

# 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.

Send to: [bulletin@myspartans.org](mailto:bulletin@myspartans.org). If you have any questions, please

## St. Peter Parish Mansfield, OH

December 24, 2023

### Parish Staff



**Fr. John Miller, Pastor**  
[miller.john@myspartans.org](mailto:miller.john@myspartans.org)  
(419) 217-0228



**Fr. Kevin Moebius, Parochial Vicar**  
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**Fr. Kishore Kottana, Parochial Vicar**  
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**Mrs. Melissa Heichel**  
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**Mrs. Paula Nestor**  
Parish Finance Manager  
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**Mr. Dave Scheurer**  
Tri-Parish Properties and Facilities Manager  
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**Mr. Bill Johnson**  
Director of Music & Liturgy  
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**Mrs. Jenny Ewing**  
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**Mrs. Mary Mancha**  
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A Parish of  
the Saint  
Juan  
Diego  
Deanery



Diocese  
of Toledo

**Monday, December 25**

**The Nativity of the Lord (Christmas)**

- 8:00 am P † Ron Ahles
- 9:00 am M † Ron and Ruth Peters
- 9:00 am R † Ron and Mark Ahles
- 10:00 am P † Steve Kopina Sr

**Tuesday, December 26**

**Feast of Saint Stephen, First Martyr**

- 7:00 am P † Earl E. Hershey
- 12:00 pm M Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
- 5:30 pm M † Denise Crouch

**Wednesday, December 27**

**Feast of Saint John, Apostle and Evangelist**

- 7:00 am P † Alan Gallaway
- 5:30 pm P Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

**Thursday, December 28**

**Feast of Holy Innocents, Martyrs**

- 7:00 am P † Samuel Tridico
- 5:30 pm R † Homebound and Nursing Homes

**Friday, December 29**

**Memorial of Saint Thomas Becket, Bishop and Martyr**

- 8:00 am M † Sick and Dying
- 5:30 pm P † Mary Contra Brown

**Saturday, December 30**

**Vigil of Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph**

- 4:00 pm M † Linus Bishop
- 5:00 pm P † Roland Hirsch
- 6:00 pm R Vocations to Religious Life

**Sunday, December 31**

**Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph**

- 7:30 am P † Robert Brown
- 9:00 am R Parishioners of Our Tri- Parish Community
- 9:30 am P † Helen & Paul Schodorf
- 11:00 am M Peace on Earth
- 11:30 am P For the Holy Family

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

**Parish Office Holiday Hours**

The Parish office will be closed Monday Dec. 25th and Tuesday Dec. 26th in observance of Christmas. The Parish office will be closed Monday January 1st and Tuesday January 2nd in observance of New Year's Day. Have a wonderful and joy filled Christmas and New Year. God Bless.

**Sunday Collections YTD as of Nov 2023**

Sunday Collection: 57000 Parish	YTD Nov 2023
Sunday Collection & Holy Day Collection To Date:	\$348,082
Total Budgeted Sunday Collection To date:	\$376,078
<b>Sunday Collection Surplus/(Deficit)</b>	<b>\$(27,996)</b>
<b>School Collection: 55200.4 School Total</b>	
Total School Collection:	\$53,017
Total Budgeted School Collection:	\$43,750
<b>School Collection Surplus/(Deficit)</b>	<b>\$9,267</b>



Dear Parishioners,  
God's blessing to you and your family this Christmas season. May you have the privilege of spending time with family and friends during this special time of year. May you have the even greater privilege of truly experiencing the real joy of Christmas this year – God! The

way we do this is, firstly, to take time each day to turn away from worldly distractions so that, secondly, we are able to devote quality, one-on-one time with God. Remember that God is more personal and relational than any human person – God is the fulfillment of all human desire!

The glitter on the tree, the neatly wrapped presents, and even the beautiful music is not the reason for the season. God becomes one of us in every way but sin. He experiences every human situation – work, sleep, fatigue, hunger, pain, joy, temptation, and even death so that He could lead us to something greater – Himself. In becoming man and experiencing everything we deal with each day, God seeks to eliminate the thinking that God's ways and teachings are simply suggestions, rather than commands that bring about the lasting peace and joy we desire.

