

Saint Peter Church

4 South 5th Street • Coplay, Pennsylvania 18037



SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17, 2023

JOY

He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit



www.stpeterchurchcoplay.com



info@stpetersrccoplay.com



610.262.2417



St. Peter Roman Catholic Church



PARISH STAFF

PASTOR: Rev. Msgr. David L. James V.G., J.C.L.

PASTORS EMERITI: Rev. Msgr. John J. Martin

Rev. Msgr. William E. Handges

PERMANENT DEACON: Mr. Thomas Reimer

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT: Mrs. Lina Abi-Samra

FINANCE MANAGER: Mrs. Michelle Ahern

DIRECTOR OF REL. ED.: Mrs. Linda Johnson

MASS SCHEDULE: DAILY: 8 A.M. ~ Chapel (*except Monday & Saturday*)

Saturday Evening: 4:00 P.M. Sunday: 8:00 & 10:30 A.M.

Holy Days: Vigil Mass 6:30 P.M. and 8:00 A.M. on the Holy Day.

PENANCE: Saturday: 3:00 to 3:45 P.M. and by appointment

During Advent and Lent, Communal Penance Services are celebrated.

BAPTISM: Contact the rectory for an appointment.

Baptism is scheduled on Sunday following the 10:30 A.M. Mass

Parents may be required to attend a preparatory instruction in the rectory.

MARRIAGE: Couples should contact the parish priest at least 1 year but no later than 6 months prior to the intended wedding date. Weddings are on Saturday between 10A.M. and 1P.M.

ANOINTING OF THE SICK: Notify the rectory when someone becomes seriously ill, or weak due to old age, so that the person might receive this Sacrament.

COMMUNION TO THE HOMEBOUND: The priest & Deacons perform this service monthly. Notify us when someone wishes to be visited.

HOSPITALIZED: Alert us whenever someone has to be hospitalized, especially when their admission is an emergency. The parish identification number is #171.

PARISH REGISTRATION: New members should make an appointment with the pastor.

HIGH SCHOOL: Allentown Central Catholic, 4th & Chew Sts., Allentown 18102; Phone 610-437-4601

ELEMENTARY: Good Shepherd Catholic School, 1300 Newport Ave., Northampton, PA 18067

phone: 610-262-9171 Mrs. Susan Parker, M.Ed. Principal

CCD PROGRAM: Classes conducted at the Holy Apostles Catholic Education Center,
3008 Ruch St., Whitehall, PA 18052

The program is from September to the end of April.

These classes are necessary for eligibility to receive the

Sacraments of Penance, Eucharist and Confirmation.

Contact Mrs. Linda Johnson at 610-261-0144

BEQUESTS: Please remember St. Peter Church in your Last Will & Testament.

IN MEMORIAM FUND: After the death of a family member you are invited to have that person's name commemorated on the Church Plaque by suggesting that memorial offerings be donated to the Church in memory of the deceased person.

DIOCESAN VICTIM ASSISTANCE Wendy Krisak, Direct Telephone 1-800-791-9209 Email: victimassistance@allentowndiocese.org

DIOCESAN SAFE ENVIRONMENT Pamela Russo, MSW, MS 610-871-5200, Ext. 2204 Email:

pruso@allentowndiocese.org

CATHOLIC BISHOP ABUSE REPORTING SERVICE If you have an allegation of abuse against a bishop, please contact the Catholic Bishop Abuse Reporting Service at www.ReportBishopAbuse.org or by calling 800-276-1562.



Mission Statement

We, as a Catholic parish under the patronage of Saint Peter, are a Eucharistic family, centered in prayer and worship, dedicated to self-sacrificing stewardship, and journeying together, Spirit-inspired, to the heavenly Kingdom.



Sunday December 17th Third Sunday of Advent

Is 61:1-2a, 10-11; 1Thes 5:16-24; ; Jn 1:6-8, 19-28

8:00 AM Altar and Rosary Society

10:30 AM John Wechsler

Monday December 18th Late Advent Weekday

Jer 23:5-8; Mt 1:18-25

No Morning Mass

Tuesday December 19th Late Advent Weekday

Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a; Lk 1:5-25

8:00AM Jim Sedora

Wednesday December 20th Late Advent Weekday

Is 7:10-14; Lk 1:26-38

8:00AM Parishioners of St. Peter

Thursday December 21st Late Advent Weekday

Sg 2:8-14; Lk 1:39-45

8:00AM Catherine Lutes

Friday December 22nd Late Advent Weekday

1 Sm 1:24-28; Lk 1:46-56

8:00AM Michael Yaroma

Saturday December 23rd Late Advent Weekday

Mal 3:1-4, 23-24; Lk 1:57-66

Vigil Mass

4:00 PM Frank Bodisch

Sunday December 24th Fourth Sunday of Advent

8:00 AM August Ivankovits

10:30AM Holy Name Society

CHRISTMAS EVE

4:00 PM John J. Karo

10:30 PM Christmas Envelopes Intentions

MASSES SAID BY RETIRED PRIESTS:

Deceased: Richard Kropf, Mary Ann Greb, Doris Jablowski, Anita Lang

STEWARDSHIP CORNER

Sunday Collection Week of Sunday 12/10/2023

Basket collection \$.00 plus online \$.00

Please continue your weekly or monthly giving to our parish. Your contributions are vital in order for us to meet our obligations. If unable to attend Mass, kindly send your envelopes through the mail or drop them in the rectory mail slot.

