**Faith Foundations 2022-2023**

**The Catholic Epistles, Part 2**

**Session 1—2 Peter 1:1-11**

**In our previous study on 1 Peter back in the spring, we examined the apostle Peter’s words about a whole host of issues. We saw how he described the Christian Church as a “chosen people, royal priesthood, holy nation,” or strangers in a strange land, as it were. We read his encouragement to his readers to persevere in the face of suffering, especially unjust suffering caused by persecution. In his second epistle, Peter comments on several other issues that are crucial for Christians of all times and places, especially the issue of false teaching in the Church.**

**Read 2 Peter 1:1-2. To whom is this letter addressed? How might we summarize Peter’s lengthy description of his addressees?**

**What does it mean that Peter’s readers “have obtained a faith of equal standing with ours?” How have they obtained this faith?**

**Read 2 Peter 1:3-4. What has God’s divine power given us? And how have we received His divine power itself?**

**What does God’s calling to us give us? What happens to us through them?**

**What does it mean that we become “partakers of the divine nature?” How does this affect us?**

**By His grace in Christ, God has called us to His own glory and excellence, by which we have received His promises and His gift of the Holy Spirit. Not only do we receive faith and salvation by the Holy Spirit, but we also receive sanctification: the working of the Spirit in our hearts to make us into the new people God has declared us to be in Christ. All of these blessings come to us solely by the grace and activity of God; we cannot take credit for them in the least.**

**Read 2 Peter 1:5-11. What should Christians be doing in response to God’s grace? How would you define each of the positive qualities that Peter lists?**

**What will pursuing these qualities do for the life of the Christian?**

**How does Peter describe people who lack these qualities? What are the implications for self-described Christians who lack these qualities?**

**How do we “make [our] calling and election sure” (compare Paul’s statement in Philippians 2:14)?**

**What will be the end result of our striving to live within God’s will and practice godly qualities?**

**God’s grace in Christ has given us new hearts and minds that are set on Him and desire to follow His ways. Therefore, we Christians exercise our newfound godliness to pursue righteousness and live according to the Spirit of God. By so doing, we will guard ourselves against falling away from the faith and will be kept safely in the Church until the day we see our Lord face to face.**