



MERRY  
*Christmas*

# *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

### **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

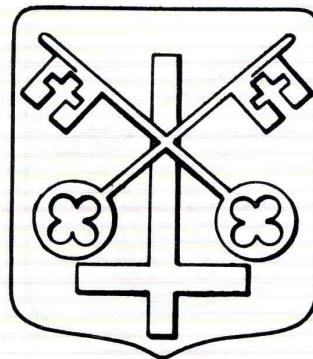
### **Baptisms, Weddings, etc**

Call or email the office!

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

PARISH PHONE NUMBER 712-318-3030

PARISH ROBOCALL NUMBER 1-800-679-0847



### **Save the Date!**

Tuesday, December 31st

Mother of God vigil Mass

6 pm, St Peter's Church

Wednesday, January 1st, 2026

Mother of God Masses

8 am, 10 am, St Peter's Church

Sunday, January 4th

Youth Group

7-9pm, Worship Center

Saturday, January 17th

Youth Group retreat

10am-4pm, Worship Center

From Father Jacob

# Merry Christmas!

I hope you and your families are all having a joyous and very Merry Christmas. We get to celebrate the coming of Jesus Christ in the flesh to save us men and women from Christmas Day until Epiphany on January 4th this year, and an extra week of Christmas season until the Baptism of the Lord on January 11th. I hope to sing every carol, eat every cookie, light every tree, and ask every blessing from the Lord during that time, and I hope you will too!

## The Christmas Season

Our Christmas season is full of special celebrations! This Sunday during “the Octave” of Christmas (the week after Christmas day) is dedicated to the **Holy Family**. On January 1st we close out the week of Christmas festivities with the feast of **Mary, the Mother of God**. But the Christmas season continues on for two more weeks! The next Sunday here in America we celebrate **Epiphany** (which in the rest of the world is on January 6th, *12 days* after Christmas day—hence the song). The Sunday after that we celebrate the **Baptism of the Lord**, which is the end of the Christmas season.

Most of us will go back to our ordinary schedules long before January 11th, but I hope you’ll continue to celebrate in at least some way the very great good news that, in Jesus Christ, God came to rescue us as Emmanuel-God with us!



## Holy Family, holy families

Sometimes the Holy Family can strike us as unapproachable. After all, two of its members (Jesus and Mary) are untouched by any stain of sin, and the other (Joseph) never says a word in all of Scripture. It can seem at first blush like that family is nothing like my family: maybe they are nice to pray to, and certainly they look great in a nativity set, but they’re not very relevant to me and my home. But this is not so! Let’s understand what really made the Holy Family to be holy.

The Holy Family is holy because it was a family gathered around Jesus.

Being a family gathered around Jesus is not something distant or remote. That is something your family can have as well, and to the extent that we do that, each of our families will also be holy. It is Jesus that makes holiness, after all.

## How can our family have Jesus at the center?

Lots of ways! A first and most important step to help us have Jesus at the center of our families is to pray together.

That could look like learning prayers with the little ones before bed, or sharing blessings and prayer intentions every evening or every week with older kids. Maybe it looks like praying the rosary together, or having a holy hour or daily Mass scheduled as a couple once a week.

This week Tom Schmitt will present at Masses about a devotion our parish has agreed to promote of prayer to the Holy Family specifically for the family: for our individual families, for our parish and community, and for all families. What a beautiful opportunity to entrust our families to the Holy Family, and to grow as a family by praying together! I hope you’ll take a holy card home with you and join me in praying for families everywhere.

December 28, 2025  
Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph

	Saturday 4:00pm Mass	Sunday 8:00am Mass	Sunday 10:00am Mass	Sunday 12:00pm Mass
	Jan 3, 2026	Jan 4, 2026	Jan 4, 2026	Jan 4, 2026
<b>Altar Servers</b>	Nicolas Moses Parker Moses Cooper Moses	Jack Veit Evan Veit Noah Smith	Abby Lighthipe Charlotte Noon Ali Hamilton	Mason Olson Emma Thompson
<b>Lectors</b>	Jim Beck Rod Nuss	Tyler Juranek Landon Poss	Ed Fink Kyla Brockelsby	Cindy Bussey Susan Lorkovic
<b>EMHC</b>	Toni Hansen Jacque Liston Lucile Gerjevic	Mary Novotne Debbie Foote	Jon Garrigan Maureen Garrigan Jennifer Lighthipe	Andrea Barnes
<b>Ushers</b>	Jack Gross Linda Bonham Fred Schaben Mark Assman	Sue Brownlee Russ Goeser Gary Juranek Andy Juranek	Dave Bristol Bryan Carolus Jill Clevenger Peter Clevenger	Chris Olson Trevor Yanovich Rob Peters Chris Maher

