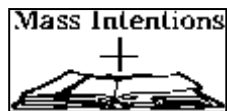




Recognizable Offering..... \$4,826.00  
 Loose Cash ..... \$470.40  
 Total Weekly Offering..... \$5,296.40  
 Mass Attendance Nov 26/27 294



Dec 5 - 11  
 Monday ..... Keith McMahan(+)  
 Tuesday ..... Deployed Military  
 Thursday ..... Trey Corbitt (+)  
 ..... The Conversion of Souls  
 Friday ..... Barbara Kirschten(liv)  
 Saturday ..... Peggy Pilgrim(+)  
**Sunday..... St. Peter Parishioners(8:00 a.m.)**  
**..... Mary Henderson(+)(10:30 a.m.)**

### Keys to the Kingdom

This is a way to take part in the stewardship way of life at St. Peter without being a part of a committee or ministry. The "Keys" are located on the wall of the church vestibule and have been updated for the Advent season.

**Just choose an activity "key" that you would like to do and take it home as a reminder to complete that activity. Try something you do not ordinarily do. There are activities for all ages. After you've completed the activity, bring the "key" back and put it in the box marked Keys to the Kingdom at the Hospitality cart.**



**POINSETTIA ORDERS**  
 For those who ordered poinsettias, you may pick up at the fairgrounds in Ft. Walton Beach between 9:00 a.m. - noon on Tuesday, December 6th. Any orders

that are not picked up will be brought to the parish center where you can pick them up after the Mass you attend on the weekend of December 10th-11th. The Around Town Ministry is still looking for drivers to help deliver the plants on 12/6 throughout the county. If you are interested in helping please call Joni, 830-2875.

### Weekly Calendar of Events

12/4 K - 5 Faith Formation - 9:15 a.m.  
**"Lectio Evangelization"** - 9:15 a.m.  
 Confirmation Class - 4:30 p.m.  
 MS/HS Meeting - 6:00 p.m.  
 12/05 Rosary - after 8:00 a.m. Mass  
 R.C.I.A - 6:30 p.m.  
 12/06 Rosary - after 8:00 a.m. Mass  
 12/07 Legion of Mary - 8:30 a.m.  
 12/08 Feast of The Immaculate Conception  
 Masses: 8:00 a.m. & 6:30 p.m.  
 12/11 K - 5 Faith Formation - 9:15 a.m.  
**"Lectio Evangelization"** - 9:15 a.m.  
 Confirmation Class - 4:30 p.m.  
 MS/HS Meeting - 6:00 p.m.



**In Loving Memory** and lasting peace for all who have died, especially **Charles Strasbaugh**, father of our parishioner Nancy Brandewie. Pray for the consolation of her family as they mourn his loss.

### Solemnity of The Immaculate Conception

December 8  
 Mass: 8:00 a.m. & 6:30 p.m.

Below are quotes by saints from the early Church, verifying that the truth of Mary's Immaculate Conception has been believed by generations:

- \* **"He was the ark formed of incorruptible wood. For by this is signified that His tabernacle was exempt from putridity and corruption."** – St. Hippolytus (circa 235 A.D.)
- \* **"Thou alone and Thy Mother are in all things fair; there is no flaw in Thee and no stain in Thy Mother."** – St. Ephraim (370)

### Retirement Fund for Religious

Your gift to the retirement fund for religious helps to furnish medications, nursing care and other necessities to our senior Catholic sisters, brothers and religious order priests who have offered their lives in the service to others, please give generously to support this fund. Please drop your marked contributions (pew envelopes or checks labeled "Retirement for Religious" on the memo line) in the regular offertory next weekend.



Weekend of Dec 10/11

Altar Servers: George Rushlau  
 Extraordinary Ministers: Shareen Ketchem, Ron Berthellette, Louise Perreault, Al Perreault, Carrie Gagnon  
 Lectors: Paul Gagnon II, Ruth Sykes  
 Ushers: Eric Van Dorn, Bob Flanagan, Joni Flanagan  
 Greeter: Liz Simmons  
 Sacristan: Doug Hoover  
 Elijah Cup: Wanda Corbitt

8:00 a.m.

Altar Servers: \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_  
 Extraordinary Ministers: Maria Bridges, Eden Carter, Joe Davison, Paul Johansen, Jean Jordan  
 Lectors: Deidre Henderson, Tina Henderson  
 Ushers: Gary Jordan, Dan Cauley, Kathy Cauley  
 Greeter: Alma Battaglio  
 Sacristan: Stan Griggs  
 Elijah Cup: Pete Wagner

10:30 a.m.

Altar Servers: Austin Wise, Joseph Sweeney, Micayla Colwell  
 Extraordinary Ministers: Judy Robinson, Alicia Grecco, Rick Grecco, Becky Bittakis, Penny Sweeney  
 Lectors: Cindy Day, Mark Day  
 Ushers: Jim Wise, John Fails, Mike Sweeney  
 Greeter: Ana Fails  
 Sacristan: Mike Brennan  
 Elijah Cup: Stacy Fralic

Saint Peter Parish Prayer Chain: For prayer needs, contact Susi Evers at 664-9165 or email her at saintpeterparishprayerchain@gmail.com

Hospitalized Parishioners: If you or a family member are hospitalized, please call the Parish Office, otherwise we have no way of knowing who in our parish is there.

