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CUB SCOUTS MEET CHALLENGES AND HAVE FUN TOGETHER WITH

“Wonder, Delight and Boundless Energy”

For young men, the opportunity to learn about citizenship, the outdoors and teamwork is important. But, of course, it’s important to have fun too! Here at St. Peter, we are blessed to have a strong Cub Scout program for boys in kindergarten to fifth grade, which provides them with these opportunities for learning and fun.

“When I think of stewardship, I think of being engaged as an individual to benefit the greater good and greater community,” says Mandar Dighe, assistant leader for Cub Scouts. “This is what we cover in scouts. How do I make myself a better person? How does being a better person help the overall community?”

The Cub Scouts are divided into dens for each grade, and there are about 40 children involved. Chris Gill serves as the Cubmaster. With the COVID-19 pandemic still impacting organizations and their activities, leaders aim to continue with events in the coming months by practicing social distancing and potentially being outside.



(From left) Chris Gill and Mandar Dighe offer Scouts support and encouragement during the Pinewood Derby.

This year’s annual popcorn fundraiser has been impacted by the pandemic, as the scouts can’t go door-to-door or sell at stores. The money made from

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CUB SCOUTS MEET CHALLENGES AND HAVE FUN TOGETHER *continued from front cover*

the popcorn sale — the only Cub Scout fundraiser for the year — supports scholarships and adventures for the scouts. It also supports fees to the regional scouting organization and the two area scout camps. Matthew Mast, who is handling the fundraiser along with Mandar, hopes parishioners will be generous in their support of the scouts by purchasing popcorn.

“We fund our ministry through one humble treat — popcorn,” Matthew says.

As Matthew notes, scouting is more important than ever, because society is turning away from God, morality and patriotism. All of the scout leaders serve as models to the Cub Scouts.

“We cultivate fun activities and collegial bonding, yes, but our activities are guided by the Scout Oath — ‘On my honor I will do my best to do my duty to God and my country and to obey the Scout Law; to help other people at all times; to keep myself physically strong, mentally awake and morally straight,’” Matthew says.

It is Matthew’s goal that all scouts learn to become honorable men.

“I enjoy the wonder, delight, and boundless energy the Scouts have, both in their activities and at camp,” Matthew says. “I love when they are cheering and encouraging each other.”

Everyone has their favorite event — for Mandar, it’s the Pinewood Derby. The popcorn sales also support this event.

“The best part of Cub Scouts for me is when you get to see one of the kids that has a smile on their face from meeting a challenge or accomplishing something,” Mandar says. “It never gets old to see that smile.”

As Mandar points out, there is so much to learn in scouting — beyond just camping or being outside.

“It’s not just about one person,” Mandar says. “It’s about being part of the greater group. It’s also about becoming a better person.”

Our Cub Scout Pack 5 Popcorn Sale runs thru Oct. 31.

The three ways to order are:

1. Check out our website at www.pack5popcorn.com. Here you will find full product options with descriptions, as well as links to purchase popcorn and support your Cub Scouts.
2. Send an email to pack5popcorn@yahoo.com. We will reply back to you with product descriptions and ordering information, and help you place your order.
3. Visit your favorite Pack 5 Cub Scout! Your Scout can process your order on the fundraiser form, and deliver your popcorn when our shipment arrives.

*To get involved in Cub Scouts,
contact Mandar Dighe at 217-209-3049
or mdighe@knapheide.com.*

A LETTER FROM OUR PASTOR

STEWARDSHIP: *A Way of Life, Or Just a Fad?*

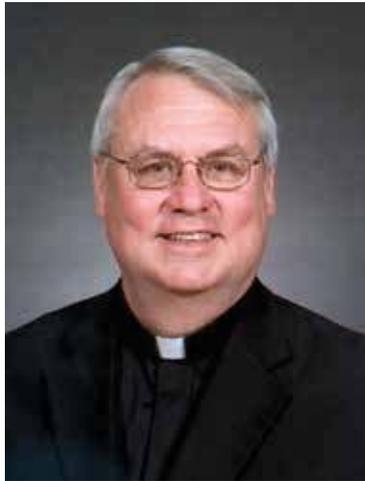
Dear Parishioners,

Sadly, there remain a number of people who still misunderstand stewardship. In spite of the fact that it is a biblical term found in the Old and New Testament, some believe it is only about raising funds and increased offertory giving. That limits and restricts its meaning. The misconception that stewardship is only a passing fad couldn't be further from the truth.

