



# SAINT PETER'S CATHOLIC CHURCH

*A Light for Beaufort*



**December 26, 2021**

**The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph**

## **WEEKEND MASSES**

**Saturday** 5:00 pm, 7:00 pm (Spanish)

**Sunday** 9:00 am, 11:00 am

4:00 pm (at Holy Cross Mission)

*Masses are recorded and live-streamed on Saturday evening at 7pm and Sunday morning at 9am.*

Saint Peter's 70 Lady's Island Drive, Beaufort, SC 29907 • Holy Cross Mission 83 Seaside Road, St. Helena, SC 29920  
843.522.9555 • [www.stpetersbeaufort.org](http://www.stpetersbeaufort.org) • [office@stpetersbeaufort.org](mailto:office@stpetersbeaufort.org)

# Worship Guide

## Processional Hymn Away in A Manger

Away in a manger  
No crib for a bed  
The little Lord Jesus  
laid down his sweet head  
The stars in the sky  
Look down where he lay  
The little Lord Jesus  
Asleep on the hay

The cattle are lowing  
The poor baby wakes  
But little Lord Jesus  
No crying he makes  
I love thee Lord Jesus  
Look down from the sky  
And stay by my cradle  
'Til morning is nigh

Be near me, Lord Jesus  
I ask you to stay  
Close by me forever and love me I pray.  
Bless all the dear children in your tender care,  
And fit us for heaven to live with you there.

## Penitential Act

I confess to almighty God and to you, my brothers and sisters, that I have greatly sinned, in my thoughts and in my words, in what I have done and in what I have failed to do, (*striking their breast, they say*) through my fault, through my fault, through my most grievous fault; therefore, I ask blessed Mary ever-Virgin, all the Angels and Saints, and you, my brothers and sisters, to pray for me to the Lord our God.

Readings may be found at #493 in the pew hymnal.

## Liturgy of the Word

First Reading: Sir 3:2-6, 12-14

Psalms: **Lord, make us turn to you; let us see your face, and we shall be saved.**

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Second Reading: Col 3:12-21

Gospel Lk 2:41-52

## Profession of Faith (Nicene Creed)

I believe in one God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible. I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, the Only Begotten Son of God, born of the Father before all ages. God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father, through him all things were made. For us men and for our salvation, he came down from heaven, (*all bow*) and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary, and became man.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate, he suffered death and was buried, and rose again on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is adored and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church. I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

## Prayer for Vocations

Lord Jesus, thank you for calling us to be your disciples. Help us to love you and follow you with all our heart. May our parish bear fruit in many vocations to the priesthood and religious life; touch the hearts of our young people and help them to respond to your call. Work through us to serve those in need and to share your good news, that we may be a light for Beaufort. Amen.

## Offertory Hymn

### O Little Town of Bethlehem

O little town of Bethlehem,  
How still we see thee lie!  
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep  
The silent stars go by;  
Yet in the dark streets shineth  
The everlasting Light;  
The hopes and fears of all the years  
Are met in thee tonight.

For Christ is born of Mary,  
And gathered all above,  
While mortals sleep, the angels keep  
Their watch of wond'ring love.  
O morning stars, together  
Proclaim the holy birth!  
And praises sing to God the King,  
And peace to all on earth.

How silently, how silently,  
The wondrous gift is giv'n!  
So God imparts to human hearts  
The blessings of his heav'n.  
No ear may hear his coming,  
But in this world of sin,  
Where meek souls will receive him, still  
The dear Christ enters in.

O holy Child of Bethlehem!  
Descend to us we pray;  
Cast out our sin and enter in,  
Be born in us today.  
We hear the Christmas angels  
The great glad tidings tell;  
O come to us, abide with us,  
Our Lord Emmanuel!

# Worship Guide

## Holy, Holy, Holy

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of hosts. Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna! Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna! Hosanna in the highest.

## Memorial Acclamation

We proclaim your Death O Lord and profess your Resurrection until you come again.

## Great Amen

Amen, Amen, Amen.

## Lamb of God

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, grant us peace.

