



ST. PETER CATHOLIC CHURCH

Monthly Newsletter



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JULY 2024



ST. PETER CATHOLIC CHURCH

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

BRINGING THE WOMEN OF OUR COMMUNITY TOGETHER TO SHARE IN FAITH AND SCRIPTURE

It's common for children and youth to go through Faith Formation and Confirmation classes. But all too often, the learning stops after Confirmation. It shouldn't be that way. Our Catholic faith is so deep, and we can – and should – spend the rest of our lives learning!

Women have the opportunity here at the parish to do just that, through participation in the Women's Bible Study.

Mary Bates has been a member of the 25 year old Bible study for 4 years. She coordinates the study while KayLyn Kalkowski and Carol Wathen select the study books. All the women take turns leading. They meet after the Friday morning Mass from 9:15 to 10:45 a.m. The group usually meets at someone's home or the church and takes the summer months off. Mary encourages women to get involved.

"I enjoy the sisterhood, different points of view, and help with growing in my faith," she says. "I have made many new friends and reconnected with friends from the past, many of whom I met when my children went to St. Peter School."

This group is flexible – some members watch the video on FORMED.org and follow the workbook at home. These studies are very interactive and pertinent. At times, moms or grandmas have to bring a child along, and that's okay, too!

Being in the midst of the National Eucharistic Revival, the studies in the last year have centered on the Eucharist. For the fall, the group is still working out what they will study. One series they hope to do in the future is *The Wild Goose* with Fr. Dave Pivonka.

Mary is excited by the increase in attendees over the past year. There are typically about 20 women at the



The members of the Women's Bible Study are always willing to share their resources and what they have learned at conferences and other studies.

gatherings. This is a diverse group of women taking part in the study, and Mary has learned so much from them.

"I used the analogy that I joined the Bible Study as a kindergartener, and with all these knowledgeable ladies, feel like after four years I'm up to third grade," she says.

Mary appreciates that women are always willing to share their resources and what they have learned at conferences and other studies.

"It's just wonderful to learn from each other," she says. "We need each other. We need the sisterhood and prayers."

The members of the Women's Bible Study often get together to socialize, as well.

The Holy Spirit has guided us as we have learned from the friends we have made. We all come from different background, states and bring a different perspective. That's a blessing to see.

The group holds an Epiphany potluck with a speaker, as well as another potluck with a speaker in the late spring.

To learn more about the Women's Bible Study, contact Mary Bates at batesmotel@allophone.com or 402-540-0046.

A Letter from Our Pastor

DURING SUMMER TRAVELS, REMEMBER ST. CHRISTOPHER IS ALONG FOR THE RIDE

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

As we enter the month of July, I would like to take a moment to reflect on the significance of this month in the Catholic calendar, particularly in relation to the feast day of St. Christopher. St. Christopher, whose feast day falls on July 25, is a revered figure in our faith, and his life offers us valuable lessons on how we can emulate his virtues and strengthen our connection with God.

St. Christopher is known as the patron saint of travelers, and his story has been a source of inspiration for countless individuals throughout history. His life was a testament to selflessness and devotion to Christ, which ultimately led to his recognition as a saint by the Catholic Church.

The most famous aspect of St. Christopher's life is his role as a ferryman who helped people cross a treacherous river. He would carry travelers, including a child who, unknown to him at first, was the Christ Child, on his shoulders. His selfless act of service, despite the physical hardship it caused him, reminds us of the importance of helping others on their journey. During the month of July, we can reflect on how we, too, can be "Christophers" to those in need, offering our assistance and support to fellow travelers on the path of life.

St. Christopher's life teaches us that our Christian faith should be an active and living faith. His simple yet profound act of service exemplifies the Gospel message of loving one's neighbor and carrying the burdens of others. As we celebrate his feast day this month, let us strive to emulate his selflessness by engaging in acts of kindness and charity, especially towards those who are less fortunate.

St. Christopher's name, which means "Christ-bearer," symbolizes his mission. During July, we can reflect on how we can become bearers of Christ's light in our daily lives. This may involve spreading the message of the Gospel through our words and actions, being



a source of hope and inspiration for others, and carrying Christ's love in our hearts as we interact with our neighbors and loved ones.

St. Christopher's story also teaches us the importance of perseverance in our faith journey. He faced many challenges and dangers while carrying out his mission, but his unwavering commitment to helping others, even at the risk of his own life, serves as a powerful example. As we honor him this month, let us renew our commitment to following Christ faithfully, no matter the obstacles or trials we may encounter.

