



OCTOBER 2018

ST. PETER CATHOLIC CHURCH

Monthly Newsletter

A Letter from Our Pastor

A “RE-INTRODUCTION” AND COMING HOME TO ST. PETER

Dear Parishioners,

I wish to thank you for your great kindness, and especially your prayers, since I became the pastor of St. Peter Parish on Aug. 9. Thanks be to almighty God and to you, my great experience here as an assistant pastor from 1997 to 1999 has made the transition more like a “coming home.” I am grateful to be here and I would like to [re]introduce myself in this newly designed parish newsletter.

The first five years of my life were spent in Minneapolis, Minn., where I still have many relatives (hence, my loyalty to the Twins and Vikings!). Our family transferred to Omaha in 1975 and I grew up in the Millard area where I also graduated from Millard South High School. Math and science came easiest to me, so I decided to study chemical engineering in college. I attended Iowa State University my first year on a Navy R.O.T.C. scholarship. I opted out of that program and attended UNL for the next four years and obtained that engineering degree in 1992.

During my last two years of college I had become involved in the Newman Center on the university campus. It was there that I really began to learn more deeply what I believed as a Catholic and why. It was also during this time that daily Mass



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A “RE-INTRODUCTION” AND COMING

and frequent confession became a huge part of my life. Discussions of philosophy and theology with the seminarians were also intriguing to me and undoubtedly had an impact as I began to ponder the possibility of giving the seminary a try after college.

Consequently, I entered the seminary in 1992 and attended a year of pre-theology (philosophy) at the Oratory of St. Philip Neri in Toronto. That was followed by four years of theology at St. Charles Borromeo Seminary in Philadelphia. I was ordained a priest by Bishop Fabian W. Bruskewitz on May 24, 1997, and, as noted above, my first assignment was here at St. Peter. I was then assigned to study canon law for two years at the Pontifical University of the Holy Cross in Rome.

Those two years in Italy were bittersweet, given that my father, Roy, was diagnosed with ALS (Lou Gehrig’s Disease) and died in October of 2001. However, our family was so tremendously blessed during that time. In fact, my parents were able to visit Rome in 2000, the Jubilee Year, and we received the incredible gift of meeting Pope St. John Paul II in person, as well as the good fortune of visiting and praying at the tombs of many saints, including St. Padre Pio (to whom my dad had a special devotion).

Upon returning from Italy, I was assigned to work

in the Tribunal and to serve as pastor of St. Mary Church in Aurora and St. Joseph Church in Giltner for four years (2001-05). Then, until this past August, I served for 13-plus years as pastor of St. Wenceslaus Church in Wilber and St. Joseph Church in Tobias. I have continued to work in the Tribunal since 2001 and I have also had the privilege of serving as a Co-Vicar of Religious and as Director of the newly formed Lincoln Equipping Team for Prayer and Healing.

I am extremely blessed to have been called to serve as one of Christ’s priests and I am grateful for all that the Lord has done in and through me during these years. Most recently, within the last 18 months or so, the Lord has brought about some healing in my life which has made me all the more free to be the priest I believe He is calling me to be. I will save my explanation for another time, but suffice it to say that the Lord freed me from a lot of worthless fears, with the result being that this past year and a half has been the most fun I have had as a priest, despite the very difficult challenges and trials of life. One catalyst for change in my life has been the book by Dr. Bob Schuchts entitled *Be Healing: A Guide to Encountering the Powerful Love of Jesus in Your Life*. Since reading that book, I have attended two retreats for priests at the John Paul II Healing Center founded by





HOME TO ST. PETER

continued from front cover

Dr. Bob in Tallahassee, Fla. In the months following, I have a new-found hobby of reading everything I can about healing of the heart and the gifts of the Holy Spirit. Needless to say, it is a much cheaper hobby than those I have previously spent my time on, such as sports (especially golf), snow-skiing, and flying as a private pilot (as of 2016).

