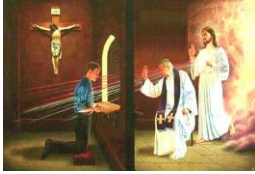




Fourth Sunday of Advent – December 18, 2016



The Final Preparation



Dear Friends,

As we close in on the great feast of Jesus' birth, we must "make straight the way of the Lord!" In other words, we have to make our final and most important preparation for Christmas: a good confession. This will enable us to receive the fullness of grace when we receive Holy Communion at our Christmas Mass.

Sometimes we are a little reluctant to go to confession. On a human level, it can be a daunting task. Pope Francis says, "Don't be afraid of confession." Unconfessed sin has a way of eventually destroying our souls. That's why Jesus gave us this sacrament and empowered his apostles to forgive sins in his name.

Pope Francis said that he knows that some might say to him, "but I am ashamed." The Holy Father responds that, "Shame is good, it's healthy to have a bit of shame, because shame makes us more humble... Sometimes when you're in line for confession you feel all sorts of things, especially shame, but when your confession is over, you leave free, feeling great, beautiful, forgiven, clean, happy - this is what's beautiful about confession."

We have increased our confession times at the end of Advent to enable you to make this last and greatest preparation for Christmas. Please see the schedule on the next page and the examination of conscience to the right of this column. The God of mercy waits for you. He wants you to know the true joy of Christmas, where one can have a heart full of light. Take advantage of this moment. It will be worth more to you than any other preparation you may make for Christmas.

With prayers and blessings,

Fr. Tim Byerley
Pastor

An Examination of Conscience

- 1. I am the Lord your God. You shall not have strange gods before Me.**
 - Do I seek to love God with my whole heart and soul? Does He truly hold the first place in my life?
 - Have I been involved with the occult or superstitious practices?
 - Have I ever received Holy Communion in the state of mortal sin?
 - Have I told a lie in confession or deliberately withheld confessing a mortal sin?
- 2. You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain.**
 - Have I insulted God's holy name or used it lightly or carelessly?
 - Have I wished evil on anyone?
- 3. Remember to keep holy the Lord's day.**
 - Have I missed Mass deliberately on Sunday, the Lord's Day, or on Holy Days of obligation?
 - Do I try to keep Sunday as a day of rest?
- 4. Honor your father and your mother.**
 - Do I honor and obey my parents? Do I care for them in their old age?
 - Have I neglected my family responsibilities to spouse and children?
 - Is my family life centered around Christ and his teaching?
- 5. You shall not kill.**
 - Have I murdered or physically harmed anyone?
 - Have I had an abortion? Have I encouraged an abortion?
 - Have I abused drugs or alcohol?
 - Have I mutilated myself through any form of sterilization?
 - Have I encouraged others to have themselves sterilized?
 - Have I harbored hatred, anger or resentment in my heart towards anyone?
 - Have I given scandal to anyone by my sins, thereby leading them to sin?

6. You shall not commit adultery.

- Have I been unfaithful to my marriage vows in action or thought?
- Have I practiced any form of contraception in my marriage?
- Have I used fertility treatments condemned by the Church?
- Have I been engaged in sexual activity with a member of the opposite sex or the same sex?
- Have I masturbated?
- Have I indulged in pornographic material?
- Am I pure in my thoughts, words, actions? Am I modest in dress?
- Am I engaged in any inappropriate relationships?

7. You shall not steal.

- Have I taken what is not mine?
- Am I honest with my employer/employee?
- Do I gamble excessively, thereby robbing my family of their needs?
- Do I seek to share what I have with the poor and needy?

8. You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.

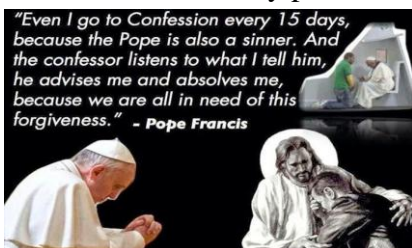
- Have I lied, gossiped or spoken behind anyone's back?
- Have I ruined anyone's good name?
- Do I reveal information that should be confidential?
- Am I sincere in my dealings with others or am I "two-faced?"

9. You shall not desire your neighbor's wife.

- Am I envious of another's spouse or family?
- Have I consented to impure thoughts?
- Do I try to control my imagination?
- Am I reckless and irresponsible in the books I read and the movies I watch?