*Your **support** to your parish is critical.*

I thank you for your kind and generous response.

Please be assured that you and your family are always in my prayers

Monsignor James



FLAME OF LOVE

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 19, 2023



HOLY HOUR

***We will have Holy Hour
Wednesday, December 20 at 6pm.
Confessions will be heard***



PRAYER GROUP

If you would like your name or the name of a family member to be added to the list please call the office at 610.262.2417

OPLATKI

Don't forget to order your Oplatki/Christmas wafers. Each wafer is \$2.00. Please call the rectory at 610.262.2417 to place your order or pick up. We have a very limited supply.

DEVOTIONAL LAMPS

Sanctuary Lamp

Will burn this week in memory of

Mary T. Frisch

Offered by Dorothy Holderman

Saint Joseph Vigil Lights

Will burn this week in memory of

Emma and Chinka Csencsits

Offered by

Sharon Csencsits

Blessed Mother Vigil Lights

Will burn this week in memory of

The Deceased Members of the

Mondschein Family

Offered by

Peter Mondschein



ADVENT EMBER DAYS

The Advent Ember Days will be observed on Wednesday, December 20, Friday, December 22, and Saturday, December 23. The Ember Days are voluntary days of fasting and abstinence like that of Ash

Wednesday and Good Friday. Bishop Schlert encourages the faithful of the Diocese of Allentown to observe these days of penance and to especially pray for more vocations to the priesthood on these days.

LUCKY CALENDAR - 2024

These calendars make great Christmas gifts. Please support our parish by contacting one of our sellers or the rectory at 610.262.2417 to purchase a calendar!

COOKBOOKS

We have a few of them remaining. They make a great Christmas gift!

Anyone interested should contact the office at 610.262.2417, we now accept Cash, Checks and Credit/Debit



COPLAY FOOD PANTRY

During the season of Advent, beginning December 3rd, we will be collecting food items for the Coplay Food Pantry.

Please make sure the items that you are donating are not outdated. They are in need of microwavable food... spaghetti sauce, rice pouches, fruit cups, tuna, Hormel meals, canned pasta, apple sauce, paper products, soaps, spam, instant potatoes, noodles, crackers, Jell-O, oatmeal, cooking oil, canned vegetables, etc. No big items please.



SAINT PETER ROCKS OUT MARDI GRAS

*Saturday, January 27, 2024
Saint Peter Social Hall 5-10PM
Price is \$40.00 PP includes:*

Hot Buffet Dinner, Beer, Soda, Water, Mixers, Beads, Masks, and Prizes BYOB (Adults only). Music and Dancing to the Music of the Josef Kroboth Band. For Tickets or info, please contact Beverly or Mike Sobchak at 610.767.1887



GOOD SHEPHERD CATHOLIC SCHOOL 1300 Newport Avenue Northampton

We would like to wish everyone a happy, healthy and blessed Christmas and New Year ahead! Christmas break will begin on Friday, December 22nd and school will reopen Wednesday, January 3rd.

Congratulations to all of our students that earned Principal's List Honors, 1st Honors and 2nd Honors last trimester; and especially to our 5th grader that won 2nd place in the Catholic War Veterans Post 545 "Patriotic Poster Contest of 2023".

We will now be selling Prayer Cards. Each card is \$5.00. You can enroll deceased family members or friends, or someone for health and blessings. Prayer cards are available for purchase during school hours, and before and after our school Masses.

Good Shepherd Catholic School Family members will be acknowledged in the following ways: A votive candle will be lit in their honor.

Their name will be written in our intention book. They will be remembered every day in the prayers of all the children during morning prayer. Good Shepherd Catholic School Prayer Family members will be remembered at every school Mass.

This is not a Mass Card, rather a Prayer card where a general intention inclusive of all Prayer Family Members will be mentioned



HOLY APOSTLES RE

holyapostlesre@holyapostlesre.org 610.261.0144

Fall Office Hours: M-Th 3:00-8:00 pm; closed Fridays

Class all grades

1st Confirmation test

Christmas Break Dec 23-Jan 3rd

First Communion Mtg. Jan 4th at St. Peter's, 6:30pm

TIS THE SEASON FOR THE GIVING TREE

The Program this year is accepting gift cards to Target, Walmart, Wawa, or any grocery store.

