

This Week at St. Peter's

Date	Events	Mass Intentions	Readings
Third Sunday of Advent Sunday, December 15	10:30 a.m. RCIA LC 1 p.m. Sienna Club LC 2 p.m. Communal Reconciliation CH 5:15 p.m. Confirmation Class LC	9 a.m. - St. Peter's Parishioners 11 a.m. - Joan K. Davis by Sandy & Tom Nickel 5:30 p.m. - James Trebilcott by the Hair Family	Is 35:1-6, 10; Ps 146:6-7, 8-9, 9-10; Jas 5:7-10; Mt 11:2-11
Monday, December 16	8:30 a.m. Bible Study LC 12 p.m. Knitting Group—Pot Luck LC 3:30 p.m. Girl Scout Troop 3032 LC 3:30 p.m. 3rd Grade Brownies LC 6:30 p.m. Eagle Board Review LC 7 p.m. Boy Scout Troop 118 MR	8:15 a.m. - Dotty Jean Giordano by Ruth and Kirk Davis	Nm 24:2-7, 15-17; Ps 25:4-5, 6-7, 8-9; Mt 21:23-27
Tuesday, December 17	8:45 a.m. Eucharistic Adoration LC 7 p.m. Finance Committee LC	8:15 a.m. - Clarence Pelto by Maria Pelto	Gn 49:2, 8-10; Ps 72:3-4, 7-8, 17; Mt 1:1-17
Wednesday, December 18	8 a.m. Rosary Group LC 11 a.m. VIP's Christmas Luncheon MR 1 p.m. School Christmas Program CH 7 p.m. Men's CRHP LC 7 p.m. School Christmas Program CH 7 p.m. Choir Rehearsal MR	8:15 a.m. - St. Peter's Parishioners	Jer 23:5-8; Ps 72:1, 12-13, 18-19; Mt 1:18-24
Thursday, December 19	9:30 a.m. Bible Study MR 7 p.m. Women's CRHP-Team 3 LC 7 p.m. Choir Rehearsal CH 7:40 p.m. Knight or Columbus Mtg. LC	8:15 a.m. Mass (Church) - St. Peter's Parishioners	Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25; Ps 71:3-4, 5-6, 16-17; Lk 1:5-25
Friday, December 20	10:30 p.m. Altar Server Party GR 12 p.m. School Dismissal for Christmas Break	8:15 a.m. - St. Peter's Parishioners	Is 7:10-14; Ps 24:1-2, 3-4, 5-6; Lk 1:26-38
Saturday, December 21		5 p.m. - Chuck Williams by the Family	Song 2:8-14; Ps 33:2-3, 11-12, 20-21; Lk 1:39-45
Fourth Sunday of Advent Sunday, December 22	10:30 a.m. RCIA LC 12:30 p.m. Arts & Environment CH 4:30 p.m. Middle School & High School Youth Group LC 7 p.m. Women's CRHP Continuation LC	9 a.m. - St. Peter's Parishioners 11 a.m. - Karen Brentano by Maria Pelto 5:30 p.m. - For Mabelle Muller and Family	Is 7:10-14; Ps 24:1-2, 3-4, 5-6; Rom 1:1-7; Mt 1:18-24

MEETING SPACES: CH Church LC Legacy Center MK McKay Center RCT Rectory
GR Garden Room MR Main Room OFF Off Site RR Romero Rm.

Note: Deadline for the Sunday bulletin is the Tuesday prior at 12 noon. Send items to bulletin@stpeterskc.org.

Ministry Schedule: December 21 & 22

	Servers	Lectors	Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion	Ushers
Saturday 5 p.m.	A Lopez, I Flores, J Flores, O Carroll	A Novakowski B Mayer	S VandenBoom, S Hunter, C Pedersen, S Stanton, J Boeh, T Crowley, Need Volunteers	D Ryan, B Schneider, P Sollars, J Stanley
Sunday 9 a.m.	Z Burke, C Roder, A Campbell, E Hair	M Seaton M Ungashick	B Wirkus, G Wirkus, N Reddig, C Wren, MB Andersson, P Arkell, E Brewster, M Hague	J Saviano, J Nix, D Norwood, L Parizek
Sunday 11 a.m.	T Johnson, M Madden, J Costanzo, K Rooney	F Shuler J LaBella	M Gillerist, J Martucci, S McCrae-Robertson, M Muphy, J Spaeth, M Thomas, T Wendling, L Arensberg	W Feuerborn, M Madden, B Sweeny, D Wendling
Sunday 5:30 p.m.	M Watz, S Powell, K Flynn, S Flynn	J Malone A Cusumano	M Flores, T Mitchum, Need Volunteers	D McGrew, A Thomas, Need Volunteers

