



# ST. PETER CATHOLIC CHURCH

*Monthly Newsletter*

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**OCTOBER 2023**



# ST. PETER CATHOLIC CHURCH

## MASS GREETERS UPHOLD PILLAR OF HOSPITALITY IN SIMPLE ACTS OF DISCIPLESHIP

As the first Pillar of Parish Discipleship, Hospitality is about making others feel welcomed and connected. Through their efforts, the members of the Mass Greeters Ministry uphold this essential pillar while showing just how simple, yet profound acts of hospitality can be.

Mikaela Hanson and her family of six have been members of the Mass Greeters Ministry for a while. Mikaela, who serves in a leadership position within the ministry, has witnessed how it has served the parishioners on an individual level and built up the parish community as a whole.

“Greeters make an impact by being the first welcoming face that people see when they attend weekend or holiday Mass,” Mikaela says. “It’s a way to help people feel connected to the parish and serve others in a way that makes them feel seen when they arrive at Mass.”

As a place where we gather as one body in Christ to worship and grow in faith, our parish is truly our faith home. The Mass Greeters are on a mission to welcome each of us into the house of the Lord and create the union that Christ desires His people to have in worship of Him.

“We are an example of hospitality,” Mikaela says. “Greeters provide an immediate opportunity for people to see a familiar face or a friendly smile as they come to encounter our Lord through the sacraments.

“Discipleship is about giving of oneself,” she



*The Hanson Family*

adds. “Being a greeter offers the opportunity to share your time and talent. The best part is that the only talent you need to bring to this ministry is a smile.”

The Mass Greeters are always welcoming new members to the ministry. Scheduling is flexible and can be tailored to your needs. Each quarter of the year, the leadership team sends out a calendar through which members sign up for the Masses that they can greet. Throughout the quarter, members are encouraged to refer back to the calendar to fill in any Mass times that seem to be low on greeters and jump into the ministry when they are at Mass themselves, even when they are not scheduled for that time.

The flexibility of this ministry makes volunteering extremely easy and the time commitment is minimal – simply arrive at Mass a few minutes earlier than you usually would.

“My favorite part of this ministry is seeing people of all ages greet at the doors,” Mikaela says. “It is a wonderful way for the whole family to be involved in the same ministry at the same time.”

Almost anyone can be a greeter. To sign up on your own, you must be 18 years or older, but couples and families with children of all ages are welcome to be greeters as well.

Mikaela notes that the kids get the most smiles in return and are the best fist-bumpers!

*If you are interested in joining or would like more information,  
contact Mikaela Hanson at 402-730-0946 or [mikaela1129@gmail.com](mailto:mikaela1129@gmail.com).*

*A Letter from Our Pastor*

## **NURTURING THE SPIRIT OF DISCIPLESHIP THROUGH THE ROSARY**

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

With Fall in full swing upon us, I am filled with joy and gratitude for the opportunity to share with you the profound significance of this month as the Month of the Most Holy Rosary. October is a time when we, as faithful Catholics, are called to deepen our commitment to living out the principle of discipleship, guided by the beautiful devotion of the Rosary.

We can look at the historical events of this month, the Battle of Lepanto, to see that disciples who turn to Mary are always brought to the providential care of her Son. This is why the Rosary should hold a special place in our hearts and our Church calendar.

It is a time when we are invited to meditate upon the mysteries of our faith through the powerful intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Just as the beads of the rosary are intricately woven together, so too are our lives woven into the fabric of God's plan for each of us. By contemplating the joyful, sorrowful, luminous, and glorious mysteries, we are drawn closer to Jesus Christ, walking with Him and His mother in prayer.

Discipleship is a calling that Jesus invites all of us to; to know Him and be loved by Him. The Rosary, a prayer that encompasses the entirety of Christ's life, is a perfect tool for nurturing our lives of discipleship.

As we reflect on the joyful mysteries, we are reminded of the gift of the Annunciation and the humility of Mary's "yes" to God's plan. This encourages us to be open and receptive to God's will in our lives, just as Mary was.

The sorrowful mysteries teach us the importance of self-sacrifice and compassion, as we meditate on the suffering and crucifixion of Jesus. This prompts us to consider the ways we can alleviate the suffering of our brothers and sisters in need.

The luminous mysteries remind us of Christ's public ministry and the importance of sharing the Gospel with



others, motivating us to be active disciples who spread the message of love and salvation.

Finally, the glorious mysteries inspire us to look forward to the eternal rewards that await us, motivating us to live lives of faithful stewardship in anticipation of God's heavenly kingdom.

