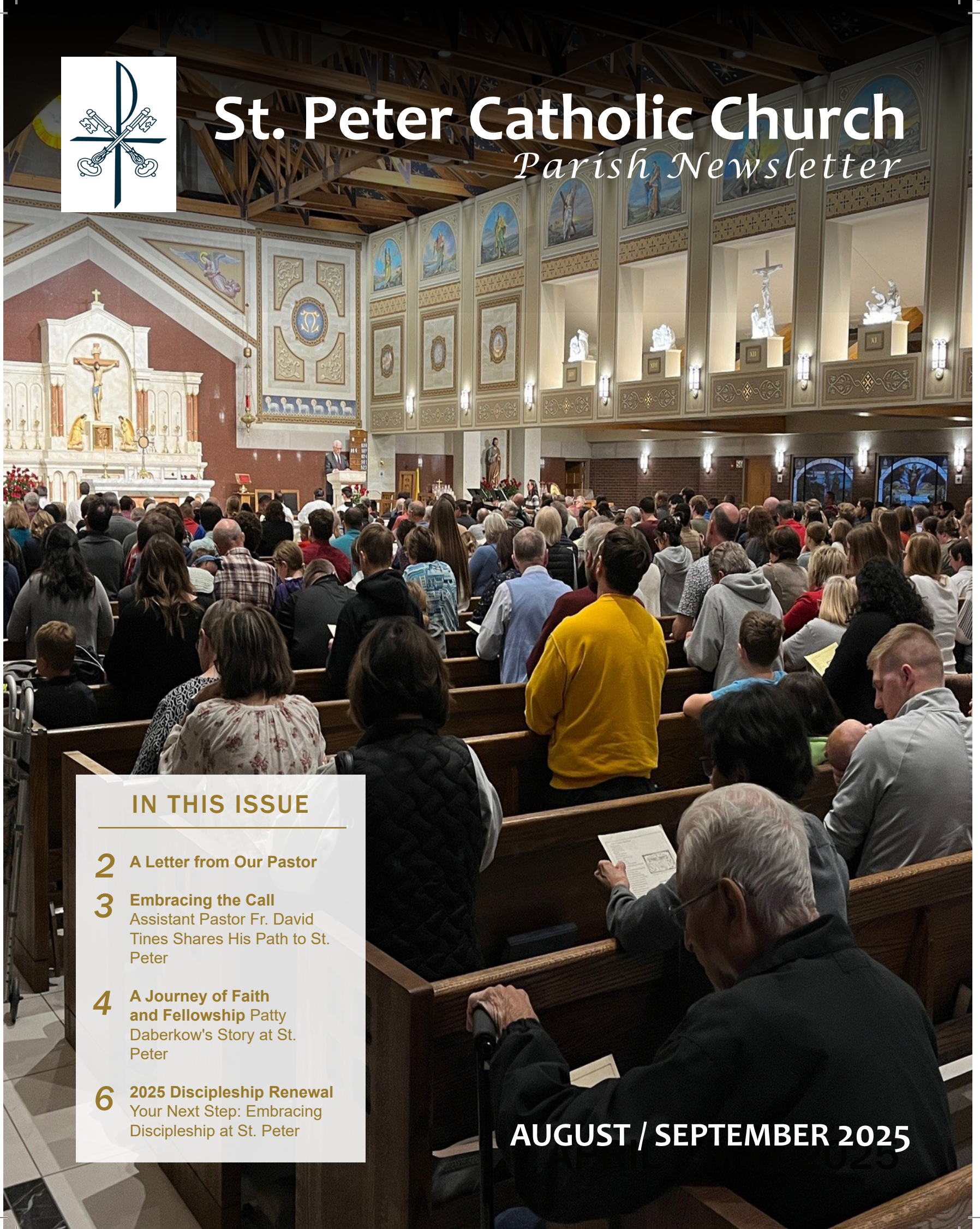




# St. Peter Catholic Church

*Parish Newsletter*



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**AUGUST / SEPTEMBER 2025**



# ST. PETER CATHOLIC CHURCH



*A Letter from Our Pastor*

## A DEEPER COMMITMENT TO MARRIAGE

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

A young man once told me, “I want to get married someday, but I’ve never really seen what a good marriage looks like.” His words stopped me. In a world filled with broken promises and failed relationships, it’s easy to see how someone could feel that way, yet we know God has a different vision.

As a priest and especially as pastor here at St. Peter Church, I’ve had the joy of witnessing that vision lived out in so many ways: grandparents holding hands in the pew, parents teaching their children to pray, and young couples striving for holiness in their vocation to marriage. These moments are powerful reminders that the family truly is a domestic church – the place where love is learned, faith is passed on, and the hope of Christ is made visible.

