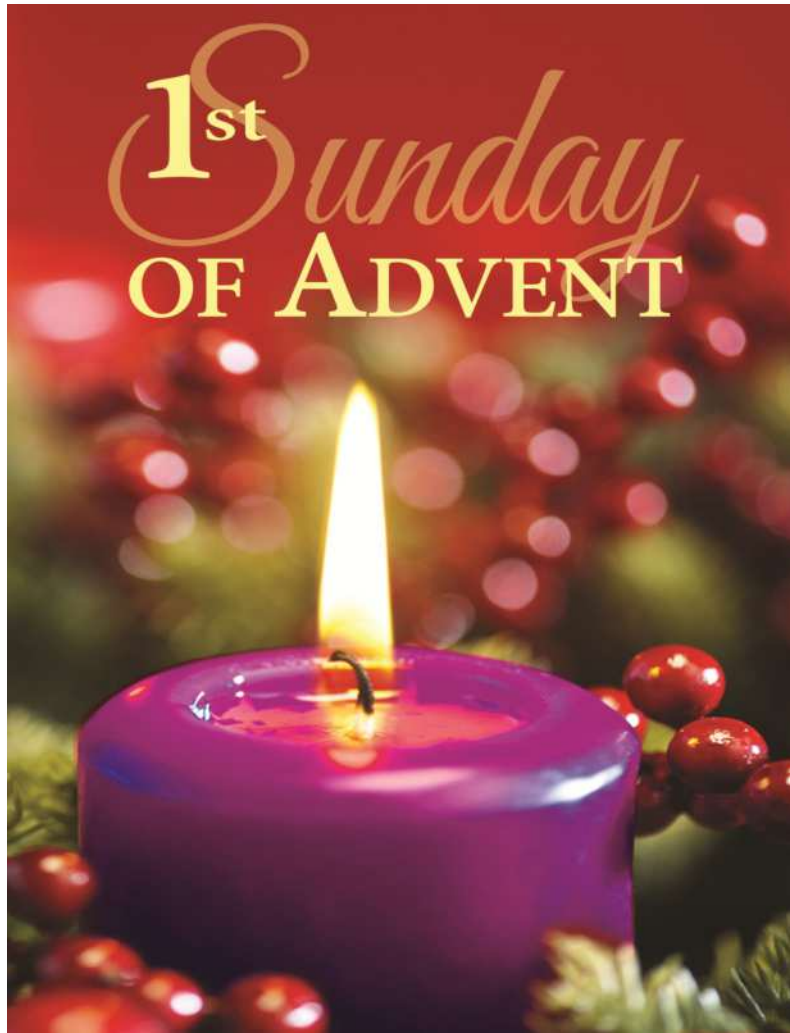




St. Peter's Church

OF SPRING GROVE, IL



Sunday, November 30, 2025
First Sunday of Advent

ST. PETER'S MISSION STATEMENT

As parishioners of St. Peter's Catholic Church, we strive to imitate Jesus' example of prayer, fellowship, love and service.

Mass Schedule

Tuesday - Friday: 8:00 a.m.

Saturday: 4:00 p.m.

Sunday: 8:00 and 10:00 a.m.

(10:00 a.m. Mass livestreamed)

Reconciliation

Saturday: 3:00 - 3:45 p.m.

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

Saturday: 5:00 p.m. - Sunday 7:45 a.m.

WEEK 1 Advent

GO EVANGELIZE

Prayer, Invitation, Witness, Accompaniment

Today's Gospel calls us to vigilance. Jesus tells us, "Therefore, stay awake! For you do not know on which day your Lord will come." While He is speaking about our need to be ready to meet the Lord when He comes at the end of our lives, it's also an invitation for us to always be ready to share our faith with others whenever the opportunity presents itself. As Scripture says, **we should "always be ready to give an explanation to anyone who asks you a reason for your hope."** (1 Pt 3:15) We never know the moment when someone will come to us in need of prayer, a word of encouragement, or with questions related to their own spiritual hunger. **We must always be ready to meet them where they are and offer a word of hope.**

PRAY: Take a moment to pray this week for those "divine appointments"—those individuals who might come your way—seeking encouragement or insight into the spiritual questions in their lives. Ask for the grace to be "awake" so that you're ready to meet them when they come. We can't always predict when these encounters will happen, but we can prepare ourselves to receive these persons as Christ and offer them our full attention and love.



