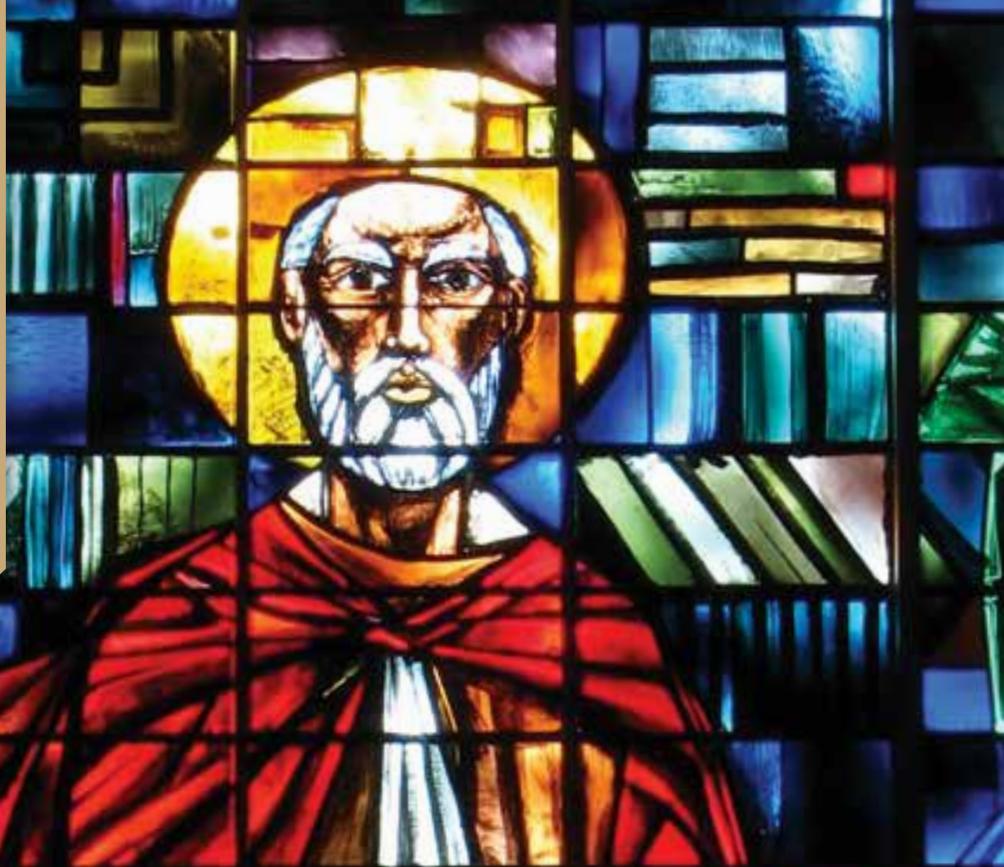


# Church of St. Peter, Quincy III

MONTHLY  
NEWSLETTER



## SUMMER FUN AND FAITH: *Totus Tuus*

Family vacations. Barbecues. Swimming. There are so many things to love about summer. And for the children and teens of St. Peter's, our Totus Tuus program is often at the top of that list. Each summer, they have the opportunity to learn more about their faith in an engaging and fun-filled environment. This year, we hope your child or children will be among them!

"Totus Tuus is a Catholic kids camp — it's similar to Vacation Bible School, but a little different because we really dive into the teachings of the Catholic Church," says Director of Religious Education Gina Bergman. "It's a program that revolves around stewardship and discipleship, and it's a great way for the kids to have a week of fun and learning more about their faith in the summer."

Totus Tuus is hosted by a team of young adults who spend the summer serving the youth of our diocese.

"It's just so nice to see young adults on fire for their faith," Gina says. "They're so kind, they're such good examples, and they're also real people. We've been blessed to have great teams."

There are two separate programs for our



*Totus Tuus is a chance for our young people to learn about their faith during the summer break.*

youth, based on age. The "day camp," designed for children in first through sixth grade, will take place from 8 a.m. until noon, beginning Monday, June 24 and continuing through Friday, June 28. The teen program — seventh through 12th grades — will take place in the evenings from 7 to 9 p.m., beginning on Sunday,

*continued on page 2*

# ST. PETER CATHOLIC CHURCH

## *Summer Fun and Faith* continued from front cover

June 23 until Thursday, June 27. All groups will meet in the cafeteria.

