

Saints Peter and Paul Parish

December 14, 2025
Third Sunday in Advent

Mt 11:2-11

1325 E. Boot Road
West Chester, PA 19380

Office Hours:

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM
Friday 9:00 AM to Noon

We close for lunch from 12:15 PM to 1:15 PM Monday through Thursday

Phone 610.692.2216

Fax 610.692.7103

www.sspeterandpaulrc.org



Dicit g. loquidam
but in regione longinqua
e sibi regni puerum. **HE WILL PREPARE YOUR
WAY BEFORE YOU**

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Father Joseph Ganong Suh

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Deacon Robert Pierce (Retired)

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Business Manager

Mari Lyons ext. 258

Director of Adult Faith Formation

Judy Magee ext. 263

Facilities Managers

David Leitch

Don Loudon

Director of Liturgical Music

Anna Marie Snader ext. 265

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610.696.1000

Nicole Pontious ext. 202

Vice Principal: Jennifer Peacock ext. 230

Advancement Director: Gwynne Gorr ext. 262

Administrative Assistant: Ro D'Angelo ext. 201

Business Manager: Elizabeth Walls ext. 205

Coordinator of Religious Education (CRE)

484.473.8315 or 484.473.8334

Michele D'Alessandro ext. 236

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Joe Rodia, Athletic Director

jsrodia@comcast.net

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Church@Guest2015

**Mass Schedule**

Saturday Vigil: 4:30 PM
Sunday: 7:30, 9:30, & 11:30 AM
Saturday: 8:30 AM
Weekdays: 8:30 AM

The 9:30 AM Mass on Sunday will be streamed permanently.

Baptisms

Baptisms are held on the second and fourth Sunday of every month, following the 11:30 AM Mass. A two hour Baptism Prep Class is mandatory if it has been more than 4 years since your last child was baptized. Classes are held on the third Sunday of every month. For more information or to register, please contact Judy Magee at:

jmagee@sspeterandpaulrc.org.

Eligibility to be a Sponsor

For a person to act as a sponsor for Baptism/Confirmation, they must receive a letter from the parish to which he or she belongs, stating: he or she is at least sixteen years old, must have already received all the Sacraments of Initiation (Baptism, Confirmation, and Holy Eucharist). He or she must be able to fulfill the responsibilities involved with being a sponsor. A sponsor who is married must be married in accord with the laws of the Catholic Church.

Confessions 7:00 PM Tuesday, December 16, many visiting priests!

8:00 to 8:20 AM Saturday

3:00 to 4:00 PM Saturday

Devotions

The Rosary- following the 8:30 AM Mass Monday through Fridays.

The Miraculous Medal Novena-following the 8:00 AM Mass

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

Wednesdays following the 8:30 AM Mass, ending at 3:00 PM with a quiet repose of the Blessed Sacrament BARRING no funerals.

First Friday Holy Hour

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament 7:00 to 8:00 PM including music, private prayer and Benediction.

Sanctuary Lamp Intention
The Week of December 14, 2025
In Memory of Christopher Carrelli



Mass Intentions

Saturday, December 13, 2025

4:30 PM Brian O'Leary by Dennis & Agnes O'Leary

Sunday, December 14, 2025

7:30 AM Maria Carmela Sabatelli by Tom & Jeannette Russo

9:30 AM William F. Schneck by Jean Visser

11:30 AM James Phillips by Mary Phillips

Monday, December 15, 2025

8:30 AM Joseph & Elizabeth Dulka by Joe & Cathy Dulka

Tuesday, December 16, 2025

8:30 AM Dr. Anthony Fugaro by Mary Bellwoar & Denise Bugey

Wednesday December 17, 2025

8:30 AM Jeane Kelch by Barbara Lyons & Family

Thursday, December 18, 2025

8:30 AM Raymond Gallen by Issy & John Gallen

Friday, December 19, 2025

8:30 AM Malandra Family by Linda Schweizer

Saturday, December 20, 2025

8:30 AM Barbara Clarke by the Family

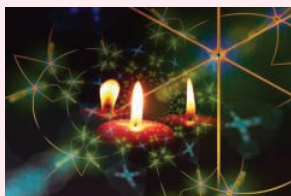
4:30 PM Gloria Harris by Cristina & John Kincade