10. You shall not desire your neighbor's goods.

- Am I envious of the possessions of others?
- Am I resentful about my position in life?



2016 Christmas Schedule 2016
SACRAMENT OF PENANCE

Monday, December 19th
7:00 PM to 8:00 PM

Tuesday, December 20th
9:30 AM to 10:30 AM
7:00 PM to 8:00 PM

NO CONFESSIONS ON
CHRISTMAS EVE, DECEMBER 24th

CHRISTMAS MASSES

Saturday, December 24, 2016 (Christmas Eve)

4:00 PM

6:00 PM (Children's Mass with Nativity Pageant)

8:00 PM

11:30 PM (Christmas Music and Carols)

Solemn Mass at Midnight
(Choir and Orchestra)

Sunday, December 25, 2016 (Christmas Day)

7:30 AM, 9:00 AM and 10:30 AM

12:00 Noon (Traditional Latin Mass – Missa Cantata)

NO EVENING MASS CHRISTMAS DAY

2017 New Year's Schedule 2017
SOLEMNITY OF MARY, MOTHER OF GOD

Saturday, December 31, 2016

SACRAMENT OF PENANCE

4:00 PM to 5:00 PM

NO CONFESSIONS 7:30 PM – 8:00 PM

NEW YEAR'S EVE, DECEMBER 31st

MASSES

5:00 PM (Vigil)

Sunday, January 1, 2017

7:30 AM, 9:00 AM and 10:30 AM

12:00 Noon (Traditional Latin Mass – Missa Cantata)

NO EVENING MASS NEW YEAR'S DAY



Mass
Intentions

**Mass Celebrant Code:*

TB = Fr. Tim Byerley – LEP = Fr. Larry Polansky

Intentions:	Requested by:	*Mass Celebrant
Monday, December 19th		
6:45 AM Kathleen Pedrick	Karen & John Dunn	LEP
9:00 AM Giovanni & Grazia Silvestri	Son, Umberto & Family	TB
Tuesday, December 20th		
6:45 AM Paul T. Naidas	Father & Family	LEP
9:00 AM Thomas & Marie Rabbittino	Sal Iaconelli	TB
Wednesday, December 21st		
6:45 AM Dec. Mbrs. of Rorke & Casper Families	Estate	LEP
9:00 AM Alfred Assaiaante	A Friend	LEP
Thursday, December 22nd		
6:45 AM James R. & Anne M. Flynn	Estate	LEP
9:00 AM Joe Catani	His Children	TB
Friday, December 23rd		
6:45 AM Helen Canaris	Chillem Family	TB
9:00 AM Ronald R. Smith	Rachel, Barbara & Denna	TB
Saturday, December 24th		
9:00 AM Iris Twelbeck	Elda Ranken	TB
4:00 PM Richard Stewart	Mary Ellen & Family	LEP
6:00 PM Jason Romero	Mom & Dad	TB
8:00 PM Anthony & Lena Pizzotti	Dorofee Grandchildren	LEP
Midnight Deceased & Living Members and their Families of St. Peter Parish		TB/LEP
Sunday, December 25th – The Nativity of the Lord - Solemnity		
7:30 AM Joan Walls	Guetens Family	LEP
9:00 AM Jose Chevere	Family	TB
10:30 AM Lee & Joe Catani	Their Children	TB
Rita & Francis Walker	Family	TB
Charlotte M. Croci	Estate	TB
Intentions of Chiogu Aghagi	Family	TB
Charles E. Ferrone	Judith & David Wolfe	TB
12 Noon Parishioners of St. Peter Parish		LEP

NO 7:00 PM MASS

Sanctuary Lamp in the Church

The Sanctuary Lamp will burn in Memory of Vito Gallicchio the week of December 18th – December 24th requested by his Wife and Family.



Sanctuary Lamp in the Chapel

The Sanctuary Lamp will burn in Memory of Diane Fesko the week of December 18th – December 24th requested by her Mom and Family.

Sanctuary Lamp in the Convent Chapel

The Sanctuary Lamp will burn for the Holy Souls in Purgatory the week of December 18th – December 24th requested by A Parishioner.

Father's **Q**uick **Q**uote: "Christmas is not a time nor a season, but a state of mind. To cherish peace and goodwill, to be plenteous in mercy, is to have the real spirit of Christmas."

