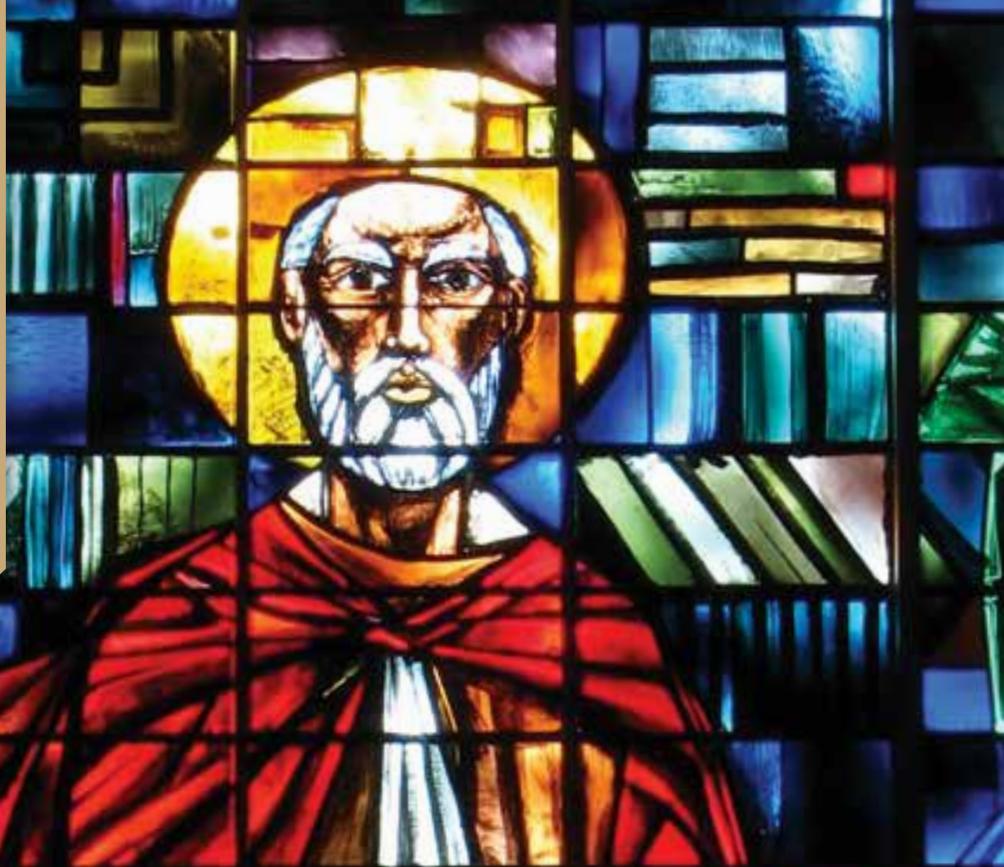


Church of St. Peter, Quincy III

MONTHLY
NEWSLETTER



MEET FR. AARON KUHN *Our New Parochial Vicar*

Our new Parochial Vicar, Fr. Aaron Kuhn, may have taken a winding path to the priesthood, but looking back, he can see that God was always there, guiding him on a journey that would lead him to the day of his ordination as a diocesan priest this past May 26.

The youngest of eight siblings growing up on a small family dairy farm in Mendon, Fr. Kuhn was always taught to put the Catholic faith at the center of his life.

“My mom and dad always instilled in us that the most important thing was our Catholic faith,” he says. “It wasn’t just something that we did — it really became who we are, and everything that we do is centered around our faith.”

Fr. Kuhn first considered

seminary while he was in high school, but he ended up straying from the idea over the next few years. Still, he graduated from a Catholic high school and chose to attend a Catholic university, Quincy College — now Quincy University. In the 12 years following college, Fr. Kuhn worked in several fields, ultimately winding up in the finance office of the chancery for the Diocese of Springfield.

It was in the chancery office that Fr. Kuhn became friends with Msgr. Carl Kemme — now Bishop Carl Kemme of the Diocese of Wichita. One day, Fr. Kuhn decided to talk to him about the call he had first heard back in high school.

“We talked about what had happened over the years, and a lot of conversations later, Msgr.



Fr. Aaron Kuhn

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MEET FR. AARON KUHN *continued from front cover*

Kemme encouraged me to talk to the vocations director, so I did,” Fr. Kuhn says. “I was still very slow about jumping in. It probably took a year and a half or so, but then I felt like this was something that hadn’t left my prayer or my thinking in all that time. It was looking more and more attractive, so I finally applied to seminary. And then, as they say, the rest is history!”

