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FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

December 20, 2009
**O Lord of hosts, look down
 from heaven and see; take
 care of this vine, and
 protect what your right
 hand has planted.**

— Psalm 80:15-16

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: Sg 2:8-14 or Zep 3:14-18a; Lk 1:39-45
Tuesday: 1 Sm 1:24-28; Lk 1:46-56
Wednesday: Mal 3:1-4, 23-24; Lk 1:57-66
Thursday: 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16; Lk 1:67-79
Friday: Vigil: Is 62:1-5; Ps 89; Acts 13:16-17, 22-25;
 Mt 1:1-25 [18-25]
 Midnight: Is 9:1-6; Ps 96; Ti 2:11-14; Lk 2:1-14
 Day: Is 52:7-10; Ps 98; Heb 1:1-6; Jn 1:1-18 [1-5, 9-14]
Saturday: Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59; Mt 10:17-22
Sunday: Sir 3:2-7, 12-14 or 1 Sm 1:20-22, 24-28; Ps 128 or Ps 84; Col 3:12-20 [12-17] or 1 Jn 3:1-2, 21-24; Lk 2:41-52

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK
 Dec. 21-27, 2009



Monday
8:00 am Jake Wostal† - M/M John Sandrousa
Tuesday
 8:00 am Tommy Najvar† - Elaine Najvar
Wednesday
 6:30 pm Bob Rogerson† - Deacon Al & Kathy Cicora
Thursday
 5:00 pm Special Intention - Keith Emshoff Family
 8:00 pm Msgr. Morgan & Msgr. McGowan
 11:00 pm Special Intention - Msgr. Morgan
Friday
 9:00 am Ottie Zieger† - Margaret Freeze
 10:00 am S.M. Joe Contreras Family - Keith & Wilma
Saturday
 6:00 pm Tony Pena† - Teresa Pena & Family
Sunday
 8:00 am Margie Hoelscher† - Roy & Jenell Richter
 9:30 am Elizabeth Lopez 15th B-day
10:00 am Timothy Tarble† - Parents
12:00 pm Tomas Salinas† - Chano Rodriguez
 6:00 pm People of the Parish

SACRIFICIAL GIVING

Envelope Contributions (374)	\$14,339.00
Loose Collection	\$650.47
Children's Collection	\$245.87
Other Fees	\$806.00
Total	\$16,041.34

ST. MARY MISSION

Envelope Contributions (15)	\$418.00
Loose Collection	\$76.00
Total	\$494.00

Dear Friends,

When I was in High School, I read a book about the history of the Catholic Church that changed my life. The title was "The Faith of Millions" written by a priest named Fr. John A. O'Brien and it helped me to make up my mind to become a seminarian and study for the priesthood. Books have changed many people's lives and many of us know the story of St. Ignatius of Loyola who had a conversion experience after receiving a wound in his leg from a canon ball while fighting in a battle in 1521. In his recovery, he wanted to read 'worldly' books but he was given the lives of Christ and the Saints. While reading these books, he had a change of heart and became a soldier for Christ and the founder of the Society of Jesus or the Jesuits as they are called, and the rest is history.

Today, you will receive a Christmas gift as you leave Church and it is a book called "Rediscovering Catholicism" by an Australian author named Matthew Kelly. Reading it can literally change your life and make this coming year of 2010 the best ever. I heard Matthew speak at one of our Diocesan Ministry Day Conferences, a few years ago, and he gave a dynamic presentation on the Seven Pillars of Catholic Church Spirituality. I have listened to many of his CD'S and read many of his books since that day and they have inspired me to become the "Best Version of Myself" and continue to spread the good news about the Catholic Church.

On the back cover of "Rediscovering Catholicism" you will read that this book takes you on an adventure of life-changing proportions. Beginning with our common yearning for happiness, Kelly reveals the essence of authentic Catholic spirituality, while addressing some of the most important questions we face today, both as individuals and a Church. He answers in a very clear manner the following questions: Are you happy or how would you like to change your life? What are your habits and do you really think that you will find happiness where you are presently searching? Why are young people rejecting Catholicism? Do the Saints have anything to offer?

Please make a promise to God today that you will read the answers to the above questions in the book you are receiving as a gift from our Church, on this Fourth Sunday of Advent, and just five days before Christmas 2009. In the gospel today, we read how John the Baptist leaped for joy in his mother's womb when he was aware of the presence of the child Jesus in Mary's womb. May you have the same joy in your life when you read this 'life changing' book by Matthew Kelly and I pray that you will pass it on to family and friends so they too can rediscover the gift of fully believing in the Catholic Church.

This book is for adults and teenagers, practicing and inactive Catholics, and it will also help those who are not of the Catholic Faith and who have many questions about our beliefs and practices. All who read this bestselling book will rediscover the gift of the Holy Mass, the importance of Bible Reading, the value of the Holy Rosary, the grace of regular Confessions, the wisdom of the Saints and much more. The pages, of Matthew Kelly's book, are full of advice on how to lead a life of holiness which will help you to become the best version of yourself. Books change lives and holiness brings us to life and extend salvation.

