



ST. PETER CATHOLIC CHURCH

Monthly Newsletter



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SEPTEMBER 2024



ST. PETER CATHOLIC CHURCH

RENAMING OF PARISH HALL A DEMONSTRATION OF HONOR AND RESPECT BISHOP VASA HALL TO BE RENAMED FOR POPE ST. JOHN PAUL II

We will soon rename Bishop Vasa Hall in honor of Pope St. John Paul II. The signs will be updated next month, and in October, we will have a rededication in honor of the great saint.

The purpose of this name change is multi-faceted. For one, in 2018, the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops came out with a recommendation that all church buildings be named after canonized saints, biblical figures, or virtues, rather than people living in the community. We want to honor that.

“Over the last two years, we have renamed our conference room after Mary, our meeting room after St. Paul, and our music room after St. Cecilia,” Fr. Clark says. “This renaming falls in line with all of that. Our parish meeting places have a deeper spiritual meaning for us, and we want their names to reflect that. We want to look at the namesakes as models for us.”

That is why John Paul II was chosen.

“Our church was built under the papacy of John Paul II, and many of our parishioners have a fondness for him and a living memory of him,” Fr. Clark says. “We wanted to name the hall after someone who many of our parishioners feel connected to. Also, John Paul II was great with fellowship, and the parish hall is where we gather to fellowship. So, the name seems fitting.”

Fr. Clark is quick to point out that the renaming is in

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— Fr. Clark

no way a slight against Bishop Vasa, its original namesake — quite the opposite, in fact.

“Bishop Vasa was never comfortable with the hall being named after him,” Fr. Clark says. “And I want to honor him.”

So, while we considered changing the name for the past few years, when Bishop Vasa wrote Fr. Clark a letter indicating his discomfort and asking that we change the name, the decision was made.

“I truly admire Bishop Vasa for what he did for our parish, so I didn’t want to rename the hall and offend him or other people,” Fr. Clark says. “But when he wrote to me and asked that we consider renaming the hall, I knew we should. His request shows a great deal of humility on his part, as well as a looking forward for the sake of our parishioners. While about 10 percent of our parishioners still have a connection to Bishop Vasa, a large majority have a connection to John Paul II. This name change will bring everyone together in a way.”

Plans for the rededication are underway. It will take place sometime in October. Then, a picture of Pope St. John Paul II will be placed in the hall along with a relic of the great saint that Fr. Clark will gift our parish. Be on the lookout for further details as October approaches.



A Letter from Our Pastor

LABOR DAY AND STEWARDSHIP

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

As we approach the celebration of Labor Day, it is essential to recognize the profound connection between the values of this holiday and our Catholic faith. Labor Day, often seen as a day of rest and recreation, can also be understood as a celebration of stewardship. Our work, our labor, is a sacred gift from God, and it offers us opportunities to fulfill our discipleship commitments to both God and our parish.

Labor Day reminds us that our efforts, the fruits of our labor, are not merely for our own benefit but should be shared with others, in line with the principles of stewardship. Just as the Church encourages us to be good stewards of God's creation, we are also called to be good stewards of the gifts, talents, and resources He has given us, as the *Catechism* states, "In the beginning God entrusted the earth and its resources to the common stewardship of mankind to take care of them, master them by labor, and enjoy their fruits" (CCC 2402).

Here are a few ways we can use the fruits of our labor to fulfill our discipleship commitments at St. Peter Church:

Tithing: The practice of tithing, giving a portion of our income to support our parish and other charitable causes, is a concrete way to fulfill our stewardship commitments. It reflects our recognition that everything we have comes from God.

Maintenance and Improvement: Our parish facilities require upkeep and improvement. Contributing to these efforts such as our grounds and cleaning ministry ensures that our church remains a welcoming and comfortable place for worship and community activities.



