

Recognizable Offering\$7,750.00
Loose Cash.....\$490.37
Total Weekly Offering.....\$8,195.37
Archdiocese for the Military\$170.00
Church in Latin America\$220.00
Retired Religious Fund.....\$815.00
Mass Attendance Dec 17/18 227

Mass Intentions



Dec 26– Jan 1
MondayCharles Strasbaugh(+)
TuesdayMichael White(+)
ThursdayMichael White(+)
FridayMichael White(+)
SaturdaySt. Peter Parishioners
SundayTrey Corbitt(+)(8:00 a.m.)
.....Michael White(+)(10:30 a.m.)

From the Brandewie Family

“We would like to thank everyone from the parish for the cards and their prayers. They gave us much comfort during this difficult time.”

Thank You,
Nancy, Bruce & Cindy

Personal Encounter with Christ

You are encouraged to start the New Year spending an hour in church for Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament on **Thursday, January 5, 2017. Even if you can't stay an hour come for as long as you like between 8:30 AM – 8:00 PM.** There is a sign-in binder in the vestibule, as well as a table with plenty of resources if you wish to use them while you are visiting Jesus. Each moment you spend with Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament brings joy, pleasure, and delight to his Sacred Heart! "My joy, my pleasure, my delight is to be with you." (Prov 8:31)

BLOOD DRIVE & PANCAKE BREAKFAST

The first blood drive on 2017 will be held Sunday, 1/8, from 8:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. We host a drive about every 8 weeks and our parish has been very supportive. Last year we supplied OneBlood with 97 units, enough to make a difference in 291 lives. Save the date and help our community blood bank get 2017 started with a bus load of donors! As usual, the Knights of Columbus will be cooking up a delicious breakfast, too. All are welcome.



Weekly Calendar of Events

12/26/16 thru 1/2/16 Parish Office will be **CLOSED**
12/26 Rosary - after 8:00 a.m. Mass
12/27 Rosary - after 8:00 a.m. Mass
Bunco - 9:30 a.m.
12/28 Legion of Mary - 8:30 a.m.

Community Outreach

More volunteers are needed to help with Food For Thought, the backpack program our parish assists at Florosa elementary. If you are available on either a Tuesday or Thursday morning, this may be a perfect fit for you. Please contact Karen Moss, 420-0243, for all the details. Please mark your calendar now for an Around Town ministry meeting on Wednesday, January 11th at 6:30 p.m. in the high school youth room. Those that may want more information about our community outreach ministry are welcome to attend.

MS/HS Youth News:

Hey Ma, look what we made! Big thanks to the teens that came out for the Annual Christmas party. It was a blast! We invite all our youth, grades 6-12 to join us for faith, food, & fun. Youth Nights resume on January 8th, 2017. Contact Susie for more information at 581-7263 or dre@stpeter.ptdiocese.org.



Calendar

Monday
December 26
St. Stephen, the First Martyr
Acts 6:8–10; 7:54–59
Mt 10:17–22

Tuesday
December 27
St. John, Apostle and Evangelist
1 Jn 1:1–4
Jn 20:1a, 2–8

Wednesday
December 28
The Holy Innocents, Martyrs
1 Jn 1:5–2:2
Mt 2:13–18

Thursday
December 29
Fifth Day in the Octave of Christmas
1 Jn 2:3–11
Lk 2:22–35

Friday
December 30
The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph
Sir 3:2–6, 12–14 or Col 5:12–21 or 5:12–17
Mt 2:13–15, 19–23

Saturday
December 31
Seventh Day in the Octave of Christmas
1 Jn 2:18–21
Jn 1:1–18

Sunday
January 1
Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God
Nm 6:22–27
Gal 4:4–7
Lk 2:16–21

**Dear Padre,
Should a Catholic school teach both evolution and creation?**

A Catholic school should teach in a style that conveys Catholic Tradition. It also cannot ignore the insights and questions or the disagreements and misunderstandings that occur when the arts and sciences rub shoulders with Catholic teachings and perspectives. Our belief in God's creation of humanity and the scientific understanding of evolution are not fundamentally at odds with one another, as long as our Catholic vision of life is preserved.

However, "faith obliges us to hold that souls are immediately created by God" (*Humani Generis*, 36).

Science is the careful study of details and theories that leads to the development of generalized statements (or hypotheses). If so many scientists, many of whom are people of faith, can intellectually justify the creation of humans through an evolutionary process, this itself shows the application of thought and discovery to deepen an understanding of our world and ourselves.

