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FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT // DECEMBER 22nd, 2024

ST. PETER THE APOSTLE CATHOLIC CHURCH



**CELEBRATE
CHRISTMAS
WITH US!**

Christmas Eve
4PM & 10PM

Christmas Day
10AM

Celebrate

THE LORD'S DAY

**SATURDAY
4PM**

**SUNDAY
9AM & 11AM**

For Weekday Mass Times see
inside.

SACRAMENTS

Confessions

Saturday 3PM - 3:45PM

For more information about
booking baptisms, weddings,
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OFFICE HOURS

Wed: 12 Noon - 5PM
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52 Church Street • Parry Sound, ON • P2A 1Y7
705-746-5181 • office@spta.church • spta.church

Pastor: Fr. Jerry Tavares
Administrative Assistant: Kristen Penfold

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 and are so glad you're here!*

MASS INTENTIONS

CHRISTMAS - THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD (HOLY DAY)

Christmas Eve - Tuesday, December 24

4:00PM Missa Pro Populo (Mass for the People)

10:00PM Missa Pro Populo (Mass for the People)

Christmas Day - Wednesday, December 25

10:00AM Missa Pro Populo (Mass for the People)

FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY

Saturday, December 28

4:00PM + John Boyer

Sunday, December 29

9:00AM Intentions of Andrew Roelands

11:00AM Missa Pro Populo (Mass for the People)

CHURCH CLEANUP AND DECORATING
On Sunday, December 22nd at 1PM 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!

OFFERTORY ENVELOPES
Offertory envelopes are ready for pick up in the Narthex this weekend, in alphabetical order, for those who used them this past year. If you're not currently using envelopes and would like to start, Kristen can set you up with a blank box, just go to the Welcome Desk and make sure to write your name and address on the first few envelopes.

END-OF-YEAR DONATIONS & TAX RECEIPTS
Tax receipts for donations made to the parish in 2024 will be available 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 2024 tax receipts. Online donations sometimes lag by several days as transactions are posted by banks, please keep this in mind when making your offering.

OFFICE CLOSURE
Please note that the Parish Office will be closed December 19th to January 2nd. Our parish staff will have some much needed time off with their families.

TODAYS READINGS

1st Reading: Micah 5:2-5
2nd Reading: Hebrews 10:5-10
Gospel: Luke 1:39-45



OFFER THE GIFT OF THE MASS

To arrange for a Mass to be offered, stop by the Welcome Desk on the weekend, contact the Parish Office or fill out one of the Envelopes located in the Church.

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A word from our Pastor

Dear Parish Family,

The countdown is on! We're just days 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 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 - Tuesday, December 24th

4PM - First Mass of Christmas (Children's Nativity Play starts at 3:40PM)

10PM - Solemn Christmas Mass (Incense used) (Carols begin at 9:30PM)

Christmas Day - Wednesday, December 25th

10AM - Mass of Christmas Day



| WORSHIP OFFERING | |
|---|-------------|
| Your financial stewardship for December 15th: | |
| Offertory Envelopes | 2,429.00 |
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