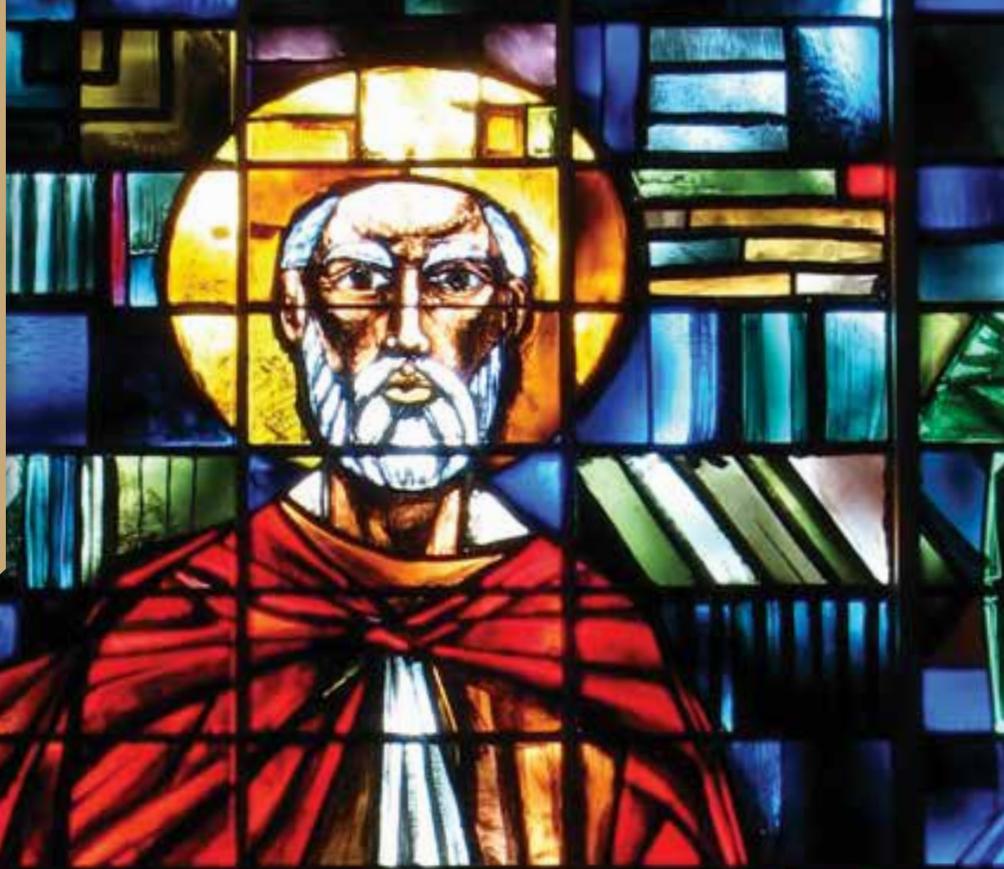


# Church of St. Peter, Quincy III

MONTHLY  
NEWSLETTER



## USING OUR TALENTS AS INSTRUMENTS OF COMPASSION AND LOVE

### *St. Veronica Guild*

We are all familiar with the tradition of St. Veronica, the woman who courageously came forward to wipe the face of Jesus as He journeyed toward Calvary. In that moment, Veronica showed Jesus kindness and love amidst a sea of hatred and sorrow. Seeking to radiate that same spirit of compassion for those in need, the St. Veronica Guild members have transformed their time, talents, and treasure into instruments of love for others.

“If you recall, St. Veronica is the one who comforted Jesus,” says parishioner Meg Fitch. “That is what we are trying to do and is what inspired our name.”

Initially, the ministry started out exclusively making prayer shawls for parishioners in need of comfort and healing – spiritually, physically or emotionally. These shawls are lovingly crocheted, knitted or sewn by Guild members, blessed by Fr. Leo, and then distributed to those in need. The ministry later expanded to also include the making of christening blankets for newly baptized children and prayer shawls for RCIA candidates.

“We give it to the candidates at their final Mass of preparation as a way of welcoming them into our faith and parish family,” Meg says.



