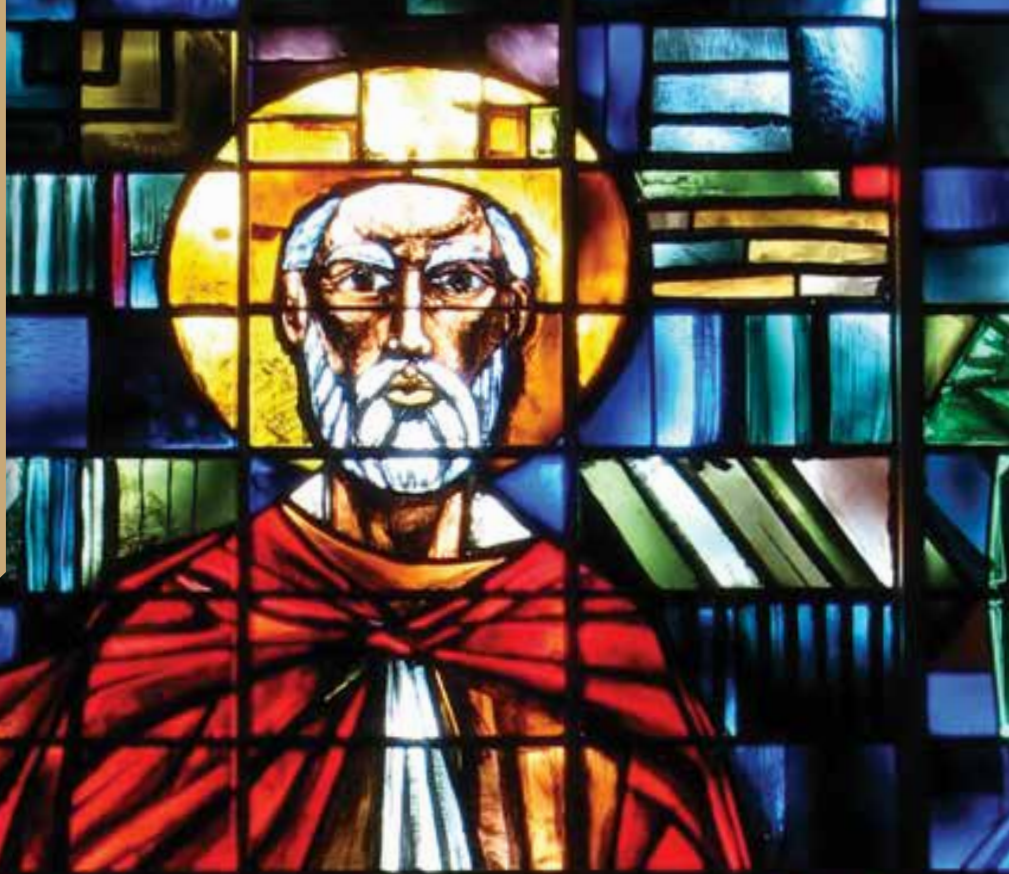


Church of St. Peter, Quincy III

MONTHLY
NEWSLETTER



Adoption IS A “True Exchange of Gifts”

There is a popular saying amongst adoption advocates that says: “Adopting one child won’t change the world, but for that child, the world will change.” Having just concluded the pro-life month of October, it seems only appropriate for us to turn our thoughts now toward adoption. Declared first by President Ronald Reagan and then later President Bill Clinton as National Adoption Awareness Month, November offers us a unique opportunity to reflect upon adoption and its essential role in the pro-life movement. According to parishioner Judy Nelson, one necessitates the other.

“It is so important that when we ask a mother not to abort her child, that we are also there to support the mother and baby in whatever way is needed,” Judy says. “Adoption, then, is a moral answer to abortion. There remains a special need for loving parents to provide a secure home to babies and children of all ages, especially when a birth mother is unable to care for her child.”

St. Pope John Paul II described adoption as a “great work of love,” adding that when it is done right, much is given and received by all in a “true exchange of gifts.” Adoption, then, becomes a truly unique form



of stewardship as a married couple opens up their hearts and home to a child. And though that child might not be physically born from them, he instantly becomes one of their greatest treasures.

“Every child needs love,” Judy says. “And certainly love is the foundation of all forms of stewardship. Whether they are biological children or children that we choose to embrace, this is undoubtedly a crucial form of stewardship in our community.”

Here at St. Peter, we are blessed to have many

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ST. PETER CATHOLIC CHURCH

“THEREFORE GO AND MAKE DISCIPLES OF ALL NATIONS”

Evangelization, the Church, and Our Commitments as Stewards

According to the Gospel of St. Matthew, Jesus’ parting words to us before He ascended to heaven after His resurrection included these instructions: “Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you” (Matthew 28:19-20).