## Communion Hymn

### Wood of the Cradle

Wood of the cradle, wood of the cross,  
bearing a lifetime of joy and of loss,  
who is your loved one? Who could he be,  
born in a manger to die on a tree? (*Refrain*)

*Refrain:*

This, this is Jesus the Lord,  
here in the body and blood outpoured.  
Come, come, walk in his ways.  
Kneel at the manger and rise from the grave.

Shepherds lie sleeping, deep in their dreams;  
angels awaken them. "What could this mean?  
Whom do you herald? Whom must we find?  
child in the manger? Our God born in time?" (*Refrain*)

## Hark the Herald Angels Sing

Hark! the herald angels sing,  
'Glory to the newborn King;  
Peace on earth, and mercy mild  
God and sinners reconciled!  
Joyful, all you nations, rise,  
Join the triumph of the skies;  
With the angelic host proclaim,  
'Christ is born in Bethlehem!  
Hark! the herald angels sing,  
'Glory to the newborn King!'

Christ, by highest heav'n adored,  
Christ the everlasting Lord:  
Late in time behold him come,  
Offspring of the Virgin's womb.  
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see:  
Hail the incarnate Deity,  
Pleased as man with us to dwell,  
Jesus, our Emmanuel.  
Hark! the herald angels sing,  
'Glory to the newborn King!'

Hail the heav'n born Prince of Peace!  
Hail the Sun of Righteousness!  
Light and life to all he brings,  
Ris'n with healing in his wings.  
Mild he lays his glory by,  
Born that we may no more may die  
Born to raise us from the earth  
Born to give us second birth  
Hark! the herald angels sing,  
'Glory to the newborn King!'

## Recessional Hymn

### God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen

God rest you merry, gentlemen, Let nothing you  
dismay, For Jesus Christ our Savior Was born  
upon this day, To save us all from Satan's power  
When we were gone astray. O tidings of comfort  
and joy, comfort and joy; O tidings of comfort  
and joy!

In Bethlehem in Judah This blessed babe was  
born, And laid within a manger Upon this  
blessed morn: For which his mother Mary Did  
nothing take in scorn. O tidings of comfort and  
joy, comfort and joy; O tidings of comfort and  
joy!

Now to the Lord sing praises, All you within this  
place, And with true love and charity Each other  
now embrace; This holy tide of Christmas All  
others shall replace. O tidings of comfort and joy,  
comfort and joy; O tidings of comfort and joy!



## Our Mission

Invite people to encounter Christ,  
Invest in their spiritual growth, and  
Inspire them to share Christ with others.

## Our Vision

Hearts aflame with love for Christ,  
we will be a light for Beaufort.

## Our Five Areas of Growth 2020-2025



Community  
Life



Small Faith  
Groups



Eucharistic  
Adoration



Saint Peter's  
Catholic School



Outreach  
Center

# Weekly Update

Our bulletin had to be submitted earlier and therefore we are unable to give attendance or offertory figures for December 19. Report will be included in next weekend's bulletin.

**December 12, 2021**

**Third Sunday of Advent**

**Attendance: 1273**

**Online**

**Saturday**

5:00pm - 209

7:00pm - 271

**Sunday**

9:00am - 393

11:00am - 326

4:00pm (HCM) - 74

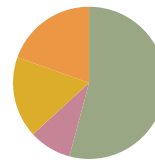
**Viewing**

83

Households

## Weekly Offertory

	<b>December 12</b>	<b>Month to Date</b>	<b>Fiscal YTD</b>
Offertory:	\$36,041	\$74,859	\$763,649
Budgeted:	\$33,000	\$66,000	\$792,000
Difference:	\$3,041	\$8,859	(\$28,352)



■ Mass - Envelopes \$19,524  
■ Mass - Loose \$3,256  
■ Mail/Dropbox \$6,214  
■ Online \$7,047

**Tithe since 7/1/21: \$76,365**

*We tithe 5% of our collection each week to serve those in need and 5% to share the faith, as part of our efforts to be a light for Beaufort.*

## Thank You for Your Generosity!

We thank you for your continued generosity during these difficult times. We count on everyone contributing as they are able, sacrificially thanking God for all they have received.

