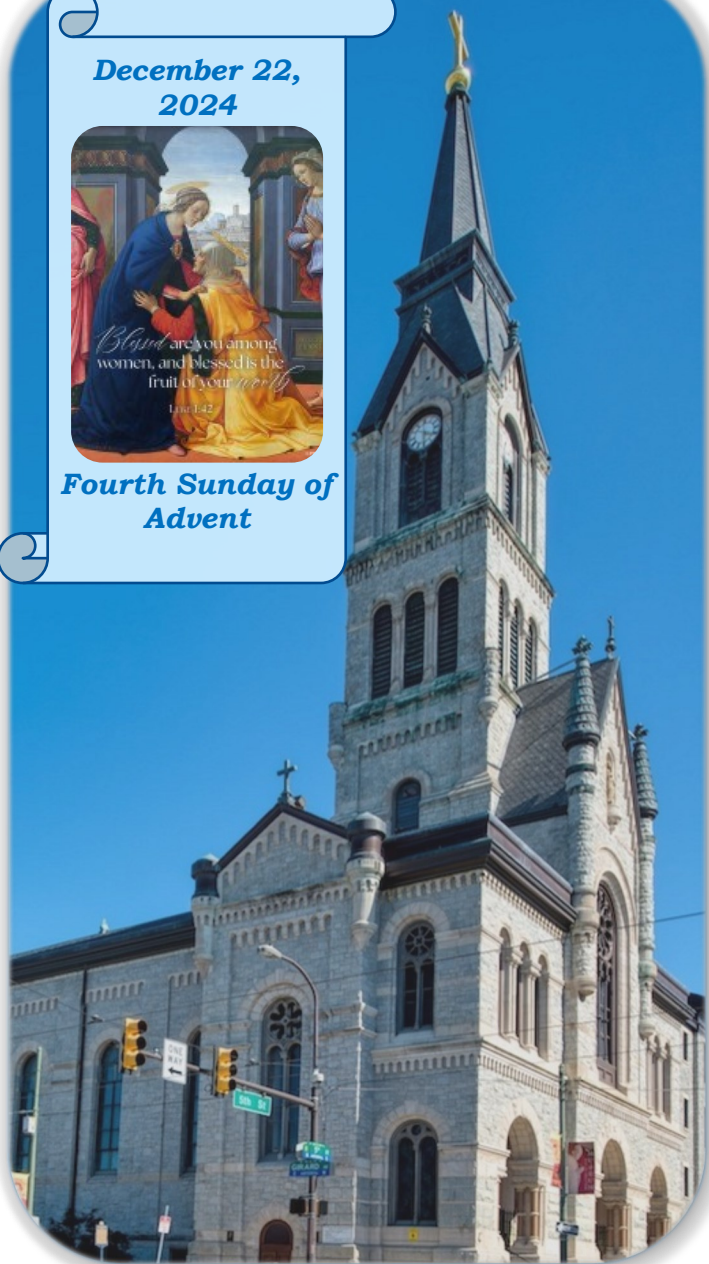


December 22,
2024



Fourth Sunday of
Advent



St. Peter the Apostle National Shrine of St. John Neumann

A Redemptorist Parish
www.spaphilly.org
1019 North 5th Street
Philadelphia, PA 19123

ACCREDITED BY
PRAESIDIUM
2020-2025

St. Peter's Rectory Office

(215) 627-2386 Parish fax: 215-627-4232
Email: parish.office@spaphilly.org

Very Rev. Michael Cunningham, CSsR, Pastor

Parochial Vicars – Redemptorists

Rev. Gerard Chylko, CSsR
Rev. Gerard Knapp, CSsR
Rev. Charles McDonald, CSsR

Missionaries In-Residence

Rev. Joseph Dionne, CSsR
Rev. Francis Mulvaney, CSsR
Rev. Huyen Nguyen, CSsR

Religious Education Coordinator

Mr. Nelson Malave 215-625-9755

Reverend Deacon

Rev. Mr. Miguel Betancourt

National Shrine of St. John Neumann

(215) 627-3080 Email: sjnoffice@comcast.net

Very Rev. John G. Kingsbury, C.Ss.R., Director
Sister Koreen Marie, IHM, Assistant Director

