



# St. Peter Damian Catholic Church

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Advent 2013

Dear friends,

The church year begins with Advent. This is a season of waiting and watching. Winter is very near, and our trees, many now bare of leaves, are preparing for life deep down in their roots.

While we are so busy with so many things, let this Advent be a time for spiritual awakening at the deepest level of our heart.

Let it echo within us. Life is a gift. It is a mother who gives birth. At the moment of birth we are powerless. We totally depend on others. It is not up to us to choose the time and place of our birth. We have not been brought into this world by ourselves. Life is truly given to us.

Let it resonate in our soul. Life is a gift from a Loving God. Every human life is sacred from conception to natural death. Every person is precious. All life comes from the love of the Holy Trinity. Let our Catholic faith enlighten us. We are endowed with the dignity of the human person, which is the foundation of the moral vision for society.

There is still something deeper about our life that we are not able to see on the surface of the events that we experience. This has been well depicted in the movie "Restless Heart – The Confessions of St. Augustine."

Baptized Augustine and his mother Monica stand by the seashore looking at each other eyes. The waves come and go. The sun is blazing. She gently speaks to him: "There was only one thing I've ever desired, I've ever lived for, to see you baptized, before I die... Give me your hand... There is no need to be afraid... Listen to the silence... Our life is just a shell, fragile, temporary, but there is something that lives within us that is not fragile, it is not temporary... We are already living eternal life, my son."

As we welcome the author of life this Christmas, I hope you will enjoy the enclosed Advent booklet entitled "The Promise of Peace." And on behalf of our Parish Staff, Financial Council and Parish Pastoral Council, I thank you from my heart for sustaining our community with vibrant faith, sincere love, and generous spirit.

Your brother, Fr. Walter