LITURGY SCHEDULE

Monday, December 4 at St. Peter
8:00 A.M. +Leona Kinnaman
   Doc & Jo Russell

Tuesday, December 5
NO MASS
7:00 P.M. Reconciliation Service at St. Joseph

Wednesday, December 6 at St. Joseph
8:00 A.M. +Harold “Pete” Margison
   Donna Margison
6:00 P.M. Reconciliation Service at St. Peter

Thursday, December 7 at St. Joseph
6:00 P.M. +Vernon Pratt
   Faith & Alan Mitchell

Friday, December 8 at St. Peter
6:00 P.M. +Lawrence & Mary Jane Perry
   Family

Saturday, December 9
4:00 P.M. at St. Peter
+Juan Knarr
   Butch & Judy Fritz
6:00 P.M. at St. Joseph
+Richard Reutebuch
   Family

Sunday, December 10
8:00 A.M. at St. Francis
+Clarence Baunach
   Barbara Mau
10:00 A.M. at St. Peter
+Our Cluster Family

LITURGICAL MINISTERS

Saturday, December 9 at 4:00 P.M.
(St. Peter)
Reader: Lenora Hoover
Ministers: Viv Reinhold, Judy Wilson and Carol Vires
Servers: Bonnie Budd & Bill Girton
Ushers: VOLUNTEERS

Saturday, December 9 at 6:00 P.M.
(St. Joseph)
Reader: Paul Gilsinger
Ministers: Brenda Gilsinger, Diane Kolish and Beth Ruff
Servers: Randy Roth & Brody Roth
Ushers: Tom Reutebuch, Rick & Lisa Foerg and Curt Daugherty

Sunday, December 10 at 8:00 A.M.
(St. Francis)
Reader: Pat Ames
Ministers: Mary Johnson & Victor Rodriquez
Servers: Jonathan Ottow

Sunday, December 10 at 10:00 A.M.
(St. Peter)
Reader: Linda Webb
Ministers: Tony & Tina Pesaresi and Dan Murphy
Servers: Danni Jo Rausch and Chloe Rausch
Ushers: VOLUNTEERS
The Advent wreath is part of our long-standing Catholic tradition. However, the actual origins are uncertain. There is evidence of pre-Christian Germanic peoples using wreathes with lit candles during the cold and dark December days as a sign of hope in the future warm and extended-sunlight days of Spring. In Scandinavia during winter, lighted candles were placed around a wheel, and prayers were offered to the god of light to turn “the wheel of the earth” back toward the sun to lengthen the days and restore warmth.

By the Middle Ages, the Christians adapted this tradition and used Advent wreathes as part of their spiritual preparation for Christmas. After all, Christ is “the Light that came into the world” to dispel the darkness of sin and to radiate the truth and love of God (cf. John 3:19-21). By 1600, both Catholics and Lutherans had more formal practices surrounding the Advent wreath.

The symbolism of the Advent wreath is beautiful. The wreath is made of various evergreens, signifying continuous life. Even these evergreens have a traditional meaning which can be adapted to our faith: The laurel signifies victory over persecution and suffering; pine, holly, and yew, immortality; and cedar, strength and healing. Holly also has a special Christian symbolism: The prickly leaves remind us of the crown of thorns, and one English legend tells of how the cross was made of holly. The circle of the wreath, which has no beginning or end, symbolizes the eternity of God, the immortality of the soul, and the everlasting life found in Christ. Any pine cones, nuts, or seedpods used to decorate the wreath also symbolize life and resurrection. All together, the wreath of evergreens depicts the immortality of our soul and the new, everlasting life promised to us through Christ, the eternal Word of the Father, who entered our world becoming true man and who was victorious over sin and death through His own passion, death, and resurrection.

The four candles represent the four weeks of Advent. A tradition is that each week represents one thousand years, to sum to the 4,000 years from Adam and Eve until the Birth of the Savior. Three candles are purple and one is rose. The purple candles in particular symbolize the prayer, penance, and preparatory sacrifices and goods works undertaken at this time. The rose candle is lit on the third Sunday, Gaudete Sunday, when the priest may wear rose vestments at Mass; Gaudete Sunday is the Sunday of rejoicing, because the faithful have arrived at the midpoint of Advent, when their preparation is now half over and they are close to Christmas. The progressive lighting of the candles symbolizes the expectation and hope surrounding our Lord’s first coming into the world and the anticipation of His second coming to judge the living and the dead.

The light again signifies Christ, the Light of the world. Some modern day adaptations include a white candle placed in the middle of the wreath, which represents Christ and is lit on Christmas Eve.

Reconciliation
4 Dec.: St. Anne, Monterey, 7:00 p.m.
5 Dec.: St. Joseph, Pulaski, 7:00 p.m.
6 Dec.: St. Peter, Winamac, 6:00 p.m.
11 Dec.: St. Francis, Francesville, 7:00 p.m.
12 Dec.: St. Joseph, Reynolds, 7:00 p.m.
13 Dec.: St. Charles, Peru, 7:00 p.m.

Confession
14 Dec.: St. Joseph, Rochester, 7:00 p.m.
14 Dec.: OLOL, Monticello, 7:00 p.m.
18 Dec.: St. Joseph, Delphi, 7:00 p.m.
18 Dec.: All Saints, Logansport, 7:00 p.m.
21 Dec.: St. Joan of Arc, Kokomo, 7:00 p.m.

