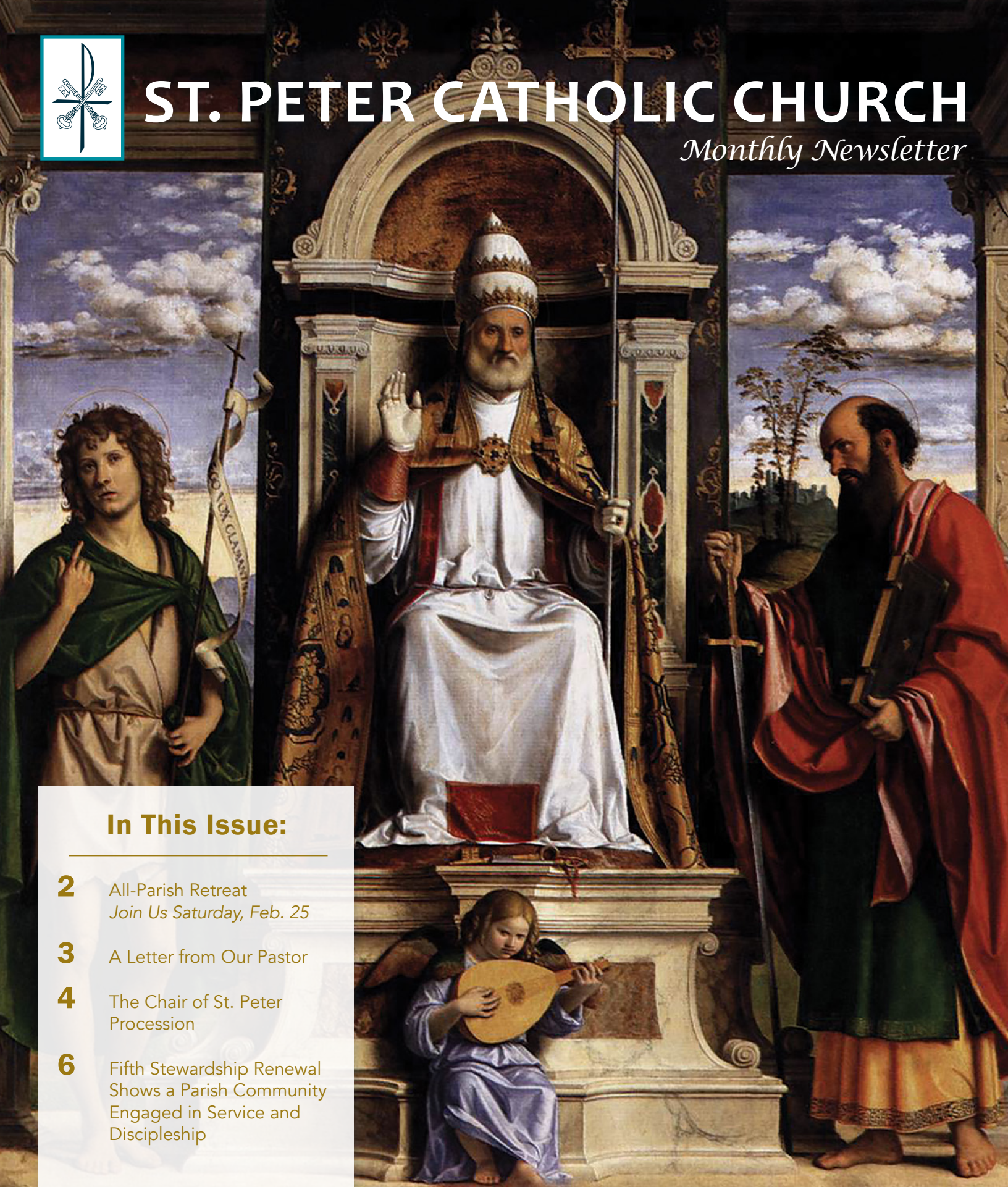




ST. PETER CATHOLIC CHURCH

Monthly Newsletter



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FEAST OF THE CHAIR OF ST. PETER THE APOSTLE
FEBRUARY 22



ST. PETER CATHOLIC CHURCH

ALL-PARISH RETREAT JOIN US SATURDAY, FEB. 25

SPEND TIME WITH THE LORD IN PRAYER AND FORMATION

One retreat could change your life. Just ask Katherine Norman. She attended a retreat at St. Peter four years ago, and it did exactly that. The retreat was led by Fr. Jim Golka – now Bishop Golka of the Diocese of Colorado Springs. Since that retreat, Katherine went from working as a financial advisor to serving as Parish Manager here at St. Peter Catholic Church.