And yet, we can’t ignore the reality around us. For the first time in our country’s history, a majority of adults in the U.S. are not married. Even more sobering, 54% of children will reach their 17th birthday without their married mother and father in the home. These numbers speak to a deep need, not just for stronger marriages, but for a Church willing to walk with couples and families through every stage of life.

Scripture tells us, “For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh” (Genesis 2:24). Marriage is not just a human arrangement; it is a



sacred covenant that mirrors Christ’s love for his Church: total, faithful, fruitful, and free.

That’s why we’re taking small but meaningful steps as a parish to renew our commitment to marriage and family life. One of those steps is a new partnership with Communio, an organization helping churches support healthy relationships through formation, outreach, and community. You may begin to notice new

opportunities, some small and some more visible, to grow in faith and love together. Mark your calendars for our Fall Date Night on Friday, October 18th, a wonderful opportunity for connection. We will also host a Marriage Retreat the weekend of Nov. 15/16th, providing deeper formation and fellowship. More details on both events will be coming soon!

Marriage isn’t easy, but it is worth it. And it’s never meant to be lived alone. Let’s be a parish that surrounds couples with prayer, encouragement, and hope so that more young people can look around and say, “Now I know what a good marriage looks like.”

In His Mercy,

Fr. Clark, Pastor

## **EMBRACING THE CALL**

### **ASSISTANT PASTOR FR. DAVID TINES SHARES HIS PATH TO ST. PETER**

As your newly appointed Assistant Pastor, I'm excited to share a little bit about my journey of faith and how it led me to serve you. My path, much like that of St. Peter, has been marked by a persistent call to follow Christ, even when the way forward wasn't entirely clear.

#### **A Lifelong Pull Towards God**

I was born the oldest of three and raised in Lincoln. My early education was a mix of homeschooling, St. Joseph School, and Pius X High School. Despite my family's regular Mass attendance, I personally struggled with prayer and didn't feel God's active presence in my life. Yet, by God's grace, I persisted. Like St. Peter, I eventually recognized the "all-or-nothing" nature of faith, feeling a deep yearning for meaning that kept drawing me back. I simply kept showing up for groups and holy hours, even when prayer felt silent and confusing. After graduating, I pursued computer engineering at UNL. On my own for the first time, I faced a clear choice: embrace or abandon my faith. The same grace sustained me. I knew that leaving the Church meant leaving the very possibility of purpose, so I continued attending Mass and became involved in a FOCUS bible study.

#### **Embracing the Call to Priesthood**

It was during this time that I truly placed God at the center of my life. I found myself with an unshakable lack of peace, sensing that God was guiding me toward a significant change. This meant admitting that God is real and paramount, and that my secular pursuits were secondary. By God's grace, I made that change, and more followed. A year later, a conversation with a high school friend led me to realize God must have made me for a specific purpose, and I felt a strong call to the priesthood. Initially, I had absolutely no desire to go to seminary. Yet, the same choice presented itself: follow God or run from God. I chose to follow, and each year, I chose to stay. Gradually, through formation and prayer, God diminished my resistance, revealing my deep desire for the priesthood. And throughout

it all, whenever the temptation to give up arose, the same question returned to me: "To whom shall we go, Lord? You have the words of everlasting life."

#### **Beginning My Service as Assistant Pastor**

Which brings me to today. I was ordained a deacon in May 2024 and served at North American Martyrs in Lincoln last summer, completing my formation at Mount St. Mary Seminary in Emmitsburg, Md. Now, I am blessed to begin my service as your Assistant Pastor. I have received immense love and support over the years, and excellent education. I'm truly excited about being a part of a stable community like St. Peter's. I enjoy connecting with people and delving into theological discussions. My hobbies also include cooking, drawing (I even designed the emblem on the back of my white vestment!), reading, and fixing things. If you were to invite me into your lives, I would love to cook with you - it's a lot of fun! I also genuinely enjoy seeing what people are excited about and simply learning about your passions. Finally, I find our patron, St. Peter, particularly inspiring. He possesses a remarkable tenacity; he keeps taking "L's" and getting up anyway. And Jesus seems to bless that, not because Peter has a spotless track record, but because he trusts, he goes for it, and he is humble enough to accept his own weakness and keep trying. I can certainly relate to that.

