



# ST. PETER CATHOLIC CHURCH

*Monthly Newsletter*

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SEPTEMBER 2023



# ST. PETER CATHOLIC CHURCH

## 2023 DISCIPLESHIP RENEWAL

**BRING YOUR COMMITMENT  
CARD TO MASS THIS  
WEEKEND!**

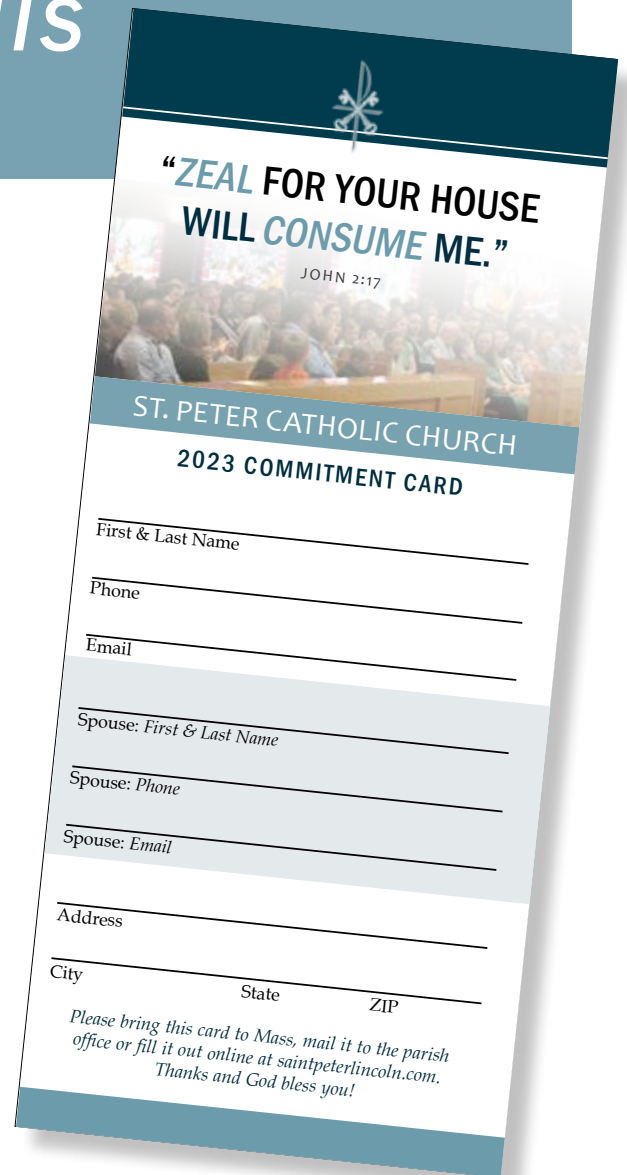
**W**e are in the midst of our annual Discipleship Renewal. If you haven't returned your Commitment Card or completed one online at the parish website, [www.saintpeterlincoln.com](http://www.saintpeterlincoln.com), it is NOT too late.

As a parish community, we follow Jesus as disciples and share with him our time, talent, and treasure. Our goal is to be a Discipleship Parish - a community who is noticeably committed to prayer, parish ministry, and generous financial support. All three are equally important.

Reflect on how you are involved at St. Peter. Do you serve in parish ministries? Do you come to parish-wide events? Are you taking steps to improve your spiritual life and further study our Catholic Faith? Are you committed to a holy hour of adoration each week?

Please carefully read through the ministry catalog and take to prayer on how the Lord is calling you to share your gifts of time, talent, and treasure with our parish. Then fill out the Commitment Card and take a step forward in each of these areas.

Returning your card is an important part of being an active member at St. Peter Parish. Please contact our parish office with any questions. May God bless you as you discern how He is calling you to grow closer to Him this year!



*A Letter from Our Pastor*

## **RENEW OUR EFFORTS AS GOOD DISCIPLES** *to Give Out of Love*

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

If your calendar looks like mine, we all know everything is shifting back into high gear this month. Vacations are over. Schools are back in session. Clubs, organizations, and ministries are back at work full-time. Life is suddenly more hectic. As I looked at the calendar for September, I remembered some of the important feast days coming up this month and noticed several connections to living discipleship.

First, let's consider the Feast Day of St. Teresa of Calcutta on Sept. 5. Small in stature, but so very Catholic in everything she represented and did, Mother Teresa was an important part of my perception of what it means to be Catholic and Christian. It is difficult to believe that she will have been gone for 26 years. She was the absolute epitome of what it means to be Catholic, to love, and to serve. She represented a living example of discipleship in our lifetimes. What she had to say about our lives and how we should live them became some of the more quotable illustrations of living discipleship that we reflect upon today. For example, she said, "It is not how much we give, but how much love we put into giving." That is our challenge as we begin the busy part of our year, to do everything we do with love.