Gift Shop

(215) 627-3080 Fax: (215) 627-3296
Linda Farrell

St. Peter the Apostle School

(215) 922-5958
Email: srdanielle@stpetertheapostleschool.com
Sister Danielle Truex, IHM, Principal

MASS SCHEDULE

Saturday: 12:15 p.m. and 5:30 p.m. (Vigil).
Sunday: 7:30 a.m., 9:30 a.m., 11:00 a.m. (Spanish),
12:30 pm
Weekdays: 7:00 a.m., 12:15 p.m., 5:30 p.m.
O.L.P.H. Novena: 7:00 p.m. (Shrine) Filipino Sponsored

CONFESSIONS

Mon - Sat: 11:45 a.m. and 5:00 p.m.
Sunday: 10:30 a.m. (Spanish)

RECTORY OFFICE

Monday - Saturday: 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Sunday 9 a.m. - 12 noon.

GIFT SHOP SCHEDULE

Monday - Sunday: 10 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

APPOINTMENTS: You are asked to arrange an appointment in advance by telephone with the Priest you wish to see.

SICK CALLS: Emergencies & Hospital Visitation: Please contact the Rectory office.

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM: The Sacrament of Baptism is administered monthly. Arrangements are made in advance at the Rectory. Sponsors must provide proof of eligibility by a letter from their respective pastors, and must have received the Sacraments of Baptism, Communion, and Confirmation. Parents attend a Pre-Jordan meeting prior to Baptism, which is arranged at a mutually convenient time.

SACRAMENT OF MARRIAGE: Arrangements must be made with the pastor at least six months before the date of the wedding. Pre-Cana instructions are required. Couples rather than parents or wedding coordinators should contact the church. If either party was previously married, an annulment must be granted prior to the selection of a future wedding date.

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 21

5:30 PM † Dominic & Maria Nguyen - rb: Le Nguyen

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 22

7:30 AM Purgatorian Society

9:30 AM † Theresa Pozzi - rb: Daughters

11:00 AM † Raymunda Villa – rb: Otilia Garcia

12:30 PM Parish Family and Isabella Malave B-Day –
rb: The Malave Family

MONDAY, DECEMBER 23

7:00 AM Purgatorian Society

12:15 PM Narcisa Galicia - rb: Tarcelo De los Reyes

5:30 PM Tarcelo De los Reyes - rb: Tarcelo De los Reyes

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 24 - Christmas Eve

7:00 AM Purgatorian Society

12:15 PM † Jerry Fedorowycz – rb: Christine Bottomer

5:30 PM Tarcelo De los Reyes - rb: Erlinda Piczon

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 25 - The Nativity of the Lord (Christmas Day)

9:30 AM Purgatorian Society

11:00 AM Luz Maria Martinez - rb: Eneida Davila

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 26

7:00 AM Purgatorian Society

12:15 PM † Oscar Ocava - rb: The Malave Family

5:30 PM † Iris Rios - rb: Helen

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 27

7:00 AM Purgatorian Society

12:15 PM Neumann Guild

5:30 PM † Rose Marciano - rb: Fran McClure

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 28

12:15 PM OLPH MASS LEAGE

REMEMBER THE SICK OF THE PARISH

In your prayers, please keep in mind our sick, homebound, and those in healthcare facilities including: Fr. Gerard Brinkmann CSsR, Jennifer Woods, Andrew Boyle, John Paul Gordon, Jr., Rose M. Noordzy, Charles Lovett, Mary Zajac, Aelya Farrell, Elsie Cintron, Leonor Alfonso, William Santos, Mia Cassoli, Gail Warren, Matthew Lee, Robert Federico, Shawn Wojciechowicz, Clara Torres, Ada Olivo, John Fairey, Carmen Rodriguez, Crecensia Ayala, Luis Soler, Jr., Wayne Shaak, Jacob Rivera, Grazyna Kolondra, Michaela Breslin, Jose Dorotan M.D., Rodolfo Suarez, June Ambrose, Minerva and Saulo Pena, Michael Miccilo, Marcelino Casiano, Luz Martines, and Juana Ortiz. *Please call the rectory office to add a name.*

1-125



FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

Dear Parishioners,

Advent

I live my Advent in the womb of Mary.

And on one night when a great star swings free from its high mooring and walks down the sky to be the dot above the Christus i, I shall be born of her by blessed grace. I wait in Mary-darkness, faith's walled place, with hope's expectance of nativity.

