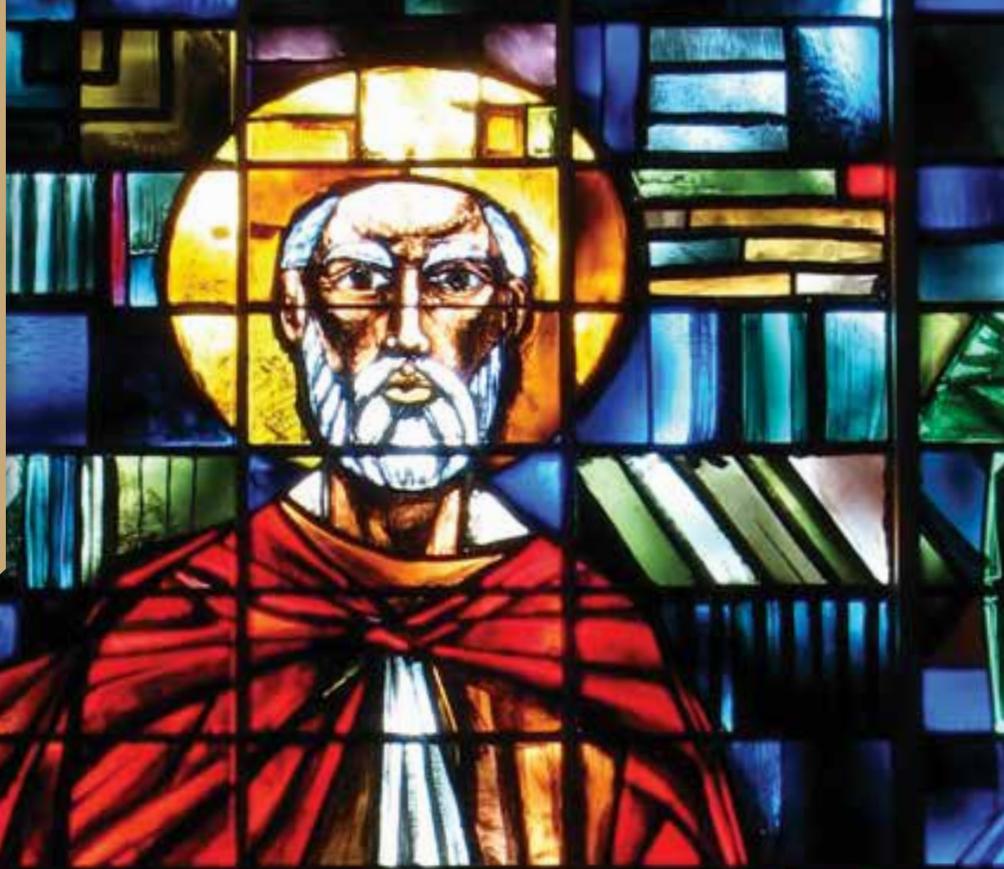


Church of St. Peter, Quincy III

MONTHLY
NEWSLETTER



AN INSIDE LOOK AT OUR GIVING WREATH MINISTRY

Spreading Christ's Love to Our Neighbors in Need

Many of us are already in the midst of our holiday preparations — purchasing plane tickets for upcoming travels, planning out menus for future gatherings, and even doing some early Christmas shopping. This is the season, after all, for celebration and an overall spirit of good cheer. Yet, for a family or individual financially struggling, this time of year can quickly become burdensome. Already struggling just to make ends meet, the thought of providing something extra seems downright impossible. In such cases, says ministry coordinator Christy Holm, St. Peter's annual Giving Wreath can make all the difference in a family's life.

"I feel like most everybody has a heart for people who don't have it as well as we do, especially during the holidays," Christy says. "Oftentimes, we are looking for a way to help people and this gives parishioners an easy way to do that."

Run through the Social Concerns Committee, the Giving Wreath is placed out on the Wednesday before Thanksgiving each year. Attached to the wreath are labels containing wish lists provided by seven different charitable



organizations. These can benefit an adult, child, or entire family in need. Because of the wide difference in ages and circumstances, wish lists vary greatly — from needed household items, winter coats and clothes, to toys for children and grocery gift cards.

"We include requests from nearly every charitable organization in town," Christy says. "Parishioners can then choose which label they

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ST. PETER CATHOLIC CHURCH

OUR ANNUAL STEWARDSHIP RENEWAL *Stewardship: A Path To Holiness*

How do I use my Commitment Card?

Your Commitment Card allows you to make commitments to prayer, parish ministries, and offertory giving. It is designed to be used by the whole family.