Fr. Kuhn entered Mundelein Seminary in fall of 2012. In his six years of study, he found a special camaraderie with both the other “second career seminarians” and the more experienced priests on staff.

“There were some other older seminarians, and I think being older did bring a certain amount of insight and realism about what we might find in the parishes,” he says. “And the priests that had been around a long time on the formation staff were really grounding for me. If I was struggling, it was the more seasoned priests that I turned to, and they offered a lot of wisdom and advice. I feel that even outside of the seminary, I could pick up the phone and call them.”

Having grown up involved at both the parish of St. Edward and the former parish of St. John before attending St. Francis Solanus as an adult, Fr. Kuhn has had personal experience with several churches in our diocese. Now, after six years of seminary, he is excited to be getting back into parish life, this time as the new Parochial Vicar here at St. Peter.

“I’m looking forward to really getting to know the people,” he says. “Once you get to know them, you really can journey with them in their faith life, in their joys and in their sorrows. Then, the next step is that they almost become part of your family. I think it all boils down to relationships with people, deepening my relationship with Christ, and helping others to deepen theirs as well.”

For Fr. Kuhn, a strong prayer life is one of



Fr. Aaron Kuhn with his mother, Barbara Kuhn, and Bishop Paprocki following his ordination to the priesthood

the most important keys to developing a more profound relationship with Christ. Sometimes, he says, this may mean doing something specific, like sitting with the Lord in the form of the Blessed Sacrament. Other times, it could just be spending a few extra minutes in prayer, or even making everyday tasks prayerful in some way.

Looking back on the winding path that eventually led him to the priesthood, Fr. Kuhn can see the essential role that his unwavering prayer life played in his discernment, and the ways in which God continued to call him all along the way.

“It’s important that I never lost my faith — I was always faithful with my prayer life and going to Mass, and I think that was critical to me pursuing the vocation even though I took a longer route,” he says. “Everything I’ve done has led me to this point, so I look back and thank God for what I’ve done and learned and what He has given me. I can see more and more how God has worked and continues to work and move in my life. And I will continue to move where He leads me!”

WHAT IS THE REAL PURPOSE OF OUR LIVES?

Dear Parishioners,

Do you ever think about your purpose in life? Even as a priest, I certainly do. There are days and times of frustration when I think, “What am I really supposed to do? What does God want me to do? Why am I here?” For eons, philosophers have considered these very questions and written about them.

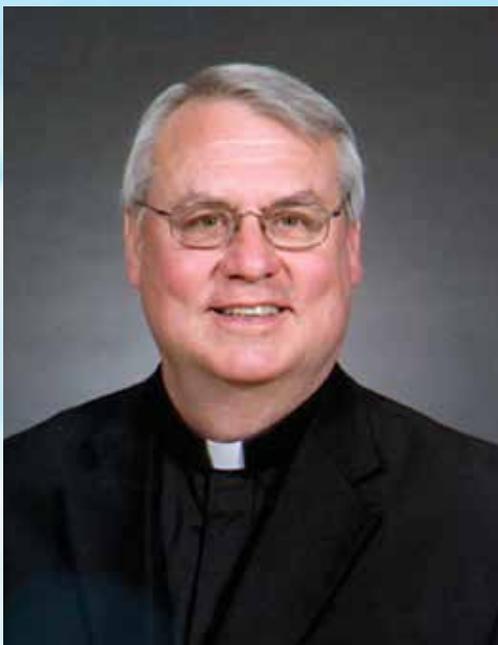
But the truth is that we, as Catholics, already know the answers.

When we consider the many facets of life in our parish community, there are numerous activities and endeavors that go beyond attending Mass. From fundraising efforts, to social outreach/service, childcare and more, there are many ways in which we serve our community.

Yet, as we undertake these important pursuits — both within and outside of the parish — we must always remember that our ultimate goal is salvation. After all, the only reason we exist, the only reason our Church exists, is the same as the reason Jesus joined us and became a part of us here on earth — He came to save humanity.

We use the term the “body of Christ” to describe the Church with Christ as the head. We are all parts of that body, and the parts of the body must move in the same direction as the body itself — it simply won’t function if the parts are moving in different directions. We are all in this together.

When our lives are complete, we do not base our success or failure on how much



money we have, or whether or not we are famous. Nor does our success or failure depend upon the difference between health and sickness, or pleasure and pain, or even being nice or nasty. Rather, it is the difference between being saved and not being saved.