Please consider mailing in your offering or dropping it off at the drop-box in front of the parish office. You can also sign up for online giving on our parish website; simply go to [stpetersbeaufort.org](http://stpetersbeaufort.org) and click on "online giving." Thank you so much!

## We Thank God This Week:

**For all of our guests and visitors  
who joined us for Christmas**



# Pastor's Post

## Merry Christmas!

God's blessings to you and your loved ones this Christmas! We celebrate a fact that is unimaginable to all other faiths: that God himself took on human flesh and became one of us, to show his immense love for us and to offer us his gift of salvation.



**For all who all who are visiting from out of town,** we welcome you to St. Peter's, and we hope you have a wonderful visit in our area. **All In For Jesus!**

**If you live in the area** and are visiting our parish for the first time, we are very glad to have you worshipping with us. We are blessed with a beautiful and thriving parish family. We hope that you will become part of our parish family. We look forward to walking with you and supporting you as your brothers and sisters in Christ!

**And if it has been a while since you have been to church,** we would like to welcome you home! We hope this can be an opportunity for you to renew your relationship with Jesus and his Church. We want to help you grow from where you are. You are missed, and the Catholic Church is not the same without you!

— Father Andrew

### Parish Office Hours

Monday – Thursday 8:00 am to 4:00 pm (Closed for Lunch from Noon to 12:30 pm) Friday 8:00 am to Noon

### Parish Clergy

#### Pastor

Rev. Andrew Trapp

#### Deacons

Deacon Michael Beeler  
deaconbeeler@stpetersbeaufort.org

Deacon Daniel Carrera  
deaconcarrera@stpetersbeaufort.org

Deacon Gene Kelenski  
deaconkelenski@stpetersbeaufort.org

Deacon William Lacombe  
deaconlacombe@stpetersbeaufort.org

### Parish Staff

#### Parish Manager

Willard Fosberry | 843.522.6501  
parishmanager@stpetersbeaufort.org

#### Pastor's Assistant

May Hoffman | 843.982.6241  
pastorassistant@stpetersbeaufort.org

#### Parish Life/RCIA

Leslie Tibbitt | 843.522.9555  
parishlife@stpetersbeaufort.org

#### Director of Evangelization

Nancy Compton | 843.982.6240  
evangelization@stpetersbeaufort.org

#### School Principal

Ann Feltner | 843.522.2163  
afeltner@charlestandiocese.org

#### Youth Minister

Dana Scarantino | 843.522.2168  
youth@stpetersbeaufort.org

#### Hispanic Ministry

Sr. Monica Gomez | 843.982.6251  
ministerio@stpetersbeaufort.org

#### Pastoral Associate

Sally Leyda | 843.522.9555 ext 572  
formation@stpetersbeaufort.org

#### Director of Music Ministries

Leslie Gereghy | 843.522.6508  
music@stpetersbeaufort.org

#### Communications Coordinator

Anna Sudomerski | 843.982.6242  
office@stpetersbeaufort.org

#### Database/IT

Maria Carrera | 843.522.6500  
data@stpetersbeaufort.org

#### Bookkeeper

Theresa Smiley | 843.982.6237  
bookkeeper@stpetersbeaufort.org

#### Maintenance

Robert Widenhouse/Brian Wegmann/Rosa Canales  
maintenance@stpetersbeaufort.org

# Worship & Prayer

## Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God

**December 31**

6:00pm

7:30pm (Spanish)

**January 1**

9:00am at Saint Peter's

## Daily Mass Schedule

Monday: 8:30am

Tuesday: 8:30am

Wednesday: Noon at Historic Church

Thursday: 8:30am

Friday: 8:30am

Saturday: 9am at Historic Church  
(First Saturday only)

## Confessions

The Sacrament of Reconciliation is offered on **Saturdays from 11am to 1pm** in the Walsh Palmetto Room. Please enter through the social hall.

## Anointing of the Sick

To receive the anointing of the sick, please call the church office at 843.522.9555. This sacrament is available to the chronically ill, the elderly, those facing serious surgical procedures, and those in danger of death.

## Our Lady Chapel of Perpetual Adoration



Each moment that you spend in His Eucharistic Presence will increase His Divine life within you and deepen your personal relationship and friendship with Him.

