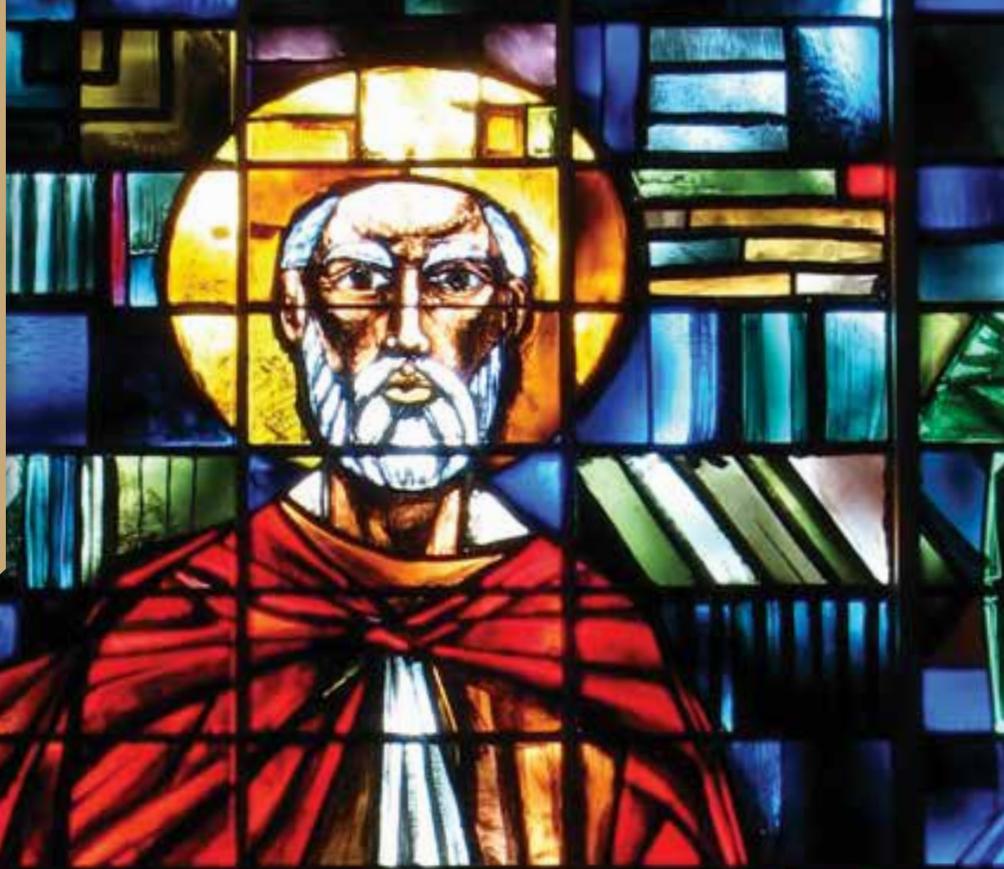


Church of St. Peter, Quincy, Ill.

MONTHLY
NEWSLETTER



IMPACTING THE LIVES OF THE LESS FORTUNATE:

The Quincy Area Partnership for Unmet Needs

In the aftermath of the Great Flood of 1993, a collaborative effort was needed to help rebuild and heal our community. Different groups began joining together, and in 1997, the Unmet Needs Committee formed.

“St. Peter’s is the only Catholic Church represented on the committee, and there are 16 other churches and 17 agencies involved,” says Judy Milfs. “Even though I don’t see them, I know I am part of helping people in need through this committee.”

Unmet Needs is a local partnership established by the United Way of Adams County. Though originally created in the wake of the flood, today Unmet Needs continues to serve the community, giving aid to individuals who frequently can find help nowhere else.

“The Unmet Needs committee fills a void in community services,” says Marilena Frier. “When no other agency can help with a client’s case, it is presented to the committee.”

The committee members vote on cases presented to them. If there is a consensus, individual churches decide whether to assist and how much monetary support they can offer.



*St. Peter’s representatives to Unmet Needs — (from left)
Marilena Frier and Judy Milfs*

Judy and Marilena are St. Peter’s representatives to Unmet Needs and alternate attending meetings, which take place twice a month. Judy was a member of St. Peter’s Social Concerns Committee before Unmet Needs formed.

“I was asked if I would be interested in working with the people who were in need and coming to the parish office for help from the church,” Judy says. “We would give them money for bus tickets or groceries, for example.”

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ST. PETER CATHOLIC CHURCH

THE CHALLENGE OF *Discipleship*

God calls us to give Him everything – our whole heart, our whole soul, and our whole mind. This is the challenge of discipleship – a lifelong process of more fully placing our lives under the lordship of Jesus Christ.