I very much look forward to getting to know each of you and your families. In addition to simply helping you as best I can to deepen your relationship with the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, my hope and my prayer is that Christ's hope and His prayer will come to fulfillment

in everyone in our parish: "I have come to set the earth on fire, and how I wish it were already blazing!" (Luke 12:49). May the fire of Christ's love heal and fill our hearts, and may it overflow into everyone we meet!

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Fr. Craig Doty,
Pastor

A Letter From Our Parochial Vicar

GETTING TO KNOW FR. CALEB LA RUE

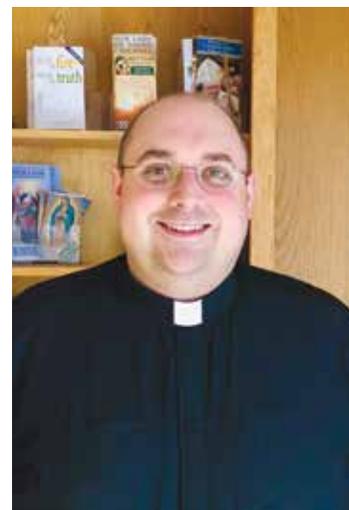
Dear Parishioners,

Greetings and God's blessings to you all. My name is Fr. Caleb La Rue and I am blessed to be your Parochial Vicar. I look forward to getting to know you all and, to help facilitate you getting to know me, I am happy to share with you a little bit about myself. I was born in Lincoln and am the youngest of four. My family moved around quite a bit while I was growing up but, despite having lived in North Dakota, San Antonio, and Omaha, I consider the Lincoln Diocese to be my home.

I attended UNL for three years where I became active in the Newman Center. It was here that I truly began to live my Catholic Faith and felt called to enter the seminary. I graduated from St. Gregory the Great Seminary and attended St. Charles Borromeo Seminary in Philadelphia for four years until my ordination in 2014. My first assignment was at St. John's here in Lincoln. I was there two years before being assigned to St. Cecilia's in Hastings, where I spent the last two years serving as Parochial Vicar and teaching at St. Cecilia's High School.

I know that the past month has been a very difficult time

for St. Peter Parish. I will do everything I can to help be an instrument of healing for our parish and to bring Christ to you and your families. Please pray for me as I begin this new assignment as I will be praying for you and your families. May the Sacred Heart of Jesus fill our hearts with His love that we might together find healing and bring this healing to Church. God bless you all.



Sincerely yours in Christ,

Fr. Caleb La Rue,
Parochial Vicar



BASIC QUESTIONS ABOUT OUR STEWARDSHIP RENEWAL

What is a Stewardship Renewal?

This isn't a parish fundraiser – far from it. Our annual Stewardship Renewal is the time when we ask each other to re-prioritize the way we use God's gifts in the Church. It is the time we write down how we will support St. Peter.

Why should I fill out a commitment card?

Your Commitment Card allows you to make commitments to prayer, parish ministries, and offertory giving, or what we at St. Peter call "time, talent, and treasure." There's a two-fold reason to complete your card. First, it is an excellent opportunity to move forward spiritually and personally. Second, when you fill out a card, our parish is much better able to manage our many volunteers and make budgeting decisions.

How many parish ministries are there at St. Peter?

"Ministry" is a general term for any parish group, organization, or regular activity. There are dozens of ministries in our parish. You can sign up for certain ministries, or re-commit yourself if you're already involved.

What if I sign up for a ministry, but later find I'm not very interested?

You are not making a solemn promise to participate in a particular ministry when you mark it on your commitment card. If you find that the parish group is different than you thought, or simply that their meeting time doesn't fit your schedule, you can change your mind. There are plenty of other ministries to consider.

I'm hesitant to make a firm financial pledge. What if I lose my job?