*In Your Daily Prayers, Please Remember our parishioners who are deployed and:*

Monday Johanna Adam\*, Charles Cummings\*, Steve Lange, Margie Wadsworth\*

Tuesday Lynn Graham\*, Thomas Holdsworth, Pam Stockbridge, Mary Eichler, Hiram Alaniz

Wednesday Gordon Pritchard\*, Ken and Bette Dellner\*, Caroline Frederick, Barbara Kirschten\*

Thursday Gene and Pam Bauchwitz\*, Robert Welniak, Theresa Stegall, Connie Jordan, Lucille Kesler, Clare Van Zelfden

Friday Lloyd Biehl\*, Doug Babiak\*, Sharon Lewis, Shannon Anderson, Vera Thornburg\*, Ann Crouch\*

Saturday Peter Adam\*, Mary Anyel\*, Dan Brenton\*, Rick Zern\*

Sunday Theresa Fowler, Ann Hart, Cipriano Matiga\*, Bonita Long

\*Indicates our parishioners.

Please call the church office if you or a family member can be removed from this prayer list.



### St. Peter Catholic Church 2016 Christmas Choir Rehearsal Schedule

The following schedule is for all Christmas Choir Rehearsals this year.

All of these will take place inside the Church.

Sunday, December 04, at 12:15 p.m.

Sunday, December 11, at 12:15 p.m.

**Sunday, December 18, at 12:30 p.m. - Mandatory**

Tuesday, December 20, at 6:00 p.m. (Optional Supplemental Practice)

**If you haven't signed up for the Choir Ministry, but would like to join them just for this season, contact Joey Ferreira (music@stpeter.ptdiocese.org). He will be happy to use your talents to make this Christmas' liturgical celebration another one to remember.**

### Advent Penance Service & Dinner

The Advent Penance service will begin at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, December 13th. A simple meal will be served at 6:00 p.m. in the parish center. Please sign-up at the Hospitality cart or call the office if you plan on attending the dinner so that we prepare enough for everyone.



# Our Parish COMMUNITY

**December 4, 2016**  
*Second Sunday of Advent (A)*  
Is 11:1-10  
Rom 15:4-9  
Mt 3:1-12

## Preparing Ourselves

John the Baptist was the first prophet in Israel in more than 200 years. Some even thought he was the Messiah. He preached with authority, and people traveled from all over Judea to hear his words.

His message was to prepare the way. As any pope, king, or president announces his intentions in advance so preparations can be made, John was sent to announce the coming of the Son of God and to tell the people how to prepare.

Jesus comes to the world in three different ways: first, when he was born in Bethlehem and walked the earth; second, when he comes again at the end of time; and finally, when he comes to us constantly in the sacraments and liturgy. Preparing for his arrival is

### For Reflection

*How does John the Baptist's call to repentance challenge me? Where do I need to ask for God's mercy?*

not a matter of fixing roads, painting houses, or organizing a parade. Our king desires a transformed spirit: "Not by appearance shall he judge...." John warns that we cannot

hide behind the faith of another; each one of us needs to show the fruits of our own faith. Yet we need not fear, for he who comes has every intention of saving us. He appears as Lord and invites us to accept his kingdom. He is also a teacher who shows us the way back to the Father. Above all he is a friend who forgives unconditionally and accepts our sincere yet feeble efforts.

This week, reflect on this image of John the Baptist, heed his words, and imitate him: Cry out for repentance, cleanse others from their sins, and prepare the way to God.

—Fr. Mark Haydu, LC



Piece: *Saint John the Baptist*  
Artist: Pietro Lorenzetti, circa 1329  
Location: Vatican Pinacoteca, Room II

### Calendar

**Monday**  
December 5  
*Advent Weekday*  
Is 35:1-10  
Lk 5:17-26

**Tuesday**  
December 6  
*Advent Weekday*  
Is 40:1-11  
Mt 18:12-14

**Wednesday**  
December 7  
*St. Ambrose, Bishop and Doctor of the Church*  
Is 40:25-31  
Mt 11:28-30

**Thursday**  
December 8  
*The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary*  
Gn 3:9-15, 20  
Eph 1:3-6, 11-12  
Lk 1:26-38

**Friday**  
December 9  
*Advent Weekday*  
Is 48:17-19  
Mt 11:16-19

**Saturday**  
December 10  
*Advent Weekday*  
Sir 48:1-4, 9-11  
Mt 17:9a, 10-13

**Sunday**  
December 11  
*Third Sunday of Advent*  
Is 35:1-6a, 10  
Jas 5:7-10  
Mt 11:2-11

## Dear Padre,

**I have two questions about Christmas.**

**First, why do we use red and green during the season? Second, what does the word *Noël* mean?**

The Church uses colors as symbols to mark the change of liturgical seasons and to remind ourselves of religious themes. White (or gold) is actually the liturgical color for the Christmas season, and violet (purple) for the weeks of Advent.

Red and green were associated with a wintertime feast that predates Christianity. However, since these colors have additional meanings for Christians that relate to this time of year, they are still in use and commonly associated with the holiday (holy) season. December 28 is the feast of the

Holy Innocents, the male children of Bethlehem who were slaughtered by Herod's order. It's color is red, the color of martyrs. Poinsettia flowers and candy canes, popular Christmastime accents, also prominently feature red. Green—most visibly found in evergreen trees and wreaths—is the color of life.



During Advent, it witnesses to the imminent birth of Jesus, which brings hope for new and eternal life to the world.

In response to your second question, *Noël* is an old French word meaning "Christmas," "the Christmas season," or "yuletide." The French word comes from the Latin for "birth" or "birthday." As we all know, Christmas is the time when we celebrate the birth of Jesus and the Incarnation of our Lord and Savior.

From *Liguorian*, December 2004  
sundaybulletin@liguori.org

### A Word From Pope Francis

*"When we contemplate the life of [John the Baptist], so great, so powerful...we discover a mystery...We are offered [a model of] a Church ever at the service of the Word."*

—Morning Meditation, June 24, 2013



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*"And do not presume to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our father.' For I tell you, God can raise up children to Abraham from these stones" (Matthew 3:9).*