



# ST. PETER CATHOLIC CHURCH

*Monthly Newsletter*

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**FEBRUARY 2025**



# ST. PETER CATHOLIC CHURCH

## JOIN US FOR OUR UPCOMING PARISH RETREAT ON MARCH 9

### A TIME TO GROW IN OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD

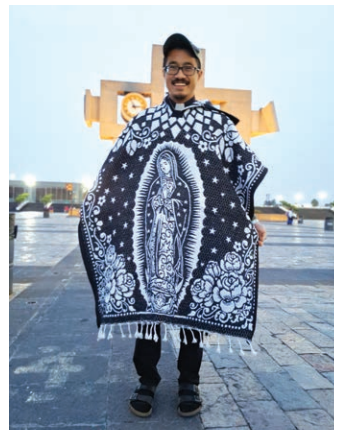
Next month we will begin Lent and enter the desert with Jesus for 40 days, we will hold our annual parish retreat on Sunday, March 9. Fr. Allan Phan will join us as the presenter, sharing his story and discussing how to grow in faith through the trials of life.

“Fr. Phan is joyful, young, and can relate to many people,” Fr. Clark says. “He has a great story to share.”

A convert to the Catholic faith, Fr. Phan grew up in Lincoln, Neb., with a Buddhist mother and an atheist father. At 27, he was diagnosed with colorectal cancer, and after enduring grueling treatments, including chemotherapy, God cured him of the cancer. Fr. Phan, in turn, committed to sharing his story with people everywhere.

“I want to show people that you can go through difficult things in life and still be okay,” Fr. Phan said in an interview with KRVN News.

Today, Fr. Phan serves as pastor of St. Vincent Ferrer in Osceola with a mission to St. Mary in Pilzno. He also shares his story



*Fr. Allan Phan will present our upcoming retreat.*

and daily devotions through videos on his Facebook page, “Devotions With Daisy,” offering spiritual nourishment and encouragement.

We look forward to welcoming Fr. Phan to St. Peter and hearing his story firsthand. He will preach at all Masses on March 8 and 9. Then, at 6:30 p.m. on March 9, our annual retreat will begin, with Fr. Phan offering his words of wisdom. The retreat will be in the church with praise and worship, adoration, and confessions. Afterward, we will gather in the John Paul II Hall to listen to Fr. Phan and we will conclude

with a time of fellowship.

“This is a great way to start your Lent,” Fr. Clark says. “Lent is a journey to enter into a deeper relationship with the Lord, and retreats like this help us do that.”

The retreat is open to everyone, and Fr. Clark encourages all to consider attending. If you are interested in participating, please register. The event is free, but registration will help us plan for food and drinks.

We hope you will make time to join us at this year’s retreat. It promises to be a time for all of us to grow in faith as a parish family.

*Use the QR code to fill out a registration form or keep an eye out in the bulletin and on social media. Registration forms will be provided therein.*



*A Letter from Our Pastor*

## **LISTENING TO GOD'S WORD: A CALL TO HEAR AND ACT**

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

**A**s we settle into Ordinary Time, we find ourselves in a unique rhythm of the liturgical year. The Christmas season has concluded, and Lent is just around the corner. This year, Ash Wednesday falls in early March, giving us an extended period of Ordinary Time to reflect and prepare our hearts for the Lenten journey ahead.

The Gospel of John opens with these profound words: "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God" (John 1:1). As Catholics, we often speak of "the Word" in our faith and liturgy, but have we taken the time to truly ponder its meaning?

The first half of the Mass is called the Liturgy of the Word, and it is here that we encounter God speaking to us directly through Scripture. This part of the Mass includes the First Reading, the Responsorial Psalm, the Second Reading, the Gospel, and the Homily. Together, they form a sacred dialogue between God and His people.

For us, these readings are not merely stories or lessons from the past — they are the living Word of God, meant to nourish, challenge, and inspire us. Each time we hear the Word proclaimed, we are invited to listen with open hearts and respond with faithful lives. But that requires us to be fully present. Are we truly listening to what God is saying to us? Are we allowing His Word to transform us?