*Just as St. Veronica used her veil to wipe the face of our suffering Lord, members of the St. Veronica Guild use their talents as instruments of comfort and love.*

Though the majority of the work is done privately at home, the St. Veronica Guild ministry does meet twice a month on the second Thursday from 8:30-11 a.m. and the fourth Thursday from 1-3:30 p.m. in the lower level of the church rectory. This variety in times makes it easier for members to fit

*continued on back cover*

# ST. PETER CATHOLIC CHURCH

## STRIVING TO TITHE: *How You Can Give*

**A**s Catholics, we know we have an obligation to support the Church, but we recognize that each family has to decide how much they can give. Some families truly can't afford to tithe – giving 10 percent of income. All the same, we do honor the tithe as a Scriptural benchmark that has been followed for centuries. It began with the Israelites giving 10 percent of their “first fruits” (see Deut. 26:4-10), and has persisted through today in the Catholic Church. It's a good standard to strive toward.

But for many, tithing may seem difficult. In fact, for most, tithing **is** difficult – but only at first. Families who tithe invariably say they had to take a leap of faith when they began, but also say they feel great joy and peace knowing they are putting God first in their finances. After a while, most say they don't even miss the money.

Here are a few steps you can take to take your own leap in faith and begin tithing.

### **1. Believe you *should* tithe.**

The very first step toward tithing is believing that it is a worthy goal that you should strive toward. It has to be an intentional decision to put God first, before anything else. This is contrary to the old investment adage, “pay yourself first” – meaning to first put aside a certain percentage into savings before paying bills. Someone who tithes has modified this mentality, with 10 percent going to God first, and then the other 90 percent going towards savings, expenses, etc.

### **2. Make a budget and stick to it.**

Budgeting is simple on paper, but harder in real life. To begin, simply calculate your income and make an honest evaluation of your expenses. Put your tithe as the first “line item,” and treat it like you would your rent or mortgage payment – something you would never miss. Choose to give to God what's right, not what's left.

### **3. Cut back and re-prioritize.**

Evaluate how you spend your money and find ways to cut back. It costs nearly \$30 for two

people to go to a movie and buy popcorn, sodas and candy. The new car you're thinking about may cost \$60 more per month to add a sunroof and leather interior. Are these things you could live without? In our consumer-oriented society, there's no end to what we want to buy. The question is where our priorities lie – do you want a plasma TV more than a vibrant youth ministry?

### **4. Choose good charities.**

A charity may be a friend or family member in need. It may be Catholic Charities or the Salvation Army. To find where your money can make a difference, try visiting [CharityNavigator.org](http://CharityNavigator.org).

Contrary to what some televangelists say, if you give God \$100, he's not going to automatically give you a winning lottery ticket. Mathematically, you will have less money after you tithe. But we do know that God rewards those who do what is right – perhaps not in tangible ways, but certainly in spiritual ways. Choosing to tithe will take a leap of faith on your part, but it's one that will surely pay dividends. “Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse... Shall I not open for you the floodgates of heaven to pour down blessing upon you without measure?” (Malachi 3:10).



## **GIVE THANKS TO THE LORD, IT IS RIGHT AND JUST**

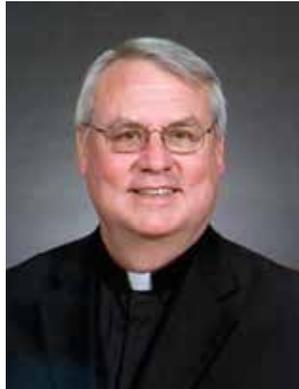
Dear Parishioners,

Every time I prepare my monthly letter to you in this newsletter, I am reminded how blessed I am. Being a priest truly is a blessing. While the job is not always easy — a pastor has many responsibilities — the rewards are equally humbling.

As we recently completed our preparations and shared in our celebrations of the Triduum and Easter, I am prompted to think about the holiest things I do. By far, the holiest is celebrating Mass, and especially consecrating the holy bread and wine so Christ is present among us. The very word “consecration” literally means “association with the sacred.” To have that duty is incredible. I have never taken it for granted, and although it may appear at times to be somewhat automatic, it never is for me.

