



JUNE 2020

ST. PETER CATHOLIC CHURCH

Monthly Newsletter

ST. PETER PARISH LEADS EUCHARISTIC PROCESSIONS THROUGHOUT THE COMMUNITY

Although we were not able to physically be in the presence of Jesus in our church, members of St. Peter and those in the Lincoln community were able to adore Christ in the Eucharist by way of Eucharistic Processions. Our priests have been leading these processions throughout the nearby neighborhoods.

"I have seen the tears of joy," says parish secretary Nancy Allder, regarding the impact these processions have had on our community. "I have seen the faithful on their knees. I have been approached and asked about, 'What is going on?' or 'We heard the bells,' or 'Is this some faith thing?' 'We don't really have faith at our house.' Yet, they asked those questions with an open heart and were thankful for the prayers and blessings. It's amazing."

We were blessed during these processions to see Jesus outside our house and adore Him!





STEWARDSHIP AND FAITH DURING TOUGH TIMES

These are uncertain and frightening times. At press time of this newsletter, we are unable to come together for Mass and some of the sacraments, and we're wondering, "How can we be a church when we can't come to our churches to celebrate Mass?"

During this and any crisis, one thing that remains constant is the Catholic Church and the unwavering support the Church offers. Throughout history, Catholics have sustained their communities in their homes during countless seasons of persecution or hardship, and living through a modern crisis is no different.

Now, more than ever, we must remember our parish truly is a community. The physical building in which we worship and pray is not the Church. *We* are the Church.

During a crisis, prayer is more important than ever. Though we may be isolated, through prayer, we can embrace the unity of faith we all share as Catholics.

As faithful stewards, we must remember everything we have is a gift from God and, in turn, we must be grateful and offer all that we do back to Him. We may be physically distanced from others, but we still have an opportunity to spiritually unite each day. A simple prayer such as the Morning Offering – a prayer said by an individual at the start of the day in order to consecrate oneself to Christ – is a great way to unite daily with Catholics around the world and claim our homes and our daily living for Christ. What's more, as you devote more time to personal and family prayer, remember to lift up in prayer all of our civil and religious leaders during this time, as well as our parishioners and community members.

There are other ways through which we can stay connected as a parish family. Call a friend from our parish community. Ask how they're doing, how they are living their faith during this time, and how they might need help. You can also keep in touch with each other and our pastor and parish leaders and staff on our various media platforms, including our parish website at www.saintpeterslincoln.com, and our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/StPetersLincoln.

Stewardship, at its roots, also teaches that we are not

supposed to give God our leftovers. We should instead strive to return to God a portion of our first fruits – giving to God first and then using the rest for our other needs. This idea can be worrisome for many, especially during a crisis. Taking the correct steps toward good stewardship in every aspect of our lives boils down to trust and believing that God, who takes care of all His creation, will take care of us.

Prayerfully consider continuing to give a portion of your treasure back to God and our parish by making your regular gift to the offertory if you are able to do so. You can give at our online giving portal at www.osvhub.com/saintpeterslincoln/funds, or you can drop a check in the mail to the parish office. Our mailing address is:

St. Peter Catholic Church
4500 Duxhall Drive
Lincoln, NE 68516

There will come a day, soon, when we will worship together again. Remain hopeful and pray unceasingly. As we continue to navigate these uncertain times, remember there is hope. Our God is a great God, and He will not abandon us.

MORNING OFFERING

O Jesus, through the Immaculate Heart of Mary, I offer You my prayers, works, joys, and sufferings of this day for all the intentions of Your Sacred Heart, in union with the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass throughout the world, for the salvation of souls, the reparation of sins, the reunion of all Christians, and in particular for the intentions of the Holy Father this month.
Amen.



A Letter from Our Pastor

THE *Light* AT THE END OF THE TUNNEL

Dear Parishioners,

As this unprecedented crisis for our Church, nation and world continues to unfold, we are starting to see a light at the end of the tunnel. As we begin a return to our “new normal,” we have so much for which to be grateful.

I have witnessed so many of you continuing to actively live out stewardship during these past few months while our parish family has been apart, and that is truly a blessing. But with the uncertainty of what this “new normal” will be like in the days, weeks and months ahead, I ask you all to again consider how you are living out your call to stewardship.

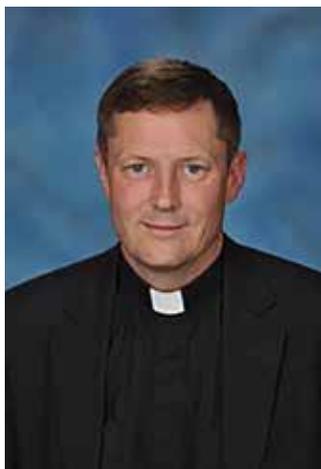
Regardless of whether or not we can physically gather in our church or come together for ministry activities and events, our faith always lives on.

