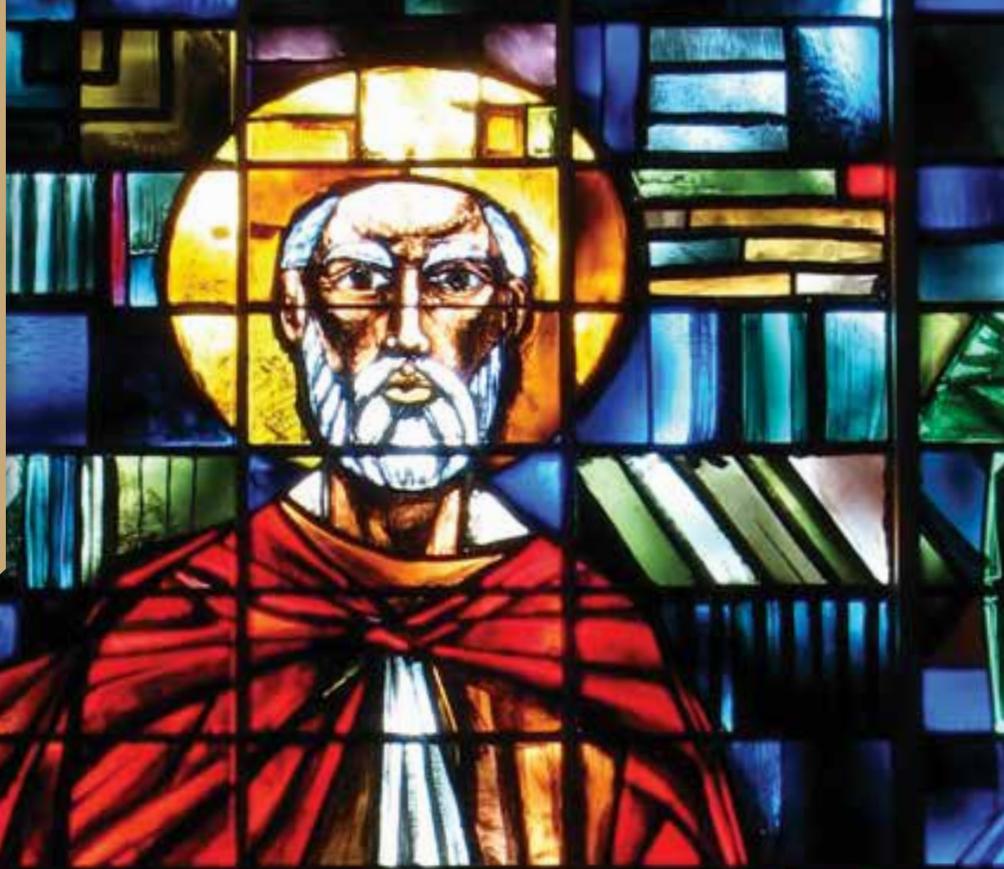


Church of St. Peter, Quincy III

MONTHLY
NEWSLETTER



EMBRACING STEWARDSHIP

Through Participation in the Grade School Association

When parishioner Tara Bealor first decided to get more involved in St. Peter's Grade School Association, or GSA, she never dreamed that she would one day become the organization's president. She was just looking for a way to become more involved and to meet other school parents. Yet, the longer she was involved, the more she came to appreciate and desire to do more for this important ministry.

"Initially, I did it mainly as a way to make new friends as I didn't know many people from the parish at the time," Tara says. "But the longer I did it, the more I just wanted to support the organization and get involved. Not only does it really help you get to know more people, but it's truly a great stewardship opportunity that will enrich your own life."

The GSA, says Tara, serves a threefold mission for our parish and school. First, it exists to support our educators and further connect them with school families through the sponsorship and organization of school events. This varies from teacher luncheons, book fairs, school dances and the annual School Picnic.



Youth enjoy fun, food and friendship during the School Picnic.

The GSA also works to deepen St. Peter School's overall community spirit and lastly coordinates volunteer resources whenever needed.

