

St. Peter Welcomes New Parochial Vicar

FR. PAWEL LUCZAK



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Fr. Pawel was born and raised in Radzymin, just outside Warsaw, Poland. He first had an inkling that he might be called to the priesthood when he was about 10 years old.

"We were talking in school one day about what kind of professions we would have in the future, and suddenly the thought came to me that maybe I should be a priest," Fr. Pawel says of that moment. "And that idea just stuck in my head from then on."

Though he was drawn to the priesthood from early on, Fr. Pawel would soon discover that God had many other adventures in store for him before he started along that path. In 2006, he joined the Pallottine order as a novitiate, but later decided that he was not yet ready for the seminary. Instead, he became a customer service representative for the Orange network, a European mobile service provider.

About five years later, a friend in the United Kingdom

ST. PETER CATHOLIC CHURCH

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offered him a job working in a laundry. Fr. Pawel happily accepted this new adventure abroad. He later worked in another customer service role there, as well as in a plastics factory.

In addition to his various work experiences, Fr. Pawel's years in the U.K. provided him with two other important opportunities — immersive time for improving his English and the chance to witness a kind of priesthood unlike one he had ever before encountered.

"I saw what the model of priesthood looks like in the U.K., where the pastor really has a relationship with the people," Fr. Pawel says. "In Poland, it is much more formal and strict—there is no shaking hands after Mass or inviting priests for a meal. When I saw how it looked in the U.K., I really liked that and realized it was more for me."

With this in mind, on the advice of a friend who had studied in Michigan, Fr. Pawel began a course of studies at Ss. Cyril & Methodius Seminary at Orchard Lake. Following two years of seminary studies, Fr. Pawel spent his last year in pastoral formation at Our Saviour Parish in Jacksonville, under the guidance of pastor Fr. Tom Meyer.

Due to the COVID-19 crisis, Fr. Pawel's ordination on May 2 did not look exactly the way anyone had imagined — but the celebration was uniquely beautiful nonetheless.

"It was amazing," says Fr. Pawel of the

ordination. "It was something unusual, especially when our bishop was able to say the homily in Polish and make the atmosphere friendly and filled with the Spirit. This was especially nice since my family and friends weren't able to come from Poland and Michigan. The other priest being ordained, Fr. Piotr Kosk, was also Polish, so you could say we had a Polish ordination this year!"

Having spent a summer assignment at St. Anthony of Padua last year, Fr. Pawel is excited to be back in Quincy and serving our parish alongside Fr. Leo.

"St. Peter is a beautiful church and the rectory is very nice and comfortable," he says. "I'm looking forward to working with Fr. Leo — he's got a great reputation, and I know he will be really good at leading and mentoring me in my early years as a priest."

Feeling blessed to be embarking upon his vocation to the priesthood right here in our parish, Fr. Pawel hopes to meet each and every parishioner very soon.

"The most exciting part is just meeting people and being out with them, and getting to know them better and the needs and concerns in their daily life and spiritual life, and then being able to respond to those needs," he says. "I'm looking forward to meeting the parishioners and the people, and going to see the school and the students, and just waiting for that moment when I can say 'hello' to everyone after Mass!"

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- FR. PAWEL LUCZAK

A LETTER FROM OUR PASTOR

Welcome Back... Welcome Home

Dear Parishioners,

To those of you who have been actively participating in the life of our parish but have been forced to stay away due to the COVID-19 pandemic, welcome home!

To those of you who haven't been to church in years and decided to renew your faith, welcome back, and welcome home!

During these past few months, we have experienced some of the most challenging and unnerving times in

the history of our nation and Church. As we are emerging from the darkness of this crisis and are finally returning to Mass at 25 percent capacity, and hopefully soon will return to parish activities and ministries, I feel blessed and excited.

Excited to see familiar faces.

Excited to see new faces.

Excited to see faces of those we haven't seen in a while but decided to come back!

In times like these, when nothing seems to make sense, I am so very glad you are here. The timing of your return is perfect, because the truth is we need Christ now more than ever.

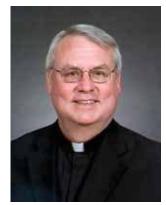
Whether you have simply been forced to stay away while public Masses were canceled, or if you have been away from the Church for many years, this crisis has changed us.

All of us.

We have had some extra time lately for introspection. For personal reflection. And for prayer. And perhaps during this era of isolation and social distancing, you have found yourself yearning for Christ more than ever before in the hopes of finding some meaning to all of this.

You have come to the right place.

As you walk through our doors for the first time in months — or perhaps even years — I hope you see the face of Christ in myself and in all those around you. I hope you find a welcoming parish family there to greet you, overjoyed by your return.



