



ST. PETER CATHOLIC CHURCH

Monthly Newsletter



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AUGUST 2024



SCHOOL COMMUNITY LOOKS FORWARD TO 2024-25 ACADEMIC YEAR

ENGAGING IN EDUCATION, FAITH, AND DISCIPLESHIP TOGETHER

Another school year is just around the corner! As we look ahead to the start of the new year, there are some exciting things on the horizon for our parish school, particularly in the areas of faith and programming.

Last year, the school began its Virtue in Education program for students in preschool through eighth grade. The program came from the Dominican Sisters of Ann Arbor. Principal Curt Feilmeier says this effort helps us realize the commitment to our parish vision of abiding in Christ and building His Kingdom.

"Some of the highlights of the implementation included the 'Virtue of the Week,' along with the resources available to teachers to expand on the definition of the weekly virtue and share real-world applications for our students," Mr. Feilmeier says. "For year two, we hope to build upon the day-to-day application for our students, teachers – expanding to our school/parish community to further promote the foundations of a Catholic life for our students and school community."

In addition, the school will be entering the second of its three-year retreat programming for junior high students in sixth through eighth grades.

"It is exciting to grow the relationship with the Our Lady of Good Council Retreat House as it looks to expand its mission to partner and serve area Catholic schools for retreat opportunities," Mr. Feilmeier says. "Complementing year two, it is the hope of St. Peter Catholic School to partner with other Catholic school

elementary schools to retreat together as a diocese community, enhancing our students' religious experience."

Being integrally connected to our parish and with the rededication of the church this past spring, the school aims to take part in additional spiritual and educational opportunities through its faith program.

"We will strive to provide our students the understanding of our beautiful worship space, complementing their faith-filled experiences in other churches they visit/experience currently and in their future years," Mr. Feilmeier says.

The school has often served the community through mission and outreach and will continue to do so in the coming year.

"St. Peter Catholic School will look to enhance this effort to provide 'in-action' opportunities for students to support charitable organizations through in-person participation in the missions and outreach of these organizations," Mr. Feilmeier says.

The school will also be entering the second year of the LEXIA effort as a reading tool for K-3 students.

"The goal is to further the features available in the classroom to teachers as a progress monitoring tool," Mr. Feilmeier says.

In addition, the IXL mathematics program will be implemented for kindergarten through eighth grades.

"As an enhanced tool for the classroom curriculum and for home use, it provides real-time, individual data to allow for positive reinforcement and growth for students," Mr. Feilmeier says.

The parish community is invited to volunteer and participate in building up of the school and its efforts by supporting the students themselves.

"Joy is continuously experienced/witnessed in seeing parish members, whether a school parent, an alumni school parent, or a parish member, to one that fits all categories, taking a mere moment in time to serve the children entrusted to our care," Mr. Feilmeier says.



A Letter From Our Pastor

THE FEAST OF THE ASSUMPTION: A TIME TO DEEPEN OUR CONNECTION WITH ST. MARY

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

As we approach the Feast of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, a Holy Day of Obligation, I wish to reflect with you on the profound significance of this event in our Catholic faith. The Assumption of Mary into heaven, body, and soul, is a celebration of utmost importance, and it offers us a unique opportunity to honor and venerate the Mother of God.



On Aug. 15, we commemorate the Assumption, the moment when the Virgin Mary was taken up to heaven by the power of God. This event signifies the culmination of Mary's earthly life, as her sinless body was preserved from corruption and united with her soul in the glory of heaven. Mary's Assumption not only demonstrates her unique role in salvation history but also points to the promise of our own resurrection and the hope of eternal life with God.

The Feast of the Assumption invites us to honor and venerate Mary, the Mother of God, in a special way. She who said "yes" to God's plan and brought our Savior into the world deserves our love, respect, and devotion. Mary's example of faith, humility, and self-surrender provides us with a model for living a life of holiness and obedience to God's will.

Here are some ways in which we can honor and venerate Mary on this Holy Day of Obligation:

- **Attend Mass:** The most important way to honor the Feast of the Assumption is to participate in the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass. By doing so, we unite ourselves with the whole Church in commemorating this event and receiving the grace of the Eucharist.
- **Pray the Rosary:** The Rosary is a beautiful prayer

that allows us to meditate on the life of Jesus and Mary. On this day, consider praying the Glorious Mysteries of the Rosary, which include the Assumption.