That is, quite frankly, a call to evangelization. Clearly, evangelization is not new to the Church – it is traced to that call from Jesus Christ, a call to His apostles and followers of that time, and that call continues today in relation to us and our lives as Catholics. “Evangelization” has become a bit of a “catchphrase” in today’s Church. Of course, it is not a new idea, nor is it a new call.

Our Holy Father Pope Francis’ absolute first publication – officially an apostolic exhortation – was titled *Evangelii Gaudium*, which means “The Joy of the Gospel.” In that document, the pope had much to say about evangelization, including this: “Every Christian is challenged, here and now, to be actively engaged in evangelization; indeed, anyone who has truly experienced God’s saving love does not need much time or lengthy training to go out and proclaim that love.”

Nevertheless, the idea of evangelization is nothing new. Pope St. John Paul II issued an encyclical in December 1990 titled *Redemptoris Missio* – “The Mission of the Redeemer” – in which he called for the church to renew its efforts in evangelization. This has become known as the “new evangelization,” but within, what Pope St. John Paul II says is that the Church “must renew her missionary commitment.” He adds, “Faith is strengthened when it is shared and given to others.”

Yet, it would seem that some Catholics resist this call to evangelization, perhaps recalling images of street preachers, television evangelists or

door-to-door groups saying “repent” or talking about the “wages of sin.” Or, we may feel that evangelization is the role of saints or missionaries or Catholic priests. The truth is that evangelization is born from a love of people and a desire that everyone comes to know the love of Christ and the blessings of living as part of His Kingdom.

Over a decade before Pope St. John Paul II addressed this issue, Pope Paul VI issued an apostolic exhortation in 1975 titled *Evangelii Nuntiandi* – “Evangelization in the Modern World” – in which the pope said, “We wish to confirm once more that the task of evangelizing of all people constitutes the essential mission of the Church.”

So, what does this mean to us as faithful stewards? Obviously, each of us is called to be an evangelist. That does not mean we go door-to-door or stand on street corners proclaiming our faith. Our own mission statement has a strong flavor of evangelization, especially because of our effort to embrace stewardship as a way of life. In recent years, the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops has issued two pastoral letters – one called *Go and Make Disciples: A National Plan and Strategy of Catholic Evangelization*, and the other titled *Stewardship: A Disciple’s Response*. The connection between stewardship, evangelization and discipleship is obvious, it would seem.

Pope Francis also said in his first official statement *Evangelii Gaudium* the following: “An evangelizer must never look like someone who has just come back from a funeral... And may the world of our time, which is searching, sometimes with anguish, sometimes with hope, be enabled to receive the good news not from evangelizers who are dejected, discouraged, impatient or anxious, but from ministers of the Gospel whose lives glow with fervor, who have first received the joy of Christ.” That is who we are, or who we should be.



A Letter from Our Pastor

November is a Time for Thanksgiving

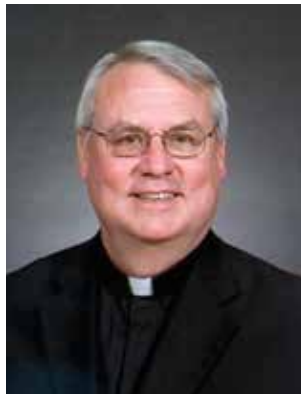
Dear Parishioners,

November seems to automatically bring us to thoughts of thanksgiving and Thanksgiving – it is both a time of year when we tend to think in terms of gratitude to God, and a time when we also formally celebrate our American holiday. My memories of Thanksgiving are filled with food, of course, but they are also filled with thoughts of family and a sense of togetherness and a sense of my faith.

But this is also a significant month in the Church from a number of perspectives. Nov. 1 is a Holy Day, the Solemnity of All Saints. The next day is All Souls Day, a day devoted to all the saints in our lives – living, not living, known, and unknown.

Most of us have people in our lives who have had a profound impact on us – people we can consider our own personal saints. This month is a wonderful reminder to think of them, thank them, and thank God for making them a part of our lives.

Our Thanksgiving holiday falls on Nov. 23, and is a time for families and gratitude. Thanksgiving became official in the United States in 1863, and in his proclamation, President Abraham Lincoln made very clear Whom we needed to thank. “To these bounties, which are so constantly enjoyed that we are prone to forget the source from which they come, others have been added, which are of so extraordinary a na-



ture, that they cannot fail to penetrate and soften even the heart which is habitually insensible to the ever-watchful providence of Almighty God,” Lincoln said. In other words, we all need to thank Almighty God for our many blessings.

