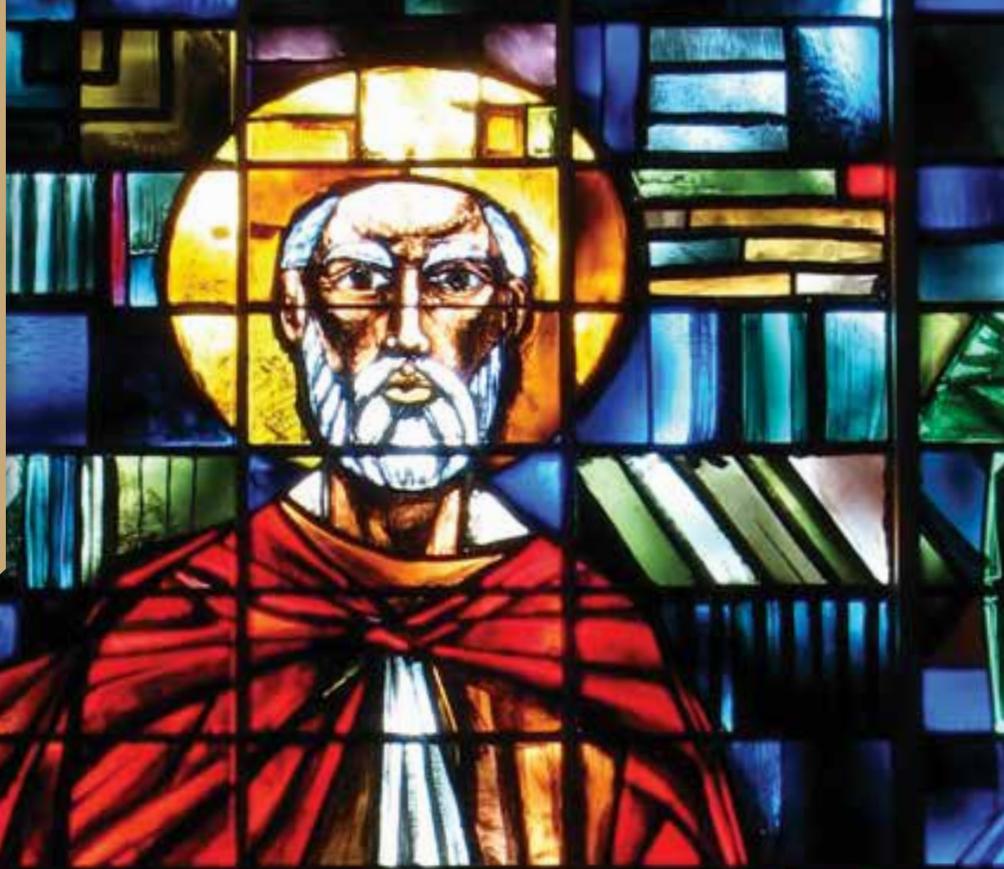


Church of St. Peter, Quincy III

MONTHLY
NEWSLETTER



ENGAGING YOUTH IN THE LITURGY: *Altar Serving*

Confidence. Focus. Reverence. According to young parishioner Joshua Dyer, these are three essential characteristics that comprise a good altar server. The main ingredients, so to speak, which enable an altar server to quietly assist the priests and deacons with the celebration of the Mass.

One of six boys, Joshua has grown up in a family of altar servers. His parents, Jeremy and Jennifer Dyer, have encouraged their boys to become involved in this ministry, teaching them it was a way of “doing their part” for the community. So, when Joshua entered the fifth grade, he was eager to join his older brothers upon the altar in this privileged role.

“I was nervous at first,” Joshua says. “But I got really comfortable on the altar and I started really enjoying serving. I would sign up more and would just volunteer, even if I wasn’t scheduled, any time I noticed that there weren’t any servers.”

Now 12 years old and in the seventh grade at St. Peter’s School, Joshua continues to enjoy altar serving whenever he gets the chance. It makes him feel more of an active participant



The Dyer family – (front row, from left) Thomas, Anthony, Jennifer, and Joshua; (back row, from left) Daniel, Philip, Clayton, and Jeremy

during Mass, helping him to remain centered on what the liturgy is all about.