In conclusion, St. Christopher's feast day in July provides us with an opportunity to reflect on his life and the virtues he embodied. Let us strive to emulate his selflessness, become "Christophers" in our own right, and carry the love of Christ in our hearts as we travel through life's journey.

May God bless you all and may the intercession of St. Christopher guide and protect you on your own spiritual journey.

In His Mercy,

Fr. Eric Clark

Fr. Eric Clark,
Pastor





PARISH FAMILY CELEBRATES THE PRIESTHOOD OF *STRIVING TO BE A TRUE A*



Fr. Izquierdo's parents encouraged him to pray asking where God was calling him.

Every Christian's vocation is to answer the call to holiness. We, ourselves, cannot attain holiness, but we can listen to the Lord's lead about the way He means to accomplish it.

Santiago Izquierdo was 6 years old when he first thought about the idea of priesthood. His parents encouraged him to pray asking where God was calling him.

"From the moment of my Baptism, Catholicism has been the most important facet of my life and that is thanks to my parent's own faith and them transmitting it to me from the very start," Fr. Izquierdo says. "Growing up, we prayed as a family, so the faith was not just practiced on Sundays. And I also really enjoyed being an altar server, since I helped the priest during Mass in a more personal way, both on Sundays but also during the week at the school Mass at St. Peter."

In the summers, Fr. Izquierdo enjoyed attending the diocesan Leadership Camp for boys which helped him grow in his relationship with Jesus. In 2007 his only brother, Ricardo, had entered the seminary, so he was able to visit and see what seminary life was like. During his sophomore year of college, he heard God's call in a more intense manner and applied to the Diocese of Lincoln Seminary in the summer of 2016.

"My Catholic education certainly played a critical role in my vocation," Fr. Izquierdo says. "I am blessed and proud to have attended St. Peter because going to Mass every day was a great blessing as I got to receive Our Lord in the Eucharist every day and received Confession frequently. Also, learning more about God and His Church in religion class every day and being in an environment that promotes Catholicism and love of God was invaluable."

Fr. Izquierdo was ordained on May 25 with his

FIRST MASS AND ORDINATION OF FR. IZQUIERDO **AMBASSADOR FOR CHRIST**

first Mass being celebrated on May 26 at 2 p.m. at St. Peter Catholic Church.

“My main objective as a priest is to help the people that I encounter have a better relationship with Jesus while on earth so that they can reach heaven and be with Him forever,” Fr. Izquierdo says. “Parishioners should feel free to approach me for any need that they might have that they feel I can help with. I may not have all the answers but I will always try my best to be a true ambassador of Christ for them.”

Fr. Izquierdo is eager to celebrate the sacraments for his parishioners and is looking forward to living the priestly life after much preparation.

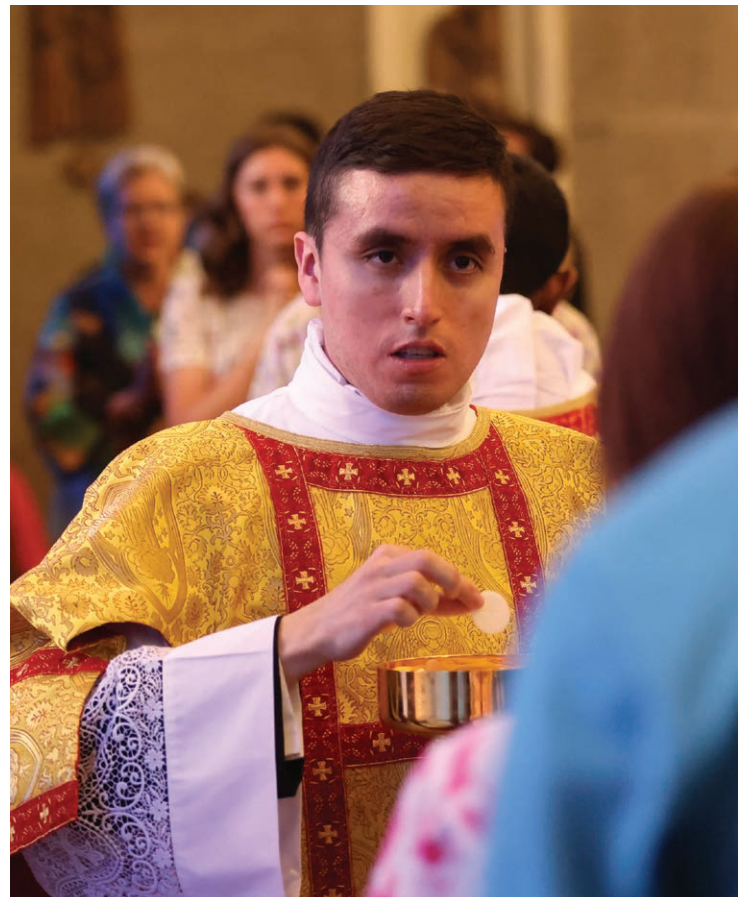
“Whenever you pray for priests, if you could please also pray for me, that I may be a good, holy, and faithful priest my whole life,” Fr. Izquierdo says. “St. John Marie Vianney and St. Padre Pio are two great saints to pray to that they may intercede for me!”