**You are invited to visit  
the chapel anytime.**

**At this time, adorers are especially needed on**

**Saturday 9-10pm, Sunday 1-2am, 3-4am**

**How can I sign up for an hour with Jesus?**

To sign up for a weekly hour with Jesus, please go to <https://adorationpro.org/petersc>. We use a program called Adoration Pro. Just click "Weekly Commitment" and then select one of the available hours.

## Mass Intentions

**Saturday | December 25 (Christmas)**

12:00 am (Midnight) • Pat and Joan Brennan †  
by Heather Brennan Fleury

11:00 am • For the people of the parish

**Sunday | December 26**

9:00 am • For the people of the parish

11:00 am • Patricia M. Sheehan † by Robert Sheehan

1:00 pm (Sp) • For all the families of Saint Peter's parish

4:00 pm (Holy Cross Mission) • William Guerriero †  
by Theresa Smiley

**Monday | December 27**

8:30 am • Carol Connolly † by Saint Peter's Parish

**Tuesday | December 28**

8:30 am • Doug Paterson † by Celine Sayers

**Wednesday | December 29**

12:00 pm (Historic Church) • Patricia Ryan † by Saint Peter's Parish

**Thursday | December 30**

8:30 am • Harry Anione † by Patty Bonner and JoAnn Bebbington

**Friday | December 31 (Solemnity of Holy Mother of God)**

6:00 pm • Patricia M. Sheehan † by Robert Sheehan

7:30 pm (Sp) • Julia Anderson † (sister of Mike Brannen)  
by Pat Green and Bill Robinson

**Saturday | January 1 (Solemnity of Holy Mother of God)**

9:00 am • Joseph DiBello † by Saint Peter's Parish

**Saturday | January 1**

5:00 pm • For the people of the parish

7:00 pm • Marco Salinas † by the Cantrell family

**Sunday | January 2**

9:00 am • John Reier (from Kansas) † by Jessica Keller

11:00 am • Patricia Schad † by Bob Schad

4:00 pm (Holy Cross Mission) • Dollayne (Dolly) Weithman †  
by her girls

## Parish Office Closed

The parish office is closed through Tuesday,  
December 28.

We wish you a **joyful Christmas season!**

# Growing In Your Faith

## Walking with Purpose Women's Bible Study

We are pleased to announce another 6-week women's program, coming in early 2022. Beholding Your King delves into the story of salvation history, from King David through Jesus Christ, King of Kings. Discover God's intricate rescue plan and see how he still keeps his promises! Attend any or every session.

Our sessions begin on January 14. We will gather for six Fridays from 10 until 11:30am in the Walsh Palmetto Room and end with a special session on February 18. Child care is provided.

To register, go to the parish website or contact Diane Rolfe at 914.602.1281.

Please order the book online by visiting:  
[www.stpetersbeaufort.org/walking-with-purpose](http://www.stpetersbeaufort.org/walking-with-purpose)

## Confirmation

Do you want to receive the gifts of the Holy Spirit and be set on fire to share Christ with the world? For our youth who are in 8th grade or older, we will soon be starting our preparation for the Sacrament of Confirmation.

The sessions will be held on Sundays during Family Faith Formation, from 10am-11am. Our first session is on January 9, with both parents and candidates. We will meet during January, February, and March. from the Bishop's office.

Please see the youth ministry page on the website, follow us on Facebook at St. Peter's Faith Formation and Youth Ministry, Instagram @stpetersyg, or contact Dana Scarantino at [youth@stpetersbeaufort.org](mailto:youth@stpetersbeaufort.org).

## Marriage Encounter

Sign up today to attend one of the upcoming Worldwide Marriage Encounter experiences on January 28-30, 2022 in North Myrtle Beach, SC. Early sign up is recommended. For more information visit our website at: <https://SCMarriageMatters.org> or contact us at [applications@scmarriagematters.org](mailto:applications@scmarriagematters.org) or 803.810.9602.

## Tuesday with Scripture

Mark your calendars for the start of a new year! Come and discover the wonder and grace of Scripture alive in your faith, prayer, and daily living with Deacon Gene Kelenski.

