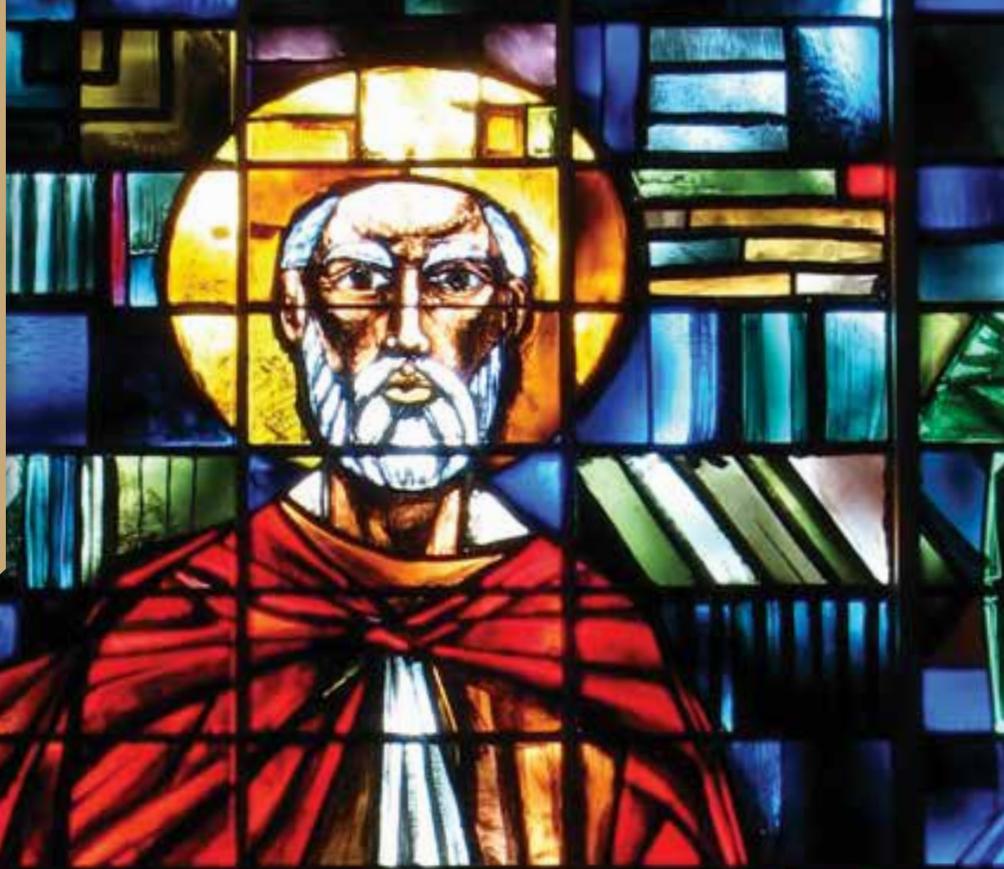


# Church of St. Peter, Quincy III

MONTHLY  
NEWSLETTER



## NEW SCHOOL YEAR BEGINS AT ST. PETER'S

*Parish School Focuses on Fostering Unity and Cultivating Virtue*

When Principal Cindy Venvertloh anticipates a new school year at St. Peter School, she particularly looks forward to celebrating Mass with the school community.

"There's something really special about our school Masses," Mrs. Venvertloh says. "When they walk out the doors after Mass, sometimes they're still singing the closing song. It's wonderful to see them all together worshipping. I miss that over the summer."

This fall, we begin a new academic year at St. Peter School with a focus on fostering unity, which is underscored as we gather together each morning in prayer. Over the summer, many teachers attended Virtue-Based Restorative Discipline, a program for cultivating virtue at home and at school, and the staff will continue learning the program throughout this school year.

"We're looking for an intentional way to teach the students about virtue," Mrs. Venvertloh says. "We're focusing on unity this year. We pray together each morning, and we're working together as a school, both students and teachers, to choose good behaviors."



*Students and staff are ready for a new school year at St. Peter School!*

Families can expect several changes to the school this fall, from upgrades to our facilities to new staff and faculty.

"Thanks to the generosity of Father and the parishioners, all the floors are being redone, and we have new air conditioning in many classrooms," Mrs. Venvertloh says. "We also have a new science

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# ST. PETER CATHOLIC CHURCH

## NEW SCHOOL YEAR BEGINS AT ST. PETER'S *continued from front cover*

program for grades fifth through eighth, and we're mapping the social studies curriculum this year."