~ Calvin Coolidge

January 2017						
SPC Priest Calendar - 05		February 2017 ►				
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 New Year's Day 7:30a – TB 9a – LEP 10:30a – TB 12 (Latin) – LEP No 7p Mass	2 6:45a – LEP 9a – TB 7p (Novena) – LEP	3 6:45a – LEP 9a – TB	4 6:45a – LEP 9a – LEP	5 6:45a – LEP 9a – TB	6 6:45a – TB 9a – TB	7 9a – LEP 4p (Confession) – TB / LEP 5p – LEP 7:30p (Confession) – TB / LEP
8 7:30a – LEP 9a – TB 10:30a – TB 12 (Latin) – LEP 1:45p (Baptism) – TB 7p – TB	9 6:45a – TB 9a – EL 7p (Novena) – TB	10 6:45a – TB 9a – EL	11 6:45a – TB 9a – EL	12 6:45a – TB 9a – EL	13 6:45a – TB 9a – EL	14 9a – EL 4p (Confession) – TB 5p – TB 7:30p (Confession) – TB
15 7:30a – TB 9a – TB 10:30a – RM 12 (Latin) – RM 1:45p (Baptism) – TB 7p – TB	16 6:45a – TB 9a – JD 7p (Novena) – MS	17 6:45a – TB 9a – JD	18 6:45a – TB 9a – JD	19 6:45a – TB 9a – JD	20 6:45a – TB 9a – JD	21 9a – TB 4p (Confession) – TB / LEP 5p – LEP 7:30p (Confession) – TB / LEP
22 7:30a – LEP 9a – TB 10:30a – TB 12 (Latin) – LEP 1:45p (Baptism) – LEP 7p – LEP	23 6:45a – LEP 9a – TB 7p (Novena) – TB 8p (Baptism Prep) – LEP	24 6:45a – LEP 9a – TB	25 6:45a – LEP 9a – LEP	26 6:45a – LEP 9a – TB	27 6:45a – TB 9a – TB	28 9a – LEP 4p (Confession) – TB / LEP 5p – TB 7:30p (Confession) – TB / LEP
29 7:30a – TB 9a – LEP 10:30a – TB 12 (Latin) – LEP 1:45p (Baptism) – LEP 7p – LEP	30 6:45a – TB 9a – LEP 7p (Novena) – MS	31 6:45a – TB 9a – LEP	Notes: TB = Fr. Tim Byerley JD = Fr. Jim Durkin EL = Fr. Ed Lipinski RM = Fr. Ronan Murphy LEP = Fr. Larry Polansky MS = Deacon Mike Scott			

PLEASE NOTE:

There will be **NO** Miraculous Medal Novena on
Monday, December 19th
and
Monday, December 26th
Please say the Novena Prayers privately.

Weekly Readings



Sunday, December 18th

Fourth Sunday of Advent

First: Isaiah 7:10-14
Second: Romans 1:1-7
Gospel: Matthew 1:18-24

Monday, December 19th

First: Judges 13:2-7, 24-25a
Gospel: Luke 1:5-25

Tuesday, December 20th

First: Isaiah 7:10-14
Gospel: Luke 1:26-38

Wednesday, December 21st

St. Peter Canisius, Priest & Doctor of the Church

First: Song of Songs 2:8-14 or
Zephaniah 3:14-18a
Gospel: Luke 1:39-45

Thursday, December 22nd

First: 1 Samuel 1:24-28
Gospel: Luke 1:46-56

Friday, December 23rd

St. John of Kanty, Priest

First: Malachi 3:1-4, 23-24
Gospel: Luke 1:57-66

Saturday, December 24th

First: 2 Samuel 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16
Gospel: Luke 1:67-79

The Nativity of the Lord – Solemnity

Vigil Mass

First: Isaiah 62:1-5
Second: Acts 13:16-17, 22-25
Gospel: Matthew 1:1-25 or 1:18-25

Midnight Mass

First: Isaiah 9:1-6
Second: Titus 2:11-14
Gospel: Luke 2:1-14

Sunday, December 25th

The Nativity of the Lord – Solemnity

Mass During the Day

First: Isaiah 52:7-10
Second: Hebrews 1:1-6
Gospel: John 1:1-18 or 1:1-15, 9-14

Parish Weekly Offerings

First Collection Total for the weekend of December 10th – December 11th was **\$17,068.73**. Second Collection (Religious Retirement which is sent directly to the Diocese) was **\$4,121.32**.

