



ST. PETER CATHOLIC CHURCH

Monthly Newsletter



In This Issue:

- 2** Totus Tuus Offering Our Children an Encounter With the Lord
- 3** A Letter from Our Pastor
- 4** New Stained Glass Windows an Opportunity to Experience Life of Our Patron Saint
- 6** Parish Manager Katherine Norman Takes Next Step on Vocational Journey Following God's Plan to Serve

JUNE 2024



ST. PETER CATHOLIC CHURCH

TOTUS TUUS OFFERING OUR CHILDREN An Encounter with the Lord

We are blessed to offer Totus Tuus, a summer catechetical program for children entering the first through eighth grades, plus high schoolers, again this summer at St. Peter Catholic Church.

Totus Tuus, Latin for “totally yours,” was the papal motto for St. John Paul II. The program is run by college students from various schools who sign up with the Diocese of Lincoln.

These college students live the life of missionaries in the summer and the program is imbued with their joy and zeal for Gospel living. “Then they travel around to run the program in different parishes of the diocese. Parents help put the team up for the week, housing them and providing meals. They’re sent out as ministers of the Gospel.”

This year, the program runs during the week of June 9. Those entering first through eighth grades attend Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. until 3 p.m. The high school students attend in the evenings starting Sunday through Thursday, from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.

“There are periods in the classroom and daily encounters with our Lord in the sacraments,” Blake says of the daytime group. “There are opportunities for Confession, cookie breaks throughout the day, and recess. Friday ends with a giant water fight to conclude the week. The best-behaved class gets to ‘sundae’ a teacher.”

Yes, “sundae” a teacher – the children literally pour ice cream and toppings over the teacher’s head!

“You’d be surprised how long the syrup smell stays in your nose,” Blake says with a laugh. “But it’s all for the glory of God, so it’s worth it.”

The high school students have an impactful experience, delving into formation and discipleship.



“There’s an evening meal and talks about faith formation,” Blake says. “It’s meant to be evangelical in nature with a focus on discipleship and personal witness by the college students.”

Parents enjoy bringing their kids to this program. “Generally every parent says it’s good for them to be in the environment of the Church,” Blake says. “There’s just a joy that comes from being there together as a community. Kids look forward to it. It’s an incognito evangelization. They don’t enjoy

going to school or CCD maybe, but they enjoy coming to Totus Tuus. They do more religious instruction here than in school, so there are benefits of faith in an engaging way for children.”

While the college students essentially run the whole program, parishioners can help as well. “We most need help with people providing meals for the high school nights, and if people could come and worship with us during the week at daily Mass,” Blake says. “The Master has need of our presence at Mass. If we don’t get that right, we’re not going to get a lot of other needs met. First, we abide, then we go and build.”

The purpose of Totus Tuus is to encounter the Lord Jesus.

Blake recalls his time with the program. “We encounter Jesus through the eyes of Mary,” Blake says. “They teach the Rosary. We did the sacraments – we had classes on them. We encountered the Lord most at Mass. I feel strongly that the best way the parish can support is through daily Mass – it’s the heart of Totus Tuus. When we get that right, we find how Mary, our Mother, leads us to Jesus. We say, ‘Mary, I’m totally yours,’ and she makes us totally Jesus’.”

Registration for Totus Tuus can be found on the parish website under “faith formation” — saintpeterlincoln.com/faith-formation/totus-tuus.

A Letter From Our Pastor

CELEBRATING OUR FATHERS AS ROLE MODELS IN THE FAITH THIS MONTH

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

As we approach Father's Day, I would like to take a moment to reflect on the significance of this day for our Catholic community. Father's Day is not just a secular holiday for us; it holds deep spiritual and moral importance, reminding us of the crucial role that fathers play in our families and in our faith.

In the Catholic tradition, we are called to honor our fathers and mothers as one of the Ten Commandments teaches us. It is a commandment that carries profound spiritual implications. Honoring our fathers is a reflection of our respect and love for the authority and guidance they provide within our families. It is a way of showing gratitude for their sacrifices, their love, and their unwavering support throughout our lives.

Fathers set a powerful example in the Catholic faith for their children. Just as God the Father is a model of perfect love and guidance for us, earthly fathers are called to reflect this divine love in their families. By nurturing and guiding their children with love, faith, and moral values, fathers become living witnesses to the teachings of Christ. They play a pivotal role in shaping the spiritual journey of their children, instilling in them the virtues of faith, hope, and charity.