Then, on Sept. 14, we celebrate the Exaltation of the Holy Cross. The Cross has enormous meaning to us as Catholics. How many times do we make the Sign of the Cross to signify the Holy Trinity and to remember that the Cross represents so much to us? It is a renewal of our Baptism every time we make the Sign of the Cross. More than 1,700 years ago, St. Helen discovered the true cross in Jerusalem. The Church of the Holy Sepulchre in Jerusalem was built on that spot, and it was dedicated in September 335, thus our veneration of the Cross on Sept. 14.



When we make the Sign of the Cross, we are also indicating our discipleship, our pledge to be good stewards. Whether it is in our labors that we glorify God, in serving the Lord and others with love, or constantly reminding ourselves of Christ's salvation of us on the Cross, we need to continually rededicate ourselves to service and discipleship. This month – when we revive so much in our parish – is a good time to do that. St. Teresa of Calcutta also said, "The needs are great, and none of us, including me, ever do great things. But we can all do small things, with great love, and together we can do something wonderful."

In His Mercy,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Fr. Eric Clark". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Fr. Eric Clark,  
Pastor





## GET READY FOR THIS YEAR'S ANNUAL PARISH TRADITION BRINGS C

A favorite yearly tradition is right around the corner, so be sure to mark your calendar!

We are pleased to announce that our annual Fall Festival will take place on Friday, Sept. 15, and it will be held in the lower parking lot and expand into the field. This is a family-friendly event where parishioners can gather to play games, enjoy music, eat some great food, and share in fellowship with the community. The Fall Festival, hosted by the parish, embodies the goals of hospitality and building community.

This year's festival will serve as a fundraiser for Discipleship Formation at our parish. Discipleship Formation comes in many forms that include CCD, Godteens, school scholarships, adult formation, staff retreats and ministry needs. These funds will be raised in a number of ways — selling large mums, as well as a small fee for the carnival games and a bake sale.

"It is an opportunity for community building and hospitality," says Amy Fendrick, this year's festival organizer. "Every year we get new parishioners that join at all different ages. For me, it is an opportunity to invite everyone in the parish, including new members, to gather together."

In addition to raising funds for Discipleship Formation, this year's event will include a beer garden for parishioners ages 21 and older. This is a great opportunity for parishioners who do not have young children at home to attend and share in the parish community as well.

"Some of the things that will be available include a dunk tank, bounce houses, food, popcorn, snow cones, revamped carnival games, photo booth, tattoos, pumpkin decorating, mum sale, a bake sale, and a beer





# YEAR'S *Fall Festival*

COMMUNITY TOGETHER IN FELLOWSHIP

garden,” Amy says. “My family has been attending for years and my kids love the dunk tank. Their favorite part is having the opportunity to dunk their teachers, priest, and parish staff.”

The Fall Festival is a big parish event, and it takes a lot of help to help make it happen. Amy, Megan Cooper, and the other organizers are incredibly thankful for the stewards of our parish who have already stepped up this year and in years past to assist with the event. This year, several parish ministries & Ministry Leaders have stepped up to help fill volunteer positions needed to run the festival activities. It is a whole parish effort, and we’re grateful for all those who are joining to help.

“We will also be doing the raffle differently this year. Event volunteers will be entered into a raffle to receive a gift at the end of the night. It’s our way of thanking those that so generously give their time and talents to help make this event a success.”

However, there is always room for more help. There are a wide variety of tasks in which parishioners with a wide range of talents can help give back to the community.

“The parish Fall Festival is for all parishioners,” Amy says. “We really want to welcome everybody. This year, we are working to create space for people of all ages, and it will be a wonderful opportunity to come together for food, friendship, and fun.”



*If you are interested in assisting with the Fall Festival or have any questions, contact Amy Fendrick at 678-995-2629.*



## DISCIPLESHIP FAITH FORMATION:

### SHARING IN STUDY AND DISCUSSION, GROWING TOGETHER AS DISCIPLES

Our mission at St. Peter Catholic Church is to “fulfill the mission of Jesus Christ to make disciples by participating in His ministry as priest, prophet, and king.” What does it mean to be a “disciple”? As Catholics, we understand a disciple to be a follower of Jesus who is still learning.

“‘Disciple’ comes from the Latin word *discipulus*, which means student, learner or follower,” says Blake Vajgrt, Parish Catechist. “When we follow Jesus, we are being formed to accomplish His mission. To be a disciple means to be holistic — giving of our time, talent, and treasure. Disciples don’t give just one — they give of all three.”

