



SEPT 2020

ST. PETER CATHOLIC CHURCH

Monthly Newsletter

THE POWER OF INTERCESSION:

Prayer Line Ministry

For most Catholics, “spending time in prayer” may mean a number of different things – from praying the Rosary, to reading and reflecting on Scripture, to asking God to provide for their needs or the needs of their family. However, for a dedicated group of parishioners at St. Peter Catholic Church, prayer also means taking time to intercede specifically for the needs of others – sometimes friends, and sometimes people they’ve never met – in our parish and community.

“The Prayer Line is a ministry of the Jesus of Divine Mercy Ministry in our parish,” says Jeannie Moxley, the founder of the group.

“Our Jesus of Divine Mercy group tries to promote the Spiritual and Corporal Works of Mercy – that’s part of our spirituality. The Prayer Line is a Spiritual Work of Mercy.”

When someone calls with a prayer request, the Prayer Line Ministry then sends the intention out to the Parish Council of Catholic Women, as well as those who have volunteered to pray for others as part of this ministry. The email includes various Scripture passages and prayers that people may use to immediately intercede for the person in need.

The Prayer Line Ministry, along with the Jesus of Divine



Ministry Leaders of our Prayer Line Ministry – Jeannie Moxley (left) and Maryann Boumann (right)

Mercy Ministry, also coordinates the Our Lady of Fatima Traveling Statue. People can request to have the statue in their home.

“When people call with a prayer request, sometimes I pray with them on the phone and I ask them if they would like the Our Lady of Fatima Traveling Statue,” Jeannie says. “Many times, they say, ‘yes.’ It just gives them strength and peace.”

Those who are involved in the ministry have many opportunities to witness the power of prayer. For Jeannie, it has strengthened her faith and confidence in God’s care for herself and others.

“I’ve prayed with people for many years and I’ve seen many miracles,” Jeannie says. “I’ve seen situations that seem so impossible and you would think, ‘How is this ever going to work out?’ and I saw God writing straight with crooked lines.”

“God is the Creator, He is all powerful and He can change situations,” she adds. “And whenever we go to Him in prayer and we spend time with Him, then we are changed – we’re healed. We are given peace that we wouldn’t be able to get from anywhere else.”

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MEET THE PARISH COUNCIL OF CATHOLIC WOMEN

LADIES OF ST. PETER GROWING IN FAITH AND FRIENDSHIP

All adult women of St. Peter Parish have a unique opportunity to not only grow in their spiritual lives, but also to grow in friendships, thanks to the Parish Council of Catholic Women, or PCCW.

Every woman 18 and older is automatically a member of the PCCW, which aims to give glory to God through prayer, study and service to our parish and the wider community.

“We have a variety of spiritual, educational and social activities, and a lot of community service activities,” says Laura Kane, the outgoing PCCW president, who is handing over the reins to two new co-presidents, Monica Oldenburg and Susan Scott.

Members may become as involved in the activities as their time allows, thanks to the structure of the PCCW.

Spiritual activities are traditionally held within the four circles, or subgroups of the PCCW. These circles meet independently and each has its own mission. The St. Therese, or Little Flower Circle, helps in the church kitchen in alternate months, as well as provides Christmas gifts to St. Gianna’s Women’s Home. The Circle also holds fundraisers with the proceeds going to a variety of parish needs. The St. Anne Circle organizes food drives for Catholic Social Services all through the year. The Mary and Martha Circle focuses on hospitality, serving donuts and coffee after Mass once a month, as well as serving as the welcoming and farewell committee as pastors and assistant pastors arrive and depart. The Circle also supports the St. Nicholas Breakfast. The St. Anthony Circle focuses on pro-life activities, such as holding a baby shower in October for the local pregnancy centers. The circle also helps with the Giving Tree for Catholic Social Services.

Each circle also takes turns assisting with funeral dinners so that all PCCW members will have the opportunity to provide food.

Besides the circles, there is a PCCW at-large group



for women who don’t have the time to commit to regular circle activities, but who can help as their schedules allow.

“We try to hold monthly events to provide community for women,” Laura says. “We hold Bunco nights, a Mardi Gras, as well as spiritual formation events, such as evening adoration, and bringing in speakers on various topics. We also had a PCCW Stations of the Cross. We try to have lots of opportunities for women to come and meet each other, grow in friendships and faith, and see the opportunity to give back to our parish and community.”

Being active in the PCCW offers members the chance to grow in one’s faith.

