

CONTENT

PAGE 2 Confirmation and First Communion

PAGE 3 A Letter From Our Pastor

PAGE 4 Totus Tuus Helping Our Youth Encounter the Person of Jesus Christ

PAGE 6 Stewardship Giving During the Summer Season

PAGE 7 Meet the Obert Family

Cathedral Pilgrimage Serves as Valuable Component of **CONFIRMATION AND FIRST COMMUNION**

When our third-grade students celebrated Confirmation and First Holy Communion on April 29, they did so as a form of a pilgrimage — the children received these Sacraments at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Springfield.

Under the Restored Order, each of the three Sacraments of Initiation — Baptism, Confirmation, and the Eucharist — gives graces, enabling the recipient to receive the Holy Spirit before receiving the Body and Blood of Christ in the Eucharist.

During Advent in 2021, students in the eighth, seventh, sixth, and third grades were confirmed, and the third-grade students received their First Holy Communion at the same Mass.

“For the most part, this year, our class is made up of two St. Peter School classes and the Parish School of Religion class, with a handful of older students who will be confirmed if they have already received Holy Communion prior to moving to our parish,” says Gina Bergman, Director of Religious Education.

The first time our parish observed the Restored Order was in 2020, but the pandemic restrictions



Under the Restored Order of the Sacraments, these young St. Peter parishioners received Confirmation and First Communion on April 29.

compelled the ceremonies to be held through May and June at eight different Masses. The following year, the so-called “catch-up” classes were held at three different Masses in December. There were no ceremonies in 2022, as a result.

“So, this will be the third year of confirming third-graders,” Gina says.

continued on page 2

CONFIRMATION AND FIRST COMMUNION

continued from front cover

The diocesan plan to have Confirmation and First Holy Communion at the Cathedral has been supported by a comprehensive information program that outlines the reasoning behind the plan.

“The diocese has been working very hard on explaining the value of the Cathedral trip,” Gina says. “The information shares the value of the trip and what to expect for the third-grade Confirmation and First Communion ceremonies.”

The ceremonies are scheduled on the first, third, and fifth Saturdays of the month for parishes more than 50 miles from Springfield. With Quincy located 111 miles away, the Saturday, April 29 date was set.

Bishop Thomas Paprocki outlined the value of the Cathedral trip in a statement issued by the diocese.

“This celebration of Confirmation and First Holy Communion at the Cathedral is intended to take on the form of a pilgrimage and amplify the power and uniqueness of this moment in the lives of our young people and their families,” Bishop Paprocki says. “It is intentionally a step outside of their home parish and a pilgrimage to the Mother Church of the diocese for the completion of their initiation into the Church in the presence of the diocesan bishop, who is a successor of the Apostles.”

As Bishop Paprocki points out, this pilgrimage also has practical implications for families who will be traveling from all corners of the diocese for this celebration with their children. “Consider this comparison — if your child or grandchild’s sports team advances to the championship game which takes place in a city several hours away in a big stadium, you and your child would be excited and happily make the long trip,” he says. “Your child receiving the Sacraments of Confirmation and First Holy Communion is that spiritual ‘championship game’ for him or her. The Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Springfield is that ‘big stadium.’ I hope we can embrace these life-changing sacraments with at least as much enthusiasm as a sporting event.”

“With any change, there are always concerns and hesitancy, but we have been doing our best to

make this a special day,” Gina says.

To wrap up and commemorate the special weekend for the children after receiving their Sacraments of Initiation at the Cathedral, our St. Peter parish family celebrated and recognized them on Sunday, April 30, at the 11 a.m. Mass.

“On behalf of the parish family, I want to congratulate our parishioners from St. Peter who celebrated their Sacraments of Confirmation and First Eucharist at the Cathedral in Springfield,” Fr. Leo says. “Our prayers, love, and support are with them. I do want to thank their parents for helping to prepare them for this day, along with their teachers, Pam Hagerbaumer, Cindy Brown, Amanda Miller, and Sandy Gallaher, as well as Gina Bergman, our director of religious education. Thank you to all of you for getting our young ones ready.”



Bishop Paprocki and altar servers welcomed our young parishioners receiving the Sacraments of Confirmation and First Communion. The altar servers are all St. Peter and are siblings of students receiving sacraments.

Anyone with questions about the Restored Order of the Sacraments of Initiation may contact the parish office at 217-222-3155.

A LETTER FROM OUR PASTOR

REMEMBER TO KEEP THE FAITH THIS SUMMER

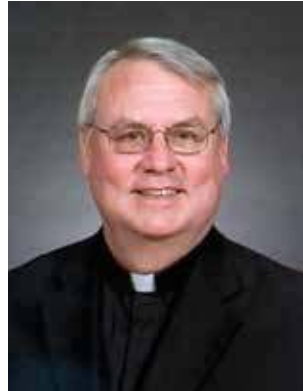
Dear Parishioners,

As we enter the month of June and kick off our summer, I want to take a moment to reflect on the importance of stewardship in our daily lives as Catholics.

