

<div data-bbox="282 129 602 229" style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"> <b>Sacrificial Giving</b> </div> <p>Recognizable Offering.....\$9,429.00 Loose Cash.....\$461.00 Total Weekly Offering.....\$9,890.00 Mass Attendance Dec 5/6 ..... 320</p> <div data-bbox="313 431 540 540" style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"> <b>Mass Intentions</b> </div> <p>Dec 14-20 Monday .....Yasmin Hernández(liv) Tuesday .....Mary Valentine(+) Wednesday.....Peter Adams(liv) Thursday .....Randy Stokes(+) Friday .....Communion Service <b>Saturday .....Stephen Fowler(5:00 p.m.)</b> <b>Sunday .....Trey Corbitt(+)(8:00 a.m.)</b> .....<b>St. Peter Parishioners(10:30 a.m.)</b></p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Weekly Calendar of Events</p> <p>12/13 K - 5 Faith Formation Matt Maher Concert - 6:00 p.m.</p> <p>12/14 Rosary - After Morning Mass</p> <p>12/15 Christmas Choir Rehearsal - 6:00 p.m.</p> <p>12/16 Legion of Mary - 8:30 a.m. Advent Parish Dinner - 6:00 p.m. Advent Penance Service - 7:00 p.m.</p> <p>12/17 Adoration - 8:30 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.</p> <p>12/20 No Faith Formation No MS/HS Meetings</p>
<p><b>In Loving Memory</b> and lasting peace for all who have died, especially <b>Mary Valentine</b>, wife of Dr. Gene Valentine and <b>Randy Stokes</b>, father of Jennifer Petrillo. Pray for the consolation of their families as they mourn the loss of their loved ones.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>PARISH PENANCE SERVICE &amp; SUPPER</b> Wednesday, December 16<sup>th</sup> A light meal will be served at 6 p.m. in the parish center followed by the parish advent penance service at 7:00 p.m. Please sign up at the hospitality cart or call the office so we can properly prepare.</p>
<div data-bbox="96 943 267 1072" style="float: left; margin-right: 10px;"> </div> <div data-bbox="189 1197 634 1366" style="background-color: red; color: white; padding: 10px; text-align: center; font-weight: bold; font-size: 2em;">             HOLINESS REVOLUTION         </div> <p>YOUR Holiness Revolution Event experience!! Draw closer to God, deepen your understanding of his plan for your life, and gain a renewed passion to live that plan out. Don't wait! Buy your ticket for this great event on February 6, 2016. Contact Joni Flanagan for details, refer to the flyer in your bulletin to purchase tickets online, or purchase <u>tickets next weekend</u> after mass!</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>LITURGICAL UPDATES FOR NEXT QUARTER NEEDED</b></p> <p>Ministry Scheduler updates are needed before December 16<sup>th</sup> to complete the January – March schedule. If there are specific days you cannot serve, please update your profile online. For those who do not have email, call Joni 830-2875, to update for the next quarter. There are still many positions available for the Christmas Masses. Please consider serving if you will be attending Mass here.</p>
<p>Christmas Flowers <b>If you do not receive offertory envelopes at home and wish to make a contribution for this year's Christmas flowers</b> you can use the white envelopes in the pews to do so. These envelopes also provide a space for you to fill in the name(s) of the people in memory/honor of whom you want your contribution to be dedicated.</p>	<p>The world is in dire need of change. People are hurting. People are turning to empty promises searching for answers. All along, we have the answer: Jesus. This event will open your eyes to the need for change in the world and the role you can play. Will you join the holiness revolution? Then don't miss</p>

**Monday**  
DECEMBER 14  
*St. John of the Cross, Priest and Doctor of the Church*  
Nm 24:2-7, 15-17a  
Mt 21:23-27

December 13, 2015

# dear Padre

## Why do we celebrate the feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe?

**Q** I never used to hear about Our Lady of Guadalupe, but now every year my parish celebrates the feast. Why?

**In 1531** the Blessed Mother appeared to Juan Diego in the form of Our Lady of Guadalupe. She sent him to the bishop to ask that a church be built where she appeared so all may see and know her compassion. As a sign, she left her image on his cloak. This cloak is still venerated in Mexico and is as bright as ever, defying scientific explanation.