Though every school parent is automatically a member of the GSA through their child's enrollment, there are many ways for parents to become more involved in this organization. They can attend monthly GSA meetings, which typically occur either the third or fourth Thursday of the month at 10 a.m. Parents are welcome to attend these meetings as at-large members or to get further involved as either a

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STEWARDSHIP'S "SUPREME TEACHER" *Following Christ's Example*

Former President and Five-Star General Dwight D. Eisenhower once said, "You don't lead by hitting people over the head — that's assault, not leadership." President Eisenhower's words are both blunt and humorous, but he makes a great point. Almost any successful endeavor in life requires the benefit of strong leadership. And a truly effective leader does not lead by simply telling others what to do, but by providing a strong example of how to carry oneself on a daily basis.

This is no different for us in our lives as Catholic Christians. As individuals who face numerous difficult choices every day, we require a leader who, through word *and* example, can show us the path to living according to God's will. For us, Jesus is the supreme teacher of every aspect of Christian life, and His life as documented in the Gospels is a model that we should strive to imitate in living as good Christians. And as we have learned,

stewardship — the sharing of the gifts that God has given to us — is a big part of Christian life, and one for which Jesus left many examples of successful living.

Jesus' nature of selfless service, documented many times throughout the New Testament and culminating with His death for our sins, is an underlying aspect of living the stewardship way of life. As the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops points out in its pastoral document *Stewardship: A Disciple's Response*, "In Jesus' teaching and life self-emptying is fundamental. Now, it might seem that self-emptying has little to do with stewardship, but in Jesus' case that is not so. His self-emptying is not sterile self-denial for its own sake; rather, in setting aside self, he is filled with the Father's will, and he is fulfilled in just this way" (19).

Jesus points out to Peter in Mark's Gospel that this "self-emptying" requires sacrifice, but ultimately leads

to "eternal life in the age to come" (Mk 10:30). But the Christian steward's ultimate reward is not his or her only benefit from living the stewardship way of life. By sharing of our time, talent, and treasure, and living in imitation of Christ, we can relate more closely to Him in sharing, in a small way, in His sacrifice. "To be a Christian disciple is a rewarding way of life, a way of companionship with Jesus, and the practice of stewardship as a part of it is itself a source of deep joy. Those who live this way are happy people who have found the meaning and purpose of living" (*Stewardship: A Disciple's Response*, 21).

The next time you are frustrated or unsure of how to best respond to God's gifts in stewardship, take a moment to open up the Bible. Jesus may not "hit us over the head" in His leadership, but He does provide numerous examples through His actions and teachings of how to live as one of His disciples.



A Letter from Our Pastor

THE MASS IS A GIFT, TO GOD AND OUR PARISH COMMUNITY

Dear Parishioners,

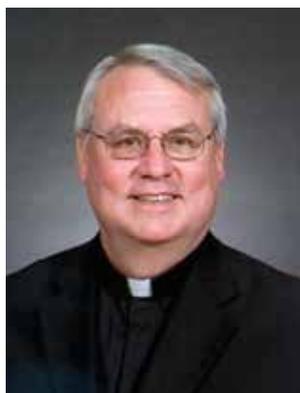
It is hard to believe that August is upon us! We are now approaching the returns to school, the completion of vacations, and the time when things here at our parish get busier again.

We call them vacations, but the British call them “holidays.” Of course, it’s easy to see that the words “holiday” and “holy day” share the same roots. There was a time when the only “holidays” people experienced were indeed “holy days.” That included Sunday, to be sure, but the reason people had these “holy days” was to celebrate religious times and occasions.

We’re all pretty familiar with the term “Holy Day of Obligation.” In fact, there is one this month — Aug. 15, the Solemnity of the Assumption of Mary. A solemnity is a feast day of the highest rank in the Church — and as we are told in the *Code of Canon Law* (1247), “On Sundays and other holy days of obligation, the faithful are obliged to participate in the Mass.”

Note that what this actually says is that Sunday is, in fact, a Holy Day of Obligation — we should view our weekly Mass attendance this way, as well. Sometimes in our busy modern lives, we may lose sight of how important this is.

Of course, our Mass attendance goes hand



in hand with stewardship — how we take and responsibly use the gifts God has given us, then return and share those gifts with the Lord and those around us. Although going to Mass is a gift to the Lord, it is also a gift to our community and to ourselves. We need that time to step back from our daily worries and concerns, and to look deeper into the meaning of living and of the importance of our relationship with God.

