



MARCH 2021

# ST. PETER CATHOLIC CHURCH

*Monthly Newsletter*



## CHURCH CLEANING MINISTRY LOVINGLY KEEPS GOD'S HOUSE CLEAN

It takes many volunteers, with all kinds of gifts, to keep our church running. Some serve as lectors, distribute Holy Communion and use their musical talents to give glory to God. Others help form our children in the faith or assist at the Mass as altar servers. But one ministry many of us may not consider is the Church Cleaning Ministry. As we all know, it is important to keep the Lord's house clean and welcoming!

Paula Sroczynski has been leading this ministry at St. Peter since late last year.

"Individuals participating in this ministry are serving the parish and our Lord in the most humble of ways," she says. "There is not a lot of visibility to those participating in this ministry, but what they do in terms of creating a clean, welcoming place to adore our Lord is invaluable and greatly appreciated."

Cleaning takes place on Saturdays after 8:15 a.m. Mass. Ministry members clean the lobby, seating area, and sanctuary with a dry and wet mop. They also vacuum, dust, and clean the windows. Volunteers commit to one Saturday per month.

"We want to create a clean welcoming environment for the

*continued on page 2*





## CHURCH CLEANING MINISTRY LOVINGLY KEEPS GOD'S HOUSE CLEAN *continued from front cover*

parishioners of St. Peter's to worship," Paula says.

Although most of the cleaning is done quietly, so as not to disturb worshipers, Paula says this is a great way to get to know other people in the parish. And while this ministry is a simple one, it's no less important.

"This ministry has helped me understand that there is joy in serving God and others in the most humble and disregarded of ways," Paula says.

Plus, cleaning is gratifying, and you can see the direct result of your labor when you are done, as Paula points out.

"I think this work is elevating the mundane and routine tasks and offering them up as small sacrifices," she says.

Paula likens this work to Mary's role in bearing and raising Jesus. What might seem mundane, was the most important work in all of history. Or, like St. Teresa of Calcutta once said, "Do small things with great love."

After all, serving and glorifying the Lord through simple tasks is the essence of stewardship!

***"Individuals participating in this ministry are serving the parish and our Lord in the most humble of ways. There is not a lot of visibility to those participating in this ministry, but what they do in terms of creating a clean, welcoming place to adore our Lord is invaluable and greatly appreciated."*** — PAULA SROCZYNSKI



*Paula Sroczyński invites anyone to get involved in the work of the Church Cleaning Ministry. If you are interested in being a part of this ministry, please email Paula at [paula\\_sroczyński@yahoo.com](mailto:paula_sroczyński@yahoo.com).*



*A Letter from Our Pastor*

## A MONTH AND YEAR TO HONOR ST. JOSEPH

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ chose to enter the world through the human family. He came as an infant born into the marriage and home of the two holiest human creatures who ever lived – Joseph and Mary. At a time when our world and our Church needs family and faithful disciples now more than ever, could there be a more fitting time to venerate the man who gave his life and his love to the Blessed Mother and the Son of God?

Pope Francis has declared 2021 the Year of St. Joseph in honor of the 150th anniversary of the saint’s proclamation as patron of the Universal Church. Our pope said he established the year so that “every member of the faithful, following his example, may strengthen their life of faith daily in the complete fulfillment of God’s will.”

As Christians, we are blessed to have Mary as our spiritual mother and Joseph as our spiritual father. Just as Mary guides us from heaven with loving devotion, St. Joseph also diligently provides for the needs of the family of God, the Holy Catholic Church.

Because of his special role as foster-father of the Child Jesus, St. Joseph has merited singular privileges in heaven unmatched by any saint aside from the Blessed Virgin Mary.

To give some modern-day perspective to the significance of this special year, Pope Francis has said the coronavirus pandemic heightened his desire to reflect on St. Joseph, as so many people during the pandemic have made hidden sacrifices to protect others, just as St. Joseph quietly protected and cared for Mary and Jesus.

“Each of us can discover in Joseph – the man who goes unnoticed, a daily, discreet and hidden presence – an intercessor, a support and a guide in times of trouble,” the pope wrote.

At the end of the First Vatican Council in 1870, Pope Pius IX declared St. Joseph the patron of the Universal Church. He is also the patron of carpenters, workers, fathers, and a happy death because he died in the presence of Mary and Jesus. The title of Joseph’s March 19 feast day is “Husband of Mary.” Pope Pius XII later declared May 1 to be the feast of St. Joseph the Worker to counteract the Communist May Day holiday.