Devotion to Mary under this title began almost immediately. Pope Leo XIII made her celebration a memorial for the universal Church. During the twentieth century, she was proclaimed the **Queen of Mexico and Empress of the Americas**. In 2002, John Paul II canonized Juan Diego. Since then the growing Hispanic population in the United States has made her feast increasingly visible and popular.

In his 2014 homily on the feast of Guadalupe, Pope Francis reminds us why this feast is so relevant to the Advent season: "In the wonders that the Lord has fulfilled in Mary, she recognizes her Son's manner and mode of conduct in salvation history. Overturning worldly judgments, destroying at all costs the idols of power, wealth and success, denouncing self-sufficiency, arrogance and secular messianism which distance people from God." Guadalupe lifts the lowly and draws all to her Son and his Church.

FR. PATRICK KEYES, CSSR  
sundaybulletin@liguori.org

During this Advent season, "remember the real gift: God giving himself to us through the Incarnation. Reflect on yourself. In how many ways can you become a gift from God to those you know and to those you do not?"  
—From *Advent and Christmas Wisdom From Pope Francis* by John Cleary

To see sample pages from this book, visit [Liguori.org](http://Liguori.org), type the title or 826467 in the search bar, and click on the book.

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Third Sunday of Advent C 1  
*Zephaniah 3:14-18a*

## Lessons Learned

When punished children finally get permission to play, they take new delight in their freedom. They learn the importance of good behavior. They also learn that parents have authority that can be used for punishment or release. If parents have done their job well, children learn that both punishment and release happen because of their parents' love.

When ancient Israel ended up in exile, the people interpreted their loss as punishment for their sins. They had not listened to God. They had not been faithful to the covenant. In their punishment, they learned the importance of good behavior. They also learned that God had authority over them, that God would remain faithful to the covenant, and that their behavior carried consequences.

Imagine the freedom they felt at these words from **Zephaniah: "The LORD has removed the judgment against you." Their time of punishment was over. They could return to their homeland to worship, to work, to reunite with family—and to play. God gave them release.**

Children who delight in freedom sometimes miss another truth: Their parents are happy, too. When punishment is over and children are free, parents are proud that their children have grown.

God does not take delight in what we experience as punishment. God takes delight in the lessons we learn and in the love we share when we are free.

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Third Sunday of Advent C 2  
*Philippians 4:4-7*

## Joy in the Coming of Christ

The joy of Christmas is in the air. We receive cards from friends far away. We attend parties with friends close at hand. We hear the happy tunes of Christmas. We shop in a spirit of love. We open our hearts and purses to charities, sharing our concern with strangers in need. We spread the love of Christ.

**In his Letter to the Philippians, Paul writes, "Rejoice! Your kindness should be known to all. The Lord is near." Paul equates kindness with rejoicing. And the reason for this joy is the nearness of the Lord.**

Paul is not talking Christmas here. He does not say, **"Rejoice! Christmas is near." He has no interest in an annual celebration of the first coming of Christ.** He wants the Philippians to rejoice that the second coming is close at hand.

A lot of us think about the second coming of Christ with anxiety. We worry about dying. What will it be like to meet Christ face to face? Paul would have us put these concerns aside. We should rejoice at the thought of seeing Jesus.

The joy of Christmas fills our hearts because we remember with happiness the birth of our savior. But joy should also fill us when we think ahead to the return of **our savior. "Have no anxiety," Paul says. "Then the peace of God will guard your hearts in Christ Jesus." The Lord is near! Rejoice!**

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## Liturgical Roles\*

Weekend of Dec 19/20

### 5:00 p.m.

Altar Servers: Aidan Murray  
Extraordinary Ministers: Patty Shawbitz, Alice Thompson, Louise Perreault, Joanna Farnum, Elizabeth Baldwin  
Lectors: Ruth Sykes, Ana Fails  
Ushers: Mickey Shawbitz, Cora Podrang, John Fails  
Greeter: Pat Gossage  
Sacristan: Doug Hoover  
Elijah Cup: Alice Thompson