As Christ tells us, from Matthew's Gospel, "For I was a stranger, you welcomed me" (Mt. 25:35).

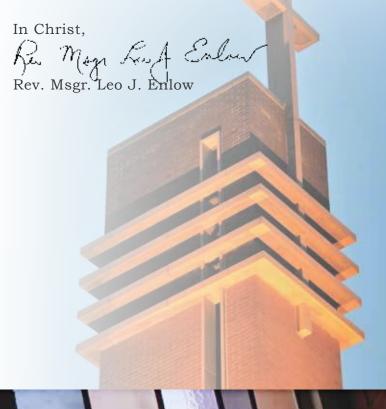
The truth is, there really are no strangers at our parish. So as you come back home to our parish, I hope and pray you experience that same spirit of kindness and hospitality from all your fellow parishioners.

Whether you're a longtime parishioner, or someone who fell away from the Catholic Church and

are now ready to become renewed in the faith, let us all remember to welcome all who enter our parish doors with open arms, smiling faces and a servant's heart.

By living out our calling as Christian stewards, we will all emerge from this dark time as a community of faith that is stronger than ever — together.

Welcome back. And welcome home.



ST. PETER CATHOLIC CHURCH

St. Peter School: MORE

hen Principal Cindy Venvertloh and her staff chose "unity" for the 2019-20 St. Peter School theme, they had no idea how relevant it would become. Yet, when the COVID-19 pandemic forced the school to transition to athome learning, this concept of unity took on a whole new meaning.

"It's forced us to communicate and educate in entirely new ways, which has certainly been challenging but also extremely unifying," Mrs. Venvertloh says. "It's really pushed parents and teachers to come together, relying on one another and working together to educate the children. There was so much more direct communication between parents and teachers. I think, too, we really got to know the kids better in some ways — seeing a more relaxed side of them."

When the stay-at-home order was initially announced, St. Peter School was already on spring break. Mrs. Venvertloh says this allowed

her teachers to really get ahead of the game, spending that time formulating plans and getting organized with new learning systems. Another blessing was the fact that the school was already one-to-one in terms of technology for the first through eighth grades. This enabled students to bring those devices home, utilizing them for things like Zoom sessions, Schoology, and Seesaw.

"Though we already use a lot of technology, this experience has pushed us to learn even more," Mrs. Venvertloh says.

Teachers also became increasingly innovative in their instructional methods, collaborating with one another on a far greater level while adopting new and exciting teaching strategies.

"We began to see all these different ways of learning, from scavenger hunts, practicing your spelling words with sidewalk chalk, to creating sculptures with recycling," Mrs. Venvertloh says. "I also just found my staff working together even

> more, learning from each other and collaborating on a whole new level."

> The end result has been a beautiful synergy between parents, students, staffmembers, and even parishioners. This was perhaps most evident during the eighth-grade graduation. Unable to celebrate the students' accomplishments in the school's traditional manner, St. Peter was still able to come up with a memorable way to honor those hard working young men and women.

"Thank goodness for parishioners Matt and Gina Bergman, who helped us pull everything together," Mrs. Venvertloh says. "Matt



Teachers and staff made this sign to greet and congratulate students.

UNITED THAN EVER

videotapes the Masses and has the familiarity with videography. Through his help, we were able to get together and combine the award ceremony and graduation. We recorded the award ceremony, speeches, distribution of awards and diplomas virtually, and everything was just so well done. Then the video was uploaded on YouTube and shared with all the eighth-grade students at the same time so that they could watch it with their families. Lastly, we had staggered times for our students to come and pick up their supplies, awards and diplomas. There was a big banner and as each student pulled up we were all cheering."

Though much about the next school year is still unknown, one thing that is certain is that St. Peter School will begin 2020-21 stronger than ever. Teachers will continue to grow in their innovation, communication platforms will be further embraced and cultivated, and St. Peter School will remain faithful to its mission of providing a quality Catholic education.

"Like I tell the students at the beginning of each school day, remember to do your best and God will do the rest," Mrs. Venvertloh says. "That continues to be our focus. We are going to be as proactive as possible no matter how this situation evolves."



Eighth-grade St. Peter graduates were able to drive by to pick up supplies, receive their awards and diplomas, and be cheered on by their teachers and administrators.



The names of each of the 2019-2020 eighth-grade graduates were specially arranged.



Though not the typical graduation experience, the St. Peter community managed to find a way to make the students feel loved and special.

If you would like more information about St. Peter School, please contact the school office at 217-223-1120.