The reason that God can ask such complete service from us is that He made us. Everything we have belongs to Him! This includes our intelligence, our physical ability, our artistic talent, our family, our finances, our government – anything we may typically think of as “ours.”

It takes courage to recognize that we are not the masters of our possessions and ourselves. Furthermore, as Christians, we believe that because everything we have is a gift from God, we are called to give Him thanks. We express our thanks by using our gifts to further His kingdom on earth. This is the basis for our understanding of stewardship.

We refer to “time,” “talent,” and “treasure” in order to differentiate between the various parts of our life that belong to God. “Time” is the duration of life that God has given us. “Talent” includes the special gifts or strengths God has nurtured in us. “Treasure” is what we have earned through our time and talent.

Even though we identify these three aspects of stewardship, they are still part of the

same Gospel-based concept. And even when we focus separately on these parts, it should not signal that one is more important than the other. Instead, focusing on each aspect one at a time helps us to better concentrate on that area in our lives.

Stewardship is, after all, an attitude. If our goal is to become better stewards, we must have a reason in our minds to do so. Here are the basics of a stewardship attitude:

“God made everything!”

A wholehearted trust that God made all things is essential to understanding stewardship. Recognizing God as the Creator is one of the most basic, profound beliefs of Christianity.

“I am truly blessed!”

It takes humility in order to truly acknowledge God’s goodness. Every great triumph and every little pleasure is a blessing from above, and every strong character trait we possess is a gift from God.

“I believe I am to use God’s gifts for His glory!”

What better way to thank God for His goodness than by using our personal gifts to glorify Him? We are not the owners of our time, talent or treasure. But we are caretakers given the responsibility of spreading God’s kingdom on earth.



Where Are Our Priorities?

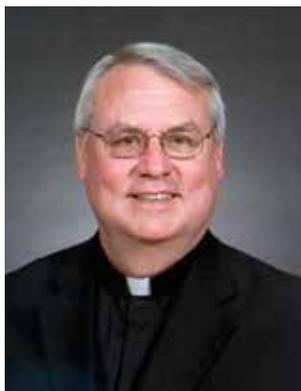
Dear Parishioners,

I am in hopes that you are aware that we are completing and will continue to celebrate the holiest time of the year in our Church. Easter Sunday, April 1, is the high point of the year for us as Catholics. We will, of course, continue to celebrate this holy time until Pentecost Sunday, which is May 20 this year. That is correct — our Easter season continues until then.

St. Paul provided some sage advice. He said, “think of what is above, not of what is on earth” (Colossians 3:2). Regardless of your opinions on what happens after resurrection, we can agree that it will be something “above” this life. Paul might be asking us if we put God first in all things. Life can become very encumbered with possessions, money, power, and even our egos.

Our goal should be to put God at the top of our lists. If that is not what we do, we may need to adjust our priorities. If we have not moved in that direction during Lent or in the past, now is the time to do it. We must constantly strive to not allow earthly things to become our gods.

It was St. Gregory the Great who said, “God made us to be the gardeners of paradise.” Some stewardship people have maintained that God has given each of us a garden — and when we are judged, we only hear one question, “What have you done with the



garden I gave you?”

What have we done? What are we doing? First, we must recognize and acknowledge that we are all gifted, admittedly in different and varied ways. Despite what we see as our gifts or how we measure them, we need to ensure that we are using them in ways that serve God and others — ways that show good discipleship and stewardship on our

parts.

Were you aware that the month of April is dedicated to the Holy Spirit in the Church? The term “spirit” translates from the Hebrew word *ruah*, which means “breath.” Truly, as Catholics, the Holy Spirit has been breathed into each of us, and is part of the garden we have received. Do we turn to Him? Do we rely on Him for strength? Do we even grant that He is part of our very being? We should. We need to, as St. Paul advised, “think of what is above, not of what is on earth.”

May God bless you in all you do, and strive to do!

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 goal should be to put God at the top of our lists. If that is not what we do, we may need to adjust our priorities. If we have not moved in that direction during Lent or in the past, now is the time to do it. We must constantly strive to not allow earthly things to become our gods.

ST. PETER CATHOLIC CHURCH

PREPARING FOR A LIFE OF FAITH: *The S*

It's a common, but mistaken viewpoint — that Confirmation is the Church "equivalent" to graduation. But Martha Rapp, who serves as a Confirmation preparation catechist for our Parish School of Religion program, hopes to instill an enduring appreciation of this sacrament and its profound impact on our faith.

"We're trying to introduce it as a way of living into love," Martha says.

