



## THE PASTOR'S DESK

November 29, 2009 - Fr. Peter

### Dear Parishioners,

With all the news of Fr. Gellert leaving you may not have noticed that Fr. Peter is no longer coming to say Mass here. He recently sent an e-mail to Deacon Bob explaining the situation. I thought I would pass it on to you:

*First, please thank Fr. LaHood for his prayers for me while I was in the hospital, and for his kind offer to host some sort of 'farewell' reception. I really appreciate the thought, but it is not necessary.*

*I have truly enjoyed - loved - my ad hoc relationship with the priests, deacons, staff and people of St. John Neumann over the years. I have always felt a close spiritual bond and am honored to have shared the ministry there with every pastor to date! I have always felt like 'family' there and have been treated most kindly by one and all.*

*Being diagnosed with diabetes was a complete surprise (shock!), as was being hospitalized for four days. But it also answered and explained why I had been feeling the way I had been. Once again, my guardian angel was 'on the case' and saved my life...again.*

*Please feel free to extract any of these remarks to print in the bulletin, if you wish, to let the people know the affection and love in which I hold them. The distance plus the double whammy of diabetes and my other issues have merged to create a 'perfect storm' situation which requires me to stay closer to my home base now. I am on an 1800 calorie (a day, not per meal) diet, taking huge doses of Metformin (tablets) and 45 units of insulin (self injection) and seem to have my blood sugar levels under control. And I have lost 15+ pounds mainly through diet and moderate exercise (walking the dog).*

*Please let folks know they can email me at [preynierse@gmail.com](mailto:preynierse@gmail.com) or drop me a card at 212 Creekside Dr., Lake of the Woods, VA 22508 if they wish.*

*Sorry to hear about Fr. G, but it's a story as old as the Church (see I Cor. 3:6-9) "6\* I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth. 7\* So neither he who plants nor he who*

*waters is anything, but only God who gives the growth. 8\* He who plants and he who waters are equal, and each shall receive his wages according to his labor. 9\* For we are God's fellow workers; you are God's field, God's building."*

*And Luke 10:2 "2\* And [Jesus] said to them, 'The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; pray therefore the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest.'"*

**Much love in J-M-J!  
Fr. Peter**

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**Please mark your calendars for some upcoming events in the Parish:**

**Angel Tree Project** has begun and will run until December 18. The gifts will be distributed December 19.

**Religious Education Reconciliation -**  
December 1 and 2

**Pancake Breakfast with Santa** sponsored by the Knights of Columbus - December 5 at 8:00 am

**Evangelization Movie Night -** December 5 at 7:00 pm

**Feast of Immaculate Conception - Vigil Mass** is at 7:30 pm; December 8 Masses are 9:00 am, 5:30 pm and 7:30 pm

**Our Lady of Guadalupe Spanish Vigil Mass**  
- December 11 at 7:30 pm

**Puppet Show** sponsored by the Knights of Columbus - December 12 at 3:00 pm

**Parish Advent Penance Service -** December 18 at 7:00 pm

**Parish Farewell Party for Fr. Gellert -**  
December 19 after the Vigil Mass

**Festival of Carols -** December 26 at 7:00 pm

As these events get closer, details are announced in the bulletin. The Christmas Mass schedule will be announced later.