

# PRIESTLY FRATERNITY OF ST. PETER

## The Traditional Latin Mass in Stuttgart



### Who we are

The Priestly Fraternity of St. Peter (FSSP) is a clerical Society of Apostolic Life of Pontifical Right, canonically erected by Pope St. John Paul II in 1988. Their priests serve in apostolates across the world, with the faithful celebration of the traditional Mass and Sacraments (Extraordinary Form of the Roman Rite) at the center of their charism. The members of the Priestly Fraternity of St. Peter, nourished through the spiritual riches of the Church's ancient Roman Liturgy, strive to sanctify the seminarians, religious and faithful entrusted to their pastoral care.

### Our aim

Using the ancient liturgy as our well-spring, we form our priests in the traditions of the Church to serve at the altar and in the parish so that the fullness of Christ might enter the emptiness of the world.

## Dear friends,

I want to wish you a very blessed Season of Advent!

A new liturgical year has begun and again we take the mood of expectation upon us. The first Advent in the history of salvation is the time since the Fall in the paradise. Since then the people of Israel was in expectation of the Savior. In the time of four weeks we are going to relive this expectation and excitement. The peak of Advent will be the Christmas season when we are to celebrate the historical Incarnation of Our Lord.

On the other hand, this annual observation is a reminder for us that this world is living through a second Advent: the expectation of the *dies Domini* - the Lord's second coming at the end of time. Each liturgical year is, if you will, a circle. The seasons and the feasts come and go, year after year. But in fact, we need to take a three-dimensional look on this: each liturgical year is a cylindrical movement towards the second coming of Christ! Isn't that exciting to think?

Thus we could say that we are living through a permanent Advent moving closer and closer to Christ. The creation does so with necessity. But the individual needs to decide to go along with each liturgical year to be drawn closer to Christ year after year. Let us in this sense pray with the Church:

**S**tir up our hearts, O Lord, to make ready the ways of thine Only-begotten Son, that by His coming our minds being purified, we may the more worthily give up ourselves to thy service: Who with thee liveth and reigneth, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, world without end.

## The Advent Sundays and their names

### „Ad te levavi“ (1st Advent)

„To You I lift up my soul: in You, O my God, I trust; let me not be put to shame; let not my enemies exult over me. No one who waits for You shall be put to shame.“ (Ps. 24:1-3).

### „Populus Sion“ (2nd Advent)

„People of Sion, behold the Lord shall come to save the nations; and the Lord shall make the glory of His voice to be heard, in the joy of your heart.“ (Isa. 30:30).

### „Gaudete“ (3rd Advent)

„Rejoice in the Lord always: again I say, rejoice. Let your moderation be known to all men: for the Lord is near. Have no anxiety, but in everything, by prayer let your petitions be made known to God.“ (Phil. 4:4-6).

### „Rorate“ (4th Advent)

„Let the Just One descend, O heavens, like dew from above, like gentle rain let the skies drop Him down. Let the earth open and a Saviour bud forth.“ (Is. 45:8).



## The Advent wreath

**1. Evergreen Wreath.** The circle of the wreath, which has no beginning or end, symbolizes the eternity of God. Green is the color that represents hope and new life. As Christian hope and the life of grace are God given gifts, the *evergreen* symbolizes God's eternal faithfulness towards us.

**2. Four Candles.** Obviously they depict the four weeks of Advent. Traditionally, each week represents one thousand years, to sum to the 4,000 years from Adam and Eve until the Nativity of Christ. The light of the candles reminds us of „the true Light that enlightens every man“ (Jn. 1:9) - that is Christ the Savior. Traditionally, the third candle is not purple but rose like the Third Advent is a Sunday of Joy.

## Liturgical characteristics of the Advent

As we have seen above, the Season of Advent reminds us of the absence of Christ as we expect Him to come. We relive the darkness of humanity before His first coming and prepare this annual remembrance. Thus Advent has a character of penance as original sin is the main object for Christ to come in the first place to redeem mankind from sin. This is why violet is worn and the *Gloria* isn't sung at mass. On the other hand, Advent is a time of anticipation filled with many glimpses of joy and hope.

