

Peace

St. Peter Parish Mansfield, OH

December 10, 2023

Second Sunday of Advent

St. Peter Catholic Church

Physical Address:

60 S. Mulberry St.
Mansfield OH 44902-2199

Mailing Address:

104 W. 1st. St.,
Mansfield OH 44902-2199

Website: [mansfieldstpeters.org/
parish](http://mansfieldstpeters.org/parish)

Parish Office (419)524-2572 x2101

Office Hours

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday & Friday:
8:30 am — 5:00 pm
Wednesday:
8:30 am — 6:30 pm
Saturday & Sunday: Closed

New Parishioners

Welcome to St. Peter Parish! We encourage you to register as a parish family as soon as possible. You can call the parish office or register on our website.

Sacrament of Baptism

Please contact the parish office to begin plans for the baptism of your child.

Sacrament of Marriage

Arrangements should always be made at the parish office at least twelve months in advance of the ceremony.

Bulletin Deadline

Monday at Noon, one week prior to publication date. For December 24th bulletin the deadline to submit to the office is Monday December 11th.

Send to: bulletin@myspartans.org. If you have any questions, please contact the parish office.

Parish Staff



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A Parish of
the Saint
Juan
Diego
Deanery



Diocese
of Toledo

Monday, December 11

Monday of The Second Week in Advent

8:00 am R Sick and Dying
8:30 am R Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

5:30 pm P Religious Vocations

Tuesday, December 12

Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe

7:00 am P † E. William Barlow
12:00 pm M Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
5:30 pm M † Irene Mascazine

Wednesday, December 13

Memorial of Saint Lucy, Virgin and Martyr

7:00 am P † Michael Payton
8:30 am P † Suzanne Giunta
9:45 am M Homebound and in Nursing Homes
5:30 pm P Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

Thursday, December 14

Memorial of Saint John of the Cross, Priest and Doctor of the Church

7:00 am P † Donald Steele
5:30 pm R † Mark Ahles

Friday, December 15

Friday of The Second Week in Advent

8:00 am M † Mary Miller
5:30 am P † Benjamin Zirzow

Saturday, December 16

Vigil of The Third Sunday of Advent

4:00 pm M † Fr. Raymond E. Ensman
5:00 pm P † Marilyn Mertler
6:00 pm R † Catherine Schroeder

Sunday, December 17

Third Sunday of Advent

7:30 am P † Andy & Martha Sobek
9:00 am R † Joan Korte
9:30 am P † Edward Hirsch
11:00 am M Parishioners of Our Tri- Parish Community
11:30 am P † Betty L. Wilson

The Sacrament of Penance will be available 30 minutes before every Mass. The Rosary will be said 30 minutes before weekend and most weekday Masses.

M—St. Mary • P—St. Peter • R—Resurrection



As I write this, I'm still in Brooklyn, New York, with the religious sisters from the community of the Servants of the Lord. I've been with them a few days now and have been blessed far greater than I imagined. The food is simple and the accommodations even simpler in a monastery that is over 100 years old. However, within the walls

of the building, everything is focused on God, both in the design of the building and the minds and hearts of the young sisters that occupy this space.

The average age of these religious sisters is about 30 years old. Their backgrounds are as diverse as the many places from which they come, such as Louisiana, Arizona, California, Ohio, Canada, Mexico, etc. Many had professional occupations such as nursing and teaching, but now they use their gifts and talents in the cloistered monastery to pray and intercede for the world. They offer themselves each day for the well-being of humanity and the salvation of souls. For those who are tempted to think there are better ways to use their time and talents, they should consider the teachings of the saints. One of the holiest and most spiritually gifted people of recent time is St Padre Pio. He repeatedly said that if it were not for victim souls, like the cloistered religious sisters, the world would have already ended many times.

Their joy was a result of them working each day to follow the teachings and commandments of God. Their diversity in backgrounds and personal preferences can work against community life unless they choose to put God and others first. There is no secret to their success, it's simply living each day to do the will of God as perfectly as possible. Like the Blessed Virgin Mary, they go to bed each night and wake each morning saying, "Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to Your will Lord."

This Sunday we hear Jesus say that we too are to align our thoughts, words, and actions according to the teachings and commandments of God. For the times when we have not done this, Jesus says we are to acknowledge those as sins and repent of them. John the Baptist, whom we also hear in the gospel, spent his whole adult life preaching repentance of and conversion from sin. Like the cloistered religious sisters, John the Baptist made a sacrificial offering of himself each day for the benefit of humanity. Like his prayers, his offering of himself brought spiritual assistance to those in need of repentance and conversion.

