



ST. PETER CATHOLIC CHURCH

Monthly Newsletter



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MARCH
2024



CLEANING MINISTRY:

MEMBERS JOYFULLY HELP TO KEEP GOD'S HOME TIDY AND WELCOMING

Walking into a clean church on Sunday morning is something that may be taken for granted. Not many people think about the time that must be spent to keep the church clean and welcoming. The Cleaning Ministry here at St. Peter's strives to do just that – keeping our church clean and welcoming for all parishioners and guests.

"This is a volunteer job," says leader Julie Fuller. "We aren't professionals, but we do our best to keep everything clean. Just like we all keep our own home clean, this is our spiritual home and we want to keep it clean as well. We want to keep Christ's home clean."

Currently, the Cleaning Ministry consists of around 30 to 40 people who come to help clean on a regular basis. Groups gather every week on Saturday, following Mass. Members do not have to attend every week – there are many who are signed up for specific weeks

of the month, or who simply come when they can. Depending on how many people come, the cleaning usually takes no more than an hour.

"Cleanliness is next to Godliness," Julie says. "Any time you go into a home, it is peaceful when it is clean and organized. It is honoring to others to have things picked up and looking nice. We strive to honor God and to make sure that His home is a welcoming environment."

The ministry's work consists of normal home cleaning tasks, like washing the windows and vacuuming. All parishioners are welcome to join. The ministry is also a wonderful opportunity for students who need to earn service hours.

"My favorite part is the community, and meeting people that I normally would not interact with at church," Julie says. "We all kind of get used to the Mass we go to and the people we see on a routine

basis. This ministry opens up a whole new community because it is not limited the way that a women's or men's group might be."

Julie has been involved for many years – she was drawn to the ministry because its duties take place behind the scenes. It is a ministry that some may not even realize exists. Julie and the ministry members are always looking for more people to help.



Members of the Cleaning Ministry gather on a Saturday morning to clean the church.



The ministry's work consists of normal home cleaning tasks, like washing the windows and vacuuming.

If you are interested in getting involved, contact Julie Fuller at fuller7311@gmail.com.

A Letter From Our Pastor

HONORING THE *Feast of St. Patrick* WITH A SPIRIT OF STEWARDSHIP



Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

While March means we are in the middle of our Lenten journeys, it also brings the festive holiday of St. Patrick's Day, a time for us to reflect on the Catholic teachings and spiritual significance of this celebration. St. Patrick's Day is not merely about revelry and merriment; it is rooted in the life and teachings of St. Patrick, who was a devout Catholic bishop and patron saint of Ireland.

St. Patrick, known for his missionary work in Ireland, brought the Catholic faith to the Irish people. His dedication, faith, and tireless efforts in spreading Christianity serve as an inspiring example for us all. In celebrating St. Patrick's Day, we can embrace this Catholic heritage and faithfully observe the holiday through acts of Catholic discipleship, particularly during the Lenten season. Here are some ways to celebrate St. Patrick's Day in a spiritually meaningful and discipleship-focused manner:

- **Attend Mass:** On St. Patrick's Day, make attending Mass a central part of your celebration. St. Patrick's commitment to the Catholic faith should inspire us to come together in worship and prayer, reaffirming our own faith.
- **Learn About St. Patrick:** Take some time to learn about the life and work of St. Patrick, his dedication to God, and his missionary efforts. Reflect on how his example can guide your own faith journey.
- **Share Your Faith:** Just as St. Patrick shared his faith with the people of Ireland, take this opportunity to share your faith with others. Engage in conversations about Catholicism and encourage open dialogue about your beliefs.
- **Embrace the Lenten Spirit:** St. Patrick's Day often involves indulgence, but as it falls within the season of Lent, consider refraining from excessive feasting

and drinking. Use this day to practice moderation and self-discipline, aligning your actions with the spirit of Lent.

- **Acts of Charity:** St. Patrick's Day can be a time for acts of charity. Donate to a Catholic charity, support a local food bank, or participate in community service to help those in need. These acts of love and generosity reflect St. Patrick's dedication to serving others.
- **Celebrate Irish Culture and Tradition:** While celebrating Irish culture is an integral part of the day, do so in a manner that respects your faith. Enjoy traditional Irish music, dance, and cuisine, but do not lose sight of the spiritual significance of the holiday.
- **Discipleship Commitments:** Use St. Patrick's Day to renew your commitment to Catholic discipleship. Reflect on how you can contribute your time, talents, and financial resources to support our parish and the broader Catholic community.