“Members have the opportunity to feel more connected to our parish and it allows them to open their hearts to the question of where is Jesus calling them in their faith life,” Laura says. “Are they called to prayer through their own spiritual formation, or are they called to give back to the parish in their time?”

On a personal note, Laura has found that being active in the PCCW has helped her develop deep friendships.

“I’ve become really changed with the friendships I’ve made,” she says. “Now St. Peter is more of a second home. I want to spend time in my community and in faith.”

Questions about the PCCW schedule of activities? Call the parish office at 402-423-1239.



A Letter from Our Pastor

“COINCIDENTAL” STEWARDSHIP

Dear brother and sisters in Christ,

The famous author G.K. Chesterton once said, “Coincidences are God’s way of staying anonymous.” Since fully embracing the stewardship way of life, coincidences have become cherished experiences for which I thank God – and rightly so! While God stays anonymous, coincidences are His way of interacting with the world He created. Importantly, as we have been continually impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic, and with many of our circumstances changing day to day, we can be grateful for His “coincidental” intervention.



As I continue to witness the grace-filled effects of the stewardship way of life on our parish, and in my own life, it is definitely God’s hand at work in our lives of faith. If some identify a coincidence as a “surprise blessing” that lifts the spirits and draws one closer to gratefulness to God, we cannot deny that in those circumstances that God is giving us the grace to live and celebrate our faith. So, let’s celebrate the coincidences!

Celebrate the coincidence that Chesterton himself converted to Catholicism late in his life, yet wrote book after book affirming and defending the Catholic faith long before his conversion. Four years after Chesterton joined the Catholic Church, he wrote a phenomenal book called *The Catholic Church and Conversion*. It is one of the best works on conversion to Catholicism, as well as a wonderful description of conversion to the stewardship way of life. The same experiences, or “coincidences,” apply when we find ourselves drawn into the understanding, practice and expression of discipleship, known to us as “stewardship.”

Chesterton describes conversion in three steps.

“The convert takes his first step rather unwittingly when he decides he’s going to be fair to the Catholic

Church,” he wrote. The convert to stewardship must also dispel the “myths of stewardship” and give it a chance.

This first step of conversion then leads to a long and enjoyable second step, which is the utter fascination of learning what the Catholic Church really does teach. Chesterton says, “It is like discovering a new continent full of strange flowers and fantastic animals, which is at once wild and hospitable.” For the stewardship convert, it is recognizing that stewardship is a practical way of living the Gospel. It makes sense, and others are doing it with joy and passion. What they have, the convert also wants.

Then, the convert to Catholicism suddenly realizes with a shock that he can no longer be detached and impartial about the Catholic Church. The convert to the stewardship way of life realizes this is the way he or she wants to live – and makes the commitment to do so.

If this were not true of what Christ has called us to be, I would not be writing this today. If this were not true of our commitment to stewardship, you may not be reading this today. And, if this were not true of a stewardship parish such as ours, we would not be the faithful stewards we are today. Wouldn’t you also agree it is a “coincidence” to thank God for each day of our lives?

In His Mercy,

Fr. Eric Clark,
Pastor



Our Annual Stewardship Renewal

THANKING GOD FOR THE BLESSINGS HE

You have to take care of yourself before you can take care of those you love. This rationale is difficult for many of us to accept. Mothers and fathers routinely place the needs of their children before their own; soldiers at war often throw their own safety to the wind in the interest of protecting their fellow soldiers. The story of Jesus also focuses on giving to others. If Christ calls us to imitate Him – to become completely selfless – then it would seem that focusing on ourselves might counteract our efforts as Christians.

Nevertheless, as we enter into our annual Stewardship Renewal, Fr. Eric Clark is asking us all to focus a bit more on ourselves. No, he’s not encouraging self-centeredness; he’s asking us to examine our own lives and determine the areas that are in need of growth. Before the stewardship way of life can totally transform our parish, it must begin in each of our hearts. As each individual’s spiritual life blossoms and grows, so will our parish as a whole. Will you plant the seed of stewardship in your own heart?

This has most certainly been a trying and unusual year, as we have navigated through uncharted waters. In the face of great uncertainty or difficulty, it is easy to become complacent. Yet, this is not what God calls us to do. We are called to live stewardship as a way of life – in the good, bad or uncertain times. In moments of trial, God raises up saints!

Commitment Weekend is September 26-27. Don’t forget to return your Commitment Card to the parish!

