



FEBRUARY 2020

# ST. PETER CATHOLIC CHURCH

*Monthly Newsletter*

FEBRUARY 28 - MARCH 1

## *You are Invited to our Lenten Mission on Spousal and Family Prayer*

As the season of Lent gets underway, our parish's married couples and families have a wonderful opportunity to be strengthened in prayer. The only requirement is to come with an open heart!

Later this month, we welcome Matt Simmons, who will lead us in our Lenten Parish Mission on Feb. 28, 29 and March 1. The mission will take place in the church from 7 to 8:30 p.m. on Feb. 28 and 29 and from 4 to 5:30 p.m. on March 1, with a potluck to follow in Bishop Vasa Hall.

Matt travels around as part of his work with Sacred Heart Ministries, using his many gifts in speaking, spiritual direction, teaching and deliverance ministry

to serve our Lord. He is the Director of the Office of Spiritual Formation and the Office of Evangelization for the Diocese of Lincoln.

As Matt points out, when a couple starts praying together, the marriage can become a "marriage in the Lord."

"The Sacrament of Marriage is very powerful, but many of us don't pray together," he says. "So it doesn't look different than other marriages."

During the retreat, Matt will focus on practical ways to pray as a couple and family. Another major focus of the mission will be experiencing Jesus in the Eucharist – adoration and exposition will be a large part of the sessions.

"This won't be simply me talking about prayer," Matt says.

*continued on back cover*



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## THE SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION: *Returning to the Father*

Those of us who have children know what it's like when they come to us apologetically after having done something they know is wrong. As parents, it melts our hearts, and we can't help but forgive them freely, and take them into our arms – sometimes squeezing them with tears in our eyes! At times, we may even feel closer to them than we did before the event occurred.

This, we can assume, is how God feels, being our most clement Father. In His magnanimous love, He sent His only Son Jesus Christ to redeem the world, freeing it from the haunting grips of sin and death. Christ instituted the Sacrament of Reconciliation through His Church to offer sinners forgiveness for the offenses they committed against God.

As the Angelic Doctor St. Thomas Aquinas writes so beautifully, “[The Sacrament of Confession is a] sacrament of healing and a sacrament of conversion, returning us to the Father after we have sinned. In the life of the body a man is sometimes sick, and unless he takes

medicine, he will die. Even so in the spiritual life a man is sick on account of sin. For that reason he needs medicine so that he may be restored to health; and this grace is bestowed in the Sacrament of Penance.”

As far as the details for the reception of this sacrament are concerned, three conditions are necessary – contrition, which is genuine sorrow for sin, together with a purpose of amendment; confession of sins without any omission; and satisfaction by means of good works. A priest is gravely bound to keeping total confidentiality for all confessions they hear.

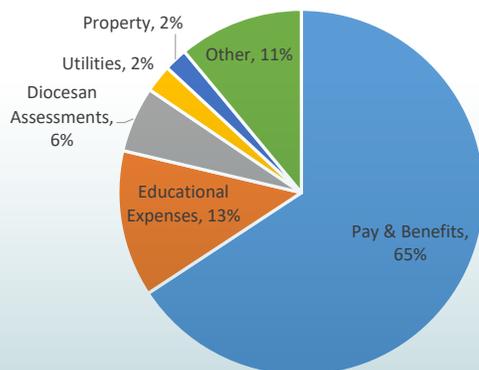
Church law requires Catholics to confess mortal sins – the most serious kind of sins – to a priest at least once per year, and to confess them before ever receiving Holy Communion, as well. However, this is by far the minimum; Catholics are encouraged to receive the sacrament freely and frequently since it is so extremely beneficial to the health of the mind, soul and spiritual life in general.

### ST. PETER PARISH (CHURCH AND SCHOOL) – “BY THE NUMBERS”

Income and Expense Comparison  
(First Half 2019)



Percent of Total Expense  
(Jul-Dec 2019 Cumulative)





*A Letter from Our Pastor*

# STRIVING FOR *“The Best Lent Ever”* WILL PREPARE US TO JOYFULLY CELEBRATE EASTER

Dear Parishioners,

The most important day in February won't come till the very end of the month. Alert parishioners may already have realized I'm referring to Ash Wednesday, the first day of Lent, which falls on Feb. 26 this year. That means we have most of the month to plan for Lent!