On Saturday, Feb. 25, you too can have a life-changing experience at the St. Peter Annual All-Parish Retreat. The retreat will begin with Mass at 8:15 a.m. and include free breakfast and lunch, talks, small-group discussions, Eucharistic Adoration and the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

“This will be our 5th Annual All-Parish Retreat,” Katherine says. “Our parish retreat is held every year on the first Saturday during Lent, so mark your calendar and make a yearly commitment to attend.”

This year, we will focus on prayer and discipleship with Fr. Ben Holdren, current Pastor at St. Peter and St. Joseph Churches in Bellwood.

“We have all heard that we should make a retreat each year, take time to slow down, and spend time with the Lord,” Katherine says. “But I know that it can be hard to take time out of our busy schedule to fit one in. Four years ago when Kevin and I left our three little kids at home with my mother-in-law, to attend our first all-parish retreat, we almost went on a date instead! Time alone out of the house was precious and we almost convinced ourselves not to attend the retreat.”

The retreat is perfect for parishioners with busy schedules – it is one day only, free and right here at our



During the retreat, we will focus on prayer and discipleship with Fr. Ben Holdren, current Pastor at St. Peter and St. Joseph Churches in Bellwood.

own church. It is a great opportunity to connect with other fellow parishioners and is well-timed during Lent to help prepare for Easter.

“I encourage all of our parishioners to do what you can to join us on February 25th,” Katherine says. “I know it might be a sacrifice for some to fit this into their schedule, but I promise the Lord will reward you.”

At the retreat four years ago, Katherine walked away with a new understanding that her life is not her own. “The message we received was loud and clear, *my life is not my own and it is not about me, it is a gift and we need to return everything we have to the Lord.* After all, that is what it means

to live a Stewardship Way of Life. The retreat was life-changing for both Kevin and myself, and we left feeling excited to follow whatever plan God had for us.”

This year we are blessed to have Fr. Holdren as our retreat leader. He will present an engaging retreat for all in attendance. Fr. Holdren has experience as a teacher at Aquinas High School in David City and Pius X High School in Lincoln. He will focus on becoming a disciple of Christ and what that looks like in our lives and at our parish.

“God has a plan for each of our lives and is calling us to follow Him. This retreat allows us to come together as a parish and work towards our mission of becoming disciples,” Katherine says. “If you are unsure where God is leading you, come to the retreat and let Him speak to you.”

Take a leap of faith and plan to attend our All-Parish Retreat on Saturday, February 25th, you will be glad you did!

Please RSVP by February 20th to Sarah Schafers in our parish office at 402-423-1239 or email stpeterchurch@cdolinc.net. Breakfast and lunch are included, and there is no cost to attend.

A Letter from Our Pastor

THE WORD OF GOD: HEARING IT AND RESPONDING TO IT

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

Last month, one of the great minds of the modern Church went to be with the Lord. The contributions Pope Benedict XVI, Joseph Ratzinger, made to our understanding of the Faith have many calling for him to soon be a Doctor of the Church. I'd argue that it wasn't pure natural intelligence that made him a great mind, but his exposure to the Word of God that made his thoughts radiate with infectious truth.

The Gospel of John begins with the statement, "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God." We speak often of the Word in the Church. As most of you are aware, the first part of our Mass is called the Liturgy of the Word. What does that mean to us?

The Liturgy of the Word is composed of four main readings: First Reading, a Responsorial Psalm, a Second Reading, the Gospel, and a Homily. We draw on Holy Scripture from the Bible for the readings. As Catholics, we do not consider that these readings are about God, or about the Church, or about our faith, or a history lesson, or a nice story from long ago. We consider them to be God speaking directly to us. Thus, our attentiveness to what is being proclaimed is important.

Are we listening? Do we hear? And then, do we respond in our lives? All of those should be facets of how we approach the Word of God.

For us, the Word of God is the living Word. God is speaking to us as a community, and He asks us to be faithful to His Word. If we pay attention and truly listen, God can nourish our spirit, and Christ can be more real

and present to us. The Homily, the Responsorial Psalm, the Profession of Faith, and the Intercessions develop the Word further and complete it. The Profession of Faith is our acceptance of God's Word. It is our opportunity to say, "Lord, I see the great things you've done in the past, now do this for us again."