Assistant Pastor, Fr. David Tines





# ST. PETER CATHOLIC CHURCH



## A JOURNEY OF FAITH AND FELLOWSHIP *PATTY DABERKOW'S STORY AT ST. PETER*

### **The Power of Connection: Patty Daberkow's Journey and the Heart of Small Groups at St. Peter**

For over two decades, Patty Daberkow and her family have been active members of St. Peter, a community that has deeply shaped their lives through faith, education, and various activities. Patty, a dedicated Speech/Language Pathologist for local schools, and her husband, a farmer, have raised three children who all attended St. Peter Catholic School and graduated from Pius X High School. Their family's journey is a testament to the vibrant and supportive environment they found within the parish.

### **A Deep-Rooted Connection to St. Peter**

Patty's involvement at St. Peter began around 26 years ago, rooted in a desire to contribute to the spiritual formation of young parishioners. She first volunteered as a 3rd-grade CCD teacher where she co-taught with her sister. Sharing faith with the children provided immense joy. This early experience quickly blossomed into broader

parish engagement, including joining a women's circle and assisting with Baptism preparation classes. As her children grew, her focus naturally shifted to supporting St. Peter's school through various volunteer roles.

### **Small Groups: A Vital Step on Our Clear Path of Discipleship**

Through years of faithful service, Patty continued to seek new ways to grow in her relationship with Christ—eventually finding that desire fulfilled in the growing small group opportunities at St. Peter. Patty's interest in small group faith sharing was rekindled when St. Peter began offering Upper Room, a parish group to support and equip parishioners in missionary discipleship. Inspired by her own children's positive experiences in discipleship and Bible study groups, Patty felt a renewed desire for a consistent, faith-focused community. She observed their dedication and eagerness to attend their groups, witnessing firsthand the profound impact these gatherings had on their faith lives. When St. Peter

## *Abide in Christ and build His kingdom*



announced new small groups for the Lenten season, Patty felt prompted to take a leap of faith and lead one herself.

Leading a small group was a new venture for Patty. In the past, uncertainties about discussion topics and time commitment had held her back. However, her enriching Upper Room Experiences left her wanting to follow Jesus more closely and join his mission to make disciples. The materials from these sessions, combined with a helpful small group prep class and guidance from her daughter, equipped her for this new role. Training on the WRAP prayer method proved particularly helpful in getting her group started.

### **Encountering Jesus Through Shared Faith**

Patty's small group consists of six women, all known to her through years of shared life within the St. Peter and Pius X communities. The Holy Spirit, Patty believes, guided each woman to the group, sensing their shared desire for a closer relationship with Jesus Christ.

From their very first meeting, the group established a rhythm of reading the Mission study, engaging in prayer with scripture, and praying for each other's intentions. They would often share other prayer resources, enriching their individual and collective spiritual lives. Patty describes the group dynamic as one of honesty and thoughtfulness and she particularly appreciates the

spiritual insights shared by each member, recognizing that the Holy Spirit speaks to them in unique ways, deepening their collective understanding of Jesus Christ's message.

The fruits of this small group have been abundant. Members openly share prayer intentions, fostering a supportive environment. They've experienced profound moments where life events mirrored scriptural passages, witnessing God actively working in their lives. Patty consistently encounters Jesus through the powerful passages they read, feeling him speak directly to each member. As they recently began a new study, Encounter, the shared and individual messages from Jesus continue to guide their faith journey, enriching their lives and deepening their connection to Christ.

### **Join a Small Group This Fall!**

Patty's journey highlights the transformative power of small groups, which are an integral part of our Clear Path of Discipleship here at St. Peter. Our Clear Path is designed to help every parishioner take their next step in their faith journey, with a particular emphasis on investing in adults. Small groups offer a vital avenue for encountering Christ, growing in the habits of missionary discipleship, and being equipped to share our faith with others. We invite you to experience this transformative power for yourself. Consider leading or joining one of our Fall small groups! More information on how to sign up will be available soon. Don't miss this opportunity to take your next step on the Clear Path of Discipleship.

**Sign up For a  
Small Group  
by Scanning  
the QR Code.**





# ST. PETER CATHOLIC CHURCH



## 2025 DISCIPLESHIP RENEWAL

### *YOUR NEXT STEP: EMBRACING DISCIPLESHIP AT ST. PETER*

#### **Embracing Our Next Step: The 2025 Discipleship Renewal at St. Peter's**

At St. Peter, we are constantly striving to deepen our relationship with Christ and live out our calling as his disciples. Just as our patron, St. Peter, encountered Jesus, was profoundly restored by his grace, and then faithfully followed him to learn how to be a disciple before going forth to share the Good News, we too are invited to continually take our next step on this transformative journey. With this in mind, we are excited to announce that our 2025 Discipleship Renewal is coming up, culminating in Commitment Weekend on August 24th and 25th.

For those new to our parish, the Discipleship Renewal is our annual opportunity for each of us to make a personal commitment or recommitment to our journey in discipleship with Christ. It's a chance to update our contact information, and most importantly, to connect with ministries where you'd like to serve or participate, helping both yourself and others grow closer to our Lord.