Your commitment card isn't a legal contract. If your circumstances change, your gift will change. In Scripture, we are asked to "give according to our means." So if you lose your job, you may be unable to give at the level you pledged. Likewise, if you get a promotion, you may be able to give more. That is why at St. Peter, our standard of giving is based upon a percentage of income.

What happens if I don't fill out a commitment card?

Returning a card is an important part of being an active member of St. Peter. If for some reason you lose your card, we'll send you a reminder letter with an extra commitment card. Please make every effort to return it!

TIME, TALENT & TREASURE

Please bring your Commitment Card to Mass on Commitment Sunday, October 27-28. How will you use your time, talent & treasure in our parish?



ST. PETER CATHOLIC CHURCH 2018 COMMITMENT CARD

My Offering of Time, Talent & Treasure

First & Last Name _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Spouse: First & Last Name _____

Spouse: Phone _____

Spouse: Email _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

TIME
Spending Time with God in Prayer

TREASURE
Making a Consistent Offering to the Offertory

Love the Lord your God with all your heart, mind, strength, and power, and love your neighbor as yourself. This is the first and greatest commandment. The second is like it: Love your neighbor as yourself. If you love others, you will love yourself. Love is the fulfillment of the law. If you love others, you will never be condemned. Love is the greatest of the gifts. Love is the greatest of the gifts. Love is the greatest of the gifts.

Check the box next to your prayer:

- Attend Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament
- Attend weekday Mass at least once a week
- Attend Mass every Sunday and Holy Day of Obligation
- Invite a friend or acquaintance to Mass
- Pray together with my family
- Pray for the sick, the lonely and the elderly
- Practice the Catholic Faith with my family
- Read the Bible for a half hour a week
- Spend at least 15 minutes a day in personal prayer
- Pray the Rosary at least weekly
- Go to Confession at least every month
- Spend a time with my spouse each week
- Pray for my country daily
- Pray for an increase in vocations
- Pray for our priests and sisters

Weekly giving has a proportion of income for Catholic Church, each card giving 5% of their income. Some may have difficulty increasing your weekly amount that you

WEEKLY GIVING

Income	10%	Amount
\$500	10%	\$50
\$550	10%	\$55
\$600	10%	\$60
\$650	10%	\$65
\$700	10%	\$70
\$750	10%	\$75
\$800	10%	\$80
\$850	10%	\$85
\$900	10%	\$90
\$950	10%	\$95
\$1000	10%	\$100



LINCOLN RIGHT TO LIFE:

PROTECTING THE LEAST AMONG US

In February of this year, the Lincoln Right to Life Pro-Life Center opened across the street from Planned Parenthood. The day of the dedication, a group of people prayed the Rosary outside, for those who walked into Planned Parenthood for abortions, that very day.

Following the Rosary, people went inside the new center to celebrate Mass, with the bishop. And as Mass began, one of those who had been praying outside, rushed in, with an announcement: "There was a woman who got out of her car and said, because I saw you, I am going to keep my baby."

St. Peter parishioner Matt Tapling, who serves as the President of Lincoln Right to Life, first became involved in pro-life ministry nearly a decade ago, when he was invited to join those praying the Rosary each Tuesday morning outside of Planned Parenthood.

"I was looking for something to develop my prayer life and I went and participated," Matt says. "Over that time, I saw the whole concept of abortion and the difference between good and evil. It really struck me, seeing the conflict."

Standing up for the dignity of those who are vulnerable has always been at the heart of Catholic Social Teaching, as well as the pro-life movement.

"The Catholic teaching is pretty clear that God has given each human being intrinsic value," Matt says. "In Jeremiah 1:5, God says, 'Before I formed you in the womb I knew you.' Christ is our motivation. 'When did I see You? I saw You in the least among us.' The least among us is the ones in the womb, who can't protect themselves."

There are a number of ways to become involved in protecting the unborn in Lincoln. Every Tuesday – the day that abortions are performed in Lincoln – people gather outside of the Planned Parenthood to pray, as well as celebrate Mass at the pro-life center, across the street.