Time Section: Except for the ill and home-bound, everyone should be able to check “Come to Mass on Sundays and Holy Days.” Try to check at least a few other items. Daily prayer should be a priority for every person trying to grow closer to God.

Talent Section: You can either sign up for new ministries or re-commit to your current ministries. Be sure to write your first name next to the ministry! This is especially important if more than one person is using the card.

Treasure Section: Clearly print how much money you plan to give each week or month to our parish. Try to take a step toward giving five percent of your income to St. Peter.

Is your prayer life in need of a tune-up?

Honestly ask yourself, “How much time do I spend in prayer each week?” The answer is probably a bit embarrassing. Everyone wants to spend more time in prayer, but there’s just never enough time to do everything we want to do. Good intentions are just that: intentions. This year, as you’re discerning how you will offer your time to God, resolve to follow through with your commitments. Consider each moment you spend in prayer as nourishment for your soul. The spiritual health of our parish is only as strong as the sum of its parts (individual parishioners).

Is your level of parish involvement in need of a boost?

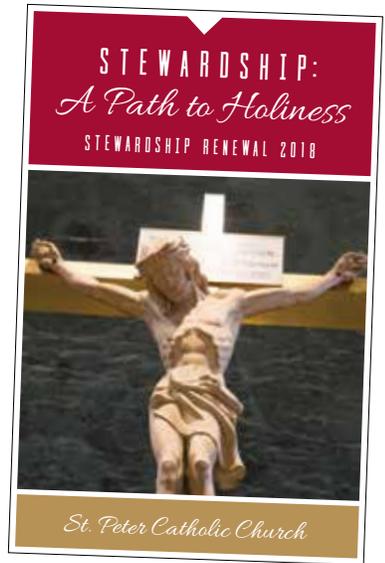
We give our talents back to God when we get involved in ministries at St. Peter. And, with a

host of ministries to choose from, there’s something for everyone. Sure, ministries give parishioners opportunities to serve others in the community, but they also benefit those in the ministry itself. Ask anyone who actively participates in a ministry

at St. Peter, “Why do you enjoy serving in this way?” They’ll probably say, “I get more out of the ministry than the people I serve.” This year, as you’re discerning how you will offer your talents to God, considering signing up for a ministry that may benefit you, like a Bible study, prayer group, or retreat. Or, contribute to an outreach ministry, where your good deeds not only help others in the community, but also give you feelings of satisfaction and thankfulness.

Do you give a percentage of your income to the offertory?

It may be hard to see offertory giving as a way to “help yourself,” but when we approach the subject from a spiritual viewpoint, it can lead to individual spiritual growth and an increase in faith. Even the most savvy business person worries about his or her personal finances from time to time. Adding a weekly offertory check to the list of monthly bills may seem crazy but, ultimately, sacrificial giving forces us to cut unnecessary spending, create a budget and have faith that God will help us make it through the month. All of these are good things for each of us, individually. After faithfully giving to the offertory for a few months, many Catholics find that it’s not only possible to give a weekly offering, but that the fruits of their gift far outweigh the expense.



*Every parish family receives a special “Stewardship Package” in the mail that further explains our parish’s vision of stewardship. And don’t forget, Commitment Weekend is **November 10-11**, so bring your Commitment Card to Mass!*

NOVEMBER: *A Time of Faithful Celebration and Sharing in Thanks*

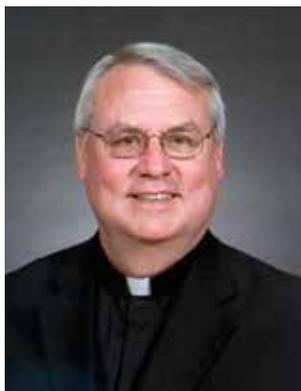
Dear Parishioners,

As I look over the calendar for November, my mind is filled with thoughts of thanksgiving. These aren't just thoughts about Thanksgiving Day, although I look towards it with happy anticipation — more than that, they are thoughts filled with a variety of reasons for why we should be thankful.

The month begins with a great celebration that should be a day of thanksgiving for all of us — All Saints' Day. This is a great feast celebrating the great company of Christians now in heaven — a company we shall eventually join, whether or not we're formally canonized, if we remain faithful to Christ.

And the communion of saints — the sharing of spiritual goods by those in heaven to us who are still in our pilgrimage — is a great cause for thanksgiving. We read the lives of the saints to be encouraged and inspired by their examples. Plus, we are strengthened by their fellowship in the Body of Christ, and we are aided by their prayers.