Our Parish

A Note From the Pastor

Dear Parishioners,

The diocesan Vicar General, Fr. Charles Rowe, will be coming to live at our rectory with Fr. Terry and me, beginning January 14, 2013. While Fr. Rowe works full time at the Chancery, he's looking forward to his residency here and being a part of parish life at St. Peter's. Please join me in welcoming him.

God Bless,
Fr. Steve

Men and Women Needed for Church and Chapel Cleaning

Next Saturday, December 21 from 9-11 a.m., please come and help clean and dust so our Lord's house sparkles for Christmas. Bring dust cloths, rags, buckets and help clean. We'll be cleaning both the main church and the Legacy Center chapel. All are welcome. Call Bebe Wirkus at (816) 363-8127 for more information.



Baptism Ministry Volunteers Needed

The Baptism team is in need of volunteers to help assist the Baptism families before and during the baptism of their child. Part of our team is assembled to welcome our baptism families every other month in the required baptism class, but we need more volunteers to assist during or after masses. This role is very important in that we are welcoming new families and visiting families into our community. We assist the families with the logistics of a baptism during or after mass to make their experience much more enjoyable. The time commitment would be once a month or every other month during or after a mass. If you are interested in joining our team please call (816) 444-5639 or e-mail Bebe Harrington bebeharrington66@gmail.com. Thank you for your interest.

Prayers

St. Peter's community prays for the following people: Michelle Melland, Sally Euston, Loretta Jenkins, George Blomster, Susan Meagher, Larry Harris, George Schroer, Madi Winfield, Brian Auckland, Patty Clark, Jan Spaeth, Ann Doocy-Walker, Martha Zelmer, Carolyn, Jacob, Sandy, Matt, Bill Blanck, Greg Rundquist, and Karen Komoroski.

Sympathy and Prayers

for the families of Kevin Hart, John Grier, and Becca Lueke.

For Their Safe Return

St. Peter's community prays for an end to war and a safe return for those from our community serving in the military, including Jon Connelly.

Prayer requests are printed in the bulletin for two weeks and can be sent to Ray Hain at rhain@stpeterskc.org.

Baptism This Weekend

Congratulations to the **family whose child was** baptized at St. Peter's!



Baptized Sunday, December 15, following the 11 a.m. Mass:

Oliver James Rump

(son of Travis and Darcy Rump)

Holiday Bulletin Deadlines

Due to Christmas and New Year's Day both falling on a Wednesday, our bulletin deadlines will fall early this year. Deadlines will be as follows:

Bulletin Date: Deadline:

Sunday, 12/29/13 Friday, 12/20, 9 a.m.

Sunday, 1/5/14 Friday, 12/27, 9 a.m.

Due to the holiday, they will be abbreviated bulletins.

Social Services

Christmas Giving

All Christmas ornaments gifts/gift cards and groceries need to be turned into the Church or Legacy Center by 6 p.m. Sunday (December 15th). That's tonight!

Knitting For Neighbors - Christmas Luncheon this Monday

Calling all Knitters: All knitters of the past year(s), we are having our annual Christmas luncheon starting at **12 noon in Room 210** of the Legacy Center. Bring a dish to share and see your wonderful work for the year before it is distributed at Christmas to our neighbors! Hope to see you there!



St. James Food Kitchen

Thank you to our fantastic volunteers! Our next date is in 2014, on Wednesday, January 29. Committed to Jan 29 is the Hathaway Family (4). To volunteer please contact Ray (816) 877-0300 or rhain@stpeterskc.org.

Our Parish

Monthly Prayer Circle

All women and girls in the parish are invited to pray this Sunday, December, 15 after the 9 a.m. Mass in the Romero Room.



Altar Society News

Thanks to all of you who attended last Sunday's brunch. Ray really appreciated your donations of toilet paper. If you would still like to donate just bring it to church or the Legacy Center where baskets are available.

