



CHURCH OF ST·PETER  
*Roman Catholic Community*



# 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday OF ADVENT



December 4, 2022

## SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT



Dear Parishioners,

As the first reading, we have one of the most beautiful and inspired passages of the Bible, incomparable poetry! The prophet Isaiah talks about the coming of the Root of Jesse, the descendant of David, the Messiah, who will change the world, humankind, and the cosmos: “Then the wolf shall be a guest of the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the kid; the calf and the young lion shall browse together, with a little child to guide them. The cow and the bear shall be neighbors [...]; the lion shall eat hay like the ox. The baby shall play by the cobra’s den, and the child lay his hand on the adder’s lair. There shall be no harm or ruin on my holy mountain” (Is 11: 6–8).

However, when we read the newspaper, watch the news on TV, and look around, we see the wolf eating the lamb, the leopard attacking the kid, the young lion striking the calf, and the little child running away from them. The bear is threatening the cow. The lion is eating meat. The baby is playing by the cobra’s den, but the child is bitten when he lays his hand on the adder’s lair. There is harm and ruin on the mountain!

The Root of Jesse has already come. We already have two thousand years of Christianity. However, everything seems to be the same. Nothing seems to have changed. There are conflicts, wars, ideological confusion, and immorality.

Where could we see the prophecy of Isaiah realized? How could what the prophet says not be false poetry? Has anything changed at all? I find the answer to this question in one of the names of the Messiah: the Root of Jesse. I think that the keyword is “root.” We cannot see the roots of a tree. However, the roots are the support; through them, the plant receives water and nourishment.

The change that Jesus brought was radical at the root. He is the new root. After him, there is a new root in the world and humankind. There is new life, invisible for now, but it is real. Sometimes we can see it emerge at the surface. If we think about the history of the Church, we find shoots emerging from the root in the light of day. We could especially see this in the saints and all the women and men of goodwill mysteriously touched by grace.

The figures of saints such as Francis of Assisi, Ignatius of Loyola, John of God, Camillus of Lellis, Vincent de Paul, Louise de Marillac, Giuseppe B. Cottolengo, John Bosco, Luigi Orione, and Teresa of Calcutta, to name but a few, show us that the words of Isaiah are true.

In today’s Gospel, John the Baptist invites us to conversion: “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand” (Mt 3:1). To start seeing the fulfillment of Isaiah’s prophesy, we need the path of conversion. We need more profound insight into people and things, an insight that sees beyond the surface: a vision of the heart. In *The Little Prince*, Antoine de Saint-Exupéry wrote: “It is only with the heart that one can see rightly, what is essential is invisible to the eye.”

In today’s second reading, St. Paul invites us to have hope: “We might have hope” (Rom 15: 4). Advent season is the season of hope. For the moment, the essential is invisible. That is why we live in hope. One day, it will be apparent to all.

Today, we ask Our Lord to grant that we may start seeing and living what he promised to us, for the sap of life coming from the root to spread in us and the world around us.

Fr. Ze

## CONGRATULATION TERRY FURLONG

On Tuesday, November 22 St. Joseph Business Guild in conjunction with the Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis hosted the annual Leading with Faith Awards. The award honors business leaders in the Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis and has been bestowed on select Twin Cities business leaders since 2002.

Terry Furlong, a parishioner of the Church of St. Peter in North St. Paul, serves as mayor of North St. Paul and also works in community relations and business development for Premier Bank in Maplewood was a recipient of this award for his work in the community and the parish

His nominator, who has known Furlong for years, said he is a kind and humble leader with a servant's heart.

"Terry exemplifies the sage advice of St. Francis," the nominator wrote. "'Preach the Gospel at all times. Use words if necessary.' Terry's Catholic sense of fairness, justice and service are evident in everything he does, both as an elected official and through the many charitable organizations he serves. He accomplishes all of this not by preaching, but by his generous example of service and caring for others."

Furlong's strong Catholic faith is "evident and authentic," the nominator said. "He readily shares his gifts of time, talent and treasure to help build a better world on this side of heaven."

