



ST. PETER CATHOLIC CHURCH

Monthly Newsletter

In This Issue:

- 2** Fireside Chats *Bringing Our Priests and Parish Community Together for Discussion, Reflection, and Fellowship*
- 3** A Letter from Our Pastor
- 4** Usher Ministry: *Fostering Hospitality and Building Community in Our Parish Family*
- 6** Eucharistic Adoration: *A Valuable Opportunity for Silence and a Place to Encounter God*
- 7** Farewell to Our Assistant Pastor

JUNE 2023



ST. PETER CATHOLIC CHURCH



Fireside Chats

***Bringing Our Priests and Parish Community Together
for Discussion, Reflection, and Fellowship***

One of a priest's greatest blessings is to be able to enter into the homes of their parishioners. And here at St. Peter Catholic Church, the opportunity to gather together in the intimate setting of the home with a priest will be offered through a new ministry called Fireside Chats.

"Fireside Chats are family-based, informal gatherings, in order to have faith-based discussions on relevant topics within the Catholic Church," says Fr. Brian Wirth, Assistant Pastor. "They are a great time for faith and fellowship with a priest."

Beginning this summer, parishioners can request to have a priest come to their homes. Due to the size of St. Peter Catholic Church, and the desire to reach as many parishioners as possible, families are encouraged to invite other friends and families over as well. Together they can join in community, fellowship, and spiritual talks with the priest. These visits will include time for Q&A, discussion, reflection, and prayer.

"The goal of Fireside Chats is to enable our St. Peter



Fr. Brian Wirth

Parish family to enter into a deeper relationship with our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, through the personal setting of the home," Fr. Wirth says. "In turn, these events will allow priests and laity alike to get to know each other on a personal level. Just as Christ celebrated the Last Supper with the Twelve Apostles in the Upper Room, Fireside Chats are a wonderful opportunity to be able to spend time with each other for the sake of physical and spiritual nourishment, to be fed by the Word of God and the teachings of the Church."

There are no specific topics that are planned to be discussed, as the interest could change with each unique gathering. If there are certain themes or topics you would be interested to discuss, please let the priests know. Anything Catholic is open for discussion. If parents/couples would like a Fireside Chat that is intended for adults only, that is an option as well. The dates for the Fireside Chats will vary, due to different schedules between the priests and requesting families.

*To schedule a Fireside Chat, reach out to Fr. Wirth at 402-874-0016 or
Fr. Brian-Wirth@cdolinc.net. You can also call the parish office at 402-423-1239.*

A Letter from Our Pastor

RAIN MAKES CORN: A Season for Growing

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

“**A**h, green – now that is a color I haven’t seen in a while,” goes a famous meme of Obi-Wan Kenobi to capture the feeling of the return of green vestments that mark our resumption of Ordinary Time. Get used to green because we’ll be seeing it for a while. We can deceive ourselves of the importance of these summer months following Lent and Easter that will take us all the way to next Advent and Christmas.

Our common use of the word “ordinary” lulls us into thinking it means “boring.” The repetitive green week after week can seem to add to the monotony. If we consider that “boring” or “I’m bored” are recent additions to common vocabulary – people didn’t use these words/phrases until recently with the beginning of the industrial revolution – we can see our sense of the word “ordinary” says more about us than this season of Ordinary Time.

Ordinary Time has its roots in the word “ordinal” which is the Latin word for “the measure of time.” The liturgical color of the season is green because it should be a reminder of what we should be doing, growing as disciples of Jesus as the vegetation all around us is growing.

The grain of wheat falls and dies during Lent and springs forth with new life at Easter with our Lord’s Resurrection. It is watered with the Word of God during Ordinary Time by hearing the Good News of what Jesus did and taught. This season of growth prepares us for the harvest at Advent, which prepares us for when the Lord comes, the first time at the Incarnation and when He will come again.

The Prophet Isaiah recounts the word of the LORD

spoken to him, “Yet just as from the heavens the rain and snow come down and do not return there till they have watered the earth, making it fertile and fruitful, giving seed to the one who sows and bread to the one who eats, so shall my word be that goes forth from my mouth; It shall not return to me empty, but shall do what pleases me, achieving the end for which I sent it” (Isaiah 55:10-11). There is no better time to pick up your Bible this summer during this growing season.