Having been around on earth for quite a few years, I can say I have lived through my share of fads. I think about some of the fashions that once hung in my closet during my younger days — painful reminders of previous times when fads began and ended as fast as the months passed by. I apologize to anyone from my generation who still has them in their closet waiting for their return to style! But the point is, stewardship should *never* be placed in that category.

A “way of life” in the spiritual sense is not a passing fad. Jesus never introduced the call to discipleship as something fashionable for a time, and then having it considered out of date. However, I have known some who are very committed to their faith for a time and then say, “I got over it,” and returned to former ways that are not so good for one's spiritual maturity. If one truly understands and embraces stewardship, they know it is not something you do for a brief moment in time and then “get over it.” It is life-changing — not for a moment, but for all time.

I have confidence and trust in my faith that stewardship remains my way of life, and I pray for you that it is yours, as well. I know it continues to inspire countless numbers of people who want to live lives holy and pleasing to God. Stewardship is an expression of that desire, and one does not get over it, outgrow it, or deny it once they truly “get it.”



As stewards, it is important to continuously re-examine our commitment to our parish family, our own personal commitment to being Catholic, living the faith we profess, respecting and cherishing the sacraments we receive, and strengthening or renewing our relationship with God by accepting the call to be our Lord's disciples. Just as discipleship has never been a fad introduced by Jesus Christ, stewardship as a way of life is not one, either.

Understanding that stewardship is a way of life for you and your family confirms that you understand your discipleship, your importance in this parish family, and your baptismal call that began your life as a Christian possessing the potential to do God's will.

Fads will always come and go. They are momentary fascinations, like a short-term fashion statement. Our lives were intended to be more than a series of fads. God wanted more for His children than that. Jesus Christ would never have done that to us. He called us to a way of life, not a fad. Let's celebrate that and pray that each of us will respond appropriately.

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

MEET THE ST. PETER SCHOOL *Julie Simons and Nicole Genenbacher*

In life, there are times when God asks us to take a leap of faith — to trust Him as we step forward into the unknown, even as we're unsure. Then, there are times when He reveals His plan so clearly that we know, without a shadow of a doubt, exactly where He is leading us. For our sixth-grade teachers at St. Peter School — Julie Simons and Nicole Genenbacher — coming to work with our students has been one of those easy decisions.

A teacher for the past 38 years, Julie Simons spent most of her career in public education, joining the St. Peter family four years ago, after her first “retirement.” For Mrs. Simons, a longtime parishioner, coming to teach at the school felt like coming home.

“I loved it immediately,” she says. “I loved the school, the people. It’s such a welcoming school and it just felt like home. It’s been wonderful to be able to continue to do what I love and to be able to do it at St. Peter’s.”

All of Mrs. Simons’ career has been teaching upper elementary school, and she has a particular appreciation for students at that age. One of her favorite parts of teaching is sharing her love of reading.

“My passion is reading,” Mrs. Simons says. “It’s so rewarding and you know that if you helped to open the door [to reading] for a child, there’s a world you’ve opened for them.”

And after spending most of her career in public schools, Mrs. Simons enjoys being able to freely share her faith with her students.

“I love the opportunity to talk with children about religion and about their faith,” Mrs. Simons says. “I love when we have all-school Mass and I get to experience the Eucharist with my students. When I hear children singing the songs at church, there are times when I have to stop and listen because I start to tear up. It’s such a powerful time.”

She hopes that her students will remember their time in her classroom as a time when they learned and were prepared for the future, while also being part of a loving and supportive community.

“I always hope they feel there’s a lot of joy and a lot of love in our classroom,” Mrs. Simons says. “I’ve



Sixth-grade teacher Julie Simons (second from right) enjoys spending time with her family at the beach in Michigan.

found that perfect spot and I can’t imagine trying to do anything else. This is my calling, no question.”