A quick, honest assessment of both ourselves and the world in which we live says that we need God. We aren't able to take care of things by ourselves, and our solutions for a multitude of concerns and problems seem to be more temporary than permanent. Yes, we need God and Christmas shows us that He is with us. Emmanuel means "God is with us." But don't forget, God needs us to do something – truly follow Him. Too often we allow ourselves to be enslaved by things of the world at the great cost of not knowing who and what God really is. Let this Christmas be different!

Be sure to devote time to prayer, spiritual reading, and personal reflection. This practice might seem like something only monks and scholars do rather than the ordinary person. However, throughout Christianity, both the young and old, rich and poor, educated and uneducated have made commitments to regular times of prayer each day. This is how we experience God's love, and find the strength to carry our crosses without becoming negative. Praying is how we also bring the goodness and power of God into the lives of other people, some of whom desperately need our prayerful assistance.

Christmas reminds us that each of us are wanted and loved by God. It is very comforting to know this. Sometimes we do not feel the love and compassion from other people as we should. Sometimes we might feel lonely or discouraged. In each of these cases, we turn to God. Don't ignore or be complacent of His daily invitation to you! Respond to God's with obedience, joy, and daily prayer! Anything less during this Christmas season is foolish!

Praying that your Christmas is merry and blessed,  
Fr. Miller

# Spiritual Resources:

## FREE Catholic apps for your smartphone and devices



Laudate App (Free) [Apple](#) | [Android](#) | [Kindle Fire](#)—



**Amen: Catholic Bible & Prayers**

Rosary prayer & holy readings

**Amen App (Free)** [Apple](#) | [Android](#) by Augustine Institute. The FREE Catholic meditation app



**Hallow: Catholic Meditation & Prayer App for PC**

Pray the Rosary, Daily Readings, Novenas, Sleep Prayers & Catholic Bible Stories



**Catholic Mega App (Free)** [Apple](#) | [Android](#)



**St. Peter Parish has a FORMED subscription.**

Visit [formed.org/signup](https://formed.org/signup) and select St. Peter Parish or scan the QR code to download the FORMED app to your phone.



FORMED is a revolutionary online platform that provides access to the best Catholic audio talks, movies, ebooks, and video-based studies from trusted providers like the Augustine Institute, Ignatius Press, Catholic Answers, the Knights of Columbus, St. Paul Center, Sophia Press and more!



To download an app on a smartphone, you need to

1. Open the app store on your device.
2. Search for the app you want to download.
3. Select the app from the search results.
4. Tap install (or get and then install) device permission to app.
5. Tap accept to give the necessary device. permission to the app.
6. When the app finishes downloading tap Open to launch it.



## School Administration



**Mrs. Laurie McKeon**  
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**Dr. Cassandra Parente**  
Director of Strategic Initiatives  
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**Mrs. Jennifer Jones**  
Director of Admissions & Enrollment  
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**Mr. Jon Cuttitta**  
High School/Junior High Principal  
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**Dr. Ashley Rastorfer**  
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## From the Director of Strategic Initiatives

The weeks leading up to Christmas Break are invariably busy. Amidst the backdrop of trimming trees, searching for gifts, and planning travels and festivities, our school community is preparing for the end of the semester with teachers striving to keep students engaged, as they study for finals and complete projects. During this busiest time of year, we, as a Catholic school, work equally hard to refocus our students' attention by providing opportunities for them to quiet their hearts and minds and celebrate the coming anniversary of Christ's birth and prepare for his return.

More than encountering the stories central to our faith in their religion and theology classrooms and seeing the visible symbols of Advent such as the wreaths and the nativity scenes in our buildings, our mission is for every student to live the Advent season-- to experience the hope, peace, joy, and love central to this liturgical season-- and grow closer as a community and closer to Christ in doing so.

In these first weeks of advent, our elementary students gather in the main hallway each Monday, praying together, singing about Christ's birth, and learning the meaning of each candle as it is lit. Simultaneously, our middle and high schoolers gather during morning meeting learning how to be Jesus to others, inspired by stories such as the one Coach Shoulders shared about how a bag of pizza rolls can make a difference—just ask any student how.

