



ST. PETER CATHOLIC CHURCH

Monthly Newsletter



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JANUARY 2022



ST. PETER CATHOLIC CHURCH

BAPTISMAL PREPARATION MINISTRY: PROVIDING OUR CHILDREN WITH A GATEWAY TO LIFE IN THE SPIRIT

The *Catechism of the Catholic Church* makes it clear just how important the Sacrament of Baptism is to our faith – “Holy Baptism is the basis of the whole Christian life, the gateway to life in the Spirit, and the door which gives access to the other sacraments” (1213). When parents choose to have a child baptized, they are responding to the love of God already working in their own lives as they wish to share that response of love with their child.

Parish Catechist Blake Vajgrt and Patty Daberkow, who runs the Baptism Preparation program, are working on some changes to the program’s format.

“I love working with this ministry,” says Patty, who has coordinated the program for about nine years. “I love meeting the couples and seeing their babies.”

Patty feels blessed to have the opportunity to welcome new parents to St. Peter Catholic Church – for some, this is the first time they have connected with someone at our parish. She also loves being able to introduce couples to one another.

The Baptism Preparation class is offered 10 months of the year to first-time parents. It’s an opportunity to learn more about Baptism, watch a video of the sacrament being performed, learn the roles of godparents, and more.

“Patty has done phenomenal work with this program,” Blake says. “She’s made a lot of good changes as time has gone on.”

As this program might serve as the first connection point with St. Peter Catholic Church, another class is being added to teach families how to live the Catholic faith at home and provide ideas for treating the home



Fr. Clark performs a Baptism.

as the domestic church. Before the Baptism, parents will meet with Fr. Eric Clark. All of this will give more time for the questions and special circumstances that arise with the parents.

“It is a parent’s promise, at Baptism, to nurture the child in the faith,” Blake says. “This is why the Church baptizes them. Through Baptism, each member of the family is invited into a new mission, and we are here to equip you for the mission.”

Blake also encourages us to research our Baptism date and find ways to celebrate it, as a family, like showing photos from the day, making a special meal for the person, and lighting their baptismal candle.

Baptisms are held after 11 a.m. Mass on the first and third Sundays of each month.

To sign up to have a child baptized, please visit saintpeterslincoln.com/baptism.html.

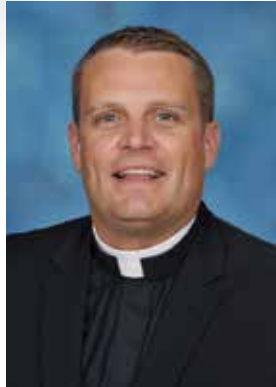
*If you would like to get involved with this ministry,
contact Patty Daberkow at 402-429-0502 or kdaber@aol.com.*

A Letter from Our Pastor

START 2022 WITH A CLEAN SPIRITUAL SLATE

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

We were all taught in school that the month January gets its name from Janus, the ancient Roman god of doors and gates. His image was always carved or painted with two faces, one looking forward and the other backward. This reflected, of course, that you can go either out a door or in through one. From this very specific function, his role was generalized to include all beginnings and new endeavors.



Because of Janus's place in the Roman pantheon, it seemed natural to the Romans to name the first month of the civil year after him. (The Church year began back with the First Sunday of Advent, you'll remember.) And although we no longer worship the pagan gods of the ancient Romans, the name has stuck.

But we're not immune to the human instinct that moved the Romans to name the first month after Janus. His double countenance, facing forward and backward, reflects how we approach the coming of each new year.

The last week of the old year finds the newspapers and TV programs giving a glance back at the past year ("the 10 best, or worst, movies of..." and such) along with predictions of what the new year will bring. My personal favorite is always "the 10 worst predictions" for the year just ending.

Just like the secular world does – Janus-like – we both look back at our own successes and failures, happy events, and sad ones, during the year just ending and also forward to the new year as we prepare our resolutions.

When we reflect back at the blessings we've received, our hearts should be filled with gratitude.

And blessings there have been, no matter how difficult the year has been. But for most of us, there have been failures and failings, too. That calls for repentance, and perhaps a trip to the confessional – and God, who makes "all things new" (Rv 21:5), will then give us a clean spiritual slate to begin the new year with.

I'd also like to challenge you to include your grateful response to God as you make your resolutions for the new year. You don't have to wait until you fill out a commitment card to decide this is the year when you're going to attend Mass once a week in addition to Sunday, or that you're going to attend Mass every Sunday. Maybe it is to begin regular prayers with your family or pray the Rosary every week. Include in your resolutions how you are going to get involved in some ministry in the parish or some service to the community, and then do so. Decide to become more faithful in your financial stewardship if your treasure commitment is less than it should be. Look forward to the new year and bring Christ and his Church to the center of your resolutions. Then see what a good year it will be, with God at the center!

Have a blessed New Year!

In His Mercy,

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

Fr. Eric Clark,
Pastor



ST. PETER CATHOLIC CHURCH



Holy Happy Hour:

If there's one thing we learned from the separation brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic, it's that being together with friends and family is so important. Unfortunately, we don't often have time for fellowship with our church family after Mass. But thanks to the dream of Katherine Norman and the leadership of Zachary and Laura Kane, St. Peter Catholic Church now has Holy Happy Hour – events for the adults of St. Peter to enjoy time with friends old and new, accompanied with drinks, games, and competition.

