



ST. PETER CATHOLIC CHURCH

Monthly Newsletter

In This Issue:

- 2** Upcoming Presentation Offers Valuable Insights on End-of-Life Planning
Join Us on Nov. 12 for This Special Opportunity
- 3** A Letter from Our Pastor
- 4** Welcoming New Members
Opening the Doors for the New Members of Our Parish Family
- 6** Our Parish School a True Mission of Our Faith
Community Educating and Forming Students

NOVEMBER 2024



ST. PETER CATHOLIC CHURCH

UPCOMING PRESENTATION OFFERS VALUABLE INSIGHTS ON END-OF-LIFE PLANNING

JOIN US ON NOV. 12 FOR THIS SPECIAL OPPORTUNITY

The Scripture passage that we often hear on Ash Wednesday as ashes are being placed on our forehead – “You are dust, and to dust you shall return” (Gen 3:19) – reminds us that each of us will die. It’s simply a reality of our life on this earth – death is a part of life in this fallen world. None of us can escape it, so we ought to be prepared.

On Nov. 12, Fr. Clark will be giving a presentation on preparing for death, and he encourages all of us to attend.

“Everyone needs to be prepared,” Fr. Clark says. “None of us know when we are going to die.”

For his part, Fr. Clark says he finds great peace in being prepared.

“I find it gives me a peace of mind knowing I am prepared,” he says. “It is also a beautiful act of love for your family and friends if you are prepared.”

Preparing today for our death that may happen tomorrow or many years from now takes the burden off of those we love – those who will be mourning our death. Taking the time to prepare now allows our loved ones to mourn without having to deal with the stresses of the planning process amidst their grief.

During his presentation, Fr. Clark will address what this entails. He will talk about planning the funeral liturgy, choosing readings, choosing pall-bearers, choosing songs, and more.

Additionally, parishioner Michael Lafleur, an attorney with the Peetz Koerwitz & Lafleur law firm, will address the particulars of estate planning. He will talk about inheritance tax as well as what it means to leave money to the Church and how we can do so.

“I find it gives me a peace of mind knowing I am prepared. It is also a beautiful act of love for your family and friends if you are prepared.” – Fr. Clark

“Putting together an estate plan is part of being a good steward of the property with which you have been blessed,” Mike says. “Each person may have different goals based on his or her position in life. Therefore, it is important to consider whether your estate plan matches your current goals.”

In addition, Mike will discuss in more detail what it looks like to include gifts to the parish as part of our estate plans, and he encourages all of us to consider doing so.

As Fr. Clark explains, these gifts can have a big impact on our parish.

“When I became pastor four years ago, we were in a financial crisis,” Fr. Clark says. “In the last four years, four estate gifts have helped us balance the budget as well as provide seed money for our capital campaign. Being good stewards of our gifts, even in death, and thinking about the future are crucial for a parish the size of ours.”



Join us Nov. 12 at 7 p.m. in the hall and learn more. We cannot run from death, but we can prepare for it. Now is the time.

A Letter From Our Pastor

REMEMBER THAT YOU ARE DUST

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

If you walk into my office, you may see something odd on my desk. It is dirt from the only land that I own, my burial plot from St. Joseph Catholic Cemetery in York, Neb. On the top is the Bible verse Genesis 3:19, "For you are dust, and to dust you shall return."

It is fitting at this time of year when the earth is 'dying' around us and turning brown that the Church remembers those who have died in a special way in November.

Every time we drive past a cemetery, it is an opportunity for us to take stock of our lives, to change whatever needs to be changed so that we can die with no regrets. Some people consider these thoughts morbid, but they are just realistic.

A painting by the remarkable nineteenth century British artist Sir John Everett Millais captures this lesson. It is called *The Vale of Rest*, and it is held by the Tate Gallery in London. It refers to an old Scottish superstition that when a coffin-shaped cloud is seen in the sky, it means an approaching death. The painting shows the cemetery of a convent, with a few crooked old headstones. In the background the sun is setting, and the tall trees growing near the convent wall are sharply, blackly silhouetted. One dark cloud blotches the brilliant sunset, and it is in the shape of a coffin.

In the foreground are two nuns. The younger nun is knee-deep in a grave, digging vigorously, her veil tucked back out of the way – she is working hard, serving her neighbor. Sitting on a headstone beside her is an older nun, holding a rosary – praying hard, serving the Lord. The sitting nun is staring right out of the canvas, directly at the onlooker. Her face is hard to read, but it seems to be anxious and intent.



She has seen the coffin-shaped cloud, and she seems to know who the grave is for: maybe for her, maybe for a dying sister in the convent, but also maybe for the intruder on the scene – us.

We do not know the day or the hour, but we know the fact: Jesus will come again; history will end; the sun will set, and God wants us to be ready.

When our lives are complete, we do not base our success or failure on how much money we have, or whether or not we are

famous. Nor does our success or failure depend upon the difference between health and sickness, or pleasure and pain, or even being nice or nasty. Rather, it is the difference between being saved and not being saved, of being a saint in heaven or suffer in hell for all eternity.

I am surrounded by memories of those who have gone before us, as are almost all of you. We are apt to use the term "the communion of saints" in many ways in our Church. Someday, we will know more about the "communion of saints" and how it all works. In the meantime, we pray for everyone who has entered eternity, hoping they have made it home. For our Savior has gone before us to prepare a place for us in our Father's house (John 14:2).

May the souls of the faithfully departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace.

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



Welcoming **NEW MEMBERS** **OPENING THE DOORS FOR THE NEW MEMBERS OF OUR PARISH FAMILY**

Our parish mission is to “abide in Christ and build His kingdom.” When we gain new parishioners, we can continue to build His kingdom by being welcoming. We must open our doors and welcome new people to this parish community. Every person who steps through our doors is made in the image and likeness of Christ.

The Welcoming New Members Ministry exists to do just as the name implies — make new parishioners feel welcome. Ministry members host two brunches per year for new members. They are invited to Mass, with the brunch following.

“We have a wonderful meal and encourage fellowship and conversations among new and existing parishioners,” says Sarah Schafers, who previously coordinated this ministry. “Our priests and staff also do tours of the church and school.”

Katherine Norman recently took over this ministry.

Sarah and Katherine believe wholeheartedly in this ministry because it’s important that parishioners feel welcome, whether in the school or parish. Everyone should feel welcome inside our spaces.

“It can be very overwhelming coming into a larger parish, and maybe not knowing anyone,” Sarah says. “With a smaller gathering, we hope it makes people feel at home.”

“Making people feel welcome is the first step to helping people feel they belong,” Katherine says. “Once someone knows this is their parish, then they take ownership and want to share their time, talents, and treasure with the parish.”

When new parishioners are intentionally welcomed, they are shown the beauty of our parish community. Hopefully, they will want to get involved.

“This ministry is their first taste of all the beautiful fruits of our parish,” Sarah says. “The brunch is a

continued on page 5



This ministry doesn’t just bless the new parishioners — it makes everyone feel good.

“We hope the brunches are engaging for all new members and also existing parishioners. We hope that through our small acts of hospitality, everyone feels excited to get to know parishioners and share in our faith, families, and fun.” — Sarah Schafers

Welcome

WELCOMING NEW MEMBERS *continued from page 4*

great, informal way to encourage new parishioners to seek out other ministries they may be interested in and answer any questions they may have.”

This ministry doesn’t just bless the new parishioners — it makes everyone feel good.

“We hope the brunches are engaging for all new members and also existing parishioners,” Sarah says. “We hope that through our small acts of hospitality, everyone feels excited to get to know parishioners and share in our faith, families, and fun.”

All parishioners can make people feel welcome — it’s a simple, but fulfilling task!