Blake wants to help every parishioner become a disciple, so he has put together a study booklet for parishioners to help us grow in discipleship. This fall, parishioners will be studying this along with all those who are in a ministry or group. Blake would like small groups to form within ministries to discuss the booklet, *Lord, Where Are You Going*. The booklet will also be used as a sacramental preparation tool.

The book’s cover image, *Domine, quo vadis?* by Annibale Carracci, emphasizes this focus on discipleship with the help of our patron, St. Peter. Each of the book’s sections includes small-group discussion topics.

“Some topics we explore are, what does the image say about the topic, what does it say about the nature of God, and how can we apply it?” Blake says. The parish will continue to share resources with groups to continue their formation as disciples.

Fr. Eric Clark discussed at the State of the Parish Address in May 2023 and at Masses how it’s easier for most of us to give our money and talents — it can seem harder to give time in prayer. So, we want prayer time to come easier and be more natural for all parishioners. Eventually, Fr Clark would like parishioners to be equipped to go door to door and make invitations to people to attend our parish. This is a step in equipping us for this mission.

Although the study of the booklets begins this fall with ministry members, all are welcome.

“The goal of the booklet is to bring all of those around you to a life with Jesus,” Blake says.

As Blake looks forward to more parishioners having the skills to preach the Gospel to family, friends, and even strangers, he recalls 1 John 1:3 — “what we have seen and heard we proclaim now to you, so that you too may have fellowship with us; for our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son, Jesus Christ.”

For more information, contact Blake Vajgrt at [blake-vajgrt@cdolinc.net](mailto:blake-vajgrt@cdolinc.net) or 402-641-3872.



## THE WAY: DISCOVERING AND LIVING THE CATHOLIC FAITH

Most of us are likely familiar with the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults, whether we have read about it, know someone who served with RCIA, or we know someone who went through the process to become Catholic. However, the name of the process was recently changed to Order of Christian Initiation of Adults, OCIA, by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops.

Here at St. Peter Catholic Church, we call the program The Way: Discovering and Living the Catholic Faith. The next session begins on Sept. 7 and ends on May 9, 2024. Those wishing to become Catholic, needing to prepare for First Holy Communion and Confirmation as adults, who want to learn more about the faith, or who need a refresher are welcome to take the weekly classes.

Blake Vajgrt oversees this ministry and serves as a catechist. He is supported by a dedicated group of catechists, including Chad Steiner, Fr. Eric Clark, Fr. Brian Wirth, and other great guest teachers. Vern Steiner and Lynette McArdle also support the ministry.

Last year at Easter Vigil, 14 people became fully initiated into the faith. Fr. Clark spoke at the Easter Vigil about how this could grow if parishioners personally invite people.

“The most effective way to invite people is to make a personal invitation,” Blake says.

Blake hopes those who have never taken that next step to become Catholic will consider taking The Way classes. He knows you won’t regret it.

“If you are curious about who Jesus is and are interested in the faith, come be part of these classes,” Blake says. “We will walk with you hand in hand, step by step.”

One important part of the class is the relationships among the students. Blake hopes that the friendships will continue after the classes are completed.

“My favorite memory is a few years ago when a few



staff members gathered around because we could hear that chatter from the room before class started,” Blake says. “That’s part of the goal – to build community.”

One Thursday a month after class, the group continues the conversation and community building at a local establishment. The gathering is called The Way: After Hours.

When Jesus first gathered the disciples, He invited them by saying, “Come, and you will see” (John 1:39). Blake invites people in this same way – come and see what the classes are like to see if you want to learn more.

“We can’t teach everything, but we know the students have what they need to follow Jesus,” Blake says. “We make it the best experience possible.”

All parishioners should consider telling at least one person about The Way.

“I’d ask all parishioners just to be willing to ask people to come,” Blake says.

The Way classes begin Sept. 7 and run weekly from 7-8:15 p.m. in St. Paul Outside the Walls. Classes end on the feast of the Ascension when newly initiated Catholics gather for their last class and to share a meal.

*For more information about The Way, please contact  
Blake Vajgrt at [blake-vajgrt@cdolinc.net](mailto:blake-vajgrt@cdolinc.net) or 402-641-3872.*



# ST. PETER CATHOLIC CHURCH



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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: 7:00 a.m. - 8:00 a.m.*

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

*Friday: 7:00 a.m. - 8:00 a.m.*

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

*Sunday 30 minutes before each Mass*



ST. PETER PARISH

# FALL FESTIVAL

**PREORDER  
MUMS TODAY!  
1 FOR \$25  
2 FOR \$40**

**FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 15 • 5:30 - 8:30 PM**

**DINNER TICKETS \$9 INDIVIDUAL | \$45 PER FAMILY**

**NEW! BEER GARDEN AND CARNIVAL GAME PASS**

**PREORDER TICKETS & MUMS TODAY!**