“Altar serving has helped me feel more a part of the Mass, because I’m literally up there on the altar with the priest, helping him,” Joshua says. “It helps me remain more focused and to feel

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ST. PETER CATHOLIC CHURCH

ENGAGING YOUTH IN THE LITURGY: *Altar Serving*

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more connected with the Mass, because you have to be aware of everything going on. And I just think it is more fun being up there serving.”

Though there is often the fear of making a mistake, particularly when one first begins serving, Joshua feels deeply grateful for both the mentorship and patience of the priests and deacons over the years.

“There are so many things that you can’t normally see in the pews that you get to see up close as an altar server. I’ve come to know and understand the Mass so much more. It definitely makes me feel closer to Christ. I think it also makes me think more of the possibility of becoming a priest.”

– Joshua Dyer

Describing them as “nice and understanding,” the priests are always willing to “just go with the flow,” helping to cover up any minor errors. More importantly, however, Joshua has come to realize that altar serving isn’t really about him and his performance at all, but rather the sacred mystery happening upon the altar.

“I realize now sitting in the pews that you barely even notice the altar servers,” Joshua says.

“They are meant to be in the background quietly helping. The priest is what everyone is focused on.”

Through serving, Joshua has been able to closely witness

the Mass unfold, observing aspects of the liturgy that often go unnoticed by the congregation. He has been able to closely witness the consecration, notice the silent prayers mouthed by the priest, and gain a sense of the intricacies of the liturgy. And in the process, says Joshua, his appreciation for the Mass and personal relationship with Christ have deepened.

“There are so many things that you can’t normally see in the pews that you get to see up close as an altar server,” he says. “I’ve come to know and understand the Mass so much more. It definitely makes me feel closer to Christ. I think it also makes me think more of the possibility of becoming a priest.”

Though many parish ministries are exclusively for adults, altar serving is a unique way for youth to become more involved in the most important aspect of our faith – the Mass. And with both weekday and weekend liturgies, new altar servers are always welcomed here at St. Peter Parish.



Boys and girls can begin serving as early as fourth grade and continue serving through high school, and even adulthood.

Big trainings are offered yearly, while individual trainings can also be scheduled as needed. If you have a son or daughter interested in joining this ministry, please contact the parish office at 217-222-3155.

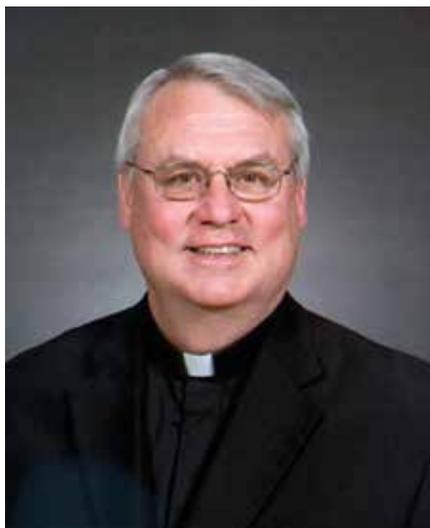
A NEW YEAR, NEW CHALLENGES, NEW OPPORTUNITIES

Dear Parishioners,

It is a new year, and it is my prayer for all of you – and for me, as well – that we can take new steps on our faith journeys, and seek new ways to live out discipleship and stewardship.

Pope Francis once commented on his perspective of our modern approach to life. He said, “Certainly, possessions, money and power can give a momentary thrill, the illusion of being happy, but they end up possessing us and making us always want more, never satisfied. I have learned that the most important thing is to put on Christ in your life, place your trust in Him, and you will never be disappointed.”

The pope has been called “the world’s parish priest.” As we pray for one another in this New Year, may we all ask the Lord to help us appreciate Pope Francis’ approach to life, his simple way of seeing things, and his very basic way of appreciating things. I would hope that we see this year as a time for opportunity, a time to deepen our relationship to



Christ, and for that matter to one another.

If we really wish to change our lives and the lives of others, there are two easy ways to do it. We are blessed with many opportunities in this parish to pray, but as much as it is important for us to take advantage of those, we also need to develop a strong personal prayer life. Recall the young Samuel, who was not quite sure what to do with his life, or what direction to go. When he finally settled on that one important prayer, “Speak, Lord, for I am listening,” Samuel gave us the

hint as to what we need to do. Prayer is a two-way street, and part of that is taking the time to listen to God.