Our faith reminds us that fathers are called to be the spiritual leaders of their families, creating a foundation of love and faith upon which their children can build their own relationships with God. They are entrusted with the responsibility of passing on the traditions and values of our Catholic faith, ensuring that the flame of faith continues to burn brightly in the hearts of the next generation as St. John Chrysostom writes, "Let each father make his home a



church. Are you not responsible for the salvation of your children? Are you not likely to give an account for their upbringing? Just as clergy will give an account for their flock, so fathers of families will have to answer before God for all the people in their home."

On this Father's Day, let us remember to pray for all fathers, both living and deceased, within our parish community and beyond. Let us express our gratitude for their love, their sacrifices, and their unwavering dedication to their families. Let us also pray for those who

may have struggled in their role as fathers, that they may find the strength and guidance to become the fathers that God intended them to be.

It is a day for us to offer our love and appreciation to our earthly fathers while also recognizing the great example set by our Heavenly Father. As we honor our fathers, we honor God's plan for the family and the vital role fathers play in nurturing faith, love, and moral values within our homes.

I encourage all of you to spend this Father's Day reflecting on the importance of fathers in our lives and in our faith. Let us celebrate their love, cherish their guidance, and pray for their well-being. May God bless all fathers with the strength and wisdom to continue being the spiritual leaders and loving role models our families need.

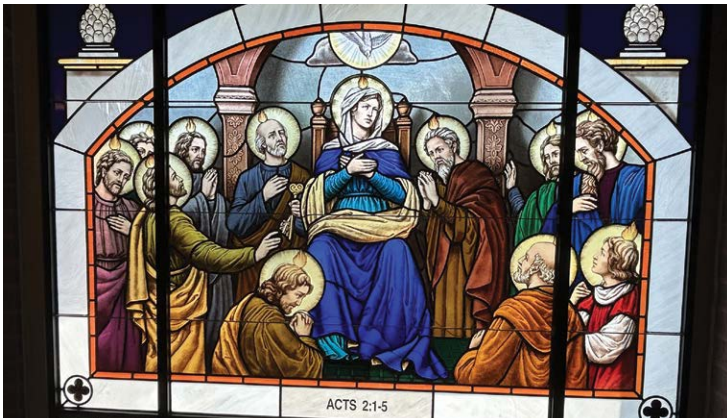
In His Mercy,

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

Fr. Eric Clark,
Pastor



New Stained Glass Windows TO EXPERIENCE LIFE OF OUR P



As part of our recent renovation, Fr. Clark commissioned a whole new set of stained glass windows. These beautiful depictions of the life of St. Peter surround us as we gather to worship. You've likely noticed them, but have you paid closer attention to the details? These windows were constructed in an effort to draw us closer to Christ, and they do so in a magnificent manner.

"The windows enable us to participate in the creative and recreative wonder of our Lord who is Himself the author of truth, beauty, and goodness," says parishioner Dr. Vern Steiner. "They enable us to encounter the light of Jesus through the eyes of our patron saint. They refract the light of our Lord, the true light of the world, in a way that draws us into His very life."

Wanting the stained glass windows to serve as a vehicle to bring us closer to Christ, Fr. Clark commissioned Vern, who serves as the president of the Emmaus Institute for Biblical Studies, to write a reflection on each window. So Vern spent 11 months creating the 110-page booklet, *Encountering the Light of Jesus through the Eyes of St. Peter: Stained Glass Reflections from the Life of our Patron Saint*.

"Each of the 17 chapters features a photo of the respective window, the full Scripture passage cited beneath the window, a brief commentary aimed at drawing us into the message of those sacred words, a few questions and/or suggestions for individual or group reflection, and a short prayer," Vern says.

The books can be purchased for \$10, and Vern encourages all of us to take time to reflect on the truths depicted in the windows. He admits that the time he spent putting the reflections together offered him his own unique opportunity to grow in faith, and he says he is hopeful the reflections he created will do the same for each one of us.

"I found the study deeply enriching and profoundly edifying as I walked with Peter and our Lord through various scenes," Vern says. "It was like eavesdropping on their conversations, identifying with some of Peter's struggles,

AN OPPORTUNITY PATRON SAINT

“The windows enable us to encounter the light of Jesus through the eyes of our patron saint. They refract the light of our Lord, the true light of the world, in a way that draws us into His very life.”

— Dr. Vern Steiner

marveling at Jesus’ patience with His sometimes-impetuous disciple, bowing in wonder and submission before the One whom Peter identified as ‘the Christ, the Son of the living God,’ and standing in awe at Jesus’ response, ‘You are Peter and on this rock I will build my church.’”

Listening to Vern recount his experience in writing the reflections, it is clear that they have the potential to draw us all closer to Christ and give us a greater appreciation for the part Peter played in the building of the Church.

If you are interested in growing closer to Christ in this way, pick up a copy of the book. You can use it for personal reflection or make it into a group study with others. In whatever way each of us chooses to use it, this book promises to be a powerful resource, bringing us ever closer to Christ who is light and life!