A very special treat during this season are the so

## Calendar

### Friday, Dec 3rd

1000 Sung Mass, followed by  
Benediction

### Saturday, Dec 4th

0830 Rorate Mass

### Sunday, Dec 5th

1050-1120 Confession (English)

1130 Mass (English sermon!)

### Wednesday, Dec 8th

1730 Adoration

1830 Festive Mass of the  
Immaculate Conception

### Saturday, Dec 11th

0700 Rorate Mass

### Weekdays

1800-20 Confession (German)\*

1830-1915 Low Mass

## Church

Saint Albert's

Wollinstr. 55 | 70435 Stuttgart

## Chaplain

Rev. Fr. Janosch Donner, F.S.S.P.

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called „Rorate Masses“. The name derives from the Introit of this Votive Mass of Our Lady:

*„Drop down, ye heavens, from above,  
and let the skies pour down righteousness.“ (Isaiah 45:8)*

Traditionally, these masses are celebrated very early in the morning: the church being illuminated only by some candles, Advent songs bring us into the mood of expectation. The character is of festive anticipation, hence the priest is wearing white vestments. I highly suggest to assist at one of these masses (see Calendar).

Advent is marked also by „Ember Days“. In earlier times these were days of fast and penance to thank God for graces received and implore renewed benediction. Nowadays, they are „only“ liturgical observance. They are celebrated on Wednesday, Friday and Saturday after December 13th. Their readings cover prophecies of the Old Testament and the gospels tell us about the Annunciation, the Visitation and the preaching of John the Baptist.

## Giving Tuesday

I don't need to remind you that Giving Tuesday (Nov 30th this year) is drawing closer, too. Of course, our parish, too, is grateful for any donation that enables us financially in our mission to serve you in church and in your homes. But if you are looking for a special place to donate to this year, I'd like to point to the „Children of the Immaculate Heart“. It is a Catholic organization in San Diego county that is taking care of girls and women that are survivors of sex trafficking. They are doing an amazing job and I happen to know „the ladies“ as the social workers are called at Saint Anne's parish (FSSP). You can imagine that there is lot to be paid for: employees, therapy, the refuge home, security cams, ... If this matter is of interest to you, then check out:

[www.childrenoftheimmaculateheart.org/](http://www.childrenoftheimmaculateheart.org/)

God bless you for your generosity wherever it will lead you!

## Sunday readings

### Prayer (1st Sunday of Advent)

„Stir up Thy power, we beseech Thee, O Lord, and come: that from the threatening dangers of our sins we may deserve to be rescued by Thy protection, and to be saved by Thy deliverance: Who livest and reingehet with God the Father in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, world without end. Amen.“

### 1st Sunday of Advent

Epistle: Rom. 13:11-14

Gospel: Lk. 21:25-33

### 2nd Sunday of Advent

Epistle: Rom. 15:4-13

Gospel: Mt. 11:2-10

### 3rd Sunday of Advent

Epistle: Phil. 4:4-7

Gospel: Jn. 1:19–28

### 4th Sunday of Advent

Epistle: 1 Cor. 4:1-5

Gospel: Lk. 3:1-6

## Patron: St. John the Baptist

It seems a bit strange that St. John the Baptist is the great Patron in Advent as he is born only half a year before Christ. We must consider however what his preaching was:

„A voice of one crying in the wilderness: Prepare ye the way of the Lord: make straight His paths: every valley shall be filled: and every mountain and hill shall be brought low..“

He is *the* man of preparation. He is *the* Saint of expectation. Let us be inspired by his preaching to open our hearts for the coming of Christ. Let us prepare a throne in our heart for the Divine Infant. That is what he wants to lead us to. And may he fervently and successfully intercede for us that we may be made worthy for a new and blessed Christmas that will change our lives for the better!

### My dears,

Our time is with no doubt heavily burdened by external circumstances. Gatherings are difficult, human interaction is becoming as cold as the temperature outside. We want to take refuge in the heavenly promise of the Divine Infant who wants to visit our Church, our community, our families again. May this Season warm up our hearts and instill great charity in us so that we can be light and warmth for our age.

Prayerful wishes and priestly blessings,



Fr. Janosch Donner, F.S.S.P.  
| *Assistant priest*