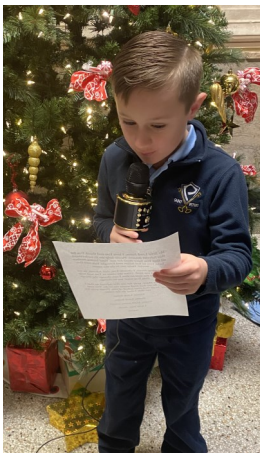
In these ways, we not only introduce them to saints--such as St. Nicholas, who visited our Montessori and elementary students, filling the shoes with oranges and candy canes and their hearts with joy--but also challenge them to live the virtues of the saints. As you read in last week's bulletin, students celebrated the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary at Mass, encouraging them to have the fortitude to answer God's call, no matter how much courage it takes. To use their gifts and talents, whether it is in praising God through their voices as our middle and high school choir did in their renditions of "Silent Night" and "Little Town of Bethlehem," or through the application of their knowledge in service to our community, in service to the world.

Across campus, students have been practicing these corporal works of mercy—collecting items for the homeless, organizing them, and compiling blessing bags for those, like Mary and Joseph, seeking shelter this holiday season. In acts of empathy and grace, they've written cards of gratitude to first responders and hospital workers, cards of peace and love to those away from their families during this holiday season, as well as letters of hope for those attending our prison-ministry retreat.

In addition to bringing peace to others, we encourage them to find peace within themselves, inviting students in grades 3-12 to Friday confession to help them prepare their hearts for the full joy of Christmas. Second graders, Claire Berry, Maxine Cavanaugh, Gavin Faulk, Cambrie O'Neil, and Henry Richlovsky, who recently celebrated their First Reconciliation, are excited to join them.

At St. Peter's School, we practice *advent*, which stems from the Latin verb meaning "to come to," every day. Particularly during this season, we invite our students "to come to" our faith, our traditions—"to come to" God—and to show gratitude for the gifts bestowed upon them and the sacrifice made for their salvation.

Dr. Cassandra Parente



## Advent Gathering



## Saint Nicholas Day



Middle & High School Choir Concert



Tri-Parish High School

# JESUS MOVEMENT

At Resurrection Parish 2600 Lexington Ave.

**Next Event is Sunday**



**January 14**

**6 to 8 PM**

# MIDDLE SCHOOL JESUS MOVEMENT

ALL MIDDLE SCHOOL TEENS FROM OUR TRI-PARISH AND BEYOND ARE INVITED

St Peter in the Franciscan Activity Center Atrium  
111 W. First St. Mansfield, Oh 44902

**SEE YOU JANUARY 14TH**

6:00PM - 8:00PM

Upcoming Dates  
January 14 & 28  
February 18  
March 3 & 17  
April 7

FOOD | COMMUNITY | GAMES | WORSHIP | AND SO MUCH FUN

# JESUS MOVEMENT

JANUARY **7** SUNDAY

**MOVEMENT NIGHT! TUBING TIRIP**  
SNOW TRAILS IN MANSFIELD, OHIO

Call the parish office for more information on how to register.  
9th-12th Grades

## DAMASCUS DONATIONS NEEDED

Damascus middle and high school youth groups are looking for some generous souls to donate snacks and drinks for hungry teens. The Middle Schoolers meet at St Peter and the high schoolers meet at Resurrection on Sunday evenings. If you would like to donate to either youth group please bring those donations to either the St Peter, St Mary, or Resurrection Parish offices any Friday between 8:30 and 4. Examples of donated items may include pop, bottled water, fruit, bags of chips, cookies, brownies, cupcakes, and any other desserts. Damascus missionaries and the teens will be very grateful for any donation. Monetary donations are always appreciated and accepted as well. If you have any questions please call St Peter Parish Office. 419-524-2572. ext 2101.



### CATHOLIC WOMEN'S CLUB

The January meeting of The Catholic Women's Club of the Saint Juan Diego Deanery will be Wednesday, January 10, 2024 at the Ontario Event Center, 3985 Park Avenue West, Mansfield 44903. The luncheon will begin at 12:00 noon and a meeting and program will follow. All Catholic women in the Saint Juan Diego Deanery are invited. If you are new, please call Valerie Mapes, President at 419-564-3034 or Judy Wiparina, January Chairperson at 419-756-1082 before noon on Thursday, January 4, 2024 to make your reservation. We look forward to seeing current members and meeting new members.

### St. Peter Community Outreach Ministry

#### Outreach Meal

The next meal will be January 21 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](mailto:nestor.paula@myspartans.org).