Finally, November also brings us to the end of one Church year and the beginning of a new one. The Feast of Christ the King on Nov. 26 officially begins the final week of our liturgical year, and the First Sunday of Advent is on Dec. 3. From the beginning of the month when we thank God for the example of the saints and the saintly people in our lives, to the end of the month when we thank God for everything we have and everything we are, November is a time to approach the Lord with a grateful heart. That is what stewardship truly is all about – about approaching God, about approaching each day, and about approaching all those with whom we come in contact, with hearts filled with gratitude and love.

In Christ,

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

SENSATIONAL SENIORS' CARDS AND GAMES



Pat Wensing holds a 12-point hand during a recent meeting of the Seniors' Cards and Games Group.

If you're a senior at least 55 years of age and looking for a chance to get out of the house to enjoy an afternoon of fellowship, then the Sensational Seniors' Cards and Games Group is for you!

The group meets from 1 to 3 p.m. each Thursday in the Martha Jane Room with Alden and Joyce Shipp in charge.

Seniors' Cards and Games Group got its start about five years ago, when the St. Peter Sensational Seniors was being organized.

"The plan was to go to the movies and plays, and play cards," Alden says. "I asked about what kind of cards, and the suggestion was for bridge or euchre. I said I don't like bridge. I grew up in Kansas on Pitch and cribbage. Not many here knew about cribbage. So, a few months after, Joyce and I started the St. Peter Cribbage Group. We had no idea what the number would be at the first meeting, but we had about 15 to 20 players."

During that first meeting, Alden set up demonstration hands to teach others the game.

"With cribbage, it can be with two people, or three, four, five, or six," Alden says. "Ideally, it's with two, three or four. The object is the first to score 121 points is the winner. You get points for different hands, and you keep score on a cribbage board that's lined with pegs and holes."

When the group meets each Thursday, the numbers vary from three to 10, and the games are played accordingly.

As the Martha Jane Room is shared with the school, the group doesn't meet during school vacation days.

When the group was organized, Alden wanted to keep things simple, so it was decided that there wouldn't be any snacks – but members bring them anyway!

"We have no special activities planned for the holidays," Alden says. "We just laugh and

D GAMES GROUP ADDS UP TO FUN!

play cards, and have a good time.”

All are welcome to join the group that also embraces our faith.

“It’s open to all denominations,” Alden says. “You don’t have to be Catholic to join. But school lets out at about 2:10 p.m., and the principal goes on the PA to make announcements for the day, and she leads a short prayer at that time. We all join in and pray. It’s just a meeting with fellowship and getting closer to Christ by sharing your faith with others.”

Besides leading the Seniors’ Cards and Games Group, Alden and Joyce volunteer at our local soup kitchen. Alden also volunteers at the American Red Cross, besides serving as a Eucharistic Minister several times a month at the hospital.

“I’m a busy retired guy!” he says.



Pat Wensing, rear, left, and Marydine Frankenhoff play a three-handed game with Joyce Shipp. Pat Reed, in the foreground, plays a three-handed game with Roger Frankenhoff and Alden Shipp (not pictured).

Anyone interested in joining the group is invited to sign up during the Stewardship Renewal. Alden Shipp will be given the names of those interested, and he and Joyce will follow up with a call.

ADOPTION IS A “TRUE EXCHANGE OF GIFTS” *continued from front cover*

witnesses of this life-giving love among us. Parents who have selflessly given their babies up for adoption, and families who have whole-heartedly embraced adopted children. We invite parishioners to pray for all of these families and individuals, asking God’s support and strength for them in their unique journey. And we encourage adopted parents to consider sharing their story, stressing how love brought their family together.

“Adoption truly is such a unique form of love and sacrifice,” Judy says. “May God bless all those families in our parish and community who have been touched by adoption. Parenting is the most difficult and most important job in our country and in the world. Society is dependent on good parenting, no matter how moms become moms and dads become dads. What a gift to have these examples of love among us!”

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ST. PETER CATHOLIC CHURCH

UNDERSTANDING

All Souls Day and All Saints Day

All Souls Day and All Saints Day are two important days on our Catholic calendar, and both illustrate foundational elements of our faith.

On Nov. 1, as we honor the saints, we also honor God with our whole heart and soul. We need the example of the saints, who have carried Christ's cross before us, just as a newborn child needs the help and wisdom of its mother.

