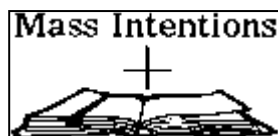


Recognizable Offering.....\$12,695.01  
Loose Cash ..... \$460.00  
Total Weekly Offering..... \$13,155.01  
Mass Attendance Dec 3/4 329



Dec 12 - 18  
Monday .....Mercedes Livoti-Walpole(liv)  
Tuesday .....Jess Wylie Morrison(+)  
Thursday .....Dorothy Sines (+)  
Friday .....Jess Wylie Morrison(+)  
Saturday .....Dorris Lavallo(+)  
**Sunday.....St. Peter Parishioners(8:00 a.m.)  
.....Faith & Hope Powell(liv)(10:30 a.m.)**

### Religious Education Holiday Break

There will be no Religious Education for K-12 from December 18th through January 1st. All K-5 classes and MS/HS Youth Groups will resume on January 8th. We wish our families a safe, and blessed Christmas & New Year. See you in 2017!

### Weekly Calendar of Events

12/11 K - 5 Faith Formation - 9:15 a.m.  
**“Lectio Evangelization”** - 9:15 a.m.  
Confirmation Class - 4:30 p.m.  
MS/HS Meeting - 6:00 p.m.

12/12 Rosary - after 8:00 a.m. Mass  
R.C.I.A - 6:30 p.m.

12/13 Rosary - after 8:00 a.m. Mass  
Bunco - 9:30 a.m.  
Advent Penance Dinner - 6:00 p.m.  
Advent Penance Service - 7:00 p.m.

12/14 Legion of Mary - 8:30 a.m.

### Advent Penance Service & Dinner

The Advent Penance service will begin at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, December 13th. A simple meal will be served at 6:00 p.m. in the parish center. Please sign-up at the Hospitality cart or call the office if you plan on attending the dinner so that we prepare enough for everyone. For those who are unable to attend our service, there will be a Reconciliation service at St. Mary on Thursday, Dec. 15th at 6:30 p.m. St. Sylvester will offer extended Reconciliation time on Saturday, Dec. 17th from 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon



Weekend of Dec 17/18

Altar Servers: Kevin Van Dorn  
Extraordinary Ministers: Alice Thompson, Mary Van Dorn, Ron Berthelette, Louise Perreault, Al Perreault  
Lectors: Ana Livoti, Paul Gagnon II  
Ushers: Cora Podrang, Heather Metruck, Mickey Shawbitz  
Greeter: Pat Gossage  
Sacristan: Joe Davison  
Elijah Cup: Eric Van Dorn

8:00 a.m.  
Altar Servers: \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_  
Extraordinary Ministers: James Johansen, Nancy McCreary, \_\_\_\_\_, Eden Carter, \_\_\_\_\_  
Lectors: Joshua Soto, Paul Landry  
Ushers: Arnold Soto, Bob Flanagan, Cathy McKnight  
Greeter: Joni Flanagan  
Sacristan: Maria Bridges  
Elijah Cup: Arnold and Patsy Soto  
Coffee & Donuts: Richard Kalie

10:30 a.m.  
Altar Servers: Gannon Casey, Kadi Casey, Killian Casey  
Extraordinary Ministers: Kathleen Garcia, Elaine Tennyson, Pam Wall, Pat Casey, Penny Sweeney  
Lectors: Warren Cabral, John Fay  
Ushers: Brian Prescott, Stewart Grogan, Cord Grogan  
Greeter: Terri Turnbull  
Sacristan: Therese Sweeney  
Elijah Cup: Al and Melinda Sousa  
Coffee & Donuts: Barry and Alicia Graham

Saint Peter Parish Prayer Chain: For prayer needs, contact Susi Evers at 664-9165 or email her at saintpeterparishprayerchain@gmail.com

Hospitalized Parishioners: If you or a family member are hospitalized, please call the Parish Office, otherwise we have no way of knowing who in our parish is there.

*In Your Daily Prayers, Please Remember our parishioners who are deployed and:*

Monday Johanna Adam\*, Charles Cummings\*, Steve Lange, Margie Wadsworth\*

Tuesday Lynn Graham\*, Thomas Holdsworth, Pam Stockbridge, Mary Eichler, Hiram Alaniz

Wednesday Gordon Pritchard\*, Ken and Bette Dellner\*, Caroline Frederick, Barbara Kirschten\*

Thursday Gene and Pam Bauchwitz\*, Robert Welniak, Theresa Stegall, Connie Jordan, Lucille Kesler, Clare Van Zelfden

Friday Lloyd Biehl\*, Doug Babiak\*, Sharon Lewis, Shannon Anderson, Vera Thornburg\*, Ann Crouch\*

Saturday Peter Adam\*, Mary Anyel\*, Dan Brenton\*, Rick Zern\*, Faith and Hope Powell

Sunday Theresa Fowler, Ann Hart, Cipriano Matiga\*, Bonita Long, Kimberly Arnold and unborn twins

\*Indicates our parishioners.