- **Visit a Marian Shrine:** If possible, visit a local Marian shrine or grotto to pay your respects to Mary. These sacred places are often filled with a sense of peace and devotion.
- **Acts of Charity:** In honor of Mary's compassionate heart, engage in acts of charity and kindness towards others. By emulating her love and care for those in need, we bring honor to her name.
- **Read and Reflect:** Take some time to read about the Assumption and meditate on the significance of this event. Reflect on Mary's unique role in God's plan for our salvation.
- **Personal Prayer:** Spend time in personal prayer, expressing your love and gratitude to Mary. Seek her intercession in your life and entrust your concerns to her.

The Feast of the Assumption is an occasion to deepen our connection with Mary and, through her, with Christ. It reminds us of the hope of our own resurrection and the promise of eternal life. May this day be a source of grace, renewal, and inspiration for all of us. In Mary's loving care and intercession, I pray that you have a blessed and meaningful Feast of the Assumption.

In His Mercy,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Fr. Eric Clark".

Fr. Eric Clark,
Pastor



ST. PETER CATHOLIC CHURCH

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS ABOUT OUR DISCIP

It's time for our Annual Discipleship Renewal. Every year, someone asks, as you may have asked yourself, "Didn't we just have a Discipleship Renewal? Aren't we sufficiently 'renewed' by now?" Yes, we had a Discipleship Renewal last year, and we're going to have one next year, too! This is an annual occurrence - part of the rhythm of parish life at St. Peter. Just as the Church proposes a time of spiritual renewal each Lent, we believe in the importance of a yearly examination of commitment. How is the Lord asking you to follow Him this year? The following Q&A about our Discipleship Renewal should help you discern your commitments to St. Peter this year.

*Commitment Weekend is
August 17-18. Don't forget to bring
your Commitment Card to Mass!*

I feel like my life is already too busy with family and work obligations. I barely even have time to relax. How can I possibly share my time and talents with the Lord?

We all have many obligations to our families, jobs, schools, and other endeavors. But we also all have the same number of hours in the day with which to accomplish these things. The issue is not how much time we have, but how we prioritize that time.

Before you fill out your Commitment Card, take some time to reflect on your priorities, and where God fits into your day-to-day life. Remember, living as true stewards of God's gifts involves giving back the first fruits of what He has given to us in thanksgiving, not the "leftovers." Saying "yes" to Him can be radical freedom, even when we seem the most pressed.

I am happy with my current level of parish participation. Why do I need to keep filling out a Commitment Card every year?

As part of the renewal process, we must consider our current level of participation in parish life at

St. Peter. Sometimes, the call to stewardship involves the quality of service in addition to its quantity. In looking through the opportunities for ministry available at the parish, you may find yourself drawn to a new ministry you haven't tried before or new ways to share of your time with God to enrich and enlighten your prayer life. So, even though your current level of parish participation might not change drastically, how you participate may evolve as you grow in living the stewardship way of life. Even if you end up continuing to participate in the same ministries as you have in the past, marking and turning in a Commitment Card means you have reviewed your present ministries and recommitted yourself to them.

I'm not very active in the Church and, frankly, feel like it may be too late to get involved. Why should I fill out a Commitment Card?

It's never too late to renew your faith life, and filling out a Commitment Card is a simple step through which you can immediately re-enter the life of the parish. Our parish community is not here to judge you but to welcome and nourish you in your faith journey. Begin by checking the box that says, "Attend weekly Mass and Holy Days of Obligation," and take some time to discern additional ways in which God is calling you from that starting point.

I'm physically unable to attend Mass or be active in parish life at St. Peter. Is there any reason for me to submit a Commitment Card?

Of course! Your prayers are just as important to the success of our parish community in carrying out its mission as ministry participation and financial contributions. Take a moment to look over some of the opportunities to spend quiet time with God listed in the "Stewardship of Time" section of the Commitment Card and take a step towards growing in your relationship with Christ and His Church.

ANNUAL DISCIPLESHIP RENEWAL

I'm reluctant to make a financial pledge for the year in case my circumstances change and I'm unable to fulfill it. Should I?