I knew for long she carried me and fed me, guarded and loved me, though I could not see. But only now, with inward jubilee, I come upon earth's most amazing knowledge: someone is hidden in this dark with me.

Jessica Powers-Sister Miriam of the Holy Spirit, O.C.D. (1948)

Jessica Powers—Sister Miriam of the Holy Spirit—was a poet both before and after she became a Carmelite nun. Many of her poems use imagery from the Church's rich mystical tradition, and this poem, "Advent," is no exception.

"I live my Advent in the womb of Mary." It's such a surprising line. Advent is, when you think about it, a pregnant season. In Advent, we wait for the second coming, which is sometimes likened to a birth: "all creation is groaning in labor pains, even until now," said St. Paul (Romans 8:22). And we wait for Christmas, our celebration of Christ's first coming. If Christmas is about Christ's birth into the world, then Advent is about Mary's pregnancy. "I live my Advent in the womb of Mary." The poet imagines herself in Mary's womb. Here, in darkness, yet with "hope's expectance of nativity," she waits to be brought to birth. I love this poem's description of the Christmas star, swinging "free / from its high mooring," walking "down the sky / to be the dot above the Christus i."

In the second part of this poem, the sense of mystery deepens. "I knew for long she carried me and fed me, / guarded and loved me, though I could not see. / But only now, with inward jubilee, / I come upon earth's most amazing knowledge: / someone is hidden in this dark with me." In this place—the speaker is "carried" and "fed," "guarded and loved," but in the darkness. And yet, not alone in the dark. Who is hidden in this dark with her? Christ, of course—her brother, even her twin!

"I live my Advent in the womb of Mary." This poem is not really about the liturgical season of Advent. Rather, Advent here is a metaphor for the life of faith: a life of waiting, in darkness, yet conscious, in moments of "inward jubilee," that we are not alone: that Christ is with us. The poem reflects the Church's teaching about Mary. The Church calls her Mother of God, because God became

~ Parish News ~

incarnate in her womb. She is also Mother of the Church and Mother of believers.

The Church has always raised Mary high, not simply because she gave birth to Jesus, but rather, because she is the model of Christian discipleship. Mary was not a passive vessel. She did not merely consent, but actively cooperated with God’s plan, and continues to play an active role in the life of believers, just as she did at the wedding feast at Cana— “do whatever he tells you” (John 2:5). As Pope Francis has written, “She is the handmaid of the Father who sings his praises. She is the friend who is ever concerned that wine not be lacking in our lives. She is the woman whose heart was pierced by a sword and who understands all our pain. As mother of all, she is a sign of hope for peoples suffering the birth pangs of justice.... As a true mother, she walks at our side, she shares our struggles and she constantly surrounds us with God’s love” (Joy of the Gospel, 286).

Mary always points us towards Christ. Incarnated once in her womb, he continues to make himself present, in the sacramental life of the Church, and in the suffering flesh of our brothers and sisters in need. In this way, Mary constantly reminds us of “earth’s most amazing knowledge: someone is hidden in this dark with” us. (www.stjames-cathedral.org/PoemoftheWeek)

On behalf of the Redemptorist Fathers and Brothers stationed here at Peter the Apostle Church and worldwide, May you and your loved ones have a Merry and Blessed Christmas!

Blessings,
Fr Mike

SANCTUARY CANDLES

This week, the candles in the sanctuaries will burn for the following intentions:

Blessed Sacrament Altar (Lower Church)

Nguyen Family - rb: Le Nguyen

OLPH Shrine (Upper Church)

Little Family - rb: Nora Little

St. John Neumann Altar

Nguyen Family - rb: Le Nguyen

Blessed Sacrament Altar (Upper Church)

Available

Redemptorist Chapel

Available



The Announced Mass book is now open for 2025. Please bring your intention and donation to the Parish Office.

Each intention is \$10.

THE ROSARY

We invite you to join us each day at 11:55 a.m. in the Shrine as we pray the Rosary for peace. Please come and pray with us.



