

# Advent

## Mass Schedule

Saturday: 4pm

Sunday: 8am, 10am, 12 noon

Tues: Noon

Wed and Fri: 8am

Thurs: Noon and 5:30pm

## Reconciliation

Saturday 3:00—3:45pm

Sunday 7:00-7:45am

## Baptisms, Weddings, etc

Call or email the office!

## Save the Date!

Wednesday, December 24th	Christmas Eve Masses	4 pm, 6 pm, St Peter's Church
Thursday, December 25th	Christmas Day Masses	8 am, 10 am, St Peter's Church
Wednesday, December 31st	Mother of God vigil Mass	6pm, <b>11:30pm</b> , St Peter's Church
Thursday, January 1st, 2026	Mother of God Masses	8am, 10am, St Peter's Church

# *St. Peter's Catholic Church*

*a country church in the city*

Pastor

Fr Jacob Epstein

jepstein@dmdiocese.org

Deacons

Dcn Stephen Rallis

Dcn Pat Snook

patricksnook51503@yahoo.com

Office Manager

Tracy Carlson

officemanager@saintpeterscb.org

DRE

Heather Olson

religiouseducationdirector@saintpeterscb.org

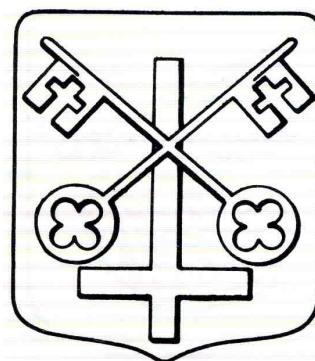
Maintenance

Rob Beck

PARISH WEBSITE [www.saintpeterscb.org](http://www.saintpeterscb.org)

PARISH PHONE NUMBER 712-318-3030

PARISH ROBOCALL NUMBER 1-800-679-0847



## From Father Jacob

### Special Masses for the Holidays

Christmas Eve: Wednesday, 12/24

4:00 pm, 6:00 pm

Christmas Day: Thursday, 12/25

8:00 am, 10:00 am

Mary, Mother of God vigil: Wednesday, 12/31

6:00 pm, **11:30pm**

Mary, Mother of God: Thursday, 1/1/26

8:00 am, 10:00 am

Note the extra Mass time on **New Year's Eve**. We will have a **special, candlelit Mass at 11:30pm** if you want to ring in the new year with the Lord! I am excited about this opportunity and hope you might consider joining us for a unique way to begin the new year and celebrate our Lord's coming as light for the world!

Thank to the Mass ministers who always give generously at our special Masses to read, usher, and give Communion. **Signups for those ministries are at the back of church this weekend.**

Thanks in advance to the **choirs** who always go all out for our Christmas Masses.

### Merry Christmas!

I know I will see very many of you at Christmas, and that we already have many family and friends visiting our parish from out of town. Welcome!

I also know that many of our parishioners are traveling for the holidays. May God give you a safe journey and a happy return to us!

I hope and pray that all of our St Peter's family will have a very merry Christmas as we celebrate the birth of our Lord!

### Why do we celebrate Christmas on December 25th?

Every year in December the internet fills with sophomoric posts that the reason we celebrate the birth of Christ in December is to displace the Roman celebration of Sol Invictus, or Saturnalia, or Mithras, or whatever. This is a very old charge as it used to be fashionable among Protestants to reject Christmas as too Popish and therefore pagan, and it has always been fashionable among the cynical to be too well-informed and world-weary to have fun or rejoice, and to try to prevent others from the same.

If Christmas really was a usurpation of some pagan holiday it wouldn't present us with much of a problem, since people all over the world celebrate official birthdays on days other than the actual event (think of President's Day in the US, for example). But it's not true, and the truth is worth knowing.

We celebrate Christmas on December 25th because many of the earliest Christians thought that Jesus had been *conceived* in late March or early April. Why did they think that? For two main reasons:

Many early Christian authors thought that Jesus was conceived on Passover, just as he died on Passover. They thought this because of the beautiful parallels between the lambs offered in the Temple at Passover, the one true Lamb offered on the cross, and the coming of the Lamb of God into the world.

Other early Christians thought that Jesus must have been born on the Equinox at the end of March, which was also the traditional date of the creation of the world. Thus God created the world, and recreated it in Christ, on the same day.

From a *conception* in late March comes a *birth* in late December. The earliest Christians might have been wrong or right when they dated Christmas, but they certainly didn't do it to match up with some other pagan holiday.

December 21, 2025  
Fourth Sunday of Advent

	Saturday 4:00pm Mass	Sunday 8:00am Mass	Sunday 10:00am Mass	Sunday 12:00pm Mass
	<b>Dec 27, 2025</b>	<b>Dec 28, 2025</b>	<b>Dec 28, 2025</b>	<b>Dec 28, 2025</b>
<b>Altar Servers</b>	Bianca Cihacek Ellianna Cihacek	Audrey Garst Caroline Reineke Claire Reineke	Carter Rossbund Alyssa Brockelsby Abby Lighthipe	Ben Johnsen Keegan McCaffrey
<b>Lectors</b>	Amy Rallis Jenny Van Soelen	Peter Finn Sean Dunphy	Eric Ely Ed Fink	Mary Bratton Chris Maher
<b>EMHC</b>	Dylies King Eric King Mary Hazen	Jim Havermann Norma Finn	Patty Gantt Mary Brockelsby Jeremy Brockelsby	Trevor Yanovich
<b>Ushers</b>	Jack Gross Linda Bonham Fred Schaben William Stosahl	Mike Ring Velda Ring Russ Goeser Andy Juranek	Nate Noon Mike Nielsen Dan Lighthipe Margine Henry	Chris Olson Trevor Yanovich Rob Peters Mason Olson