In fact, unlike a school graduation, Confirmation is actually the *first step* into living as a fully initiated member of the Catholic Church, being sealed with the Holy Spirit and fully welcomed into the mission of living and sharing our Catholic faith.

Our Confirmation preparation process, which typically takes place in eighth grade, includes both the youth from our parish school and our PSR program. Those at St. Peter's School receive formation in their classroom, while the PSR students meet weekly, on Wednesday evenings. All of the young people gather for special events over the course of the year.

"Confirmation is an experience of naming grace and understanding the immense help we have as we go through life," Martha says. "We are not going through life alone. There are so many people who lose hope



Eighth-grade students at St. Peter School dress up as their chosen Confirmation saints.

and become people of despair, because they lose sight of the fact that God is with us and is giving us incredible strength if we open ourselves to it. Confirmation preparation is beginning to name grace and see how it's working in the world through love. It's how we live into this relationship with God, Who is Love."

Miss Hannah Metz and Mrs. Amanda Martin are eighth-grade teachers at St. Peter School, and they work to prepare their students to receive the final Sacrament of Initiation. During these sessions, whether in the school or PSR, the youth have the opportunity to learn about their faith, and how the teachings of the Catholic Church apply in their own lives.

"It's interesting to see the

religious growth they have over even one year," Miss Metz says. "It's interesting to see how some of them take on their faith, as their own, and not just because their parents baptized them as a baby.

"It's important to teach basic foundational Church teaching, but we also want them, if they have a question, to go out and research it," she adds. "We want them to own it. We want them to learn how to explore their faith on their own. We want to give them the tools to know their religion and continue to learn about it."

Students are also encouraged to grow in other areas, incorporating various prayer and service opportunities.

"We have special prayer experiences, special service experiences, formation and

Sacrament of Confirmation



Our PSR Confirmation class presents Fr. Leo with money that they raised for a water filtration system for our sister parish in Haiti.

understanding the tenets of our faith and our theology of Confirmation,” Martha says. “They participate in hospitality experiences, helping younger children, and they’re very much involved.”

Both Martha and Miss Metz hope that this foundation in the faith will empower them to live their lives as active and engaged Catholics.

“We are basically introducing the idea of living through the Catholic faith, into a deepening relationship with God,” Martha says. “That relationship

with God involves how we live with other people, how we live with ourselves, how we work with the spiritual gifts, and how this all comes together to really help inform a deepening relationship with God that goes throughout life.”

“I hope that by receiving this sacrament now, they’re able to say that their faith is going to be Catholicism, that this is the one true faith and it’s the faith they’ll have for the rest of their life,” Miss Metz adds.

Martha also hopes that

any adult parishioners who have not yet been confirmed will consider receiving the final Sacrament of Initiation.

“We know that only 50 percent of people who are baptized into our Church as infants are actually confirmed into our Church,” she says. “How happy are you? How much peace are you experiencing? How fulfilled are you? Do you feel that something is missing in your life? Confirmation is a way to recognize and cooperate with grace that God in love, gives to us. If you’ve never really focused on it, Confirmation might be something you want to look at.”

We invite our parishioners to remember and pray for our students, who will be confirmed on April 10.

“I believe, with every fiber of my being, that becoming aware and cooperating with God’s grace gives us the strength to live beyond the life of the world,” Martha says. “My hope for these kids is that they can understand that they are loved beyond their wildest imagination and that they are of immense value.”

For more information, or to enroll your child in our Confirmation preparation process, please contact the parish office at 217-222-3155. If you are an adult who is considering becoming Catholic, or have been baptized and/or received your First Eucharist, but never received the Sacrament of Confirmation, please contact the parish office to learn more about our Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults or Adult Confirmation process.

THE BLESSINGS OF THE *Catholic Mass*

It is ironic that today, with all of the freedom of religion that we enjoy in the United States, many of us wonder why we must go to Mass on Sunday.

However, if we really understood what the Mass is and how we participate in the celebration, we would instead be asking why we are, as sinful human beings, blessed with the opportunity to participate in the holy Mass. If we simply understood and recognized that God's infinite goodness allows us to do so, we would be eager to go to Mass on Sunday and every other day of the week.