Eucharistic Adoration and daily Mass: Investing in our spiritual growth is a form of stewardship. Jesus said, "Apart from me you can do nothing" (John 15:5). Take all of your work and lay it on the altar of Christ and allow Him to bless your efforts of labor.

Labor Day, then, serves as a reminder that our labor is a sacred endeavor, and the fruits of our work should be used to fulfill our discipleship commitments to God and our parish. It is a time to reflect on the importance of laboring not just for personal gain, but for the greater good of our faith community and society at large.

As we celebrate Labor Day this year, I encourage you to consider how your work can be a source of blessings for others. Let us remember that our labor is a gift from God, and by using its fruits wisely, we can contribute to the growth and flourishing of our parish and the greater Catholic community.

Brothers and sisters, we cannot get a real satisfaction out of our work unless we pause, frequently, to ask ourselves why we are doing it, and whether its purpose is to help others and give glory to God. The person who chooses their work because it fulfills a purpose is the only one who grows in stature by working. They alone can properly say, at the end of their workday and career, the words of Jesus from the Cross, "It is finished."

In His Mercy,

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

Fr. Eric Clark,
Pastor



MEET OUR ALTAR SERVERS

FINDING GREAT JOY IN EMBRACING DISCIPLESHIP AND SERVICE

Each and every one of us is called to share the gifts and talents that God has given us. This includes the youth of our parish. One wonderful opportunity for children to share their time and talents with the parish is by getting involved in the Mass as an altar server.

“Sitting in the front and seeing the Mass from a different angle has

helped me with knowing the Mass parts better,” says Timothy Fendrick, a server here at St. Peter. “I feel closer to God when I’m serving.”

Many of the altar servers here at St. Peter believe that they are being given the opportunity not just to serve and help the parish, but also to serve God himself. For them, being a server helps them feel more

spiritually connected to God, and it has ignited a desire to get more involved and serve more often.

“I looked up to the altar servers when I was young, and I wanted to be able to do what they do,” says Nate Dickinson. “Being an altar server has made me want to serve more and to go to Mass more often.”

All boys who will be entering fourth grade are encouraged to consider becoming an altar server. For young boys, this is an especially wonderful opportunity to get a closer look at the role of the priest and to spark a desire for a vocation to the priesthood.



Altar serving provides a wonderful opportunity for the youth of St. Peter to grow closer to Christ, to deepen their understanding of the Mass, and to begin living lives of service.



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AND SERVING AT MASS

“I am interested in being a priest, and I need to start from level one as an altar server. Serving makes me more aware of each part of the Mass and its importance. I feel closer to Jesus when I am serving at Mass.”

— Wyatt Malone



Serving on the altar provides a fantastic introduction to discipleship!

Wyatt Malone is 10 and has been an altar server for nine months.

“I’m interested in being a priest and need to start from level one as an altar server,” Wyatt says. “Serving makes me more aware of each part of the Mass and its importance. I feel closer to Jesus when I’m serving at Mass.”

Altar servers have a unique chance to participate and help the priest as he celebrates the Mass. At the young age of 10, Braxton Thompson has come to appreciate this aspect of altar serving.

“It requires you to pay attention to every single detail of the Mass,” Braxton says. “And it makes me want to know more about Jesus.”

Altar serving also allows an opportunity for children to talk to the priest.

For Noah Harris, this is a big part of what he likes about altar serving.

“I can hear and see more parts of the Mass,” Noah says. “But I can also ask the priest questions one-on-one before or after Mass.”

Altar servers are given many tasks during the Mass, as Isaiah Odgaard points out.

“I like being active in Mass, and also getting to do some of the special duties, like setting up the incense burner and dumping it after Mass,” Isaiah says.

Ethan and Noah Feilmeier say they really enjoy helping with all the different parts of the Mass.

“I like helping with Communion and the Candles,” Ethan says.

These actions might seem simple to the congregation. However, they serve a greater purpose than the action itself. James Benes, a teacher and head of the Altar Server Ministry, has seen the impact on the children firsthand.

