

Today we continue to progress through the last seven days of Advent.

It is also the Memorial of St. Peter Canisius. He was a Jesuit in the sixteenth century who brought the missionary efforts of the Jesuits to Germany, Austria and parts of Eastern Europe.

In the midst of the Reformation, many kings and rulers sought independence from Roman influence for financial or political reasons. St. Peter Canisius tirelessly taught and counseled in deference to the Catholic faith.

Through his intercession, may we be open to deeper study of the teachings of the Church, and gain a deeper faith through understanding.

In the Gospel we hear the narrative of the Visitation of Our Lady to St. Elizabeth.

This corresponds to the Second Joyful Mystery of the Rosary; and is often reflected on through the virtue of "Love of Neighbor."

In the first reading, we hear of God's love for us expressed in poetic terms.

Yet God's love for us is more than good poetry.

As we approach the end of Advent, and the Solemnity of the Incarnation at Christmas, let us pray for a deeper outpouring of God's love in our lives - most especially in the areas where we might not think of needing it.

Let us joyfully surrender all aspects of our life to God's love, that we might be messengers of His love to the world.