Sunday, December 21, 2025

7:30 AM Gloria Russo by Tom & Jeanette Russo

9:30 AM John Kenny by the Family

11:30 AM John Graham by Helen Gleason



A Time to Heal

Tom Andino, Samantha Arland, Ave Beatty, Tom Bemiller, Mary Brockson, Sue Ciorletti, Lorraine Colgan, Dante Danilshenko, Lorraine Della Franco, Cass Donze, Debbie DeFelice, Fran Dickens, Toby Didciullo, Marjorie Donoghue, Denise Fennelly, Nancy Flanagan, John J. Flanagan, Pat Findley, Marguerite Finn, Joyce Galante, Sean Gallen, Lorena and Helena Gerondi, Gillespie Family, Cory Gray, Joseph Gilligan, John & Mary Lou Geis, Mindy Gear, Lillian Houlahan, Carol Hroza, Mary Huff, Joan Langan, Steve Leiden, Diane Lemon, Vickie Letulle, Joe Loftus, Kathleen Logan, Sonny Luminello, Lydia Maier, Theresa Macri, Maryann McCauley, Mary McCormick, Helen Mc Monagle, Ann McNally, Eileen McStravick, Joseph Mitchell, Maryann Mosley, Phyllis Naccarella, Franny Bernhardt Noll, Michael O'Connor, Joshua Paulina, Dorrie Ritchie, Robert, Margie Roos-Dil, Rosemary Sanders, William Schlichtig, Marie Scheivert, Esther Shinn, Martha Smoczylo, Anne Smith, Bob Smith, Mark Speiser, Norma Sullivan, Ann Taylor, Len Trainor, Kevin Wallace.

A Time to Serve



Please keep the following family members in your prayers as military and first responders in dangerous places throughout the world. David & Elizabeth Barbato, Robb Bassett, Jeremy Boone, Sean Bradley, Ryan Corcoran, Michael Cotelesa, Steve Di Maio, Marc Doucette, Annie Dudrear, Josh Elliott, Bill Fletcher, Dylan Golden, Riley Harsh, James Heisler, Kevin Jensen, Evan Thomas McBride, John Mc Elvenny, James O'Brien, Alyssa Pannucci, Peggy Pinto, Eric Reigner, Timothy & Mary Alice Riemann, Eric Savini, John Paul Snook, Walter Snook, Christian Troutner.

***Incense will be used at the
4:00 PM Christmas Eve Mass!***

Celebrants for Next Weekend
December 21, 2025

4:30 PM Fr. McGowan

7:30 AM Fr. McGowan

9:30 AM Fr. Joseph

11:30 AM Fr. Reilly

News from Fr. Reilly's Desk

Dear Parishioners,

Today we celebrate the Third Sunday of Advent, called Gaudete Sunday; the Latin word for rejoice. The Scripture readings today are filled with promise; they bring hope to a people heavy under the burden of waiting. Even in our liturgy things began to look alive. A rose-colored candle is lit on the advent wreath, as well as a rose-colored vestment is worn for the celebration of Mass. All these things combined reinstate the fact that the coming of the Lord is closer; therefore we rejoice as people of faith.

The prophet Isaiah wrote a beautiful poem that proclaims that the dry earth of the desert will bloom with abundant flowers, and the glory of Lebanon will be given. Throughout his writing, Isaiah references Lebanon as an iconic place of fertility and beauty. Contrary to the barren hills surrounding Jerusalem, Lebanon was known for its rich cedar forests. Isaiah employs this image to foreshadow what the Christian Scriptures call the "new heaven and earth," or the restoration of creation, including humanity, to God's original intent. This is a fitting image for Advent, as we prepare for heaven to literally come to earth, the wedding of what "will be" with what currently "is."