People are also encouraged to take part in events such as 40 Days for Life, which takes place Sept. 26 through Nov. 4.

"People sign up for an hour to be praying outside the abortion center," Matt says. "When people are present in front of a Planned Parenthood, there's a three times higher cancellation rate than when no one's there."

Life Chain, taking place on Oct. 7, at 2:30 p.m., is another annual event, encouraging people to take a stand and raise awareness against abortion.

"Life Chain is a national program that literally makes a 'chain' of people, lined up, with pro-life signage of awareness and forgiveness and prayers," says Matt of the event, which takes place on O Street.

The St. Peter Knights of Columbus, with Grand Knight Mike Davis, also support Right to Life in a variety of ways. The One Rose, One Life Campaign is one of their primary fundraising events.

Matt hopes that more parishioners will take an active and prayerful role in defending the lives of the unborn, particularly during October, which is Respect Life Month.

"It takes courage to get out there the first time," says Matt of praying at Planned Parenthood. "But when you're standing there on a Tuesday, you are the last visual that a woman has before she walks in. They see peace on your face, they see hope, they see love in your eyes. You're reflecting God's love to them in that one moment."

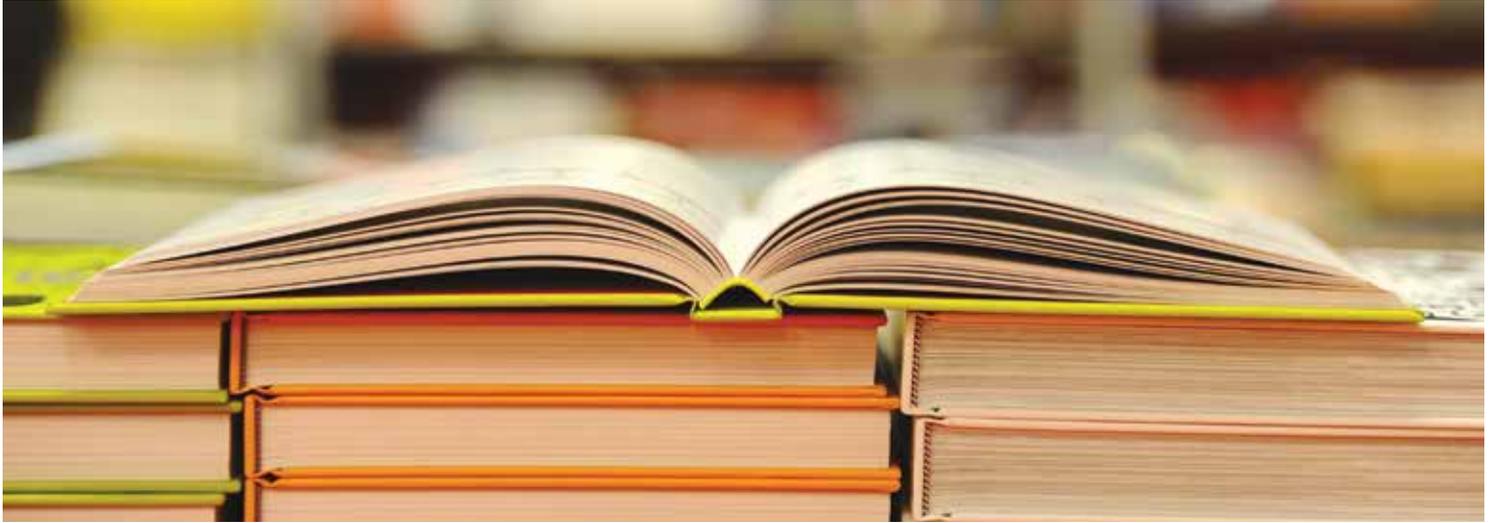


Many people faithfully gather to pray at Planned Parenthood for an end to abortion.