Bebe Wirkus will be making a new cleaning schedule by the first of the year, so if you want to be removed or added please let her know. Her e-mail is: eawirkus@gmail.com and her phone number is (816) 363-8127.

Altar Cleaning Schedule

Dec. 15....Maria Pelto & Judy Burlette

Dec. 22...Martha Gude, Andrea & Audrey Carroll

Dec. 29...Lynn Madeo & Sally Wirtz

December Purificators: Jeanette Boeh & Barbara Elliott

VIP News

December Luncheon

Vintage Parishioners, please come celebrate Christmas! Our Christmas Party will be Wednesday December 18, in the Main Room from 11 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. We will be having a fun white elephant exchange plus wonderful food and desserts. Mark your calendars! Any senior in attendance is also welcome to move upstairs for reserved seating at the SPS children's Christmas Program starting 1:30 p.m.!

St. Peter's Parish Holiday Schedule 2013-2014



Parish Communal Reconciliation

Sunday, December 15th
2:00 p.m., Church

Christmas Eve

Tuesday, December 24th
Masses:

3:00 p.m., Chapel

3:00 p.m., Church (Prelude at 2:40 p.m.)

5:30 p.m., Church (Prelude at 5:15 p.m.)

10:00 p.m., Church (Prelude at 9:30 p.m.)

Christmas Day

Wednesday, December 25th
Mass: 10:00 a.m., Church

Feast of the Holy Family

Saturday, December 28th

Mass: 5:00 p.m., Church

Sunday, December 29

Masses: 9:00 a.m., 11:00 a.m. and 5:30 p.m., Church

New Year's Eve

Tuesday, December 31st
Mass: 6:00 p.m., Church

New Year's Day

Wednesday, January 1st
Mass: 10:00 a.m., Church

Baptism Ministry Volunteers Needed

The Baptism team is in need of volunteers to help assist the Baptism families before and during the baptism of their child. Part of our team is assembled to welcome our baptism families every other month in the required baptism class, but we need more volunteers to assist during or after masses. This role is very important in that we are welcoming new families and visiting families into our community. We assist the families with the logistics of a baptism during or after mass to make their experience much more enjoyable. The time commitment would be once a month or every other month during or after a mass. If you are interested in joining our team please call (816) 444-5639 or e-mail Bebe Harrington bebeharrington66@gmail.com. Thank you for your interest.

Our Parish

St. Peter's School News

We will be treated to the beautiful gift of music by St. Peter's students at the annual Christmas program in the church on Wednesday, December 18, at both 1:30 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. (prelude performances will begin 30 minutes prior to both performances). There will be a few pews reserved for VIP's during the afternoon performance. School will dismiss early on Friday, December 20, for Christmas break, and classes will resume on January 6.

As many of you know St. Peter's School just completed a re-accreditation process. Once again, our school will receive National Accreditation from Advanced Ed North Central Accrediting Association. Our Missouri Non-Public Accreditation was renewed in the spring of 2013. After a two-day visit, our Superintendent Dan Peters, Associate Superintendent Pat Burbach, and four other educators from our diocesan schools presented us with the following commendations in Catholicity, Instruction, and Institution:

- Parish and School Leadership
- Catholic environment and Christ-like attitude
- High academic performance
- Teacher and student rapport
- Staff efforts to grow and learn as professional educators
- Interdisciplinary studies
- Purchase of the new communication system—My Students Progress (MSP)
- PTA fundraising efforts
- The strong commitment between parish and school

In the above named three areas, the accreditation team recommended the following growth opportunities to be prioritized into a five-year plan for accomplishment:

- Align religion curriculum to ACRE test data on doctrine
- Encourage membership on School Advisory Board to include parents of preschool through parents of alumni
- Invite a professional speaker on the *Fish! Philosophy* to help move this philosophy forward
- Establish a comprehensive plan to align curriculum to Common Core standards, instructional practices, and use of instructional time
- Reconfigure classroom locations to promote grade-level collaboration
- Implement professional development opportunities to promote integration of technology in the middle school and technology instruction in the lower grades
- Align preschool curriculum to current best practices
- Add opportunity for languages
- Update all handbooks and crisis plan
- Begin evaluating safety features of the facilities, including traffic patterns

"Burning in each child is the light of Christ. Our commitment is to keep that light burning through our staff's professionalism and dedication."