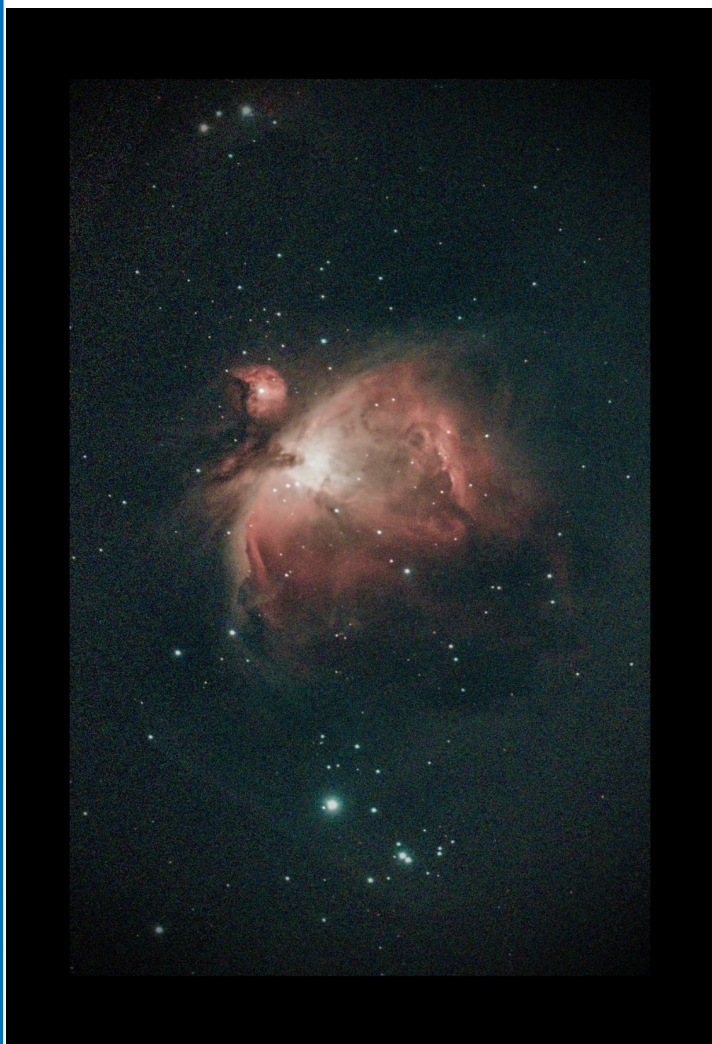
ELECTRONIC GIVING



Go to the page: spaphilly.org tab **Donate** and select the link with the **Parish Giving Logo**
Follow the simple instructions

Celestial Wonders: A Glimpse into God’s Creation

The Orion Nebula sits gracefully above the steeple of St. Peter the Apostle Church. This stunning cosmic spectacle and expression of God’s creativity casts a shimmering light over the historic architecture.



LA MISA DE HOY

11:00 AM † Raymunda Villa – sp: Otilia Garcia

CONFESIONES EN ESPAÑOL

10:30 AM

DONACIONES DE UNITED WAY

Si usted contribuye a United Way a través de su trabajo, favor considere designar a la **Escuela San Pedro, United Way #52989**, para que su donación ayude a nuestra escuela.

VELA DEL SANTUARIO

Esta semana, las velas de los santuarios se encenderán por las siguientes intenciones:

Altar del Santísimo Sacramento (Iglesia de Abajo)
Familia Nguyen - sp: Le Nguyen
Santuario de Nuestra Señora del Perpetuo Socorro
(Iglesia de Arriba)

Familia Little - sp: Nora Little
Altar de San Juan Neumann

Familia Nguyen - sp: Le Nguyen
Altar del Santísimo Sacramento (Iglesia de Arriba)
Disponible
Capilla de los Redentoristas
Disponible

RECORDEMOS A LOS ENFERMOS DE LA PARROQUIA

En sus oraciones, por favor, tenga en cuenta a nuestros enfermos, confinados en casa, y aquellos en los centros de salud, incluyendo: Fr. Gerard Brinkmann CSsR, Jennifer Woods, Andrew Boyle, John Paul Gordon, Jr., Rose M. Noordzy, Charles Lovett, Mary Zajac, Aelya Farrell, Elsie Cintron, Leonor Alfonso, William Santos, Mia Cassoli, Gail Warren, Matthew Lee, Robert Federico, Shawn Wojciechowicz, Clara Torres, Ada Olivo, John Fairey, Carmen Rodriguez, Crecensia Ayala, Luis Soler, Jr., Wayne Shaak, Jacob Rivera, Grazyna Kolondra, Michaela Breslin, Jose Dorotan M.D., Rodolfo Suarez, June Ambrose, Minerva and Saulo Pena, Michael Miccilo, Marcelino Casiano, Luz Martines, y Juana Ortiz. Favor de llamar a la rectoría para incluir un nombre en la lista.