Knights of Columbus Annual Breakfast with Santa

**Mark your Calendars!
Sunday, December 14th**

After the 8:00 & 10:00 a.m. Masses!
(As always a free-will donation is always appreciated!)

St. Peter's Women's Ministry

Tuesday, December 2nd in the Parish Hall

Rosary - 6:45 p.m.

Business Meeting - 7:10 p.m.

Following the Meeting -

Dinner and Christmas Party



Following the meeting we will have our annual Christmas party with dinner provided. Please bring a white elephant gift to exchange.



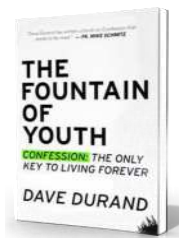
All are Welcome!

The "12 Men movement", has graciously donated enough copies of the book, "The Fountain of Youth," for the parishioners of St. Peter's.

**ARE YOU READY TO LIVE FOREVER?
EVERYONE WANTS ETERNAL YOUTH.
GOD CREATED US WITH THIS DESIRE BECAUSE
HE WANTS TO FULFILL IT. HOW?
THROUGH THE SACRAMENT OF CONFESSION.**

In this book, repentant sinner Dave Durand offers a refreshing perspective on the sacrament that is most often overlooked (*and even avoided*).

The Fountain of Youth reveals truth that every Catholic needs to hear. **It calls you out of spiritual slavery, beyond your comfort zone, and into greatness with an honest perspective on the battle for our souls.**



"So many people have objections to going to Confession. With clarity and winsomeness, Dave has wisely and gently broken down the walls that keep people from the forgiveness God wants each person to experience."

~ Fr. Mike Schmitz

Next weekend, December 6th & 7th, ushers will be handing out Free copies at all the Masses.





Christmas Food Drive

THANK YOU to all those who volunteered to purchase items for the Christmas Food Drive! The filled bags should be returned to the Church no later than Sunday, December 7th. St. Vincent de Paul Society members will be on hand after all Masses next weekend to collect bags. You may also drop them off at the parish office. We know the families will appreciate your generosity.



The Advent Wreath Explained!

The Advent Wreath as we know it today is a modern spin on an ancient practice—or rather, several of them.

Christians have always utilized candles to illustrate the metaphor of Christ as the “great light” shining on a people waiting in darkness (Isaiah 9:2). Historians tell us that pre-Christian societies in Europe also viewed candles as symbolic of the coming light of spring, and may have used wreaths of natural material along with these candles. Traditions and rituals surrounding an “*Advent Wreath*” are often thought to have originated in the Lutheran tradition in 16th century Germany. Today, Advent Wreaths are a practice embraced by most Christians in the Western world.

An Advent Wreath consists of a circle of evergreen and four candles, one for each week of Advent. Three of the candles are purple; one is rose, representing Gaudete Sunday, a time of rejoicing at the closeness of Christmas. In Catholicism, Advent Wreaths are blessed on the First Sunday of Advent. For Advent Wreaths in private homes, it is appropriate for a family member to perform the blessing.

Blessing of the Advent Wreath

from the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops: When the blessing of the Advent Wreath is celebrated in the home, it is appropriate that it be blessed by a parent or another member of the family.



All make the sign of the cross

Leader: Our help is in the name of the Lord.

Response: Who made heaven and earth.

Read: Isaiah 9: (lines 1-2 and 5-6) or Isaiah 63 (lines 16-17 & 19) or Isaiah 64 (lines 2-7)

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

Leader: Lord our God, we praise you for your Son, Jesus Christ: he is Emmanuel, the hope of the peoples, he is the wisdom that teaches and guides us, he is the Savior of every nation.

Lord God, let your blessing come upon us as we light the candles of this wreath.

