



# ST. PETER CATHOLIC CHURCH

*Monthly Newsletter*

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# ST. PETER CATHOLIC CHURCH

## KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS INVITES YOU TO MASS, STATIONS, AND A LENTEN MEAL EVERY FRIDAY OF LENT

Lent is a time to slow down and simplify. In turn, we find opportunities for deeper prayer and meditation, which help us hear the voice of God in our hearts more clearly. Attending Stations of the Cross and our Lenten Meals each Friday could be a simple and enjoyable, yet profound addition to your Lenten journey.

Lenten Meals take place every Friday of Lent, except for Good Friday. The first Lenten Meal in February was hosted by our Boy Scouts. All of the rest will be prepared and served by our Knights of Columbus. Grand Knight Gary Bouc has seen this simple community event become very popular with the parish.

"It's a very social activity and open to all ages and families," Gary says. "It's a very convenient time for those attending Mass and Stations of the Cross. We typically have over 100 people there."

With Mass at 5:30 p.m. followed by Stations of the Cross at 6 p.m., the Lenten Meal is an easy way to round out an evening of prayer with good food and fellowship. Whether you can make it to Mass or Stations of the Cross, it's an excellent way to end a busy week and bring your focus back to the Lenten season.

"Feed the body and feed the soul," Gary says. "The Stations of the Cross are a wonderful reminder of what Lent is all about and the Mass has wonderful benefits of receiving Christ in the Eucharist and all of the graces associated with it. It's a wonderful Lenten preparation."

The Lenten Meal menu on these meatless Fridays



consists of parmesan-encrusted cod or seasoned cod, a baked potato, corn, a roll, and all of the fixings that go with it.

"It's very well received and the priests typically attend," Gary says. "Everyone has a good time with it. Everyone loves the parmesan-encrusted cod. We used to have a different menu each week, but this was so popular that we decided to stick with it."

It takes about 25 Knights to prepare and serve the meal. They begin the day before by defrosting the cod and wrapping the potatoes. Then they come back early the next day to start baking so that everything is ready for dinner at 6 p.m.

The Lenten Meals are held in Bishop Vasa Hall in the basement of the church and a freewill donation is welcome.

*"Feed the body and feed the soul. The Stations of the Cross are a wonderful reminder of what Lent is all about and the Mass has wonderful benefits of receiving Christ in the Eucharist and all of the graces associated with it. It's a wonderful Lenten preparation." — Gary Bouc*

*All are invited to join us on Fridays for Mass at 5:30 p.m.,  
Stations of the Cross at 6:00 p.m., and a meal between 6:00-7:30 p.m.*

*A Letter from Our Pastor*

## REFLECTIONS ON LENT AND STEWARDSHIP FROM POPE BENEDICT XVI

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

With the passing from this life of Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI on Dec. 31, I found it fitting to share with you some of his teachings and reflections on Lent, as we have now embarked on our own Lenten journeys.

Pope Benedict was a lifelong scholar, a priest for 71 years, and pope from 2005 to 2013. Throughout his papacy, he offered us all a treasure trove of reflections, prayers, and advice for our Lenten journeys and constantly reminded and encouraged us during this 40-day journey to increase our faith and charity. In other words, through conversion of heart, we must intensify our commitment to stewardship with the sharing of our gifts during Lent.

In his final Lenten message as pope in 2013, he wrote: *"The celebration of Lent... offers us a valuable opportunity to meditate on the relationship between faith and charity: between believing in God – the God of Jesus Christ – and love, which is the fruit of the Holy Spirit and which guides us on the path of devotion to God and others."*

While Lent is a time when we tend to ramp up our prayer lives, Pope Benedict always pushed us to do even more, and he encouraged us to take the next step as good and faithful stewards. He explained how faith leads to charity, which is a response to God's love for us, thus urging us to use our renewed faith by sharing our time, talent, and treasure with others.

He wrote: *"The entire Christian life is a response to God's love. The first response is precisely faith as the acceptance, filled with wonder and gratitude, of the*



*unprecedented divine initiative that precedes us and summons us. And the 'yes' of faith marks the beginning of a radiant story of friendship with the Lord, which fills and gives full meaning to our whole life. But it is not enough for God that we simply accept his gratuitous love. Not only does he love us, but he wants to draw us to himself, to transform us in such a profound way as to bring us to say with Saint Paul: 'it is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me'" (cf. Gal 2:20).*

Pope Benedict continued his 2013 Lenten message, saying: *"For its part, charity ushers us into the love of God manifested in Christ and joins us in a personal and existential way to the total and unconditional self-giving of Jesus to the Father and to his brothers and sisters. By filling our hearts with his love, the Holy Spirit makes us sharers in Jesus' filial devotion to God and fraternal devotion to every man"* (cf. Rom 5:5).