DEL ESCRITORIO DEL PASTOR

Queridos Feligreses,

Adviento

Vivo mi Adviento en el vientre de María.

Y una noche, cuando una gran estrella se libere de su alto punto de amarre y descienda por el cielo para ser el punto sobre el Cristo, naceré de ella por gracia bendita.

Espero en la oscuridad de María, el lugar amurallado de la fe, con la expectativa de la natividad de la esperanza.

Supe durante mucho tiempo que ella me llevaba y me alimentaba, me cuidaba y me amaba, aunque yo no podía ver. Pero sólo ahora, con júbilo interior, llego a la conciencia más asombrosa de la tierra: alguien está escondido en esta oscuridad conmigo.

Jessica Powers-Hermana Miriam del Espíritu Santo, O.C.D. (1948)

Jessica Powers, hermana Miriam del Espíritu Santo, fue poeta antes y después de convertirse en monja carmelita. Muchos de sus poemas utilizan imágenes de la rica tradición mística de la Iglesia, y este poema, “Adviento”, no es una excepción.

“Vivo mi Adviento en el vientre de María”. Es un verso sorprendente. El Adviento es, si lo piensas, una temporada de embarazo. En Adviento, esperamos la segunda venida, que a veces se compara con un nacimiento: “toda la creación gime con dolores de parto, incluso ahora”, dijo San Pablo (Romanos 8:22). Y esperamos la Navidad, nuestra celebración de la primera venida de Cristo. Si la Navidad se trata del nacimiento de Cristo en el mundo, entonces el Adviento se trata del embarazo de María. “Vivo mi Adviento en el vientre de María”. La poeta se imagina a sí misma en el vientre de María. Aquí, en la oscuridad, pero con “la expectativa de la natividad de la esperanza”, espera ser traída al mundo. Me encanta la descripción que hace este poema de la estrella de Navidad, balanceándose “libre / de su alto amarre”, caminando “por el cielo / para ser el punto sobre el Christus i”.

En la segunda parte de este poema, la sensación de misterio se profundiza. “Sabía desde hace mucho que ella me llevaba y me alimentaba, / me cuidaba y me amaba, aunque yo no podía ver. / Pero sólo ahora, con júbilo

~ Noticias de la Parroquia ~

interior, / Llego al conocimiento más asombroso de la tierra: / alguien está escondido en esta oscuridad conmigo”. En este lugar, la hablante es “llevada” y “alimentada”, “cuidada y amada”, pero en la oscuridad. Y, sin embargo, no está sola en la oscuridad. ¿Quién está escondido en esta oscuridad con ella? Cristo, por supuesto, ¡su hermano, incluso su gemelo!

“Vivo mi Adviento en el vientre de María”. Este poema no trata realmente del tiempo litúrgico de Adviento. Más bien, el Adviento aquí es una metáfora de la vida de fe: una vida de espera, en la oscuridad, pero consciente, en momentos de “jubileo interior”, de que no estamos solos: que Cristo está con nosotros. El poema refleja la enseñanza de la Iglesia sobre María. La Iglesia la llama Madre de Dios, porque Dios se encarnó en su vientre. Ella también es Madre de la Iglesia y Madre de los creyentes.

La Iglesia siempre ha puesto a María en alto, no simplemente porque dio a luz a Jesús, sino más bien, porque es el modelo del discipulado cristiano. María no fue un recipiente pasivo. No se limitó a consentir, sino que cooperó activamente con el plan de Dios, y continúa desempeñando un papel activo en la vida de los creyentes, tal como lo hizo en la fiesta de bodas en Caná: “hagan lo que Él les diga” (Juan 2:5). Como ha escrito el Papa Francisco, “Ella es la esclava del Padre que canta sus alabanzas. «Es la amiga que se preocupa siempre para que no falte el vino en nuestras vidas. Es la mujer cuyo corazón fue traspasado por una espada y que comprende todos nuestros dolores. Como madre de todos, es signo de esperanza para los pueblos que sufren los dolores del parto de la justicia... Como verdadera madre, camina a nuestro lado, comparte nuestras fatigas y nos rodea constantemente del amor de Dios» (La alegría del Evangelio, 286).