Nicole Genenbacher had a similar experience in coming to teach at our school. A graduate of Catholic school here in Quincy, Mrs. Genenbacher joined the St. Peter School family three years ago, after doing her student teaching here.

“It’s the family atmosphere when you walk into St. Peter’s,” she says. “St. Peter’s truly believes in their teachers — they will do anything in their power to help you get better, and I feel that every day.”

Science is Mrs. Genenbacher’s passion, and she particularly appreciates having the opportunity to introduce the STEM — Science, Technology, Engineering and Math — curriculum to her students.

“I teach earth science so we get to talk about all

OL SIXTH GRADE TEACHERS

Nicole Genenbacher



Sixth-grade teacher Nicole Genenbacher and her husband, Andrew, are expecting their first child in February! They also have 400 chickens and a Dalmatian named Georgia.

the fun things, like why do volcanoes erupt or why earthquakes occur,” Mrs. Genenbacher says. “They say more than half of the careers of our students today will be in a STEM field, so I like to think that, as a science teacher, I’m preparing them for getting a job we don’t even know about yet.”

For Mrs. Genenbacher, teaching at St. Peter’s is more than just a job — it’s about fulfilling a calling. As a senior in high school at Quincy Notre Dame, she felt convicted to follow a career that would allow

“I felt like the Lord was calling me to the teaching profession and now, when I’m teaching, I’m like, ‘This is where I’m meant to be.’ I truly believe that I’m at St. Peter’s and I’m a Catholic school teacher because of the Lord.”

— NICOLE GENENBACHER

her to use her gifts and talents to serve, and found herself in education.

“I felt like the Lord was calling me to the teaching profession and now, when I’m teaching, I’m like, ‘This is where I’m meant to be,’” Mrs. Genenbacher says. “I truly believe that I’m at St. Peter’s and I’m a Catholic school teacher because of the Lord.”

She loves sharing her faith and helping her students grow deeper in their relationship with God, appreciation of Scripture, and prayer.

“I love the conversations I can have with them,” Mrs. Genenbacher says of her students. “Having our faith at the center, it’s extremely powerful.”

Mrs. Genenbacher hopes that her students’ time at St. Peter’s is formative for them in the same way that her experience of Catholic education was for her.

“[I hope] they become better humans, they become kinder, they grow deeper in their faith,” she says. “I hope that I challenge them and push them to grow.”

Thank you to Mrs. Simons and Mrs. Genenbacher for the ways you serve, share your knowledge and inspire our sixth-grade students at St. Peter School — whether in person or during distance learning. We’re so grateful to have you be part of our parish and school family!

*If you would like more information on St. Peter Catholic School,
please visit www.stpeterschool.com.*

JOIN THE RANKS AND *Honor the Dignity of Life in October*

All Catholics are summoned to action — this month, and beyond.

October is Respect Life Month. And as we face the looming culture of death, we are all summoned to action. An apostolic exhortation by Pope St. John Paul II, titled *Ecclesia in America*, described this culture of death's effects on the "powerless" within American society:

"I am thinking here of unborn children, helpless victims of abortion; the elderly and the incurably ill, subjected at times to euthanasia; and the many other people relegated to the margins of society by consumerism and materialism. Nor can I fail to mention the unnecessary recourse to the death penalty... Faced with this distressing reality, the Church community intends to commit itself all the more to the defense of the culture of life" (*Ecclesia in America* 63).

Respect Life Month is the perfect time to prayerfully examine our consciences in light of these critical issues, which directly violate the dignity of the human person. This includes not only the evil of abortion, but also euthanasia, embryonic stem cell research, capital punishment, and contraception — all of which are vital contributors to the pervasive culture of death.

So we must individually ask ourselves, "Do I, in my personal, day-to-day choices, respect life? If so, do I boldly proclaim this belief or merely stand idle? Do I exercise my right to vote and support candidates who promote a culture of life? Am I known within my home, family, and/or workplace as someone that respects life?"

