

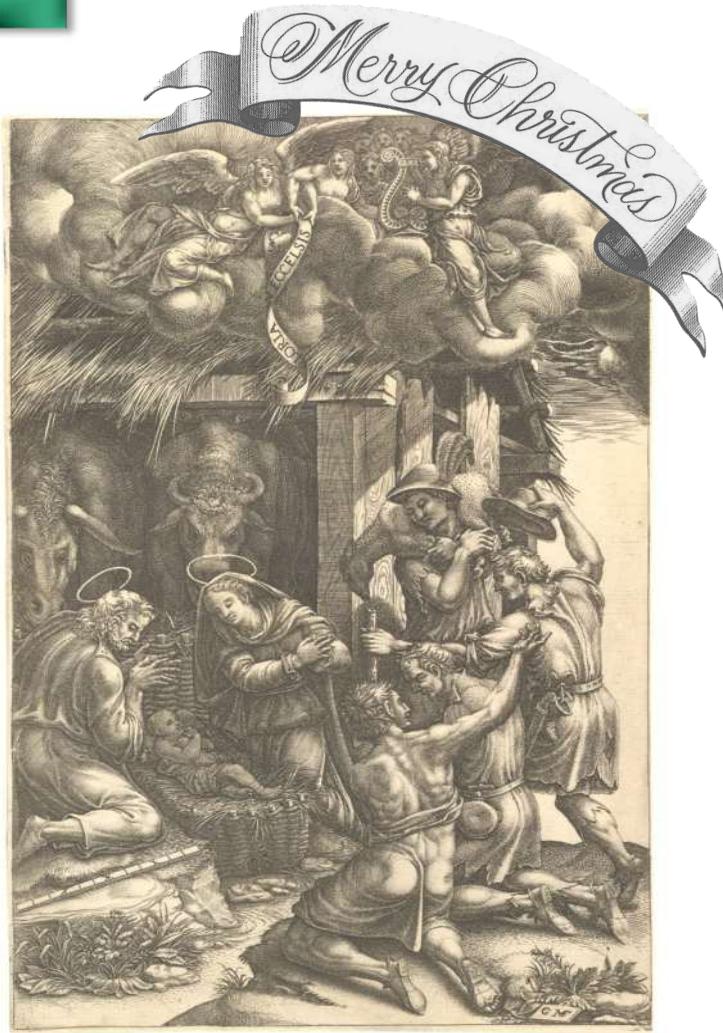
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St. Peter's Church

OF SPRING GROVE, IL

Happy Birthday
Jesus



~ The Adoration of the Shepherds ~ Engraved by Giorgio Ghisi ~ late 1570s

Sunday, December 21, 2025
Fourth 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.

CHRISTMAS MASSES (THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD)

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 24TH AT 4:00 PM & 10:00 PM

THURSDAY, DEC. 25TH AT 8:00 AM & 10:00 AM



NEW YEAR'S EVE & DAY

SOLEMNITY OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY, MOTHER OF GOD

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 31ST - 4:00 PM

THURSDAY, JANUARY 1ST - 9:00 AM

The Nativity

The Nativity, the birth of Jesus at Bethlehem, is a beautiful and ecstatic moment that we get to witness. The Prince of Peace manifests Himself in our lives. Christ the Lord was born in poverty. We see His face in the poor today. He was laid in a manger, a feeding trough for animals. He comes to us as the "Bread of Life," physically present in the Eucharist, to feed our souls. He was a small, vulnerable infant born in a dark cave. He comes to us, the living Light, a tiny Host, amid the world's darkness. He remains humble, although He is God! Like the Holy Family and the shepherds all those years ago, we should welcome Jesus into our lives and into our very selves.



Diocese of Rockford's
Life and Family
Evangelization (LiFE)
Office

Why is it said that Mass brings us closer to God than anything else?

At every Mass, Jesus is really and truly present in the Eucharist in His Body, Blood, Soul, and Divinity (*Catechism of the Catholic Church*, 1374). In this moment, the Sacrifice of Christ is made present to us in a mysterious but real way. His self-giving is the greatest act of love, and our participation at Mass is our strongest response, our way of saying, "I love you, too."

Worshipping together also strengthens our faith in the God who is everywhere yet unseen. Faith grows in community. It grows through the physical actions of the Mass as well. When we sit, stand, bow, and kneel, we express with our bodies what we believe in our hearts.

Finally, the Real Presence of Jesus on the altar draws us into a closeness to God that we cannot find anywhere else in this life. Nowhere do we meet Him more directly than when He feeds us with His very life. In the Eucharist, He is as present to us as He was to Mary and Joseph in Bethlehem and to His apostles in the Upper Room.