As Catholics pray and reflect on the life of St. Joseph this

year, they also have opportunities to gain a plenary indulgence or remission of all temporal punishment due to sin. An indulgence can be applied to oneself or to a soul in purgatory. An indulgence requires a specific act, defined by the Church, as well as sacramental confession, Eucharistic Communion, prayer for the pope’s intentions, and full detachment from sin.

Special indulgences during the Year of St. Joseph can be received through various prayers and actions, including praying for the unemployed, entrusting one’s daily work to St. Joseph, performing a corporal or spiritual work of mercy, or meditating for at least 30 minutes on the Lord’s Prayer.

As we devote 2021 to St. Joseph’s honor, we will undoubtedly unlock many special graces – not only for our parish but for each of the faithful who increase their devotion to him during this special year. There is no greater model than St. Joseph from whom we can learn how to live virtuously in imitation of Jesus and Mary.

In His Mercy,

Fr. Eric Clark, Pastor

To read more about Pope Francis’ declaration on the Church granting plenary indulgences for the Year of St. Joseph, visit [www.bit.ly/StJoseph2021](http://www.bit.ly/StJoseph2021)

**Prayer to St. Joseph by St. Bernardine of Siena**  
*O my beloved St. Joseph, adopt me as your child. Take charge of my salvation; watch over me day and night; reserve me from the occasions of sin; obtain for me purity of body.*

*Through your intercession with Jesus, grant me a spirit of sacrifice, humility, self-denial, burning love for Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament, and a sweet and tender love for Mary, my mother.*

*St Joseph, be with me living, be with me dying, and obtain for me a favorable judgment from Jesus, my merciful Savior. Amen*



# CATECHESIS OF THE GOOD

*“Let the children come to me, and do not prevent them; for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these.” – Matthew 19:14*

How can a young child deeply encounter the love of God and respond to it? What does this look like? How can we as adults foster and facilitate children’s authentic and loving awareness of God? What are the needs and capacities for a healthy religious life that children show us for such a relationship?

The Catechesis of the Good Shepherd has been exploring these questions for over 65 years guided by the Bible, Liturgy, Montessori principles, and the careful observation of what resonates most deeply with children.

## What is Catechesis of the Good Shepherd?

CGS is a common religious experience involving children and adults in which the religious values of childhood, primarily those values of contemplation and enjoyment of God, are predominant. This experience is shared in a place particularly prepared for the religious life of children called the Atrium.

## Where is our Atrium located?

Our atrium is located downstairs in Bishop Vasa Hall.

## Who can attend level I CGS?

CGS Level 1 is for children 3-6 years of age. Every preschooler and kindergarten at our school attends a weekly 1 ½ hour session. In addition, **any** child age 3 to 6, whether enrolled in our school or not, is welcome to register for the program.

## When does CGS meet?

Monday-Friday morning sessions are from 9-10:30 a.m. We also have a Wednesday afternoon session that takes place at the same time as CCD, 4-5:30 p.m.

**To learn more about Catechesis of the Good Shepherd, please contact Colleen Smith at 402-250-5087 or [colleen-smith@cdolinc.net](mailto:colleen-smith@cdolinc.net), or call the school office at 402-421-6299 or visit [www.saintpeterslincoln.com/cgs.html](http://www.saintpeterslincoln.com/cgs.html).**





# SHEPHERD





**ST. PETER  
CATHOLIC CHURCH**



**ACCEPTING 2021-2022**

# PRE-K REGISTRATION

Contact the office to register: 421-6299 or [margaret-aldridge@cdolinc.net](mailto:margaret-aldridge@cdolinc.net)

**1/2 Day & Full Day**

**Must be 4 years old by July 31, 2021**



St. Peter Pre-K is a place where children learn through the process of their efforts and love of neighbor. Children flourish by providing rich, age-appropriate opportunities to develop relationships, solve problems, use language, develop new vocabulary and engage in organized intellectual activities. We offer a warm, caring, and supportive environment, where children encounter the love of God and develop a relationship with Jesus Christ. We dedicate ourselves, with love, to each child to encourage them, nurture their self-confidence and foster a life-long passion for learning. Pre-K children visit the Atrium and experience Catechesis of the Good Shepherd at no extra cost.

Please join us for our Open House on Sunday, March 7, after the 9:30 a.m. Mass.