And then, the very next day, we celebrate All Souls' Day. Although this day commemorates all the faithful departed who are being purified in Purgatory, it is natural for us to concentrate on the members of our own family and our friends who have died. While we pray for them, that they may soon experience the joys of heaven, at the same time we also



are thankful for the love they gave us and for the faith they passed on to us.

Then, later in the month comes Thanksgiving Day, the national holiday celebrating all the things for which we are thankful. The fact that it comes toward the end of autumn reminds us that it was originally a harvest festival. For Christians today, it's a wholesome reminder that

we should thank God for everything we receive, especially the gift of His Son, Jesus Christ. Why not participate in the Church's Great Thanksgiving, the Holy Eucharist, on Thanksgiving Day? It's the ultimate way to give thanks.

A reminder — while much of our attention this month may be drawn to the often contentious goings-on in our country, we need to remember that God is in charge of the universe, even though He has given us free will. If we trust in His loving care, demonstrated by returning to Him a portion of the time, talent and treasure He has entrusted to us, we can withstand the troubles of life. It's a good principle to follow in this month of thanksgiving.

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

Thanks

ST. PETER CATHOLIC CHURCH

Mothers pray for the intentions of our school children at a meeting of the Moms Are Praying (MAP) group.

MEET THE *Moms Are Praying* GROUP

Lifting Up the Prayers of Our Youngest Parishioners

“Jesus said, ‘Let the children come to me, and do not prevent them; for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these’” (Matt. 19:14).

As the Gospel tells us, the Lord invites the youngest among us to come to Him, freely and without hesitation. And just as Jesus welcomed the little children into His arms while He walked this earth, we know that He still listens closely to their worries and desires. Here in our parish, there is a group of women who take these biblical truths to heart by meeting weekly to bring the prayer intentions of our youngest parishioners to the Lord.

The Moms Are Praying group, or MAP, meets every Thursday morning during the school year to lift up the prayer requests of students at St. Peter School and in our Parish School of Religion, or PSR.

Susan Peters, coordinator of MAP, has been a member of the group ever since the oldest of her four daughters started kindergarten 13 years ago, though the group itself has been around for over 30 years.

“I joined Moms Are Praying because my faith life is important to me, and I wanted to know what my kids were involved with at the school,” Susan says. “I also wanted to meet other moms there. So I decided to join, and just never stopped!”

At St. Peter School, all classes in first through eighth grade have a set time each week in which the children are asked to write down their prayer requests. The requests are then placed in an

envelope on the outside of the classroom doors where Susan can collect them. In addition to the children’s specific prayer intentions each week, the MAP group also prays for the school faculty and staff, and parish priests at every meeting.

Over the years, Susan has been touched by the prayer requests coming from the children.

“There are a lot of deep prayers from the junior high building, a lot of honest prayers that are hard,” she says. “Some kids pray for the same thing every week for years, and it’s just sweet. We pray for some kids who are struggling with anxiety. Everything is kept really private — there aren’t names on the prayer requests. We love to see the children’s faith written on paper, though.”

One of the greatest blessings Susan’s participation in MAP has brought her is the sense of fellowship and community in the group prayer.

“I love the camaraderie and watching the moms grow in their faith, and to see the student prayers evolve over time as well,” she says. “I like knowing that we’re praying together for our school, our teachers and our town.”

By gathering in prayer each week, the mothers in the MAP group are able to forge bonds with one another that extend far beyond the school walls.

“I just think it’s nice to have women around you who are living life the same way and teaching their children the same values,” Susan says. “As the year goes on, it’s good to see the new moms

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Moms Are Praying *continued from page 4*

feel welcome and want to come back.

“We are a really close group that shares our problems and our lives,” she continues. “We’ve gone through the deaths of parents together, struggles with our kids — sometimes there are tears, sometimes there is happiness. There are emotional weeks, calm weeks and busy weeks, and we share all of that together. It’s a really neat, intimate group. We all just live life together.”

By gathering to lift the prayers of the children in our faith community to our heavenly Father, the Moms Are Praying group is living out the Gospel call to encourage the youngest among us to bring the desires of their hearts before our Lord. How blessed are our children to have this group of mothers praying for them each week!



The Moms Are Praying (MAP) group at St. Peter — (back row, from left) Jenny Willingham, Lacey Hauk, Carrie Lavery, Suzanne Kurk, Jodi McDonald; (front row, from left) Gina Bergman, Susan Peters, and Cheryl Stuckman. (Not pictured: Brooke Stokes, Natalie Genenbacher, Jennifer Lepper, Julie Konrad.)