Almost all of us are familiar with the Mass, and with what we do and say leading up to the high point — the Eucharist. But I think we must guard against becoming too casual in our responses and what we say. That is what I work to avoid, but I believe you need to work just as diligently to make sure that you are listening, hearing, and being aware of what you are saying. For us as Catholics, the Mass is the most important sacred act in the Church.

I suppose I could write a whole series of letters or articles on the meaning of everything we say and do at Mass, but I was thinking of one exchange in particular during the Liturgy



of the Eucharist. It is something we may say in sort of a habitual way, but I firmly believe each of us must truly consider what we are saying.

I say to you, “Let us give thanks to the Lord our God,” and you respond, “It is right and just.” Think about what that means, because it is very much at the heart of stewardship. I am saying we need to thank God, show gratitude for everything we are and everything with which we are gifted — and

you, at least in words, acknowledge that doing that is exactly what we need to do. The Mass is filled with statements and exchanges of that sort, and I would ask that we really think about what they truly mean.

Even the simple exchange between the Eucharistic Minister and you at the actual reception of the Host is heavy with meaning. We say, “The Body of Christ,” and you reply “Amen.” In that instance, “Amen” means “Yes, I do believe this is Jesus.” Like myself, you are blessed. Sometimes we just need to realize it. Happy Easter!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rev. Msgr. Leo J. Enlow". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style. It is positioned over a background of a pen nib and an open book, which are part of a larger, faint image of a desk setup.

Rev. Msgr. Leo J. Enlow  
Pastor

## SUPPORTING COMMUNITY THE FIFTH SUNDAY

The Gospel of Luke tells us that “to whom much is given, much will be required.” We are all called upon to share the gifts that God has given us, and to fulfill our Catholic mission of helping those who are most in need. Through the Fifth Sunday Collection, parishioners are able to directly support the Social Concerns Committee.

“We have a responsibility to help others in need,” says Committee Chairperson Sharon Mays. “We each have material resources that can support the Church and others in our community. Each calendar year has either four or five months where there are five Sundays in that month. On those, Sundays, our volunteers hold baskets for parishioners to donate after each of the Masses.”

The funds donated – which can be as little as pocket change – go directly to the Social Concerns Committee to support their community outreach ministry.

“We donate monthly to the Horizons Soup Kitchen, the Teen Reach after-school program and the Catholic Charities food pantry,” says former Committee Chair Judy Nelson. “We also donate to the Ladies of Charity, and help to defray costs for Quincy Notre Dame students to attend the Catholic HEART Workcamp program and the March for Life. A year ago, due to the lack of a state budget, several agencies in our community had great financial need. Because of the money we had

available due to the collection, we were able to make a substantial donation to our neighbor QUANADA, Teen Reach and a parent/child program through a local counseling agency.

“We are also represented on the United Way Unmet Needs Committee, where social service agencies and churches present cases that may have no other resources,” she adds. “Even if all on the committee contribute as little as \$50 at a time, we can often help clients get back on their feet financially. These

cases are well-checked and help us to be good stewards of the money spent.”

In addition to these programs, funds from the collection also allow the parish to help individuals who come to St. Peter in need.

“Many individual requests for help are made through our parish office, which are sometimes difficult to determine real and honest need,” Judy says. “While money is never given directly to an individual, a committee reviews these requests and decide whether and how much to give. We refer to existing organizations such as General Assistance and Two Rivers, and sometimes make rent or utility payments based on need. We make use of Gene Grawe Fund gift cards to help people with gas and food needs. Sometimes, a person will need a place for the night and we try to accommodate them if there are no other places for them to go.”

Through the Fifth Sunday Collection, both Sharon and Judy have been able to see the

*“I am constantly humbled by the generosity of many of our parishioners and the trust they have in the Social Concerns Committee. It means a lot that they trust that we will be good stewards as we spend the money. And the people who have served on this committee through the years have been great role models for me, and have increased my faith.” – Judy Nelson*

# TY OUTREACH THROUGH DAY COLLECTION



*Judy Nelson and Sharon Mays (center) present a check to community organization Teen Reach. This donation was made possible by the Fifth Sunday collections.*

generosity of parishioners in action. Truly, no donation is too small!