As with every movement of a Christian heart towards goodness, it is imperative that our efforts issue forth from a prayerful foundation. The work of the Holy Spirit allows us to receive the zeal necessary to promote the sanctity of human life, even in the face of suffering.

This October, please pray for a revitalization of the culture of life. Every night, as a family, meditate on the prayer from John Paul II's encyclical *Evangelium Vitae*. As you pray, allow the Holy Spirit

to fill you with apostolic boldness, and ask the Lord to guide your heart towards ways in which you can personally contribute to the culture of life.

The call is clear, the stakes are set, and all Catholics are summoned to action. How will you respond?

Pope St. John Paul II's Prayer for the Revitalization of the Culture of Life

O Mary,
bright dawn of the new world,
Mother of the living,
to you do we entrust the cause of life
Look down, O Mother,
upon the vast numbers
of babies not allowed to be born,
of the poor whose lives are made difficult,
of men and women
who are victims of brutal violence,
of the elderly and the sick killed
by indifference or out of misguided mercy.

Grant that all who believe in your Son
may proclaim the Gospel of life
with honesty and love
to the people of our time.

Obtain for them the grace
to accept that Gospel
as a gift ever new,
the joy of celebrating it with gratitude
throughout their lives and
the courage to bear witness to it
resolutely, in order to build,
together with all people of good will,
the civilization of truth and love,
to the praise and glory of God,
the Creator and lover of life.

— Pope John Paul II, *Evangelium Vitae*

ST. PETER PARISH WELCOMES

..... *Gina Wolf*

AS OUR NEW PSR COORDINATOR!

Our parish is delighted to welcome Gina Wolf to the role of coordinator of the Parish School of Religion (PSR) here at St. Peter. While this is a new position for Gina, she and her husband, Deacon Jeff Wolf, both began teaching PSR classes when their own children were going through the program years ago. After some time away from PSR, Gina felt called to return to faith formation when she saw the request for a new PSR coordinator in the parish bulletin. Gina officially began as coordinator on April 1, just after the COVID-19 crisis had closed the church and all related activities. Now that PSR classes have resumed, Gina is excited about helping us continue to grow and develop our faith formation classes for children in first through eighth grades.

Both as a parent and as a catechist with our PSR, Gina has witnessed firsthand the importance of beginning to form children in the faith from an early age, and the great rewards of doing so.

“My favorite thing is the child who, for the first time, ‘gets it,’” she says. “When you explain something to a child, and they truly understand, they take that notion, that concept, and they run with it. They start asking more questions — ‘What about this? Does it work in this situation?’ The light bulb is on and shining bright, and to see them later that week in Mass, watching them kneel and pray, knowing that they truly understand — for a teacher, it is the affirmation of a lifetime.”

While the Church believes that parents are the primary instructors of the faith, participation in faith formation classes is one of the greatest gifts a parent can give a child.

“During the child’s formation, they need different perspectives, different views on various topics,” Gina says. “Formation should not be about just completing the requirements for the next sacrament. It needs to be about the development of the child’s foundation — a foundation in faith that will remain with them for the rest of their life.”

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*Gina Wolf, our new
Parish School of Religion Coordinator*



2600 Maine Street
Quincy, Illinois 62301
www.cospq.org



NEW PSR COORDINATOR GINA WOLF

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Our PSR is blessed with many wonderful parishioners who give generously of their time to serve as catechists. Gina is grateful for the incredible team of volunteers who come together to provide our youngest parishioners with this loving instruction in the faith.

“Our PSR instructors are the best,” Gina says. “They work diligently, and they want those light bulbs to turn on. They care for the children, often going out of their way after hours, checking to make sure the student is still on track. They

are a seasoned group of dedicated, wonderful people. They are all so in tune with the children and want so much to lay a great faith foundation along with the students’ parents.”

As the new PSR coordinator here at St. Peter, Gina is thankful for the opportunity to help our Church in this great work of making disciples of the young parishioners in our PSR classes. We are thrilled to welcome Gina as our new PSR coordinator and look forward to another wonderful year for our students!

If you would like more information about our Parish School of Religion classes, and/or to register your child, please contact the parish office at 217-222-3155 or www.cospq.org.

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