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My dear parishioners:

This coming Friday, February 22, the Catholic Church celebrates the Feast of the Chair of St. Peter. It may seem strange that the Church would honor a piece of furniture, but clearly it is far more than just a piece of furniture. It is a piece of salvation history. The Chair of Peter symbolizes one of the legs upon which the Catholic Church stands: our hierarchical structure.

If you have visited St. Peter Basilica or looked at photos of the back altar, you will have seen the gilded bronze sculpture of the Chair of St. Peter by Gian Lorenzo Bernini (1653). The chair is held aloft by four doctors of the Church: two from the Western Church (St. Ambrose and St. Augustine) and two from the Eastern Church (St. John Chrysostom and St. Athanasius). These four Doctors of the Church symbolize the Deposit of Faith which the pope must both preserve and announce to the world. Within the bronze chair is kept the relic of the chair St. Peter is said to have used while he was in Rome. This Altar has special significance to me as it was at the Altar of the Chair of St. Peter that I was ordained a deacon in April of 1982.

At the time of Jesus, when a rabbi wanted to speak with authority he sat down. Casual conversation could take place while standing; but when the rabbi sat it meant he was going to speak authoritatively about God. The Catholic Church has symbolically continued this tradition. In both Latin and Greek the word for chair is "cathedra". Our English word cathedral derives from the word for chair, as the cathedral parish of every diocese is the church where the bishop's chair is located. Because the bones of St. Peter are buried directly under the main altar of the Basilica of St. Peter, it is right for the chair of St. Peter to be enthroned in the same church. So, each year on February 22 we celebrate the authority of the first pope by honoring his chair.

This feast is also an opportunity to pray for the present pope, the successor of St. Peter. And I promise you, Pope Francis needs and depends upon our prayers as I cannot imagine a more challenging responsibility in the world today than to be the Supreme Pontiff of the Roman Catholic Church. Pope Francis is the pastor of the universal Church. All the things that a pastor does at the local level the pope does for the faithful of the world. Additionally, the pope appoints bishops throughout the world, meets with world and religious leaders to address some of the most perplexing problems in the world today. The pope must write encyclicals and give countless speeches and homilies. And this is just during "normal" times in the Church. And these are not normal times.

One of the reasons that the Holy Spirit led the cardinals to elect Francis pope almost six years ago was that the institutional Church needed some "housekeeping". The bureaucracy of the Vatican had become too burdensome and some changes needed to be made to allow for some Church business to be handled at a diocesan or episcopal conference level, instead of being bogged down in the Congregations of the Vatican. The Pope has been working very hard on this restructuring of the Roman Curia and will soon implement sweeping changes to the organizational structure of the Curia.

Another reason Francis was elected pope was that he was known to be a holy bishop and a good pastor to his flock in Argentina. Pope Saint John Paul II was a philosopher and his pontificate clearly reflected this approach to Church leadership. Pope Benedict XVI was a theologian and his pontificate clearly reflected this approach to Church leadership. Pope Francis is a pastor and the Church was ready for a "pastor pope". One of Pope Francis' most famous phrases is that "A good shepherd smells like his sheep." It reflects that a bishop, including a pope, must be among the people and must be of the people. In many ways we have seen just this in the pontificate of Pope Francis.

**February 17, 2019 - February 24, 2019**  
**Readings and Mass Intentions**

**Sunday, February 17** 9:00am—Mass  
 Jer 17:5-8/Ps 1:1-2, 3, 4, 6 [40:5a]/1 Cor 15:12, 16-20/  
 Lk 6:17, 20-26  
*Mass intention for the People of the Parish*

**Monday, February 18** 4:30pm—Mass  
 Gn 4:1-15, 25/Ps 50:1 and 8, 16bc-17, 20-21 [14a]/Mk 8:11-13

**Tuesday, February 19** No Mass  
 Gn 6:5-8; 7:1-5, 10/Ps 29:1a and 2, 3ac-4, 3b and 9c-10 [11b]/  
 Mk 8:14-21

**Wednesday, February 20** 4:30pm—Mass  
 Gn 8:6-13, 20-22/Ps 116:12-13, 14-15, 18-19 [17a]/Mk 8:22-26

**Thursday, February 21** 8:30am—Mass  
 Gn 9:1-13/Ps 102:16-18, 19-21, 29 and 22-23 [20b]/Mk 8:27-33

**Friday, February 22** 9:30am—Communion Service  
 1 Pt 5:1-4/Ps 23:1-3a, 4, 5, 6 [1]/Mt 16:13-19

**Saturday, February 23** 4:30pm—Mass  
6:30pm—Spanish Mass  
 Heb 11:1-7/Ps 145:2-3, 4-5, 10-11 [cf. 1]/Mk 9:2-13  
*Mass Intention for Robert Douglas Cotton*

**Sunday, February 24** 9:00am—Mass  
 1 Sm 26:2, 7-9, 12-13, 22-23/Ps 103:1-2, 3-4, 8, 10, 12-13 [8a]/  
 1 Cor 15:45-49/Lk 6:27-38  
*Mass intention for the People of the Parish*

**Blessed are they who hope in the Lord. (Ps 1)**

**Religious Articles**  
 Come and see new items for sale.  
 Browse on Saturday after Mass or while having coffee on Sunday mornings.