The programs vary each day, including opportunities for Mass and Reconciliation, going deeper in understanding the faith, small groups, and opportunities to hear others' stories of faith. Each day is also filled with plenty of fun, games, skits, and more.

"(The week) is super packed — it's really fast paced and they sprinkle it with the teachings and the fun stuff," Gina says. "I am amazed at how much education and catechesis my kids receive from this week."

According to Gina, one of the most powerful parts of the week is getting to see the witness of the young adults who serve on the Totus Tuus team.

"I see kids getting that example of a young adult who loves God and is not scared to tell people that," she says. "They're listening to their calling, they're serving, and they are seriously such great examples of living a life of stewardship and discipleship."

There are many ways for members of the parish to become involved and serve during the week, even without children in the program. People are needed to provide lunches for the Totus Tuus team — four people — each day during the week. The food can be homemade, or picked up and delivered from a local restaurant. Each evening, "host families" are also needed to welcome the team into their home for dinner, for an hour or two, before the evening session begins.

In addition to serving the members of the Totus Tuus team, parishioners can also become involved by making donations of snacks for the



*Totus Tuus is a week of fun, games and learning about the faith.*

children and teens participating in the week. Students in eighth grade, as well as adults, can also help with the day camp.

"If anyone wants to help, they're welcome," Gina says.

Gina hopes that parishioners will encourage their children and youth to participate in Totus Tuus this summer.

"Give it a chance," Gina says. "Even in the summer, in our busiest time, we should still make time for God. As Christians, that's what we're called to do. This helps you put God in the center of your life, even on vacation. It's very valuable because it's one more way to show kids a different side of their faith and how they can live their faith in everyday life."

*Registration for Totus Tuus is available at the parish office. The cost is \$20 per child or teen, or \$35 per family. If you would like more information, if you have questions or would like to volunteer, please contact Director of Religious Education Gina Bergman at 217-430-6080 or [g.bergman@cospq.org](mailto:g.bergman@cospq.org). A SignUpGenius will be available for those wishing to donate snacks for the kids and teens during the week.*

## HONORING OUR LADY IN MAY

Dear Parishioners,

As people of faith, we often refer to May as “the month of Mary.” For centuries, Catholics throughout the world have included special devotions to Mary in their activities during this month. Best known, I’m sure, is the widespread and ever-popular practice of May Crowning — crowning an image of Our Lady with flowers.

May is certainly a beautiful time — it is, after all, a month full of renewal and celebration. For many Americans, cold March winds and dreary April showers have given way to blooming flowers and trees. Yet, it’s not only flowers and trees that reflect the newness and joy of May. Many students in junior high, high school and college are celebrating their graduations, and will soon be moving on to new phases and exciting opportunities in their lives. And of

course, it is the month when we celebrate Mother’s Day, honoring and extending our gratitude to the women who have faithfully raised and nurtured us.

And May is most certainly a month of joy for all of us who claim the Church as our spiritual home. This year, we spend the whole month in the Easter season, which closes with Pentecost in June. Thus, the joy of the Resurrection and the glory of the Ascension are the themes which fill our Christian calendar this month.

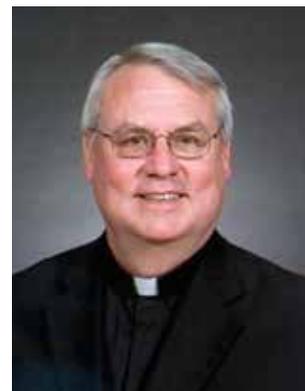
As we rejoice with Mary at her Son’s triumph over sin, Satan and death, we also remember her faithfulness to God’s will throughout her life. Indeed, she can be viewed as the model of Christian stewardship. The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops pointed to her in their pastoral letter on stewardship: “After Jesus, it is the Blessed Virgin Mary who by her example most perfectly teaches the meaning of discipleship and stewardship in their fullest sense. All of their essential elements are found in her life: she was called and gifted by God; she responded generously, creatively, and prudently” (*Stewardship: A Disciple’s Response*, 41).