ST. PETER CATHOLIC CHURCH

FINANCIAL REPORT

	Total Parish	Total School	Total
Income			
Total Regular Church Support	\$1,218,209.48	\$407,994.46	\$1,626,203.94
Other Sources of Revenue	\$8,849.00	\$77 , 415.59	\$104,612.91
Total Investment Income	\$11,703.83	\$0.00	\$11,703.83
Other Sources of Revenue	\$18,458.21		\$18,458.21
Total Tuition Income	\$0.00	\$963,728.26	\$963,728.26
Total Income	\$1,236,667.69	\$1,449,138.31	\$2,685,806.00
Expense			
Total Salaries	\$230,947.62	\$1,114,070.75	\$1,345,018.37
Total Payroll Expenses	\$320,711.19	\$1,479,429.48	\$1,800,140.67
Total Contractual Services	\$23,661.62	\$32,039.07	\$55,700.69
Total Utilities	\$20,462.83	\$37,016.18	\$57,479.01
Insurance -Property & Liability	\$11,159.53	\$11,159.53	\$22,943.00
Repairs and Maintenance	\$1,494.21	\$92,358.80	\$93,853.01
Equ <mark>ipment an</mark> d Funiture	\$26,007.57	\$63,075.11	\$89,082.68
Total Supplies	\$18,608.15	\$107,068.23	\$125,676.38
Total Professional Fees	\$0.00	\$699.00	\$699.00
Total Professional Development	\$1,546.92	\$7,401.64	\$8,948.56
Con <mark>struction</mark> Expenditure		\$50,096.00	\$50,096.00
Transportation Travel & Auto Ex		\$610.35	\$610.35
Total Religious Education Expenses	\$3,424.04	\$7,576.10	\$11,000.14
Total Parish Organization Expense	\$42,892.77	\$0.00	\$42,892.77
Expenses	\$0.00	\$28,414.06	\$28,414.06
Total Other Expenses	\$230,574.19	\$3,771.84	\$234,346.03
Total Non Payroll Expenses	\$398,439.98	\$441,285.91	\$839,725.89
Total Expense	\$700,543.02	\$1,920,715.39	\$2,621,258.41
Net Income	\$536,124.67	-\$471,577.08	\$64,547.59

INT PETER

VIDEO MASSES KEPT US CELEBRATING TOGETHER WHILE WE WERE SAFELY APART

hen the COVID-19 pandemic compelled St. Peter Church to no longer have public Masses, there was some quandary on how we could celebrate Mass—even distantly.

The Stewardship Committee began discussing the issue through emails, and this exchange prompted Matt Bergman to volunteer his video talents.

"I already have been doing the music for the 11 a.m. Mass, and I always have messed around with video," he says. "I have been making family movies and I have a minor in broadcasting. I spent time as a reporter for our local CBS affiliate."

So, Matt began using a high-definition video camera to record the Saturday evening Mass after the church was closed. He then took the video home and edited the Mass to fix any rough spots. By late Saturday night he uploaded the video to YouTube so parishioners could view it on Sunday morning.

"I ran the camera and set it up as if you were there," Matt says. "From the time the priest enters, the camera follows him. There are no breaks. When he uses the ambo, it looks like you are sitting in the pews."

Although some churches around the country have been using Facebook Live to broadcast Mass, Matt has found he prefers to use YouTube.

"My philosophy is that the video is on a first draft and I want to do a cleaner, more consistent video that is more acceptable," he says. "And we're in a large, brick building and the internet doesn't always work best when you go online."

The initial response was positive, and Matt worked to improve the videos each week. When he first began editing the videos, he didn't add music. However, after he received some input, he added that feature.



The camera position Matt Bergman chose to video our Sunday Masses shows the perspective the viewers had. Parishioners can access the videos on the parish website by clicking on the "YouTube Channel" button.

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During the Easter Mass, he added some worship aids, such as the music and lyrics for the hymns, as well as the readings to help with participation. He also has added announcement slides at the end of Mass.

For the weekday Masses, an ipad was used in a make-shift side chapel. The perspective was a very tight view of the altar. There was no post-production work before it was uploaded to YouTube. Many other parishioners were involved in the production of the weekday Mass videos.

"I ran the camera and set it up as if you were there. From the time the priest enters, the camera follows him. There are no breaks. When he uses the ambo, it looks like you are sitting in the pews."

- MATT BERGMAN

To access the YouTube videos for either Sunday Mass or weekday Mass, log on to the parish website, www.cospq.org, and click on the "YouTube Channel" button.

The "Worship Aid" button is directly below.

MASS SCHEDULE

Weekend 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