Furlong said he was surprised to receive the award but does try to "live my faith." "Even when I was sworn in as mayor, ... I had our pastor ... do a blessing, not only blessing me but he blessed the whole city council and (everyone) at the ceremony," he said.

Furlong recalled that when the COVID-19 pandemic hit Minnesota hard in March 2020, he reached out to all the churches in his community to set up a virtual support group for people who needed a connection with others during the pandemic. "It was well received," he said.



## PARAGUAY CORNER



Thank you for your continued support of our sister parish, Cristo Redentor and St. Anthony School in Coronel Oviedo, Paraguay. The 2022 school year has come to a close and the children along with their families have entered Advent awaiting the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ!

Living in the times of COVID continues to impact the daily lives in the poor community surrounding the parish. This year the dining room celebrates 20 years of service to the most needy in the community. An average of 600 people are served at each lunch. The food continues to be served using COVID protocol where a member of each family is given the food for the entire family. Our parish, St. Peter's Catholic Church, provides the financial support needed to feed the poor and hungry THANK YOU!

We are in great need of sponsors for the 2023 school year which begins in February. Please consider sponsoring a child or giving to the general fund which provides the financial support for the Food Program. .

**SPONSORSHIP FORMS FOR THE 2023 SCHOOL YEAR ARE AVAILABLE ON THE RACK IN THE GATHERING SPACE**

## SENIOR LUNCHEON



December Luncheon  
Roast Beef Dinner

**Wednesday, December 14, 2022**  
Fellowship Hall 11:30 (check-in)  
12:00 noon – lunch Cost: \$12.00

For Reservation call Cheri Jepson 651-270-9632 or  
Linda Carlson 651-738-1075.  
By Monday, December 12

Entertainment will be provided by the 3M Mellow  
Fellows.

## BOOKSTORE



Visit our bookstore and discover gems such as this lovely *Little Office of the Blessed Virgin Mary*, featuring blue-tinted page edges. The format follows the *Liturgy of the Hours*, a perfect palm-sized book to honor Mary in a way that harmonizes with the liturgy, a beautiful meditation for the Immaculate Conception this Thursday.

Also, stop in for Advent wreath candles and new Christmas cards added each weekend, many of the cards are donations from a kind mystery donor.

## CAROLING ALL ARE WELCOME

*Let heaven and nature sing!*

Join us for  
Christmas caroling by candlelight  
around the St Peter neighborhood.  
Saturday, Dec 17, 5pm  
Cookies and hot cocoa to follow



## FAITH FORMATION

*High School Youth Group*  
*December Events*  
**"St. Nicholas is Coming to Town"**

Saturday, Dec 10 @ Open Window Theater  
meet at the parish at 5pm for supper  
Play is 7:30-10pm; cost = \$20  
Register by scanning the QR code here!



**Candlelit Christmas Caroling**

Saturday, Dec 17, 4-9pm,  
meet in the Gathering Space

**All high school students are invited to join us!**  
Questions? contact [Jennifer jgreger@stpetersnsp.org](mailto:jgreger@stpetersnsp.org)

## FIRST RECONCILIATION

In November, 26 students from the school and CGS programs experienced the great Sacrament of Mercy as they celebrated their First Reconciliation. The smiles from the children as they returned to their pews spoke of the great joy they felt. Please pray for them as they continue to prepare to receive their First Communion in June.

Arya Kornmann	John Timmers
Ava Helgeson	Maria Cooley
Baxter Nichols	Markroy Afoaseh
Bennett Luxford	Marshall Chapman
Charlie Scott	Matthew Radcliffe
Cynthia Atakora	Max O'Malley
Deziel Teagum	Meara Murphy
Edgar Afoaseh	Nicolette Hastreiter
Edison Berg	Nolan Severson
Elias Eberhardt	Olivia Knochenmus
Francesca Olson	Thomas Nutzmann
Harry Young	Tristan Lagos
Joey Klocker	Weston Borscheid



"When one is in line to go to Confession, one feels all these things, even shame, but then when one finishes Confession one leaves free, grand, beautiful, forgiven, candid, happy. This is the beauty of Confession" - Pope Francis

## Rest in Peace

Your prayers are requested for the repose of the souls of **John Jeska and Maxine Kaiser** whose funerals were celebrated this past week.