### 8:00 a.m.

Altar Servers: Joshua Soto, Jared Dunn  
Extraordinary Ministers: Patsy Soto, Nancy McCreary, Jean Jordan, James Johansen, \_\_\_\_\_  
Lectors: Deidre Henderson, Susi Evers  
Ushers: Arnold Soto, Jim Guris, Eric Miller, Gary Jordan  
Greeter: Kathy Cauley  
Sacristan: Joe Davison  
Elijah Cup:  
Coffee and Donuts: Carol and Don Dineen

### 10:30 a.m.

Altar Servers: Killian Casey, Kadi Casey, Karly Casey  
Extraordinary Ministers: Becky Bittakis, Kathleen Garcia, Bill Roth, Teresa McClure, Penny Sweeney  
Lectors: Pete Kuhns, Nadine Kuhns  
Ushers: Stewart Grogan, Cord Grogan, Jim Wise, Ray Schlitt  
Greeter: Donna Fetter  
Sacristan: Petey Brennan  
Elijah Cup: Dawn and Matt Ciccarello  
Coffee and Donuts: Barry and Alicia Graham

Saint Peter Parish Prayer Chain: For prayer needs, please contact Susi Evers at 664-9165 or email her at [saintpeterparishprayerchain@gmail.com](mailto: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, Mike and Jeanne Trueting, Jon and Julie Bourg

Tuesday Lynn Graham\*, Thomas Holdsworth, Bobby Stockbridge\*, Ashley Marie Code, Mary Eichler

Wednesday Gordon Pritchard\*, James Smith\*, Steve Powell\*, Ken and Bette Dellner\*, Caroline Frederick, Pam Holt, Barbara Kirschten\*, Wilda Mayhew\*

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

Friday Lloyd Biehl\*, Doug Babiak\*, Sharon Lewis, Shannon Anderson, Betty Kever, Vera Thornburg\*

Saturday Peter Adam\*, Mary Anyel\*, Joel & Leo Grieves\*, Dan Brenton\*

Sunday Theresa Fowler\*, Mary Beth Downer, Greg Babiak, Tony Kelly, Jeff Harp

\*Indicates our parishioners.

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

### Found!

A winter coat was found on the Sharing and Caring food donations cart last weekend (Dec 5/6). Please contact the office during normal business hours to claim it.

Join Our Christmas Choir: No experience needed, all ages welcome.

Any children or adults interested in singing in our season choir – please join us! We would love **new members, so if you've thought about joining before** – feel welcomed to attend our rehearsals!

Tuesday, December 15 6:00 p.m.  
Sunday, December 20 12:15 p.m.  
Tuesday, December 22 6:00 p.m.

For more info, please contact Joey Ferreira at the church office or at [music@stpeter.ptdiocese.org](mailto:music@stpeter.ptdiocese.org).





Today, the Third Sunday in Advent, is also called Gaudete Sunday. That name is taken from the Latin word *Gaudete* which is the first word of the **introit of today's Mass.** *Gaudete* means "Rejoice." The first line of the introit in its entirety is *Gaudete in Domino semper*, meaning "Rejoice in the Lord always."

Joy and rejoicing are part of all of our readings on this day. As Christmas draws near, the Church emphasizes the joy which should be in our hearts over all that the birth of Jesus Christ means for us. Like Lent, Advent is a penitential season for us as Catholics. However, having passed the midpoint of Advent, we see some changes to encourage us in our spiritual prepara-

tion.