Through the accreditation process we will strive to maintain all the great things about our school and desire to bring about the improvements that can only enable us to be an even better Catholic school.

We pray that the Infant Jesus fills your hearts with the gift of Love, encourages you with the gift of Hope, and blesses you with the promise of Peace.

Italy Trip 2014

Ask Santa for Italy for Christmas! Our St. Peter's group will be traveling to Rome and Tuscany in October of 2014.

We hope to have 25 – 30 people in our group, and Father Steve will be our "insider" as we travel with Collette Vacations. If you are interested, please plan to attend one of our information meetings: Wednesday, January 8 or Wednesday, February 19. Both meetings will be at 6:30 p.m. in the Legacy Center. Watch for more details after the holidays. For more information, contact Karen Conley in the parish office. Buon Natale!



SCRIP Supports Our Ministries

As the holidays approach, remember to purchase SCRIP for your Christmas giving! A percentage of each card benefits our school and Social Services ministries. Stop by the back of church after any weekend Masses, this weekend through December 22, or drop by the school office to purchase gift cards.

Youth News

Ugly Sweater Christmas Party

All Middle School and High School Youth are invited.

Sunday, December 22

6:30-8 p.m.

Legacy Center Basement



Bring a pot luck dish to share and a "white elephant gift" to exchange. Dust off those Ugly Sweaters and come in your best festive attire. Prizes will be awarded for the "best dressed male and female outfits". Be ready to sing your favorite Christmas Carols. Bring your friends from other schools. Any 6th-12th grade student is invited to join in the festivities!

Around Town

Vigil for Policymakers and Immigration Reform

A group of community leaders started a prayer vigil, and they will continue to meet this Tuesday, December 17, from 4:30-5:30 p.m., in the park across from the building that houses the Federal Immigration Court in downtown Kansas City, praying for policymakers in Washington, DC to take action and bring relief to millions of families in our country. They are gathering in peaceful prayer and song to pray for policymakers, to keep families together, and to pass comprehensive immigration reform.



Unlocking the
Power of People

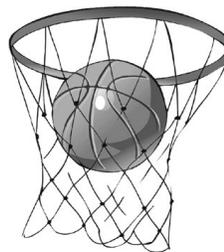
St. Peter's parishioners are invited to join in this vigil. If you have questions or to RSVP, contact Sara John, Communities Creating Opportunity, at sara@cco.org or (816) 803-1513.

SOS Benefit Dinner

The 21st annual "Support Our Seminarians" Benefit Dinner is dedicated to Our Lady of Lourdes and is scheduled for Friday, January 31, 2014. This event benefits seminarians from the Archdiocese of Kansas City, Kansas, the Diocese of Kansas City-St. Joseph, and Conception Seminary College. It promises to be an evening filled with fun and laughter, celebrating our Catholic faith, dining on wonderful food, and socializing with our priests and seminarians! We have two wonderful speakers: Monsignor Charles McGlenn from the Archdiocese of Kansas City, Kansas, and Reverend Greg Haskamp from the Diocese of Kansas City-St. Joseph. SOS will be held at the Marriott Muehlebach Hotel, 12th and Wyandotte, Kansas City, Missouri. The ticket price is \$150 per person at tables of ten people. Cocktails and the marketplace begin at 5:30 p.m. (each reservation has two free drink tickets), dinner is at 7 p.m., and the program starts at 8 p.m. Visiting with priests and seminarians starts at 9 p.m. To reserve your place, or an entire table, or donate to the marketplace or VIP silent auction, contact: Martha Hodes at (913) 207-9893 or mmmh66@sbcglobal.net.

Basketball Camp for Grades 2-8

The 2nd Annual Parochial league After Christmas Basketball Camp Grades 2nd-8th grade will take place December 26 & 27, 2013, and will be hosted by Vince Fitzgerald and Tim Waris at Bishop O'Hara High School. The 2nd-4th grade camps will be from 12:30-2 p.m. The 5th-8th grade camps will be from 2-4 p.m. Cost is \$40/camper. E-mail Tim Waris at T_Waris@sbcglobal.net for a registration form.