Collection for the Feast of the Immaculate Conception was **\$3,967.50**.

Thank you for building up God's Kingdom in our Parish!

Parish Sick List



Please call the Rectory @ 856-663-1373 to add a loved one to the list. *You are kindly asked to inform the person that their name will appear in the Bulletin.* Joan Anders, Joyce Bailey, Marilyn Ballotta, Vincent Barone, Bernadette Bierbach, Pam Boyle, Lecetta Brown, Barbara Brownholtz, Eva Burgess, Johnson Tan Co, Matt Curley, Mr. & Mrs. Daily, Ray Dick, Harry DiNardo, John Edelmayer, Caridad Garcia, Jackie Gedraitis, James Genzano, Anita Glick, Louis Grosso, Donna Hartman-Maglio, Elizabeth Hernandez, Ching-An Hsu, Ching-Tzu Hsu, Hailey Hunt, Joe Junikka, Maryann Kearney, Jean Kisiel, Irving Lamb, Jr., Christina McNasby, Mary McNulty, Douglas Meyers, Mary Moran, Carmel Naples, Marilyn Ott, Frank Pedano, Joan Reilly, Mildred Rivera, Jose Rodriguez, Geraldine Rooney, Lindsay Rooney, Roger Seri, Eleanor Skarzynski, Sandra Smith, Mark Stevens, Dave Taggart, Joe Teti, Stephen Tiver, Jr., Bonnie Tumminia, Russell Wheeler, Robert Winkler, Nancy Wolfer-Davies, Andrea Young, Jimmy Chiong Yu.

May God heal them in mind, body and spirit!

Thank you for your prayers for our sick and shut-ins.

PLEASE NOTE: You are asked to call the Rectory @ 856-663-1373 when your loved one has recovered!

Adoration Chapel



You are cordially invited to come and spend an hour a week in adoration of Our Lord in the Adoration Chapel!

24 hours a day! Pick your hour!

Jesus asked His Apostles,

“Could you not watch one hour with Me?”

He is asking all of us the same question today.

Won't you say “Yes” to Him?

All hours are available most especially:

Mondays ~ 6:00 PM – 7:00 PM

Fridays ~ 7:00 PM – 8:00 PM

Call Flora @ 665-4833 or Ben @ 662-4338

to schedule your hour.

Intercessory Rosary Group

Meets the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of each month
@ 3:00 PM in the Convent Chapel.

CHRISTMAS FLOWERS



If you would like to donate for Christmas flowers for the altar in memory of a deceased loved one, please fill out the form below, place it in an envelope marked “Christmas Flowers” and drop it in the Collection Basket. You may also use the envelope you received in the Christmas mailing.

CHRISTMAS FLOWERS DONATION
IN MEMORY OF:

REQUESTED BY:

AMOUNT: _____

The Rectory Office will be closed on:
Friday, December 23rd
 and
Monday, December 26th
Merry Christmas!

Oplatki Available in Sacristy

Again, this year, we are happy to offer oplatki (oh-pwah-key) (wafers) to our Parishioners who may want to incorporate this Polish custom into their Christmas Eve Dinner (Wigilia). Please stop in the Sacristy after Mass this weekend for your packet of oplatki and an explanation of the tradition. Oplatki will also be available at the Rectory.

Upcoming Baptismal Classes



TOMORROW - Monday, December 19th
Monday, January 23rd

All classes begin at 8:00 PM in the Senior Center.

You may schedule the Baptismal date at the class.

Please call the Rectory @ 856-663-1373 to register for a class so that we have adequate materials. Godparents are welcome, if able to attend. Both parents are encouraged to attend the class and children are also welcome.



TODAY - Sunday - December 18th
3:00 PM in Church



Free Admission

Our Parish Choir, Youth Choir and Latin Schola will be joined by members of the Atlantic Brass Band to present this year's Christmas Concert.

Take a break from the hustle and bustle of the season and get in touch with Jesus Who is the Reason for the Season!

Invite your family, neighbors and friends.

All are welcome!