In addition, we are welcoming Tom VanderBor back to St. Peter School this fall. He taught seventh and eighth grade language arts and religion from 2000 to 2005 at St. Peter, and will be returning to teach language arts and religion once again.

Two staff members, Sheri Shelton and Loretta Goehl, will now be coordinating our after-school program.

"These ladies are going to take over our daycare program," Mrs. Venvertloh says. "They have some great new ideas and are very committed. They always put the kids first."

In addition to the Parish Picnic in August, another opportunity for our students and families to come together and celebrate our community is the Area-Wide Catholic Schools Mass at Quincy Notre Dame on Sept. 24.

"Kindergarteners through eighth-grade students from all the Catholic schools join the high school students for Mass said by the bishop," Mrs. Venvertloh says. "It's a very special celebration."

Each year, so many faith community members contribute to making St. Peter School thrive — from the men who clean up the school grounds on Wednesdays to the volunteers who come read stories to the students.

"Thank you all for your support," Mrs. Venvertloh says. "I can't brag about my staff enough, for they create a strong foundation throughout the school, and the school functions as it does because we are a stewardship parish. We appreciate you and your continued prayers."



*Students learn as they work together.*



*Things are looking up as the new school year begins!*

*For more information about the new school year and how to become involved at St. Peter School, please reach out to Principal Cindy Venvertloh and the school office at 217-223-1120.*

## GETTING OUR PRIORITIES IN ORDER

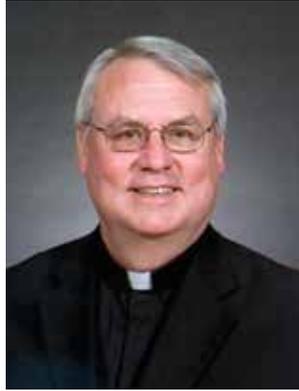
Dear Parishioners,

I know that many people are not on a school year calendar. But for many of us, September brings a livelier rhythm to our schedules. Life just seems to get busier after Labor Day. Therefore, this month seems to be a good time to think about our priorities and to pray for God's guidance.

It has been said that the truly important is often pushed aside by the merely urgent. So, as you review your priorities, please make sure that you include what's really important!

First of all, be sure to include time for God, as well as for job, family and recreation. Of prime importance, make sure that Mass on Sundays is a top priority — that's the most important event of the week. In addition, reserve some time for personal Scripture study, as well as prayer with your family or a prayer group — then incorporate that into your daily and weekly routine.

There are many forces pulling at us as we decide where to use our talents. For most of us, our jobs claim the lion's share of our efforts and sometimes threaten to engulf our whole lives. We also have responsibilities to our families and legitimate calls for service to the community — that obviously includes the Church. We have lots of areas for service right here in our own parish — religious education, music, serving



as an usher, or any one of the many ministries in which you may use your talents to grow closer to God.

Finally, we have to set priorities for using our money. As Christians, we are responsible to God for the use of the financial resources He has entrusted to us — no matter if it's a lot or a little — and to make a return to God in thanksgiving. In this regard, Scripture gives us the tithe

as a goal. Working toward a tithe may mean some changes in your priorities, but I can tell you from personal experience that those who have adopted this as their standard of giving experience a joy rooted in the spiritual growth that occurs as we continually live out the "three Ts" of stewardship — time, talent and treasure.

Priorities are certainly a part of life. As you review your own priorities, especially now that many regular routines are starting up again, ask yourself how you will use the time, talent and treasure entrusted to you by God.

In Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rev. Msgr. Leo J. Enlow". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Rev. Msgr. Leo J. Enlow  
Pastor



## SCHOOL OFFICE STAFF PA

The teachers and students at St. Peter School all look forward to that first day of the year with a lot of excitement and anticipation. But there are other school staffers who are just as excited to welcome back their student “family.” At St. Peter School, secretary Roberta Hutson and administrative assistant Sara Bradfield count themselves as staff members who look forward to seeing the youngsters again.

Roberta has been a secretary at St. Peter School for four years. She originally was hired as a teacher’s aide, but was later asked to be a secretary. During the school year she works all five days of the week, and abbreviated hours during the summer.