This ministry began with an April 2021 Trivia Night that was attended by more than 150 people. Teams competed to answer a series of questions, all while enjoying refreshments, drinks, and prize giveaways. Additionally, in September 2021, the Holy Happy Hour Ministry

held a Pitch card tournament, with parishioners vying to shoot the moon and win half the pot of the entry fee.

The Holy Happy Hour ministry will continue with quarterly events at St. Peter.

"We had a desire to do this before COVID," Zachary says. "It has become an even greater desire now to provide an opportunity for parishioners to spend time with each other and develop stronger community."

Attendees bring their own beverages with snacks and water provided.

"We want to bring our parish family together to have a good time," Zachary says. "This ministry and these events are open to everyone; from brand new members of our church to those who have been here since the beginning."

"As parents of young children, we look forward to spending our more limited evenings out with our friends from St. Peter at events like these," Laura adds. "We are so grateful for this church, the second home it has become



Parishioners and community members gathered for Trivia Night in 2021.



The Holy Happy Hour will continue with various games quarterly on Friday nights in the Bishop Vasa Hall.

SHARING IN GAMES AND FELLOWSHIP, BUILDING CONNECTIONS IN OUR PARISH

for our family, and how integral the people here have been to the development of our faith and life in Christ. Yes, we hope the Holy Happy Hour events provide a fun evening out, but also a time to develop those deep friendships that make St. Peter a place that is everyone's home."

Passionate about this ministry, Zachary and Laura hope to see it grow, noting that many parishioners have already expressed interest in volunteering. If you would enjoy assisting with this ministry, which could include planning events, providing refreshments, or helping during events, please contact Laura at laurakane4@gmail.com

Planning for 2022 Holy Happy Hour events is underway, including a Trivia Night on Jan. 28th and another event (theme to be determined) on April 22nd.

Please come, raise your "spirits" and join your St. Peter community at these upcoming events!

"We want to bring Catholics together to have fun. We've had everyone from those who have been members here for just a few months, to those who have been here since the church started. We've even had people from other parishes." — Zach Kane



This ministry began with an April 2021 Trivia Night that was attended by more than 150 people.



The first two Holy Happy Hour events for 2022 will be held on January 28th and April 22nd. If you are interested in joining this ministry team or financially supporting, please contact Laura Kane at laurakane4@gmail.com.



EARLY CHILDHOOD

Exploring,



When families choose St. Peter School, they can rest assured that their children's spiritual, social, emotional and academic growth will be cultivated and celebrated. (From left – Micah, Theodore, Aniston, Anna and Eleanor)

As Pope Francis told a general audience, “Children are the joy of the family and of society.” At St. Peter School, we take the formation of our children seriously. Young children bring life into our church, and watching our children grow in faith and knowledge is a joy for our preschool and pre-K teachers and catechists.

Shelley Moser, Leslie Bixenmann, Julie Colson, Tami Britton, and Colleen Smith bring combined decades of teaching experience. Their varied experiences create a unique and nurturing preschool and pre-K program at St. Peter School. They are proud to be part of a program that welcomes and nurtures all. The Early Childhood program currently serves 28 students.

One of the unique aspects of the program is access to an outdoor classroom. The team has been developing the Nature Explorer program, which allows the children to engage with nature in an educational and play-based way. The opportunities that the children have to explore and learn through nature help them to develop the whole person in a natural and joyful way.

Mrs. Smith offers the children faith formation through Catechesis of the Good Shepherd (CGS). This Montessori-based method of catechesis provides an environment in which the children enter into authentic relationship with Jesus. The work of their hands with scriptural, liturgical, and practical life materials aids them in listening deeply to learn for themselves who God is and who they are.

“CGS introduces the contemplation and

DEVELOPMENT:

Discovering and Nurturing All

enjoyment of God and invites children into the life of the Church,” Mrs. Smith says.

Catechesis of the Good Shepherd is part of the Early Childhood program but is also available to non-school children in or outside of our parish.

This well-rounded program, provided by teachers and catechists who are passing on a love of learning, nurtures the whole child in a way that lets them be their own individual selves.

“Children develop at all different rates and the light bulb turns on at all different times of the school year,” Mrs. Bixenmann says. “The growth we see throughout the year is a true reward for all!”

Families are welcome to come visit the Early Childhood program to help decide if it is the right fit for them. When families choose St. Peter School, they can rest assured that their children’s spiritual, social, emotional, and academic growth will be cultivated and celebrated.

“I love watching the children explore and discover through their own processes, take that knowledge, and apply it elsewhere,” Mrs. Bixenmann says. “This is truly a life skill that they will take with them forever.”

The mission of the school is certainly embodied in this program — St. Peter is a place where families and children can grow spiritually, academically, and in service of neighbor to prepare for the Kingdom of Heaven.



If you would like to schedule a tour of the Early Childhood program, please email Shelley Moser at shelley-moser@cdolinc.net. Registration forms can be found on the school website at www.saintpeterslincoln.com/school.

If you have additional questions, please call the school at 402-421-6299.



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.

Saturday: 8:15 a.m.

CONFESSION

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

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

THE FEAST OF THE EPIPHANY

January 2, 2022

On the Feast of the Epiphany, we come to realize that we are all on a pilgrimage towards Christ, the source of salvation. This pilgrimage is unique to each and every man, but results in a universal and dynamic experience — a constant “growing closer” between God and man. It is for this opportunity that we rejoice!