May the wreath and its light be a sign of Christ’s promise to bring us salvation.

May he come quickly and not delay.

Amen



TURN IN YOUR ARTICLES EARLY!
RE M I N D E R :
HOLIDAY BULLETIN SUBMISSION
All Articles Need to be Submitted by Noon!
Bulletin For Sunday, December 14th
ARTICLES DUE: FRIDAY, DECEMBER 5TH
Bulletin For Sunday, December 21st
ARTICLES DUE: TUESDAY, DECEMBER 9TH

(PRACTICING) CATHOLIC Watershed Moments

Mini reflection: Of course the world is ending. It has been ending forever. And the Son of Man is coming—but don't forget, he was already here, too. And His Spirit, even now, is renewing the face of the earth. "But how?" we ask. "And when? And where?"

In every life there are watershed moments.

I think of our time on this earth as resembling, in the beginning, a fine, firm sheet of metal, suspended with perfect balance in time and space. If a drop of water falls upon the sheet, it remains precisely where it lands.

But life goes on. We see things, we feel things, and in the seeing and the feeling, the flat, smooth metal sheet is nicked. The impacts created by those experiences are like BB pellets riddling armor; before long, the surface is pockmarked. A falling drop of water will drain or pool either in one way or the other, its action determined by the closest indentation.

A watershed has been created, a summit or valley that disrupts the smooth flatness of life.

In today's Gospel, Jesus speaks about the end of the world. I'm no Biblical scholar, but I suspect the topic at hand is the Apocalypse (capital A). The big one. The explosion that upends the sheet itself and sends every drop of water crashing down. But I think, in a smaller way, it's also about all the indentations on the plane: those little apocalypses (lowercase a), the things that felt like the end of the world (or the beginning of a new one).

The loss of a job. The breakup of a relationship. The suffering of a loved one.

Of course the world is ending. It has been ending forever. And the Son of Man is coming—but don't forget, he was already here, too. And his Spirit, even now, is renewing the face of the earth.

"But how?" we ask. "And when? And where?"

Without the chinks in the armor—without the watershed moments—there is tremendous smoothness, certainly. But there is also no movement.

So look to the watershed moments, these little (and big) apocalypses. In these moments that change us, for better or worse, God is there, working, waiting.

~ Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman



WEEKENDS
11/29/- 12/7/2025

The Mass		For	
<i>CONFESSIONS OFFERED ON SATURDAY'S, 3:00 - 3:45 P.M. ROSARY PRAYED AT 3:30 P.M.</i>			
FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT			
Sat	4 pm	†	Leon Langer
Sun	8 am	†	Bill Rowe The parishioners of St. Peter's Church
	10 am	†	John & Andrzej Rubaszek
<i>Tuesday - Friday, Rosary Prayed at 7:30 a.m.</i>			
Tues	8 am		Nash Scichowski
Wed	8 am	†	Tina Fosnacht
Thur	8 am	†	Thomas Koncan
Fri	8 am	†	Jack Schmitt (Birthday)
SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT			
Sat	4 pm	†	Genevieve Stack
Sun	8 am	†	Raymond & Veronica Green
	10 am	†	Thomas Koncan The parishioners of St. Peter's Church

Pilgrim Statue of Our Lady of Fatima Would you like to host in your home the Pilgrim Statue of Our Lady of Fatima?

Parishioners have the wonderful opportunity to sign-up to host the traveling statue of Mary (*Our Lady of Fatima*) in your home. While the statue visits your home, please be sure to find a prominent place in your home to place it so that you and your family can be reminded daily of Our Lady's message of hope, peace and salvation. You are encouraged to pray and say the rosary daily with her. Invite family, friends and neighbors to come and pray the rosary with you.



By hosting the Blessed Mother statue in your home, you may receive abundant graces from her visit. Our Lady, through the rosary, helps us to know and follow Her Son, Jesus through the eyes of His Mother.

