful and unique metal hangers by local artist named Charlie. They come with a suction cup and magnetic hook.



Anyone who has paid for the full year (\$60.00) will be entered into a drawing for 2 Terrazzo's Gift Cards (worth \$50.00 each) and 1 of 15 of these lovely hangers.

**DEADLINE FOR DRAWING IS JANUARY 31!
DON'T MISS OUT!**



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