**MASS INTENTIONS**

**Tuesday, 12/30**

12:00 pm - Christine Fink †

**Wednesday, 12/31**

6:00 pm - William Epperson †

11:30pm - Tom & Kim Olson †

**Thursday, 01/01**

8:00 am - Craig Suden †

10:00 am - St Peter's Parish

**Friday, 01/02**

8:00 am - Mary Sturm †

**Saturday, 01/03**

4:00 pm - St Peter's Parish

**Sunday, 01/04**

8:00 am - Kenneth Finnegan †

10:00 am - Deceased Members of the Knights of Columbus

12:00 pm - Dave Schnitker



Sunday, January 4<sup>th</sup>  
7pm-9pm  
St Francis Worship Center, 238 S 6<sup>th</sup> St.

**READINGS FOR: January 4, 2026**

1ST READING: Isaiah 60:1-6

2ND READING: Ephesians 3:2-3a, 5-6

GOSPEL: Matthew 2:1-12

**The World According to Bob**

- What did the three wise men say after they offered their gifts of gold and frankincense ? "But wait, there's myrrh! "
- You can turn any sofa into a sofa bed by telling your wife to calm down.
- And the Lord said unto John, come forth, and ye shall receive eternal life. But John came 5th and got a toaster.

**Happy New Year!**

The parish office will be closed Wednesday, December 31<sup>st</sup> and will reopen on Monday, January 5th



**MASS TIMES**

Wednesday, December 31st  
6:00pm Vigil Mass  
11:30pm Candlelight Vigil Mass

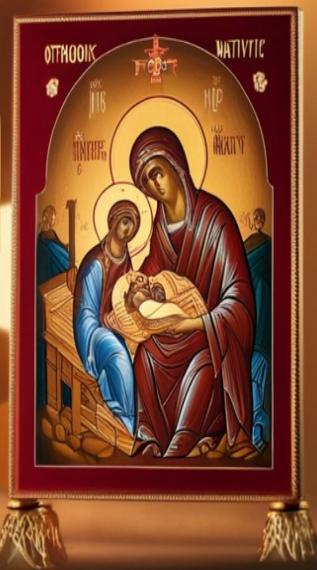
Thursday, Jan 1<sup>st</sup>  
8:00am & 10:00am

A Holy Day of Obligation

*Solemnity of Mary,  
The Holy Mother Of God*

Join us at St Peter's Church on Wednesday, December 31<sup>st</sup> at 11:30pm for a Candlelight Mass for the Solemnity of Mary, The Holy Mother Of God.

Come Ring In The New Year With The Lord!



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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.*

**Unleashed Relief**  
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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.  
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**712-318-1024**  
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With Our Catholic Faith*

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**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

**M & R WELDING**  
119 South 28th Street, Council Bluffs  
Office: 712-322-5342, Fax: 712-256-0038  
**Rick Rosas-Lupe Rosas**

The image is a business card for the Judd Knispel Agency. It features the State Farm logo with three red ovals on the left. To the right of the ovals, the word "State" is in a smaller, bold, red font, and "Farm" is in a larger, bold, red font. Below "Farm" is a registered trademark symbol (®). Underneath "State Farm" is the text "Judd Knispel Agency" in a smaller, italicized, red font. Below the agency name is the phone number "712-325-0256" in a large, bold, red font. At the bottom of the card is the word "Auto" followed by a vertical bar, then "Home", "Life", "Business", and "Health" separated by vertical bars, all in a red font.

The logo for The Heritage at Fox Run. It features the word "The" in a small, black, serif font above a large, stylized, black, cursive "H". To the right of the "H", the word "Heritage" is written in a large, black, serif font. Below "Heritage", the words "at Fox Run" are written in a smaller, black, serif font.

**FINNISHED CONCRETE**  
**PETER FINN, PARISHIONER**  
**712-310-0249**

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

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

# FULLY ALIVE

YOUTH GROUP



INVITES ALL YOUNG DISCIPLES GRADES 9-12 TO OUR RETREAT

## Come and find your identity in Christ

Sin separates us from God's love, distorting our understanding of our identity as His beloved children. Through baptism and the Holy Spirit dwelling in us, we are freed from our slavery to sin. This gives us the freedom to know, love, and serve God in this life and to remain with Him forever in Heaven.

**Saturday January 17th**

**10am-4pm**

**St. Francis Worship Center**

**238 S 6th St**

**Lunch and snacks provided**

**Scan the QR code to register BY Jan 10th**



Questions?  
Contact: Kendall  
[faithformation@corpuschristiia.com](mailto:faithformation@corpuschristiia.com)