This month, and always, let us each consider how important it is to attend Mass. If we are really going to be committed to stewardship, we need to realize the significance of setting aside time each week and on designated holy days — Aug. 15, for example — to be with the Lord and with our parish community at Mass. We must be completely committed to living out our Catholic faith!

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

ST. PETER CATHOLIC CHURCH

Drawing Closer to God's Word at the U

When ladies get together for the Wednesday Night Women's Bible Study, they feast on the bounty of God's Word, crack open the treasure chest of Catholicism, and relish in the joy of being sisters in Christ.

"We learn so much from each other and we help each other understand the Bible," says Jennifer Deters, who facilitates the study along with Lori Bertram. "Life is hard and when we are united together in God's Word, we remind each other to keep trusting God, and to keep praying. We read and share Scriptures that speak hope, love and peace into our lives and our circumstances."

By savoring time away from their busy lives, they are able to dive into the richness of the sacred, life-giving Scriptures.

"Our time together is always meaningful," Jennifer says. "Sometimes it's hard to come back to church in the evenings after getting home from work, but the hardest part is just showing up. God always blesses our time together and He always has a message for us. It's so peaceful to sit in the Martha Jane Room with each other and focus only on God's Word, without any dishes, laundry or cell phones to distract us. It's quiet and peaceful. We read, think, share and listen to each other."

With the help of the Holy Spirit, they contemplate the beautiful truths that the Scriptures have to offer.

"Our Bible study keeps me close to God's Word," Lori says. "I'm very conscious of opening the Bible when I'm involved in a study. I find myself digging deeper than I normally would."

Beginning with prayer at each meeting, they thank God for their time together and ask Him to help them grow in their faith. They also discuss their homework questions, and watch and discuss a 20 to 30-minute-long video. They close with heartfelt prayer, interceding for specific prayer intentions, as well as for priests, our church, our schools, families and friends, and for the world.

"Being able to have a group of women who you can ask for prayers when life gets tough is extremely comforting," says member Betty McDonnell. "Recently, our group was praying for some friends who were going through a heart-wrenching situation in their family — mercifully, their situation was resolved. Having others pray with you during tough times and being able to share in each other's pain is so helpful."



With the help of the Holy Spirit, study participants contemplate the beautiful truths that the Scriptures have to offer.

Wednesday Night Women's Bible Study

Thus far, they have studied the Gospel of John twice, as well as the books of Philippians and Ephesians. They have also done book studies on *Rediscover Jesus* and *Resisting Happiness* by Matthew Kelly.

"The study has held me accountable to remain in His Word, and to always be present and prayerful," Cheryl Sowell says. "Since joining this study group, I have made a conscious effort to begin and end most days in prayer. I have also begun asking questions of myself and really thinking about what it is God is asking of me or calling me to do. I've

found that the knowledge I've gained from the study and from the women in our group surfaces when I need it most."

A study will be offered from September through November, and another one from February through April. Both studies will meet on Wednesdays from 6:00 to 7:45 p.m. in the Martha Jane Room.

"I would encourage other ladies to get involved in a Bible study because the Bible will change your life," Jennifer says. "It's full of God's wisdom, hope, peace, comfort and guidance. God's Word is for everyone."

Ladies interested in joining may call Jennifer Deters at 217-430-0298 or Lori Bertram at 618-509-1104.

GRADE SCHOOL ASSOCIATION *continued from front cover*

committee member or chairperson.

"Our meetings are currently held during the day because that's much more convenient for our school's principal," Tara says. "These meetings allow parents to help influence the activities that we sponsor and learn more about what is going on at the school. We always welcome participants' opinions and it is a great way to get to know some of the other parents. But even if you can't physically be at the meetings due to work or other obligations, you can follow them through the minutes that are emailed out each month."

Parents can also support the GSA by just volunteering where they can, be that bringing in a dish for the teachers' appreciation luncheon, helping out as a room parent for

their child's class, and all the other "little things" that come up throughout the school year. Not only does this enable school events to run more smoothly, but it also helps deepen the family atmosphere experienced by so many at St. Peter School.