Each of us is a work in progress. Every day, we are being transformed as part of Christ's mission of restoration and redemption. Sometimes the growth we undergo feels painfully slow, as though we are barely progressing; sometimes it feels as though we are retreating backward, not growing into something beautiful but rather being overcome by thorns and thistles.

Amid such moments, we can return to the prophet Isaiah's words: Say to those whose hearts are frightened: Be strong, fear not! This poem of joyful hope goes on to say: Here is your God, he comes with vindication. So, too, must we wait with hope, enduring our setbacks with faithfulness and patience. In the second reading, James offers further encouragement when he says: Make your hearts firm, because the coming of the Lord is at hand.

In St. Matthew's Gospel, Jesus' words continue the theme of Isaiah when he tells John the Baptist's disciples: Go and tell John what you hear and see. People are healed and Good News is proclaimed to the poor, just as Isaiah predicted. Jesus assures the crowd he is the one who is to come. Jesus rejoices in John's mission of preparing the way for God's only Son. Jesus says there is no one greater than John and yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.

What does this mean for us? John baptized with water and Jesus baptizes with the Holy Spirit. Jesus died for the forgiveness of our sins and gives us his body to eat. When he promises to be with us always, we are blessed to be included in his kingdom. Let us rejoice on this Gaudete Sunday in what Jesus has done for us. Let us prepare our hearts not only for his coming but for his kingdom.

God Love Ya!
Fr. Reilly



Food Drive and Giving Tree

Thanks to all who participated in the Thanksgiving Food Drive for Mission Santa Maria.

Your generosity is greatly appreciated.

For those of you that took a Christmas Giving Tree tag, please remember to return your gift by THIS Sunday, December 14.



Adult Faith Formation

Help Wanted!

Saints Peter and Paul School is looking for a part time librarian to join our faculty in January. Days are Tuesday and Wednesday. Interested candidates please reach out to the principal: npontious@sspeterandpaulrc.org

Saints Simon and Jude Parish

Full-Time Employment Opportunity

Parish Rectory Office Receptionist
Must be friendly, caring and faithful...

Please send your resume to Bob Gendaszek at bgendaszek@simomandjude.org or contact the Rectory Office at 610.696.3624

December Poor Box Collection

Sharing with the poor around us

As we celebrate our Savior Jesus born in the humble circumstances of a manger, let us remember those around us who are struggling with poverty, homelessness and need. Sharing with the disadvantaged in our community is a way to embody the love and generosity central to the Christmas story.

Much of our parish Catholic missionary outreach to the poor and homeless in our local community is done through the St. Agnes Dorothy Day Room. The Day Room, which is located in a building at our neighboring parish, St. Agnes, provides extensive support to the disadvantaged in West Chester and our local community. It provides a daily meal service, groceries, clothing, basic nursing services, health and wellness services, bilingual and educational outreach services, and other special programs for the poor, homeless and most vulnerable.

Our parish doesn't provide those services, so those who live in our parish and local community who need them go to the Day Room to get them. We do our part by supporting the Day Room so it can provide those services.

Many of our parishioners volunteer at the Day Room, and we support it in other ways, but this month provides an opportunity for everyone to join in supporting it (and those it serves) through the poor box collection. Please help as much as you can, first, through your prayers, and if you can, through a generous donation to this month's poor box. It's a perfect way to live out the Christmas message.



Special Collection on to benefit the Holy Family Hospital of Bethlehem

Weekend of December 13, 14, 2025

Located just 1500 steps from the birthplace of Christ, the Holy Family Hospital is the Bethlehem region's premier Catholic teaching hospital with a state of the art maternity and neonatal care center serving women, infants and children throughout the Holy Land.

No family is ever turned away, allowing the hospital to be a beacon of hope for the poor and at risk families in the Bethlehem region.

Please welcome Ambassador Michele Bowe, from the Order of Malta, and the Hospital's Foundation President, who will be speaking at all Masses about the Hospital's mission to deliver life, peace and hope in the Holy Land.