### Tuesdays

January 4 and 11

February 1 and 8

March 1, 8, and 29

April 5

We will meet in the Saint Francis Room located at the Parish Life from 6:30 until 7:30pm.

## That Man Is You

THAT MAN IS YOU! is an interactive men's program combining the best research from science with the teachings of the Catholic faith and the wisdom of the Saints to develop the vision of man fully alive. TMiY addresses the pressures and temptations that men face in our modern culture and helps them transform homes and society.

Men state that TMiY is the most rewarding program they have ever attended and they (along with their wives) say that it has transformed their marriage, families and spiritual lives. It is an incredible opportunity to be around other men who "live their faith through prayer and sharing", are willing to journey together to face the challenges of today's life and support each other in our desire to encounter Jesus, no matter where we are at - and go one step further.

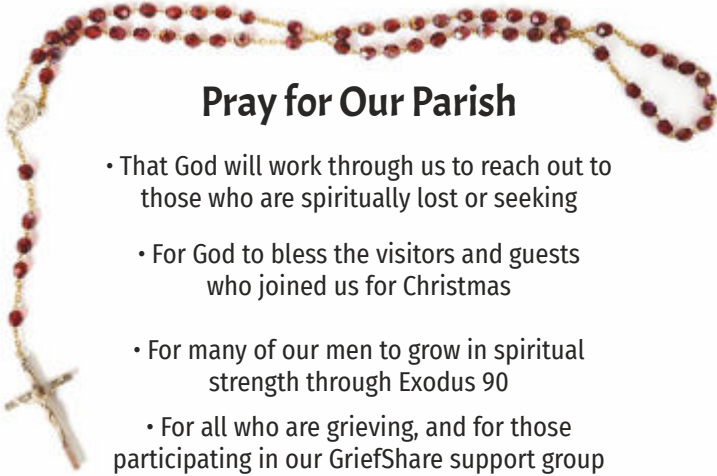
We meet on Saturdays from 7:00am to 8:30am in the Walsh Palmetto Room and our Spring Semester starts on Saturday 5 February 2022. For more information, please contact Chris Pangle at 734. 545.3492 or [chrispangle@icloud.com](mailto:chrispangle@icloud.com).

## Catholic Men's Conference

"Into the Breach: Living an Authentic Male Spirituality" will take place on Saturday, January 29, 2022 at Saint James Catholic Church, Savannah, GA from 7:30am to 5:00pm featuring best-selling authors and radio hosts Deacon Harold Burke-Sivers and Jon Leonetti.

All men are welcome! For registration and information, visit: <https://www.stjamessav.com/mens-conference>.

# Prayer & Parish Life



## Pray for Our Parish

- That God will work through us to reach out to those who are spiritually lost or seeking
- For God to bless the visitors and guests who joined us for Christmas
- For many of our men to grow in spiritual strength through Exodus 90
- For all who are grieving, and for those participating in our GriefShare support group
- For all listed on our parish prayer list

## Prayers for the Sick

Chuck Aiken	Stephanie Kelenski
Mila Alberto	John Kerestes
Marcos Alegre	Rita King
<b>Robert Bergmann</b>	Brian Kortman
Nicolas Binot	Butch Kramber
Ardell Brown	Philip Lemire
Bitty Bryant	Geordie Madlinger
Rosa Canales	Gail Mallott
Julius Colucci	Barbara McCoy
Charles Crockett Sr.	Meridith McGowan
Catherine Delorenzo	Peggy Mohr
Robert "Bob" Doyle	Lee Nash
Shelby Durban	Paula O'Donnell
Crew Feltner	Irene O'Neil
Davey Dempsey	Mary Oenbrink
Sue Fox	Kathy Paulik
Michele Gathers	Bruce Pifel
Mark Garafano	Karla Rossetti Pippins
Carol Garrett	Jackie Rice
Pamela Gearheart	William Rice Jr.
Dan Gilmour	John Rita
Vera Gwin	Linda Sue Robles
Marcella Hatfield	Nancy Schaffer
Corky Henninger	John Sesti
Kathy Henry	Robert Sheehan
Kevin Higgins	Karen Smyth
Paul Hirschmann	Elba Soto
Jean Hoelle	Debbie Sweeney
Pat Hoffman	Doris Taylor
Sherry Horn	Barbara Van Lehn
James Horton Jr.	Kamay Weiskopf
Dianne Hulbert	Susan Whitten
Denise Janowiak	Sandra Winkler
Peggy Kane	Camilla Wisor
Ellen Keith	Paul Yearsley

Names in bold were added this week. Names stay on the prayer list for 30 days. In case of chronic illness, please call the parish office to keep a person on the list for a longer time.