How do I use my Commitment Card?

Your commitment card allows you to make commitments to prayer, parish ministries, and offertory giving. It is designed to be used by the whole family.

Time Section: Everyone should be able to check the boxes to commit to attend Mass on Sundays and Holy Days or to view the Masses online during the crisis. In addition to those commitments, try to check at least a

few other items. Daily prayer should be a priority for every person trying to grow closer to God. We recognize that the current crisis may impact your ability to carry out your commitments. Know the Lord sees what is in your heart and is pleased with your best efforts.

Talent Section: You can either sign up for new ministries or re-commit to your current ministries. Be sure to write your first name next to the ministry! This is especially important if the card is being used by more than one person.

Treasure Section: Clearly print how much money you plan to give each week or month to our parish. Try to take a step toward giving five percent of your income to St. Peter.

We ask **every** family to fill out a new commitment card **each** year during our Annual Renewal.

Is your prayer life in need of a tune-up?

Honestly ask yourself, “How much time do I spend in prayer each week?” The answer is probably a bit embarrassing. Everyone wants to spend more time in prayer, but there’s just never enough time to do everything we want to do. Good intentions are just that: intentions. This year, as you’re discerning how you will offer your time to God, resolve to follow through with your commitments. Consider each moment you spend in prayer as nourishment for your soul. The spiritual health of our parish is only as strong as the sum of its parts (individual parishioners).

Is your level of parish involvement in need of a boost?

We give our talents back to God when we get involved in ministries at St. Peter. And, with a host of ministries to choose from, there’s something for everyone. Sure, ministries give parishioners opportunities to serve others in the community, but they also benefit those in the ministry itself. Ask anyone who actively participates in a ministry at St. Peter, “Why do you enjoy serving in this way?” They’ll probably say, “I get more out of the

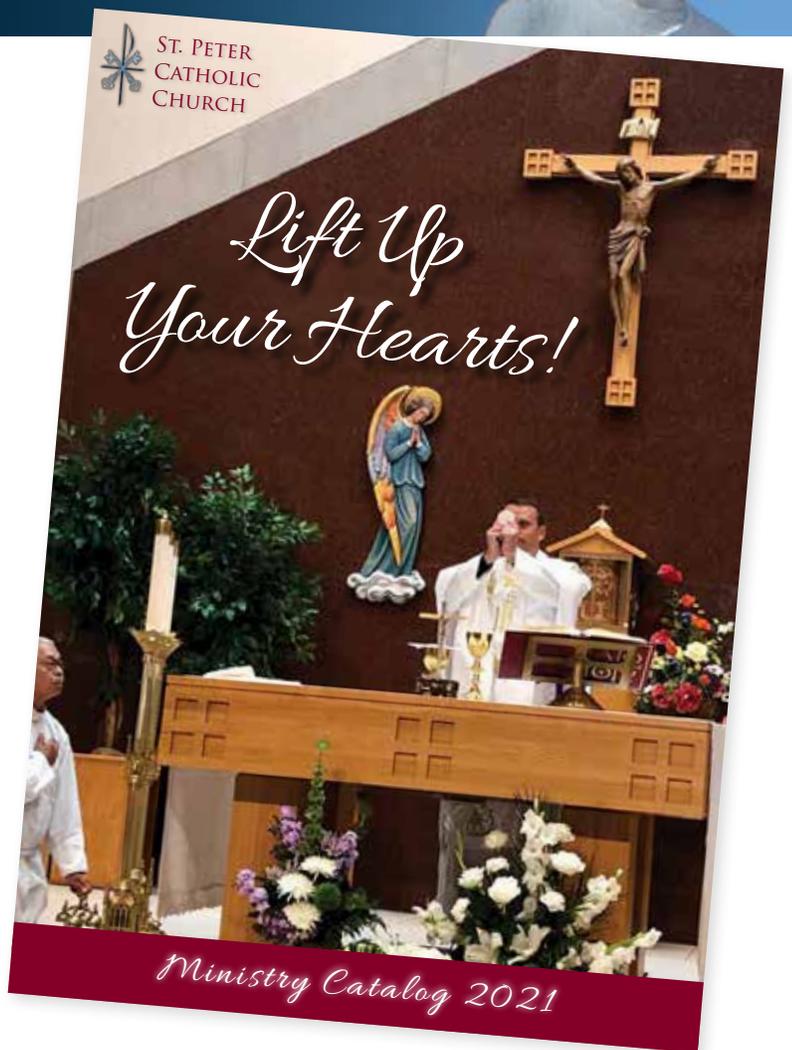
HAS BESTOWED ON US

ministry than the people I serve." This year, as you're discerning how you will offer your talents to God, considering signing up for a ministry that may benefit you, like a Bible study, prayer group, or retreat. Or, contribute to an outreach ministry where your good deeds not only help others in the community, but also give you feelings of satisfaction and thankfulness.