## MASS INTENTIONS

**Tuesday, 12/23**

12:00 pm - Roger Wood †

**Wednesday, 12/24**

4:00 pm - Robert Megel †

Christine Fink †

6:00 pm - Linda Schmitt †

**Thursday, 12/25**

8:00 am - Kazambu Constantine †

10:00 am - St Peter's Parish

**Friday, 12/26**

8:00 am - Leopold Mendoza †

**Saturday, 12/27**

4:00 pm - Terry O'Rorke †

Rosanne Doran †

**Sunday, 12/28**

8:00 am - Dorothy Snook †

Brian Rommel †

10:00 am - St Peter's Parish

12:00 pm - Joshua Stange †

## The World According to Bob

- A beloved children's television host is reportedly recovering after years of addiction to doing the hokey pokey. Sources confirm the host has since turned himself around.
- Having a dog named shark at the beach was a mistake.
- You know the bible sys that we come from dust and we return to dust. See that is why I don't dust. It might be somebody we know.
- I run everyday for 15 minutes. If I miss a day I add 15 minutes to the next day. Tis is truly a game changer. Tomorrow I am suppose to run 3 months.

READINGS FOR: December 28, 2025

1ST READING: Sirach 3:2-6, 12-14  
2ND READING: Colossians 3:12-21  
GOSPEL: Matthew 2:13-15, 19-23

**Calling ALL MOMS Of Young Children!**  
YOU ARE INVITED TO A WEEKLY GATHERING!

DID YOU KNOW there is a group for mothers' with young children that started in September? This group of mom's from St Patrick and St Peter's meets every Tuesday from 9:30am-11:00am at the St Francis Worship Center (238th S 6th St.). Join us for fellowship, support, and connection during this season of motherhood. Come for the whole time or just drop in. Childcare is available and provided by the "seasoned" mothers of our parishes.

### Why Join A Mother's Group

- Make new friends
- Become the best mom you can be
- Discover a spiritual program
- Experience community
- Get encouragement
- Learn about your faith
- Be refreshed by prayer

Questions?  
Contact Brittany Seely at 520-373-9748

### Childcare Volunteers Needed

Volunteers interested in helping with the supervision of young children during these gathering are needed. You do not have to commit to every week to volunteer!

If interested contact

Mary Stuhr at mtstuhr4vv@yahoo.com

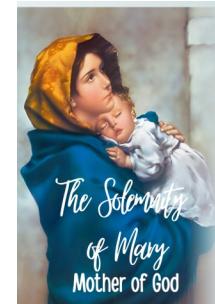
## Christmas

*"For unto us is born a savior... Christ the Lord."*

### Mass Times

Wednesday, Dec 24th | Thursday, Dec 25th  
4:00pm & 6:00pm | 8:00am & 10:00am

A Holy Day of Obligation



### MASS TIMES

Thursday, Jan 1<sup>st</sup>  
8:00am & 10:00am

Wednesday, December 31<sup>st</sup>  
6:00pm Vigil Mass  
11:30pm Candlelight Vigil Mass

A Holy Day of Obligation



Sunday, December 21<sup>st</sup>  
7pm-9pm

St Francis Worship Center, 238 S 6th St.

All High School Youth are invited to a Christmas Movie Night with popcorn, snacks and drinks. Festive Christmas wear is encouraged but not necessary!

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**St Anne's Altar Society**

*Meets the 1<sup>st</sup> Thursday of the month March - December at 6pm in the social hall. All women of the parish over the age of 18 are automatically members.*

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The image contains the Knights of Columbus logo on the left, which is a gold five-pointed star with a blue center containing a golden cross and a golden shield. To the right of the logo, the text "Knights of Columbus" is written in a blue serif font, with "Knights" in a larger size and "of Columbus" in a smaller size. Below this, the contact information is listed: "Donnie Kenkel, CLTC, FIC" on the first line, "Field Agent" on the second line, and "712-579-9066" on the third line. At the bottom of the card, there is a photo of a man with a beard and short hair, wearing a dark suit, white shirt, and a red patterned tie. The background of the card is white.

**St. Joseph Cemetery**

**For peace of mind make  
your arrangements early.**

**Contact Adam Thomas  
712-318-1024**

*A Sacred Place In Harmony  
With Our Catholic Faith*

A woman with long dark hair, wearing a white sweatshirt, is shown from the chest up. She is holding a pregnancy test in her right hand and resting her chin on her left hand, looking down thoughtfully. In the top left corner, the Birthright logo (a stylized 'B' inside a blue square) and the text 'Birthright of Council Bluffs' are displayed. To the right of the woman, the word 'Pregnant?' is written in a large, bold, blue sans-serif font. Below it, the text 'We can help.' is written in a smaller, blue sans-serif font. At the bottom right, there is a globe icon followed by the website address 'birthright.org/councilbluffs' in blue text. The background is a blurred indoor setting.



**Knights of Columbus Council 1045**

Meeting 4<sup>th</sup> Monday of each month at 6pm in the social hall.

If interested in membership contact Sean Dunphy at 402-960-6215 or the parish office at 712-318-3030



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The logo for The Heritage at Fox Run. It features the word "The" in a small, italicized serif font above the word "Heritage" in a large, stylized, italicized serif font. Below "Heritage" is the word "at Fox Run" in a smaller, italicized serif font.

**FINNISHED CONCRETE**  
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**712-310-0249**

The logo for BAIRD, featuring the word "BAIRD" in a bold, white, sans-serif font. The letters are positioned on a dark blue, right-angled triangular background that slopes upwards and to the right, set against a white background.

Want to advertise in our bulletin? Call our Parish Office at 712-318-3030