The second important way is to exude joy. Christ certainly called us to do that. Pope Francis has had much to say about joy, as well. The Holy Father says, “Joy cannot be held at heel; it must be let go. Joy is a pilgrim virtue. It is a gift that walks – walks on the path of life, that walks with Jesus... proclaiming joy, lengthens and widens that path.” We must seek that joy and then we need to share it. That is truly our call. Joy translates quite easily into “love your neighbor.”

Yes, there may be challenges ahead in 2017, but we must focus on the opportunities, and then exert the effort to benefit from those opportunities. Happy New Year!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rev. Msgr. Leo J. Enlow". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Rev. Msgr. Leo J. Enlow
Pastor

I would hope that we see this year as a time for opportunity, a time to deepen our relationship to Christ, and for that matter to one another.

ST. PETER CATHOLIC CHURCH

Truly Serving AS THE

One of the most beautiful aspects of service is the special moments that are shared, as Joyce Shipp notes.

“Last month, we had some celery stuffed with peanut butter and this great big guy walked through and he said, ‘My mom used to make those for our hors d’oeuvres when I was a kid,’ and he just got the biggest smile on his face,” Joyce says. “It was just a moment of beauty and love.”

Joyce and her husband, Alden, have had a front row seat to witnessing moments like this for the past six years, since they began serving at Horizons Soup Kitchen and Food Pantry. Horizons, which originally began in several downtown locations, with a mission to feed the poor and hungry in the community, is now located at 224 South 8th Street. Every weekday, they serve a noon meal to approximately 125



“Minnie” is a longtime volunteer who serves the Soup Kitchen by making desserts.

people in need. The client-choice food pantry is also open each Monday.

The soup kitchen is staffed primarily by volunteers, many of whom attend local churches. Alden and Joyce are among the St. Peter’s parishioners who volunteer on the first, third, and fifth Mondays of the month. For the Shipp, this ministry gives them a chance to move past the idea of being the hands and feet of Christ, and to truly encounter and serve those less fortunate in a hands-on way.

“You see a cross section of the community of Quincy. People you would never see if you’re just around St. Peter’s. It takes you out to the community to see how other people live. The way we’re reaching people is by being Jesus to them, that’s the important thing. They might not always do the right or best thing, but they’re still people who need to be loved.” – Joyce Shipp



Jane Hessing is a St. Peter’s parishioner who volunteers at Horizons.

Hands and Feet OF CHRIST

“It’s doing what the Lord told us to do,” Alden says. “You can give money, but when you do that, a lot of times you don’t have a lot of contact. ‘Sure, I’ll give money, but I don’t have to deal with them face-to-face.’”

“It’s easy to talk the talk, but when you face the real situation, you do have a different perspective,” Joyce adds. “You recognize the people as being children of God, and everybody deserves that love from their fellow man.”

They hope that their service will remind those in need of their dignity that they are loved – both by God and their neighbors.

“We care for them,” Alden says. “We try to reach in ways other than just food, in friendship. Hopefully they can look at us and see these people do care.”

Joyce and Alden have also found that serving the community in this way has expanded their hearts in ways they wouldn’t have expected.

“You see a cross-section of the community of Quincy,” Joyce says. “People you would never see if you’re just around St. Peter’s. It takes you out to the community to see how other people live. The way we’re reaching people is by being Jesus to them, that’s the important thing. They might not always do the right or best thing, but they’re still people who need to be loved.”

“We have to show Jesus to these people,” says Alden, recalling the regular advice given by the manager at Horizons. “We keep that in mind when we’re serving.”

The Shippys encourage other parishioners to become involved in the ministry. Whether you can serve all day, or only for a two-hour morning set-up, during the midday serving or afternoon cleanup shift, all are welcome.

“It’s a wonderful ministry, there are many opportunities,” Joyce says. “It’s a very humbling

experience when you stand there and fill their plates or prepare the food. You know, ‘There but for the grace of God go I.’ I could be on the other side of that counter, in that same situation. We’re there to do the Lord’s work and reach these people and say, ‘Somebody does care about you.’ We can’t make your situation any different, but we care about you and we will be here to do this for you.”



Dan Barry, a St. Peter’s parishioner, volunteers at Horizons with his daughter.



Horizons’ mission is to help feed those in need throughout Quincy.

If you would like more information, or if you are interested in serving at Horizons Soup Kitchen and Food Pantry, please contact: Kris Rueter at krueter@desginmechanical.com.