Do you give a percentage of your income to the offertory?

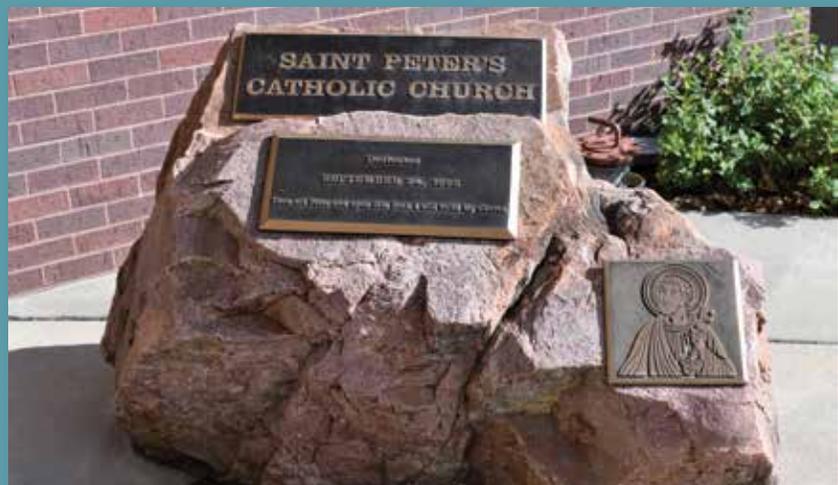
It may be hard to see offertory giving as a way to "help yourself," but when we approach the subject from a spiritual viewpoint, it can lead to individual spiritual growth and an increase in faith. Even the most savvy businessperson worries about his or her personal finances from time to time. Adding a weekly offertory check to the list of monthly bills may seem crazy but, ultimately, sacrificial giving forces us to cut unnecessary spending, create a budget and have faith that God will help us make it through the month. All of these are good things for each of us, individually. After faithfully giving to the offertory for a few months, many Catholics find that it's not only possible to give a weekly offering, but that the fruits of their gift far outweigh the expense.

At St. Peter, we ask that you give five percent to our parish, and five percent to other charities. Why a percentage of income? First, because the tithe (10 percent) is a scriptural benchmark that the Church has honored for centuries (see Malachi 3:10). Secondly, we give a percentage of income because it is a common-sense standard by which everyone can equitably support the parish. Most of all, we give because we believe God comes first in everything, even finances.



Every parish family receives a special "Stewardship Package" that further explains our parish's vision of stewardship. It includes a booklet that describes every ministry in the parish, as well as your commitment card.