We need our faith to harmonize with other branches of knowledge, and this means respecting their proper domain of research and methods. It would seem prudent for a Catholic school to teach evolution in science class and the stories of creation in religion class. A calm, reasoned discussion that respects the limits of each discipline and espouses a unified search for God's revealed truths would be best. The attitude should be that evolution and creation are not mutually exclusive but complementary explanations for our human origins that arise from different perspectives.



From *Dear Padre: Questions People Ask*, Liguori, 2003
sundaybulletin@liguori.org



A Word From Pope Francis

"History has always been accompanied by the Lord!...In him was revealed the grace, the mercy, and the tender love of the Father....He has pitched his tent in our midst."

—Homily, December 24, 2013 (Midnight Mass)



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It is Christmas! Our Gospel reading on this festive holy day is the opening words of the Gospel of John. St. John says, "The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world came to be through him." That is why we celebrate today. Pope Francis opened his sermon on Christmas day last year by saying this: "Christmas is joy, religious joy, an inner joy of light and peace."



At Mass on Christmas Eve we hear, "I proclaim to you good news of great joy; today a Savior is born for us, Christ the Lord." It is this joy we need to feel, this joy we need to carry to others. Many have expressed the joy of today. Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI said this about Christmas: "Joy is the true gift of Christmas. We can communicate this joy simply: with a smile, a kind gesture, a little help, forgiveness. And the joy we give will certainly come back to us... Let us pray that this presence of the liberating joy of God shines forth in our lives."

The angel Gabriel greeted our Blessed Mother Mary with the Greek word Kaire! That means "Be joyful." God is near us today; He is so near that He became a child. Let us take that joy and share it with others; let us take that joy and change our lives and the lives of others. When we say "Merry Christmas" let us mean it with every fabric of our being.

Living Stewardship Now

Choose a special gift from your whole family during the Christmas season and give it anonymously to a parish organization or a local charity.

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The blessing included in the First Reading from the Book of Numbers is one with which most of us are familiar. "The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord let His face shine upon you, and be gracious to you..." In the Jewish culture this has been known for centuries as the Aaronic blessing as it was dictated by God Himself to Aaron. It is important to note that it begins with "The Lord bless you."

All blessings come from God. One error we make is to conclude that blessings always mean happiness or security or prosperity. God knows what blessings we need, even if we do not. The key for us is to be grateful for whatever blessings we may have. That mind set is at the hub of stewardship — knowing all blessings come from the Lord, and our need to be appreciative of them.

To be "kept" by the Lord is to turn our lives over to Him, to know that He is with us and that He loves us, blesses us, and does indeed "keep" us ever in His care. The truth is that to be blessed by God is one of the greatest gifts we can receive. It is available to all of us without exception.

During this continued Christmas season, it is well to remember and repeat the classic statement by the character Tiny Tim in Charles Dickens' immortal A Christmas Carol: "God bless us, every one," for certainly He does.

Living Stewardship Now

Visit a homebound senior, write to someone in prison, be a Big Brother or Big Sister, volunteer at a hospital, give blood.

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Liturgical Roles*

Weekend of Dec 31/Jan 1

5:00 p.m.

Altar Servers: Paul Gagnon III

Extraordinary Ministers: Angela Zangerle, Patty Shawbitz, Joanna Farnum, James Johansen, Carrie Gagnon

Lectors: Dan Brenton, Paul Gagnon II

Ushers: Cora Podrang, Mickey Shawbitz, Heather Metruck

Greeter: Lynn Brenton

Sacristan: Doug Hoover

Elijah Cup: Gloria Mulligan

8:00 a.m.

Altar Servers: Emily Moore, Audrey Moore

Extraordinary Ministers: Maria Bridges, Kathy Stockbridge, Nancy Brandewie, Bruce Brandewie,

Lectors: Michael Moore, Kathy Moore

Ushers: Nathan Earley, Frank Schorzman, Arnold Soto

Greeter: Karlene Gentile

Sacristan: Bobby Stockbridge

Elijah Cup: Luann DuRall

10:30 a.m.