However, the question for us is, how do we respond to the Word? Does it change our lives? Does it bring us to the conversion necessary to live lives of discipleship and service? The Lord Jesus says, "If anyone loves me, he will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him. Whoever does not love me does not keep my words. (Jn 14: 23-24b)

It is not easy, I know. Being able to listen, to hear and then to act requires time, practice, commitment, and a desire to fulfill all of this. In honor of Pope Benedict XVI, I challenge you to deepen your encounter with the Word of God through Sacred Scripture this Lent. That is one of my prayers for us – that we can hear the Word, and that we can bring it to life in our own lives.

In His Mercy,



Fr. Eric Clark,
Pastor



ST. PETER CATHOLIC CHURCH

THE CHAIR OF ST. PETER PROCESSION COMMEMORATING THE FIRST POPE AND CELEBRATING GOD'S LOVE IN THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

In honor of our namesake, St. Peter, we celebrate the feast of the Chair of St. Peter. This feast day recognizes the office of the pope and the long, unbroken line of succession that goes all the way back to St. Peter himself. The feast of the Chair of St. Peter traditionally falls on Feb. 22, which happens to be Ash Wednesday this year.

Our parish and school celebration will take place on Thursday, Feb. 23 instead.

“Our Parish’s Feast Day commemorates Christ’s choosing Peter to sit in His place as the servant-authority of the whole Church and as the first Bishop of Rome,” Mr. Feilmeier says.

The Chair of St. Peter represents more than just the first pope, St. Peter, but the work that the Holy Spirit has done in the Church throughout history and all 266 popes.

The celebration will begin immediately after the 8:15 a.m. Mass with a Eucharistic Procession. The procession will move through the school, with the children leading the way. The most recent First Communion class will come dressed in their First Communion clothes and the girls will strew flower petals before the Blessed Sacrament.

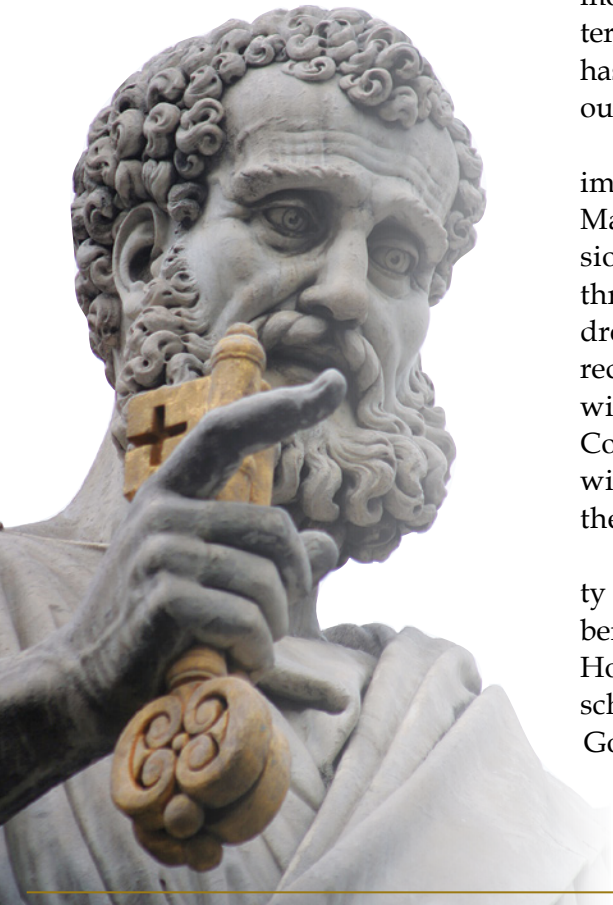
“We hope this is an opportunity for the third-graders to remember the great Sacrament of First Holy Communion and help the school celebrate the love which God has for us in the Blessed Sacrament,” Mr. Feilmeier says.

Fr. Clark and Fr. Wirth will process behind the

children with the Blessed Sacrament. With bells and singing, the procession of schoolchildren is a solemn and reverent event, inviting all into this moment of prayer.

The procession will be followed by Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and a full day of Eucharistic Adoration. All are welcome to stop and pray before Our Lord in Adoration.