The saints have carried us inestimably far along the path of salvation. Many Catholics may never gain eternal life without the graces won by their red and white martyrdoms. Let us pay our saints due honor by decorating our houses and dressing up to celebrate their presence among us. Life is too short to ignore our most loyal friends!

On Nov. 2, All Souls Day, Catholics traditionally visit cemeteries to attend a solemn

memorial Mass, arrange beautiful flowers on a loved one's grave, or pray the Holy Rosary for poor souls in purgatory.

Some of us may wonder, "What is purgatory? Why do we honor the dead and pray for them, anyway?"

"The Church gives the name *Purgatory* to this final purification of the elect, which is entirely different than the punishment of the damned," (*Catechism of the Catholic Church* 1031). The Church formulated her doctrine on purgatory at the Councils of Florence and Trent, and in reference to Scriptural texts which speak of a "cleansing fire," such as 1 Cor 3:15 and 1 Peter 1:7.

Understanding that purgatory truly exists, we easily conclude that there are souls who are there right now. We then need to help these souls through this purification pro-

cess – especially if they are our loved ones!

This is how the Old Testament character Judas Maccabeus felt: "Therefore (Judas) made atonement for the dead, that they might be delivered from their sin," (2 Macc. 12:46).

The *Catechism* supports this clearly: "From the beginning the Church has honored the memory of the dead and offered prayers in suffrage for them, above all the Eucharistic sacrifice, so that, thus purified, they may obtain the beatific vision of God. The Church also commends almsgiving, indulgences, and works of penance undertaken on behalf of the dead" (CCC 1032).

Let us hold the dead close to our hearts and not forget about them. They are helplessly waiting for us to have compassion on them and pray for them this All Souls Day, and every day.



HOSPITAL COMMUNION MINISTRY

Bringing Christ to Hospital Patients

Here in Quincy, the Hospital Communion Ministry gives Catholic individuals at Blessing Hospital one less thing to worry about. By bringing the Eucharist to these patients and praying with them, ministry members are able to share the spirit of Christ as well as the Body of Christ.

“I think that prayer and receiving the Eucharist can help you get through a difficult time,” says ministry coordinator Kathy Harman. “Just knowing that it is available, and that you have the opportunity to continue to receive Jesus, is a boost emotionally, spiritually and, often, physically. The prayer helps, too – they can know that there are people praying for them and trying to get them well.”

Blessing Hospital is staffed with full-time chaplains of all denominations, and also has a tabernacle right in the hospital chapel. St. Peter supplies the Eucharist and the ministry ensures that there are enough hosts for each week. Ministers undergo two separate trainings for this ministry – first, diocesan training to become an Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion; and secondly, training at Blessing Hospital. This ensures that

each minister is able to properly distribute Communion in a hospital setting.

Two ministers from the Hospital Communion Ministry distribute Communion in the hospital every day of the week.

“You are assigned a particular day of the week – for example, the first and third Monday of the month,” Kathy says. “Each day, two ministers divide the list of Catholics in the hospital. You try to get to everybody each day. Sometimes, due to testing or surgery, they’re not able to receive the Eucharist, but we try to get to everybody to at least pray with them.”

Throughout her time in the Hospital Communion Ministry, Kathy has seen how the Body of Christ has had a profound effect on both the ministers and the patients.

“If someone has fallen away from the Church or hasn’t been particularly devout, when they are faced with a serious health issue, something often kicks in where they feel the need to pray or meet with a priest,” Kathy says. “One time, I remember there was a man who wanted to receive Communion, but said he hadn’t been to church for a long time and wanted to talk to a

continued on back cover



Ministering the Body of Christ has a profound effect both on the patients who receive the Eucharist, and the Extraordinary Ministers.

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: 8:30 a.m.

Reconciliation

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

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

Hospital Communion Ministry continued from page 7

priest. The hospital chaplain knew there was a priest in the hospital at the time, and the priest went to talk to him and got him back into the faith. When we are faced with a crisis, turning to Jesus is the right thing.

“I have found that sometimes you’re there at just the right moment when they need it, and I think it’s also a grace moment for the people taking Communion to the patients,” she continues. “They are so happy to have that moment of prayer and to receive Jesus, and when I see that in them, it definitely flows back to me. It’s a beautiful ministry, to be able to be with people at a difficult time and give them encouragement, faith and hope. It has opened my eyes to how, when we pray for God’s will to be done, we don’t always get what we think we need, but God always gives us what we need.”

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If you would like more information about the Hospital Communion Ministry, please contact Kathy Harman at 217-222-3155 or k.harman@cospq.org. You can also sign up to volunteer during our Stewardship Drive.