“It’s really exciting when the kids come back,” she says. “It’s great to see them all come back. They’ve grown, both physically and emotionally and just in so many ways. They are full of excitement about going into the next grade with new teachers. We all look forward to it!”

In the days leading up to the first day of school, the office staff works with the teachers to get everything ready. They clean, replace supplies and materials that are worn out, and get the classrooms ready.

On some occasions when Roberta is out shopping, she will meet students who are getting their school supplies.

“The kids get so excited,” she says. “They recognize you and it’s almost like you’re a celebrity. ‘You shouldn’t be out shopping!’ the kids say. They’re not sure what to make of seeing you. It’s so cute!”

Roberta’s three children were attending St. Peter’s when she began working there. There were some emotions to navigate about having Mom at school.

“It was a little tricky at first,” she says. “I had been a stay-at-home Mom, and for me to go back was kind of exciting for them. My oldest son was in junior high at the time, and he was the one to convince me it was okay. They did love having me at school.”

When Roberta isn’t at school, she enjoys spending time with the family, although the children’s activities often keep them busy elsewhere. She also enjoys spending time with her



*(From left) Roberta Hutson and Sara Bradfield help keep things running smoothly at St. Peter School. They both enjoy seeing the students after the summer break and look forward to watching them as they grow in their faith through the school year.*

# PART OF ST. PETER FAMILY

husband and her mother.

“I love to get together with friends, and have a weekend with the girls,” Roberta says. “I try to have a date night with my husband once a week. We try to go to dinner and catch a movie or get together with friends.”

Whether she is at work or home, Roberta has found that working with the school has enabled her faith to grow.

“It encourages me,” she says. “I’m stronger in my faith because of it. The times you see the kids experience the milestones, First Communion, and so on, taking those steps — it’s very exciting to be part of that as school family.”

Being part of the St. Peter School family also allows Roberta to live more strongly in stewardship.

“Each morning I get to work and pray with my students and faculty,” she says. “We pray each morning. It helps you keep your faith growing. How awesome is it to start the day with Mass and start the day with prayer with the people you work with. It’s a wonderful feeling.”

Sara takes care of a lot of paperwork and details that goes with operating the school. She will pull together data for the principal’s reports and handles student files. Her time working at the school began when her four sons were St. Peter’s students and she often volunteered.

“I was hired as a kindergarten aide, and then moved to second grade, and then I wound up in the office,” she says. “As administrative assistant, I also help Roberta and I write the weekly newsletter that goes to the parents.”

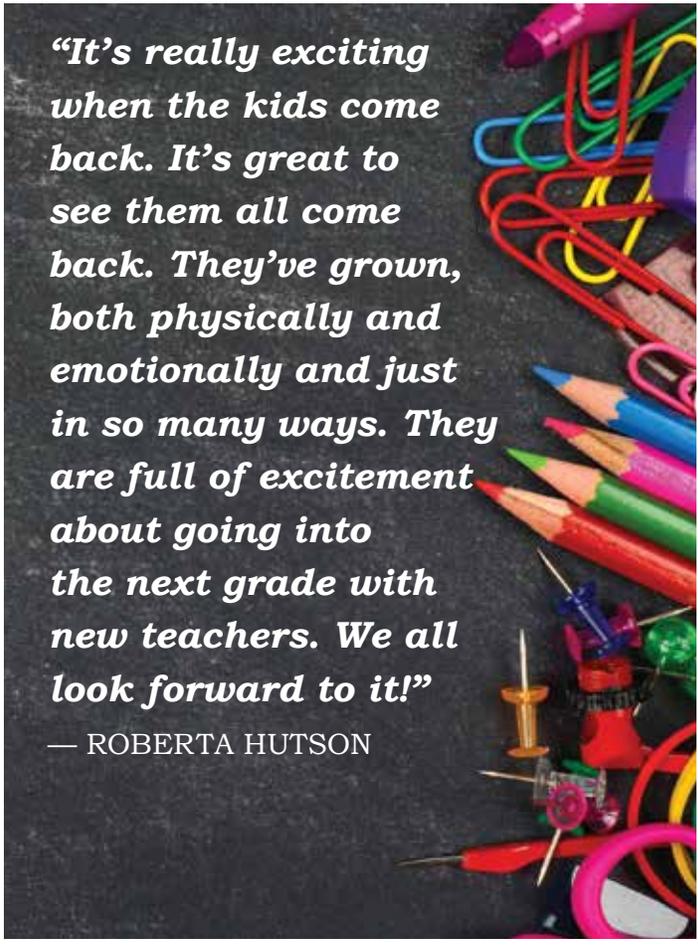
For Sara, her most favorite thing about working at St. Peter School is the kids.