María siempre nos señala a Cristo. Encarnado una vez en su seno, sigue haciéndose presente en la vida sacramental de la Iglesia y en la carne sufriente de nuestros hermanos y hermanas necesitados. De esta manera, María nos recuerda constantemente “el conocimiento más asombroso de la tierra: alguien está escondido en esta oscuridad con nosotros”.

(www.stjames-cathedral.org/PoemoftheWeek)

En nombre de los Padres y Hermanos Redentoristas estacionados aquí en la Iglesia de Pedro el Apóstol y en todo el mundo, ¡Que ustedes y sus seres queridos tengan una Feliz y Bendecida Navidad!

Bendiciones,
Padre Mike



EL ROSARIO

Les invitamos a unirse a nosotros todos los días a las 11:55AM en el Santuario a rezar el Rosario por la paz. Venga y únase a nosotros con el arma espiritual.



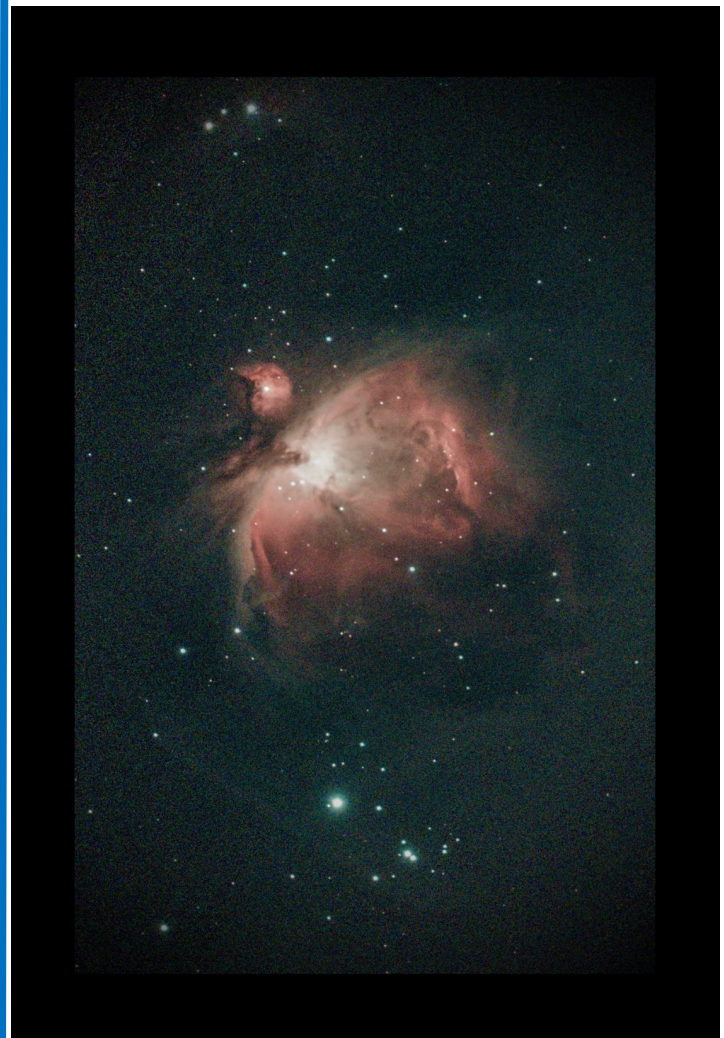
DONACION ELECTRONICA

Ingrese a la página spaphilly.org y seleccione el enlace bajo el logotipo **Parish Giving**. Siga las sencillas instrucciones para registrarse.



Maravillas celestiales: una mirada a la creación de Dios

La Nebulosa de Orión se alza elegantemente sobre la Iglesia de San Pedro Apóstol. Este impresionante espectáculo cósmico y expresión de la creatividad de Dios arroja una luz resplandeciente sobre la arquitectura histórica.