As we enter into the month of May, let us take the time to gratefully reflect on the newness and joy that surrounds us. And in doing so, let us follow the Blessed Mother’s example of total dedication to God as we rejoice in the blessings He gives us, this month and beyond!

In Christ,



Rev. Msgr. Leo J. Enlow  
Pastor



## PAROCHIAL VICAR FR. AARON KUHN REFLECTS



*Fr. Aaron Kuhn greeting a parishioner after a recent Mass at St. Peter*

**F**r. Aaron Kuhn has been a priest — and a Parochial Vicar — for almost a year, and he looks back on his time at St. Peter thus far with tremendous gratitude.

“This is a great first assignment,” he says. “The parish is fairly big and we have a school, so there is a lot going on. The people here are wonderful. They’ve been very welcoming, encouraging and supportive. I’ve come to really love St. Peter and everything about it. The people, the staff and Fr. Leo have all been great.”

Fr. Aaron grew up one of eight siblings in a devoutly Catholic home on a small dairy farm in Mendon. After graduating from Quincy Notre Dame High School, he went on to receive a degree from Quincy University and spent 12 years in the business world. It was while he was working in the finance office of the chancery for the Diocese

of Springfield that he found himself revisiting and following up on a call to the priesthood that he had first heard during his high school years.

After six years of study at Mundelein Seminary, Fr. Aaron was ordained a diocesan priest in the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Springfield on May 26, 2018.

“[The ordination] was an exciting day, for sure, though the word ‘exciting’ can’t really describe it,” he says. “It was a day of great gratitude for everything in my life and everything that God has given me — knowing that this is what He has asked me to do and embracing that.

“My family was all there, and many people who played a part in my life,” Fr. Aaron continues. “There was this real sense of appreciation and recognizing in a particular way all that God has given me leading up to my ordination, and

# ACTS ON HIS FIRST YEAR IN THE PRIESTHOOD

beyond. So it was really about gratitude and the recognition that everything is a gift from God. And that's what Fr. Leo and I try to emphasize here — to be ever grateful for the gifts God has given us, and mindful of how to use those gifts.”

Following his ordination, Fr. Aaron came to St. Peter in July to begin his first assignment as a diocesan priest. As a Parochial Vicar, he feels that he has learned a lot from our Pastor, Fr. Leo Enlow.

“Very early on, I'd say within the first month of my assignment, I got really comfortable with the parish and with Fr. Leo,” Fr. Aaron says. “I'm still learning many things, but I know that Fr. Leo is someone I can always go to. We're very comfortable talking to one another, and we like to joke with each other a lot. He's not only a great priest but a great Pastor, for the parish and for me, too. We are able to work together really well and are able to support one another.”

With so many wonderful things going on in our parish, Fr. Aaron often finds himself wishing he could be at more than one gathering at a time! He thoroughly enjoys spending time at our parish school, teaching classes or just taking the time to interact with students in the lunchroom. He also likes creating opportunities for parishioners to delve a little deeper into their faith, as he and Fr. Leo did this year by offering a series of Lenten talks.

Beyond the celebration of the sacraments, which is of course central to the life of a priest, Fr. Aaron also cherishes the relationships he is able to form with the faithful.

“It has been very rewarding to me just entering into people's lives at their happiest times, and

even at their saddest and most difficult times,” he says. “A highlight of being a priest is entering into people's lives and allowing them to enter into my life as well, so the people can help me grow in holiness and hopefully I can help them grow in holiness as well.

“And it comes about in many ways,” Fr. Aaron adds. “Sometimes it's in the happiest, most grand moments of their life, and sometimes the most difficult and challenging. God always gives me the grace to enter into those things. God gives me something there that is really a beautiful moment to share with people, and I find it very rewarding.”

Just as Fr. Aaron hopes to be a source of support and encouragement to others, he is thankful for the positive role that the lives of faithful parishioners play in strengthening his own vocation.