### Church calendars are here. Please take one.

Thank you to Premier Bank for making these available.



Church of St Peter  
Procession to the  
Outdoor Nativity Scene.

December 8, 2022,  
Following 7pm Mass

**ST. PETER** | **106** YEARS  
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## ST. PETER SCHOOL IS HIRING

St. Peter Catholic School is seeking Christ-centered and mission-driven individuals for the following job openings. Job postings are also on the Archdiocesan Careers page: [careers.archspm.org](https://careers.archspm.org)

Morning Extended Day Assistant  
(5-8 hours/week)

Afternoon Extended Day Assistant  
(5-10 hours/week)

If you or someone you know is interested, send a resume (including professional references) and cover letter to Principal Dennis Rankin [drankin@stpetersnsp.org](mailto:drankin@stpetersnsp.org).

## KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS #4967



The Next Officers meeting is Monday, December 5<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm in the St Paul Room.

The Next General Membership meeting is Monday, December 19<sup>th</sup>. Pray the Rosary at 6:30pm. Business meeting at 7:00 pm in Father Zac Fellowship Hall.

## ADVENT & CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE

### SOLEMNITY of the IMMACULATE CONCEPTION of the BLESSED VIRGIN MARY (Holy Day of Obligation)

Wednesday, December 7: Vigil Mass at 7:00pm\*

Thursday, December 8: 8:00am, 9:30am\*, 7:00pm\*

\*Incense

### ADVENT DAY OF RECOLLECTION

Saturday, December 3, 8:30am – noon

### CHRISTMAS NOVENA (New Times)

Friday, December 16, 7:00pm, December 17&18th

5:00pm, December 19 - December 23, 7:00pm

December 24 at 8:30am, following morning Mass

### ADDITIONAL OPPORTUNITY FOR CONFESSION

Friday, December 23 added Confession from 5:30-7:00pm.

### CHRISTMAS EVE CONFESSION

Saturday, December 24: confessions 9:00-11:00am

### CHRISTMAS VIGIL MASS

Saturday, December 24: 4:00pm\* and 6:00pm

\*Incense

### CHRISTMAS NIGHT MASS

11:00pm Lessons and Carols

12:00am\* (midnight) Mass During the Night

\*Incense

### CHRISTMAS DAY MASS

Sunday, December 25: 8:00am and 10:30am\*

\*Incense

### SOLEMNITY: MARY, HOLY MOTHER OF GOD

Saturday, December 31: Vigil Mass at 4:00pm\*

Sunday, January 1: 8:00am, 10:30am\*, 6:00pm

\*Incense

### SOLEMNITY: EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

Saturday, January 7: Vigil Mass at 4:00pm\*

Sunday, January 8: 8:00am, 10:30am\*, 6:00pm

\*Incense



## FEAST OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

Thursday, December 8 is a Holy day of Obligation

Mass times:

Vigil Mass on Wednesday, December 7 at 7:00pm

Thursday, December 8 at 8:00am, 9:30am & 7:00pm



LIGHT IN THE DARKNESS

### Light in the Darkness Presents "Inner Healing"

A three-night prayer, healing and reflection series that is steeped in truth and beauty. Join us as we invite the light of Christ to shine into the dark places in our hearts where we are in desperate need of his healing love.

Each night's content builds upon each other, and you are encouraged to attend all three nights, but are most welcome to attend as you are able - the healing power of God's love is waiting for you!