I often think of my family members who have already crossed the bridge of salvation, and as a priest, I deal with that issue with others on a very regular basis.

Sometimes, I wonder if they ever fully realized that salvation was the answer to so many of our questions in life.

I am surrounded by memories of those who have gone before, as are almost all of you. We are apt to use the term “the communion of saints” in many ways in our Church. Someday, we will know more about the “communion of saints” and how it all works. In the meantime, we pray for everyone who has gone before us, hoping they have made it home.

Pray for me as I pray for you!

Yours 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

OUR PSR CATECHISTS FAITH

As members of our faith family, we must always strive to help others learn their faith. After all, we're even told in Scripture to evangelize and go out and spread the Good News.

"What better way to do that than with a classroom full of kids who are there and ready to learn about the faith?" says Director of Religious Education Gina Bergman. "It is important to spread the Good News, and this is one easy way to evangelize."

Each week during the school year, our parish children gather to learn more about their faith at our PSR, or Parish School of Religion, classes. Walking alongside them on their journey are dedicated and faithful parishioners who commit to serve as catechists.

"We are feeding our faith to the young Catholics," says Mary Talken, Coordinator of PSR. "I feel this is evangelizing — even though we're not outside the borders of our parish, we have these little people that we're working with."

Importantly, our PSR program complements and supports the work of parents, seeking to pass on the faith to their children. Catechists' role is one of teaching through both word and example.

"It's extremely important that the parents are the first teachers of the faith," Gina says. "But as

they grow up, there's a different dynamic. You may hear something from your parents, but it can get lost in the shuffle and it's good to have it reiterated through someone else. [Students] realize, 'Maybe my parents are right with all this stuff!' The outside influence is always important."

And for those who serve as catechists, not only is it an opportunity to evangelize others, but it is also a chance to learn more about your own faith.

"There's never a day you don't learn something," Mary says. "There's always something new."

"Preparing for the weekly lesson, although it's a simple task, it has a lot of personal reflection and gets you ready for the Sunday Gospel," Gina adds. "Every time I'd prepare for my Wednesday class, Mass on Sunday was more meaningful because I had a 'heads up' on what the Gospel was and we would've had a great discussion on Wednesday. It's really great, you don't even realize, 'I'm going to grow in my faith,' but it is a result [that happens] in teaching. It does help you grow in your faith."

Gina and Mary both encourage parishioners that it's not required to be a certified teacher or theologian to serve the community in this way.

"We have some teachers, but we probably have more catechists who are not teachers by trade,"



You don't have to be a teacher or theologian to serve our young people in this way! Contact our DRE or PSR Coordinator for more information.



PSR is an opportunity for children who don't attend St. Peter School to learn about their faith.

ULLY SHARE THE GOOD NEWS

Gina says. “I have seen some really amazing things happen and I’ve seen God use people to teach if they feel called to help. God can use you, even if you do something else during the day, or you’re a stay-at-home parent or you work in an office. If you are a faith-filled person, and are able to talk about your faith and your experience, you’ll have no problem teaching it to kids, because the resources and materials we get are a fabulous guide to help you, and you really share your experiences and your faith with the kids.”

“It’s not that difficult because it’s prepared for you — it’s ready-made material,” Mary adds.

Both women hope that more parishioners will take advantage of the opportunity to serve

and evangelize others, right here in our parish community.

“If you feel like you want to share God’s love and the Good News, and want to teach elementary school students, I highly encourage you to contact us,” Gina says. “If something is tugging on your heart, and it’s something you’d like to do, reach out to us. This is a really good way to use an hour and 15 minutes a week. A little time goes a long way.”

“You’ve got to love God and be committed to the faith, because you need to spread that to the kids,” Mary adds. “If you feel the slightest nudge about teaching PSR, that’s God telling you, ‘Think about it.’”

“I have seen some really amazing things happen and I’ve seen God use people to teach if they feel called to help. God can use you, even if you do something else during the day, or you’re a stay-at-home parent or you work in an office. If you are a faith-filled person, and are able to talk about your faith and your experience, you’ll have no problem teaching it to kids, because the resources and materials we get are a fabulous guide to help you, and you really share your experiences and your faith with the kids.” — Gina Bergman



Dedicated catechists facilitate conversations about faith, helping children to learn and grow closer to God.

If you would like more information on our PSR program, or if you are interested in serving our parish as a regular or substitute catechist for our Wednesday evening sessions, please contact Director of Religious Education Gina Bergman at g.bergman@cospq.org or 217-222-3155, or our PSR Coordinator Mary Talken at lamart@adams.net or 217-224-2896.