This year, you will notice some thoughtful changes to the commitment cards you will receive in the mail. These aren't just minor adjustments; they reflect our parish's new emphasis on our Clear Path of Discipleship. We believe that every parishioner, regardless of where they are on their spiritual journey, has a "next step" to take with our Lord. This Clear Path is designed to help you identify and embrace that step, providing a clearer framework for growth in faith, fellowship, formation, and mission.

#### **Discerning Your Next Steps with the Commitment Card**

The updated commitment card will guide you in discerning how God is calling you to grow in these areas. As you receive your card in the mail, we encourage you to spend some time in prayer with it, examining your current walk with Christ. Here are some questions for reflection to help you discern where the Lord might be inviting you to take your next step:

- **Where do I currently feel closest to God, and where do I desire more growth?**
- **What aspect of my faith do I feel God is nudging me to deepen right now?** Is it through more consistent personal prayer, communal worship, or perhaps learning more about our Church's teachings?
- **Do I feel called to share my faith more intentionally with others? How might I do that within or outside the parish?**
- **Am I actively seeking community with other believers for support and encouragement?**
- **How is the Lord calling me to be generous with my treasure?**
- **Where can I offer my gifts and talents to serve God and my fellow parishioners?**

## Abide in Christ and build His kingdom

Based on your reflection, the commitment card will help you identify practical ways to respond to God's invitation. Perhaps the Lord is calling you to:

- **Sign up for a Holy Hour:** Discipleship begins and is fostered in prayer. Consider signing up for a Holy Hour.
- **Give of your treasure:** We all have a role to play as missionary disciples by financially supporting the mission of disciple making.
- **Host your neighbors or attend parish socials:** We all desire friendship. Whether you are in a place to offer friendship or receive, make a commitment to get to know new people inside and out of our church building.
- **Join "The Way":** This is our program to form people preparing to enter the Catholic Church. Are you or someone you know ready to be invited to the class?
- **Join a small group:** Everyone is called to build deeper relationships and grow in the habits of missionary discipleship. We have many options tailored to fit your demographic and schedule.
- **Take Called & Gifted:** If you don't know where to begin and don't know how you fit in the Clear Path of Discipleship, find out how the Holy Spirit works specifically through you and your charisms.
- **Take Reach One More:** Learn how to naturally share your faith through the everyday moments of your life, removing the barriers that often hold us back.

The card is a tool to help you prayerfully consider where the Holy Spirit is leading you, much like Peter's unwavering "Lord, to whom shall we go?" ultimately led him to become a foundational pillar of the Church.

Fill out Your Digital  
Commitment Card  
by Scanning  
the QR Code



### Commitment Weekend: A Communal Act of Faith

We ask that you bring your completed commitment cards to Mass on August 24th or 25th. This Commitment Weekend is not just an administrative exercise; it's a powerful communal act of recommitment to Christ and to one another. It's an opportunity to outwardly affirm our desire to encounter Jesus, to follow him more closely, to be restored by His grace, and to learn from Him as His disciples, so that we too can go forth and share the Good News with a world in need.

Even if you are unsure of what specific commitment to make on the Clear Path, we still encourage you to return your card! This helps us update your contact information and shows your willingness to engage with the parish. While the commitment card will highlight specific ways to engage with our Clear Path of Discipleship, please know that all our wonderful ministries and apostolates will still be listed in the ministry catalog you receive. If there are other areas of parish life that pique your interest, you'll find contact information there to get involved. Our hope is that through this Discipleship Renewal, every member of our St. Peter's family will feel equipped and encouraged to take their next faithful step, growing ever closer to Christ and becoming more effective instruments of His love in the world. We look forward to seeing how God moves through our parish community this year as we collectively embrace our call to discipleship.



# ST. PETER CATHOLIC CHURCH



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## MASS SCHEDULE

*Saturday: 4:00 pm*

*Sunday: 8:00 am, 9:30 am, 11:00 am*

## DAILY MASS

*Monday-Friday: 6:30 am, 8:15 am, 5:30 pm*

## CONFESSION

*Wednesday: 4:30 pm-5:30 pm*

*Friday: 7:00 am-8:00 am*

*Saturday: 3:00 pm-4:00 pm*

*Sunday: 30 minutes before each Mass*

YOU'RE INVITED

# SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 21

4:00 - 7:00 PM

Carnival Games      Face Painting  
Food Trucks          Dunk Tank  
Live Music            Clown & Balloons  
Snacks & Drinks      Pumpkin Patch



**FREE ENTRY  
ADMISSION**

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