



Saints Peter & Paul Church

**SACRED THROUGH THE LORD JESUS
SENSIBLE WITH THE LORD JESUS
SAVED IN THE LORD JESUS**

OUR MISSION

At Saints Peter & Paul, we cultivate the Gospel message and offer the Sacraments & Worship, activities & community for God's people. "We are God's co-workers."
1 Corinthians 3:9



DECEMBER 27, 2020 • THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS MARY AND JOSEPH

MASS SCHEDULE

Wednesday & Friday: 8:30am

Vigil Saturday: 4:00pm • **Sunday:** 8:30am

Holy Days: Check bulletin prior to Holy Day

STAFF

Rev. John J. Schneider, Pastor
john.j.schneider@icloud.com

Rev. Mr. Robert Bugaj, Deacon

Kevin McManamon, Office Manager

Mr. Frank Kozuch, Director of Music Ministry

Mr. Bill Novak, Parish Maintenance

Mrs. Geraldine Koenig, Parish Secretary

SACRAMENTS

CONFessions: Saturday 3:00pm & the 2nd Thursday of the month 5–6pm, in the Servers Sacristy of the Church.

BAPTISM: Before any detailed arrangements are made, prospective expecting parents must attend a pre-baptism class. Arrangements are to be made at the Rectory Office in advance.

FUNERALS: Arrangements are to be made at the Rectory Office before publication in newspapers.

WEDDINGS: Arrangements are to be made in person at the Rectory Office at least six months in advance. All couples planning to be married must attend Diocesan Pre-Marriage Instructions.

SICK CALLS: Inform the Rectory Office of the ill and homebound.

RCIA: Interested in becoming Catholic? Learn about the Catholic Faith. Call the Rectory.

4750 TURNERY ROAD • GARFIELD HTS., OH 44125

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Church Website: <http://stspeterpaul.weconnect.com/>

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**Ss. Peter & Paul and St. Therese
LITURGY SCHEDULE
Week in Christmas**

MONDAY, December 28, 2020*Feast of the Holy Innocents, martyrs*

St. T.—6:30 PM † Clarice Kett
St. T.—7:00 PM Confessions

TUESDAY, December 29, 2020**No Mass****WEDNESDAY, December 30, 2020**

Ss. P&P—8:30 AM † Maddelena Tota

THURSDAY, December 31, 2020

Ss. P&P—4:00 PM † Intention of the Celebrant

FRIDAY, January 1, 2021*Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God*

St. T.—10:30 AM † The People of the Parishes

SATURDAY, January 2, 2021*Memorial of Saints Basil the Great and Gregory Nazianzen, Bishops and Doctors of the Church*

Ss. P&P—4:00 PM † Petrancek, Kubek, Zurwell &
Sans Families
St. T.—5:30 PM † Al DiBaggio

SUNDAY, January 3, 2021*The Epiphany of the Lord*

Ss. P&P—8:30 AM † The People of the Parishes
St. T.—10:30 AM † In Memory of the Niemczura, Blazey,
McSweeney & Wilkes Families

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday:	1 JN 1:5—2:2; MT 2:13-18
Tuesday:	1 JN 2:3-11; LK 2:22-35
Wednesday:	1 JN 2:12-17; LK 2:36-40
Thursday:	1 JN 2:18-21; JN 1:14A, 12A
Friday:	NM 6:22-27; GAL 4:4-7; LK 2:16-21
Saturday:	1 Jn 2:22-28; Jn 1:19-28
Sunday:	Is 60:1-6; Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6; Mt 2:1-12