Your friend,

Msgr. Morgan

This Week at St. Peter Church

MONDAY: Rosary 7:30 a.m. Mass 8:00 a.m.. Feast of St. Peter Canisius

TUESDAY: Rosary 7:30 a.m. Mass 8:00 a.m.

WEDNESDAY: Novena & Rosary 6:00 p.m. Mass 6:30 p.m. Confessions at St. Mary Mission 7:30 - 9 p.m.

THURSDAY: Christmas Eve Mass 5:00, 8:00 & 11:00 p.m.

FRIDAY: Christmas Day Mass 9 a.m. St. Mary - 10 a.m.

SATURDAY: Confessions 4:30 - 5:30 p.m. Vigil Mass 6:00 p.m.

GOOD NEWS FOR YOUTH

HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH CAROLING AND CHRISTMAS Party will be Sunday, Dec. 20th after Mass. FMI call Audri @ 779-5750.

SPECIAL THANK YOU to the Middle School Youth for decorating the Christmas Baskets

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS MASS

Each year we have a Children's Christmas Mass involving the children in our parish. The Mass will take place on Thursday, Dec. 24th at 5 p.m. At the beginning of Mass (4:45) some of the children process in as angels, shepherds, sheep, the little drummer boy and Mary & Joseph. We will also have a Children's Choir that will sing Christmas Carols during the Mass. All children involved should arrive no later than 4:30 p.m. to prepare for their assigned parts.



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THE RELIGIOUS EDUCATION STAFF would like to wish all of our students and their families a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! **Classes will resume on Sunday, Jan. 3, 2010.**

MASS SCHEDULE FOR DEC. 24 & 25
St. Peter, Prince of the Apostles Church
Christmas Eve Masses (Dec. 24) are:

5:00 p.m.

Children's Mass & Nativity Procession begins at 4:45 p.m. **8:00 p.m.** Mass with Youth Choir

11:00 p.m. Mass with Adult Choir.

Christmas Day Mass (Dec. 25) 9 a.m.

St. Mary Mission (Dec. 25) Christmas Day Mass, 10 am

CONGRATULATIONS to Gilbert Rodriguez, Jr. & Ofelia Huerta. They received the Sacrament of Matrimony on Saturday, Dec. 12th in St. Peter, Prince of the Apostles Church. Best Wishes to Julio & Loretta Gomez. They had their marriage blessed in the Church on Saturday, Dec. 12, 2009.

Upcoming Events

TODAY IS THE FOURTH AND FINAL SUNDAY OF ADVENT. You should light three purple and one rose candle on your Advent Wreath and say the following prayer this week. Gracious God, as we come nearer to the celebration of your Son and our Brother, we pray that He may be the center of our happiness and that we may want Him more than we want things. We live in Him, Jesus our Lord. He saves us from our selfishness. Amen

A GIFT OF THE BOOK "REDISCOVERING CATHOLICISM" BY MATTHEW KELLY FOR EVERY FAMILY IN OUR PARISH. We are happy to give each family a copy of this bestselling book as a Christmas Gift this year and pray that those who read it will be renewed in Faith, Hope and Love during the coming year. Many people need to rediscover the great blessings that our Catholic Faith have in store for all who participate fully in its Liturgical and Sacramental life and follow the example of the Saints who have gone before us. Matthew Kelly reminds us of the Faith of our fathers and mothers and how they lives holy and happy lives by listening to the wisdom of the Church and the Bible. See letter on previous page.

"LAST CHANCE CONFESSIONS" ON WEDNESDAY FROM 7:30 TO 9 PM. AT ST. MARY MISSION ON CYNTHIA STREET. There will be a Penance Service at 7 p.m. and the Confession will be held immediately afterwards. All Catholics should go to Confession prior to Christmas in order to be prepared to welcome Jesus in Holy Communion on His Birthday. Confession and Communion are the greatest gifts we can give ourselves at Christmas.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR THE MINISTRIES DAY CONFERENCE ON JAN. 16, 2010 AT THE AMERICAN BANK CENTER. This Annual Conference is sponsored by the Diocese of Corpus Christi and the theme this year is: "We are His people the flock He shepherds." (Psalm 95:7) The Key-note speaker will be Most Rev. Frank J. Caggiano, Auxiliary Bishop of Brooklyn and he will speak on "We are His People" The parish will pay the Registration fee of \$25 per person for those who are involved in any of our Parish Ministries, but we need you to register prior to December 31, to get the discount. You may register by filling out a form in the foyer of the Church or by calling our office at 241-3249 or the CCD office at 241-3372. There will be talks on Scripture, Traditions, Vocations, Tools for Teaching Children, Evangelization Cells and Prayer by local and national speakers.

WANT TO JOIN A "LONGING FOR THE HOLY" SMALL FAITH SHARING GROUP? We will begin this series by Fr. Ron Rolheiser OMI the week of **JANUARY 10TH** and there will be groups meeting every night and some in the mornings. If you have not yet signed up for this wonderful opportunity to grow in holiness and grace, please do so ASAP. FMI call 241-3249.

CONGRATULATIONS to Delma Yzaguirre, Joe Alaniz, Manuel De La Rosa, Richard Trevino, Jo Ella Menn and Richard Magee. They were elected to be on the Parish Council for the next two years. We are very grateful to all the candidates that participated in this election.