Please donate to brighten someone's Christmas!

Starting December 3rd, you may drop them off in the collection baskets in an envelope labeled Gift Card or in the mail slot at the rectory.

*Your donations will be sent to Catholic Charities
"Whoever is generous to the poor lends to the Lord,
and he will repay him for his deed"*



CHRISTMAS 2023

Mass Schedule

Parishioners can fulfill their 4th Sunday of Advent and Christmas Obligations by attending one of the following combinations of Masses in keeping with our parish's schedule.

4th Sunday of Advent
Saturday 12/23 at 4pm
Sunday 12/24 at 8 and 10:30am

Christmas Eve
Sunday, 12/24 —————4:00 & 10:30PM
Christmas Day
Monday, 12/25 —————9:30AM

Solemnity of Mary
Sunday, 12/30 —————4:00PM
Monday, 01/01 —————9:30AM

ADVENT CONFESSION SCHEDULE:

Thursday, December 14
Advent Penance Service— 3 priests attending
Saturdays, 12/9, 16, and 23 from 2:30-3:45PM
Wednesday, 12/6 and 12/20 at 6:15PM
Tuesday, 12/19 8:30-9:30AM



OFFICE CLOSING
The office will be closed for Christmas
Friday, December 22 at noon
Monday, December 25
Tuesday, December 26

Dear Parishioners,

Beginning on December 17th and continuing to December 23rd, the Church enters the period of preparation for Christmas known as the "O" Antiphons. During vespers each night, the Church prays the Magnificat, Mary's hymn after receiving the news that she was to be the Mother of God. We echo Mary's words, "My soul magnifies the Lord."

Before we say that prayer during vespers there is always a verse or antiphon. The "O" antiphons are particular to these last days of the Advent season. Each antiphon is based on a title for the Messiah from the Old Testament. By using these titles, we spiritually join with the people of the Old Testament in their hope-filled longing for the Messiah. These antiphons were later used as the basis for the hymn O Come, O Come Emmanuel. If you notice in the Peoples' Mass Book, hymn #1 notes the days on which the antiphon is to be said and while we begin the hymn with O Come, O Come Emmanuel that is the really the last antiphon that would be sung on December 23rd. Let's look at the titles for a moment with their Latin or Hebrew versions.

December 17th—O Wisdom from on high (O Sapientia)—expresses that the Messiah is the embodiment of Holy Wisdom, Christ is the wisdom and the power of God

December 18th—Our Lord of might (O Adonai)—uses a title by which God was called—The Jews would not utter the name of God (Yahweh) so they substituted other titles such as Adonai/Lord

December 19th—O Branch of Jesse's stem (O Radix Jesse)—recalls the prophesy of Isiah that predicts that from the ruined house/"stump" of David's family would come forth a new shoot

December 20th—O Key of David (O Clavis David)—the Messiah would have the authority to open and close the door of the kingdom

December 21st—O Dayspring (O Oriens)—the dawn; the Messiah was prophesied to come from the East, as the rising Sun

December 22nd—O King of the nations (O Rex Gentium)—the Messiah was not only seen to be the King of Israel but of all the nations, who would see in Him the source of truth, justice, and peace

December 23rd—O Emmanuel (O God is with us)—recalls the prophesy of Isiah to King Ahaz that a virgin will bear a son and name him Emmanuel, which means God is with us; God the Word becomes Incarnate. Even if you do not pray vespers each night, these "O" antiphons serve as a good point of reflection for our evening prayers as Christmas draws near.

May God bless you and your families,
Monsignor James



HORIZON OF HOPE

The Third
Sunday

Make Straight the Way of the Lord

John 1:6-8,19-28

When the priests and Levites demanded to know who John was, he didn't answer them in the way they wanted. Instead, he quoted Isaiah, saying that he was "the voice of one crying out in the desert, make straight the way of the Lord."

Throughout this Sunday's Gospel, we are reminded that we must be willing to embark on a journey if we want to come to the Faith. God sends John into the desert. The Jews from Jerusalem send priests and Levites to talk to John. The Pharisees send some of their own people to question him. And, finally, John says that the Messiah will be sent after him. Not only that, people had to travel out to the desert if they wanted to experience John's baptism of repentance.

One of the lessons for this Third Week of Advent is that if we want to meet the Lord, we need to be willing to seek him. We must go out into the deserts of our lives with the expectation that we will find Jesus there. However, we must also be willing to "see" him. As John said, "there is one among you whom you do not recognize."