Altar Servers: Alexandra Manion, Christopher Manion, Devony Ross

Extraordinary Ministers: Kathleen Garcia, Mike Brennan, Petey Brennan, Becky Bittakis, Jean Schlitt

Lectors: Carolyn Alaniz, John Fay

Ushers: Ray Schlitt, Cord Grogan, Stewart Grogan

Greeter: Judy Holzschuh

Sacristan: Bill Roth

Elijah Cup: Barbara Russo

Saint Peter Parish Prayer Chain: For prayer needs, contact Susi Evers at 664-9165 or email her at saintpeter-parishprayerchain@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*, Faith and Hope Powell

Sunday Ann Hart, Cipriano Matiga*, Bonita Long, Kimberly Arnold and unborn twins

*Indicates our parishioners.

[Please call the church office if you or a family member can be removed from this prayer list.](#)

CHASTITY PROGRAM

Parents, together with their 7th and 8th grade child(ren), are invited to Family Honor's "Real Love & Real Life" Catholic chastity program presented at St. Ann's in Gulf Breeze on Saturday, Jan 21st, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. Spend time with each other and discuss God's gift of sexuality and the real meaning of love. Topics discussed: communication skills, how to grow in virtue, believing in your true self-worth, fertility appreciation, guidelines for future dating, Pope John Paul II's Theology of the Body, and how to set future goals that lead to a happy, healthy, and holy life. Professionally trained presenters make this a fast-paced program with funny skits, parent-child focus time, audience participation and more.

Cost \$40/family. Presented locally for 14 yrs. For more information contact Debra Hitpas 850-384-5070. Register online now: FamilyHonor.org

Liturgical Roles

Weekend of Jan 7/8

5:00 p.m.

Altar Servers: _____
Extraordinary Ministers: Joyce Klickovich, Michael Klickovich, Louise Perreault, Al Perreault, Ron Berthelette
Lectors: Ruth Sykes, Eric Van Dorn
Ushers: Bob Flanagan, Joni Flanagan, Heather Metruck
Greeter: Lynn Brenton
Sacristan: Dan Brenton
Elijah Cup: Ron Berthelette

8:00 a.m.

Altar Servers: _____
Extraordinary Ministers: Bruce Brandewie, Susan Johansen, Paul Johansen, Joe Davison, Patsy Soto
Lectors: Patty Dominitz, Isabella Dominitz
Ushers: Gary Jordan, Dan Cauley, Kathy Cauley
Greeter: Maria Bridges
Sacristan: Jean Jordan
Elijah Cup: Eden Carter

10:30 a.m.

Altar Servers: Devony Ross, Austin Wise, Joseph Sweeney
Extraordinary Ministers: Rick Grecco, Alicia Grecco, Pam Wall, Joseph Rushlau, Susie Rushlau
Lectors: Warren Cabral, Carolyn Alaniz
Ushers: Jim Wise, Brian Prescott, Donna Fetter
Greeter: Karen Clayton
Sacristan: Therese Sweeney
Elijah Cup: Stacy Fralic

Weekly Calendar of Events

- 1/2 Rosary - after 8:00 a.m. Mass
- 1/3 Rosary - after 8:00 a.m. Mass
- 1/4 Legion of Mary - 8:30 a.m.
- 1/8 K - 5 Faith Formation - 9:15 a.m.
"Lectio Evangelization" - 9:15 a.m.
MS/HS Meeting - 6:00 p.m.

Mass Intentions

Jan 2—Jan 8

Monday Doug Babiak(liv)
Tuesday Jean & Gary Jordan(liv)
Thursday Rita Cox(liv)
Friday Gloria Mulligan(liv)
Saturday Paula Aylward(+)
Sunday..... St. Peter Parishioners(8:00 a.m.)
.....Peggy Pilgrim(+)(10:30 a.m.)



In celebration of the Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God, The Legion of Mary invites you to join in the recitation of the Rosary at the statue of our Blessed Mother on Sunday, Jan 1st following the 10:30 a.m. Mass.

What better way to begin the New Year than to **dedicate a "strand of holy roses" to the Mother of all** in request of Her guidance and protection?



All Religious Education (K-12) Resumes January 8th.

There will be a Parent Meeting for 2nd grade Sacramental Preparation at 9:30 a.m. in the library. Please bring a copy of your child's Baptismal certificate. Contact Susie if you have any questions at 581-7263 or dre@stpeter.ptdiocese.org.

Stay Connected...If you haven't registered on Flocknote, it's easy. Flocknote is the tool the parish uses to email and text from various ministries. Just text stp to 84576 or go online to flocknote.com/peter to sign up with the groups that interest you.

Our Parish COMMUNITY

December 25, 2016

Christmas (A)

Is 52:7-10

Heb 1:1-6

Jn 1:1-18 or 1:1-5, 9-14

God's Family

This isn't a typical Christmas image, but stick with me! There is a renewed interest in genealogy as many seek to understand who and where they came from. These days, websites and genetic services make it easier than ever to track down our ancestry and examine our roots.