You may be thinking right: “Father seems particularly happy about getting ready for Lent!” Of course, when we approach Lent in the right way, it will help us get spiritually fit to celebrate Easter. Just as an Olympic athlete goes through a long period of serious training to win a medal, so we prepare during Lent for our great Easter celebration. And “giving up” something during Lent is not supposed to leave a vacuum – we're invited to put something more valuable in its place.

We're all familiar with the three traditional Lenten disciplines of **prayer**, **fasting** and **almsgiving**. These can serve as our framework for how we approach the season of Lent. One might decide, for example, to give up a half hour of screen time each evening. Instead, it could be filled with prayerful reading of the Bible or a devotional book, or praying the Rosary.

Some people decide to give up a favorite food or dessert during Lent (fasting) with the goal of greater discipline in their spiritual lives. A family can put aside the money saved



by skipping desserts and contribute it to a Church-related charity (almsgiving), so that our self-denial can benefit others.

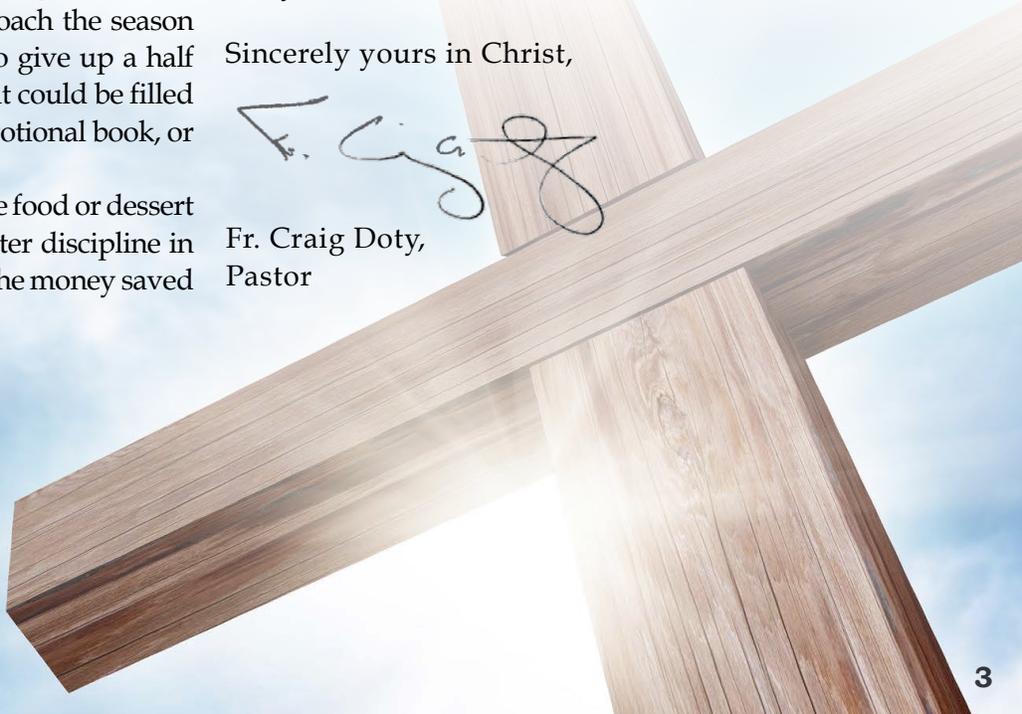
These are just possible examples. There are many ways of combining prayer, fasting, and almsgiving into our daily lives during the Lenten season. The object is to develop a spiritual routine that challenges us but still fits into our lives with our individual responsibilities and schedules.

We may stumble at some point and may want to just give up, but this is not what Jesus did when He carried His cross. Like Him we need to get up and continue on our Lenten journey.

Of course, most of February is Ordinary Time. But that gives us time to figure out what we should do in the areas of prayer, fasting and almsgiving so we can make this our best Lent ever and arrive at Easter ready to celebrate the Resurrection of our Lord!