Thank you, Vern, for your work on this project! May God bless you tremendously for your effort, and may He allow all of us who use your work to draw closer to Him through it.

Copies of Encountering the Light of Jesus through St. Peter can be purchased by scanning here or at the parish office.





Parish Manager Katherine Norman **TAKES**



Katherine Norman with her husband, Kevin, and their three children, Daniel, Hannah, and Joseph



A well-known face that handles many of the behind-the-scenes operations at St. Peter Catholic Parish is gearing up for a new chapter of discipleship and service. After four years at St. Peter, three of them as parish manager, Katherine Norman will be returning to the classroom next fall as a full-time math teacher at Pius X. Her true servant's heart has been an integral part of St. Peter's community and will continue to shine throughout the school hallways.

Katherine holds a master's degree in teaching math and has over a decade of teaching experience in the Lincoln Public High Schools. She stepped away from the classroom when her children were little and pursued a career as a licensed financial advisor. However, after an encounter with the Lord at a parish retreat in the fall of 2019, she was open to go wherever the Lord called her. When she noticed a job opening in the bulletin four years ago, she felt the Holy Spirit's call to apply.

"I strive to let the Lord lead me and trust in His plan," Katherine says. "At the time I applied, I wasn't certain what God had planned, but it was clear he wanted me to work at the church."

As parish manager, Katherine has assisted Fr. Clark to ensure the vision, mission, and goals of the parish were met. She handled many of the financial and logistical needs of the parish, including discipleship and ministry organization, staffing, maintenance requests, and event planning. She is extremely grateful for the opportunity to support our priests, staff, and the parish community during these years.

"Father and I share the same vision," Katherine says. "It was a unique time coming out of COVID, but together we cultivated a place where parishioners want to be and feel they belong. During each of our annual renewals, we have encouraged all parishioners to take an active part in our parish as a disciple."

Katherine explains that the decision to teach at Pius X came after many months of prayer, discernment, and spiritual direction.

continued on page 7



NEXT STEP ON VOCATIONAL JOURNEY

Following God's Plan to Serve

"Pius called me in the fall to see if I would teach a class or two," she says. "I declined at the time with my busy schedule and the church under renovation, but it sowed a seed. I prayed for many months before talking to Father about where the Spirit was leading me. I have a passion for teaching and could not ignore the clear message that the Lord was calling me back."

Even though she has worn many hats over the years, Katherine believes her first vocation is as a wife to Kevin, her husband of 15 years, and a mother to her three children, Joseph, Hannah, and Daniel. Part of her decision to teach was knowing her schedule would align well with her family's needs. She is looking forward to going to work with her son, Joseph, who will be a freshman in the fall.

Although the decision to leave was ultimately not her own, Katherine says that the discernment process was especially difficult because she was deciding between two good things. Nevertheless, she trusts that God's hand was guiding her and will continue to do so through the job transition.

"I have deep faith that God is working in my life, and this is His will," she says. "St. Peter has a very special place in my heart, and I hope to continue to serve our church and school in a different capacity."

Katherine has been at St. Peter Catholic Church since it opened in 1995. Prior to working here, she was involved in multiple ministries, including CCD, Godteens, and volunteering at the school. Service has been a longstanding value for her. During the last four years, Katherine has enjoyed being a part of many wonderful ministries, including Mass Refreshments, Mass Greeters, Trivia Night, All Parish Retreat, New Parishioner Breakfast, Parish Fall Festival, and the Annual Fundraiser.

"Since a young age, I can remember a desire to serve others," she says. "When we played dress up, my sister and cousin would want to be queens, and I would want to be

their servant. I think that my passion for serving others is one reason I was drawn to teaching and to working at the church. Serving others is a good reminder that it's not about me or what I want, it's whatever the Lord is calling me to."

With an obedient heart and confidence in God's latest plan for her life, Katherine is thankful for the parish community and the wonderful experience of serving as the parish manager.

"I am eternally grateful for the many blessings I have received while working here and I hope to continue to serve Him with great commitment and intensity as I follow His plan," she says.

Our faith community extends our heartfelt gratitude to Katherine for her service as our parish manager, and we wish her the very best as she takes the next step on her vocational journey!



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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

St. Peter Catholic Church and School Annual Fundraiser

FRIDAY | JUNE 7 | 6:30PM

Chef Au Chef Catered Dinner 

Silent and Live Auction

Wall of Spirits

Live Band

Heads or Tails

Golden Ticket for Week Stay in Maui

Beer, Wine, Signature Drinks



Buy Tickets
Purchase a Lei
Get your Golden Ticket!