“People are wonderful at supporting the priests in general,” he says. “Seeing the parishioners live out their vocations [to married or single life] faithfully every day is so motivating for me, and so beneficial for me in carrying out my vocation as a priest. I really want people to know the impact that they have on the lives of priests.”

It is part of life as a diocesan priest to always be ready and willing to go wherever God may need you, and Fr. Aaron is not sure when or where he might be called next. After such a wonderful start to his first assignment here, however, he confesses that he wouldn't mind sticking around St. Peter for quite a while!

“It's been a great parish to allow the people here to have an impact on my priesthood,” he says. “I really love it here at St. Peter.”

*“It has been very rewarding to me just entering into people's lives at their happiest times, and even at their saddest and most difficult times. A highlight of being a priest is entering into people's lives and allowing them to enter into my life as well, so the people can help me grow in holiness and hopefully I can help them grow in holiness as well.” — FR. AARON KUHN*

# ST. PETER CATHOLIC CHURCH

## THE BIBLE

### *The Textbook of Stewardship*

**H**ave you ever wished that life came with an instruction manual? What a valuable resource that would be! Whenever you find yourself running in circles, this instruction manual would give you step-by-step instructions on how to fix the problem and reroute your course.

Well, here's some good news. For those living a Christian life, there *is* such a manual — the Bible.

Sometimes referred to as the “textbook of stewardship,” the Bible is a bountiful resource for the present-day Christian. Written by anointed prophets and sages, this collection of divinely inspired parables, poems and letters is full of testimonials that express the blessings that come from true discipleship, expressed through lives of stewardship.

Stewardship is not a new concept. The Bible gives proof to this claim through passages such as the 26<sup>th</sup> chapter of the Book of Deuteronomy. We read Moses' words, as he tells the Israelites to offer the choicest portions of their harvest to God: “When you have come into the land which the LORD, your God, is giving you as a heritage, and have taken possession and settled in it, you shall take some first fruits of the various products of the soil which you harvest from the land the LORD, your God, is giving you; put them in a basket and go to the place which the LORD, your God, will choose as the dwelling place for his name... Now, therefore, I have brought the first fruits of the products of the soil which you, LORD, have given me.’ You shall set them before the LORD, your God, and you shall bow down before the LORD, your God” (Dt 26:1-2, 10).

St. Paul briefly touches on the essence of stewardship when he said, “In every way I have shown you that by hard work of that sort we must help the weak, and keep in mind the words

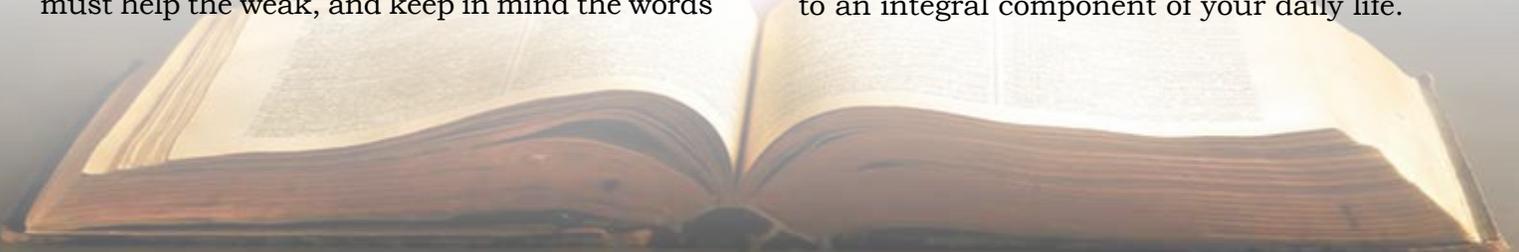
of the Lord Jesus who himself said, ‘It is more blessed to give than to receive’” (Acts 20:35).

Again, in St. Paul's second letter to the Corinthians, we read about living a life of Christian stewardship: “Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Each must do as already determined, without sadness or compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver” (2 Cor 9:6-7).