“Seeing these things up close, and participating in them, even in the smallest way, allows the kids to grow in their faith and to help the priest make the worship reverent to the laity,” Mr. Benes says.

Altar serving provides a wonderful opportunity for the youth of St. Peter to grow closer to Christ, to deepen their understanding of the Mass, and to begin living lives of service. It’s a fantastic introduction to discipleship!

If you are interested in becoming an altar server or would like more information, contact James Benes at James-Benes@cdolinc.net or the parish office.



THE WAY: SPREADING THE GOSPEL MESSAGE AND EXTENDING A HAND OF HOSPITALITY



Nate Snitily, Shay Uhe, Cindy Conn, Joshua Hoage, and Paula Hoage



Joshua Hoage, Jeremy Vaught, Abby Gwartney, Jon Hasse at the Rite of Election

In Scripture Christ tells us, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me” (John 14:6). Relationship with Christ is what guides us on the way to knowing truth and it is only by living in truth that we may have authentic relationship with Christ.

Parish Catechist Blake Vajgrt is part of the team that helps others prepare to explore the Catholic faith through The Way. This ministry includes the Order of Christian Initiation for Adults and is designed for non-Catholics who are inquiring and discerning the Catholic faith – however, anyone is welcome to come and participate in the formation.

“The ministry helps build trust with non-Catholics through personal relationships and facilitates an encounter with Jesus Christ in the Catholic Church,” Blake says. “It is a ministry animated by the Holy Spirit to bring about conversions to discipleship in the lives of individuals by accepting the Gospel and deciding to live by it.”

The ministry’s upcoming year will begin on Sept. 12 with a come and see event. The next weeks will be a series designed for inquiry where we’ll explore the

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THE WAY

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basics of the Gospel message and understand each other more. Later on in the year, the participants will move into greater discipleship formation: spiritual, intellectual, and cultural. All meetings this year are on Thursday evenings from 7 to 8:15 p.m., and are held in the hospitality and formation room known as St. Paul Outside the Walls.

“The curriculum is designed to help individuals live as discipleship,” Blake says. “It helps a person place themselves in the great story of salvation. There is formation in understanding the Bible, the Word of God, living in relationship with God in prayer and the sacraments, instruction in the fundamental beliefs of the Catholic faith, and how to share peace and joy with fellow disciples and the larger community.”

Volunteers and those wanting to participate are always welcome to join. Hospitality is a trust builder. It is a great opportunity to get to know others and welcome them into the parish community. It is also encouraged to participate by praying for the individuals who are coming into the Church.

“Pray that the Holy Spirit might move hearts to help individuals make decisions to become disciples,” Blake says. “Pray for the team that they might be worthy ministers of the Gospel. The end goal is that individuals would become fruitful disciples as they abide in Christ to build His Kingdom.”

Instead of just having the feel of a classroom environment, St. Peter desires that people come to The Way and experience community that shares the love of Christ who first loved us.

“The hope is that we don’t just offer head knowledge, but heart knowledge that forms a person to follow the call of Jesus and live out the invitation to proclaim the Good News to the end of the world,” Blake says.



Going over a session lesson



Attendees following a presentation

Those who wish to participate helping in The Way or join the program may contact Blake Vajgrt at 402-641-3872 or blake-vajgrt@cdolinc.net.



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: 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

FALL FESTIVAL

SEPTEMBER 22ND

ALL
TICKETS
ONLY \$5

1:00PM-3:00PM



ST. PETER FIELD AND LOWER PARKING LOT

All parishioners are invited to join us for this annual event.
Tickets are only \$5 in advance, or \$10 at the door, kids under 2 are free.
Scan the QR code to purchase your tickets today!

INCLUDED IN TICKET PRICE

GAMES	DESSERTS	COTTON CANDY	POPCORN	FACE PAINT
BOUNCE HOUSES	BEER GARDEN	SNOW CONES	AND MORE!	