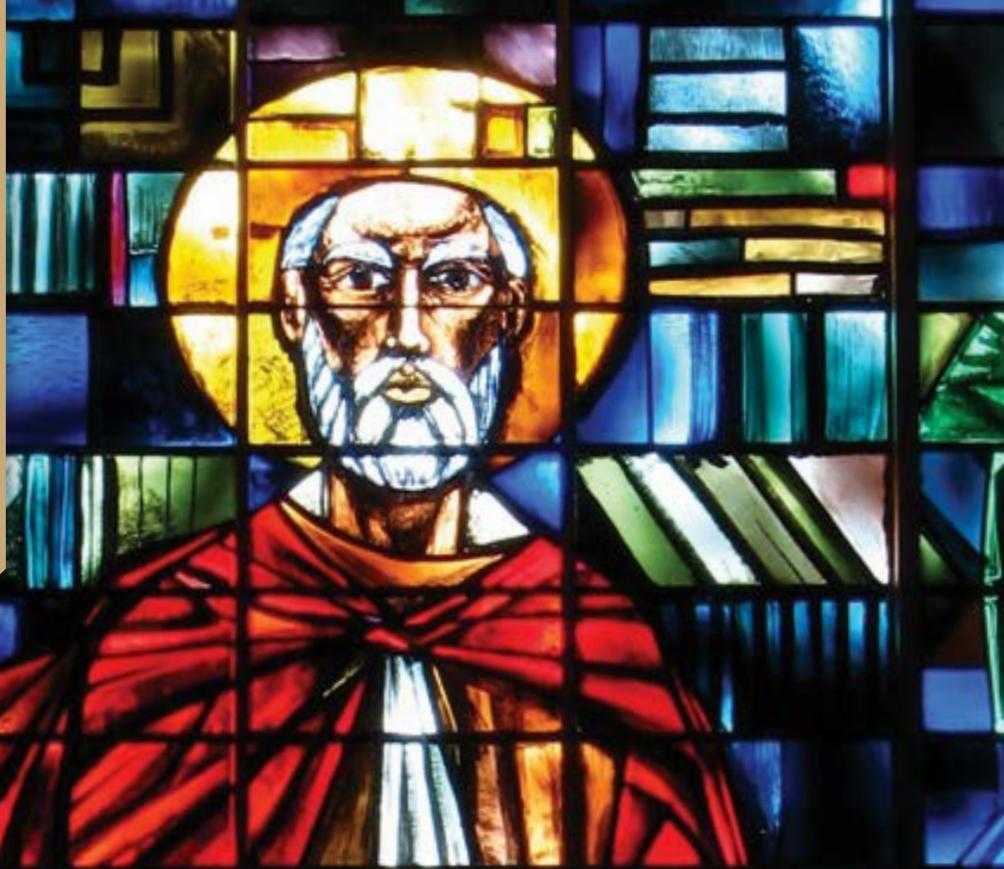


Church of St. Peter, Quincy III

MONTHLY
NEWSLETTER



EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF HOLY COMMUNION GROWING CLOSER TO THE LORD

As Catholics, we are blessed with many ways that lay people are able to participate more fully in the Mass. Beginning at a young age, children may train to serve at the altar. Other parishioners enjoy helping with the liturgy as sacristans, ushers or lectors. And still, others choose to serve as Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion, offering the consecrated Body and Blood of Christ to their fellow parishioners at each Mass.

St. Peter parishioner Angela Lepper has greatly enjoyed serving as an Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion for over 10 years.

“I love that you just get to be close to Jesus at that time,” she says. “I also enjoy being able to give Him to our parishioners and seeing their faces when they come up to receive the Holy Eucharist. It has made me more aware of Jesus and that most important part of the Mass.”

At St. Peter, Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion help distribute the Eucharist at Mass, and they may also assist with the blessing of throats and distribution of ashes. With special training, some may take the Eucharist to hospital



Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion Martha Rapp offers the Blood of Christ to parishioners at a recent Mass

patients or parishioners who are homebound or residing in nursing homes.