Next week Pope Francis will be hosting an extremely important conference with the bishop heads of the Episcopal Conferences of the world. Cardinal Daniel DiNardo of the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston will participate in the meeting in his present role as president of the U.S. Catholic bishops' conference. The purpose of the conference is to address the paralyzing issue of the sexual abuse of minors by clergy. The pope will give the world's bishops procedures that they are to follow to ensure: the greatest possible protection of minors from abuse by anyone; the best possible screening of applicants to the priesthood and religious life to ensure the highest quality candidates for ministry in the Church; thorough and appropriate procedures to investigate allegations of sexual misconduct by clergy (deacons, priests and bishops); and a process for investigating bishops who have not properly handled allegations of abuse in his diocese. Please pray fervently for the success of this conference.

We are very blessed as a Church to have Pope Francis as our spiritual shepherd. Please pray with me that the Lord may grant him health, strength and wisdom to continue to guide the universal Church in the way of mercy and love.

Sincerely in Christ,  
  
 Msgr. Frank H. Rossi  
 Pastor

Sun. Feb 17	Mon. Feb 18	Tues. Feb 19	Wed. Feb 20	Thurs. Feb 21	Fri. Feb 22	Sat. Feb 23
<i>Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time</i> 9:00am—Mass Faith Formation following Mass	4:30 pm—Mass	6:30pm—RCLIA	4:00pm—Rosary 4:30pm—Mass 5:00pm—Choir Practice NO CCE	8:30am—Mass 9:00am—Divine Mercy Chaplet	9:30am—Communion Service	3:45-4:15pm: Confessions 4:30pm—Mass 6:30pm—Spanish Mass
Sun. Feb 24	Mon. Feb 25	Tues. Feb 26	Wed. Feb 27	Thurs. Feb 28	Fri. Mar 1	Sat. Mar 2
<i>Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time</i> 9:00am—Mass Faith Formation following Mass	4:30 pm—Mass	6:30pm—RCLIA	4:00pm—Rosary 4:30pm—Mass 5:00pm—Choir Practice 6:00pm—CCE	8:30am—Mass 9:00am—Divine Mercy Chaplet	9:30am—Communion Service	3:45-4:15pm: Confessions 4:30pm—Mass 6:30pm—Spanish Mass

**Adult Faith Formation Classes**  
**Sundays after Mass**  
**Family Center Conference Room**  
**The Turning Point**  
**The Gospel of John**  
 Led by Madeline Arnett

**Online Giving**  
 If you would like to give electronically, visit our website  
[www.ourladyofthepinescatholicchurch.com](http://www.ourladyofthepinescatholicchurch.com)  
 and click on **Donation**.



**PRAYER REQUESTS**

*Please pray for:* Bobbie Broussard, Bennie Mahaffey, Don Watt; Jamie Richards, Mattison Witt, Bobbie Pesson, Norton Leger, Donna Crookes, Sr. Barbara Osterhaus, CVI, Jean Greaux; Mallary Cessac, Carmen Cessac, Carmen Reedy, alina Martin, Robert Keifer, Diane Emfinger, Annie Jacobs, Carol Richoux, Sam Lilley

*Repose of the soul:* James Figley; Henson Crenshaw, Bryan Entrekin

Names will remain on the prayer list for two weeks. You may list names in the Prayer book in the vestibule of the Church and your intention will be offered at daily Mass.

**Weekly Stewardship**

<b>February 9 &amp; 10 Weekly Offering</b>	<b>\$ 3,641.00</b>
<b>Average Weekly Cost</b>	<b>\$ 3,152.00</b>
<b>Excess/Deficit</b>	<b>\$ 489.00</b>

*Thank you for your generosity.*

**8<sup>th</sup> Annual Lenten Pilgrimage**  
**March 9, 2019**

Join fellow Catholics for a walking pilgrimage to Shrines of the Blessed Virgin Mary. You don't have to go to France; it's right here in Port Arthur. It will include the Traditional Latin Mass, the Most Holy Rosary, Stations of the Cross, and more! It will be a moving spiritual journey.

*Mass kickoff at 9 a.m. at Our Lady of Guadalupe.*

Confessions—45 minutes before mass. Intermediate stops at holy sites; end about 3 pm at BVM Shrine of Queen of Peace.

Don't forget your rosary and a flower to decorate Our Lady Statue we carry! Entire families, baby strollers, religious banners welcomed!

Park at **OLOG Parish Hall** or at **Queen of Peace Shrine (800 Ninth Ave)** in the morning in time to use shuttle at 8:05 am back to OLOG.

Pilgrimage T-shirts available for purchase. Hope to see you there! More info--(409) 338-5317.

**Upcoming Events**

February 23: Mardi Gras Dance, 9pm-1am, Sacred Heart Parish Hall, Port Arthur, TX

March 7-10: Teen ACTS Retreat, Camp Takula, Chester, TX

March 9: Lenten Pilgrimage, Our Lady of Guadalupe, Beaumont, TX

March 22-24: Retreat Weekend for Married Couples, Beaumont, TX