Advent and Lent are great for short sprints to revive and adopt spiritual disciplines. Ordinary Time is possibly more fitting for small continual growth and soaking ourselves in the rich nourishment of the Word of God. A disciple is one who sits at the feet of the teacher. As we live out our parish mission to make disciples as we abide in Christ and build His Kingdom, I challenge you to sit each day with the Word of God for at least 15 minutes during this relaxed time of summer.

In His Mercy,

A close-up photograph of a hand holding a green corn leaf. The background is a soft-focus field of corn plants under a bright, hazy sky, suggesting a sunrise or sunset. The lighting is warm and golden, highlighting the texture of the leaves and the skin of the hand.

Fr. Eric Clark

Fr. Eric Clark,
Pastor





USHER

Fostering Hospitality and Bu



(From left) Larry Svec, Jeff Pfeifer, Mike Fayad



(From left) Steve Schmidt, Marlin Hupka,
Mike McCrory, Chuck Hiller

Each of us is made in the image and likeness of God, with our own unique talents that can be used to glorify the Lord and serve His church. We all need to take the time to pray and ask the Lord the words of the church hymn, “Servant Song” – “What do you want of me, Lord?”

We must ensure everyone who enters the doors at St. Peter Catholic Church feels welcome. The Usher Ministry is one way to make that happen. Think of the ushers as the ones behind the scenes taking care of things so parishioners can focus on prayer and worship.

David McWilliams has led the Usher Ministry for about two years. Ushers take a month at a time, and the frequency depends on the number of ushers who typically work that Mass time.

“We have some really devoted ushers who have been doing this for 20 or more years,” David says. “It would be nice to get some new people to step up to help.”

David wants to encourage men to get involved, especially those who are busy and have difficulty getting involved with other ministries.

“The Usher Ministry takes place during Mass with no extra meetings,” he says. “It’s perfect for busy people – you are at Mass anyway.”

Ushers help with greeting, seat people for Mass, do the collection, facilitate the lines for Communion, and distribute bulletins. They are also there if a medical emergency occurs. Periodically, someone will pass out and need help in the back of the church.

“We try to make sure it all runs as it should,” David says. “We want to keep everything going so people can take part in the sacrament of the Mass.”

To become an usher, contact David McWilliams at 402-416-0783 or mcwilliamsfun@gmail.com.

UR MINISTRY:

Building Community in Our Parish Family

We've all experienced setting foot in a new place. You feel nervous if you don't know where to go or how to find the restroom. Ushers can help with that.

"I have gone around to churches in different areas of the country, and sometimes it's very daunting when you walk in," David says. "I don't want it to be that way here. We want St. Peter to feel friendly. We want people to keep coming back. St. Peter Catholic Church should feel welcoming and inviting."

David and his wife, MaryBeth, also serve on the Greeter Ministry, and MaryBeth also sells SCRIP.

"We want St. Peter to feel friendly. We want people to keep coming back. St. Peter Catholic Church should feel welcoming and inviting." — David McWilliams

"I take it seriously," David says. "It's a serious and important job."

Everyone at St. Peter Catholic Church can do their part to help our parish community feel welcoming. It's simple — you might move over to make room for others in the pew, smile, or give directions to those who seem lost.

David is proud of the good group of ushers at St. Peter Catholic Church. He is especially thankful to those high school seniors who have stepped in to help — this has been a great way for them to earn some volunteer hours.





Eucharistic Adoration:

***A Valuable Opportunity
for Silence and a Place to
Encounter God***



Silence is rare in our busy lives. Sometimes our prayer receives the same treatment as everything else on our to-do list. For the last few years at St. Peter, our parishioners have shown that quiet time with Our Lord is a priority. Eucharistic Adoration at our parish has grown from one hour a day to over 70 hours each week thanks to the parishioners who commit to a weekly Holy Hour.

Katy Dornbos coordinates the adoration schedule. Adoration has been a gift in her life, helping her to grow spiritually, and she is grateful to have this opportunity at our parish.