While we grieve that he is no longer with us here, I remain grateful to our Lord for Pope Benedict XVI and his ministry and invite you to reflect on his teachings and messages on Lent as you continue your own Lenten journeys with trust and joy.

In His Mercy,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Fr. Eric Clark".

Fr. Eric Clark,  
Pastor

Want to read more from Pope Benedict XVI on the Lenten journey?  
Pick up his 2006 book, *Journey to Easter: Spiritual Reflections for the Lenten Season*,  
and his 2012 book, *Lent with Pope Benedict XVI: Meditations for Every Day*.



## THE SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION: JOYFULLY SEALED

Every sacrament is an encounter with Jesus Christ, who came to give us life. The sacraments share the marks of joy, whether it is a baby being baptized, a man and woman getting married, or children receiving their First Communion, seeing someone entering deeper into the Church is always a great opportunity to share in the outpouring of God's graces upon His people.

The Sacrament of Confirmation completes Christian Initiation in the Catholic Church. Children of the parish receive the Sacrament of Confirmation in the fifth grade. They attend classes taught by Sister Mary Clare of the School Sisters of Christ the King. This past year featured several new elements for the children and their families as they prepared to receive the sacrament.

First, the students and their families were asked to listen to the *Lower the Net* podcasts produced by the parish.

"These podcasts are heartfelt, simple reflections that help us understand how we can have full and active participation at Mass," says parish catechist Blake Vajgrt. "They help us to think about how we are disciples of Christ and how we are given strength to follow Him into

the sacrifice of the Mass."

Parents of the students receiving their sacraments also participate in two group discussion sessions throughout the year. In these sessions, the students engage in conversations about the things they are learning through this podcast, and also discuss how they see the Holy Spirit working in the lives of their families. There are multiple sessions scheduled – parents have the option to attend some or all of them to fit the needs of family life.

Finally, the children were given envelopes and encouraged to share their own gifts of time, talent, and treasure at each Mass. The envelopes are designed to teach the students that they have unique gifts and remind them that the world needs them to share those gifts in many ways. Already, families have seen the beauty of their children learning how they can do that.

Children also participated in a day-long retreat on Oct. 21. The retreat began with Mass at St. Peter and then went to Villa Regina, the School Sisters of Christ the King Motherhouse. One of the primary reflections



## **WITH THE GIFTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT**



walked them through chapter four of the Acts of the Apostles, opening up our parish theme for this year, *At the Feet of Peter*. They also were invited to be open to a relationship with Jesus, no matter where they are in their lives. They also had prayer time, played games, enjoyed a luncheon, and heard from other speakers about their own faith journeys.

“The Sacrament of Confirmation is directional,” Blake says. “Our lives have purpose and direction. This sacrament gives people the grace to be strengthened and continue in the direction that they are heading. We are given the grace to say, ‘Yes! I will follow! And with the sevenfold gifts that I am given, I trust in thee, come what may.’”

The joy of celebrating a child of God receiving their sacraments is a special occasion. Confirmation at St. Peter is April 13 at 7 p.m. Mass will be celebrated by Bishop Emeritus Fabian Bruskewitz. The community is invited to rejoice with them as they are sealed with the gifts of the Holy Spirit and sent forth to light the world on fire!

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*— Blake Vajgrt*



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## DEVOTION TO THE HOLY FACE MINISTRY

In the mid-1800s a Carmelite nun named Sister Mary of St. Peter lived in Tours, France. Over several years, she received insights from Jesus about the pain that the sins of blasphemy caused Him. Jesus asked Sr. Mary to establish a worldwide Devotion to His Holy Face to make reparation for these sins and gave her a specific prayer, called the Golden Arrow prayer, to include in this devotion.

Unfortunately, Sr. Mary's efforts to establish this devotion were blocked by Church hierarchy. However, a friend of hers, the Venerable Leo Dupont, helped to propagate the devotion. Leo Dupont hung an image of the Veronica Veil – a relic of the veil that St. Veronica gave to Jesus with which to wipe His face on His way to Calvary – in his living room and invited people to come and pray the Golden Arrow prayer along with the Litany of the Holy Face. After miracles began to be attributed to prayers said during this devotion, Pope Leo XIII approved the devotion.