“I just love being around the kids,” she says. “We start each day with a prayer and end the day with prayer, and I really like that. It sets the tone. I love that at St. Peter, we’re a

family. We celebrate together and if someone is hurting, we’re there for each other. I really like that.”

Sara has also found that working at the school and watching the students growing in their faith has helped her own faith grow.

“One of the things Fr. Leo told the kids is that a nice thing to do is to talk to Jesus, and thank Him for the day, to praise Him, and end the day saying ‘thank You’ for the day, and expressing sorrow if you have done anything to hurt Him,” Sara says. “This is a child’s prayer, but I do it. It’s a good thing, and something I learned here. It doesn’t always have to be a prayer. You can just thank God for all we have.”



***“It’s really exciting when the kids come back. It’s great to see them all come back. They’ve grown, both physically and emotionally and just in so many ways. They are full of excitement about going into the next grade with new teachers. We all look forward to it!”***

— ROBERTA HUTSON

# ST. PETER CATHOLIC CHURCH

Katie Conner of Augusta, Georgia will present

## Stewardship in the Family

Come hear how the principles of Stewardship can be applied to your relationships within your family: with your parents, siblings, spouse, children, grandchildren, etc. Adults of all ages are welcome!

Katie is a joyful wife, mother of nine, and attorney. In her legal practice, Katie represents abused and neglected children in the foster care system and serves as legal counsel to a local non-profit dedicated to assisting victims of human trafficking. She is delighted to share her personal testimony and eager to offer the gift of a stewardship way of life to those near and far.

September 27, 2019  
7:00 PM at St. Peter Church



Let's pack the church and enjoy a fun evening of learning and fellowship!

## BACK TO SCHOOL, BACK TO THE BASICS

### Catholic Parenting Tips for a New School Year

Our role as parents is crucial. We take the education of our children seriously and don't hesitate to drop everything to review spelling words, check homework or explain a math concept — not to mention the high volume of energy we exert washing school clothes, finding school shoes, making lunches, and carting children back and forth.

However, in light of these efforts, it is also important to examine what we do for our children's spiritual formation. Many years ago, as we held our children at the baptismal font, we promised to "accept the responsibilities of Christian parenthood" by teaching our children through "word and example."

Too often, we placate ourselves with the notion that they receive adequate spiritual education during religion class at school or through the parish religious education program. Yet, religious education is intended to merely reinforce what is taught at home. Parents are the primary educators of their children and are expected to pass on the faith through "word and example."

Where do we begin? First and foremost, we must start with prayer and ask the Holy Family to guide our efforts in the spiritual education of our children. Bless the food before meals. Establish a simple routine of family morning and night prayer — a recitation of the "Morning Offering" upon waking, and an "Act of Contrition" at night is a sufficient starting point.

Also, faith formation is a lifelong process and we, as parents, are not exempt! Take advantage of the parish adult faith formation programs and seek spiritual reading — the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* is a great place to start.

JOIN US FOR A

## STEWARDSHIP IN THE FAMILY RETREAT

ALL ARE WELCOME!



St. Peter Catholic Church  
Saturday, Sept. 28  
8 a.m. until 2 p.m.

"I have come that you might have life, and have it abundantly." (Jn 10:10)

Our Lord wants only the very best for us. In turn, we should want to give Him our very best in return! Spend some time with Him and with your parish family, discovering what it is the Lord especially wants for you and your family at this time in your life. We have a God of abundance. Let Him show you all He has in mind for you — to receive and to share! Our parish retreat will include Mass, inspiring talks by Mrs. Katie Conner and Mrs. Lisa McArdle from Augusta, GA, time for quiet reflection and brief small-group discussion.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Mgr. Leo Enlow  
Pastor

For more information or to RSVP, please contact Lyn Strieker at 217-316-4590 or Lstrieker@cosppa.org by September 17.