By celebrating St. Patrick's Day in a way that aligns with Catholic teachings and focuses on discipleship, we can honor the legacy of St. Patrick and his dedication to spreading the Catholic faith. Let us remember that the core of St. Patrick's work was to bring the light of Christ to the people of Ireland, and we too can continue to share the love and teachings of Christ with those around us.

May this St. Patrick's Day be a time of faith, reflection, and service as we navigate this special day during the season of Lent. Let us use this opportunity to deepen our relationship with God and one another.

In His Mercy,

Handwritten signature of Fr. Eric Clark in blue ink.

Fr. Eric Clark, Pastor



THE EASTER TRIDUUM:

A GRAND CELE



As we journey toward the end of the Lenten Season, we are preparing to celebrate the greatest Mystery of our faith – the Resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead. While this is celebrated on Easter Sunday, the Church in her goodness also bestows upon us a most solemn and multi-faceted liturgy by which the Church celebrates the three

most important days of the entire Liturgical Year during Holy Week. This solemn celebration is known as the Easter Triduum, and we personally invite everyone to participate.



“If you have never been to an Easter Triduum before, I cannot encourage you enough,” Fr. Wirth says. “The Easter Triduum is truly life-changing.”

The Easter Triduum takes place over three days – Holy Thursday, Good Friday, and the night of Holy Saturday/Easter Sunday. The Easter Triduum solemnly commemorates the last three days of Jesus’ public ministry, which culminates His Paschal Mystery.



On Holy Thursday, we gather for the Mass of the Lord’s Supper. This Mass vividly recalls the night before Jesus died when He called His Apostles together for the Last Supper. Celebrating the feast of the Passover in the Upper Room, Jesus first institutes the Sacrament of Holy Orders by washing the disciples’ feet and relatedly institutes the Eucharist at the Last Supper, the ‘source and summit’ of the Catholic faith.

“On Holy Thursday, Jesus offers His Church the greatest Gift of all, the Supreme Prayer and the Memorial Sacrifice of the Mass, whereby priests around the world can bring Jesus in the Eucharist to the people until the end of time,” Fr. Wirth says.



As Fr. Wirth notes, the Holy Thursday Mass is one of his favorite parts of the Easter Triduum. But it doesn’t end there. The Triduum continues with the celebration of Good Friday – the day Jesus willfully died on the Cross. By His Crucifixion, Jesus lovingly bore upon Himself the weight of the sins of the world so that in destroying sin and death, He could rise from the tomb once and for all and welcome us into everlasting life with Him.

Viewing Good Friday into the complete stillness of Holy Saturday morning, the Church inches closer to Holy Saturday. At the beginning of the Easter Vigil, the priest chants The Exultet, an ancient hymn dating back to the 7th-8th century. Within this ancient hymn, we hear the phrase: “O

BRATION OF HIS PASCHAL MYSTERY

happy fault, O necessary sin, that gained for us so great a Savior!" Thus, even on Good Friday, we celebrate. Though solemn and full of grief, we thank God for His infinite and merciful love for us and the selfless Sacrifice He offered on behalf of all humanity.

At the Easter Vigil, we celebrate the culmination of the three-day Triduum Liturgy, Christ's Resurrection from the dead! The Resurrection is the greatest Mystery of our faith and the most important event in all of human history. Moreover, Christ's Resurrection serves as the foundation for both the Nicene and Apostles Creed and above all, provides the cornerstone of who we are as a Christian people.

The Easter Vigil, which begins after sundown on Holy Saturday, is the holiest night of the entire Liturgical Year. Along with the blessing of the Easter Candle and Fire, and the chanting of the Exultet, up to seven readings from Scripture are proclaimed, walking us through the story of Salvation History throughout the Old Testament up to Christ's Resurrection in the New Testament. During the Easter Vigil, catechumens receive any/all Sacraments of Initiation and are welcomed into full communion within the Church, highlighted by Jesus' Institution of the Eucharist and the Eternal New Covenant. Certainly, as is always the case at every Mass, the high point of the celebration is the consecration of the Eucharist offered by the priest who acts by way of the Sacrament of Holy Orders as well as Christ's Eternal High Priesthood. Within the consecration, Heaven touches earth, Jesus makes Himself truly present, and He lovingly invites us to partake of His very Body, Blood, Soul, and Divinity! Thus, the Easter Vigil is a celebration par excellence, and we encourage all who can to participate.