ST. PETER THE APOSTLE PARISH CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 24TH:
REGULAR WEEKDAY MASSES IN SHRINE
AT 7:00 AM AND 12:15PM

CHOIR CONCERT AT 5:00 PM
VIGIL MASS AT 5:30 PM IN THE UPPER CHURCH
NO CONFESSIONS

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 25TH:
9:30 AM (ENGLISH) AND 11:00 AM (SPANISH)
IN THE UPPER CHURCH, NO CONFESSIONS

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 1ST:
9:30 AM IN THE SHRINE
NO CONFESSIONS

Join us for the
**ST. JOHN NEUMANN
FEAST DAY**
MASSES

**SUNDAY,
JANUARY 5TH
FEAST DAY**

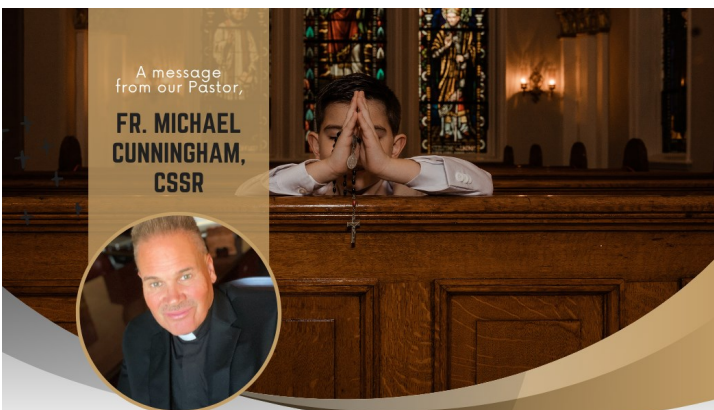
12:30 PM
Upper Church

Rev. Jerome Chavarria, C.Ss.R.
Coordinator
Conference of Redemptorists
of North America

**MONDAY,
JANUARY 6TH**

12:15 PM
Upper Church

Bishop Bruce A. Lewandowski,
C.Ss.R.
Titular Bishop of Croae
Auxiliary Bishop of Baltimore



A message
from our Pastor,

**FR. MICHAEL
CUNNINGHAM,
CSSR**



UNITED IN FAITH AND LOVE *Program*

ON COMMITMENT WEEKEND, NOVEMBER 23RD AND 24TH, I INVITE EACH OF YOU TO PARTICIPATE IN THIS IMPORTANT PROGRAM AND HELP US RESPOND TO GOD'S GREAT GIFT OF LOVE. I ASK THAT YOU PLEASE REVIEW THE BROCHURE YOU SHOULD RECEIVE IN THE MAIL AND PRAYERFULLY CONSIDER HOW YOU AND YOUR FAMILY CAN HELP ST. PETER THE APOSTLE CHURCH BY FINANCIALLY SUPPORTING OUR MINISTRIES, FURTHERING OUR MISSION, AND REINFORCING OUR FUTURE.

WE ASK THAT ALL FAITHFUL PARISHIONERS COMPLETE A COMMITMENT CARD. A CARD WILL BE INCLUDED IN THE BROCHURE MAILING FOR YOU TO:

- MAIL TO THE CHURCH USING THE PRE-ADDRESSED ENVELOPE
- BRING YOUR CARD TO MASS NEXT SUNDAY
- OR YOU MAY VISIT OUR PARISH WEBSITE AT WWW.SPAPHILLY.ORG AND COMPLETE AN ELECTRONIC COMMITMENT CARD

THE BACK OF THE COMMITMENT CARD HAS A PLACE FOR YOU TO INCLUDE ANY PRAYER INTENTIONS YOU WISH TO SHARE. WE WELCOME ALL INTENTIONS AND THEY WILL BE PRAYED FOR COLLECTIVELY OVER THE NEXT FEW WEEKS. IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO SPEAK TO A PRIEST, PLEASE INDICATE SO ON YOUR CARD AND WE WILL BE IN CONTACT WITH YOU. OUR GOAL IS 100% PARTICIPATION. THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY AND SUPPORT OF ST. PETER THE APOSTLE CHURCH!



Christmas Hours

Please note that our museum, gift shop,
shrine and rectory offices will close early
at 1:00 pm on Tuesday, Dec. 24th and
will be closed on

Wednesday, Dec. 25th and Thursday, Dec. 26th.

Regular full-time hours will resume
on Friday, Dec. 27th

We will also be closed on
New Years Day, Wednesday, Jan. 1st