Please call the church office if you or a family member can be removed from this prayer list.

### Farewell Bishop Parkes

A Farewell Reception in honor of Bishop Gregory Parkes will held Wednesday, December 21st, from 5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. at the Cathedral of the Sacred Heart, Ave Maria Hall, in Pensacola. All are invited to join, as we share with him our gratitude and best wishes in his assignment as Bishop of St. Petersburg.

### First Communion

The sacramental preparation for First Reconciliation & First Communion will begin Sunday, January 8th in classroom #2 from 9:15 - 10:15 a.m. There will also be a meeting at 9:30 a.m. in the parish library for parents of ALL 2nd grade students currently enrolled in our Religious Education program or attending St. Mary school. In our Diocese, normally Sacraments are celebrated in your home parish. **Please plan to attend and bring a copy of your child's Baptismal certificate to the meeting.**



As the season of Advent quickly unfolds, we would like to remind you that we have great resources available to help you focus on the real meaning of Christmas. In addition to our well-stocked physical library, you can also access resources through our online subscription to FORMED. There is no cost to you. You will find movies, audio presentations, audio books and video programs. There are some new Advent related offerings, and content for children has just been added, as well. It's easy—just go to formed.org and enter parish code CD8D6W.

Today, the Third Sunday of Advent, we celebrate Gaudete Sunday. Gaudete means “rejoice.” Although Advent is a season of penitence and preparation, today is always set aside by the Church to relax and rejoice in the Lord.



All of our readings today deal with Christian joy. This may seem not in keeping with the overall mood encouraged for Advent, but it is most definitely in keeping with what we need to feel, and it is definitely appropriate for those who embrace stewardship as a way of life.

**Stewardship is, of course, based upon an “attitude of gratitude” and today is a day to focus on the joy that results from that gratitude.** Father Henri Nouwen was a well known Catholic priest, professor, writer, and theologian. In describing the significance of this particular day, Father Nouwen clarified the difference between joy and happiness. He said, “While happiness is dependent upon external conditions, joy is the experience of knowing that we are unconditionally loved by God and nothing — not sickness, failure, emotional distress, oppression, war, or even death — can take that love away. Joy can be present in the midst of sadness.” This “joy” that is reflected in lives of stewardship was also emphasized by Pope Francis, who said in his homily for Gaudete Sunday in 2014, “Today is a day of joy. Rather than fretting about all we have not done or accomplished to prepare for Christmas during Advent, we need to think of all the good things God, and life, has given us.”