If you would like to become involved in Lincoln Right to Life or other pro-life initiatives at St. Peter, please contact Matt Tapling at 402-570-5156, or Grand Knight Mike Davis at 402-480-0404. Learn more about these opportunities at www.lincolnrighttolife.org and www.40daysforlife.com/Lincoln.



LENDING LIBRARY OFFERS LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES AND READING FOR THE SPIRIT



St. Jerome is considered the patron saint of libraries. As a scholar and New Testament translator, we'd like to think he'd have felt right at home here at St. Peter, thanks in part to our own parish lending library.

For the past few years, the lending library has been home to a growing number of texts and materials meant to strengthen parishioner's knowledge of Christianity and soothe the mind in times of spiritual need.

"It's a place where people can come and borrow books and sometimes CDs of various religious subjects," says lending library organizer Carol Wathen. "It covers different things like Bible studies, the lives of the saints, early Church fathers, and defending the faith. Some are new, like books by Bishop Robert Barron, and some are old."

The lending library is located just inside the church doors on the right. It consists of four shelves where parishioners can borrow books any time the church is open. Readers simply sign the book out and bring it back when they're finished.

"It's mostly books for adults, but we do have

some things for young people and children," Carol says. "It's a good way to introduce people to different authors or topics. Maybe there's something they've wanted to read and haven't had the opportunity. The main thing is that it helps you learn about Jesus and the Church, which fosters devotion and prayer and, ultimately, holiness. If you're reading these books, it should bring you into prayer and meditation and that's the ultimate hope."

The shelves at the lending library are populated by generous donations from parish families. Carol says parishioners can donate to the lending library any time by placing used religious and faith-based books in the box near the shelves. The lending library ministry began as an extension of the Evangelization Committee, and Carol says the original hope was that parishioners would grow in their faith by grabbing a book.

"It's a nice service for people just to find a book and try out something different," she says. "You may not think about a particular topic and book can open your eyes to it. Reading is very important if you can."

In addition to borrowing books, parishioners can also make a donation to take home a music CD from Lighthouse Media that is theirs to keep. Parishioners with questions about the lending library can contact Carol Wathen at 402-742-6468.



PARISHIONERS WILL HAVE NUMEROUS OPPORTUNITIES TO ENGAGE IN MINISTRY OF HEALING AT ST. PETER

All healing, whether spiritual, emotional, or physical, comes from God. However, each person can be an instrument of God's healing. God works through us – and that is how we can each serve His ministry of healing. Here in our parish, we can witness the examples of those who serve as these instruments of healing.

One example is that of our pastor, Fr. Craig Doty, who serves as coordinator of the Lincoln Equipping Team for the Diocese of Lincoln.

"The Lincoln Equipping Team is a prayer and healing ministry whose mission is to empower Catholics to pray for one another and discover the healing power of Christ in their lives," he says. "This group was inspired by the work of the John Paul II Healing Center and the Day of Equipping workshop that occurred in Lincoln in August of 2017."

And while there has been no "formal" healing



ministry at St. Peter, there are parishioners who have been involved with healing for several years. Jeannie Moxley and Maryann Spahni are two such parishioners.

"I have been involved for more than 30 years in various aspects of what might be called healing," Jeannie says. "I experienced a personal conversion which brought me closer to God and more aware of the power of the Holy Spirit in my life. I began to attend prayer groups and learned more about my own faith and how God was a part of my life. Through the years I have prayed with many, many people, sometimes in coordination with Maryann."