High School Placement Test at O'Hara

O'Hara High School will be holding the High School Placement Test for any 8th grade student that is interested in attending O'Hara next year as a freshman. The test begins promptly at 8 a.m. on Saturday, January 10, 2014. The students will be ready for pick-up immediately following a pizza lunch provided after the test. Register for the Placement Test at www.oharabs.org. Click on the Admissions Tab and find the High School Placement Test tab on the left hand sidebar. The cost of the test is \$15. Please contact Mrs. Felz at (816) 763-4800 ext. 206 or email at kfelz@oharabs.org if you have any questions.

Serra International

Members of Serra International work throughout the year to support vocations and our religious. The events that Serrans sponsor to raise funds and to celebrate our religious run throughout the year. From participation in the annual "Support our Seminarians" dinner and auction to our Chili Dinner fundraiser, Serrans raise funds to support the religious life in our community. They then share these funds in various fun-loving events: the North Kansas City Serra Club's Seminarian Picnic, the downtown chapter's annual Seminarian Lake Retreat, the annual dinner for seminarians and their families, the Adopt a Seminarian Program, the annual Priest and Seminarian Appreciation Day, Blisters for Sisters, as well as "Nuns Appreciation Day" which the downtown (KC, MO) Serra Club jointly sponsors with the Serra Club of Kansas City in Kansas. Quite an array of events that can fill your life with joy and give you the opportunity to say "thanks" to our religious. Interested? Just email or call Charlie Murphy at (816) 678-6366 or ccmurphykc@gmail.com.

New Year's Eve Dance

Knights of Columbus Council #4962 will be having a New Year's Eve Dance, December 31, at their Council Hall located at 5101 Blue Ridge Cut-off. The cost is \$12.50 per person, \$25 per couple in advance or \$15 per person or \$30 per couple at the door. Champagne at midnight. Doors open at 8 p.m. We will reserve a table for 8 people if requested. For more information or to make reservations, call Ed Columbus for more information at 1-816-358-8831 or e-mail him at edcolumbus@aol.com All profits, after expenses, will go to our council general fund that goes to support our many charities.

Our Parish

Part II

Advent Reflections, an Excerpt from “The Coming of God” by Maria Boulding

Before the Word became flesh in her womb, Mary conceived the Word of God in her spirit. In her was an emptiness that was an active receptivity.

Our poverty of spirit, our darkness and confusion, our need and thirst, are part of the world's Advent and the Advent of our lives. They are not sheer negativity; they cry out to God. There is a discontent in us that can be partly stifled by material satisfactions, but some experiences tend to awaken it. It may be roused by beauty, or by love, by great pain or by the nearness of death. It can surface easily in times of silence when we try to confront the mystery of ourselves and wonder about God.

If you have ever known discontent and pondered the mysteries and contradictions of the human condition, it is of consequence to both yourself and others that you hope, expect and listen in silence to the word of God who is himself attuning you to hear. Your silent listening through prayer, through people and through events will be very personal; it may seem very solitary, but it is not. You are the answering readiness, the receptivity, without which even today God cannot give as he longs to give. Our noisy, busy world has little time to listen and wait; and – what is worse - it is starved for hope. So many hopes disappoint, and people are afraid of being disappointed yet again. It is when we reach the brink of despair that hope grounded in God has a chance, because there is nothing left. The modern world can surely not be far from the brink.

Every year in the weeks before Christmas the Christian Church celebrates the season called Advent, the Coming of the Lord. It is a poetic, mysterious and very beautiful time, during which the prayers and longings of prophets and psalmists and anonymous poor people of the Old Testament come into their own. We are invited to identify with the people who waited for Christ during that long night watch, and certainly the poetic elements, combined with the darkness and stars make it easy. Nevertheless, we could be dogged by a feeling of unreality, a suspicion that there is something artificial about pretending to look forward to Christ's coming when we know he has already come.

He has come, certainly, and that historic moment of his human birth cannot be repeated. The first Christmas was a gift from God which has changed human life and history, inserting into the heart of our affairs the love which gives them meaning. But the Advent we keep is not a poetic make-believe or a nostalgic pageant, or even an exercise in remembering our roots, although this might have value. The coming of God in Christ still continues, and will be consummated in a gift beyond the stretch of our hope. We are an Advent people. The season of Advent celebrates in symbolic form a reality of our own lives and all humanity's destiny with God, because he who came in weakness at Bethlehem is he who will come again.