In tribal African art, one's ancestors have always been revered. In this piece from the Vatican Museums' missionary collection, we find the figure of a tribal leader, sculpted to resemble the trunk of an olive tree. The tree's veins are smaller individuals, each one united to another, representing the generations that have come before him and formed his bloodline. They are his "tree of life" that reaches back into the soil of history.

Judeo-Christian culture also values ancestors and highlights the roots of Jesus' heritage. The Messiah was to come from the line of David, which reaches back to Abraham, our father in faith. Behind each name there is a story, a family, God's action mingled with the person's hopes and failures. Each life flows and unites into one strong tree. And God watches over each and every one, preparing for the person of his Son. Today we celebrate the culmination of this plan. Jesus Christ, our Savior, is born today!

For Reflection

Are you letting God work in you and your family so he can continue these blessings?

This protracted lineage invites us to look back and up: back on the events that have filled the tapestry of our personal and family

history and up to see that God has brought us to know him and to accept his salvation. His providence works in and through it all.

—Fr. Mark Haydu, LC

Piece: The Tree of Life
Artist and date unknown
Location: Vatican Ethnological Museum



"Jacob the father of Joseph, the husband of Mary. Of her was born Jesus who is called the Messiah (Matthew 1:16).

Our Parish COMMUNITY

January 1, 2017

Mary, the Holy Mother of God (A)
Nm 6:22-27
Gal 4:4-7
Lk 2:16-21

Like the Morning Star

For the first four centuries following Jesus' ascension, Christians grappled with how to understand how his humanity and divinity commingled in his person. His humanity was evident to all who walked and talked with him. His divinity was also evident to his disciples because of the miracles he worked, not least his death and resurrection. In short, they knew he was fully human, and they knew he was fully God, but how could he be fully both at the same time?

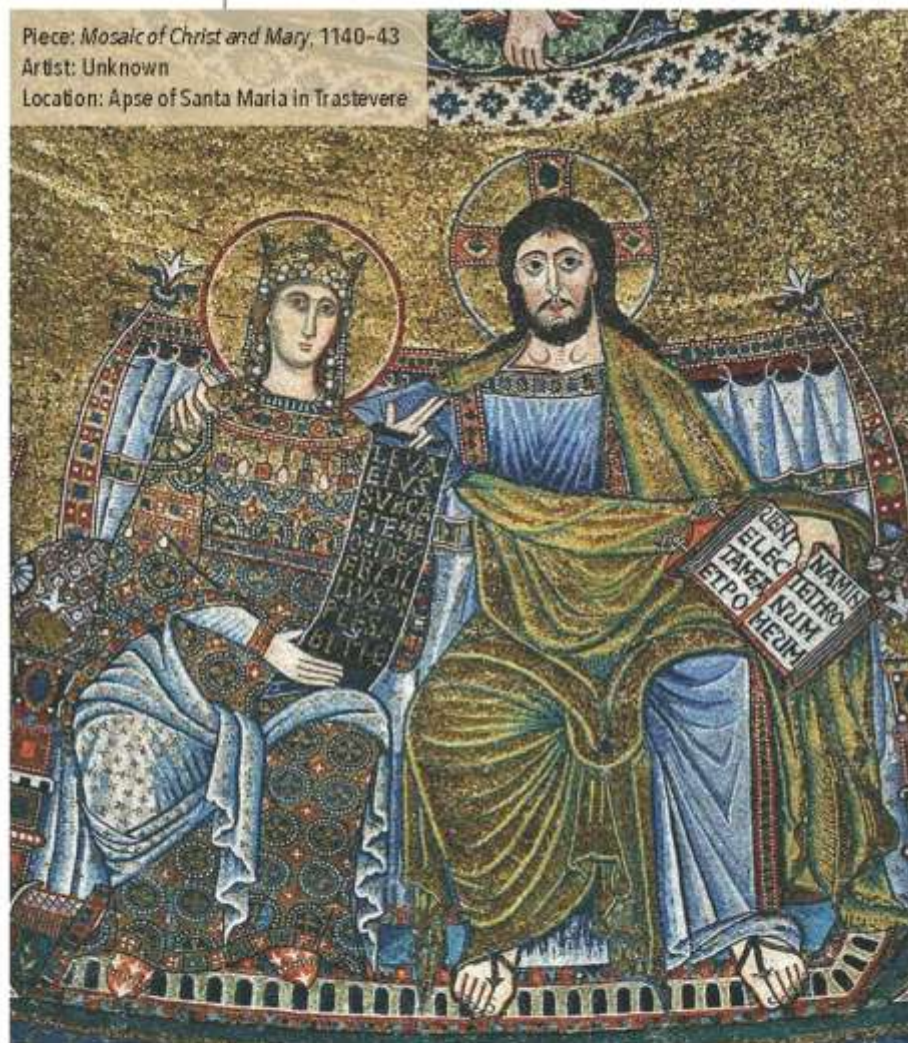
The Council of Ephesus in 431 settled the issue definitively. The Church declared that in the one person of Christ there are two natures: one divine and one human. This same council also declared, as a natural consequence, that the holy virgin is the Mother of God (*Theotokos*), since she conceived and gave birth to the Word of God. So today's feast is one of the oldest, shared by all Christians from the earliest times.