“Even a few dollars combined are able to make a difference for an individual, family or organization in need,” Judy says. “Together, we can make a difference that just one person giving on their own might not be able to do. This is what belonging to a community of faith is about. It says that everything we have comes from God – our talents, time, and treasure.”

Judy and Sharon have also been able to grow in faith through their experiences with this ministry.

“My faith has grown when I see our parishioners readily donating a few dollars – or

\$5, or \$20 or even \$100 – to our collection baskets during a fifth Sunday collection,” Sharon says. “I am amazed at our parishioners’ generosity and willingness to share their treasure with others to help them. It helps my faith to realize the goodness of others, and helps me to be more aware of our responsibility to those in need.”

“I am constantly humbled by the generosity of many of our parishioners and the trust they have in the Social Concerns Committee,” Judy says. “It means a lot that they trust that we will be good stewards as we spend the money. And the people who have served on this committee through the years have been great role models for me, and have increased my faith.”

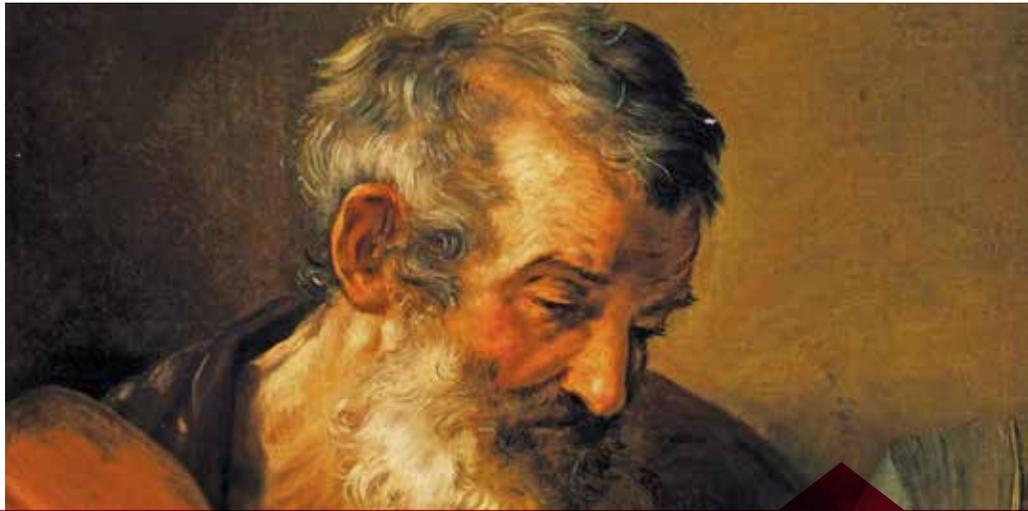
*The next Fifth Sunday Collection will take place on April 30. If you’d like to get involved in this ministry, please contact the parish office at 217-222-3155.*

## ST. MARK: *Spreading Christ's Message*

The shortest and oldest of the four Gospels, Mark draws from oral tradition and a document named Q, which contains many of Christ's sayings. Likely written 25 to 30 years after the Ascension, Mark's Gospel serves as a source for those of Matthew and Luke. Setting this Gospel apart from the others, women play an integral role in Mark's Gospel, often understanding with clarity aspects of Christ's message that the apostles had difficulty comprehending.

Furthermore, Mark portrays Christ's persecution as a result of His radical challenge to established orders of religion, economy and politics.

While the history of Mark's Gospel is fairly accessible, many legends have arisen around him that cause difficulty when attempting to explore this saint's historical persona. Some associate Mark with Simon Peter after the Ascension, and others identify Mark as the young man who ran naked from the Garden of Gethsemane when Christ was arrested. Despite attempts to place Mark in Christ's physical proximity, the most significant depictions recall his activity as a disciple in the early Church. Some scholars say that Mark was a companion of Peter's and was the first bishop of



**“Mark's story reminds all Christians of their responsibility to spread the Gospel message. Each believer is summoned to live a life of radical mission – one that, like Christ's in Mark's Gospel, defies the status quo in search of greater good and justice.”**

Alexandria – thus, the first pope of the Coptic Orthodox Church of Alexandria. Mark is also said to be “John Mark” of the Acts of the Apostles, a cousin of Barnabas who accompanied Paul on his journeys. However, most do agree on Mark's martyrdom. Tradition has it that he was dragged through the city streets due to his attempts to turn Alexandrians away from Egyptian gods.