GO EVANGELIZE

Prayer, Invitation, Witness, Accompaniment

God brings about his plan of salvation in an extraordinary way: The virgin Mary conceives Jesus in her womb through the power of the Holy Spirit. Although God does all the spiritual heavy lifting here, notice that our Gospel tells us that he also desired and asked for Joseph's cooperation. "Do not be afraid to take Mary your wife into your home," the angel tells Joseph. The Gospel tells us that Joseph "did as the angel of the Lord commanded him." In our work of evangelization, God does the heavy lifting: it's God who moves the hearts of others to seek him. But the amazing thing is that God still wants us to be part of the way his plan unfolds. We, too, cooperate with God's work of sharing the faith and bringing salvation to others by our actions and obedience.

PRAY

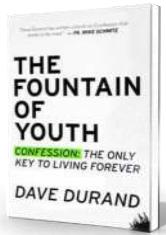
As we begin this final week of Advent, the Church continues to pray with the O Antiphons, which we hear in the hymn, "O Come, O Come Emmanuel." Listen to the refrain, which speaks of Israel's immense longing to be set free and for her savior to appear. As you reflect on the first reading and upon this hymn, bring your own deepest desires to the Lord. Spend some time in prayer asking for what you need to draw closer to God.

If you haven't already gotten your **FREE** Copy of "The Fountain of Youth," by **Dave Durand**, which was graciously donated by the "12 Men movement" just ask an Usher or contact the Parish Office during regular business hours and they will be happy to get you a copy.

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.



The name Emmanuel, "**God is with us.**" This is a title we use for Jesus frequently during the Advent and Christmas season, but its impact should stay with us throughout the year. The Incarnation, God becoming human in the person of Jesus Christ, broke into our world in a profound manner that means that God is not only with us, God is us. The relationship offered to you and I by God is now more intimate and meaningful because of the birth of Jesus Christ.

God is truly with us and our goal is to be truly present to Him at all times. To be *prayerful* is an important characteristic of an Everyday Steward. It means more than reciting prayers and setting aside ten minutes a day. Our goal is to experience the presence of God throughout the day in the ordinary and extraordinary moments of living. Offering all the actions and moments of the day to God as we awake, and then examining our day before we go to sleep at night, help lead us closer toward that goal.

When we begin to sense God's presence at all times, and we realize that being with God does not mean one of us has to be talking all the time, then we can truly attest to our reality in a quiet voice at any time, "**Emmanuel, God is with us.**"

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(PRACTICING) CATHOLIC The First Transfiguration

Mini reflection: Advent is drawing quickly to a close, and Christmas is coming soon. The change is upon us. Do we rise to accept it, or do we fall on our faces in fear?

I imagine Joseph waking up the morning after the dream, blinking in the dim half-light of the dawn.

One day, decades from now, the baby his wife carries will stand on a mountaintop. His face will shine like the sun, and those who look upon him will fall down upon their own faces in fear.

We call this the transfiguration, and Joseph won't be there to see it. But that doesn't matter. What those men will learn on the mountaintop, Joseph already knows. He learned it last night.

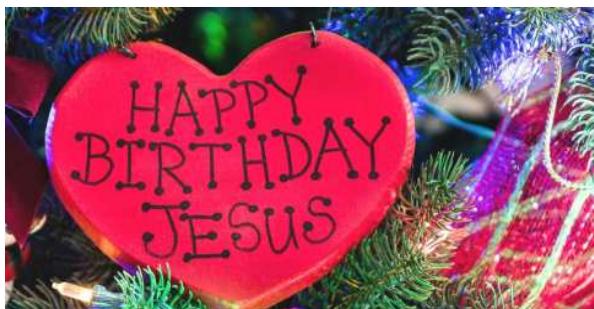
Today, he shrugs off the remnants of slumber and stands up.

"Rise, and do not be afraid." This is what the baby—a baby no longer, but a man now, one in the last days of his life—will say to his companions on the mountain a few decades from now. They will look up to see him standing there the same as he always was, and they will realize that he did not change at all. They did.

"Do not be afraid." This is what the angel said last night as he revealed to Joseph the will of God: that Joseph take Mary and the Child as his own, despite having so many reasons not to do so. And today Joseph wakes up and the world is the same as it always was: Mary is pregnant, and the Child does not belong to him.

No, the world has not changed. Joseph has. He rises, and goes to Mary. Advent is drawing quickly to a close, and Christmas is coming soon. The change is upon us. Do we rise to accept it, or do we fall on our faces in fear?

~ Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman



WEEKENDS
12/20/- 12/28/2025

The Mass		For
CONFESIONS OFFERED ON SATURDAY'S, 3:00 - 3:45 P.M. ROSARY PRAYED AT 3:30 P.M.		
FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT		
Sat	4 pm	† Kristin & John Popelka
Sun	8 am	† Mark Mucek
	10 am	† John & Christine Wiedemann The parishioners of St. Peter's Church
Tues	8 am	† Mark Mucek
CHRISTMAS EVE - WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 24TH VIGIL OF THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD		
	4 pm	The Tom's Family
	10 pm	† John & Honor Green
CHRISTMAS DAY - THURSDAY, DECEMBER 25TH THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD		
	8 am	† Stanley & Genevieve Stack
	10 am	† Henrietta Jarmoluk
Fri	8 am	The Witek Family Living & Deceased
THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH		
Sat	4 pm	† Paul & Anna Rygiel
Sun	8 am	† Don Wehrheim The parishioners of St. Peter's Church
	10 am	† Joanne Drinka

The Three Comings of Christ

This Season of Advent, we celebrate the three comings of Christ: in glory at the end of time, in time when He was born in Bethlehem, and His coming in our own lives and hearts. Advent is a time of "busy stillness," of preparing and waiting, like Mary certainly did, for the arrival of the Savior. This Christmas, let's renew our "Yes" to God's request to dwell in our hearts and be "born" in the daily living of our lives.

	Lectors	Extraordinary Ministers	Ushers
4TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT			
Saturday 12/20 4:00 pm	Peggy Mack	Deacon Mark <i>Joanne Prato (Choir)</i>	Denise Wahls Rich Wirch
Sunday 12/21 8:00 am	Cyndee Wehrheim	Dennis Wehrheim	Sean Gosselin Dennis Wehrheim
10:00 am	Susan Straley	Nancy Piggot <i>Chris Chinni (Choir)</i>	Stan Tinsley John Ellicson
CHRISTMAS EVE – VIGIL OF THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD			
Wednesday 12/24 4:00 pm	Nettie Toms	Kathie Toms <i>Dennis Wehrheim (Choir)</i>	Chad Franckowiak Deb Christian Ron Hlavin
10:00 pm	Aimee Thomas	Deacon Mark <i>Sharon Ellicson (Choir)</i>	John Ellicson Stan Tinsley Denise Wahls
CHRISTMAS DAY – THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD			
Thursday 12/25 8:00 am	Steve Besetzny	DeAnne Besetzny	Larry Hauser Tom Fanella
10:00 am	Sandi Wesinger	Marge Ladner	Mike Wyatt Deb Christian
THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH			
Saturday 12/27 4:00 pm	Carol Magnine	Deacon Mark	Chad Franckowiak Phil Webb
Sunday 12/28 8:00 am	Ardie Arnold	Heather Justen	Tom Fanella Larry Hauser
10:00 am	Tom Straley	Jean Hlavin <i>Susan Straley (Choir)</i>	Rich Yager Mike Gordon
Homebound Ministers			
December 21st: Fourth Sunday of Advent			
Deanna Grandt, Nancy Piggot Theresa Frer, Kathleen Van Ella & Don Piggot			
December 28th: No Homebound			

**TURN IN
YOUR ARTICLES
EARLY!**
REMINDED:
HOLIDAY BULLETIN SUBMISSION
All Articles Need to be Submitted by Noon!
Bulletin For Sunday, January 4th
ARTICLES DUE: MONDAY, DECEMBER 22ND

*Our Sanctuary Lamp burns from
December 14th – December 27th for
† John & Christine Wiedemann*
*May this light which reminds us of
Jesus' True Presence in the Sanctuary
Welcome them into eternal peace.*



*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:*

<i>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 Nancy Klein Ronald Klein</i>	<i>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 Fred Zahn</i>
--	--

**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

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Bulletin_Editor_StPeter@aol.com

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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.svdp@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, December 21st - Fourth Sunday of Advent

- Benediction & Reposition of the Blessed Sacrament - 7:45 am
- SVdP Meeting - Parish Hall - 9:00 am
- No Faith Formation Classes

Monday, December 22nd - Parish Office Closed

Tuesday, December 23rd

- K of C Planning Meeting - Parish Hall - 7:00 pm

VIGIL OF THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD CHRISTMAS EVE—Mass Schedule

No Spiritual Rosary

Wednesday, December 24th - Parish Office Closed

- 4:00 pm
- 10:00 pm

THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD CHRISTMAS DAY—Mass Schedule

Thursday, December 25th - Parish Office Closed

- 8:00 am
- 10:00 am

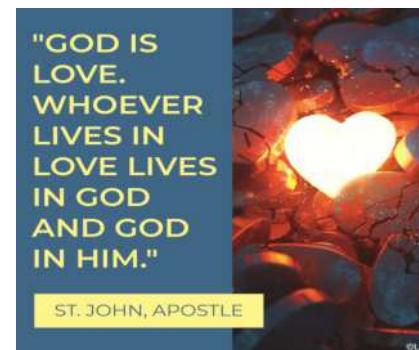
Friday, December 26th - Parish Office Closed

Saturday, December 27th

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

Sunday, December 28th - The Holy Family

- Benediction & Reposition of the Blessed Sacrament - 7:45 am





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
Planning Meeting - December 23rd
Parish Hall - 7:00 pm

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