In this Month of the Most Holy Rosary, I encourage each of you to take up this powerful devotion as a means of deepening your discipleship. Set aside time each day to meditate on the mysteries, allowing Mary to guide you in embracing your role as stewards of

God's gifts and as dedicated followers of Jesus. As we offer our intentions through the Rosary, let us also pray for the grace to live lives that reflect the love and mercy of Christ, reaching out to those in need and shining His light in a world often filled with darkness.

May the Blessed Virgin Mary intercede for us as we embark on this journey of discipleship through the Rosary. May her example inspire us to live lives that bear witness to the transformative power of faith and prayer. And may our commitment to the Rosary lead us closer to Christ, guiding us in our mission to be devoted disciples.

In His Mercy,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Fr. Eric Clark". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Fr. Eric Clark,  
Pastor





## PRAYER LINE A COMMUNITY OF PRAYER AND HOSPITALITY

When someone is going through a tough time, there are many ways we can help them – bringing a meal, mowing the lawn, or simply being there to listen. One of the best ways to help someone, though, is to offer them up in prayer. As Catholics, we know prayer can make miracles happen. The more prayers, the better!

Maryann Boumann felt the pull to start the Prayer Line Ministry in the early 2000s. For 15 years, she received prayer requests from parishioners and friends. In 2020, Georgeanne Rashilla started helping share the requests and appropriate Bible verses for the individual circumstances. Brittni Biba later jumped on board in 2020 to help send emails for the ministry.

Maryann always prays for the request as soon as she sees the email.

“We all are busy, so by immediately praying the Scripture verses and joining in prayers as fervently as we can, we complete this Work of Mercy in minutes. Over and done, times 269! We hear of our Prayer Warriors offering prayers together as a family for those on our Prayer Line. The power of our prayers is greater when we ask the Holy Family, our angels, saints, and beloved souls to join in our prayers.”

“I am so grateful for our prayer warriors – you encourage me to be a better parishioner and friend,” Maryann says. “I find I am also making Holy Hours more often to intercede for past, present, and future requests and needs of our parish, family, and friends.”

For Georgeanne, the opportunity to join the Prayer Line Ministry was a perfect transition role from her prior activities in the parish.

“Maryann approached me at church in 2020. I had just returned from living overseas in Germany for my husband’s work. Living in a new culture and not being fluent in the language, I spent a lot of alone time walking, praying, and listening to religious podcasts from home. I often described my time there as being an ‘accidental contemplative’. It isn’t often in life you have so much free time for reflection. That alone time had a profound effect on my faith life. After moving back to Lincoln, I was looking to fit myself back into parish life here but was not sure what that would look like and I didn’t want to lose the habits I had formed in Germany. So when Maryann proposed that I join her in this ministry, it was as if God himself was pointing the way forward.”



*(From left) Georgeanne, Maryann, Brittni (and Lily) are part of the Prayer Line Ministry*

# E MINISTRY

## TALITY, CONNECTING HEARTS TO GOD

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*“We are learning to trust that our God is in charge. He knows what He is doing. We will be happier and more peaceful as we surrender to Him more and more. Prayer helps us accomplish our goal of heaven.”*

*— Maryann Boumann*

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Brittni has found that being part of this ministry has profoundly impacted her faith, as well.

“There’s really something so beautiful and comforting knowing people are praying for each other,” Brittni says. “Maryann and Georgeanne write beautiful prayers! I’ve learned more Scripture because of them, and I’ve learned how to better pray for people on my own!”

The women love how this ministry is accessible to all – from the busy moms and dads to the homebound.

“Everyone can participate in this ministry at no cost except the gift of time,” Georgeanne says.

As Georgeanne emphasizes, this ministry is essential to the life of the parish. In addition to being a ministry of prayer, it’s also a ministry of hospitality.

“Church is not just a building – the church is living in community,” Georgeanne says. “This

ministry provides vital sharing of various crosses that people bear.”

This group loves to receive updates from those who have been on the prayer line. Of course, not every prayer is answered like the person wants, but that is all part of God’s plan. And even if the prayer wasn’t answered how a person wanted, they still find great comfort in being prayed for.

“We are learning to trust that our God is in charge,” Maryann says. “He knows what He is doing. We will be happier and more peaceful as we surrender to Him more and more. Prayer helps us accomplish our goal of heaven.”

“I am so blessed to be a part of this ministry,” Brittni says. “I am a better Catholic and person because of it.”

*To get involved with the Prayer Line Ministry,  
contact Brittni Biba at 402-759-1053  
or [stpeterprayerwarriors@gmail.com](mailto:stpeterprayerwarriors@gmail.com).*



## PRO-LIFE MINISTRY

### UPHOLDING THE SANCTITY

As Catholics, we believe in protecting life from conception to natural death. The Pro-Life Ministry here at St. Peter seeks to engage in various activities to counter our culture's disregard for human life.

