

2118 MAIN STREET · P.O. BOX 129 · SPRING GROVE, IL 60081



St. Peter's Church
OF SPRING GROVE, IL



Sunday, December 7, 2025
Second 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.



*December 8th is
The Solemnity of
The Immaculate Conception.
Masses on this
Holy Day of Obligation
will be at
8:00 a.m. & 7:00 p.m.*

WEEK 2 Advent ©LPI

GO EVANGELIZE

Prayer, Invitation, Witness, Accompaniment

Today's Gospel is a challenging one, inviting us to consider how much spiritual fruit we are bearing in our lives. St. John the Baptist tells us, "Produce good fruit as evidence of your repentance," reminding us that the depth of our conversion will be measured by our fruit. Speaking to the Pharisees and Sadducees, John says it is not enough to say that "We have Abraham as our father." If he were speaking today, John might put it this way: it's not enough to say "I'm Catholic!" or "I belong to X Parish." Our lives must show outward evidence of the inward conversion we have undergone. The good news for us today is that we can pause and take stock of how well we are bearing spiritual fruit. Pay attention to what areas might need pruning or fertilizing to ensure that when we come to the Lord's threshing floor at the end of our lives, there is a bountiful harvest he can gather into his barn.

REFLECT

In the Gospel, John the Baptist says of Jesus, "He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire." Our ability to bear spiritual fruit comes from the power of the Holy Spirit within us. Take a moment to reflect on where you see the gifts (see the first reading from Isaiah!) and fruits of the Holy Spirit in your life. How might the Spirit of God be working to increase your spiritual fruitfulness this Advent?



CHRISTMAS OPLATKI

Now AVAILABLE

in the Sacristy for only \$3

*SUPPLY IS LIMITED,
SO BE SURE TO PICK-UP YOURS TODAY!*



Knights of Columbus

Breakfast with St. Nicholas

Mark your Calendars!

Sunday, December 14th

After the 8:00 & 10:00 a.m. Masses!

(As always a free-will donation is always appreciated!)

PRAYERS & SQUARES CHRISTMAS PARTY

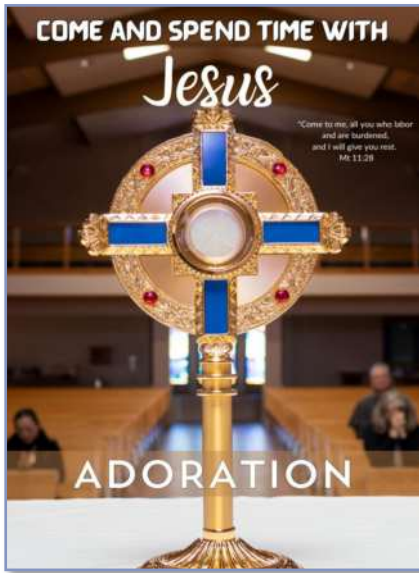
The Prayers & Squares meeting this Thursday, Dec. 11th will begin a bit earlier, at Noon in the Parish Hall for our annual Christmas Party. Everyone is warmly invited to participate in this joyful community celebration. Attendees are welcome to bring a dish to share, and a main entrée of chicken will be provided. **To help us prepare enough food for all, please text or call Connie at 224-392-1940 if you plan to join in the festivities.**



Catholic Life Explained

Question:

What is Eucharistic Adoration?



Answer:

The practice of Eucharistic Adoration is a centuries old ritual and falls within a broader category of devotions and rituals that are associated with the Sacrament of the Eucharist. In a particular way, Eucharistic Adoration is an extension of the worship and adoration of the Blessed Sacrament that occurs in every Mass.

In a long-standing practice, a period of Eucharistic Adoration often ends with "benediction," the blessing of the faithful with the Blessed Sacrament.

Several parishes throughout the United States have introduced the practice of perpetual Eucharistic Adoration, while other communities have the custom of shorter periods of Eucharistic Adoration. Care should always be taken that these periods of adoration respect the instructions outlined in *Holy Communion and Worship of the Eucharist Outside of the Mass*, the liturgical book that gives the instructions for the proper celebration of Eucharistic Adoration.

