



**Saints Peter and Paul Chapel**  
*A Ministry of the Ecumenical Catholic Church+USA*  
**808 N. Mason Road**  
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**December 2021 Parish Bulletin**

Parish Web Site: [www.sspp-eccusa.org](http://www.sspp-eccusa.org) or [www.peterandpaulchapel.org](http://www.peterandpaulchapel.org)

Parish Facebook Page: [www.facebook.com/ssppECCUSA](https://www.facebook.com/ssppECCUSA)

National Church Web Site: [www.ecc-usa.org](http://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 5, 2021:	Second Sunday of Advent
December 12, 2021:	Third Sunday of Advent
December 19, 2021:	Fourth Sunday of Advent
December 25, 2021:	The Nativity of our Lord
December 26, 2021:	Feast of the Holy Family

### **Pastoral Staff:**

**Pastor:** +Fr. Bob Catlett, M.Div., 314.800.3456, [pastor@ssppaul-eccusa.org](mailto:pastor@ssppaul-eccusa.org)

## 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 5, 2021 – 2<sup>nd</sup> 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? By continuing to grow in love, as St. Paul prays in the second reading. In our own corner of the universe, *may all flesh see the salvation of God*. (Baruch 5:1-9, Phillipians 1:4-6, 8-11, Luke 3:1-6)

**December 12, 2021 – 3<sup>rd</sup> 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, Phillipians 4:4-7, Luke 3:10-18)

**December 19, 2021 – 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent:** His greatness shall reach to the ends of the earth, proclaims Micha. “He shall be peace.” In today’s 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, 2021 – The Nativity of the Lord:** (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 called to also be an image of the Father. Do we always live as an image of God? (Isaiah 52:7-10, Hebrews 1:1-6, John 1:1-18)

**December 26, 2021 – 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 1:20-22, 24-28, 1 John 3:1-2, 21-24, Luke 2:41-52)

**This December as we continue *along the way* of our Christian life:**

We begin a new Church year where we will again try to keep up with the God who loves us as he invites us again to increase our understanding of His plan for us as human beings. Our yearly review of Salvation History always begins in a stable with the birth of Jesus. That needs to be our focus this month of Advent.



**Why does the Christmas crèche arouse such wonder and move us so deeply?**

First, because it shows God's tender love: the Creator of the universe lowered himself to take up our littleness. .... **Setting up the Christmas crèche in our homes helps us to relive the history of what took place in Bethlehem.** Naturally, the Gospels remain our source for understanding and reflecting on the event. At the same time, its portrayal in the crèche helps us to imagine the scene as contemporaries of an event that is living and real.

The Christmas crèche is part of the precious yet demanding process of passing on the faith. Beginning in childhood, and at every stage of our lives, it teaches us to contemplate Jesus, to experience God's love for us, to feel and believe that God is with us and that we are with him, his children, brothers and sisters all, thanks to that Child who is the Son of God and the son of the Virgin Mary.

*Adapted from the Christmas Sermon of Pope Francis, Bishop of Rome, 2020*

### **First Christmas from the Gospel of Luke (2:1-14).**

In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that the whole world should be enrolled. So all went to be enrolled, each to his own town. And Joseph too went up from Galilee from the town of Nazareth to Judea, to the city of David that is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and family of David, to be enrolled with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child.

While they were there, the time came for her to have her child, and she gave birth to her firstborn son. She wrapped him in swaddling clothes and laid him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.

Now there were shepherds in that region living in the fields and keeping the night watch over their flock. The angel of the Lord appeared to them and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were struck with great fear. The angel said to them, *“Do not be afraid; for behold, I proclaim to you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For today in the city of David a savior has been born for you who is Messiah and Lord. And this will be a sign for you: you will find an infant wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger.”*

And suddenly there was a multitude of the heavenly host with the angel, praising God and saying: *“Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests.”*

Crèche as pictured on amazon.com

**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

**Let us continue to pray for peace and civility in our nation and for an end to the Covid-19 pandemic!**