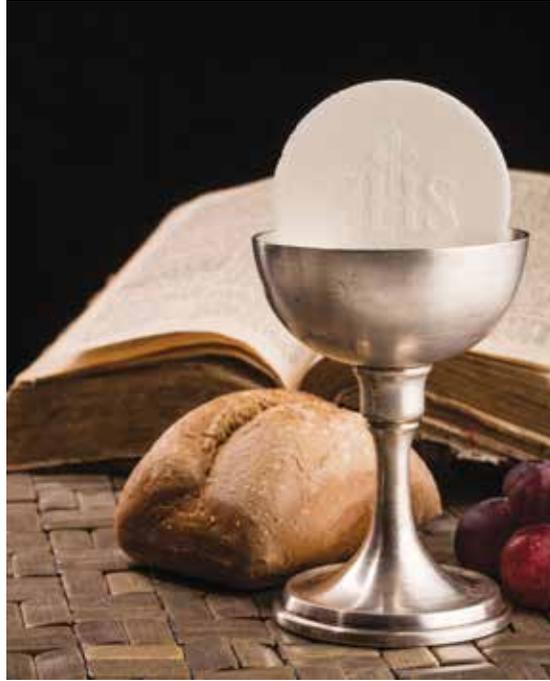
It is true, however, that all Catholics are obliged to "Keep holy the Lord's Day" by sharing in the Mass. But why are we obliged?

The Eucharistic Liturgy is the center of our faith. It is "the summit toward which all activity of the Church is directed" and it is "the font from which all her power flows" (*Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy* 10). It does not exhaust the activity of the Church, but is most certainly her greatest work.

The sacrifice of Christ on the cross is literally re-presented to the Father during Mass, and Christ allows us to join with Him in offering that sacrifice. Imagine our Lord and Savior dying on the cross for us right up the street. Imagine knowing that Mary is sitting at the foot of the cross with St. John, witnessing her Son giving Himself to the Father for the sake of all of us. Would we not run to be there? Would we not desire to share in His sacrifice, just as Mary did?

Believe it or not, the sacrifice of Calvary is really, truly happening at our parish, every time the Mass is offered.

Our participation in Mass gives us the strength



and the graces we need to live our lives as Christ's disciples. So, what does this mean for us?

This means we have a front row seat to the sacrifice of Calvary. Given such a gift, how can we not accept it?

We also have a chance to join in Jesus' sacrifice by offering our own prayers and petitions. As an example, what better gift could we give deceased loved ones than the offering of prayers for their souls in purgatory?

Most importantly, we have the opportunity to *receive* the Eucharist, followed by quiet time, when we offer sincere

thanks and allow God's graces to fill us. Think of all you are missing when you do not properly prepare yourself to receive the Holy Eucharist.

We ought to joyfully head to Church each Sunday, eager to give God glory in the greatest way we can! Attending and actively participating in Mass every Sunday is our obligation as Catholics. But we should not allow the fact that our attendance is "required" to stop us from going. Nor should we allow our laziness to overshadow the amazing privilege and the many blessings that lay before us in the Mass.