Those who serve as Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion typically find that participation in the Mass strengthens their relationship with the Lord, and helps them to connect with their fellow parishioners.

“As with any kind of ministry you might get

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ST. PETER CATHOLIC CHURCH

THE SPIRITUALITY OF STEWARDSHIP

Following in the Footsteps of the Saints

The word “stewardship” has long carried with it the association of a financial obligation to the Church. Many believe that stewardship means “giving my time and money to the Church in support of its work, lest it is unable to survive and thrive.”

Indeed, stewardship does often require sacrifice of some kind. But the reality is that stewardship is not simply a guilt-laden obligation, or a “bill.” Nor is stewardship in any way comparable to a tax payment or a charitable networking opportunity at work. Instead, stewardship is a spiritual way of life – an active response to Christ’s invitation to unreservedly “come after me, and I will make you fishers of men” (Mt 4:19).

Stewardship is about how we respond to God’s call to discipleship, and there are many different ways we can respond to His call. We can, in turn, live the stewardship way of life simply by making small choices in our daily lives, under normal, everyday circumstances.

Nowhere in Christian history is there a more archetypal example of the variety of ways we can respond to God’s call, than in the lives of the saints. The

saints represent a wide cross-section of individuals – old and young, rich and poor – living in different times in human history. Some were called to the religious life, focusing their lives on spirituality and material simplicity through prayer, and helping to form the tenets of faith. Others were individuals focused on charitable outreach, dedicating their whole lives to feeding the hungry and clothing the naked. Still, others faced great adversity and challenges to their faith, and ultimately suffered death and martyrdom in loyalty to Christ and His Church.

However, the commonality that all of these individuals share is that they responded to God’s call to discipleship by utilizing the unique talents that God had given them. They did so in ways that were conducive to their individual personalities, and that actively influenced the circumstances presented to them in their respective days and times. Contemplative spirituality, charitable giving, great courage – all of these roads have led to canonization and, ultimately, eternal life with God in His glory. We are all called to do the same.

As the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops states in its pastoral

letter on stewardship, *Stewardship: A Disciple’s Response*, “The challenge, then, is to understand our role – our vocation – and to respond generously to this call from God” (43). When thinking about the spirituality of stewardship, take some time to discern your talents, and how you can best respond to God’s call by naturally and effectively using the gifts He has given you. If you are a gregarious person, this might mean reaching out to a co-worker you don’t know very well, thus helping to create a hospitable work environment. If you are an individual who is often “on the go,” perhaps this means praying the Rosary while you are driving from place to place. If you have recently experienced a financial windfall or unexpected increase in income, this might mean sponsoring a little league team in your community by paying for their uniforms.

God has provided many roads to the Kingdom of Heaven, and in the saints, we see examples of the many roads that have been taken. Choosing the one that is best for us means that we can live stewardship as a spiritual practice and a way of life, and that we may answer His call to discipleship.



Celebrating God's Love

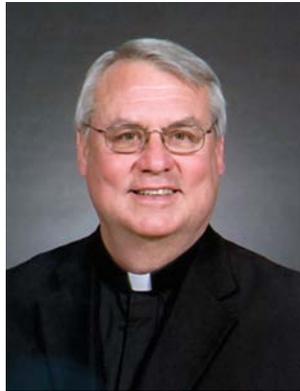
Dear Parishioners,

What is the most widely observed saint's day in February — the one that is kept even by those who aren't practicing Catholics? Undoubtedly, it would be St. Valentine's Day, Feb. 14.

So who was St. Valentine? The saint we celebrate was a priest of Rome martyred in the late third century. But that doesn't explain how his feast came to be celebrated as the day for sending letters, cards and presents as expressions of romantic love.

The truth is that the custom of sending tokens of love comes not from any direct connection with St. Valentine, but from the ancient belief that birds begin to pair off on Feb. 14. And if courtship in the natural world occurred then, it must be appropriate for humans, as well. The association between St. Valentine and love notes is a later development.