The Word of God calls us to action. The Responsorial

Psalm invites us to respond in prayer, the Homily helps us to apply God's message to our daily lives, and the Profession of Faith affirms our acceptance of His Word. Yet the question remains: how do we carry this Word beyond the walls of the church?

Hearing God's Word is only the beginning. To live as disciples and stewards, we must let His Word take root in our hearts and bear fruit in our lives. Does the Word lead us to deeper conversion, greater service, and a more intentional faith? These are questions we are called to ask ourselves daily.

Living out the Word is not always easy — it requires commitment, patience, and a willingness to grow. But when we respond faithfully, we bring God's light and love into the world. My prayer for each of us this year is that we not only hear the Word but also live it boldly and share it generously with others.

In His Mercy,



Fr. Eric Clark,  
Pastor





## JOIN US IN THE LENT BUILDING A PROFOUND E



One of the beautiful things about Lent is that it brings many opportunities for spiritual formation and growth – it's a great time to reconnect more deeply to our faith through prayer, fasting, and almsgiving. Activities like Lenten retreats and missions also play a key role during this reflective liturgical season.

Upcoming, this Lent, we will offer our Annual Parish Retreat with Fr. Allan Phan, held on Sunday, March 9 – all are invited to attend. As we look toward this parish mission next month, our catechist Blake Vajgrt would like to see people get involved in small groups. The groups will study a program from the Archdiocese of Omaha called Live Lent Together. The goal of the small groups is to help people encounter Jesus.

“The leader and participants will go through the Scriptures, encountering the Lord through His Word,” Blake says.

Two training sessions will be held for anyone interested in leading a small group. Those interested are welcome to attend from 9 to 11 a.m. on Saturday, Feb. 22, or 7 to 9 p.m. on Tuesday, Feb. 25. Both trainings will be held in St. Paul Outside the Walls.

The goal will be to create about 12 small groups this Lent so that anyone interested can find a time that works for them.

“Jesus doesn't call the equipped – He equips the called,” Blake says. “If you feel a tug, attend one of the trainings.” “We want to equip people to lead a small group and take the fear and anxiety out of it.”

Blake wants potential leaders to realize they are there to guide people and open their hearts. Jesus will be at the meetings, so small group leaders need only be there as guides.

“Jesus is at the center of these groups,” Blake says. “You



*“If we have the eyes and ears, and the faith to approach small groups that way, it's more than just a simple intellectual Bible study. We can all be formed by the Master, just like the apostles 2,000 years ago.” — Blake Vajgrt*

# TEN SMALL GROUPS ENCOUNTER WITH CHRIST

have leaders who are facilitating. He is the center of all we do. The Holy Spirit is animating our activity.”

The groups will meet six times, with the potential to continue past Lent. Most will meet in their homes or a public space. The meetings will last one hour to 75 minutes.

“I encourage all parishioners to make this your Lenten goal – to grow in faith this Lent through the six gatherings.”

Currently, there are a few small groups that are meeting regularly. Blake and the rest of the parish staff would like to see that number expand. Small groups are a key to helping people grow in faith.

“Take this time to grow and encounter Jesus,” Blake says. “Come learn anew with your fellow parishioners.”

Blake points out how Jesus interacted with the apostles in *The Chosen* video series.

“We see how the apostles were friends with Jesus,” Blake says. “Just like that, we can gather with people and more clearly see our lives together. If we have the eyes and ears, and the faith to approach small groups that way, it’s more than just a simple intellectual Bible study. We can all be formed by the Master, just like the apostles 2,000 years ago.”