# Our Parish COMMUNITY

December 11, 2016

Third Sunday of Advent

Is 35:1-6a, 10

Jas 5:7-10

Mt 11:2-11

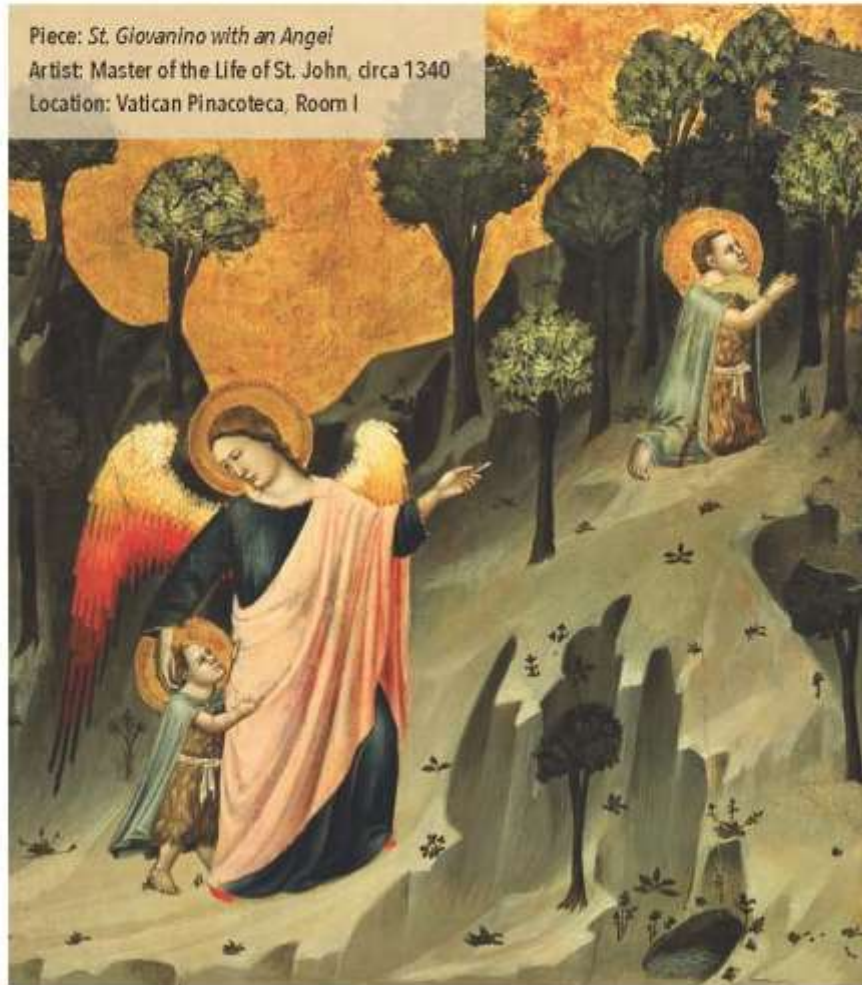
## Be Strong and Fear Not

John came to announce a savior, but in his difficult imprisonment, he and his disciples began to wonder if the one he announced was truly the one. It is easy to doubt when difficulty comes our way and life doesn't treat us as we think we deserve.

In this painting, a young John the Baptist is accompanied by an angel who points up the hill. John is shown kneeling in prayer, referencing the months he spent in the desert preparing himself as well as preaching conversion. Even with this long and fruitful preparation, John's heart is tempted to doubt. Yes, even saints struggle.

John sends his disciples to ask Jesus if he is the Messiah. It does us much good to bring our concerns and doubts to Jesus directly! Jesus responds as he often does. Rather than just answer, "I am he"—which could easily be considered an empty claim—he invites them to look at the evidence. He fulfills the prophecy of Isaiah 35:5: "The eyes of the blind shall see, and the ears of the deaf be opened," the poor shall find a new reason to hope.

Jesus' mission is to change lives and to save us from the blindness of egoism, the deafness of a hardened heart, and the closed mind that cannot accept the other. He is the savior of those who let themselves be saved.



Piece: *St. Giovanino with an Angel*  
Artist: Master of the Life of St. John, circa 1340  
Location: Vatican Pinacoteca, Room I

Saint James' exhortation could have been meant for John the Baptist or anyone who finds it hard to persevere in trusting and following Jesus: "You too must be patient. Make your hearts firm, because the coming of the Lord is at hand" (5:8).

—Fr. Mark Haydu, LC

### For Reflection

What doubts about God arise in my heart?  
How do I deal with these moments of uncertainty?

*"Are you the one who is to come, or should we look for another?"  
(Matthew 11:3).*

## Calendar

### Monday

December 12  
*Our Lady of Guadalupe*  
Zec 2:14-17 or  
Rv 11:19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab  
Lk 1:26-58  
or Lk 1:39-47

### Tuesday

December 13  
*St. Lucy,  
Virgin and Martyr*  
Zep 3:1-2, 9-15  
Mt 21:28-52

### Wednesday

December 14  
*St. John of the Cross,  
Priest and  
Doctor of the Church*  
Is 45:6b-8, 18, 21b-25  
Lk 7:18b-25

### Thursday

December 15  
*Advent Weekday*  
Is 54:1-10  
Lk 7:24-50

### Friday

December 16  
*Advent Weekday*  
Is 56:1-5a, 6-8  
Jn 5:53-56

### Saturday

December 17  
*Advent Weekday*  
Gn 49:2, 8-10  
Mt 1:1-17

### Sunday

December 18  
*Fourth Sunday  
of Advent*  
Is 7:10-14  
Rom 1:1-7  
Mt 1:18-24

# Dear Padre,

**When I was younger, my faith was very important; but lately I don't feel that closeness to God. Is this a crisis of faith?**

How has your life changed since childhood? Do you feel, react, and appreciate things today as you did then? Spirituality is an ordinary part of human experience, and I hope you discover that the God of your youth, although remembered fondly, is not the God of your adult experience.

Many adults discover that their understanding, decisions, and behaviors have expanded and matured. In the interplay of the demands of society and culture, we are forced to grow and develop. What worked for us as a child of five is not usually what we would choose today.



You will discover a living faith, an experience of God, that is important and meaningful for you now.

From *Dear Padre: Questions People Ask*, Liguori, 2003  
sundaybulletin@liguori.org

## A Word From Pope Francis

*"God loves us and that is why he is with us....Thanks to his help, we can always begin again....We are able to open our eyes again, to overcome sadness and mourning to strike up a new song."*

—Angelus, December 15, 2013