Where: St. Peter's Catholic Church  
1405 Sibley Memorial Hwy, St. Paul, MN 55150

When: 7:00 - 9:00 PM

December 9th, 2022

January 13th, 2023

February 10th, 2023



[www.DarknessLit.com](http://www.DarknessLit.com)

## GIVING TREE



Thank you to all the families that took a tag from the tree last weekend. All the tags were taken. If you still would like to help. Please purchase a gift cards for cub food or a gas card. We will use these to help families that did not get on the giving tree and through out the year for those in need. Please have the gifts here by December 16th. Please make sure the tag is on the gift.

Thank you for your generosity. The families are so grateful.

## CCW MEETING

CCW Meeting Monday December 5 at 6pm. Potluck Supper with members F-L hosting. All women of the parish are welcome to join.

Donations to the Toy Shelf or Back Pack Program are welcomed.

## MASS INTENTIONS

Week of December 4 - December 11, 2022

Sunday: 8:00 AM † Vern & Mary Peterson  
 10:30 AM † Lyle Ducklow  
 6:00 PM † Parishioners  
 Monday: 8:00 AM † Geraldine Cocchiarella  
 Tuesday: 8:00 AM † Ruth Kovacs  
 Wed: 8:00 AM † Louise Dinehart  
 9:30 AM † Reparations against the Eucharist  
 Thursday: 8:00 AM † Lucille Hanson  
 Friday: 8:00 AM † Russ Ottel  
 Saturday: 8:00 AM † Mary Capistrant  
 4:00 PM † Ann Fox  
 Sunday: 8:00 AM † Donald Ethier  
 10:30 AM † Joseph Cicchese  
 6:00 PM † Parishioners

### Readings for the week of December 4, 2022

**Sunday:** Is 11:1-10/Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 17/Rom 15:4-9/Mt 3:1-12  
**Monday:** Is 35:1-10/Ps 85:9ab and 10, 11-12, 13-14/Lk 5:17-26  
**Tuesday:** Is 40:1-11/Ps 96:1-2, 3 and 10ac, 11-12, 13/Mt 18:12-14  
**Wednesday:** Is 40:25-31/Ps 103:1-2, 3-4, 8 and 10/Mt 11:28-30  
**Thursday:** Gn 3:9-15, 20/Ps 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4/Eph 1:3-6, 11-12/Lk 1:26-38  
**Friday:** Is 48:17-19/Ps 1:1-2, 3, 4 and 6/Mt 11:16-19  
**Saturday:** Sir 48:1-4, 9-11/Ps 80:2ac and 3b, 15-16, 18-19/Mt 17:9a, 10-13  
**Next Sunday:** Is 35:1-6a, 10/Ps 146:6-7, 8-9, 9-10/Jas 5:7-10/Mt 11:2-1

## CHRISTMAS FLOWER OFFERING

If you would like to make a donation to the Christmas flowers and Christmas trees that will fill the church this Christmas season. Please take one of the flower offering envelopes in the gathering space. If you would like it memory of a loved one please put there name on the envelope.



## SACRIFICIAL GIVING

Week of November 13 - November 27, 2022

Amount Collected	\$21,458.
Amount Budgeted	\$21,910.
Collected Year To Date	\$488,788.
Budgeted Year To Date	\$504,600.
Amount Above (or Below) Annual Budget	(\$-15,812.)
% Above (or Below) Budget	(-3.13%)

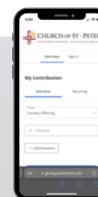
As of November 13, 2022 the Capital Improvement Fund balance is \$29,141.38, after fully funding the church lighting and audio system project.

*We have drawn spiritual and academic life from our parish and Catholic schools. What return will we make of these gifts? As the good steward of the Gospel, shall we give to God sufficient return for our gifts? Consider a life culminating gift through your Will.*



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Select **Donate Now** in the upper left corner of the page

On the giving page, you can make a one time donation or you can set up a recurring weekly or monthly donation.

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY!**

## SECOND COLLECTION NEXT WEEKEND FOR THE RETIRED RELIGIOUS

Your gift helps ease our worldly burdens and allows us to continue living out our mission of seeking God and serving the Church. Donations to next week's Retirement Fund for Religious collection help hundreds of US religious communities to provide for their aging members. Please give generously.