While this is well and good, what does it mean for the present-day Christian? Why should it matter that the Bible alludes to stewardship in various passages? It shows us that Christians and Jews have struggled with and benefited from the concept of stewardship for thousands of years. It ties the message of stewardship to the role of a Christian disciple. It gives proof that stewardship and discipleship go hand-in-hand. It offers encouragement to us, that stewardship is in fact a foundational component of the Christian life, a way of life that one of the founding fathers of the Church — St. Paul — preached about and advocated.

The Bible is indeed the textbook of stewardship. It lays out the steps we must take to become true disciples of Christ. Reading and meditating upon God's Word is always a fruitful exercise. Those who regularly delve into Scripture often develop a deeper understanding of who God is, how and why He loves us, and how we can show Him our love in return.

As you strive to become a grateful steward and live the life of Christian discipleship, develop a love for Sacred Scripture. Allow God's Word to nourish your soul regularly, and watch as stewardship changes from a foreign concept to an integral component of your daily life.



## THE CATHOLIC FAITH, ON DEMAND:

### *Formation Opportunities Available through FORMED*

Reading, studying, listening and watching are all ways that we can learn — and the Augustine Institute’s FORMED program provides a host of opportunities to do just that, while meeting Catholics where they are at. Our parish is offering this program to help those at all ages and levels of knowledge learn more about the Catholic faith, giving parishioners access to thousands of studies, films, audio recordings and ebooks.

“This is a way to reach people where they are now,” says Director of Religious Education

Gina Bergman. “I think this is important because we live in a digital age and almost all ages have access to a device.”

According to the website, FORMED — the online platform and free mobile apps for iOS and Android — “helps individuals and communities know, love and share their Catholic faith.”

“The Church needs to step into this [digital] space and proclaim, boldly, the Good News about Jesus Christ,” says FORMED President Dr. Tim Gray.

From adult faith formation options and to *Lectio Divina*, to award winning movies and adult Bible studies, FORMED has thousands of options to learn more about the Catholic faith. There are options for groups and individuals, as well as apologetics, which provide information on how to defend Catholic teaching. There is even sacramental preparation information and parenting topics.

“I hope FORMED becomes a means, a platform, in which Catholics can encounter the Good News of Jesus Christ and then have a platform by which they can share that discovery with all their friends, family and coworkers,” Dr. Gray says in a promotional video.

There are even leader guides for those who want to lead their own Bible study. Groups can choose to form on their own.

“We hope people will get together with a group of friends and start their own study,” Gina says.

Parishioners have enjoyed the formation opportunities on offer through FORMED. As Gina notes, one parishioner has mentioned how he enjoys the podcasts when he travels in the car for work.

“He says it helps him keep Christ at the center,” Gina says. “It helps put God first and learn more about the faith.”

There is really no end to how the content on FORMED may be used to increase knowledge of the Catholic faith.

“The times we have used it for youth group conversations, it has given us good content and has led to really good small-group conversation,” Gina says.

Gina encourages parishioners to not get overwhelmed by the amount of content — she recommends

*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

## *The Catholic Faith, On Demand* continued from page 7

starting with an all-ages video series called “Opening the Word,” which is under 10 minutes and helps prepare for the Sunday readings.

“Any level of your faith journey, you should be able to find something,” Gina says. “You can study everything from academics to a Brother Francis video for a 4-year-old.”

Gina is excited about the potential for our parish and urges everyone to sign up or download the app and start exploring.

“This isn’t just reading the *Catechism* —

there are a lot of trending topics,” Gina says. “This is great for people that don’t have time to attend a Bible study. You can do this in your pajamas on the couch.”

As Dr. Gray says, “John Paul II called us to be the new evangelization. He wants us to employ new technologies in innovative ways to share the Gospel.”

“There are so many different ways to learn and there is something for everyone at every level,” Gina says.

*To access FORMED on a desktop, please visit [cospq.formed.org](http://cospq.formed.org). To access FORMED on your phone, visit your smartphone’s app store to download the FORMED app. Our parish code is 2VHY9C. You can also visit a link on our parish website, [www.cospq.org](http://www.cospq.org).*

*If you would like more information on how to access FORMED or to learn more about the program, please contact Director of Religious Education Gina Bergman at 217-430-6080 or [g.bergman@cospq.org](mailto:g.bergman@cospq.org).*