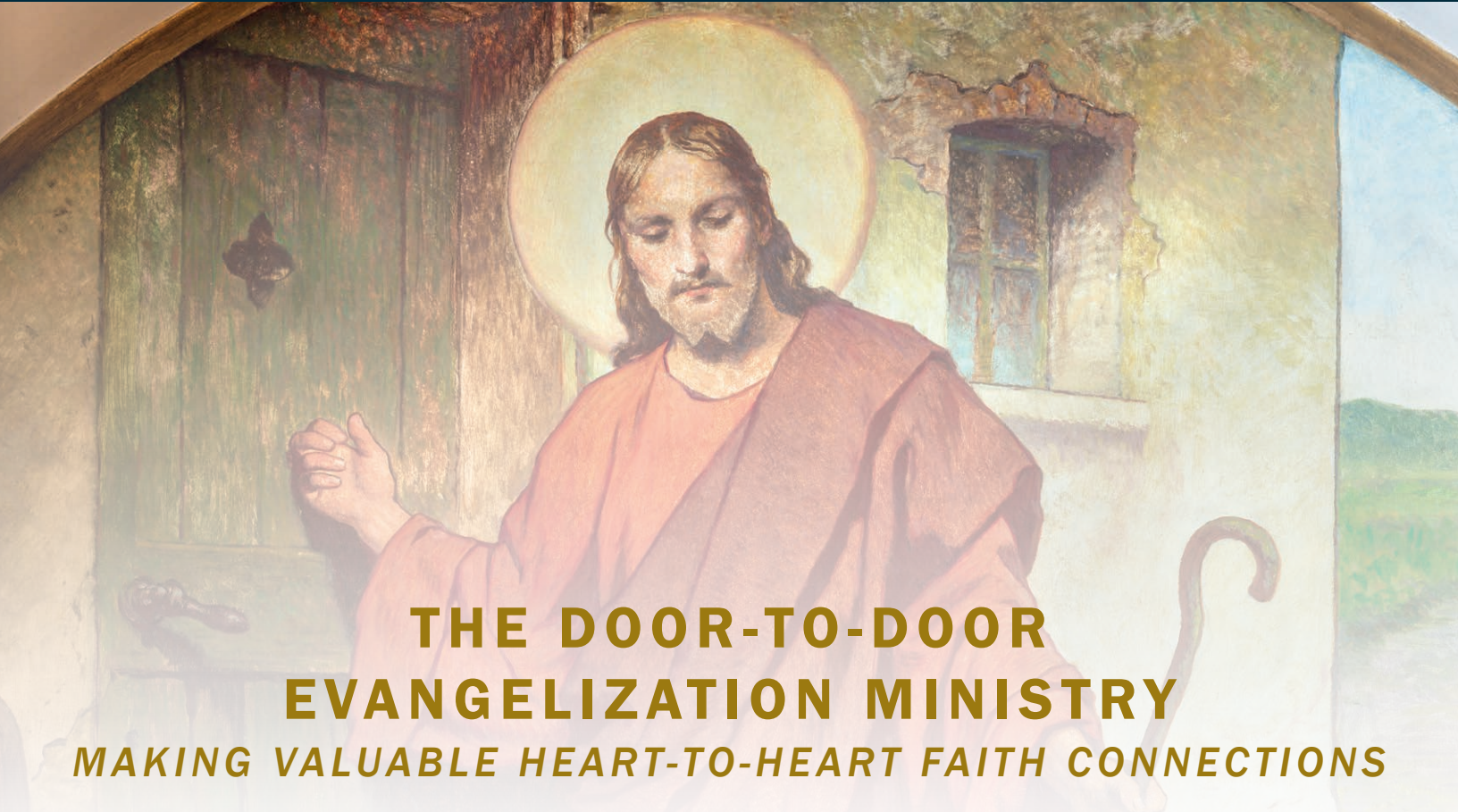
Parishioners Mary and Thomas Lally and their kids have been members of a small group for the past three years, and Mary says it has been a blessing for the whole family.

I enjoy both the fellowship with other couples and families, and also for accountability with Mass prep,” Mary says. “We typically go over readings for the upcoming Sunday, and having gone through the reading beforehand is very helpful on Sunday during Mass, especially if one of our kids is being particularly squirmy in the pew! Developing even deeper and more meaningful relationships with like-minded families has been wonderful!”

Watch for more information in early March on getting involved in a small group this Lent through the bulletin, Father’s Friday communication, and on the website.