Stewardship is a way of life that calls us to recognize that everything we have is a gift from God, and that we are called to use these gifts for the good of others and the building up of God's kingdom.

Here are a few ways in which we can live out stewardship in the month of June:

- **Practice gratitude:** Take time each day to thank God for the blessings in your life, both big and small. A grateful heart is essential to living a life of stewardship, as it helps us to recognize the gifts that God has given us and to use them for the good of others.
- **Give generously:** Whether it's donating to a local charity, volunteering at a soup kitchen, or simply offering a kind word to a neighbor, there are countless ways to give of ourselves to others. Consider making a financial donation to our parish or to a local charity that is doing good work in our community.
- **Pray for others:** Stewardship is not just about giving of our material resources, but also about giving of our time and talent. Take time each day to pray for the needs of others, whether it's



for the sick, the poor, or those who are struggling in their faith.

- **Share your talents:** We are all blessed with unique gifts and talents that we can use to serve others. Consider volunteering to teach a religious education class, joining the choir, or using your professional skills to help those in need.

- **Be a good steward of the environment:** God has entrusted us with the care of His creation, and it is our responsibility to be good stewards of the environment. Consider ways in which you can reduce your carbon footprint, recycle more, or conserve resources.

As we continue to navigate the challenges of our world, let us remember that we are called to be faithful stewards of the gifts and talents that God has given us. By living out stewardship in our daily lives, we can make a difference in the world and build up the kingdom of God.

May God bless you and your families abundantly this month, this summer, and always.

In Christ,

Rev. Msgr. Leo J. Enlow

TOTUS

Helping Our Youth Encounter



Totus Tuus is a Latin phrase meaning “totally yours.” This was the motto of Pope St. John Paul II and it expressed his desire to give himself entirely to Jesus Christ through His mother, Mary. The summer program, Totus Tuus, embraces this motto and encourages young adult missionaries to give their all to the young people they encounter during the summer.

The weeklong Totus Tuus program is dedicated to sharing the Gospel and teaching young people about the Catholic faith. It provides valuable opportunities for children and teens to encounter Jesus Christ through participation in the sacraments, learning about the faith, and having fun.

St. Peter has hosted/partnered to host Totus Tuus for over a decade. This year, the parish is partnering with St. Francis Solanus, which is where the program will be held from June 11-16 and will be open to students entering first through 12th grades.

St. Peter’s Gina Bergman and St. Francis Solanus’ Liz Alonzo are the parish coordinators for Totus Tuus and are working together to help make sure the week runs smoothly.

“Totus Tuus successfully combines the silly, the solemn, satisfying relationships and solid teaching,” Liz says. “Beyond that, it is a grace-filled and fruitful gift. The diocese gives the young adults on the Totus Tuus team a summer spent living in community, forming habits of prayer, and receiving intensive instruction. The team gives the children and teens a living, weeklong encounter with Jesus Christ and His Bride, the Church. Jesus through His priests gives the heart of each day, the Holy Mass. And the parish gives hospitality and support.”

The first through sixth grades will meet Monday through Friday, from 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Their day will be filled with activities to engage them in the faith — these include prayer, teaching, songs, games, skits, snacks, free play, and lunch. Friday will be water game day!

continued on page 5

S TUUS

er the Person of Jesus Christ

The seventh through 12th grades will meet Sunday through Thursday, from 7 to 9 p.m. Their evenings will be filled with faith, fun, and friendship. They will have the opportunity to witness and learn from the team's authentic love of Christ.

This year, 80-120 students will be able to participate. St. Peter and St. Francis Solanus hope they will not have to turn anyone away, but they encourage you to register soon! Registration information is available in the bulletin, school newsletter, social media, parish website, and in print at the parish office. There is a \$25 fee for one child or \$40 for a family. No one will be turned away due to cost, so if money is a burden, please reach out to Gina or Liz. In addition, if you are financially able to cover another family's cost, that support is welcome!

It takes numerous volunteers to help make Totus Tuus successful. Helpers are needed for a variety of tasks — hosting dinners for the Totus Tuus missionaries, providing lunch for the Totus Tuus missionaries, and providing snacks for the students. In addition, students going into eighth grade are encouraged to volunteer during the day camp.



If you have questions or are interested in assisting, please see the registration form or contact Gina Bergman at 217-430-6080 or g.bergman@cospq.org.





Stewardship

GIVING DURING THE SUMMER SEASON

“We’ve stopped delivery of the newspaper and mail. We’ve taken the dog to the kennel. The iron is unplugged, and the stove is turned off. Is there anything else we need to do before we leave on vacation?”

Aren’t you forgetting something? Did you remember to write a check to your parish for the Sundays you’ll be gone?