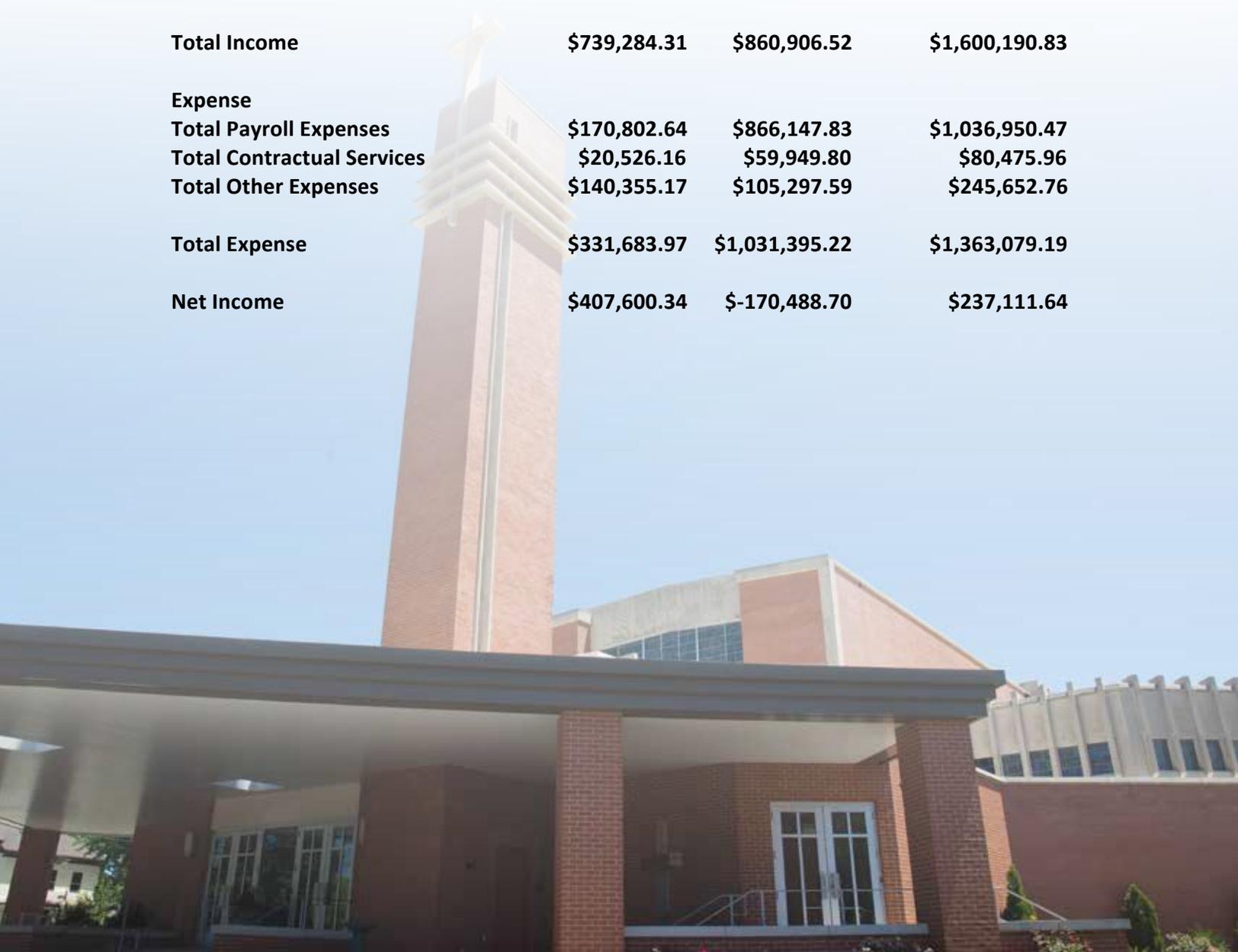
The pope and the bishops direct us to participate in the Eucharistic Liturgy every Sunday because they know there is no better way to keep holy the Lord's day — giving God thanks for all He has done for us in the most powerful way possible. They know that, through the Mass, we gain the graces necessary to live our lives in this world.

Our ability to participate in the Mass is a wonderful gift, not a great burden. May Christ enlighten our minds and hearts to clearly see the wonders of the celebration, and give us great enthusiasm and eagerness to participate.

ST. PETER CATHOLIC CHURCH FINANCIAL REPORT

JULY 2017-DECEMBER 2017

	Total Parish	Total School	Total
Income			
Regular Church Support			
Offertory - Envelopes	\$642,407.43	0	\$642,407.43
Offertory - Loose Collection	\$26,079.83	0	\$26,079.83
Other Collections	\$50,244.22	0	\$50,244.22
School Fund Collection	0	\$316,084.31	\$316,084.31
Total Regular Church Support	\$718,731.48	\$316,084.31	\$1,034,815.79
Other Sources of Revenue	\$20,552.83	\$95,763.91	\$116,316.74
Total Tuition Income	0	\$449,058.30	\$449,058.30
Total Income	\$739,284.31	\$860,906.52	\$1,600,190.83
Expense			
Total Payroll Expenses	\$170,802.64	\$866,147.83	\$1,036,950.47
Total Contractual Services	\$20,526.16	\$59,949.80	\$80,475.96
Total Other Expenses	\$140,355.17	\$105,297.59	\$245,652.76
Total Expense	\$331,683.97	\$1,031,395.22	\$1,363,079.19
Net Income	\$407,600.34	\$-170,488.70	\$237,111.64



ST. PETER CATHOLIC CHURCH

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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

IMPACTING THE LIVES OF THE LESS FORTUNATE

continued from front cover

Today, depending upon the particular need, many people who come to the office can be helped by Unmet Needs or Social Concerns. The committee commonly helps community members who are mired in loans or need support with their rent and utility bills.

“Many have mental health or developmental issues,” Marilena says. “Others live paycheck to paycheck, and fall behind when a job ends or a serious illness occurs.”

There are many ways that parishioners can support the work of Unmet Needs. They

can give financial support directly to the Social Concerns Committee. They can also remember to pray every day for those in need.

“Parishioners can help by supporting the fifth Sunday of the month collection, the Christmas Cookie Sale in December and, most importantly, through prayer,” Marilena says.

Unmet Needs offers us one tangible way to be the hands of Christ and reach out to others.

“Through this ministry, I am able to impact the lives of the less fortunate,” Marilena says.

If you would like more information about Unmet Needs and St. Peter's Social Concerns Committee, please reach out to the parish office at 217-222-3155.