Nevertheless, it's not wrong to connect the two. Love has many aspects, and our conception of it is richer if we keep more than one of them in mind. Martyrdom is the result of loving God more than our earthly life. St. Valentine was a martyr because of his love — his love for Jesus Christ and the Church. If he had not loved God so much, he could have repudiated his Lord and saved his life. We, in turn, express our



love by sending cards and gifts on St. Valentine's Day.

But isn't that what stewardship as a way of life is, a little martyrdom? Not to push the image too far, but when we are faithful stewards, we give up a little portion of our lives out of our own love for Christ. Most Christians will not be called on to be martyrs, in the sense of forfeiting our physical lives for God. But we are called to give up some of our comforts, indulgences and riches because of our love for Him.

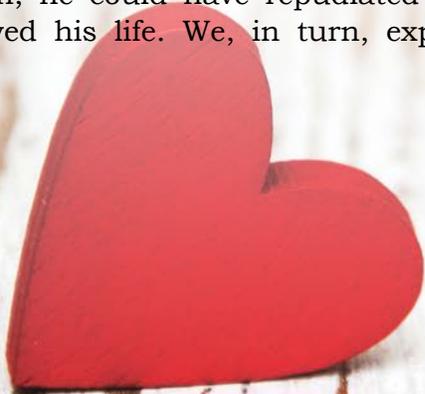
So then, as you prepare to celebrate and share your love with your valentine this month, remember St. Valentine and his love for Christ. As well, keep in mind that God loves us, and return that love with your own toward Him. Loving God will be reflected in how you prioritize your use of the time, talent and treasure God has entrusted to you. As St. John wrote (1 Jn 4:19), "We love because he first loved us."

Happy St. Valentine's Day!

In Christ,



Rev. Msgr. Leo J. Enlow
Pastor



ST. PETER CATHOLIC CHURCH

Bible Studies OFFERING FAIR

The Bible Study sessions offered here at St. Peter Parish are a rich opportunity to learn more about our Catholic faith, while growing in our relationship to Christ.

“In Bible Study, we learn so much about our faith,” says Jen Dyer, leader of the Tuesday morning session. “Most of us are ‘cradle Catholics,’ and we don’t know the ‘whys’ behind the ‘whats.’ We understand our Catholic faith much better — it’s eye opening, once you learn.”

Jen leads the 9 a.m. Tuesday women’s group that offers child care, thanks to parish volunteers. The session run for 90 minutes.

Jen has been leading Bible Study here at St. Peter for about 10 years after originally leading a group in a non-Catholic church.

“We didn’t study from a Catholic perspective,” she recalls. “This was my first experience in Bible study. But I yearned for the Catholic perspective.”

When a Bible Study leader here at St. Peter



Jen Dyer leads the group that is made up of women of all ages.

stepped down, Jen was able to follow her yearning.

The Tuesday morning group originally used the Ascension Press series for its curriculum. Now, however, the group members research their topics of interest or books in the Bible, and a vote is taken on what will be studied. The sessions follow the school calendar, running from September through December, with a break for the Christmas and New Year holidays. The sessions then resume in January and run through April.

“We always welcome new ladies during the year,” Jen says. “They can come in the middle [of the year], and can come in at any time.”

The Bible Study sessions not only help build knowledge about the Catholic faith, but also helps strengthen that faith.

“Our faith walk is such a journey,” Jen says. “I went to Catholic school and learned as a child would. But as an adult, I needed the adult perspective. I felt study or reading about something wasn’t the way to further myself.”



Members of the Tuesday morning Bible Study group research and choose the topics they wish to study.

“Whether you never did one or did one for 20 years, you’ll gain something from our study. It is the follow-up and discussions that make a big difference. It’s for all levels of your faith journey — a little something for everyone.” — Jen Dyer

WITH GROWTH THROUGH KNOWLEDGE

Bible Study changed that for Jen and, as she believes, for those taking part in the sessions as they share of themselves.