## Prayers In Continuance

We ask that you continue to pray for all our Health Care Professionals, First Responders, Nursing Care Personnel, and all who work for the safety and well being of those affected with virus of any kind.

# GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP

Help and encouragement  
after the death of a loved one

GriefShare is a special weekly seminar and support group designed to help you rebuild your life. We know it hurts, and we want to help.

## Contact Us Today

Tuesdays 6:00pm 8:00pm

January 18 - April 18

St. Peter's Catholic Church

843-522-9555

<https://www.stpetersbeaufort.org/griefshare-registration>





# Use Your Gifts to Serve Others

## Food Drive Next Weekend

We thank all those who participated in our monthly food drive for the St. Francis Center. We filled up the food trailer to its maximum! Our next food drive will be this coming weekend, January 1 and 2.

## Bereavement Ministry

Thanks to Team #9 with captains Gilda Mozlow and Bobbie Weber for a lovely lunch provided to the family and friends of Blanche Roberge. Thanks also to Team #8 with captains Rita Brown and Sally Moona for providing a beautiful meal for the family and friends of JoAnn Bent. Team #10 is up next with captain Meg Largey. If you would like to be part of this ministry, please contact Denise at 843.263.8866 or [deniseparsick@gmail.com](mailto:deniseparsick@gmail.com).

## Church Safety Team

Interested in becoming a member of the church safety team? Please contact Steve Mendoza by email at [m1761@hargray.com](mailto:m1761@hargray.com) or call 843.521.3771 (cell).

## Post-Abortion Healing Ministry

A new post-abortion healing ministry is coming to Saint Peter's. If you or someone you love has experienced an abortion or are contemplating an abortion, we are here for you with love, hope and compassion. The ministry is offered to both men and women. All phone calls and meetings are confidential and non-judgmental. Please call 843.271.8125 to speak to one of our team members and receive more information.

## Amazing Cooks, Thank You!

This past year we have had an amazing group of cooks who have faithfully and energetically cooked a meal for our priests, so that they had a great and healthy home-cooked meal once or twice a week.

Our cooks for the past year have been: Barbara Procida, Camille Baldwin, Deb Garland, Eileen Cantrell, Kim Hart, Leslie Gereghty, Sally Moona, Teresa Lowe, Teresa English, Theresa Pennell, Vera Gwin and Christy Meehan. We are very grateful to them all!

If you would like to help with a meal once every six weeks or so, please send an email to [pastorassistant@stpetersbeaufort.org](mailto:pastorassistant@stpetersbeaufort.org) or contact Valerie at 843.522.9555.



***Supporting the St. Francis Center  
on Saint Helena Island***

Cooking Oil (16 oz)	Canned Tomatoes
Sugar (1 or 2 lb box)	Canned Vegetables
Flour (2 lbs)	(Such as Peas,
Canned Fruit	Corn, Carrots,
Applesauce	Green Beans,
Instant Coffee	Mixed Veggies,
Dry Creamer (small)	Potatoes, Greens,
Tea Bags	Pinto Beans,
Peanut Butter (16 oz)	Kidney Beans)
Mustard (8-16 oz)	Canned Pasta
Ketchup (20-32 oz)	(Such as Ravioli,
Mayonnaise (20-32 oz)	Spaghetti &
Pasta Sauce (24-48 oz)	Meatballs)
Jelly (16 oz)	Canned Meat
Cereal	(Such as Tuna,
Oatmeal/Grits	Beef Hash,
Rice (1 or 2 lb)	Beef Stew,
Pasta	Luncheon Loaf,
Boxed Mac 'n Cheese	Vienna Sausage,
Cookies or Crackers	Chicken,
Ramen Noodle Soup	Pork 'n Beans)