Today, the Devotion to the Holy Face takes place throughout the world, including at our parish. Margaret Wall helped to start the ministry here, and Lisa Kerrigan runs the Devotion to the Holy Face at St. Peter. Members meet on Tuesdays from 2 to 3 p.m. Meetings follow a format of prayers and include Eucharistic Adoration so that participants can be in the presence of Jesus while contemplating a depiction of His face which Lisa places in front of the front pews in the church.

Each meeting includes hymns and a reading from a devotion book, in addition to the communal recitation of prayers, including the Holy Face prayer, the Litany of the Holy Face, the Prayer of St. Therese of Jesus to the Holy Face, the Golden Arrow prayer, and a Sorrowful Rosary.

The Golden Arrow prayer was given to Sr. Mary of St. Peter by Jesus. Praying the Golden



Arrow prayer is an act of reparation against the sin of blasphemy – “May the most holy, most sacred, most adorable, most incomprehensible and unutterable Name of God be always praised, blessed, loved, adored and glorified in heaven, on earth, and under the earth, by all the creatures of God, and by the Sacred Heart of Our Lord Jesus Christ in the Most Holy Sacrament of the Altar. Amen.”

Margaret points out that part of praying for reparation of sins against the Sabbath is praying for those who have left the Church – including those who never returned after COVID restrictions lifted – to return.

“It only takes a few,” Margaret says of the value of this devotion. “That’s why we gather at St. Peter. We know we can stand in the breach for other people. God can spare our community. He listens to these prayers. We look at His face disfigured by the blows, but He looks at our face disfigured by sin.”

As Jesus revealed to Sr. Mary of St. Peter, “Those who will contemplate the wounds on My Face here on earth, shall contemplate it radiant in heaven.”

“We’re not helpless – God hasn’t left us without means,” Margaret says. “He asks us to help. We can stand in for friends and family and neighbors and enemies.”

*The Devotion to the Holy Face meets on Tuesday afternoons from 2 to 3 p.m. If you would like to participate or learn more, please contact Lisa Kerrigan at 402-730-6554.*

*Abide in Christ and build His kingdom*



ST. PETER CHURCH IS GIVING ALMS THIS LENT TO:

## *St. Vincent de Paul*

Inspired by Gospel values, the Society of St. Vincent de Paul (SVdP), a Catholic lay organization, leads women and men to join together to grow spiritually by meeting together and by offering person-to-person service to the needy and suffering in the tradition of its founder, Blessed Frederic Ozanam, and Patron, St. Vincent de Paul.

The Council provides assistance to residents of Lincoln, Neb. **Those in need may call 402-HELP YOU (402-435-7968), and speak to one of our St. Gabriel Call Center staff or volunteers. We take calls Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday from 10 a.m. to noon and on Wednesday from 5:30-7:30 p.m. Por favor llamen al 402-488-5087 Ext 9. Estamos disponibles de lunes a Viernes.** After receiving your information, we may refer you to another agency for assistance or we may schedule you for a home visit. As SVdP volunteers we are called upon to determine how best to assist persons in need based on the information we gain from home visits. In this, we trust the Lord for guidance.

The St. Vincent de Paul Society relies upon the generosity of individuals to provide needed support for our mission. Our vision is to provide assistance to those in need. Your donation will help fulfill this vision to provide for more people in the Lincoln area.

*St. Vincent de Paul is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization so your gift may qualify as a charitable deduction for income tax purposes.*

*Your gift does make a difference.*

St. Peter will be collecting donations for  
St. Vincent de Paul throughout Lent.

See the Giving Tree in the church lobby for ways to donate, write a check made out to "St. Vincent de Paul" and drop it in the collection basket, or scan here to give through St. Peter Church online giving.

For more information, contact our ministry leaders  
Mike and Sharon Riordan at sandmriordan@gmail.com.





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402-423-1239 | [www.saintpeterlincoln.com](http://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 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.*

*Sunday 30 minutes before each Mass*



## JOIN US ON FRIDAYS DURING LENT

*Daily Mass at 6:30 a.m., 8:15 a.m. and 5:30 p.m.*

*Stations of Cross at 2:30 p.m. and 6 p.m.*

*Lenten Meals from 6:00-7:30 p.m. (except for Good Friday)*