“But I won’t be at Mass at home those Sundays. Can’t I skip those envelopes when I’m away? After all, I’ll put a dollar or two, or maybe even five, in the collection at the church where we visit. Isn’t that enough?”

Many Americans, whether we have school-age children at home or not, operate on an academic calendar. We assume our organizations operate September through May and then take it easy during June, July and August. And to some extent, many parish activities do function on such a schedule. Our parish may not hold Religious Education classes during the summer. Our choirs frequently take a break. Even many of the parish staff members take summer vacations! Can’t our giving take a vacation during the summer, too?

Even as we form the question in our mind, we know the answer. The prime reason for keeping up our pledge all summer long is that God doesn’t go on vacation. He continues to sustain us throughout the summer months. He persists in pouring out blessings on us, even during the hottest weather. He keeps on meeting us in His sacramental presence when we go to Mass wherever we travel. As God remains faithful to us

during the summer, we are called to be faithful in our commitments to Him and our parish family, even during our vacation time.

God’s steadfastness in giving to us is the primary reason for us to respond by being faithful in our stewardship toward Him. But there is also a practical reason why we need to keep up our pledges of time, talent and treasure throughout the summer — the Church needs our involvement year-round.

Even though some parish activities are reduced during the summer months, the parish’s expenses are not. After all, there are still Sunday Masses and weekday Masses, too. The parish staff members still need their salaries. And of course, we need to run the air conditioning in our church during the hot summer months. Despite the fact that some parish functions are suspended, other activities may take place, such as Vacation Bible School. And although the regular parish Religious Education program may be suspended, the summer expenses are often the highest, as textbooks and other supplies are bought for the upcoming school year. Our parish has to pay its bills on a year-round basis, just like your family.

Our parish plans a budget for the year, taking into account the commitments that you, the members, have made. If parishioners do not live out their financial commitments to the parish, the budget will not balance.

Our giving needs to be maintained throughout the summer, just as God maintains His generosity to us. Our stewardship is a response to God’s gifts. And God pours out His gifts and His grace upon us all year long.

MEET THE OBERT FAMILY

Keeping God in the Center of Family Life

Darrell Obert enjoys being employed in a faith-filled environment at St. Peter's Church and School, after working for 35 years in different areas of engineering.

"It's such a different feeling working for and with this faith community," Darrell says. "It is a real blessing for me and my family, and we're very grateful."

The Obert family joined St. Peter in 1995 when their daughter was starting kindergarten at St. Peter School.

"We actually lived in a different parish district, but we decided on St. Peter," Darrell says. "Everyone was so friendly and family-orientated, and that's still true."

Today, Darrell and Gina Obert and their son, Evan, all work at St. Peter Church and School in different ways. Gina and Evan started helping in the kitchen at the school in February 2022.

"Evan does the dishes, and I help serve the meals and clean up," Gina says. "As a retired schoolteacher, I really enjoy seeing the students. Evan works every day in the kitchen, and I work about two days a week."

Evan has had other jobs in the community, and similar to



Darrell and Gina Obert and their son, Evan, all strive to live out stewardship as a family.

Darrell, he really appreciates the environment and the people he works with at St. Peter.

"I like my co-workers and enjoy working with all the kitchen staff," Evan says. "I also really like washing the trays."

In March of 2023, Darrell began working in maintenance for the parish and the school, and his day-to-day work changes depending upon the different needs and requests.

"Recently we had a new

lighting project in the church as we're switching the majority of our lights over to LEDs," Darrell says. "Changing the lights has made the church much brighter. We're also working on new projectors and screens for the church."

The Obert family has given back to the faith community in several different ways over the years. They've served as greeters, and Gina has taught

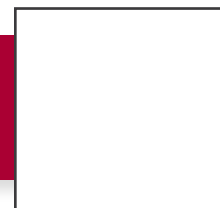
continued on back cover

"We're all very grateful for the opportunity to serve. Serving in small ways makes you aware of the importance of seeing Christ in others, helping out when you can, and being grateful for what you have."

— GINA OBERT



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



MEET THE OBERT FAMILY *continued from page 7*

faith formation, particularly for fifth-graders. Darrell and Evan are also starting to serve at Mass together.

“When we think about stewardship, I also think about how prayer is such a big part of our family life,” Gina says. “We try to keep God in the center of the family, and we make it to Mass every opportunity that we can.”

Stewardship has certainly shaped the Obert family, and as they began to give back, they realized more ways they could serve the faith community.

“Stewardship makes us aware of how we need to support and respect each other,” Darrell says. “It’s important to set an example for others so that they can think about ways they might serve.”

Darrell, Gina, and Evan believe that stewardship is vital to keep the parish and school community thriving in the future.

“We’re all very grateful for the opportunity to serve,” Gina says. “Serving in small ways makes you aware of the importance of seeing Christ in others, helping out when you can, and being grateful for what you have.”



Evan and his father, Darrell, have begun serving at Mass together.

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