In the two weeks remaining before Christmas, be sure to visit the Sacrament of Reconciliation. The same spiritual power given to priests to transform ordinary bread and wine into the Real Presence of Christ (Body, Blood, Soul, & Divinity) is the same spiritual power God has given to them to forgive sins in the Sacrament of Confession. We three priests provide ample opportunity for this sacrament every week, but in the week before Christmas we will offer even more opportunities. Please take advantage of this generous offering so that you too can have your sins forgiven by God and receive God's grace to change your life for the better.

As I'm preparing to leave New York for the religious sisters in Kansas, I'm looking forward to the consecration of Kate Cropp, who is a daughter of St Peter Parish. I'm sure my time with that religious community will also be blessed. I'm excited that she will be physically present at 11:30 Mass next weekend (Dec. 17) at St. Peter. Praise be to God that these young ladies heard and answered God's call!
Fr. Miller



In God's Arms

Kathleen E. Groff
Bonnie Mollica
Eleanor Baker
Jaquelyn Reindl

Prison Ministry Corner

Words cannot describe our gratitude toward all who supported our RiCI Retreat weekend and our ManCI meal. Our brothers in both settings send their thanks, appreciation, and prayers. When they see the outpouring of love from our parishioners, they grow in deeper love for Jesus, knowing all who support our prison ministry programs are truly the hands and feet of Christ. The powerful talks, music, and activities shared at the RiCI Retreat and the fellowship at the ManCI meal will bear fruit in our brothers' lives as they strive, with God's grace, to become more loving husbands, fathers, sons, brothers, and children of God.



Christmas Oplatki Wafers Now Available

Are you familiar with the Polish Christmas tradition of the Oplatki (Christmas wafer)? This is a great tradition to begin with your family and friends. The Christmas wafer comes from Eastern Europe. The name means "Angel Bread" and is made of only flour and water. The wafers are stamped with a Christmas image such as the Star of Bethlehem or the Nativity. Oplatkis are for sale in each of the parish offices. They are \$1.00 each and include the wafer along with a copy of the history, tradition and devotion.

Oplatki: A Polish Christmas Tradition



**ST. PETER'S
HANDBELL
CHOIR**

Performing
December 10
at Kingwood Center

St. Peter Handbell Choir is excited to announce that they will be performing at Mansfield's Kingwood Center Sunday afternoon. There will be two performance times: 4-6 PM and 7-9 PM. Entrance to Kingwood is by ticket, which entitles the guests to explore the lovely holiday-decorated grounds, enjoy the enchanted Kingwood Hall, and listen to the St. Peter Handbell Choir in the Ballroom. Further information can be found at the Kingwood website: <https://kingwoodcenter.org> (click on events and then on Christmas at Kingwood).

POLAR EXPRESS
PAJAMA PARTY!

ST. PETER'S SATURDAY, DECEMBER 16 5- 8 P.M. HIGH SCHOOL AUDITORIUM

ALL ABOARD!

The Spartan Social Committee invites you to take the evening off while your children in grades preschool through 5th grade enjoy a magical night on the Polar Express. This journey includes a movie, dinner, hot chocolate, crafts, and a commemorative gift from Santa Claus himself!

To register simply snap our QR code or email Dr. Parente at parente.cassandra@myspartans.org for paperwork or more information!

PRICING
\$30 One Child
\$55 Two Siblings
\$20 Each Additional Sibling

BELIEVE



SAINT PETER MUSIC SERIES PRESENTS A FESTIVAL IN LESSONS & CAROLS FOR ADVENT

Sunday, December 17 at 4:00 PM
At St Peter Catholic Church

*A light reception to follow in the church basement with cookies, soups and other treats.
The Rectory will be open during the reception for people to visit.*

School Administration



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Dr. Cassandra Parente
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Elementary Principal/Montessori Director
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school, and the Christmas Classic is such a great vehicle to not only share her story with our current students, but also encourage their engagement to help pay forward the many years of service generations of volunteers have provided to enrich our school environment. As they learned about the corporal works of mercy in Nathan Sims' theology class, high school students also enacted them by helping to set up the potica-making stations, clean and set up the cafeteria and auditorium, and decorate the building. Our seniors and elementary students worked together to create gift bags, cards, and our kindergartners made ornaments for our volunteers. Families baked together at community baking events or at home, bringing donated sweets in to be sold at the bake sale.

The day of the event, while Butter Rings were frosted and SFA set up the bake sale, St. Peter's Key Club created a Secret Santa Shop for young shoppers, our cheerleaders prepared and served lunch, and seniors Jerry Thompson and Tamera Lindsay donned their Mr. and Mrs. Claus costumes. As the bake sale hummed along in the cafeteria, preschool and elementary students, who have been preparing with their music teachers since October, entertained their parents and the community with carols, and our elementary, middle, and high school bands added to the festivities, playing holiday songs.