"Getting involved however you can just makes your entire family feel more a part of the school," Tara says. "These days, I feel like I'm at the school to do volunteer stuff or work with the GSA quite often. I love that it's enabled me to see and get to know the kids. I've been able to see how the day runs and get to know the staff members on a personal level. It just makes everything feel more like family — it really fosters and builds up those relationships."

All school parents are encouraged to get more involved in the Grade School Association this school year. For more information, contact Tara Bealor, GSA President, at either 312-259-8602 or taragasaway@hotmail.com.

SAVE THE DATE



St. Peter Parish Picnic

2600 Maine Street—Quincy, IL
Behind the Church

Beer and Wine served

Food Selections include:

Pork Tenderloin, Pulled Pork,
Hamburgers, Brats, Hot Dogs,
Onion Rings, Nachos, Funnel Cake
Fries, Shaved Ice, Walking Tacos,
Popcorn, Cotton candy etc.

Games for all ages!

SATURDAY, AUGUST 24

5:00 PM—MIDNIGHT

AFTER 4:00 PM MASS

**MAIN RAFFLE \$4,500 IN
CASH PRIZES**

**50/50, SILENT AUCTION,
& BASKET RAFFLE**

Live Entertainment 8:00-midnight



Rock Break
NASH NEXT 2017 Finalist

MEET THE SEDOVIC FAMILY

Embracing a Stewardship Way of Life

If you had told Tim and Karen Sedovic five years ago that they would be waking up and heading to church every Thursday at 3 a.m., they probably wouldn't have believed you! Yet, their shared commitment to a weekly adoration hour is just one of the many ways in which this couple has come to fully embrace the stewardship lifestyle here at St. Peter over the last few years. By becoming more involved in parish life, Tim and Karen have felt their faith and family life grow and strengthen beyond measure.

When Tim and Karen moved from St. Louis to Quincy about 10 years ago, they became parishioners at St. Peter. At the time, their involvement with the parish didn't extend beyond attending Sunday Mass. However, after enrolling their oldest child in the St. Peter Preschool a few years later, they became more engaged in church life.

Now, with three children at the parish school — Annabelle, 11; Elise, 9; and Michael, 6 — the Sedovics have become truly immersed in our faith community.

"A lot of our world revolves around St. Peter — the church, the school, and so many activities," Karen says. "We know a great deal of parishioners and people at the school. The kids are very comfortable here, and it's like a home for them."

Tim and Karen were both raised Catholic, and have always known that they wanted to pass the faith on to their children.

"We want God to be the foundation at the core of their being, and for them to always have that faith at the center of their lives," Tim says. "We all go over speed bumps and trials over the years, and you just hope with God at the core, it will keep you as close to center as possible."

As they bring their children up in the faith, the Sedovics recognize the importance



Tim and Karen Sedovic with their children — (from left) Annabelle, Elise and (front) Michael

of providing a visible model of an active life in the Church. Over the last three years, they have been inspired to participate more fully in our parish and school. Karen serves on the School Advisory Board and on the Haiti Sister Parish Committee, while Tim serves on the Stewardship Committee and as an usher. Together, the couple chairs the annual school fundraiser and covers an hour of adoration each week.

The more the Sedovics have become involved in parish life, the more they have a desire to serve.

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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

MEET THE SEDOVIC FAMILY *continued from page 7*

“I think it’s just embracing stewardship as a way of life,” Karen says. “Once you get involved, you meet other parishioners who are involved, and it’s contagious. You’re growing closer to God and you’re forming relationships with other people. It’s inspiring — there are so many people doing amazing things through stewardship at St. Peter. Tim and I are trying to learn from them, and grow.”

Feeling greatly blessed by the way the Lord has worked in their lives since they first made

stewardship a priority, Tim and Karen would encourage all parishioners to find a way to participate more fully in our faith community.

“We’re just a little spoke in the wheel,” Tim says. “But to paraphrase something Fr. Leo has said, with any time, talent and treasure we give, the blessings always come back to us. Karen and I have found that the more we commit to that life, the deeper and more gratifying our relationship with Christ has become.”

“I think it’s just embracing stewardship as a way of life. Once you get involved, you meet other parishioners who are involved, and it’s contagious. You’re growing closer to God and you’re forming relationships with other people. It’s inspiring — there are so many people doing amazing things through stewardship at St. Peter.”

— KAREN SEDOVIC