As such, Fr. Wirth says he encourages

everyone to consider participating in as many of the Easter Triduum liturgies as they can.

"It may be difficult to attend when you have younger children – especially the Easter Vigil, which doesn't start until after sundown and can last two to three and a half hours generally," Fr. Wirth says. "But it is absolutely something you will never forget. Though it is not morally obligatory to attend, as Catholics, we should at some point in our lives attend a full Easter Triduum. You will not regret it!"

"Everything contained within Sacred Scripture, beginning with the opening words of Genesis to the mysterious conclusion of Revelation, is contained within the Easter Triduum and gloriously comes to fruition within these most solemn celebrations," he adds. "Especially after the rigors of 40 days of Lent, the Easter Triduum is the perfect way to conclude the Lenten season and above all, to unite our lives ever more fully with the Triumphant Lamb of God."





ST. PETER CATHOLIC CHURCH

A LOOK BEHIND THE SCENES AT OUR UPCOMING DEDICATION MASS

FULLY EXPERIENCING THE HOLINESS AND BEAUTY OF OUR CHURCH AND ALTAR

What makes a church a sacred place? It is the beautiful and rich symbolism worked into the art and architecture. Also, it is the people who come together for worship. In Catholic tradition, a church dedication sets it apart for God for the celebration of the Most Holy Eucharist.

The Mass for the dedication of a church is one of the highest liturgies we have. It comes close to the Easter and Christmas liturgies in importance. The dedication of our newly renovated church and our new altar is a landmark moment for our parish and a profound tradition. Fr. Eric Clark explains some of the meaning behind the rituals that will take place.

“The altar is actually blessed with holy water,” Fr. Clark says. “Then it is consecrated with oil. It’s a symbol that is in connection with our Baptism. We are cleansed with water and consecrated with the same sacred chrism oil.”

The altar is where we offer the holy sacrifice of the Mass. Many early saints viewed each person as a spiritual altar on which our life of holiness is offered. We can look to these saints as an example of our own faith. For this reason, relics of saints will be placed in our altar upon its dedication.

“This goes back to the Early Church in which they celebrated Mass in the catacombs and especially above the bone of martyrs and saints,” Fr. Clark says. “Ignatius of Antioch said that the bones of the martyrs were more precious than any gold.”

Two relics will be placed in our altar — Saint Peter, for whom our church is named; and Pope St. Pius X, the patron of our high school.

To consecrate the building, 12 places will be blessed, calling to mind the 12 apostles. Incense will burn in

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Abide in Christ and build His kingdom

the brazier and fill the church, which echoes the dedication of the Temple in the Old Testament. The liturgy will be celebrated by Bishop Conley and all of the priests in the diocese will be invited. Fr. Clark expects about 40 priests to be in attendance. The Knights of Columbus will provide an honor guard while a full choir will accompany the Mass. Both altar servers and acolytes will assist at Mass. This is an opportunity for those who contributed directly to the beautiful renovations to be present for this key liturgy.

“We have about 700 people who have contributed to our capital campaign,” Fr. Clark says. “If they all come, we’ll probably fill up the church.”

The dedication of the church and the altar will take place on March 23, the day before Palm Sunday. This means that we will be able to fully experience the beautiful renovations for all of Holy Week.

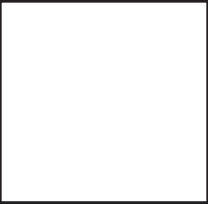


*For continued updates,
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Facebook page.*





ST. PETER CATHOLIC CHURCH



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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



HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

CONFESSIONS

Monday, March 25

7:00-8:00am

Wednesday, March 27

4:30-5:30pm

6:00-7:00pm

Thursday, March 28

6:00-7:00pm

8:30-9:30pm

Friday, March 29

3:30-4:30pm

6:00-7:00pm

8:30-9:30pm

LITURGIES

Monday, March 25 - Masses

6:30am and 8:15am

Tuesday, March 26 - Masses

6:30am, 8:15am

and 5:30pm

Wed, March 27 - Masses

6:30am, 8:15am

and 5:30pm

Holy Thursday

March 28

7:00pm

Good Friday

March 29

Stations - 3:00pm

Service - 7:00pm

Easter Vigil

March 30

8:00pm

Easter Sunday Masses

March 31

8:00am, 9:30am and

11:00am