*Anyone interested is welcome to attend from 9 to 11 a.m. on Saturday, Feb. 22, or 7 to 9 p.m. on Tuesday, Feb. 25. Both trainings will be held in St. Paul Outside the Walls. Contact [bailey-frey@cdolinc.net](mailto:bailey-frey@cdolinc.net) if you are interested in our trainings on how to lead a small group.*



## THE DOOR-TO-DOOR EVANGELIZATION MINISTRY

**MAKING VALUABLE HEART-TO-HEART FAITH CONNECTIONS**

Some individuals may feel a sense of anxiety at the thought of making cold calls, but consider the courage required to approach strangers door-to-door. This is the bold undertaking of Abby Warday, Director of Evangelization, who leads the Door-to-Door Evangelization Ministry every Thursday at 6:30 p.m.

“Our response to the great commission is crucial,” Abby asserts. “We are called to make disciples of all nations. It’s easy to think this duty is just for missionaries abroad or for priests, but it is truly the call of every Christian.”

Abby, along with other staff members and a handful of fellow parishioners – many of whom are part of the Legion of Mary – embark on this mission, visiting people who need support from the parish, those



*Abby Warday*

who have fallen away from the Church, and those seeking to know God more fully.

“You get to listen, accompany,

and extend invitations,” Abby shares. “It’s an opportunity to share a bit of truth. It is truly a privilege when individuals share their stories with us, and the Holy Spirit often allows various misconceptions to come to the light that we get to address.”

This endeavor requires a heart filled with faith and determination. Abby and her companions embrace this challenge.

“Choosing zeal and love gives us the grace and motivation we need to do this work each week. We understand that the Lord has orchestrated these moments to connect us with specific souls, to embody Christ’s love and welcome them back,” she expresses. “Every encounter, even those that end in rejection, strengthens and emboldens us to

*continued on page 7*

## THE DOOR-TO-DOOR EVANGELIZATION MINISTRY

*continued from page 6*

give to the Lord without measure. I often leave wishing we could spend hours at each house and get to know each person's story more fully."

They approach each house with the intent to listen and invite, discussing community events happening at the parish, Mass times, 24/7 Adoration, and various prayer or social gatherings, while also sharing a bulletin. They extend a warm invitation back to Mass and to their OCIA program, *The Way*, for those interested in becoming Catholic. Abby and her team prioritize curiosity over judgment.

"I say a Hail Mary at every door, trusting that Mary will intercede and guide every encounter," Abby reveals. "In response to the love Christ showed us, this is what we ought to do – continually invite people to relationship with Jesus. We cannot let the Church become stagnant – we need to constantly invite people in so they know they are welcome here. If we ignore the voice of the Holy Spirit in our hearts, we risk missing divine encounters. It's a tangible way to offer the gift of faith to those who have strayed or have yet to discover it."

The Great Commission of Matthew 28 resonates with all, and the Door-to-Door Evangelization



*(From left) Glenda Davis, Mike Davis, Paul Liess, and Mike Foley*

team passionately answers that call, reaching out to the lost each Thursday. The Legion of Mary also visits new parishioners, delivering welcome baskets on Sunday afternoons.

"To me, the fruits of our labor may not always be visible, but that does not mean they are not abundant," Abby reflects. "I trust that a seed has been planted that will nurture faith and hope. We pray for everyone on our list before we head out, upon our return, and the St. Monica's Ministry continues those prayers."

The ministry has seen abundant results from their efforts.

"Parishioners we hadn't realized were homebound now receive Jesus weekly in the Eucharist," Abby notes. "We meet individuals who are deeply grateful, simply to know that the Catholic Church has not forgotten them. Many share their prayer requests with us, and we are able to pray with them at the visit and continue interceding for them even when we leave. With each visit, we aim to guide them closer to Christ. That's the beauty of parish boundaries – we hold a sacred responsibility to care for the souls entrusted to us."

*Those interested in joining may contact Abby Warday at [abby-warday@cdolinc.net](mailto:abby-warday@cdolinc.net) or call the parish at 402-423-1239.*



# 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

*Aloha!*

*lei'd back*  
**LUAU**

**Save the Date**

*Friday, May 2*



St. Peter Catholic Church Annual Fundraiser