Penance
Another look at Reconciliation

Why do we tell our sins to a priest and not just go straight to God?
This question is missing exactly what a priest is. A priest is the bridge between God and humanity in the world. Not because he is holy or holier than some, but ordination makes a man transformed into the person of Christ. He is to be ‘in persona Christi’. Christ is the God-Man, the one true union between God and all of us. By the power of ordination, a priest does this work of Christ. So, going to a priest to ask forgiveness actually is GOING STRAIGHT TO GOD.

Is this really the way God intended us to have our sins forgiven?
The Gospel of John 22-23, Jesus says to His apostles “Receive the Holy Spirit, whose sins you forgive, they are forgiven; those sins you retain are retained”. Jesus is always forgiving sins face to face. Before His Ascension, He gave that power to forgive to His apostles, to future bishops and priests all the way to today. We call this Apostolic Succession.

Why would God want forgiveness this way?
We are human beings! We need tangible signs and experiences in life. Faith happens in the body, not just the soul. Why would Jesus give us His Body just to say “Don’t use it”? We need to HEAR we are forgiven. We need to SEE the priest accepting and offering forgiveness. Modern day therapy hasn’t been around as long as confession!

What if I don’t have any sins to confess/what do I say?
If we really feel like we have no sin. I’d love to know your secret. Scripture tells us all have sinned and have fallen short. And we’ll keep falling short of God’s command of perfect love. If you don’t know what to say, ask the priest in confession. He’ll help. If one feels like one hasn’t sinned, one is probable not doing enough to examine one’s life.

How often should I go?
ABSOLUTELY BARE MINIMUM ONCE A YEAR. Most people go 2-3 times a year.

What does the priest think about what I say?
Not much! We don’t remember confessions. We hear too many. Generally, there isn’t a sin a priest hasn’t heard previously. The only one I haven’t heard is child abuse…and I pray I NEVER hear that one. Most importantly, a priest may NEVER reveal in any circumstances a person and what was said in confession…even a child molester or axe murdered. If a priest does, he is, ipso facto, excommunicated form the Church!

Please make use of this Sacrament!
The Immaculate Conception is the conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary free from original sin by virtue of the foreseen merits of her son Jesus Christ. The Catholic Church teaches that Mary was conceived by normal biological means in the womb of her mother, Saint Anne, but God acted upon her soul, keeping it "immaculate".

The Immaculate Conception is commonly confused with the Virgin Birth of Jesus. Jesus's birth is covered by the Doctrine of Incarnation, while the Immaculate Conception deals with the conception of Mary, not that of her Son. Although the belief that Mary was sinless, or conceived with an immaculate soul, has been widely held since late Antiquity, the doctrine was not dogmatically defined until 1854, by Pope Pius IX in his papal bull Ineffabilis Deus.

The Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary is a Holy Day of Obligation. This liturgy IS NOT OPTIONAL. This is normative with the expectation EVERYONE attend Thursday evening (7 December) or Friday (8 December))!

Please consult the bulletin for times and places of these liturgies.
2018 Liturgical calendars will be available commencing with the Liturgies for the Solemnity the Immaculate Conception. Notice the colors of the Church Seasons. (another hint for the Confirmation class)

The **December Advent** issue of the *Word Among Us* has arrived. Please remember the deal: $1.00 a copy! What’s the catch? Parishes area billed monthly for the copies. Parishioners who wish one are asked to place a **$1.00 bill in an envelope clearly marked “Word Among Us”**. The Office pays the bill! This is a trial basis. The Office is monitoring activity.

*Meanwhile, waiting at the crib… fr. K*

**Quick one-liners for you:**
- For all you liturgists who follow the Lectionary for week-days and Sundays, with the beginning of a new Church year, Sunday is **Cycle B**; weekday readings are found in **Year II**.

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**Cluster News!!!**

**Cluster Weekly Activities**

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<tr>
<th>Tuesday, December 5</th>
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<tr>
<td>7:00 P.M. Penance Service at St. Joseph</td>
<td>6:00 P.M. Penance Service at St. Peter</td>
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**PRAYER REQUESTS:** Please keep the following individuals in your prayers: Mary Baunach (Barbara Mau’s Mother), Judy Berger, Marie Brown (sister-in-law of Lois Heater), Susan Downing, Rose Marie Garcia (friend of Theresa Logan), Sheila Buczek, Christi Hoffa, Marsha Gearhart, Mary Ann Johnson, Marie Kraft, Greg Loehmer, Theresa Logan, Andy Meyer, Robert Meyer, Tom Murray Sr., Jeff Roth (Bub & Sandy Roth’s son), Miles Shidler (grandson of Betty Wallace), Gloria Staples, & Graham Vollmer

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**St. Francis Solano News**

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<th>November 26, 2017 - St. Francis</th>
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<td>General Offerings: $445.00</td>
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**St. Joseph News**

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<th>November 25, 2017</th>
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<td>General Offerings: $856.00</td>
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With the new songbooks, the musical settings for the Mass of Christ the Savior beings at #917.

**St. Peter News**

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<th>November 25 &amp; 26, 2017</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>General Offering: $1,648.00</td>
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<td>CCHD Collection: $20,000</td>
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