While the final number of dollars raised have not come in yet, no amount of money could surpass our gratitude to Ann Brown and the many generations of our St. Peter's family that came together once again to make this the highlight of our holiday season.

Dr. Parente
Director of Strategic Initiatives

Last week, St. Peter's community came together to celebrate The Christmas Classic—one of our largest school events that kicks off the holiday season. 36 years ago, Ann Brown, Carol Chambers, and Molly Orsini—three members of Parents Club (now the Spartan Family Association)—“wanted to raise money to do special things for the school and students” that “involved the entire school—students singing, people baking a variety of holiday treats and providing activities for children,” according to Brown. The event they envisioned, thanks in large part to the many volunteers they have nurtured over the years, continues to thrive as the Christmas Classic we know today.

While the Classic automatically brings to mind the tasty treats available such as poticas, butter rings, and Jane Wiecher's famous rum cakes, the Christmas Classic is more than a bake sale; it is the entire community coming together, volunteering alongside one another, learning from each other, and becoming part of the enduring legacy of St. Peter's School.

Throughout the month of November, Brown, Orsini, and their well-oiled team of volunteers, rolled out poticas and dipped buckeyes alongside current members of the Spartan Family Association (SFA) and young volunteers such as 3rd grader Oliver Mulherin. High School students would visit the cafeteria to offer a hand and were treated to not only Brown's dough recipe, but also stories of her childhood and the impact our school had on her life.

Born in Wilkowice, Poland, in 1950, Brown explained that “One must understand how poor we were, and how little promise for a good future there was at that time in Communist Poland.” Adopted by her aunt Jenny and Uncle Stanley Wala, Brown arrived in the United States at age 10 not knowing any English. As she explains, “I was enrolled in St. Peter's, whose students and staff helped me so much with my language. I have always loved this school community.”

As we strive every day to create a community of grace where every student is known, valued, and loved, Brown's story has become central to our identity as a



Kate Cropp Reception after Mass

A celebratory Mass for Kate Cropp's recent consecration in becoming a Sister of the Apostles of the Interior Life will take place **Sunday, December 17th** at 1130am, a reception will follow the mass at the Franciscan Center. All are invited.



Hello! My name is Kate Cropp! I had the pleasure of growing up in Lexington and being a member of St. Peter's Parish where I was baptized, received my first communion and confirmation with the guidance from Parish School of Religion. For those who knew me growing up, the fact that I have now consecrated my life to God through the promises of chastity, poverty and obedience can come as quite a shock! I was always a very independent, outgoing and social girl. I loved sports, fashion, acting, parties and really anything with lots of energy. I never would have imagined that I would become a Catholic sister.

Even as I grew in my Catholic faith at the University of Kansas, where I was going to adoration almost every day, going to daily Mass and spending my free time helping out at retreats, I never REALLY thought that I could be called to religious life. I strongly desired to follow God's will for life – or at least ask Him what He had to say about my future – but I deep down, I believed it would be “impossible” for God to call me, of all people to enter religious life. Good thing that God doesn't work according to our logic nor does He see things as we do.

When I felt the prompting to discern my vocation in an intentional way during my senior year of college, I began to discover that I had viewed religious life all wrong. I saw it as something boring, where you don't have freedom or only renounce good things. How wrong I was! I began to discover deep within my heart desires that I didn't know existed! I began to find freedom and joy that I couldn't find anywhere else. Through daily prayer and spiritual direction, I was able to hear more clearly the voice of God that was calling me “Come and see”. To give Him a chance to truly be my Everything. I desired deeply to give myself fully and completely to Jesus, to not hold anything back from Him. Specifically, I wanted to bring others to Christ through prayer and spiritual accompaniment.

So, in January 2018, I entered the community of the Apostles of the Interior Life (AVI), a community that served and provided spiritual direction at the University of Kansas. Our community is a community of women who make promises of chastity, poverty and obedience, founded in Rome, Italy in 1990 by a Roman diocesan priest who desired to have a community that would focus on spiritual formation.

We have four pillars that our life moves around: Prayer, Community Life, Apostolate and Theological Formation. We spend four hours a day in prayer and for our apostolate, we preach retreats, provide spiritual direction and guide people in their spiritual life.

This June I will finish my theology degree from the Lateran, then I will be called to serve in one of our houses either in College Station, TX or Rome, Italy. Thank you for your support and please pray for me (and my community) in this new season for us!