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“We hope that you are able to join us for our annual procession on Feb. 23. Happy Feast Day to St. Peter Parish!” — Curt Feilmeier, Principal

THE CHAIR OF ST. PETER PROCESSION

continued from page 4

The children will round out their celebration of this feast with a treat during the school day such as ice cream, a movie, or an extra recess. Their celebration of this feast will be both solemn and joyful. The Church calendar is full of feast days, but truly stopping to celebrate

one together that is meaningful to our parish is a wonderful reminder of what it means to be part of the communion of saints.

"We hope that you are able to join us for our annual procession on Feb. 23," Mr. Feilmeier says. "Happy Feast Day to St. Peter Parish!"





ST. PETER CATHOLIC CHURCH

FIFTH STEWARDSHIP RENEWAL SHOWS A PARISH COMMUNITY ENGAGED IN SERVICE AND DISCIPLESHIP

“PARISHIONERS ARE COMMITTED TO LIVING THIS STEWARDSHIP WAY OF LIFE”

Each year, we take the time to reflect upon and discern our commitments to St. Peter Catholic Church. Where are we committing our time, talent and treasure? Are we saving enough of our time for prayer? Should we be giving more of our treasure? Are we being called to join a ministry?

Fr. Clark is thankful to parishioners for their commitments and asks all who belong to St. Peter to be part of our mission, *To Make Disciples*, and understand our vision, *To abide in Christ and build His kingdom*. We are all called to be intentional disciples and it is through the practice of stewardship that active disciples are formed.

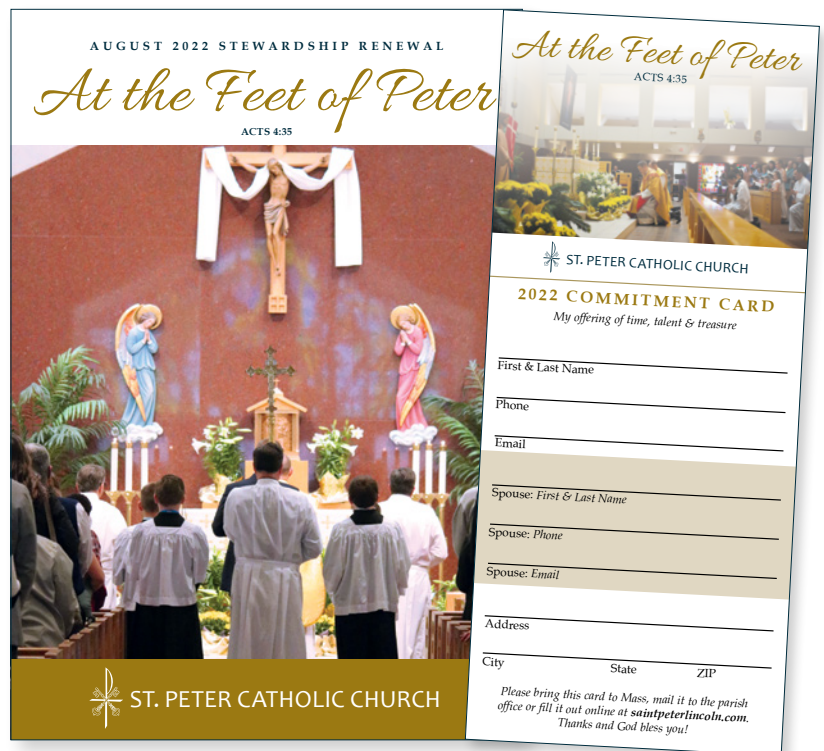
Parish Manager Katherine Norman is grateful for parishioners living a stewardship way of life and excited to see these commitments bear much fruit. “During the renewal, we ask our parishioners to stop and reflect on where the Lord is calling us. It is a time to ask yourself, ‘Am I doing what the Lord has called me to do? Is there something I am doing that I should stop? Or is there something that I need to start?’ I am blessed to serve our parish and witness parishioners following Christ more closely each year.”

During the 2022 renewal, there were 563 commitment cards returned, which is a 40-percent return rate. This is our parish’s best return rate to date. Recommitments to ministries went up from last year, while new commitments were down a bit. Katherine attributes this to many new

commitments to several new ministries in 2021. Each year that St. Peter Catholic Church does the renewal, offertory/treasure commitments increase, as do prayer/time commitments.