25th Dedication of our Church SEPTEMBER 24, 1995-2020





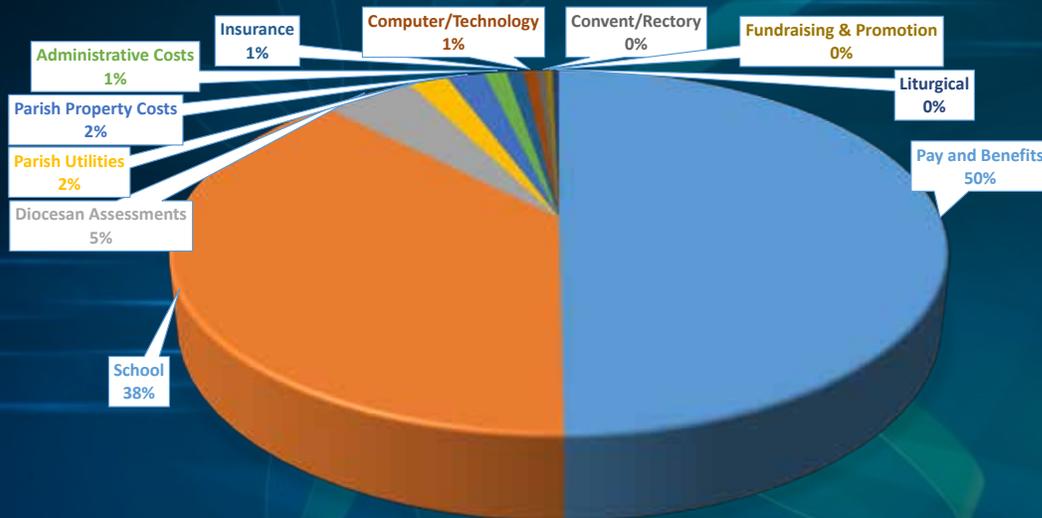
ST. PETER CATHOLIC CHURCH

St. Peter Parish and School 2019-2020 Income and Expense Comparison



*New Finance Council Chair,
John Arrigo.*

St. Peter Parish and School Percentage of Total Expense July 2019- June 2020





A LOOK AT OUR COFFEE AND ROLLS MINISTRY

MEETING ONCE AGAIN FOR REFRESHMENTS AND FELLOWSHIP AS A COMMUNITY

What better way to offer hospitality to our parishioners and visitors than to serve up hot coffee and fresh rolls after Sunday Mass?

Our Coffee and Rolls Ministry, staffed by the Martha and Mary Circle members, have been providing this welcome for a number of years. LaDonna Hegemann is president of the Circle and coordinates the service.

Although the event has been on hiatus due to the COVID-19 pandemic, LaDonna is waiting to see how it will return now that public Masses have resumed. She is hoping to serve coffee and rolls in the courtyard this Fall.

When the regular Coffee and Rolls service does return, everyone is welcome to enjoy the treats in Bishop Vasa Hall once a month after the 4 p.m. Saturday Mass, and the 8 a.m., 9:30 a.m. and 11 a.m. Sunday Masses. The 8 a.m. and 9:30 a.m. times have been the most popular, drawing between 75 to 150 guests.

"I really don't know when it started," LaDonna says. "We've been doing it for a number of years. But I think it's kind of neat that we still do this."

LaDonna orders and picks up the rolls, and also buys the coffee and juice.

"The Circle members help serve and clean up," she says.

What's the crowd favorite? Chocolate donuts. But apple fritters are also a popular item.

"I always hope new parishioners will come down," LaDonna says. "I try to introduce myself, or when they are going through the line I'll talk to them. Several people in the parish will sit with new people. It's good for those who haven't seen each other for a couple months, and they will sit down and talk."

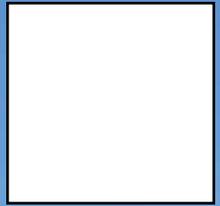
Expenses are covered through the parish, and LaDonna also sets out a free will donation basket.

Announcements are usually placed in the bulletin a week before coffee and rolls will be served. The lectors also make the announcement. We hope you will join us for some refreshment and fellowship!





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 & Wednesday: 7:00 a.m. - 8:00 a.m.

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

PRAYER LINE MINISTRY *continued from front cover*

Parishioners are invited to share their prayer requests with the Prayer Line Ministry with as much or as little detail as they would like. Sometimes, the needs are shared simply as an anonymous special intention.

“More people praying is definitely more powerful,” Jeannie says. “God says that where two or more are gathered, He is there. With everybody coming together and praying – they may be sitting in their houses, but they’re united in heart and mind and soul – God hears all these prayers.”

“Many times, people will call back to let us know how the prayers were answered or how people felt comforted,” she adds. “So many people said, I just feel so much better

knowing people are praying.”

Jeannie encourages her fellow parishioners to consider becoming involved in this ministry, especially if their schedule makes it difficult for them to participate in other ministries.

“If people want to be involved in a Spiritual Work of Mercy, they can join the Prayer Line, to pray for others,” Jeannie says. “It is very simple. You open your email, you see a prayer request and you just pray the Scripture or the prayer in that email for those people. In that, you’ve already done something for someone else and it hardly took any time at all. I think it makes your heart bigger.”

If you would like to be added to the Prayer Line email to pray for others, please contact Jeannie Moxley at 402-421-1730.

There are three ways to request prayer:

1. Call Jeannie at the Prayer Line.
2. If you are a member of PCCW, send an email prayer request to your PCCW Chair, who will send it to Maryann.
3. If you are not a PCCW Member, you can email a prayer request to Maryann at mboumann333@neb.rr.com.

We all like UPDATES! Please let us know how God worked in this situation. It gives glory to God and encourages us, the 200-plus Prayer Warriors, who faithfully pray when they receive a Prayer Request. God is mightily at work in this little but powerful Prayer Ministry!