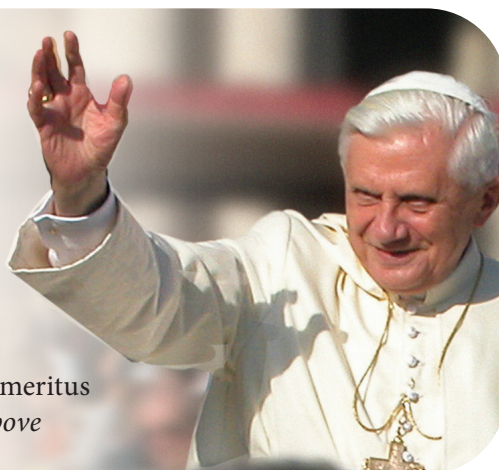
As we begin the final stages of Advent preparation, may we be "witnesses to the light," and may our hearts and minds turn more fully to the coming of the Christ this week.



Thinkstock photos

"Advent's intention is to awaken the most profound and basic emotional memory within us, namely, the memory of the God who became a child. This is a healing memory; it brings hope."

— Joseph Cardinal Ratzinger (Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI), *Seek That Which Is Above*



Agnus Images

POINTS TO PONDER

- Where am I in my journey of faith this Advent?
- What are some ways that I can express the joy of Gaudete Sunday with my family and friends?
- What is one thing I can commit to praying about this Advent season?

ADVENT PRAYER

Come, O Lord!

“In joy you shall go forth, in peace you shall be brought home.” — Isaiah 55:12

Lord, lead me and I will follow!

Catechism CONNECTION

“At the announcement that she would give birth to ‘the Son of the Most High’ without knowing man, by the power of the Holy Spirit, Mary responded with the obedience of faith, certain that ‘with God nothing will be impossible’: ‘Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord; let it be [done] to me according to your word.’ Thus, giving her consent to God’s word, Mary becomes the mother of Jesus.” — *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, 494

FAMILY FOCUS

Advent Around the World

This year, add a little international flavor to your Advent with these family activities from around the world.

INDIA Mango leaves are typically used for Advent decorations in India, and instead of decorating pines trees, mango and banana trees are trimmed.



Add a bowl of mangoes and small white lights, which recall the Star of Bethlehem, to your table.

PHILIPPINES Advent is marked by attending Mass nine days in a row (called *Simbág Gabi*, “night mass,” or *Misas de Aguinaldo*, “gift Masses”), starting on December 16. If you can’t make it to Mass all nine days, try to attend at least a few days of daily Mass.



EUROPE In Alpine countries, children carry a statue of Saint Joseph to a different home each night during Advent. Carry the statue of Joseph from your crèche to each child’s room where it will spend the night and then move on the next day. On Christmas Eve, put Joseph next to Mary in the stable.

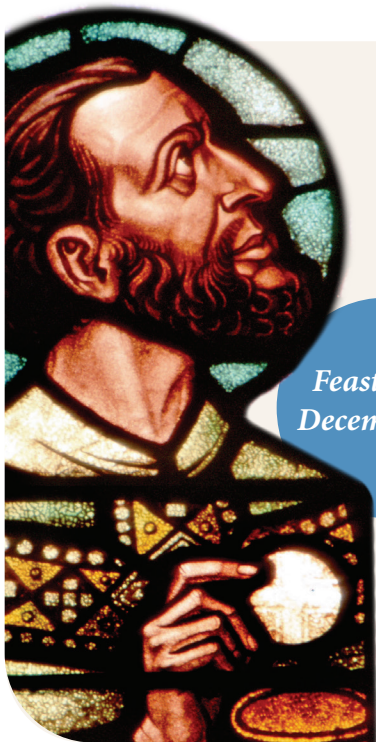
HEROES OF HOPE

SAINT PETER CANISIUS

Advent is an ideal time of year to talk about the Faith and invite those who do not believe to consider the mystery of God-made-man in Jesus Christ. It is fitting that we celebrate the feast of Saint Peter Canisius this week, because he was a great evangelist.

A Jesuit preacher during the time of the Protestant reformation, he became a major factor in the restoration of the Catholic Church in Germany. Like Pope Francis, he believed in treating those who disagree with the teaching of the Church with kindness and patience. His devotion to Mary was a hallmark of his ministry, and he is credited with adding the words “Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners” to the Hail Mary. *Saint Peter Canisius, pray for us!*

*Feast Day:
December 21*



SIGNS OF THE SEASON

In the Pink

Deep purple is the liturgical color for Advent — except for the third Sunday, which is Gaudete Sunday. This week the liturgical vestments and the candle in the Advent wreath are a rosy pink to highlight the joy that the Lord’s coming is almost here. The name derives from the Latin words of the Introit to the Mass: “*Gaudete in Domino semper; iterum dico, gaudete*”: “Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice!”