School News



Thank You

The St. Peter School PTA would like to thank everyone who came to the Christmas Bazaar. Once again it was a great success! We wish to thank all those who worked so hard to make this event happen:

The Knights of Columbus for the delicious food especially Tony Presenza, Reese DeFeo and Carla Hughes for her chili. Our Silent Auction Coordinators – Tina Deiwert, Roe Napoli and Jen Dolan. Our Secret Santa Elves – Denise Wackes and Melanie O'Connor. Our Bake Sale Coordinators - Tina Belz and Helene McGowan. Our Kiddie Carnival Coordinators – Andrea Cosello and Geneen McQuaid. Our Vendor/Craft Table Coordinator – Krista Dougherty. Our Fabulous Photographer – Kathy O'Callaghan and her elf; Marylou Kenny. Christmas Bazaar Chairs – Roe Napoli and Tina Deiwert. We would also like to thank Mrs. Young for making all the beautiful ribbons for our auctions baskets, Christine Wabs for the fantastic decorations and Mr. Hamburger for helping the students with the tree ornaments!

Special thanks to **everyone** who donated his or her time to this event - without you the Bazaar would not happen! We also want to thank all the parents who so generously donated to the Silent Auction making each class basket a great success. Thanks also to all of the businesses and parishioners who donated. Once again the Silent Auction was fabulous! Please remember to patronize the local establishments who donated to our Silent Auction.

A complete list follows:

Abbott Religious Goods, All Fired Up, Amy's Omelette House, Applebee's, Bobby Ray's, Camden Catholic HS, Carl's Shoes, Color Me Mine, Community Sports Shop, Crayola Factory, Custom Travel, Enchanted Dreams, Flynn and O'Hara Uniform Co., Gaskill Brown Funeral Home, Garden State Discovery Museum, Grand Lux Café, Hathaway's / SweetWater Bar, Houlihan's, J&J Snack Foods, Johnson's Corner Farm, Kaminski's Bar and Grill, Kids Kuts, Kresson Golf Course, L&M Bakery, La Moda Nail and Spa, Laurel Lanes Bowling Center, McFarlan's Market, Mealy's Furniture, Montegrillo's, Paul IV, Penn Queen, Pennsauken Country Club, Philadelphia Museum of Art, Philadelphia Phillies, Pinsetters, PJ Whelihan's, Playdrome Bowling, Sesame Place, Six Flags Great Adventure, Smart Bodies, Steak 38, The 45th St. Pub, The Cheesecake Factory, The Pub, Top Tier Guitar Studio / DeMarco Dance Center, Tortilla Press Cantina, Applebees, Disney, Picaboo Photos and Wegmans. Special Thanks to the Families and Individuals who Donated Merritt Family, Casey Family, Dorothy Deiwert, Barsocchi Family, Theresa Hinchman, SPS PTA, Debbie Young and SPS Track.

Community News



Joy is the True Gift of Christmas

"Joy is the true gift of Christmas, not the expensive gifts that call for time and money. We can communicate this joy simply with a smile, a kind gesture, a little help, forgiveness."

Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI

Knights of Columbus

March For Life - Washington D.C.

The March for Life in Washington D.C. is Friday, January 27, 2017. The Knights of Columbus will be sponsoring a bus for those who would like to participate in the March for Life event. Please contact Jim Kenney (856) 320-2875 jpkenny3@gmail.com or John McDonnell (856) 910-8383 john.mcdonnell@verizon.net, to reserve a seat.



Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!
WEDNESDAY EVENINGS!

Bingo will resume on
Wednesday, January 4th

Doors open at 5:30 PM. BINGO starts at 7:00 PM.

Food available for purchase beginning at 5:30 PM.

NO admission allowed after 7:05 PM.

Admission is \$3 & includes cards for 7 regular games.

Thank you for supporting our Bingo!

LIKE US ON FACEBOOK: BINGO at Saint Peter's

Service Dates for Bingo Teams

January 4th – Team A



Join us as we study the Book of James. This 11-part DVD based bible study is presented by Jeff Cavins. The Book of James is a collection of teachings on issues

faced in everyday life. It offers a wealth of practical solutions for anyone who has struggled to live a truly Christian life. This bible study will be facilitated by Paul and Cheryl Foti on **Monday evenings from 7 PM to 8:30 PM** in the St. Peter Senior Center unless as noted below. No registration fee is required. Call Kevin Bailey @ [856-596-0337](tel:856-596-0337) if you have any questions. The dates for this bible study are: Jan 9, Jan 16, Jan 23*, Jan 30, Feb 6, Feb 13, Mar 6, Mar 13, Mar 27*

* Meet in the Church Basement

"Big Bucks" Raffle Tickets



AVAILABLE EVERY WEEKEND!