Your Commitment Card is not a legally binding contract; it is a pledge of intentions. Make your pledge based on what you are setting out to do to give back to God and do your best to fulfill that pledge. If your financial circumstances change, your gift will likely change, as well, but it is still important to prioritize God first. Nobody is going to send the bill collector to your house if you can't fulfill your pledge due to a change in your financial situation! But we've all got to start somewhere, and we must begin our commitment by writing down our goals for giving back of our gifts to God.

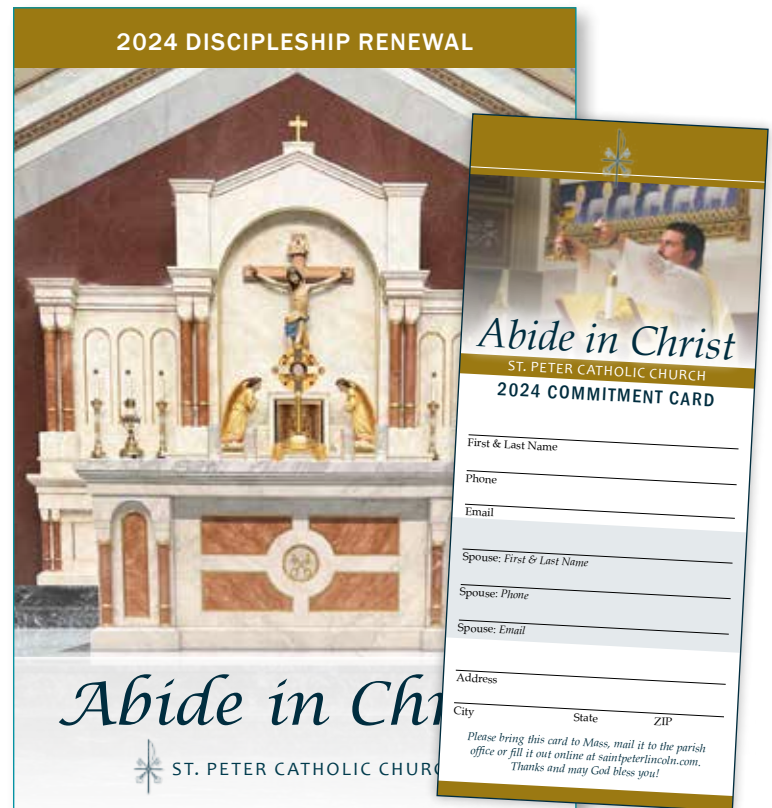
I've expressed interest in a ministry in the past by filling out a Commitment Card, but nobody from the parish ever followed up with me about it.

While we do our best to consistently follow up with everyone who has shown interest in the opportunities for ministry at St. Peter, we are human, and we sometimes fall short in our follow-up. If this has happened to you in the past, we sincerely apologize, and we encourage you to renew your interest in any activities in which you might like to participate by filling out a Commitment Card this year. Every year, we go into the renewal to make sure that everyone who has expressed interest is contacted with more information, and we will do so again this year.

I don't agree with everything that goes on at St. Peter. I feel like when I fill out a Commitment Card, it condones the things I disagree with.

In filling out a Commitment Card, you are not making a pledge between yourself and St. Peter; you are pledging between yourself and God. Disagreements occur in life. This is a part of being human, and we respect the opinions of every member of our parish family. But it is of utmost importance that each of us fulfills our

discipleship of Christ by growing in our relationship with Him and utilizing the gifts He has given us to carry out His mission on Earth, regardless of disagreements or misunderstandings. Beyond helping the parish, filling out a Commitment Card expresses a devotion to spiritual growth and a strong belief in the Catholic faith.



Every parish family receives a special "Discipleship Package" in the mail that further explains our parish's vision of Discipleship. It includes a booklet that describes every ministry in the parish, as well as your Commitment Card.



MEET OUR NEW STAFF MEMBERS, BAILEY FREY AND ABBY LEWIS

LIVING DISCIPLESHIP AND SERVING OUR FAITH COMMUNITY

Recently, we were blessed to welcome two new staff members to our St. Peter parish office. Bailey Frey joined us in May as our Director of Discipleship and Communication, and Abby Lewis joins us this month as our Director of Outreach and Evangelization.