Remember that stewardship is a way of life, meaning that we are called to live as intentional disciples of Christ through the practice of stewardship in all circumstances.

Have you been giving God your Time? I encourage you to pray every day. Use this time as an opportunity to develop or strengthen your prayer life.

How can you serve the Lord right now with your Talents? Serve your family and friends in the ways that you can. Use your talents wisely to grow in relationship with others near or far.

Finally, is God still a priority in your Treasure? Despite the hardships, are you still keeping God at



the heart of all your financial decisions. I encourage you to give God a portion of your treasure out of gratitude, no matter how big or small.

I am grateful for your generous contributions during this time. For those looking to give online, visit our website at www.saintpeterslincoln.com. You will find the Online Giving link on our homepage which makes it very easy to set and also change the frequency and amount of your gift.

Thank you for your continued support by way of prayers, service and generous financial giving during these challenging times. I have been overwhelmed with a new sense of gratitude and dependence on our Lord during this crisis, and continue praying for each of you. I look forward to the day our parish and our church is bustling with life again, and I pray that day is coming soon.

Let us live with the joy of the Resurrection each day of our lives!

Yours in Christ,

Fr. Craig Doty,
Pastor





THE UPCOMING WOMEN'S CONFERENCE

OPENING HEARTS, SPREADING THE WORD AND SHARING IN SPIRITUAL GROWTH

Now is the time for the women of St. Peter Parish to mark their calendars and prepare to register for the upcoming women's conference, "Undone – Freedom for the Feminine Heart", set for Sept. 24-26 here at St. Peter Church.

"I am confident that this conference will be healing, life-giving, and transforming for the women in our parish and the surrounding area, so I am very grateful that we are able to host this conference," says Fr. Doty. "Our Lord and the Blessed Mother desire freedom for all of our hearts – freedom to be who we were created to be – and this conference will give each participant an encouraging and welcoming atmosphere to experience the freedom only God can give."

"It is important to attend this conference because by opening our heart and soul to what God wants us to do, it liberates us to really do God's work," Sue Ray adds. "So often, there is guilt and we don't feel we can. But anytime we close ourselves off by all the labels we wear, sometimes we limit ourselves to have the freedom to do what God wants us to do. The reason why we are here is because of God, and our responsibility is to give back in a way God wants us to do."

The conference is being presented by the John Paul II Healing Center of Tallahassee, Fla., and the Lincoln Equipping Team. The presenters include Carrie Schuchts Daunt, Nicole Rodriguez and Colleen Nixon. Melissa Perez will serve as emcee.

"The beauty of the weekend is that each woman is welcomed with love and will encounter truth through the sacraments, worship, teachings, fellowship and healing prayer experiences, all of which invite her into deeper freedom in her feminine identity," Carrie says.

Melissa offers encouragement for the women of our parish to attend. "God has something special and unique He wants to reveal to each and every woman who attends the Undone conference," she says. "His holy desire is to remind each woman of her true identity as His beloved. Throughout the weekend, the Holy Spirit gently restores and renews us, confirming who He has created us to be as women



The upcoming conference is an opportunity for the women of St. Peter to open hearts, talk and discuss areas relevant to spiritual growth, and to spread the Word of God.

– cherished, unique and necessary. With Mary as our intercessor and our beautiful model of grace and receptivity, the hearts of the participants will be changed forever."

The men of our parish are also reminded of upcoming registration for the "Men on Fire" conference, set for Oct. 16 and 17 – early registration will be held July 13, and regular registration Aug. 3.

"I'd encourage anyone who wants to attend 'Undone' to not let anything get in the way if you have the desire," Sue says. "It's this September – look ahead and protect that time, and the financial support to attend. There are scholarships available. Also, prepare yourself by discerning and praying if God wants you to do this. Prepare your mind and soul to be open to something like this."

Fr. Doty says, "The JP II Healing Center has led several equipping and healing events in our diocese, so we are very blessed and excited to have them leading these conferences specifically for women and men."

Registration is scheduled to open on June 29 and is as follows – early registration is \$130, June 29-July 19 (Sunday midnight); regular registration is \$150, July 20-Sept. 20 (Sunday midnight).

If you would like more information about the conference and the John Paul II Healing Center, please visit www.jp2healingcenter.org or contact Nancy Allder at the Parish Office at Nancy-Allder@cdolinc.net or 402-423-1239.