\$25,000 Grand Prize*

Plus 99 other Prizes!

*Prizes based on sale of all 3,000 tickets

Just in time for Christmas gifts, stocking stuffers and those last minute host/hostess gifts!

Stop by Pastors' Hall to purchase your tickets after **ALL** weekend Masses!

Tickets are also available at the Rectory!

Should you have any questions about the Raffle, please contact Paul K. Conti, Jr. @ 1-856-905-7040 or pkc.thegeneral@gmail.com.

Service Schedule

Extraordinary Ministers for December 24th – 25th

4:00 PM	S. Novella, P. Bilinsky, F. Sass
6:00 PM	K. O'Callaghan, M. O'Callaghan, J. Dymond, D. Montes, K. Burns
8:00 PM	J. Foster
Midnight	M. D'Amico
7:30 AM	C. Aghaji, N. Perry, K. Bailey
9:00 AM	F. Sinatra, B. Kwiatkowski, M. Ralbusky
10:30 AM	K. Bailey, J. Szczepanski, J. German, T. Taylor, J. Clarke
12:00 Noon	TRADITIONAL LATIN MASS
7:00 PM	NO 7:00 PM MASS

Lectors for December 24th – 25th

4:00 PM	K. McConnell & E. Valenti
6:00 PM	T. Crymes & A. Marinelli
8:00 PM	J. Coyle & M. Coyle
Midnight	M. Pascale & M. Deluhery
7:30 AM	P. Leone & C. Leone
9:00 AM	C. McCleran & J. Chevere
10:30 AM	C. Petrowsky & W. Hartman
12:00 Noon	TRADITIONAL LATIN MASS
7:00 PM	NO 7:00 PM MASS

Altar Servers for December 24th – 25th SPECIAL SCHEDULE WILL BE MAILED.

Altar Servers for the Week of December 26th

Monday – Tuesday – Wednesday*

6:45 AM	L. O'Neill & M. Wabs
9:00 AM	M. Fisher & G. McGovern

Monday Night Novena
NO NOVENA

Thursday – Friday – Saturday

6:45 AM	L. Kenney & G. Fowler
9:00 AM	I. McWilliams & A. Hughes

Readings for the Fourth Sunday of Advent - December 18, 2016

TLM – Fourth Sunday of Advent – 1st Class



Reading I – Isaiah 7:10-14

The LORD spoke to Ahaz, saying: Ask for a sign from the LORD, your God; let it be deep as the netherworld, or high as the sky! But Ahaz answered, “I will not ask! I will not tempt the LORD!” Then Isaiah said: Listen, O house of David! Is it not enough for you to weary people, must you also weary my God? Therefore the Lord himself will give you this sign: the virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall name him Emmanuel.

Responsorial Psalm – Psalm 24:1-2, 3-4, 5-6

R. Let the Lord enter; He is king of glory.

The LORD’s are the earth and its fullness; the world and those who dwell in it.
For he founded it upon the seas and established it upon the rivers.

R. Let the Lord enter; He is king of glory.

Who can ascend the mountain of the LORD? or who may stand in his holy place?
One whose hands are sinless, whose heart is clean, who desires not what is vain.

R. Let the Lord enter; He is king of glory.

He shall receive a blessing from the LORD, a reward from God his savior. Such is the race that seeks for him, that seeks the face of the God of Jacob.

R. Let the Lord enter; He is king of glory.

Reading II – Romans 1:1-7

Paul, a slave of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle and set apart for the gospel of God, which he promised previously through his prophets in the holy Scriptures, the gospel about his Son, descended from David according to the flesh, but established as Son of God in power according to the Spirit of holiness through resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord. Through him we have received the grace of apostleship, to bring about the obedience of faith, for the sake of his name, among all the Gentiles, among whom are you also, who are called to belong to Jesus Christ; to all the beloved of God in Rome, called to be holy. Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Gospel – Matthew 1:18-24

This is how the birth of Jesus Christ came about. When his mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found with child through the Holy Spirit. Joseph her husband, since he was a righteous man, yet unwilling to expose her to shame, decided to divorce her quietly. Such was his intention when, behold, the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, “Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary your wife into your home. For it is through the Holy Spirit that this child has been conceived in her. She will bear a son and you are to name him Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.” All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet:

*Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,
and they shall name him Emmanuel,*

which means “God is with us.” When Joseph awoke, he did as the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took his wife into his home.