Although Mark's extraordinary achievements may not seem to align with the lives of the ordinary

faithful, his story reminds all Christians of their responsibility to spread the Gospel message. Each believer is summoned to live a life of radical mission – one that, like Christ's in Mark's Gospel, defies the status quo in search of greater good and justice. By following Mark's example, Catholics are empowered to continue their presence as a powerful political and social force, always attempting to mirror the kingdom of God on earth. We celebrate Mark's feast day on April 25.

# CHURCH OF ST. PETER QUARTERLY FINANCIAL REPORT

*July-December 2016*

## Income

41000 · Regular Church Support	704,098.74
42000 · Other Sources of Revenue	85,578.24
43000 · Investment Income	7,519.64
44020 · Tuition Income	534,787.46
44060 · Registration Fees	2040
44100 · Annual School Fund	350,405.43
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Total Income 1,684,429.51

## Expense

60000 · Payroll Expenses	917,348.22
63000 · Contractual Services	55,888.97
63100 · Utilities	36,537.49
63300 · Insurance -Property & Liability	22,943.00
63500 · Repairs and Maintenance	3,467.21
63600 · Equipment and Furniture	20,225.19
63700 · Supplies(tech., textbooks, maint., classroom, office, etc)	121,238.74
64100 · Professional Fees	9,017.52
64500 · Construction Expenditure	315,343.07
65100 · Transportation Expense	3,958.17
65250 · Religious Education Expenses	9,050.78
65300 · Parish Organization Expense	24,523.93
65600 · Library Expense	681.44
69000 · Other Expenses	26,133.42
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Total Expense 1,566,357.15

**Net Income 118,072.36**

# ST. PETER CATHOLIC CHURCH

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## MASS & RECONCILIATION SCHEDULE

### Sunday Masses

Saturday: 5 p.m.,

Sunday: 8, 9:30 and 11 a.m.

### Weekday Masses

Mon-Sat: 8:00 a.m., except for

Wednesdays during the school year: 8:30

a.m.

### Reconciliation

Saturday: 7:30-7:50 a.m.,

3:30-4:30 p.m. or by appointment

## St. Veronica Guild *continued from front cover*

gatherings into their schedules, and meetings maintain a “come when you can” policy.

“Sometimes, stuff happens and you can’t come, and that is perfectly OK,” Meg says. “During our meetings, we pray for those in need, we laugh a lot, and we work some. We have truly become close friends in the process, and every now and then we will go out to lunch just to celebrate together.”

For Meg and the other members of the St. Veronica Guild, the ministry remains a beautiful way of using their time and talents for God and His Church – a way of thanking Him for His blessings, helping others, and making our entire community a more loving and welcoming place.

“To give these blankets or shawls and to experience someone receiving them is a very humbling and a very unique experience,” Meg says. “I think that we are really doing God’s work in the ways that we can. We are a very active stewardship parish and these ladies who participate in this group are talented, kind and prayerful. We also get so much more than we give.”

And, because you cannot finish a shawl or

blanket in just two and a half hours, the ministry ends up deepening members’ own prayer life as they continue thinking about and praying for the person who will eventually receive the blanket or shawl. Meg describes the ministry as something that has become “embedded” in her life.

“I think that this is something that as long as I am able to, I want to do,” Meg says. “I have been given so much in my lifetime and this is just one very, very small way that I can give back what God has given me.”

*The St. Veronica Guild welcomes new members who are eager to spread compassion and love to others, much like the ministry’s namesake. Even if you don’t know how to sew or crochet, members are always willing to teach their skill. Parishioners can also support the ministry by donating supplies. To learn more about this ministry, please contact Meg Fitch at [mcf@adams.net](mailto:mcf@adams.net).*