



Saints Peter and Paul Chapel
A Ministry of the Ecumenical Catholic Church+USA
808 N. Mason Road
Creve Coeur, Missouri 63141-6306
(314) 968.7800

December 2024 Parish Bulletin

Parish Web Site: www.sspp-eccusa.org or www.peterandpaulchapel.org

Parish Facebook Page: www.facebook.com/ssppECCUSA

National Church Web Site: www.ecc-usa.org

National Church Facebook Page: <https://www.facebook.com/eccusa2001>

MASS SCHEDULE

LITURGIES ARE CELEBRATED AT 2:00 PM UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED

December 1, 2024:	First Sunday of Advent
December 8, 2024:	Second Sunday of Advent
December 15, 2024:	Third (Gaudete) Sunday of Advent
December 22, 2024:	Fourth Sunday of Advent
December 25, 2024:	Nativity of Our Lord
December 29, 2024:	Feast of the Holy Family

Pastoral Staff:

Pastor: +Fr. Bob Catlett, M.Div., 314.800.3456, pastor@ssppaul-eccusa.org

Founding Bishop: +Fr. Carl Swaringim, Ed.D., 314.650.1487, BishopCarl@protonmail.com

Prayer Intentions

If you would like us to remember a special intention for you at Mass, please contact one of our priests.

If you or someone you know is in need of spiritual assistance (prayers, Sacrament of the Sick, etc.), please contact one of our priests.

Inquiries regarding the administration of Sacraments or services (Baptisms, First Communion, Marriages, and Funerals) are welcomed.

Sunday Scripture Reflections **+Fr. Bob Catlett, M.Div.**

December 1, 2024 – 1st Sunday of Advent: The opening of the Advent Season continues the end-time/end-of-life theme that the liturgy has focused on in recent weeks. Christ, who came in history, a “just shoot” from the house of David, will return in majesty. Are we ready for his coming? St. Paul exhorts us to be “blameless in holiness.” Jesus calls us to “be vigilant at all times and pray.” (Jeremiah 33:14-16, 1 Thessalonians 3:12-4:2, Luke 21:25-28, 34-36)

December 8, 2024 – 2nd Sunday of Advent: “God is leading Israel in joy,” proclaims Isaiah. Today’s first reading rings with jubilation. How can we bring this joy into our circles of family, friends and co-workers? St. Paul provides the answer in the second reading, “By continuing to grow in love.” (Baruch 5:1-9, Philipians 1:4-6, 8-11, Luke 3:1-6)

December 15, 2024 – 3rd Sunday of Advent (Gaudete Sunday): In today’s Gospel, John the Baptist encourages his listeners to share, to be just, and to be content with their lot. Isaiah and Paul chime in with additional advice: “Be not discouraged!” and “Have no anxiety at all.” Lord Jesus, help us to live in a spirit of detachment and trust. (Zephaniah 3:14-18a, Philipians 4:4-7, Luke 3:10-18)

December 22, 2024 – 4th Sunday of Advent: “His greatness shall reach to the ends of the earth,” proclaims Micah. “He shall be peace.” In today’s beautiful readings, we detect a sense of eagerness. Like the psalmist, Jesus comes to do the Father’s will. Mary hastens to serve others and to bring them her Son. Lord Jesus, who came centuries ago in history, we are eager for your coming in mystery this Christmas! (Micah 5:1-4a, Hebrews 10:5-10, Luke 1:39-45)

December 25, 2024 – Nativity of our Lord: *From the Mass During the Day:* “The Lord comforts his people.” He speaks through his Son, “the very imprint of his being,” who makes his dwelling among us. Because we have received from Jesus’ fullness, we are also called to be an image of the Father. Do we always live as an image of God? (Isaiah 52:7-10, Hebrews 1:1-6, John 1-18)

December 29, 2024 – Feast of the Holy Family: Thanks to Jesus, “we are God’s children,” as John writes in today’s second reading. In the first reading, Hannah acknowledges her son as God’s gift and dedicates him to the Lord’s service. And in the Gospel, Mary recognizes that *her* Son, who is God’s gift *par excellence*, will one day leave her to serve his Father. Do we have a gift that we can return to God? (1 Samuel 20-22, 24-28, 1 John 3:1-2, 21-24, Luke 2:41-52)



Advent Gospels

ON THE four Sundays of Advent, the Catholic lectionary presents a series of Gospel readings that prepare for the celebration of the Birth of Christ. The Sunday Advent readings all rotate on a three-year cycle, but they always follow the same pattern.

The Gospel for the First Sunday of Advent always tells of the reign of Christ at the end of time. It echoes the theme of the previous Sunday, the Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe. Advent starts with the message that we await the Second Coming of Christ. This entire season is not just a reminder of a past birth but also an anticipation of future glory.

The Second and Third Sundays of Advent always have Gospel readings about John the Baptist. John is an adult in these passages, proclaiming the nearness of the Kingdom of God and serving as the prophet who bridges the Old and New Testaments. John foreshadows Jesus in his birth, his preaching, and his death. John's message on these two middle Sundays of this season inspires us to follow Christ.

The Fourth Sunday of Advent always tells part of the story that just precedes the Birth of Christ. These familiar episodes set the stage for one of the Bible's best-known passages, the story of Christmas.

The Gospel readings of the four Sundays of Advent come to us in reverse chronology. We start with the end of time. We continue to the period when Jesus was an adult. We end in the days before his birth. Like a funnel, Advent opens with a giant theme, the grandness of Christ the King, and it ends with a specific one, the child lying in a Bethlehem manger.

From the Pastor's Desk
+Fr. Bob Catlett, M.Div.

Congratulations and Best Wishes to members of our congregation who celebrate special days this month:

Birthdays:

December 4: Rosann Swaringim
December 17: Dr. Nathaniel Murdock

Anniversaries:

None this month

Masses on Facebook Live! Just a reminder...we are now able to livestream our Sunday masses on our Chapel Facebook page. If you are unable to attend in person, join us virtually...we would love to "see" you! You do *not* have to have a Facebook account to join us. Just go to our Facebook page www.facebook.com/ssppECCUSA at 2:00 PM on Sunday afternoons.

Bulletin Inserts (page 3): We continue "getting to know the church, its practices and other pressing issues" with *Bulletin Inserts for the Liturgical Life of the Parish*. The short bulletin inserts provided in this resource cover a variety of liturgy-related topics that aim to assist the parish in the liturgical formation of the assembly. The author, Fr. Paul Turner, provides short catechesis on a wide variety of topics to help the reader gain a better understanding of the "what, how, and why" of the liturgy. Each insert is designed to help the reader engage the liturgy and manifest it in their lives. Fr. Paul Turner is pastor of the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Kansas City, Missouri, and director of the Office of Divine Worship for the Diocese of Kansas City–St. Joseph. He holds a doctorate in sacred theology from Sant'Anselmo in Rome. ***This month, we learn about the Gospels on the Sundays of Advent.***

Christmas Mass: We will gather as a parish on Christmas Day, Wednesday, December 25, 2024, at 2 PM to celebrate our Christmas liturgy. We hope you are able to join us in person or virtually on our Facebook page!