***Collecting at Saint Peter's or Holy Cross  
on the first weekend of each month***

## Our Newest Faith Article

# What If God Was One of Us?

### *A radio hit sparks a conversation at the office*

#### A surprising topic for a pop song.

In the 90s, Joan Osborne released the hit song "One of Us," in which she wondered, "What if God was one of us? Just a stranger on the bus, trying to make his way home? ... If God had a name, what would it be and would you call it to his face? ... What would you ask if you had just one question?"

#### "Wouldn't that be a great idea for a story?"

A Christian author, Mark Shea, shares how this song began playing on his coworker's radio one day at the office. The coworker looked thoughtful for a moment and then said, "Wouldn't that be a great idea for a story?" Mark said, "What?" She replied, "Suppose God became a human being. Wouldn't that be a great idea for a story?"

#### God did become one of us!

Mark explained to his coworker that this has indeed already happened. Two thousand years ago, God did enter the world and became one of us. He did look just like one of us, no different from anyone else in the crowd. You could look into his eyes and ask him any question. He did have a name: his name was Jesus.

#### This changes everything.

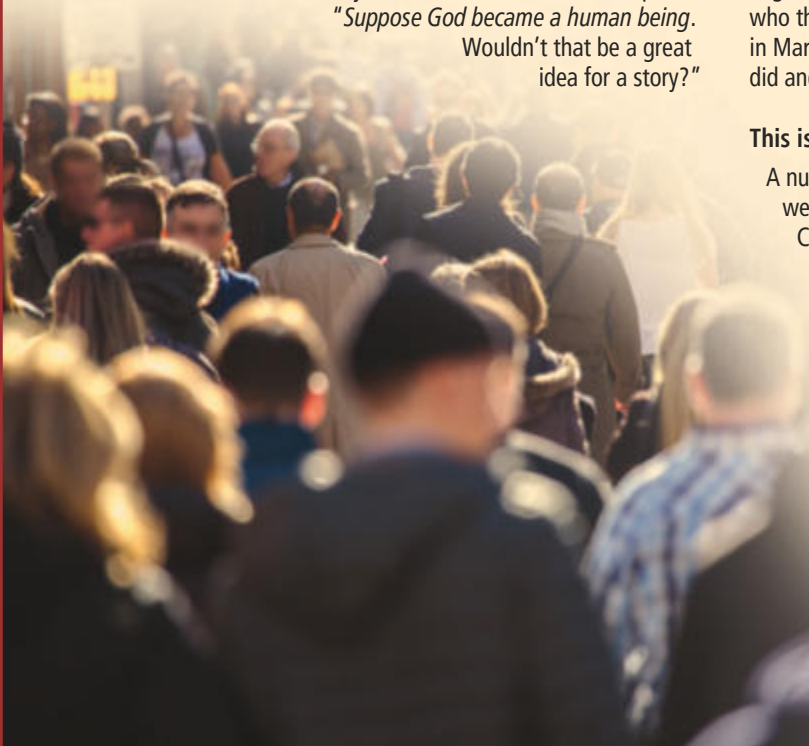
Mark's coworker correctly grasped that, if God actually became one of us, this would be the most wonderful event that had ever happened in human history. How could the infinite God, without beginning or end, become part of finite creation? How could God, who the entire universe cannot contain, become an infant growing in Mary's womb? And wouldn't we want to know everything he did and said while on earth?

#### This is the astonishing belief at the heart of Christianity.

A number of the major world religions hold that their founders were inspired by God or taught on his behalf. But only Christianity declares that God has actually chosen to become one of us, entering the world as a human being. (John 1:14)  
The man known by historians as Jesus of Nazareth was different from all others in history, because he was truly God in our midst.

#### How extravagant is God's love!

Instead of communicating once more through human messengers, God came to earth himself! Rather than giving a little of himself, he gave himself completely. This is how much he loves us. This is how important each of us is to him. Looking into the face of Jesus, calling him by name as a close friend, we discover joy that the world cannot take away!



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