**PRAY FOR THE ILL AND HOMEBOUND**

MaryJane Andrako, Dennis Becker, Helen Benko,

Mary Bienkowski, Sue Boyne, Thom Boyne,

Eleanor Buras, Arline Charvat, Carol Cieplowski,

Sal Crasi, Catherine Dehil, Dennis Dikowicz,

Ross C. Furcello, Ed Gabriele, Adele Gispanski,

Laverne Grabowski, Scott Harmon, Dori Herout,

Kathy Hrestak, Frank Kingzett, Kyle Knight,

MaryAnn Koenig, Carol Krapovich,

Rudy & Dolores Kubicek, Sharon Lachowskim

Fr. Joseph Mamich, Daria Melnyc, Karla Muir,

Michelle Nowakowski, Kelly Ann Palasics, Christopher

Pawlak, Kelly Perhach, Nancy Perhach, Robert Perhach,

Richard Pontious, Sandra Priebe, Ken & MaryAnn Prybor,

John Robinson, Maria Schieda, John Shedlock, MaryAnn

Sibits, Stan Sopinski, Allen Strnad, Darlene Triska,

Rita Trzeciak, Sophie Vargo, Vince Vartorella,

Florence Vlanty, Stella Wall, Jackie Yenco

Knights of Columbus, Council 4130 extends heartfelt thanks to everyone who contributed to our annual Coats for Kids Campaign. The Council was able to present a check to this fine organization in the amount of \$1,360. Your generosity during these difficult times enabled us to continue this worthwhile charitable endeavor. Merry Christmas and God Bless.++



PASTOR'S NOTES

The Lord be with you!

The Lord be with you! We return to the *Baltimore Catechism* and its investigation into the marks of the Church. In particular we are looking at how the Church is one in her faith.

Question 553. How is it evident that the Church is one in faith?

Answer. It is evident the Church is one in faith because all Catholics throughout the world believe each and every article of faith proposed by the Church.

Question 554. Could a person who denies only one article of our faith be a Catholic?

Answer. A person who denies even one article of our faith could not be a Catholic; for truth is one and we must accept it whole and entire or not at all.

Question 555. Are there any pious beliefs and practices in the Church that are not articles of faith?

Answer. There are many pious beliefs and practices in the Church that are not articles of faith; that is, we are not bound under pain of sin to believe in them; yet we will often find them useful aids to holiness, and hence they are recommended by our pastors.

Question 556. Of what sin are persons guilty who put firm belief in religious or other practices that are either forbidden or useless?

Answer. Persons who put a firm belief in religious or other practices that are forbidden or useless are guilty of the sin of superstition.

My commentary.

Before we look at each of these questions - and they all deserve our attention - we need to talk about degrees of belief and assent. Our thinking and willing have degrees of certitude and commitment respectively. The classic degrees of certitude of knowledge are scientific, probabilistic, opinion, and not knowing. I know something scientifically when I know all the causes and can predict it, like the earth's rotation. Probabilistic knowledge is where we know a lot of information but cannot know all the causes of something *or* that knowledge of causes cannot be complete. We have probabilistic knowledge of weather. Opinion is where our minds tend to think a certain way based on an incomplete apprehension of causes, such as who we think will win the Super Bowl. We can also be in a state of not knowing either because we have knowledge for or against an opinion in equal measure or because we lack even a hint of knowledge. For example, at the time of this writing, I do not know how many people will come to Mass on Christmas because I have conflicting pieces of information. I know more people will come to church on Christmas, but I also know that people have been told to stay at home as much as possible. From the above, we can see that it is not necessarily the case that the more we know about something, the more certain we are of a truth.

How much we assent to a truth through belief also has degrees. The term "fair weather fan" aptly describes how someone believes more in a team the more they win. To oversimplify things a little, we can speak of strong, moderate, and weak beliefs. A strong belief is one that is resilient or almost immune to doubts; a moderate belief struggles against doubts but usually overcomes them. A weak belief is often overcome by doubts but returns to belief. For example, last year all of us had a strong belief in the Browns until halftime of their first game. By the end of the game, some of us had a moderate belief, but many had already returned to the Cleveland standard weak belief in the Browns (or more properly, the strong belief against their success ;). When the Church talks about a religious assent to truth, she is encouraging us to have a strong and resilient assent to Revelation. Such belief does not mean that we never doubt but that we do not allow our doubts to dominate.