Sincerely yours in Christ,

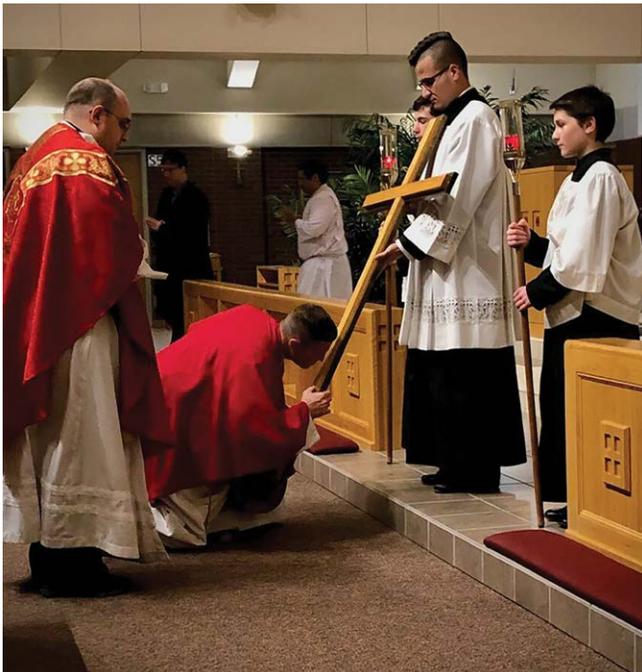
Fr. Craig Doty,  
Pastor





# Journey Throu

## OPPORTUNITIES FOR SPIRITUAL C



Like so many things in life, our faith is a continuous journey. By staying connected to the roots of our faith through a commitment to parish life, we are able to draw ever closer to our destination – a close and intimate relationship with our Lord. As Lent approaches, it is time to contemplate how we may best spend these upcoming 40 days of spiritual preparation. By opening our hearts and minds during this important liturgical season, we answer the call to deepen our faith as we journey from Ash Wednesday to Easter Sunday.

Here at St. Peter, we are blessed to have many opportunities to fully live out the Lenten season and “journey through Lent.” As Religious Education Coordinator Lynette McArdle explains, the call of Lent is really a call to holiness for all believers.

“The universal call to holiness means, quite simply, that all men and women are called to be holy,” Lynette says. “God’s grace is needed along with a willing attitude to accept all things as coming from the loving hand of God, and the aim to do all things in accordance with God’s will, out of love for Him. Lent is our annual call to take a look at our life and realign ourselves to His call to holiness.”

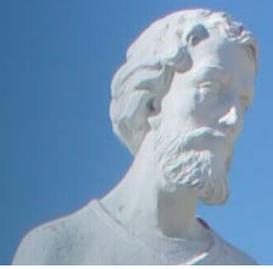
One of the most meaningful and life-changing ways to answer the call to holiness this Lent is to reinvigorate our prayer life. Our parish provides us with many ways to pursue a commitment to prayer, including weekly and daily Masses (the Church in prayer), time spent in Eucharistic Adoration (one-on-one time with our Lord), and a group or individual Rosary.

Another form of prayer offered at St. Peter that is unique to this liturgical season is the Stations of the Cross.

“This devotion consists of prayers and meditations commemorating the events of the passion of Jesus,” Lynette says. “Each station is a stop of Christ from His death sentence to being laid in the tomb. At each stop, we are reminded of His suffering for us and we are to contemplate His great love for us. The Stations become prayer when we open our hearts to be touched. We are reminded that Christ experienced pain, suffering and loss, and triumphed. We unite our own experiences with Christ’s and trust in Him to lead us through this life into the next.”

Yet another way of uniting ourselves with the passion and

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# gh Lent 2020

## GROWTH ABOUND IN OUR PARISH

suffering of Christ during the Lenten season is through abstinence. Of course, there are Church guidelines for fasting and abstaining from meat on certain days, but abstinence may also include making an effort to avoid bad habits or to give up something that usually brings us pleasure for the 40 days of Lent.