“Parishioners should feel free to approach me for any need that they might have that they feel I can help with. I may not have all the answers but I will always try my best to be a true ambassador of Christ for them.”

— Fr. Izquierdo



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Fr. Izquierdo was 6 years old when he first thought about the idea of priesthood.



MASS REFRESHMENTS MINISTRY *BUILDING COMMUNITY AND FELLOWSHIP IN OUR PARISH COMMUNITY*



This ministry is a great way to get involved.



At St. Peter Catholic Church, building community and time for fellowship is done intentionally. Here at the parish, we have a ministry with one goal – to build community.

The Mass Refreshments Ministry serves treats or a meal one weekend per month after every Mass. When the weather cooperates, the food is served in the courtyard which is a great place to attract the largest amount of people. The gym or Bishop Vasa Hall are also locations that are utilized if need be.

Debby Rye leads the Mass Refreshment ministry, along with many faithful members, one of them being Becky Huebner, who lives for hospitality. Debby and Becky both got involved for that exact reason – to help build community. This ministry was started three years ago, and has been a parish favorite ever since. There are over 100 members in the ministry and more sign up to help each year during the Discipleship Renewal.

“I feel we’ve achieved our goal to help people get to know each other,” Debby says. “People stay around after Mass to visit, it’s really great to see.”

Our parish family has grown closer while they enjoy anything from a sweet treat to an entire dinner. It also provides a time for parents to socialize, while their children have space to play.

“It’s so good to see people gathered enjoying each other’s company,” Debby says.

The goal of the ministry is to create a time for fellowship and it is not a fundraiser. The food is complimentary, although there is always a basket for a free-will offering to help cover the costs. The ministry has served donuts, cookies, tacos, breakfast casseroles, hot dogs, pizzas, popsicles, and more. It’s not really about the food, though it is one motivator to

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MASS REFRESHMENTS MINISTRY *continued from page 6*

get people to hang out!

Being a social person, Debby has found this ministry to be a great way to get involved. This year, members were encouraged to take the lead of one weekend of Mass Refreshments.

The ministry is open to new ideas from any member and appreciate it when new leaders step forward. For instance, Kacy Steiner led the first “Get in the Game at St. Peter this Lent” with Super Bowl-themed food and décor, as well as ideas of spiritual activities to do during Lent.

It’s easy to get into the habit of going to Mass, sitting in the same spot, and leaving right after. The Mass Refreshment ministry allows people to break out of that routine and meet new people.

“I love meeting new people,” Debby says. “I like making people feel welcome.”

Debby also serves as a Mass greeter. She would often notice the welcome she got when she went to churches of other denominations, and wants our parish to show that same hospitality.

“It is wonderful to know we also have ministries that make people feel welcome here at St. Peter,” Debby says.

It’s not only this ministry that can help you feel a sense of belonging. Getting involved in any parish ministry will give you a similar feeling.

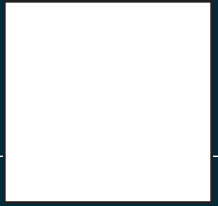
“It’s fun to be involved,” Debby says. “You can meet all kinds of people. It just makes church feel like home. It feels good being part of the community, and it helps us all get closer to the Lord by participating.”



*To get involved in the Mass Refreshments Ministry,
contact Debby Rye at ryettes@aol.com or 402-432-2315.*



ST. PETER CATHOLIC CHURCH



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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

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS PEACH FUNDRAISER



The St. Peter Knights of Columbus Council 10510 are offering Colorado peaches for presale. Peaches are \$52 per 22-pound case with additional savings for 2+ cases. Partial cases are also available. The peaches will be picked at peak ripeness and delivered fresh in September.



Please scan the QR code to learn more and place your order. For further assistance or to order in person, please contact William Trieb at kofc10510@gmail.com, (785)-456-5923.