GOLF LEAGUE A CHANCE FOR FELLOWSHIP ON THE LINKS

JOIN US AT HOLMES LAKE GOLF COURSE AND LINCOLN PUBLIC GOLF COURSE

Some Catholic golfers recognize St. Andrew as the patron saint of golf, and many have probably called on his intercession in a golf game or two! He is also the patron saint of Scotland, where golf is known to have originated.

And here at St. Peter, men have the great opportunity to enjoy time on the Holmes Lake Golf Course and Lincoln Public Golf Course each Monday night for 16 weeks in the spring and summer.

Coordinated by President Doug Kreifels, Treasurer Chris Wagner and league website Manager Dave Snitily, the weekly outing is a great chance for the men of our parish to enjoy time together. There are generally four-person teams and two of the members play each week. Thus, in total, each person plays about eight weeks.

Golf and the faith may seem like an unlikely combination, but Chris says the golf league has been a great way for parishioners to get to know one another and share in fellowship. The league dates all the way back to 2001 – throughout the years, the pastor and assistant pastor have even been league members at times.

“Our 40-plus members all have a variety of playing skills,” Chris says. “Their interest is meeting other

members of the church by playing golf and getting to know them and their families better.”

The season culminates in a September tournament for the four teams with the highest point totals of the season. The tournament winner earns the title and rights as league champions.

So, it’s camaraderie and fellowship mixed with sportsmanship and golf! The group

even donates the extra collected league funds to the parish, often through the St. Peter Taste and See event. In the past, they have paid for an auction item or the cost of hosting.

Besides golf, Chris says members are also drawn together by their active parish lives and their desire to help St. Peter flourish.

“Without the golf league, many of us would not have met,” Chris says.



Here at St. Peter, men have the great opportunity to enjoy time sharing in fellowship and sportsmanship on golf courses like Holmes Lake.

If you would like to join the league, or if you would like more information, please visit www.stpetergolf.com or contact Doug Kreifels at dougk@actionlincoln.com or 402-610-1608.



KEEPING IN TOUCH WITH THE HOLY FATHER:

THERE'S AN APP FOR THAT!



“Let the Church always be a place of mercy and hope, where everyone is welcomed, loved and forgiven.”

These words from Pope Francis weren't delivered during a homily in St. Peter's or in a speech from St. Peter's Square – nor were they written in an apostolic letter. Rather, they were delivered in an instant to millions of Catholics around the world through the pope's very own Twitter account.

The technology of communication has perhaps changed more in the past century than in the previous 20 combined. And with these developments, the Catholic Church – led by our Holy Fathers, from Pope St. John Paul II through Pope Francis – strongly encourages that the faithful adopt and adapt these resources for the all-important task of spreading the Gospel throughout the whole world.

Just as St. Paul used every convenience at his disposal to spread the Gospel throughout the far reaches of the Roman empire, today's evangelists are using every resource available to them. Examples of Catholic figures using the new media with great success abound.

Only a few months into his pontificate, Pope Francis took the Vatican's social media efforts to a whole new level. In spring 2013, the Vatican released *The Pope App*, which features quotes, news, images and videos of all the Holy Father's latest doings.

Following the pope's lead, bishops, priests and apologists are taking the technological gifts at their

fingertips and utilizing them to spread the Gospel throughout the world in a variety of ways.

One great example is Bishop Robert Barron of the Archdiocese of Los Angeles, whose Word On Fire Ministry has produced wildly popular YouTube videos discussing everything from controversial Church teachings to movie reviews from a Catholic perspective. Word On Fire also released the critically acclaimed *Catholicism* DVD documentary series.

Independent Catholic bloggers and Web-based media are also widely established and provide their audiences and readership with Catholic news and cultural commentary.

Throughout America, parishes, Catholic schools, dioceses, and even the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops are utilizing these tools as well, creating first-rate websites, maintaining Twitter and Facebook accounts, and more.

All of these resources are geared toward a wide variety of audiences, from the un-churched and fallen-away Catholics to active parishioners.

Being knowledgeable of the new media tools available to us as Catholics is a great way to be more effective in our universal call to evangelization. Take some time to see what media resources our parish and diocese are using, and be sure to pass them along to those in your sphere of influence!



EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS OF HOLY COMMUNION TO THE HOMEBOUND

BRINGING CHRIST TO OUR WIDER FAITH COMMUNITY

For the past 25 years, Michael Hayes has been bringing the Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity of Jesus Christ to those who are sick and/or homebound as an Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion – or EMHC – and it has filled his heart with tremendous joy.