Simply contact Carrie Shannon
at 815-687-6734

	Lectors	Extraordinary Ministers	Ushers
1ST SUNDAY OF ADVENT			
Saturday 11/29 4:00 pm	Jerry Bodden	Marge Ladner	Rich Wirch
Sunday 11/30 8:00 am	Steve Besetzny	DeAnne Besetzny	Sean Gosselin Dennis Wehrheim
10:00 am	Aimee Thomas	Deacon Mark <i>Heather Justen</i> (Choir)	Dave Harms Kathleen Harms
2ND SUNDAY OF ADVENT			
Saturday 12/6 4:00 pm	Jean Rygiel	Deacon Mark	Phil Webb Gary Miller
Sunday 12/7 8:00 am	Ardie Arnold	Eddie Wells	Tom Fanella Larry Hauser
10:00 am	Tom Straley	Susan Straley <i>Sharon Ellicson</i> (Choir)	Mike Wyatt Mike Gordon

Homebound Ministers

November 30th: First Sunday of Advent

Deacon Mark, Theresa Frer, Mary Seil, Bev Schmitt & Thomas Gough

December 7th: Second Sunday of Advent

Peggy Neuman, Julia Francis, Paul Serio, Eddie Wells & Maria Sullivan



Simply scan the QR code to sign-up today, and use zip code 60081 to easily find St. Peter's **FREE subscription** for you to use anywhere, anytime.



How to Advent Has Arrived!

Join priests, religious, and Augustine Institute professors as they reveal the spiritual meaning behind beloved Advent traditions: the wreath, Jesse tree, nativity scene, and more. Each short episode offers simple meaningful ways to prepare for this sacred season with joy and purpose. Don't let the days slip by... begin preparing for your Advent journey and your heart for the coming of Christ.

First Candle of Advent Wreath represents

HOPE

Our Sanctuary Lamp burns from November 30th – December 13th for

† **Genevieve M. Stack**

May this light which reminds us of Jesus' True Presence in the Sanctuary Welcome her into eternal peace.



We would love to Pray for you!

PRAYER REQUESTS

Most Sacred Heart of Jesus, we place into your hands, all fellow parishioners we know and love, who are ill or injured and in need of Your healing touch. Jesus, be with them all, especially:

Marguerite Baranov
Christel Beyerlein
Joan Boettjer
Patty Brown
Deb Christian
Deb Cooke
Deacon Eugene Damian
Phyllis Ehlers
Robert Fenrich
Carol Flatley
Glenn Geske
Lynn Geske
Gina Gugala
Anthony Hodnik
Patricia Hodnik
Christopher Hautala
Joseph Keim
George Keim

Nancy Klein
Ronald Klein
Martha Koukol
Larry & LeeAnn Lord
Caroline Madson
Denise Meyers
Larry Meyers
Barbara Miller
Norma Moretti
John Mueller
Carole Nowicki
Jim Nowicki
John & Sandra Paleka
Debbie Schaff
Dorothy Scichowski
David Thomas
Valerie Thompson
Robert Tolomeo
Grace Wesinger

The individuals who are on our prayers list will continue to be on our prayer list for six months.

If you or a loved one wish to continue to be on the prayer list, please contact the Parish Office during regular business hours.
815-675-2288

If you know someone who is sick and asking for prayer, but they are not registered members of our parish family, please allow us to solicit support for them by adding their names to our Prayer Chain Ministry. Just visit **StPeterCatholicChurch.org** and **after clicking where it reads CONTACT US, simply follow the directions under PRAYER REQUEST.**

THE SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION IS OFFERED Every Saturday from 3:00 until 3:45 p.m.

Or call the Parish Office to schedule an appointment.



Website: StPeterCatholicChurch.org

Email: SaintPetersChurch@gmail.com

Office Hours: Tue. - Thu. 8:30 a.m. - noon,
1:00 - 5:00 p.m.