"I'm so thankful and constantly in awe of all the people that sign up to do this every week," Katy says. "It's such a gift, their witness of signing up. I think we have about 160 people involved regularly, and more who just pop in."

If you're feeling stuck in your prayer life or find it difficult to set aside time for prayer, then adoration might be exactly what you need. Whether you stop in unscheduled or commit to an hour each week, you are certain to receive profound graces.

"I noticed that I don't have a lot of time for silence, so first I just love that adoration is quiet and there is nothing else going on," Katy says. "It prepares a good foundation for receiving from God."

Eucharistic Adoration is unique because it provides a place of silence while being physically in the presence of Christ in the Eucharist. If you choose to spend an hour

with Christ, it might be difficult when you first start out.

"One helpful thing that I was told is that once you sense the Lord with you, you don't have to move on from there," Katy says. "If you pray one Hail Mary and sense the Lord there, stay. That's what surprises me about adoration – sometimes I think I need to pray a certain way but He meets me in the circumstances of my life."

If an hour feels long, Katy suggests splitting it up between spiritual reading or Scripture, and quiet, receptive prayer. With practice, you'll find you don't need to structure your time as much.

"Don't be afraid of the silence," Katy says. "It's kind of awkward and it can get boring, but that doesn't mean you're doing it wrong. Don't try to fill your time. Expect God to show up and He will."

Families with young children might be hesitant to come to adoration, but all are welcome. Adoration is a wonderful opportunity to teach young children.

"Bring them up close, even if it's just for three minutes," Katy says. "Go all the way to the front. It's a real gift to the people there to see a child encounter the Lord in the Eucharist."

During renovations, Eucharistic Adoration will be held in the St. Mary Conference Room which is located near the elevators. Adorers should watch for further communication via email regarding adoration hours, where to park, and how to enter the building.

Starting Tuesday, May 30, Adoration will be held in St. Mary Conference Room from 7 a.m.-10 p.m. Monday-Thursday and 7 a.m.-5 p.m. on Friday. To sign up for an hour of Adoration, visit saintpeterlincoln.com, call the parish office at 402-423-1239, or contact Katy Dornbos at kldornbos@gmail.com.

FAREWELL TO OUR ASSISTANT PASTOR:

Q&A WITH FR. JASON DOHER

Priest Moving on to Become

Pastor at St. Patrick in Manley and St. Mary in Elmwood



Q: How long have you been at St. Peter?

A: *Almost a full year.*

Q: What were some of your special assignments at our parish?

A: *Nursing Home and Retirement Community Outreach.*

Q: What is one of your favorite memories of your time at St. Peter?

A: *That's a difficult question to answer since I have many, but it would be a tie between the Mary Poppins Jr. play and the St. Peter Trivia Night.*

Q: What will you miss the most?

A: *The parishioners and working with my brother priests.*

Q: What have you learned from your time here as a priest?

A: *More of how good God is.*

Q: Where is your next assignment?

A: *St. Patrick in Manley, and St. Mary in Elmwood*

Q: What are you looking forward to on this new adventure?

A: *God guiding me in new ways as a pastor.*

Q: Any last comments?

A: *I was nervous being sent to such a big parish as St. Peter, but I am incredibly grateful for being assigned here and being able to minister to such good people. Thank you so much!*





ST. PETER CATHOLIC CHURCH



4500 Duxhall Dr. | Lincoln, NE 68516
402-423-1239 | www.saintpeterlincoln.com

MASS SCHEDULE:

Saturday: 4:00 p.m.

Sunday: 8:00 a.m., 9:30 a.m., 11:00 a.m.

DAILY MASS

Monday-Friday: 6:30 a.m., 5:30 p.m.

Saturday: 8:15 a.m.

CONFESSION

Wednesday: 4:30 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.

Friday: 7:00 a.m. - 8:00 a.m.

Saturday: 3:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Sunday 30 minutes before each Mass

YOU'RE INVITED TO OUR ANNUAL PARISH PICNIC

JOIN US IN SAYING GOODBYE TO FR. DOHER!

Sunday, June 11th
@ 12:00pm

St. Peter Courtyard

Hosted by Knights of Columbus 10510