ST. PETER CATHOLIC CHURCH

CHURCH OF ST. PETER FINANCIAL REPORT

July-Sept. 2016/2017 Fiscal Year

Income	
Regular Church Support	391,345.92
Other Sources of Revenue	23,086.82
Investment Income	7,332.47
Tuition Income/Registration & Book Fees	404,122.26
Annual School Fund	71,368.09
Total Income	897,255.56
Expense	
Payroll Expenses	466,258.09
Contractual Services	18,668.87
Utilities	17,984.66
Insurance - Property & Liability	22,943.00
Repairs and Maintenance	2,113.93
Equipment and Furniture	11,599.68
Supplies (tech., textbooks, maint., classroom, office, etc)	93,804.06
Professional Fees	3,529.71
Construction Expenditure	210,514.49
Transportation Expense	1,720.00
Religious Education Expenses	5,725.03
Parish Organization Expense	13,126.97
Library Expense	133.51
Other Expenses	2,443.88
Total Expense	870,565.88
Net Income	26,689.68

“A STRONG FAMILY ATMOSPHERE”

Catholic Schools Week at St. Peter School

National Catholic Schools Week is the annual celebration of Catholic education in the United States. This year, it takes place from Jan. 29 to Feb. 4. The theme for the National Catholic Schools Week 2017 is “Catholic Schools: Communities of Faith, Knowledge and Service.” The theme encompasses several concepts that are at the heart of a Catholic education. First, schools are communities – small families in their own right, but also members of the larger community of home, church, city, and nation. Faith, knowledge and service are three measures by which any Catholic school can and should be judged.

Catholic schools offer academic excellence and faith-filled education for students nationwide. And while some Catholic schools face the challenges of declining enrollments and school closures, the good news is that there is a strong demand and enthusiasm for Catholic schools. Thirty-two percent of Catholic schools have waiting lists for admis-

sion and new schools are opening across the country.

Mrs. Cindy Venvertloh, the Principal at our St. Peter School, is as familiar with Catholic schools and Catholic education as possible.

“I attended Catholic schools my whole life from the time I entered as a kindergarten,” Mrs. Venvertloh says. “I have been here at St. Peter for more than 10 years, and I have been privileged to be the principal the last two years. At St. Peter School, we believe that Jesus sent His spirit to be with us always, to guide, direct and energize the love of God in each of us. We recognize that it is our parents who have the primary responsibility to educate their children, especially in the faith. However, they have entrusted their children to us, and we take that responsibility very seriously. Catholic schools are special places, because of the faith and values they teach, and because they have such a strong family atmosphere.”

The Sacred Congregation for Catholic Education at the Vatican has this to say about Catholic Schools: “The Catholic school forms part of the saving mission of the Church, especially for education in the faith. Remembering that ‘the simultaneous development of a person’s psychological and moral consciousness is demanded by Christ almost as a pre-condition for the reception of the befitting divine gifts of truth and grace’, the Church fulfills her obligation to foster in her children a full awareness of their rebirth to a new life. It is precisely in the Gospel of Christ, taking root in the minds and lives of the faithful, that the Catholic school finds its definition as it comes to terms with the cultural conditions of the times.”

“That week is a great time to stop and appreciate what we have, to show our appreciation to the many who sacrifice so that we can exist, and for us to show gratitude for our many blessings,” Mrs. Venvertloh says. “It is also a time

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NATIONAL CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK
January 29 – February 4, 2017

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

“A STRONG FAMILY ATMOSPHERE”

Catholic Schools Week at St. Peter School

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to allow the students to see the fun side of being a Catholic school family. There is a tremendous level of spirit and excitement that is part of the week.”

And as Mrs. Venvertloh notes, plans are still in developments – but as with previous years, we will try to involve all those who make our school possible – our parents, our faculty and staff, the people of our St. Peter community, our clergy, our students, and even our Quincy community.

“People need to watch the bulletin for details, but we will certainly begin the week at Masses on Jan. 28-29 by having our students both visible and very involved, and, of course, our annual Pancake and Sausage breakfast on the 29th is always a highlight,” she says. “We will have a community service day, and we do want our students to have some fun, and we are planning certain themed days.”



If you would like to learn more about Catholic Schools Week 2017, or for more information on St. Peter School, please contact Principal Mrs. Cindy Venvertloh at 217-223-1120.