“We have ladies of all ages,” Jen says. “We have some close to 90 and some in their 20s. In each age level, we have a wealth of wisdom and experience. Probably the most rewarding thing I gain is that perspective from so many age levels.”

Jen offers a warm invitation to us to join one of our Bible Study sessions.

“Whether you never did one or did one for 20 years, you’ll gain something from our study,” she says. “It is the follow-up and discussions that make a big difference. It’s for all levels of your faith journey — a little something for everyone.”

A number of Bible Studies are open to all interested parishioners. There is a weekly lectionary-based study that delves into readings for the coming Sunday’s Mass and meets on Tuesdays from 1-2 p.m. in the Fr. Bauer Prayer room, and topical Bible Studies that look at specific books of the Bible and meet at various times during the week. The Sensational Catholic Seniors’ Study meets on the first and third Thursday mornings each month from 8:30-10:30. For more information, please call the parish office at 217-222-3155.

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF HOLY COMMUNION *continued from front cover*

involved in with the church, serving as an Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion brings you closer to both Jesus and other members of the parish as well,” Angela says.

While Angela is now an experienced Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion, she still remembers feeling a bit intimidated by this ministry before she attended the training. When she first learned through the parish bulletin that St. Peter was looking for more Eucharistic Ministers, Angela was interested in volunteering, but she also felt nervous that she might fall on the steps or drop something. After going through the training, however, she felt more comfortable and knew that she was being called to serve the

Church in this way.

Thankful that she was able to overcome her nerves and begin participating in this important ministry, Angela now encourages any parishioner who is interested in learning more about being an Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion to attend one of the regularly scheduled training sessions.

“Anyone who is thinking about this ministry at all should look into the next Eucharistic Minister training,” she says. “We have them all the time, and you can just come to find out more about it. You will enjoy it! And if you already go to Mass regularly, it’s a great opportunity to serve your God and serve your Church.”

Are you interested in learning more about serving as an Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion at St. Peter? If so, please contact Gina Bergman at g.bergman@cospq.org or 217-214-0182.

ST. PETER CATHOLIC CHURCH

PRAYER:

Becoming More Generous with Our Stewardship of Time

A professor stood in front of a class, and in his hand was a big glass jar. He put six big rocks in the jar, with the rocks up to the edge. He then asked his students, “Is the jar full?” And they replied, “Yes.”

The professor told the students, “No, it’s not.” Then, he pulled out gravel and put it in the jar. He then asked, “Now is it full?” The students once again replied, “Yes.” The professor responded, “No, it’s not.” He reached down and pulled out sand, which he poured into the jar with the same responses. Then, he reached down again for a pitcher of water, and poured water in, all the way to the brim. Then he asked, “Now is it full?” And the students replied, “Yes.”

The professor then asked, “Okay, what lesson do you learn from this?” The students responded, “No matter how many things you’ve got in the jar, there’s always room to put a little more in.” The professor told them, “No, that’s not the lesson. The lesson is, if I didn’t put the big rocks in first, they would have never fit!”

Most Catholics can appreciate this story — in particular, how it can apply to our own prayer lives. Essentially,

every person has to decide what the “big rocks” are in his or her life. And, for us Catholics, prayer should be one of those big rocks in the jar.

As Catholics, we *know* that prayer is important, and we know that we can and should always pray more. Yet, connecting with God in this way often slips through the cracks of our busy lives.

The stewardship spirituality is about trying to become ever more generous with our Time, Talent, and Treasure. And there is a reason why “Time” is first in line. Time in a stewardship context refers to the time we spend with God in prayer. We need to take time to talk to God and take time to be quiet and seek to listen as He expresses His love for us and wants us to know His inspiration in our life.

There are many different forms of prayer — from weekly prayer, such as the Mass, to daily personal prayer. A daily Rosary is one of the most universal spiritual practices that can enrich the lives of Catholics around the world. Even if the decades are spread out throughout the day, or even if you pray just one decade a day, you will find yourself growing closer and closer to the Lord each time.