“The way parishioners can help is by being aware of those around them and looking for anyone who might have a question or need to be pointed in the right direction,” Katherine says. “It is amazing how many

opportunities you have to help others when you are open to doing so.”

*To get involved, contact
Katherine Norman at 402-423-1239 or
katherine-norman@cdolinc.net.*



Join us as we welcome new parishioners to our faith community!



When new parishioners are intentionally welcomed, they are shown the beauty of our parish community.



All parishioners can make people feel welcome — it’s a simple, but fulfilling task!



ST. PETER CATHOLIC CHURCH

OUR PARISH SCHOOL THE TRUE MISSION OF OUR FAITH COMMUNITY EDUCATING AND FORMING STUDENTS

St. Peter Catholic School is a special place where preschool to eighth-grade students can truly learn and practice the Catholic faith. Parishioners of St. Peter Church have been generous to the school since its founding, which is part of the school's mission, which serves about 300 students. Principal Curt Feilmeier is thankful for people's generosity and would love to invite

more parishioners to serve at the school, benefiting the education and formation of our students.

There are many ways to serve, including as room parent, classroom volunteer, recess and lunchroom monitor, assistant for Catechesis of the Good Shepherd, reading helper, athletic coach, substitute teacher, custodial assistant, grant writer, and many more.

Mr. Feilmeier says one of the most beautiful aspects of the school is that everyone attends Mass together, where students often fulfill liturgical roles in the Mass. They also practice other sacraments together.

"It's beautiful that we get to practice the sacraments together, daily Mass, family confessions,

continued on page 7

"We've been serving this community since 1991. We have done that thanks to the contributions of the whole parish community. Those contributions have helped support the formation of children entrusted to our care."

— Curt Feilmeier



OUR PARISH SCHOOL THE TRUE MISSION OF OUR FAITH COMMUNITY

continued from page 6

and preparation for sacraments in second and fifth grade,” Mr. Feilmeier says.

The theme for this school year is “Abide in Christ,” and students and staff learn and practice a virtue each week. As the holidays approach, the coming months at St. Peter Catholic School will be full of excitement.

“The months of November and December note several opportunities to see our faith, academic, and activity programs in action,” he says.

Discover Catholic Schools Week takes place from Nov. 17 to 23, and there will be a St. Nicholas visit and open house on Dec. 8. Students in fifth to eighth grades will have a band concert the week of Dec. 2 at Pius X High School. There will also be kindergarten to third-grade and fourth to sixth-grade Christmas concerts on Dec. 10. The school lobby will have a school-wide art project through December.

Students and staff recently enjoyed the All Saints Day parade, a faith project for the first graders. The students dressed like saints and shared a bit about them in a special

all-school ceremony. Each class had a party with fun, games, and a snack.

“We’ve been serving this community since 1991,” Mr. Feilmeier says. “We have done that thanks to the contributions of the whole parish community. Those contributions have helped support the formation of children entrusted to our care. It’s miraculous to be able to

support them, and we look forward to that continuing for many years. I am truly thankful for the support.”

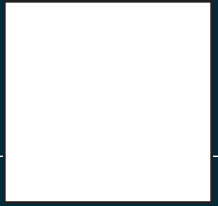
Mr. Feilmeier invites families to check out the school and learn more. Older children are welcome to shadow a student to see if the school might be a good fit. There are scholarship opportunities available. Take a tour and shadow a student to learn more.

To get involved at the school or to schedule a visit, contact Principal Curt Feilmeier at Curt-Feilmeier@cdolinc.net or 402-421-6299. Volunteer opportunities are covered at tinyurl.com/SPCS2425volunteer.





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

St. Peter Holy Spirit Christmas Ornament



PCCW is selling replica
ornaments of the
St. Peter Holy Spirit window.

This is our PCCW fundraiser for the year.
Proceeds will go to our PCCW general fund
which we use to support the needs of our
parish and future PCCW events.

Scan QR code to purchase