Confessions: Sat. 3:00 - 3:45 p.m. (or by appointment)

Pastor: Rev. Burt H. Absalon

Deacon: Mr. Mark Raz

PARISH STAFF

Parish Office 815-675-2288

Office Administration

Mary K. Yager x205

Laura Hamill x203

Music Director

Brian Wrightson 630-440-7261

music.stpeter@gmail.com

Property Maintenance

Mark Krakowski

Marka.stpeter@gmail.com

Parish Hall 815-675-6208

Preschool 815-342-6318

Aimee Thomas

Religious Education 815-342-6318

Aimee Thomas

FaithFormationStPeters@gmail.com

Bulletin Editors

Steve & DeAnne Besetzny

Bulletin_Editor_StPeter@aol.com

Ministries

Altar Servers

Tony Rygiel 815-482-6618

Eucharistic Ministers & Liturgical Scheduler

Sharon Ellicson 815-258-5033

Lectors

Peggy Mack 815-403-2225

Women's Ministry

Crystal Pace StPetersWM@gmail.com

Communion Ministers to the Homebound

Steve Besetzny steve.besetzny@gmail.com

Ushers

Chad Franckowiak chadfranko@gmail.com

Knights of Columbus, Grand Knight

Stan Logan Tinsley 847-507-2096

superstinsley92@gmail.com

St. Vincent de Paul

Ardie Arnold StPeters.svdv@gmail.com

Prayer Chain

Mark Vallango & Carol Flatley

StPetersPrayerChain@hotmail.com

Adoration & Our Visiting Madonna

Carrie Shannon 815-687-6734

Grief Support Group

Marie Arnold (Call the Parish Office)

Prayers & Squares

Connie Otsuka 224-392-1940



PARISH CALENDAR

Sunday, November 30th - First Sunday of Advent

- **Benediction & Reposition of the Blessed Sacrament - 7:45 am**
- Blest Art - Parish Hall - After All Masses
- OCIA - Parish Office Upstairs Class Room - 9:00 am
- **NO Faith Formation Classes**

Monday, December 1st - Parish Office Closed

- Faith Formation Classes - 3rd, 4th, 5th & 6th - 5:30 pm

Tuesday, December 2nd

- Morning Bible Study - Parish Hall - 9:00 am
- SPWM Meeting/Christmas Party - Parish Hall - 6:45 pm

Wednesday, December 3rd

- **Spiritual Warfare Rosary - Church - 6:00 pm**
- Evening Bible Study - Parish Hall - 6:30 pm

Thursday, December 4th

- Choir Rehearsal - 6:00 pm

Friday, December 5th - Parish Office Closed

Saturday, December 6th

- **Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament all night until 7:45 am**

Sunday, December 7th - Second Sunday of Advent

- **Benediction & Reposition of the Blessed Sacrament - 7:45 am**
- OCIA - Parish Office Upstairs Class Room - 9:00 am
- Faith Formation Classes - 1st, 2nd, 7th & 8th - 5:30 pm

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PARISH INFORMATION

BAPTISMS - Fr. Burt is eager and happy to baptize children whose parent(s) are practicing the Catholic faith and registered members of St. Peter's Parish. Please call the Parish Office for additional requirements and information.

MARRIAGES - Please contact Fr. Burt before you set a date, at least six months in advance.

HOLY COMMUNION - Parishioners confined to their homes, for an indefinite length of time due to illness or advanced age, may call the office and request that the Holy Eucharist be brought to them on Sunday mornings.

REGISTRATION - New members should register by either calling the Parish Office or visiting us online at: StPeterCatholicChurch.org

HOSPITAL VISITS - If you wish Fr. Burt to visit during your stay in the hospital, please call him at the Parish Office and he will be happy to do so. Likewise, if you wish to be added to our Prayer Chain, let us know by calling 815-675-2288

FUNERALS ARRANGEMENTS - are to be made in consultation with Fr. Burt.

ANOINTING OF THE SICK - If you or someone you know is sick, injured or being admitted to a hospital and would like to receive the Anointing of the Sick, call the Parish Office without delay.

Should there be an emergency after normal business hours, please call 815-675-2339

KNIGHTS' CORNER

WE ARE ALL CALLED TO SERVE

Knights of Columbus
Business Meeting - December 9th
Parish Hall - 7:00 pm

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