**QUESTIONS:** [shelley-moser@cdolinc.net](mailto:shelley-moser@cdolinc.net)

[leslie-bixenmann@cdolinc.net](mailto:leslie-bixenmann@cdolinc.net)



# The Legion of Mary

## SHARING THE LOVE OF OUR LADY WITH PARISH AND COMMUNITY

From warmly welcoming our new parishioners, blessing our newly baptized babies, and saving the lives of the unborn by praying at Planned Parenthood, the Legion of Mary members emanate the love and goodness of Our Lady.

According to their website at [legionofmary.ie](http://legionofmary.ie), "The Legion of Mary is a lay apostolic association of Catholics who, with the sanction of the Church and under the powerful leadership of Mary Immaculate, Mediatrix of All Graces, serve the Church and their neighbor on a voluntary basis in about 170 countries. With the approval and support of the popes and a great many bishops, priests, and religious, as well as the prayers and efforts of legionaries, the Legion, by the grace of God, has grown into a worldwide organization with several million members."

The object of the Legion of Mary is the glory of God through the holiness of its members fostered by fervent prayer and active co-operation in the work of the Blessed Mother and the Church. Each unit of the Legion of Mary is called a *praesidium*. The officers of our parish's *praesidium* are President Mike Davis, Vice President Mike Foley, Treasurer Paul Liess, and Secretary Glenda Davis.

It meets every Wednesday from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. in the small conference room at our parish.

At their meetings, they pray the Rosary along with the *Catena Legionis*, which is a set of prayers specifically used by the Legion of Mary. They also cover business, such as a roll call and a treasury report. During the meeting, each member reports to the group about the charity work that they have done that week, for, as the website also states, "Every legionary is required to carry out a weekly apostolic work in the spirit of faith and in union with Mary." The Vice President then reads a spiritual reflection out of the Legion handbook, and they close in prayer.

Our parish legionaries imitate the charity of the Blessed Mother by visiting every family or individual that registers



*Parents receiving the gift bag at the Baptism*



*Items that are included in the gift bag*

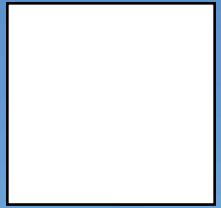
for our parish. Glenda puts together a packet of information for them, including a booklet, the latest bulletin, and information regarding our parish ministries accompanied by a stewardship commitment card. Mike Foley, Paul Liess, and Richard Wall make the new parishioner visits.

"We are called to evangelize, and I really enjoy welcoming people to our parish and getting them

*continued on back cover*



# ST. PETER CATHOLIC CHURCH



4500 Duxhall Dr. | Lincoln, NE 68516  
402-423-1239 | [www.saintpeterslincoln.com](http://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:** 7:00 a.m. - 8:00 a.m.

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

## *The Legion of Mary* continued from page 7

involved in ministries," Glenda says.

The legionaries have also given gift bags to the parents of the newly baptized. These bags include items such as a blessed rosary with a Miraculous Medal, a blessed crucifix, a bottle of holy water, a little book of prayers for Catholic children, and an inspiring letter from our bishop.

"I also make them a special 3-D card," Glenda says. "I really enjoy giving them something personally from me. After we give them a gift bag, I ask permission to take pictures of the Baptism, and almost all of them say 'yes.' Later, I put the pictures on a flash drive, and print out one featuring the water flowing over the baby's head. Then I frame it, decorate it, and give it to them. This is one of my favorite things about being in the Legion of Mary!"



*Glenda taking pictures of the Baptism*

Furthermore, the legionaries lead the Rosary before our parish Masses and visit the county jail.

"I do a Bible study every week for an hour and a half at the Lancaster County Jail," Mike Davis says. "I establish a relationship with the inmates, supporting them and evangelizing them."

Legion of Mary members also participate in a pro-life Rosary every Tuesday at 9:30 a.m. in front of Planned Parenthood and organize the Pro Life Mass at 10 a.m. in the Pro Life Center.

Other Legion of Mary works of "Our Lady of Apostles Presidium" include giving out of Miraculous Medals, Rosaries, Literature, Hospital/Shut-in Visits, and attending Funerals/Bereavement Visits.

*If you would like more information about this beautiful outreach of Our Lady, please contact Mike Davis at 402-480-0404 or email him at [davism72@gmail.com](mailto:davism72@gmail.com).*