Shepherds of Bethlehem

Weekend of December 20, 21, 2025

If you are looking for last minute gifts and stocking stuffers, the Shepherds of Bethlehem will be here selling their famous olive wood carvings.

Elias, who is from Bethlehem, in the Holy Land and will be retuning for Christmas with his family, reached out to me and asked to come this last weekend to help support the economy in the Holy Land and the Christian workers of Bethlehem.

If you could help in anyway to make this Christmas a joy filled one for those Christians struggling in the Holy Land, it would be greatly appreciated.

Thank you!

Thank You!

Birthright

Birthright of West Chester would like to thank you for the generosity you have extended to the mothers and pregnant women or our community. Your very thoughtful contribution of \$3,470.01 from the parish Poor Box Collection is so appreciated by the women, girls, and babies we serve as well as our volunteers. Without the generosity of donors like you, many less fortunate families would have little or nothing for their babies.

Since January, we have serviced more than 247 appointments and have given out more than 30 newborn layettes, providing moms with newborns essentials including clothes, diapers, wipes, blankets, and other needed items. As always, we continue to provide guidance and informal counseling services to pregnant women of our community through in-person appointments, over the phone conversations and through social media messaging. It is through these avenues and establishing a relationship with these women that Birthright volunteers can access what the woman's biggest concerns are and help them navigate their next steps. Mostly, we provide love and hope to the women to carry them through the pregnancy.

God bless you for your commitment to all life, especially the life of the unborn child. We are grateful for your continuing kindness and we wish you a joy-filled Advent.



CYACC - Chester County Catholic Young Adults

Wednesday, December 17, 2025 7:00 PM

CYACC Christmas Cookie Party: 7:00-9:00 PM at Saints Peter and Paul Parish (Fr. Kovacs Room) (1325 East Boot Rd, West Chester PA 19380)

Tis' the season for our Annual CYACC Cookie party! Please bring cookies as a dish to pass to share amongst our fellow friends. You may bring cookies from the store or cookies made from home. All young adults are welcome from the ages 18-35. It will be a joyful celebration with games, prizes and fellowship. We encourage you to come wearing festive clothing but if you don't have anything feel free to come casual. There will be awards for the following cookies such as "Best Cookie Award", "Most Creative Cookie Award", "Most Original Cookie Award". We hope to see you there. Merry Christmas!

**For more information about our organization: check www.cyacc.org or find us in Facebook / email us at cyacc1@gmail.com

Office Hours

December 24, 25, 26 as well as December 31 and January 1, the office will be closed.

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Tuesday, December 16, 7:00 PM

Multiple Confessors will be present

Christmas Masses

Christmas Eve, Wednesday

4:00 PM Church with Incense!

4:05 PM in the Hall

7:30 PM in Church

Preludes will be sung at 7:00 PM
in Church

Christmas Day, Thursday

8:30, 11:30 AM

New Year's Masses

Feast of Mary, The Mother of
God

New Year's Eve, Wednesday

8:30, 4:30 PM

New Year's Day, Thursday

8:30 AM, 12:10 PM

Feast of Holy Innocents

Monday, December 29

There will be a brief Memorial Service in memory of today's holy innocents on Monday, December 29 following the 8:30 Mass at the garden in front of the Church.



Spiritual Direction Companions for the Journey

Spiritual Direction is the contemplative practice of helping others to awaken to the mystery of God in their lives. Even more so in these unprecedented times, our need for our personal connection to God is vital.

The Spiritual Direction Ministry at the Daylesford Abbey in Paoli, PA offers trained and experienced Spiritual Directors for those seeking to revitalize their relationship with God and for those who want to deepen their spiritual lives. In person, virtual and phone meetings available.

For more information on how this ministry can enrich your life, contact Daylesford Abbey at 610.647.2530 ext. 1020 or at

spiritualdirector@daylesford.org.