Bailey Frey comes to us from Norman, OK, where she has served as a Fellowship of Catholic University Students (FOCUS) missionary on the campus of OU for the past two years. She grew up in the small town of Neligh, Neb., the middle of three children.

After graduating high school, Bailey attended the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, where she says her relationship with Christ and commitment to discipleship took root.

"My sophomore year, I signed up for a Bible study that was led by a FOCUS missionary," Bailey says. "She invested in me as a friend and invited me to many things at the Newman Center. She invited me to a FOCUS annual conference, which I very reluctantly went to. Despite my hesitation, I came back from that conference knowing I would never be the same and with the desire to make known to all my friends and family the little bit that I had been exposed to about Jesus and what we were made for."

The remainder of Bailey's college years involved immense growth in her faith, and after graduating with a degree in Secondary Business Marketing and Information Technology Education, Bailey desired to use her life to bring others to Jesus.

"Since the investment of the FOCUS missionaries was such a huge driver of my relationship with Jesus, I desired to give myself in a similar way as I discerned next steps," she says. "So, I applied to be a FOCUS missionary and was accepted."

After two years of serving FOCUS, Bailey is looking forward to serving St. Peter Parish and becoming a part of our community.

"I'm looking forward to continuing to live discipleship full-time," Bailey says. "I'm excited to be fully engulfed in parish life and to get to know the community of St. Peter."

On a practical level, Bailey will be doing part of what Katherine Norman has done for many years and part of what Brenda Shields has been doing.

Abby Lewis comes to us after serving for two years as a FOCUS missionary in Ohio. Her fiancé, Bryan Warday, was raised in Lincoln, and the two want to start their married life near his family.

The youngest of six children, Abby grew up in Bloomington-Normal, IL. There, she and her siblings were raised in the faith. They learned much about how important it is to keep Christ the center of their lives.

"My family was always busy with various activities, but keeping the Catholic faith at the center was a priority for our family," Abby says. "We attended Mass every Sunday, were grounded in and taught Christian morals, and tried to keep Christ as the center of all we did."

This foundation of faith pushed Abby to deepen her own personal relationship with Christ and commitment to discipleship from a very young age.

"From a young age, I have always had a curiosity about the faith that really flourished in high school," Abby says. "A couple of my teachers invited me into a small group. I was taught how to pray, learned more about Catholic doctrine and teachings, began prioritizing the sacraments, and ultimately found that it was possible to have a personal relationship with Jesus Christ."

After high school, Abby attended the University of Missouri where she studied health sciences in hopes of becoming a physician's assistant. Only God had other plans for her.

"I graduated from Mizzou in three years and felt God calling me to do missionary work with FOCUS rather than going to grad school," Abby says. "The freedom and

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MEET OUR NEW STAFF MEMBERS *continued from page 6*



Abby Lewis

sanctification that came with discipleship and evangelization lit a fire in my heart for Christ and deepened my trust in His plan. Throughout my two years as a FOCUS missionary, and even still, I have been learning both the cost and the beauty of discipleship and striving to make Jesus the center of my life each day.”

Abby’s role as Director of Outreach and Evangelization is new to the St. Peter parish staff. She will help us work toward our mission to make disciples. As she steps into this new role at St. Peter, she is excited



Bailey Frey

to get to know our parishioners and to grow in faith alongside all of us.

“Walking with others in discipleship has been one of the most transformative parts of my life,” Abby says. “I am excited to guide the members of St. Peter along their own walks of missionary discipleship and see how the Holy Spirit wants to move in this parish!”

Welcome to St. Peter, Bailey, and Abby! We look forward to getting to know each of you and are eager to see God use you to build the Church!

“I’m looking forward to continuing to live discipleship full-time. I’m excited to be fully engulfed in parish life and to get to know the community of St. Peter.” — Bailey Frey



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

40 HOUR DEVOTION

Abide in Christ

A 40 hour devotion is an extended time for Eucharistic adoration to encounter Christ in a renewed way.



Scan the QR to learn more & sign up for one of the hours.



Talks will be at 7 PM
September 5 & 6
and 9 AM
September 7.



Devotion will go from September 5, 2024 at 6:00 pm to September 7, 2024 at 12:00 pm.

Praise & Worship will be Thursday & Friday evenings after the talks.