When Mary said "yes" to the Incarnation and gave birth to the

Savior, all of us could bask in his divine light. She is like the morning star that first breaks the horizon and mirrors the light of the sun that she both foretells and follows. In loving Mary, we truly honor her Son. God was the first to praise her through Gabriel—"Hail, favored one!"—and the one who blessed her beyond all other creatures. We are merely following his example.

—Fr. Mark Haydu, LC

Piece: Mosaic of Christ and Mary, 1140-43
Artist: Unknown
Location: Apse of Santa Maria in Trastevere



For Reflection

Do I let God's face shine on me by spending time in prayer or before the Eucharist? How can I honor Mary today for her lifelong fidelity and grace?

"The LORD bless you and keep you! The LORD let his face shine upon you, and be gracious to you!" (Numbers 6:24-25).

Calendar

Monday

January 2

Sts. Basil the Great and
Gregory Nazianzen,
Bishops and
Doctors of the Church

1 Jn 2:22-28

Jn 1:19-28

Tuesday

January 3

Christmas Weekday

1 Jn 2:29-3:6

Jn 1:29-34

Wednesday

January 4

St. Elizabeth Ann Seton,
Religious

1 Jn 5:7-10

Jn 1:55-42

Thursday

January 5

St. John Neumann, Bishop

1 Jn 3:11-21

Jn 1:45-51

Friday

January 6

Christmas Weekday

1 Jn 5:5-15

Mk 1:7-11

or Lk 5:25-38

Saturday

January 7

Christmas Weekday

1 Jn 5:14-21

Jn 2:1-11

Sunday

January 8

The Epiphany of the Lord

Is 60:1-6

Eph 5:2-5a, 5-6

Mt 2:1-12

Dear Padre,

Does calling Mary "the Mother of God" mean that she came before God?

No; it simply expresses our belief that Mary is truly the Mother of Jesus, who from the moment of his conception was both human and divine. Catholics believe that God is a Trinity of persons—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit—in one divine nature. We believe that God existed from all eternity and is the source of all created things. We also believe that, to save us from sin, the second person of the Trinity, the Son, took on a human nature. God became one of us in the mystery of the Incarnation.

Luke's Infancy narrative (1:26-38) tells us that God sent Gabriel to Mary to announce that she would have a child, the Son of God, by the power of the Holy Spirit. Mary consented, and Jesus Christ was conceived in her womb. Later, Mary is greeted by Elizabeth as "the mother of my Lord" (1:43). This greeting expresses the reality that the Lord, the God of the Hebrew Scriptures, is present in Mary's womb. Other passages testify to the same fact. Mary is the Mother of Jesus. Jesus is God (John 20:28). Therefore, Mary is the Mother of God.

When we honor Mary as "the Mother of God," we are professing our belief that Jesus is truly God. We are not saying that Mary came before God but rather that the Son, who existed from all eternity, "became flesh and lived among us" (John 1:14).

Source: *Dear Padre: Questions People Ask*, Liguori, 2003
sundaybulletin@liguori.org



A Word From Pope Francis

"In Christ...we recognize a human nature and a divine nature, united in the same person in a miraculous and indissoluble way. This holds in an analogous way for the Church."

—General audience, October 29, 2014

December 25, 2016 The Nativity of the Lord
Is 52:7-10/ Heb 1:1-6/ Jn 1:1-18

January 1, 2017 Mary the Holy Mother of God
Num 6:22-27/ Gal 4:4-7/ Lk 2:16-21