Going out of order, let us take Question 554 first. We deny a truth when we publicly announce that an article of faith is false. Conversely, we have a weak belief when we privately doubt an article of faith. Private doubt does not remove us from the Church, but public denial certainly does. From time to time we will encounter doubts or confusion about the Faith; that is normal. In those moments, God is asking us to look into the matter more closely and understand what and how the Church is teaching. However, when we take it upon ourselves to tell the Church what to believe in, we have sinned grievously.

I love Question 555. The Church is full of devotions and aids to prayer, but not all of these are meant for everyone. Let's take the Stations of the Cross for a moment. I love praying this devotion in Lent, but I know plenty of good Catholics who do not use it. Although we should always be open to new ways of prayer, we should never demand that others pray the way we do. As your pastor, it is my duty to foster public and private prayer in our parishes.

When Question 556 mentions "firm belief" it means what I have called "strong belief." Reading your horoscope to have a chuckle in the morning is not a sin; reading your horoscope in the morning and expecting it to happen is the mortal sin of superstition. Superstitious practices like fortune tellers and tarot cards are forbidden to us for a grave reason: they can be conduits of the Devil. Luckily, most of them are just scam artists, but some of them are in fact in league with Hell.

Returning to Question 553, we can see that indeed the Church teaches and believes in one faith across the earth. We do not see Catholics in South America professing Christ as merely Man and Catholics in Europe professing Him only as God: we all believe that Jesus Christ is true God and true Man. Individual Catholics might encounter particular doubts or troubles, but we see the Church proclaiming the One Faith of Jesus Christ.

During this Christmas Season, it is good for us to celebrate the Faith we share with all Christians. The Nativity of the Lord reminds us that Christ came to free all men and women from the powers of darkness. Enlightening first our hearts and minds with the fullness of His Revelation, it is our solemn duty to bring that gift of grace to all we meet.

Merry Christmas and have a happy New Year!

Fr. John

Ask Father:

"What are your duties to your parents (in regards to the Commandment, Honor Thy Father & Thy Mother) if your parent has been abusive since your childhood?"

Answer. Before answering this question, we should note that we should never make excuses for child abuse in any form. Nevertheless, the question raises an important topic of what we should do for those who have harmed us. First, we should pray for them as much as we are able.

Sometimes even bringing up our enemies in prayer can cause us anguish and distress; in such cases, we should not mention them by name but just tell God that it is for a special intention. Second, we should establish as peaceful a relationship with them as possible in the present. If the parents are contrite, perhaps that means that we can be on friendly terms with them. If they continue to be abusive, however, less contact is warranted. We are not under any obligation to become human punching bags although we should suffer voluntarily when we can. Better to err on the side of caution here though. Each relationship will be different so I cannot give any concrete advice about the amount of contact except that the rule needs to be peace: both internal and external. Third, we should not mention their abuse to people who do not need to know. Priests and therapists should know but not our coworkers. Fourth, we should give them the material support they need in times of distress. Lastly and most importantly, we should forgive them and ask God for the grace to forget their evil. The grace of holy forgetfulness is a healing balm for our own well being. The less we think of the evil we have suffered, the less that evil has power over us. Such forgetfulness is not where forgiveness begins, however, but where it ends.

The FEST Internship

*Calling all college students looking
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STEWARDSHIP OF TREASURE

The collection figures
for December 19/20
were not available when
this bulletin went
to print.

THANK YOU DZIEKUJE
GRAZIE DANKE SALAMAT

STEWARDSHIP REFLECTION

“...as the Lord has forgiven you, so you must forgive.” - COLOSSIANS 3:13

Forgiving is one of the hardest things for people to do. We can't give what we don't have. Through **Stewardship**, we need to receive God's mercy and forgiveness first before we can give it to others. Go to the sacrament of Reconciliation and receive God's mercy and forgiveness. Then, share the gift of forgiveness with someone – a family member, a friend or a co-worker.



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