#### Personal Care

Any donated personal care items will be distributed during our outreach meal. Items needed include: Shampoo, body wash, razors, shaving cream, combs, brushes, washcloths, etc.



#### Sunday, December 24<sup>th</sup>

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

#### Monday, December 25<sup>th</sup>

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

### Volunteers Needed

The **Collection Counting** Team is in need of additional volunteers. Counting takes place Monday mornings from 9:30-11:00. You will only be counting one Monday a month. Any questions or to volunteer please call Michelle Spain in the Finance Department. 419-524-2572 ext 2110. Thank you.

### ONLINE GIVING AT ST. PETER

**THANK YOU** for your ongoing financial support to St. Peter Parish, whether through offertory envelopes or online giving. If you would like to give to St. Peter electronically, here are some options:

1. TEXT 'GIVE' TO 419-518-5008
2. GIVE ONLINE AT [MANSFIELDSTPETERS.ORG](http://MANSFIELDSTPETERS.ORG)
3. SCAN THE QR CODE NOW

**If you have questions or need assistance, please call the St. Peter Finance Office at 419-524-2572**



IT'S SO EASY TO GIVE !

# 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 SPS '71  
Micah Galuzny  
Rick Gasper  
Alan Gleisenger  
Mary Lou Halter  
Danny Kiehl  
Jeannine Klotz  
Cindy Lassen  
Susan Leach

John & Cindy Lloyd  
Beth Malaska  
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

## Prison Ministry Corner

Our brothers at ManCI and RiCI send their prayers of gratitude to our priests, Deacon John Reef, and our parish prison ministry team members for their faithfulness and dedication all year long. As we come to the end of 2023, our brothers send a special thanks to the many parishioners who have supported us this past year through contributions of food for special events, monetary donations, yarn, plastic bags for recycling into mats for the homeless, prayer booklets, holy cards, rosaries, and so much more. Be assured we pray for all of you and give thanks to God for opening doors for us to share the Good News of Emmanuel God-with-us.



## Scripture Readings

For the Week of December 25, 2023

<b>Monday</b>	<b>The Nativity of the Lord (Christmas)</b> <i>Vigil Mass:</i> Is 62:1-5; Ps 89:4-5, 16-17, 27, 29; Acts 13:16-17, 22-25; Mt 1:1-25 or Mt 1:18-25 <i>Mass During the night:</i> Is 9:1-6; Ps 96:1-2, 2-3, 11-12, 13; Ti 2:11-14; Lk 2:1-14 <i>Mass at Dawn:</i> Is 62: 11-12; Ps 97: 1, 6, 11-12; Ti 3: 4-7; Lk 2: 15-20 <i>Mass during the Day:</i> Is 52:7-10; Ps 98:1, 2-3, 3-4, 5-6; Heb 1:1-6; Jn 1:1-18 or Jn 1:1-5, 9-14
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>Feast of Saint Stephen, First Martyr</b> Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59; Ps 31:3cd-4, 6 & 8ab, 16bc & 17; Mt 10:17-22
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>Feast of Saint John, Apostle and Evangelist</b> 1 Jn 1:1-4; Ps 97:1-2, 5-6, 11-12; Jn 20:1a & 2-8
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>Feast of Holy Innocents, Martyrs</b> 1 Jn 1:5-2:2; Ps 124:2-3, 4-5, 7cd-8; Mt 2:13-18
<b>Friday</b>	<b>Memorial of Saint Thomas Becket, Bishop and Martyr</b> 1 Jn 2:3-11; Ps 96:1-2a, 2b-3, 5b-6; Lk 2:22-35
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph</b> 1 Jn 2:12-17; Ps 96:7-8a, 8b-9, 10; Lk 2:36-40
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph</b> Sir 3:2-6, 12-14 or Gn 15:1-6, 21:1-3; Ps 128:1-2, 3, 4-5 or Ps 105:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 8-9; Col 3:12-21 or 3:12-17 or Heb 11:8, 11-12, 17-19; Lk 2:22-40

## 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!

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.**

Exposition  
of  
the  
Blessed  
Sacrament  
at  
Resurrection

**NO  
Eucharistic  
Adoration:  
Monday,  
December  
25  
Monday,  
January 1**