“I really love doing this ministry,” he says. “I am so glad I can bring His consoling presence to the sick and lonesome. Since they cannot come to Mass, this ministry provides the ‘next best thing.’ Even though I am only there for less than 10 minutes, my visit means so much to them. They know they are receiving the Most Blessed Sacrament and having Jesus come to them. It is their special time with God.”

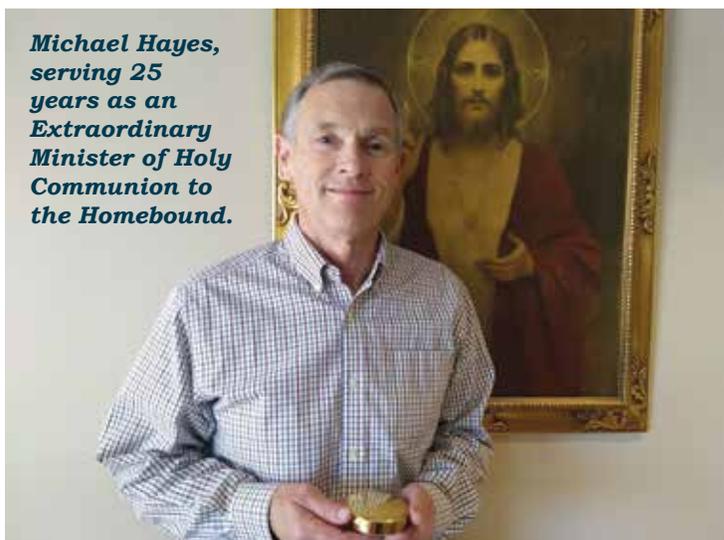
Time and time again, Michael finds himself awestruck by the grateful hearts of those he visits, and his faith in the Real Presence of Christ is nurtured in turn.

“They are so appreciative, they just cannot thank you enough,” Michael says. “Sometimes it seems like they thank me 20 times. I am serious! Over the years, I have built up a relationship with those I visit, and we are good friends. They are really great people. It is wonderful to see their reactions when they are able to receive the Body of Christ.”

The EMHCs at our parish are coordinated by John Kuchta, who sets their schedule and arranges their training sessions. Following the 9:30 a.m. Mass each Sunday, four EMHCs pick up consecrated hosts and place them in their pyxes, which are sacred vessels designed to carry them. Every Sunday, four EMHCs are scheduled to visit homebound parishioners as well as various retirement and assisted living homes. On their visits, they pray through a designated booklet of prayers with the sick/homebound person, read through the Gospel of St. John, and distribute Holy Communion.

“When you do this ministry, you need to be committed, reverent and respectful of the fact that you have Jesus with you,” Michael says. “For example, you have a square cloth that is folded in nine ways, and

continued on back cover

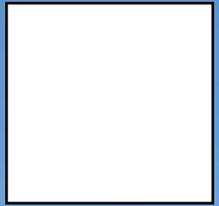


Michael Hayes, serving 25 years as an Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion to the Homebound.





ST. PETER CATHOLIC CHURCH



4500 Duxhall Dr. | Lincoln, NE 68516
402-423-1239 | www.saintpeterslincoln.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.

Saturday: 8:15 a.m.

CONFESSION:

Monday-Friday: 6-6:15 a.m., 7:45-8:00 a.m.

Saturday: 3-3:45 p.m.

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS OF HOLY COMMUNION TO THE HOMEBOUND *continued from page 7*

you are supposed to place the host on it at all times. You are also supposed to purify the pyx afterwards."

Ultimately, members of this powerful ministry realize that they are bringing the presence of Christ to those who are suffering, in order that His glory and love may be revealed.

"Often, you are the only person who visits them that week," John says. "The Gospel passage Matthew 25:40 guides us in this ministry. It reads, 'And the king will say to them in reply, 'Amen, I say to you, whatever you did for one of these least brothers of mine, you did for me.'"

"I really love doing this ministry. I am so glad I can bring His consoling presence to the sick and lonesome. Since they cannot come to Mass, this ministry provides the 'next best thing.' Even though I am only there for less than 10 minutes, my visit means so much to them. They know they are receiving the Most Blessed Sacrament and having Jesus come to them. It is their special time with God."

— MICHAEL HAYES

More EMHCs are needed. In order to volunteer for this ministry, you must be a practicing Catholic, complete online Safe Driver and Safe and Sacred courses required by the diocese, and attend a meeting in the sacristy for process training. For more information, please call John Kuchta at 402-730 8833 or email him at jkuchta@solutiononenow.com.