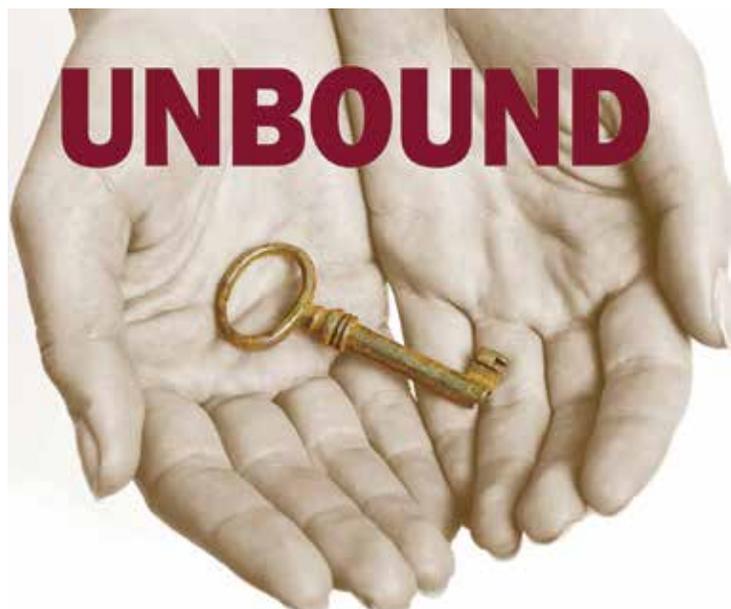
"We may not have always called what we were doing 'Healing Ministry,' but that is what they were and have been, and continue to be," Maryann adds. "God has been so good to us, and has drawn us closer to Him through everything we have done."

As Jeannie notes, there are two key aspects to the ministry of healing.

"One is the absolute importance of prayer, and the other has to do with our relationship to God," she says. "God is the healer – He is the Physician. As our faith grows and develops, we feel more deeply and acutely the love of God."

"Jesus has me right where He wants me in life," Maryann says. "It involves healing – both receiving and giving. If we truly love one another, we are there for one another. I love small-group and one-on-one encounters. My spiritual life has blossomed and become so much richer. I am involved, like Jeannie, in prayer groups and Rosary groups. As Jeannie says, it is all about our relationship

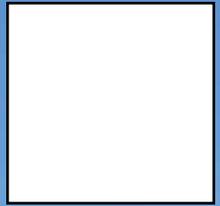
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NEAL LOZANO



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.

MINISTRY OF HEALING AT ST. PETER *continued from page 7*

with God.”

It is important for us to receive the sacraments that Christ has established and that our priests administer. We can receive healing through Confession, the Eucharist and Anointing of the Sick.

As we look to these examples of healing ministry in our midst, we are also asked to consider ways to contribute to this important ministry of compassion and service.

“I want this concept to grow here at St. Peter,” Fr. Doty says. “I am looking for parishioners who feel called to be a part of this.” He notes that one of the simple ways we can be an instrument of God’s healing is being open to praying with those who desire healing.

In particular, Fr. Doty notes upcoming opportunities for parishioners to become engaged in this ministry. We are privileged here at St. Peter to be hosting a conference at the parish July 11-13, 2019 – the John Paul II Healing Center is coming here to put on a series of workshops,

and its founder, Dr. Bob Schuchts, will be in attendance. Dr. Schuchts is author of the books *Be Healed: A Guide to Encountering the Powerful Love of Jesus Christ in Your Life* and *Be Transformed*.

“The conference is on Thursday and Friday evenings and all day on Saturday,” Fr. Doty says. “I would love to have as many parishioners as possible to participate in it. People need to keep an eye on the bulletin for more information.”

Maryann also notes some important opportunities for parishioners to learn more.

“There is so much people can do right now,” she says. “We mentioned prayer groups and other gatherings which deepen our faith. There are also lots of resources available regarding healing. One of the best is a book called *Unbound* by Neal Lozano. The diocese has a healing Mass four times a year – the next one is scheduled for Sunday, Dec. 9, at the John XXIII Center.”

If you wish to get involved, contact Fr. Craig Doty or Sue Ray at the parish office, 402-423-1239. For involvement in prayer support or to request prayers, contact Jeannie Moxley at 402-421-1730 or Maryann Spahni at 402-429-7333.