"This ministry is more important than ever before," says Rich Horner. "Indifference to human life is occurring at all stages, from conception through the end of life and in new, alarming ways."

The ministry's activities align with both our parish and the bishop's pro-life plans, engaging in initiatives that also touch other parishes and dioceses across Nebraska. Among these are the annual Life Chain event, 40 Days for Life, working with Lincoln Right to Life, and Nebraska Right to Life activities. They also distribute legislative materials and assist with fundraisers.

#### 40 DAYS FOR LIFE KICKOFF

*Lincoln's 40 Days for Life Fall Campaign runs from September 27 to November 5. The prayer vigil is 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. daily at Planned Parenthood of Lincoln and all are welcome to join us. Learn more, get involved, and sign up for prayer times at [www.40daysforlife.com/lincoln](http://www.40daysforlife.com/lincoln).*

*Contact Mike Davis at 402-480-0404 with any questions.*



"The growing mission of the Pro-Life Ministry is going beyond 'saving babies,'" Rich says. "Pro-life activity volunteers increasingly understand they are doing more than preserving life. They can be saving people from harm and converting hearts – hardened, misled, broken, and wounded hearts – by their presence, witness, and prayers.

"There are outreach programs like Sidewalk Advocates for Life, with its research-backed 'mom-baby-God' approach," he adds. "There are healing ministries for post-abortive women and men. For those hardened and misled hearts, many legislative and educational outreach activities and conferences exist, such as the WeTeachThink organization working to reframe the pro-life message."

Rich has been involved with the ministry for about five years. He was invited by an active pro-life volunteer whom he knew well, but responded, "yes, just not now." Sometime after that, one of his children invited him to go on a Lincoln Walk for Life.

"Going on that walk, I learned two things," Rich

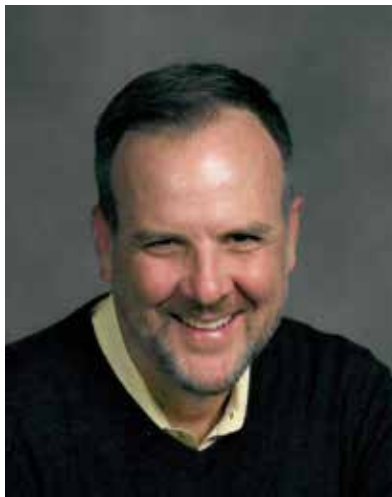
## OF LIFE AND CONVERTING WOUNDED HEARTS

*“Pro-life activity volunteers increasingly understand they are doing more than preserving life. They can be saving people from harm and converting hearts — hardened, misled, broken and wounded hearts — by their presence, witness and prayers.” — Rich Horner*

says. “One, my kids were pro-life, thanks be to God! And two, in saying ‘yes’ to my daughter — which ultimately turned into a ‘yes, now is the time’ to get involved in other activities — I was saying ‘yes’ to the Lord. Do you know what happens when you say ‘yes’ to the Lord? It changes lives.”

Being involved for the last few years, Rich understands the ministry goes beyond trying to save the lives of the victims, but also the souls of those participating.

“Volunteers in this ministry truly know the significance of these activities,” he says. “Whether new to the ministry or involved for many years, they quickly understand at the center of this ministry there is a spiritual battle going on. A spiritual struggle ultimately means this — souls are in



*Rich Horner*

peril. Our efforts of prayer, witness, and faith in action can and do have an impact thanks to the supernatural love and will of the Lord.”

The ministry members meet two or more times per year to discern and choose which upcoming activities will be planned. Many of the activities are coordinated with other groups for even greater impact, such as the Walk for Life. In between these meeting times at St. Peter, ongoing communication occurs to ensure dates/times are known.

Any St. Peter parishioner can get involved at any time. The best time to sign up is now.

“The time to get involved is now,” Rich says. “With the momentum in the Pro-Life Ministry God’s grace has provided, incredible progress is occurring all around us.”

*To get involved, indicate your interest by checking the “Pro-Life Ministry” box on the 2023 Discipleship Renewal Commitment Card. You will be added to the ministry list to be looped in on communications related to meetings and activities.*



# ST. PETER CATHOLIC CHURCH



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402-423-1239 | [www.saintpeterlincoln.com](http://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., 8:15 a.m., 5:30 p.m.*

*Saturday: 8:15 a.m.*

## CONFESSION

*Monday: 7:00 a.m. - 8:00 a.m.*

*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*

# Trunk or Treat

October 27

6:30-8:30pm

St. Peter Parking Lot

**WE NEED YOUR HELP!**

Sign up here to sponsor a Trunk!