Are you interested in joining the Moms Are Praying group at St. Peter School? Meetings are held on Thursday mornings after school drop-off (8:10 a.m.) until 9 a.m. in the Martha Jane Room of the school cafeteria. Please contact Susan Peters for more information at susanpeters2320@gmail.com or 573-822-2234.

Giving Wreath Ministry *continued from front cover*

want and then put their own personal stamp on their gift.”

Not only does the Giving Wreath enable our parish community to help those in need, but it’s also a great way to engage the entire family in stewardship. Long before she became the Giving Wreath coordinator, Christy has memories of her own children selecting and shopping for their chosen labels.

“They would each select a tag and then later pick out something they wanted to get for another child,” Christy says. “Then while we were doing it, we would end up talking about how blessed we are and how there are other people who are having a hard time. It ended up being a great way to teach them about gratitude and to help us spread the joy and

love of God to others as a family.”

Once items are purchased and wrapped, parishioners can return them to the church by a designated date in December so that they can be picked up and distributed by their respective organizations.

We invite all parishioners to join us in supporting this year’s Giving Wreath, helping us spread the love of Christ this Advent and Christmas season. Tags will go out on Wednesday, Nov. 21 and must be returned the weekend of Dec. 8-9. Please look to the parish bulletin for further details or contact Christy Holm directly at 217-779-0894.

A POWERFUL OPPORTUNITY FOR OUR YOUTH TO ENCOUNTER CHRIST DURING TEC WEEKENDS

Parishioner Jerry Eberhardt's first experience of a Teens Encounter Christ, or TEC, weekend was in 1974. He found the experience to be so meaningful that now, decades later, he continues to be involved in a variety of ways, from serving on the board, to working behind the scenes, on retreat, and more.

"I enjoy working with the teenagers and I love watching them change and grow," Jerry says. "I've never met a young person who didn't get something out of the weekend. Some of them find God for the first time. It's a neat program for the young people. They can relax and be themselves."

TEC weekends, which are designed for young people ages 16-21, provide them with an opportunity to get away from the noise of everyday life, to spend time building their relationship with God and other young Catholics, and be inspired by the stories and experiences of others.

The weekends, which take place six times each year in Quincy, begin on a Saturday morning and continue through the following Monday afternoon. The experience includes talks, small-group discussions and other fun activities, along with opportunities to attend Mass and receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

For Jerry, the retreat was a significant and defining moment in his faith and relationship with God.

"It's helped me grow personally in my faith life," he says. "Every time I make a weekend, I grow a little more myself or find things I need to work on or change."

Our Pastor, Fr. Leo Enlow, has served as the spiritual director for several TEC weekends.

"I think the experience of TEC is kind of a



mountaintop experience," Fr. Leo says. "It's one of those experiences like when Jesus took the Apostles up for the Transfiguration. It gave them the strength to come back down and live their faith, in spite of the crosses and the struggles they would have. I think TEC helps to do that. I hope that they take away a better and more personal relationship with Christ and become more connected to the Church."

A TEC retreat is also a chance for people to experience support and fellowship with other Catholics who share their love for God.

"I think it connects the kids with other kids, it connects the kids with adults, and it connects kids with the Church," Fr. Leo says. "I think that's a valuable experience for them."

"It makes us realize we're not alone — there are other people who have the same struggles or have been able to change," Jerry adds.

Jerry hopes that more young people will consider attending a TEC weekend.

"[I like] seeing someone come in dragging their feet and by the end of the weekend they're up there singing and enjoying it with the rest of us," Jerry says. "Come and experience it. You're only giving up a couple of days and I promise, you will grow and you'll love it. I've never met anyone who didn't get anything out of it."

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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

TEC WEEKENDS *continued from page 7*

Fr. Leo encourages those parishioners who have experienced a TEC weekend to consider what ways they can now serve and give back to the parish.

“My hope and prayer is that they involve themselves, through sharing their time and talents with the Church,” Fr. Leo says. “[I hope] they’re not just passive members but that they become active members — that they become the Church they want our Church to be.”

If you would like more information on TEC or to register for an upcoming event, please visit www.greatrivertec.org. The next local TEC Retreat will take place Nov. 10-12 at the Franciscan Retreat Center of Quincy University.



TEC weekends provide young people with an opportunity to get away from the noise of everyday life, to spend time building their relationship with God and other young Catholics, and be inspired by the stories and experiences of others.