Saturday, December 23rd Mass Schedule

Saint Mary of the Snows—4:00 PM
Saint Peter—5:00 PM
Resurrection—6:00 PM



Sunday, December 24th

4 pm @ St. Mary
4 pm @ Resurrection
5 pm @ St. Peter
7 pm @ St. Peter
10 pm @ St. Peter

Monday, December 25th

8 am @ St. Peter
9 am @ St. Mary
9 am @ Resurrection
10 am @ St. Peter

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament at St Mary

On Monday, December 18th Exposition will end at 11 am.
There is **no** Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament on Monday, December 25th or Monday, January 1st.

Sacrament of Reconciliation

During the week before Christmas, the Sacrament of Reconciliation will be available at each parish at 12noon and 6pm. Each day 3 priests will be present until all confessions are heard, but at least for 1 hour, as follows: Mon (P), Tue (M), Wed (P), Thu (R), Fri (P).



DONUT SUNDAY

Best donuts in the diocese

December 10

After 7:30 and 9:30 am Masses
Church basement



AD SPACE

AD SPACE

Parish Prayer List

Please Pray for the Sick of Our Parish Names will only be listed for four (4) weeks. If you wish to have additional time, contact the parish office.



Lura Barnes
Holly Barnes
MaKaya Butler
Marianne Cappadonna
Christine Caudill
Caroline Clark
Betty Connolly
Paul Conry
Josephine Contra
Frederick Dale
Scott Darnell
Kathy Deckard
Cherrie De La Paz
Adrian DeLeon
David Donley
Jeffrey Downing
Mick Frye SPHS '71
Micah Galuzny
Rick Gasper
Alan Gleisenger
Danny Kiehl
Jeannine Klotz
Cindy Lassen
Susan Leach

John & Cindy Lloyd
Krista Marshall
Danny Marti
Rosemary Musille
Kathy Nash
Dr. Kimberly Nemeth
Carol Pittenger
Lynn Raque
Stephanie Reynolds
Barbara Riley
Bill Ruhl
Colleen Schambre
Joan Schonhardt
Larry Strauser
Linda & Cindy Thompson
Sandy Trebonik
Sharon Valdry
Genevieve (Jenny) Wala
Beth Weiland
Penny Wendland
Gwen Yockey
Don Yockey
Michael Yoha

walking with purpose

**Join us on Wednesday,
Jan. 3rd for a video
discussion, "Your
Heart-You Are Captivating"
No registration
necessary.
9:30-11am or 6-7:30pm
at Resurrection Parish.
All women are welcome.**

High School
**JESUS
MOVEMENT**

At Resurrection Parish 2600 Lexington Ave.

**Next Event
is Sunday
December 10
6 to 8 PM**

**CHRISTMAS
PARTY**

Scripture Readings

For the Week of December 10, 2023

Monday	Is 35:1-10; Ps 85:9ab & 10, 11-12, 13-14; Lk 5:17-26
Tuesday	Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe Zec 2:14-17; Judith 13:18bcde, 19; Lk 1:26-38 or Lk 1:39-47
Wednesday	Memorial of Saint Lucy, Virgin and Martyr Is 40:25-31; Ps 103: 1-2, 3-4, 8 and 10; Mt 11:28-30
Thursday	Memorial of Saint John of the Cross, Priest and Doctor of the Church Is 41:13-20; Ps 145:1 and 9, 10-11, 12-13ab; Mt 11:11-15
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
Sunday	Third Sunday of Advent Is 61:1-2a, 10-11; Lk 1:46-48, 49-50, 53-54; 1 Thes 5:16-24; Jn 1:6-8, 19-28

St. Peter Community Outreach Ministry Outreach Meal

The next meal will be December 10 from 3:00 to 4:30 pm at St. Peter. If you can volunteer, please arrive at 1:30 pm to the door at the back of the high school. If you would like to volunteer for this ministry, please email: nestor.paula@myspartans.org.

Personal Care

Thank you to all who continue to make donations of personal care items for distribution during our outreach meal. Items needed include:

Washcloths	Shaving Cream
Shampoo & Conditioner	Combs & Brushes
Body Wash	Razors

Herlihy 2024 Calendars

Your 2024 calendars are here compliments of Herlihy Funeral Home. We are proud to have served the Mansfield area for nearly 100 years! Our family would like to wish yours a blessed Christmas season and a safe and healthy New Year!



Father Raymond E. Ensmann, a Senior Status Priest of the Diocese of Toledo, died on Sunday, November 25, 2023. Eternal rest grant unto him, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon him. May his soul, and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace.