

NEWSLETTER

St. Peter's Italian Catholic Church

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Dear parishioners and friends,

At Christmas the announcing angel revealed to the fearful and startled shepherds **"good news of great joy"**: the birth in Bethlehem of a Child who is **"Christ the Lord"**. The heavenly host responded by bursting into songs of praise, glorifying God in heaven, and announcing God's peace and favor on earth.

The revelation of this birth this Christmas calls forth from us a joyful rejoicing, which unites our voices with the song of the heavenly host. This birth is not simply what happens to the Divine Son. His taking on our human nature makes us join all God's creatures to sing a chorus of endless **"Glory to God in the highest"** with a grateful response.

This response is possible because the Spirit overshadows us at our baptism and the Child Jesus is given birth within us also. Every time we are faithful to our baptismal promises, every time we choose God's will over our own, new life wells up within us. By becoming more and more aware that dying to self brings new life, we grow ever more capable of singing God's glory and praise by every action of our lives.

Christmas brings out the best in us: we hear God's revelation of salvation and we respond with glory and praise. The real challenge is to carry the joy of Jesus' birth beyond Christmas into our whole year.

Each time we respond to God and conform our own will to His, Christmas happens. Each time we reach out to those in need, Christmas happens. Each time we take time to be present to another, Christmas happens. In countless simple acts of putting others ahead of ourselves, we lift ourselves to join in the song of the heavenly host, that unceasing chorus of praise: **"Glory to God in the highest"**.

Fr. Esvin Marroquin, our new associate pastor, and I are very grateful for the generous support that assures the continuation and growth of the activities that enrich our Italian and multiethnic parish, including the outreach program: every day 100-150 Homeless are fed with a hot meal: the spirit of Christmas lives on.

With the enclosed calendar we **wish you the peace and joy of Christmas**. We invite you to celebrate Christmas with us at St. Peter with a warm embrace of gratitude.

Christmas Masses in Our Church

Christmas Midnight Mass

Monday, December 24; 11:00 pm

Singing of Christmas Carols

Mass begins at Midnight with

Procession and Jesus' Birth

Christmas Day

Tuesday, December 25

9:30 am (English) and 11:00 am (Italian)

No Evening Mass

Fr. Raniero Alessandrini, c.s., Pastor

Fr. Esvin Marroquin, c.s., Associate

2008 DATES TO REMEMBER

Saturday, February 9

**Valentine Dinner Dance
And Crowning of the Parish Queen**
5:00 pm Mass & Crowning
6:00 pm Dinner Dance

February 10

World Marriage Day
Renewal of Marriage Vows; 11:00 Mass

Sunday, March 2

**Opera Thomas's "Mignon"
& Leoncavallo's "Pagliacci"**
Dinner 2:30 pm; Opera 4:30 pm

Sunday, March 9

Feast of Madonna di Costantinopoli
Mass 11:00 am; Procession follows
Dinner Dance 1:00 pm

Mon. Tues. & Wed., March 17, 18 & 19

Feast of St. Joseph
Mass 11:00 am each day
Blessing of the St. Joseph Table
at noon. Complimentary spaghetti
served each day noon to 8:00 pm

Thursday, March 20

Holy Thursday
Mass of the Last Supper 7:00 pm
Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament
until midnight.

Friday, March 21

Good Friday
Way of the Cross 3:00 pm
Liturgical Services 7:00 pm
Adoration of the Cross

Saturday, March 22

Holy Saturday
Confessions 10:00 am– 12:00 pm
Liturgical Services 7:30 pm

Sunday, March 23

Easter Sunday
Masses: 9:30 am (English); 11:00 am
(Italian); 6:00 pm (English)

Sunday, March 30

Feast of Madonna Della Stella
Mass 11:00 am; Procession follows;
Dinner Dance 1:00 pm

Saturday, April 26

**Seminary Fund Raiser Banquet
Scalabrini Discernment House**
Mass 5:00 pm; Banquet 6:00 pm

Sunday, June 1

**Opera Verdi's
"La Forza del Destino"**
Dinner 2:30 pm; Opera 4:30 pm

Sunday, June 8

Feast of St. Anthony of Padua
Mass 11:00 am; Procession follows;
Dinner Dance 1:00 pm

Sunday, June 29

Feast of Sacred Heart of Jesus
Mass 11:00 am
Dinner Dance 1:00 pm

Sunday, July 13

Feast of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel
Mass 11:00 am; Reception following

Sunday, September 7

**Opera Verdi's
"La Traviata"**
Dinner 2:30 pm; Opera 4:30 pm

Sunday, September 21

Padre Pio Celebration
Mass: 11:00 am, Dinner-Dance 1:00 pm

Sunday, November 2

Opera, Gounod's "Faust"
Dinner 2:30 pm; Opera 4:30 pm

Sunday, November 9

Feast of San Trifone
Mass 11:00 am; Procession follows;
Dinner Dance 1:00 pm

Friday, November 14

Crab Fest benefiting St. Peter's
Dinner 6:30 pm

Sunday, November 16

**Small Feast of Madonna di
Costantinopoli**
Mass 11:00 am; Dinner Dance 1:00 pm

Sunday, November 23

Famiglia Sacro Cuore
Opening of the Holiday Season;
Dinner Dance 6:30 pm

Sunday, December 14

Feast of Santa Lucia
Mass 11:00 am;
Dinner Dance 1:00 pm

Thursday, December 25

Christmas Day
Midnight Mass
9:30 am (English); 11:00 am (Italian)
NO EVENING MASS

Wednesday, December 31

New Year's Eve Gala Dinner Dance
6:30 pm Join us as we bring in
the New Year.

**Reservations for the above listed events can be made by calling the Church office,
Monday thru Friday, 8:30 am – 3:30 pm
Phone: 323-225-8119, ext. 10**

Reflections from Mother Theresa with Christmas Best Wishes

- I am not sure exactly what Heaven will be like, but I do know that when we died it comes time for God to judge us. He will not ask how many good things we have done in our life; rather, He will ask, "how much love did you put into what you did?"
- Do not think that love, in order to be genuine, has to be extraordinary. What we need is to love without getting tired.
- Sometime we feel that what we are doing is just a drop in the ocean. But the ocean would be less because of that missing drop.