ST. PETER CATHOLIC CHURCH

ST. PETER CATHOLIC CHURCH *Quarterly Financial Report*

	Total Parish	Total School	Total
Income			
Regular Church Support			
Offertory - Envelopes	\$970,424.25	\$0.00	\$970,424.25
Offertory - Loose Collection	\$37,315.64	\$0.00	\$37,315.64
Other Collections	\$54,698.22	\$0.00	\$54,698.22
School Fund Collection	\$0.00	\$465,085.71	\$465,085.71
Total Regular Church Support	\$1,062,438.11	\$465,085.71	\$1,527,523.82
Other Sources of Revenue	\$26,999.64	\$101,519.53	\$128,519.17
Total Tuition Income	\$0.00	\$587,933.08	\$587,933.08
Total Income	\$1,089,437.75	\$1,154,538.32	\$2,243,976.07
Expense			
Total Payroll Expenses	\$251,725.86	\$1,365,690.78	\$1,617,416.64
Total Contractual Services	\$25,793.37	\$55,888.38	\$81,681.75
Total Other Expenses	\$253,362.02	\$149,032.08	\$402,394.10
Total Expense	\$530,881.25	\$1,570,611.24	\$2,101,492.49
Net Income	\$558,556.50	-\$416,072.92	\$142,483.58

BRINGING EVERYONE TOGETHER AT ST. PETER'S ANNUAL PARISH PICNIC

Several years ago, Randy Martin and a few parishioners approached Msgr. Leo Enlow with the suggestion of an annual parish picnic — an opportunity for parishioners to come together each year and celebrate who we are.

“Getting the picnic up and running and continuing it is a way for me to use my talents and give back to my parish,” Randy says. “This unifies the parish as we work to accomplish an amazing event and unifies us as we enjoy each other’s company as family and friends.”

St. Peter’s Annual Parish Picnic will take place following the Saturday Vigil Mass on Aug. 25, from 5 p.m. until midnight on the parish grounds behind the church. There is no cost to attend.

“It brings everyone together,” says James Weisenberger. “All are welcome to come and have a good time. Come listen to good music and do something as a family and bring your friends.”

Picnic events include — but are not limited to — 18 different games for kids, teens and adults, a silent auction, basket raffle, train

rides and \$4,500 in raffle prize money. There will also be a bounty of food, featuring Fr. Leo’s own brat recipe, and a nationally recognized live band.

“Lick Creek, a country rock band out of Springfield, will start at 8 p.m. and play until midnight,” James says. “They’re an amazing band. They’ve actually competed in Nashville and did really well, and you can hear them for free at the picnic.”

Three couples co-chair the Parish Picnic Committee — Randy and Amanda Martin, Sarah and Jeremy Stegeman, and James and Kari Weisenberger.

“I love working with the other couples, and it has been really great to involve our families in this work, as well,” Sarah says. “My two children help with setup, stuff envelopes and count raffle tickets. It is a way for them to give back as well.”

Volunteers are always needed, and parishioners are welcome to contact any member of the committee to help with setup, which begins the Wednesday before the picnic, or with the

continued on back cover



ST. PETER CATHOLIC CHURCH

2600 Maine Street
Quincy, Illinois 62301



Return Service Requested

MASS & RECONCILIATION SCHEDULE

Sunday Masses

Saturday: 5:00 p.m.,

Sunday: 8:00, 9:30 and 11:00 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

BRINGING EVERYONE TOGETHER AT ST. PETER'S ANNUAL PARISH PICNIC *continued from page 7*

running of the picnic itself.

"We are always looking for silent auction and basket raffle donations," Randy says. "We also encourage donations through raffle tickets or individual sponsorships."

All the proceeds from the picnic go back to the church, and this major fundraiser has raised an average of \$45,000 each year.

"The proceeds go toward various operating expenses and needs for the church," Sarah says. "For example, one year the money helped

pay for part of our roof to be replaced."

The Annual Parish Picnic offers our families a great atmosphere to meet new people and enjoy a variety of food and outstanding live entertainment. Come celebrate our faith community!

"The picnic really fosters stewardship — not just through working together, but also through simply being together," Sarah says. "You will get to talk to people you might not have otherwise and meet new parishioners. There's something for everyone."

For more information about St. Peter's Annual Parish Picnic, contact James and Kari Weisenberger at 217-242-1608, Randy and Amanda Martin at R.Martin@cospq.org, or Jeremy and Sarah Stegeman at 217-316-1456 or steggy@adams.net.