### RETREAT SCHEDULE

8:00 a.m.	Mass	Church
8:45 a.m.	Continental Breakfast	School Gym
<b>SESSION ONE</b>	<b>"STEWARDSHIP: A FAMILY CALL"</b>	
9:15 a.m.	Talk	School Gym
9:45 a.m.	Small Group Discussion	School Gym
10:05 a.m.	Break	
<b>SESSION TWO</b>	<b>"LIVING AS A STEWARDSHIP FAMILY"</b>	
10:15 a.m.	Talk	School Gym
11:00 a.m.	Small Group Discussion	School Gym
11:20 a.m.	Break	
<b>BRING IT TO THE LORD</b>	Prayer & Reflection	Church
<b>LUNCH</b>		
12:00 p.m.	Lunch & Fellowship	School Gym
<b>SESSION THREE</b>	<b>"THE FOUR FAMILY PILLARS"</b>	
12:45 p.m.	Talk	School Gym
1:15 p.m.	Small Group Discussion	School Gym
1:40 p.m.	Commissioning & Closing	School Gym

### RETREAT LEADER - LISA MCGARDLE

Lisa McArdle is a mother of five daughters ranging in age from 9 years old to 23 years old from Augusta, GA. She has been married for 25



years to her college sweetheart. Lisa is the Co-founder of Catholic Stewardship Consultants, an organization committed to fostering stewardship as a way of life in Catholic parishes across the country for over twenty years. She loves to find God's graces in family life.

### RETREAT LEADER - KATIE CONNER

Katie Conner is a joyful wife, mother of nine, and attorney from Augusta, Ga. Katie represents abused and neglected children in the



Georgia foster care system and serves as Legal Counsel to I-Care, a local non-profit dedicated to assisting victims of human trafficking and their children. Katie and her husband, Steve, discovered stewardship many years ago and it has transformed their lives in unexpected ways.

# CITYWIDE ALL-SCHOOL MASS BRINGS TOGETHER CATHOLIC COMMUNITY

*Sept. 24 Mass Set to Prepare Students for School Year*



*Priests process in the Quincy Notre Dame gym for the Citywide All-School Mass in 2018.*

The sight of 1,300 students celebrating the Mass with 12 priests and eight deacons is truly something to behold. It happens each year when students from the four Catholic elementary schools and the Quincy Deanery gather at Quincy Notre Dame to celebrate Mass together, often with Bishop Thomas John Paprocki as the presider.

“I love this Mass,” says Gina Bergman, Director of Religious Education at St. Peter’s. “We often see grandparents and parents come, sitting at the top where there is room.”

Students are seated on bleachers on the floor of the gym, often wearing matching shirts with their classmates, creating a sea of various colors.

“It’s a neat visual of everyone coming together,” Gina says. “They really pack the gym

when everyone is there.”

Everyone from our community is welcome at 9:30 a.m. on Sept. 24 to join us in the gym and receive the Eucharist along with our 1,000-plus students.

“It’s pretty rare to have all the students together like this,” Gina says. “It’s a great opportunity for us to all come together, as one church, even though they go to different schools.”

Another rarity is seeing that many priests and deacons together at the same Mass.

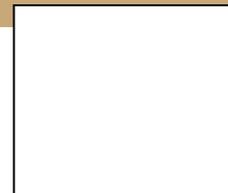
“Watching the priests and deacons process to the altar is a beautiful sight,” Gina says. “The consecration is also neat to see — all of those priests surrounding the altar.”

Another special part of this Mass is that students from each of the schools serve, whether

*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

## CITYWIDE ALL-SCHOOL MASS BRINGS TOGETHER CATHOLIC COMMUNITY *continued from page 7*

that be reading the petitions, carrying the gifts or leading in song.

"It's beautiful to hear all the students singing the Mass songs together," Gina says. "Most of the time they know all the songs."

This Mass includes all ages and all schools, and is a real sign of the universality of the Catholic Church in action. It is also a wonderful way to show our unity across Quincy Catholic Schools. In turn, Gina hopes parishioners will attend and experience this Mass for themselves.

"Everyone is welcome, and hopefully people can come and celebrate the Eucharist with our local students," Gina says.



*Students and community members gather for Mass in the Quincy Notre Dame gym for the Citywide All-School Mass in 2018.*

*You are invited to join us at the **Quincy Notre Dame Gymnasium** at **9:30 a.m.** on **Tuesday, Sept. 24**, as we celebrate the Citywide All-School Mass!*