Yes, this should have been a time when we have been spiritually preparing for the coming of Christ. It is not too late; it is never too late in the eyes of the Lord for us to make a determined effort to change, to repent, and to find ways to properly serve the Lord as disciples. On this day of Joy let us renew our efforts to be good stewards of all of **our gifts. Stewardship, of course, is founded in trust. On Gaudete Sunday in 2013 Pope Francis said, "Those who trust in God experience the peacefulness in their hearts and nothing and no one can take that away. Our joy is Christ."**

### Living God's Word

When we pray the Our Father at Mass the priest voices a prayer that asks the Lord to free our minds of worry as we look forward to Jesus' coming. **Joyful hope gives us the spirit and the confidence to do all that we can, expecting that Christ's saving power will be present in our midst.**

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there is a light in this world

Loving Jesus,

In your name, we mark this season:  
As we bring forth light to defy the claims of darkness,  
As we bring forth joy and song to defy the claims of sadness,  
As we bring forth a spirit of generosity to defy the claims of want,  
As we bring forth peace to defy the claims of war.

That in the darkest, saddest, most wanting, warring corner of the world,  
All may look to Bethlehem  
Where, in the humblest of circumstances,  
In a time of repression  
From the person of a poor refugee woman  
In the filth of a manger  
In the form of a most vulnerable child  
You came among us to say, "No, there is a light in this world."

Let us be this light to others.  
Let us be the fruit of the branch of Jesse's tree.  
Let us be the bearers of the indescribable gift that is your grace.  
And so defy all false claims on your people and their dignity.

And so, may you be born anew, into every season  
Into every age  
Into every land and every human heart.

Maranatha! Come, Lord Jesus, come.

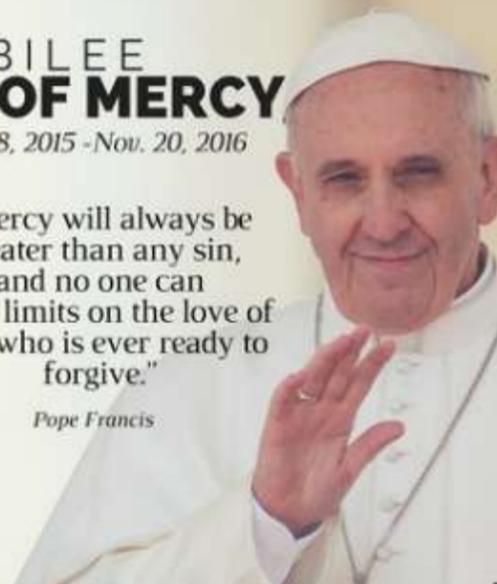
Amen

### JUBILEE OF MERCY

Dec. 8, 2015 - Nov. 20, 2016

"Mercy will always be greater than any sin, and no one can place limits on the love of God who is ever ready to forgive."

Pope Francis



**Victims Of Abuse:** The Diocese of Pensacola-Tallahassee is committed to healing the hurting hearts of sexual abuse victims and has established Victims Assistance Coordinators who are experienced and trained counselors available to help persons who have been sexually abused. The Coordinator in our area is: Louis Makarowski, Ph. D, P.A. (850) 477-7181.



I love waterfalls. When I am out hiking, I will take any side path that leads to a waterfall. The first time I swam in a waterfall pool was memorable. I am not sure where this love came from, but there is something about the motion and sound of the water as it is falling that soothes my mind and enlivens my soul. I also know that waterfalls can be dangerous: The force of the water can sweep everything over the edge. Still, when Jesus refers to his living water in the encounter with the woman at the well (John 4), I immediately think of water falling into a pool and the abundant life that grows around the area.

For Christians, water signifies both life and death. At creation, God said, "Let the water teem with an abundance of living creatures" (Genesis 1:20). God then used the waters of a flood to destroy wickedness on earth (while saving Noah and others). Water washes us clean and keeps us alive. On a recent trip to Israel, I had an opportunity to stand in the Jordan River and renew my own baptismal vows. I was struck by the power of the words and the coolness of the water. It also occurred to me that simply renewing my vows was not enough. Our promise, inherent in the Creed, is that we will live a life transformed by grace with the help of the Holy Spirit. That is both comforting and challenging. But Jesus, who is living water, whose Spirit brings us life and whose fire is ready to purify and make us ready, is with us now and forever.

MARY KATHARINE DEELEY  
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#### A Word From Pope Francis

"In the wonders that the Lord has fulfilled in Mary, she recognizes her Son's manner and mode of conduct in salvation history."

—2014 homily on the feast of Guadalupe



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