School News

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The Educational Improvement Tax Credit (EITC) and Opportunity Scholarship Tax Credit (OSTC) programs remain powerful tools, allowing corporations, pass-through entities, and individuals to direct their Pennsylvania tax liability toward educational access and student success. With annual program caps now reached earlier each cycle, timely and strategic participation is more important than ever.

At the Foundation for Catholic Education, we serve as an approved Scholarship Organization, partnering with accountants, attorneys, and financial advisors across the Commonwealth to simplify the process for your clients. Our team manages all compliance, reporting, and school disbursements, ensuring contributions directly benefit students in need at more than 100 Catholic elementary schools.



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PREP

Parish Religious Education Program

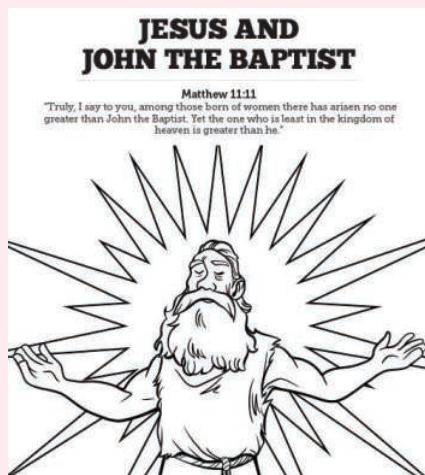
Dear Families,

In today's Gospel from Matthew, John the Baptist is in prison. He asked His followers to see if Jesus was the one. Jesus responded, "Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind regain their sight, the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have the good news proclaimed to them."

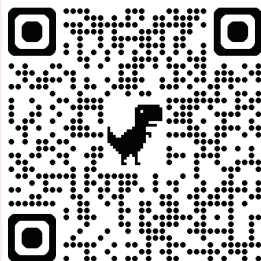
When John's followers left, Jesus spoke of John. He told them as we now know, that John the Baptist was sent to prepare the way for Jesus. He tells us that John is a great man yet all men are great in our Lord's eyes. "There has been none greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he."

Always remember, no matter our plight or our standings in the world, God loves all of us! He will leave 100 sheep to find one of us. Let's prepare ourselves for Jesus' coming and thank leaving 100 for one.

Miss Michele



**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED! CHILDREN'S LIT-
URGY OF THE WORD NEEDS HELP IN OR-
DER TO OFFER IT. MATERIALS PROVID-
ED. CLICK ON THE QR CODE TO HELP:**



3rd Sunday of Advent

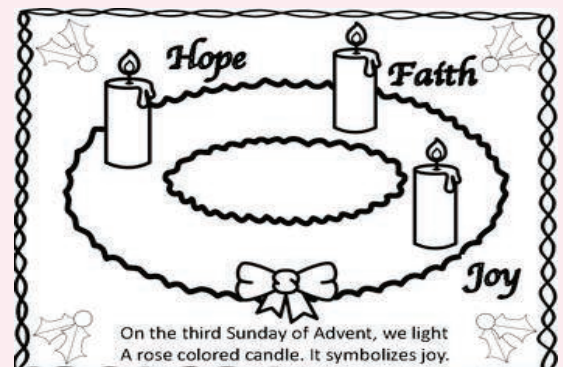
Candle of Joy



Lord, on this Third Sunday of Advent, we light the Candle of Joy. Fill our hearts with the joyful anticipation of Your coming. May Your presence bring peace and gladness to our lives, and may we share that joy with others, reflecting the hope and love You bring to the world. Amen.

A few Parish Offerings during Advent:

- December 15—Make an Advent Wreath with your family use the link or QR code to sign up: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30E0F4CAA62AA1FD0-59457274-advent#/>
- December 16th Parish Penance Service 7:00PM
- December 19 7:30 to 9:00 AM Mom's Drop in group in the Parish Center. Great way to meet other mom's in the parish. Work, come before for a bit. Need to get kids to school, come afterwards. Children home with you, please bring them! It is a great way to meet other friends with faith.



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