Morning and night prayer are also important disciplines to maintain. Set aside a comfortable place in your home where you can find silence. Maybe focus on a spiritual image and take time to center yourself with Scripture or some other kind of spiritual reading.

For many, spending large portions of the day in silent prayer may not always be possible. But make it a priority to find those moments of quiet throughout the day, and to find ways to incorporate prayer in the midst of your busy schedule. When you get into a vehicle, pray — before a meal, after a meal, if you’re faced with a tough decision. Just pray!

Ultimately, the bottom line is this — just as in any human relationship, communication is a central aspect of a vibrant relationship with God. Prayer is fostering this communion of love with God. He loved us into existence and He wants us to enter into a loving conversation with Him. We’ve got to talk to Him. And we have to listen to Him. He will take care of everything if you just trust Him. He’s knocking at the door and waiting for us to open it in prayer.

“LIVE YOUR FAITH”

*with the **Knights of Columbus***

Many public organizations offer opportunities for us to serve others, but few of these have a foundation in virtue like the Knights of Columbus. It is this faith-filled spirit that infuses everything these men do for the parish and the community.

“One of the reasons I wanted to join the Knights 52 years ago was because of the organization’s Catholic beliefs,” says Bob Klingele, Grand Knight of Council 583. “Being a Knight encourages me to live my faith.”

The Knights of Columbus is a Catholic fraternal organization founded in the late 19th-century that today has nearly two million members around the world. Its members are motivated by four core virtues.

“We believe in charity, unity, fraternity and patriotism, and the number one focus is charity,” Bob says. “We have a compass, and the needle on it always points to charity. It guides everything we do.”

Council 583 is comprised of Catholic men from the local parishes, and its members meet every second Tuesday of the month at 7 p.m. in McGivney Hall.

“Our meetings include prayer, the pledge of allegiance and conversation about current topics like if charities are requesting funds,” Bob says.

For example, in December and January the Knights made a proposal to donate to three different local Catholic food banks.

“These are funds raised by the Knights through things like our weekly Friday night



This is a caption. The Knights of Columbus Council 583

chicken and fish dinners and renting our hall,” Bob says.

The Knights live their core virtues and support the parish and the community in many different ways, including supporting Catholic education.

“We are fortunate enough to have several wonderful Catholic schools in Quincy,” Bob says. “We support all of them. My wife, Margie, and I raised seven children who attended our Catholic schools.”

Every week the Knights organize a televised Mass for the homebound and those in nursing homes. This tradition has taken place at a local TV station for over 55 years. This Mass is celebrated and recorded on Saturday night, and the Knights assist with its setup — it is then televised on Sunday morning.

continued on back cover

“We believe in charity, unity, fraternity and patriotism, and the number one focus is charity. We have a compass, and the needle on it always points to charity. It guides everything we do.” — Bob Klingele

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

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS *continued from page 7*

“This Mass for Shut-Ins is one of our favorite things we do for the community,” Bob says. “The Knights help set up for the Mass, and different priests from the parishes rotate saying the Mass on Saturday evening.”

The Knights host several annual events such as the end-of-summer BBQ for the community, the Tootsie Roll Drive for individuals with intellectual disabilities, and the Mega Raffle for Quincy Catholic Schools.

This year the Knights were proud to donate funds to Birthright, a non-profit crisis pregnancy center, to purchase an ultrasound machine.

“Half of the funds came from the Quincy Knights and the other half came from the Supreme Council,” Bob says. “This machine will help take care of women and children and save lives.”

Over the years, Bob’s faith has grown through being in the Knights because he has

felt encouraged to live stewardship and give back to the church.

“The Knights really encourage men to find a way to be active in their churches,” Bob says. “For example, once a week we help take care of the grass at church, and I’m 80 years old and still out there.”

St. Peter’s has so many young parishioners and members of the Knights, and all men 18 years old and older are welcome to join this faith-based organization.

“If you want to live charity and help your parish, the Knights is the organization for you,” Bob says.

If you would like more information about the Knights of Columbus, please contact Bob Klingele at 217-257-4500.