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GUARANTEE

 **St. Peter the Apostle**  
Catholic Church ■ Parry Sound, ON

December 17, 2023  
Third Sunday of Advent

52 Church Street ■ Parry Sound, ON ■ P2A 1Y7 ■ 705.746.5181 ■ office@spta.church

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**Are you new here? Welcome!**  
We welcome new parishioners and visitors.  
We'd love to see you again!  
Please register at the Parish Office.

**LORD'S DAY MASS**  
**SATURDAY: 4PM**  
**SUNDAY: 9AM & 11AM**

**WEEKDAY MASS**  
See Mass times inside

**CONFESSIONS**  
Saturday 3:00PM until 3:45PM

**BAPTISM**  
Parents seeking baptism for their children should approach the Parish Office.

**MARRIAGE**  
Couples seeking the Sacrament of Marriage must meet Fr. Jerry at least one year prior to a desired date.


**HOLY ANOINTING OF THE SICK**  
Contact the Parish Office as soon as possible.


**INTERESTED IN BECOMING CATHOLIC?**  
Want to learn more about the Catholic Faith?  
Interested in receiving the Sacraments?  
Contact the Parish Office.


**Pastor: Fr. Jerry Tavares**  
**Administrative Assistant: Kristen Penfold**

**OFFICE HOURS**  
**Wednesday: 12 Noon - 5PM**  
**Thursday & Friday: 10AM - 2PM**  
Parish Office is located behind the Church  
The Welcome Desk is open before and after Mass on the weekend

**CONNECT WITH US**

 <http://spta.church>

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**Our vision is to offer every person in our community a life-changing encounter with Jesus Christ.**

**SUPPORT OUR ADVERTISERS**

# Third Sunday of Advent ✝ December 17, 2023

*Welcome to St. Peter the Apostle!*

May you encounter Jesus Christ in His church and in His sacraments through your participation in our Parish community. Visit our Welcome Desk before or after our weekend Masses for any information on our parish, it's ministries and it's community. We sincerely welcome you!

**TODAYS READINGS**  
**1st Reading:** Isaiah 61:1-2, 10-11  
**2nd Reading:** 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24  
**Gospel:** John 1:6-8, 19-28



## Gaudete Sunday - The Sunday of Joy

### MASS INTENTIONS

**Wednesday, December 20**  
 at the Gardens 10AM Intentions of Theresa Flagler

**Thursday, December 21**  
 School Mass 10AM For the Students and Staff  
 6:00PM ADVENT CONFESSIONS

**Friday, December 22**  
 10:00AM + Phyllis Ertel

**FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

**Saturday, December 23**  
 4:00PM + Vern McLeod

**Sunday, December 24**  
 9:00AM Missa Pro Populo (Mass for the People)  
 11:00AM Intentions of Rodney Grisdale

**ADVENT CONFESSIONS**  
 December 21st at 6PM  
*Come experience the Father's mercy.*

**Baptism**  

 Last weekend we celebrated the baptism of **Lexi Lavier**

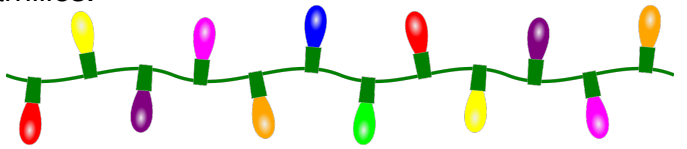
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**CHURCH CLEANUP & DECORATING**  
 On Friday, December 22nd at 6PM we will have our pre-Christmas Church Cleanup and Decorating. Sign-up sheets are at the Welcome Desk after all weekend Masses. Many hands make light work!

**OFFICE CLOSURE**  
 Please note that the Parish Office will be closed December 21st to January 3rd. Our parish staff will have some much needed time off with their families.

**END-OF-YEAR DONATIONS & TAX RECEIPTS**  
 Tax receipts for donations made to the parish in 2023 will be available early in the new year. Parishioners making end-of-year donations are reminded that only those envelopes and online donations received by the parish on/prior to December 31st can be included on 2023 tax receipts. Online donations sometimes lag by several days as transactions are posted by banks, please keep this in mind when making your offering.

**CHRISTMAS DÉCOR**  
 Help beautify our sanctuary for Christmas with beautiful flowers. Envelopes are available.



## A word from our Pastor

Dear Parish Family,

The countdown is on! We're about one week away from celebrating Christ's Birthday! It will probably be a hectic time for some of us because of all that needs to be done, but because of so many people working together here at Church, this will be a Christmas to remember. Everything here at St. Peter the Apostle becomes possible because of all the volunteer ministers who help prepare our church for the Christmas season like those who help clean and decorate, hosts, greeters, behind-the-scenes, and so many more. Many ministers are needed to help make our Christmas Masses amazing. Think about giving some time to warmly welcome all who will come to celebrate Christmas with us this year. Signups are easy, just stop by the Welcome Desk (or visit [spta.church/christmas](https://spta.church/christmas) and click 'Serve Christmas').

This is one of the high seasons in the Church year, and it is our best opportunity of the whole year when it comes to growing disciples—investing and inviting, welcoming new people to our community and introducing them in a new and exciting way to Jesus. Even inviting them to visit us for Mass on Christmas Eve or Christmas Day. Investing in the people that come to us at Christmas is so important. We want to create a wonderful Christmas experience for those who come to us. Here are some of the things that we seriously need to consider putting on our **TO DO LIST** at St. Peter the Apostle as we open our doors to visitors:

- 1. Pray for our visitors.** Beginning today and all through the entire Christmas season which ends on January 8th, the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord, keep them in your prayers.
- 2. Anticipate newcomers.** We need to be sensitive and aware of all those who haven't come through our doors for a long time or who are coming through our doors for the first time ever. What is that experience going to be like for them? What role do I play in making that experience a good one? Maybe it's being ok that your typical seat is taken, or scooting over in the pew and making room.
- 3. Invite them.** Be on high alert around you— be on the lookout for possible invitees.
- 4. Welcome them.** When the person has been away for a long time or coming to join us for the first time, we need to give a warm welcome with at least a smile.
- 5. Speak to them.** Introduce yourself and welcome them to our community.

Your part is so crucial and important for our upcoming Christmas celebrations. I ask everyone to do their best to make the Christmas experience here at St. Peter the Apostle warm, welcoming and one that people will not forget and want to return.

Keep warm and have a wonderful week!  
 See you at the Christmas Masses,

*Fr. Jerry Tavares*  
 Pastor



*Celebrate Christmas with us!*

**Christmas Eve - Sunday, December 24th**  
 4PM - First Mass of Christmas  
 (Children's Nativity Play starts at 3:40PM)  
 7PM - Christmas Mass  
 10PM - Solemn Christmas Mass (Incense used)

**Christmas Day - Monday, December 25th**  
 10AM - Mass of Christmas Day

**WORSHIP OFFERING**  
*Your financial stewardship for December 10:*

Offertory Envelopes	3,818.00
Automatic Giving	1,472.18
Offertory Loose	474.25
<b>Total Offertory</b>	<b>\$ 5,764.43</b>

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