## HEALING MASS

December 6, at 7:30pm. Rosary at 7:00pm.  
 Fr. José Cortes presiding.

Church of St Peter

# Faith Formation Newsletter

**Give thanks to the LORD, who is good, whose mercy endures forever.**

Psalm 106:1



## Family Faith Formation

November 13, 2022

During the month of November, the Church invites us to contemplate eternity. Our time during the Family Faith Formation event started with singing (and even some dancing!) about heaven. We were grateful to be reminded of how we are surrounded by the communion of saints, the importance of praying for souls in purgatory, and the tragic existence of hell for those that choose it. During Fr Ettore's talk with the adults, he shared a quote from St. JPII in reference to heaven: "already and not yet." May the words of this saint remind us that we don't have to wait until death to experience heaven or to become a (living) saint!

### Come & Go With Me

Come and go with me to  
that land  
Come and go with me to  
that land  
Come and go with me to  
that land  
Where I'm bound

Come and go with me to  
that land  
Come and go with me to  
that land  
Come and go with me to  
that land  
Where I'm bound

There ain't no kneeling in  
that land ...

There'll be singin' in that  
land ...



# Catechesis of the Good Shepherd



After pondering a few Messianic prophecies as a large group, one 2nd grade student decided that he wanted to continue reading the book of Isaiah for the remainder of our class time. "Listen to this!" he exclaimed several times as he connected the prophecy to something else, he knew about Jesus and the Church. After reading Isaiah 1:18: Come now, let us reason together, says the LORD; though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are red like crimson, they shall become like wool. he exclaimed, "This is Confession!" His eyes were large and there was wonder in his voice. "Your soul becomes white as wool!"

On November 19th, 26 children from the school and parish celebrated their First Reconciliation. The morning was filled with smiles and rejoicing as the children felt the healing power of this great Sacrament of Mercy. Please pray for them as they continue to prepare to receive their First Communion in the spring.

## Confirmation Retreat

"The Giver, the Gifts, and Me"

We spent some time in the natural beauty of Marine on the St Croix and Dunrovin Retreat Center contemplating our relationship with God. We talked about what type of giver God is: generous, tireless, and knowing. Fr Ettore asked to think about who else is a giver in our lives. We also meditated on the gifts we are given. Our catechist, Joey Odell, reminded us of Gifts of the Holy Spirit. These gifts, given to us at our baptism, are strengthened during Confirmation. We how life be different if we didn't have these gifts. Our final topic was ourselves. We wondered about our response to the innumerable gifts God gives us. Are we good at receiving? Do we reject some of His gifts? Why? Thankfully, we have Our Lady as a Mother to guide us in how to be a good gift-receiver. Mary, full of Grace, is also full of trust and wants to help lead us to her Son.

**"I think the retreat brought a sense of understanding to us all. We learned more about the Gift of Confirmation that God gives to us. I also thought the witness was**



**beneficial because we saw God's Grace happening in real life. I also think about the game where we had to read, but people were hitting us, and it made me mad, but it made me realize life will be challenging." - 8th grade student**

## Upcoming events

### Candlelight Caroling

Sat, 12/17, 5pm

Join us for caroling in the neighborhood and stay for hot cocoa and treats!

### CGS classes:

(preK-grade 4)

Tuesdays, 4:30-6pm

Wednesdays, 6-7:30pm

### High School Youth Group

Tuesdays, 6-9pm

### Fellowship of the Keys

(Middle school)

Wednesdays, 6:30-8pm

**Family Faith Formation Sunday, Dec 11:** all are encouraged to join us for 10:30 Mass, followed by lunch before classes for kids preschool-grade 8 & a talk for adults

Future Sunday events: 1/8, 2/12, 3/12, 5/14

## High School Youth Group

We are thankful for the tremendous support last weekend during our first fundraiser. We sold handmade Advent wreaths. Because of your support, next week we will go to Open Window Theater to see "St Nicholas: the Origins of Father Christmas." All high school students are invited! See the bulletin for more information.

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