Although adoration of the Blessed Sacrament can never take the place of Eucharistic Communion, many Catholics find great comfort and consolation in their prayers before the Eucharist enshrined in the tabernacle or when it is exposed in the monstrance (both are equally valid, as the Christ is not more present in one than in the other). But when we consider our eucharistic devotions, it is always important to remember the fundamental connection these acts of devotion have in the celebration of the Eucharist in the Mass and reception of Christ in Communion.

Our Lady of Guadalupe

We celebrate the feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe on Friday, December 12th. The image of La Virgen de Guadalupe is brimming with symbolism that was deeply meaningful to her original Aztec and Spanish audience. Her style of hair denotes her virginity. The dark ribbon around her waist meant that she was pregnant. A pregnant virgin was truly miraculous. The color of her



clothes and the stars speak of her heavenly identity. More astounding is that the stars of her dress match identically how they were aligned before dawn on Dec. 12th, 1531, the day of Mary's last appearance to Juan Diego. Our Lady of Guadalupe is the only approved Marian apparition in which the Blessed Mother appears pregnant. Because of this, she is the patroness of the unborn.

When Mary appeared to Juan Diego as Our Lady of Guadalupe, she had encouraging words for him. "Am I not here, I who am your mother?" In the image on Juan Diego's tilma (tunic), Mary identifies herself with the Aztec people. She has their hair and features, their symbolic maternity dress. She incorporated their important symbols of the sun, moon, and stars. Mary's "yes" to Christ isn't only to care for Him but to come to us. Our Lady of Guadalupe is pregnant. The image bears witness to Mary's "yes" to conceive the Savior of the World. But even in her pregnancy, she goes to care for Elizabeth. Now Mother to all the world, Mary comes to the aid of her children, reminding them of her presence among them.

Our Lady of Guadalupe, pray for us and our country!

**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 21st
ARTICLES DUE: TUESDAY, DECEMBER 9TH

Bulletin For Sunday, December 28th
ARTICLES DUE: FRIDAY, DECEMBER 19TH

(PRACTICING) CATHOLIC Culturally Catholic

Mini reflection: It is so, so beautiful to be culturally Catholic. But actions, rituals, traditions, sentiments, nostalgia—none of it matters unless it bears the fruit of a transformed heart.

Catholic culture is so thick, you could spread it on a scone. Or a baguette. Or a slice of ciabatta bread. Or naan (Wait, do you put butter on naan? I would, because I'm Midwestern, but I sense that this is, perhaps, incorrect).

Okay, maybe my comparison is imperfect, but what I'm saying is this: Catholic culture is delicious, it's versatile, and it's nourishing. It's the same everywhere, even though it also looks and feels totally unique in every place. The Day of the Dead in Mexico, Simbang Gabi in the Philippines, St. Patrick's Day in Ireland, Meskel in Ethiopia, Semana Santa processions in Spain: these are all touchstones of Catholic culture.

It is so, so beautiful to be culturally Catholic. But today, when I hear John the Baptist's words to the Pharisees and the Sadducees, I am reminded that Catholicism is so much more than just cultural expression.

The Pharisees and Sadducees were loyal sons of Abraham and scrupulous observers of the law of Moses. Their culture, you could say, was strong. But John the Baptist is telling them—and he's telling us—that culture isn't enough.

Actions, rituals, traditions, sentiments, nostalgia—none of it matters unless it bears the fruit of a transformed heart.

It's something to remember especially as we approach Christmas, a time when culture and cultural rituals become so (beautifully) prominent. In the cultural practice of Christmas, we are like the Wise Men approaching the manger, bearing our gifts. But how terrible would it have been if the wise men had hurried away, their culture expressed, their ritual complete, and gone back to the world unchanged by the gaze of the Infant?

So, be culturally Catholic. Bring these gifts to the Christ Child—but linger there. Reflect. And then when you return to the world, you will bring Catholic culture with you.

~ Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman



WEEKENDS
12/6/- 12/14/2025

The Mass			For
CONFESSIONS OFFERED ON SATURDAY'S, 3:00 - 3:45 P.M. ROSARY PRAYED AT 3:30 P.M.			
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
IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY			
Mon	8 am		Father Joe
	7 pm	†	Roza Licheniak
Tues	8 am	†	John & Elizabeth Rygiel
Wed	8 am	†	John & Betty Rygiel
Thur	8 am	†	Tina Fosnacht
Fri	8 am		Scholle-Sompel Family
THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT			
Sat	4 pm		Walter & Katherine Kula
Sun	8 am	†	Kathy Wehrheim The parishioners of St. Peter's Church
	10 am	†	Thomas Koncan

Jesse Tree, Explained!

The Jesse Tree is an Advent practice which recounts the history of salvation by tracing the lineage of Christ—foretold “shoot from the stump of Jesse” who will bring peace and unity to the people of God (Isaiah 11:1).

In a way, creating a Jesse Tree is the telling of one big story—the redemption of man—through the telling of many smaller stories—the fall of Adam, God's promise to Abraham, the wandering of the Israelites, the greatness of David and the humble submission of Mary. A Jesse Tree is adorned with symbols of these various people and stories, with the earliest ones hung from the topmost branches, progressing downward.

It is an easy tradition to practice at home—all you need is a tree, paper, markers, scissors, string and a Bible.

	Lectors	Extraordinary Ministers	Ushers
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>Jacqui Wold (Choir)</i>	Mike Wyatt Mike Gordon
IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY			
Monday 12/8 8:00 am	Cyndee Wehrheim	Deacon Mark	Chad Franckowiak Tom Fanella
7:00 pm	Darien Martinez	Carol Rygiel <i>Mike Rygiel (Choir)</i>	TBD
3RD SUNDAY OF ADVENT			
Saturday 12/13 4:00 pm	Jerry Bodden	Heather Justen <i>Katie Toms (Choir)</i>	Denise Wahls Maureen Terry
Sunday 12/14 8:00 am	Eleanor Murphy	Mary Seil	Paul Leali Vince Desecki
10:00 am	Joanne Prato	Deacon Mark <i>Darien Martinez (Choir)</i>	Dave Harms Kathleen Harms
Homebound Ministers December 7th: Second Sunday of Advent Peggy Neuman, Julia Francis, Paul Serio, Eddie Wells & Maria Sullivan December 14th: Third Sunday of Advent Deacon Mark, Mary Seil, Thomas Gough, Steve Besetzny & Bev Schmitt			

Second Sunday of Advent

The second candle on the Advent wreath represents Peace and is also purple. Often called the "Bethlehem Candle," this candle reminds us of Mary and Joseph's journey from Nazareth to Bethlehem before Mary gave birth to Jesus. It also builds on the meaning of the Prophecy Candle, recalling that after the division, destruction, and dispersion of the kingdom in the Old Testament, there might finally be peace on Earth.



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

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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, 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

Monday, December 8th - Parish Office Closed

Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Holy Day of Obligation - Masses Celebrated: 8:00 am & 7:00 pm

Tuesday, December 9th

• Morning Bible Study - Parish Hall - 9:00 am

• K of C Business Meeting - Parish Hall - 7:00 pm

Wednesday, December 10th

• **Spiritual Warfare Rosary - Church - 6:00 pm**

• Grief Support Group - Parish Office Conference Room - 4:00 pm

• Evening Bible Study - Parish Hall - 6:30 pm

Thursday, December 11th

• Prayers & Squares - Parish Office - 12:00 pm

• Choir Rehearsal - 6:00 pm

Friday, December 12th - Parish Office Closed

Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe

Saturday, December 13th

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

Sunday, December 14th - Third Sunday of Advent

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

• **K of C Breakfast with St. Nicholas - After All Masses**

• OCIA - Parish Office Upstairs Class Room - 9:00 am

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





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

Because of our advertisers' generosity, we are able to provide this bulletin free of charge to our members each week. Please support them and mention you saw their ad in our Sunday I.

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