“I am so grateful for the many commitments made by our parishioners,” Katherine says. “This is our fifth renewal and we continue to see parishioners committed to returning their gifts to the Lord and living as a disciple of Christ.”

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“This is our fifth renewal and we continue to see parishioners committed to returning their gifts to the Lord and living as a disciple of Christ.”

— Katherine Norman

FIFTH STEWARDSHIP RENEWAL SHOWS

A PARISH COMMUNITY ENGAGED *continued from page 6*

With each renewal, parishioners take time to prayerfully consider what the Holy Spirit may be asking of us. Maybe it's time to try a new ministry, increase your tithing or commit to a holy hour in Eucharistic Adoration. Think about how you might use your gifts to benefit St. Peter Catholic Church.

"If you want to get involved, but don't know where to start, I invite you to commit to an hour or adoration and/or pick one day a week to come to daily Mass," Katherine says. "We get so busy doing many things, we need to take some time to spend with Jesus and ask Him what He wants us to do."

Parishioners are still invited to fill out a stewardship card, which you can pick up in the church lobby. Or if you already filled out a card

but would like to join another ministry, call the parish office and they can help you get in contact with that particular leader.

"I feel truly blessed to be part of such a generous parish. Our parishioners continue to go above and beyond to make St. Peter a wonderful place to belong," Katherine says.

To get involved in a ministry or to request a stewardship commitment card, call the parish office at 402-423-1239.

OUR FIFTH STEWARDSHIP RENEWAL AT A GLANCE

- ◆ There were 563 commitment cards received from 40 percent of active households.
- ◆ There were 5,813 prayer commitments — the stewardship of time — from 95 percent of participating households.
- ◆ There were 1,889 ministry commitments — the stewardship of talent — from 77 percent of participating households. Of these, 549 were new ministry commitments, while 1,340 were re-commitments to parish ministries.
- ◆ There were 455 offertory commitments — the stewardship of treasure — from 81 percent of participating households. The average pledge was \$3,112.

❖ FIVE-YEAR COMPARISON ❖

	<u>2018</u>	<u>2019</u>	<u>2020</u>	<u>2021</u>	<u>2022</u>
• Registered Households	1,398	1,395	1,393	1,396	1,411
• Household Commitment Cards Received	459	435	452	533	563
• Return rate for Registered Households	33%	31%	32%	38%	40%
• Active Households	846	789	795	794	802
• Active Household Commitment Cards Received	411	382	406	457	484
• Return rate for Active Households	49%	48%	51%	58%	60%
• Prayer Commitments (Stewardship of Time)	3,178	3,860	4,494	5,374	5,813
• Ministry Commitments (Stewardship of Talent)	1,975	1,766	1,776	2,016	1,889
- Re-commitments to ministries	1,476	1,399	1,335	1,313	1,340
- New commitments to ministries	499	367	441	703	549
• Offertory Commitments (Stewardship of Treasure)	366	368	364	421	455
- Average pledge	\$2,786	\$3,023	\$3,282	\$3,305	\$3,112
- Total annual amount pledged	\$1,016,824	\$1,112,572	\$1,194,720	\$1,391,602	\$1,415,783



ST. PETER CATHOLIC CHURCH



4500 Duxhall Dr. | Lincoln, NE 68516
402-423-1239 | www.saintpeterlincoln.com

MASS SCHEDULE:

Saturday: 4:00 p.m.

Sunday: 8:00 a.m., 9:30 a.m., 11:00 a.m.

DAILY MASS

*Monday-Friday: 6:30 a.m., 8:15 a.m.,
5:30 p.m.*

Saturday: 8:15 a.m.

CONFESSION

Monday & Friday: 7:00 a.m. - 8:00 a.m.

Wednesday: 4:30 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.

Saturday: 3:00-4:00 p.m.

Sunday 30 minutes before each Mass

2023 PARISH RETREAT SCHEDULE

Please RSVP by Feb. 20
to Sarah Schafers
in our parish office at
402-423-1239 or email
stpeterchurch@cdolinc.net.

Saturday, February 25th

8:15 a.m. Mass

9:00 a.m. Continental Breakfast

9:30 a.m. Session One

10:45 a.m. Session Two

12:00 p.m. Session Three

1:00 p.m. LUNCH

Eucharistic Adoration & Confessions 1:30-2:30 p.m.

2:30 p.m. Benediction and Closing