Rather than focusing solely on what we can sacrifice during Lent, it is also important to discover ways that we can *add* something extra to our faith journey in the days leading up to Christ’s passion and resurrection. We may choose to improve our knowledge of the faith by attending a Bible study, reading Scripture, borrowing a spiritual book from the parish lending library, or attending our parish Lenten retreat. We may increase our almsgiving and look for additional ways to give of our time, talent and treasure

in our parish and community. Bringing a sense of love and unity to our family life can also become a renewed priority.

During the weekend of Feb. 22-23, Lenten materials for all ages and stages of life will be available after the Masses. We encourage all parishioners to take advantage of the many opportunities to enrich their faith journey during this special liturgical season.

“The most important part about Lent is to do something!” Lynette says. “Whatever you choose to do, offer it up to the Lord and He will assist you and bless your efforts. Our Lenten sacrifices and good practices are not meant to be temporary, but are meant to be lifelong changes to transform us and move us along our path to holiness. Each of us has our own vocation and unique gifts, but all are called to serve our Lord.”

## Calendar of Events for Lent

### **Lenten Experience Weekend — Feb. 22-23**

*Stop by after Mass and pick up materials for your Lenten devotions. Refreshments will be served by PCCW.*

### **Lenten Book Study — January 27 - March 31**

*Be Transformed by Dr. Schuchts*

### **Ash Wednesday Masses — Feb. 26**

*6:30 a.m., 8:15 a.m., 4:30 p.m., 7 p.m.*

### **Lenten Parish Mission-Spousal and Family Prayer**

*Feb. 28, 7-8:30 p.m. Spousal Prayer*

*Feb 29, 7-8:30 p.m. Spousal Prayer*

*March 1, 4-5:30 p.m. Family Prayer, followed by*

*Potluck 5:30-7 p.m.*

### **Lenten Meals — Feb. 28, Mar. 6, 13, 20, Apr. 3**

*Sponsored by Knights of Columbus and the Boy Scouts; 5-7 p.m.*

### **Stations of the Cross — 5:30 p.m. in the church every Friday during Lent**

*2:30 p.m. with the school on Fridays during Lent (except for March 13)*

### **Triduum (Holy Week) Services — April 9, 10 and 11**

- *Holy Thursday, Mass of the Lord’s Supper — April 9, 7:30 p.m.*
- *Good Friday, Liturgy of the Lord’s Passion — April 10, 7:30 p.m.*
- *Easter Vigil — April 11, 8:30 p.m.*
- *Easter Sunday Masses — April 12, 8 a.m., 9:30 a.m., and 11 a.m.*



## KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS COUNCIL 10510

### *Celebrating 30 Years of Service and Faith*

The members of our St. Peter Council 10510 Knights of Columbus are busy throughout the year with various activities and fundraisers that benefit not only our parish, but social service agencies in our area. Yet in 2020, Council 10510 will be celebrating a particularly special event in June, when it celebrates its 30th anniversary.

“We will recognize each of our Family of the Month and the Knight of the Month, as well as past Grand Knights,” says Mike Davis, Grand Knight.

A dinner dance is slated for June 16 in Bishop Vasa Hall.

“We are hoping for 200 to come,” Mike says.

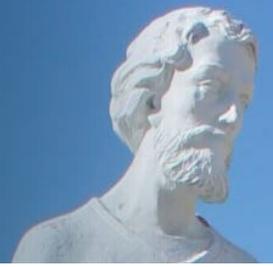
While many organizations avoid holding January events, the Council sponsored the Free Throw Contest Jan. 12 at the school gym. On Jan. 31, the members helped with the Taste and See Parish Fundraiser by providing items for the Wall of Spirits, as well as serving as bartenders and providing auction items.

“We have 190 members in the Knights,” Mike says. “One of the benefits of being a Knight is that we are men helping with parish activities. We are the only men’s group that is an organization of men who can help the

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Members of St. Peter Council 10510 gather for their regular monthly meeting at Vasa Hall — (front row, from left) John Huffman, Family Life Director; Don Hegemann, Financial Secretary; Mike Davis, Grand Knight; (second row, from left) Gary Proskovec, Treasurer; Fred King, Advocate; Dan Fucco, Recorder.



## KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS COUNCIL 10510

*continued from page 6*

parish, as well as working with the PCCW.”

The Council meets the First Tuesday of every month, starting with a Rosary in the Church at 6:30 p.m. Meetings start at 7 p.m. and are held in the downstairs meeting room in Vasa Hall.

In February the Council will hold its Consecration to the Holy Family, when the Council will consecrate their families during all Masses on a particular weekend.

On Fridays during Lent, the Council will hold Lenten dinners in our Bishop Vasa Hall. The hours will be 5-7 p.m. “We’ll have a variety of non-meat dishes,” Mike says.

During March, the Council will assist with the state-wide Special Olympics Bowling and Basketball Tournaments that are being hosted in Lincoln.

Also during March the Council will hold a special Mass for people with intellectual disabilities.

“We invite parish families who have children with special needs,” Mike says.

On Tuesday of Holy Week, the Council will sponsor and work with our bishop for the Eucharistic Procession at Planned Parenthood in Lincoln.

“We have had over 1,000 take part in the Eucharistic Procession,” Mike says.

On Good Friday, the Council will take part with the bishop in the recitation of the Stations of the Cross in front of Planned Parenthood.

The Council will mark Mother’s Day with a carnation sale. The proceeds will go to Birthright, a pro-life ministry in Lincoln.

“Another thing we do is at each Baptism in our parish, we present the mother with a rose,” Mike says.

When school is out for the summer, the Council organizes the Parish Picnic with a bike rodeo and games for the kids. And when school starts again in the fall, the Council works with other parish groups to hold a Fall Family Festival with games and other activities. When Halloween arrives, the Council hosts a Trunk or Treat in the school parking lot.

“We don’t have any numbers in mind with these events,” Mike says. “All three events – the Trunk or Treat, Family Fall Festival, and Picnic – everyone is welcome to attend,” Mike says. “Non-Catholics attend, as well. This is all to build community.”

The Council’s Tootsie Roll Drive in October raises funds for Villa Marie School. The goal is to donate \$6,000.

This past December the Council sent \$500 to each of the parish’s seminarians and novices.

“We have five in the parish, each studying to be a priest or nun,” Mike says. “That’s pretty good for 1,300 families.”

Our Council works with the other Knights Councils in town to maintain the Catholic cemetery.

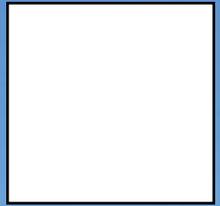
“We help with projects there and with manpower to take care of things,” Mike says. “We put up Ten Commandments and Beatitudes markers.”

The men also have placed American flags on veterans’ graves for Memorial Day and Veterans Day. As you see we have a very active council. We welcome all men of the parish to consider becoming a Knight.

*Any practicing Catholic male at least 18 years old is eligible to join the Knights of Columbus. For more information, please contact Grand Knight Mike Davis at 402-480-0404, [davism72@gmail.com](mailto:davism72@gmail.com).*



# 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:** 6-6:15 a.m., 7:45-8:00 a.m.

**Saturday:** 3-3:45 p.m.

## Lenten Mission *continued from front cover*

On the first night of the retreat, Matt will focus on prayer and relationship, and how to engage in prayer. The second night of the retreat will focus on spousal prayer and how to get started together. Then, on the final night, Matt will focus on family prayer – he hopes people will be able to bring their whole families for the last session on March 1, as he will discuss how parents and children can pray together.

Matt says if family members can come together and be honest with one another and ready to share, a lot can change.

“This is all very simple,” he says. “It’s simpler than people think.”

So be sure to mark your calendars and attend the upcoming Lenten Parish Mission! As Matt says, God will be ready to meet us wherever we are in our faith journey.

*If you would like more information about the upcoming Lenten Parish Mission on Feb. 28-29 and March 1, please contact Sue Ray, (402) 423-1239, [Sue-Ray@cdolinc.net](mailto:Sue-Ray@cdolinc.net).*