

St. Peter Catholic Church

Parish Newsletter

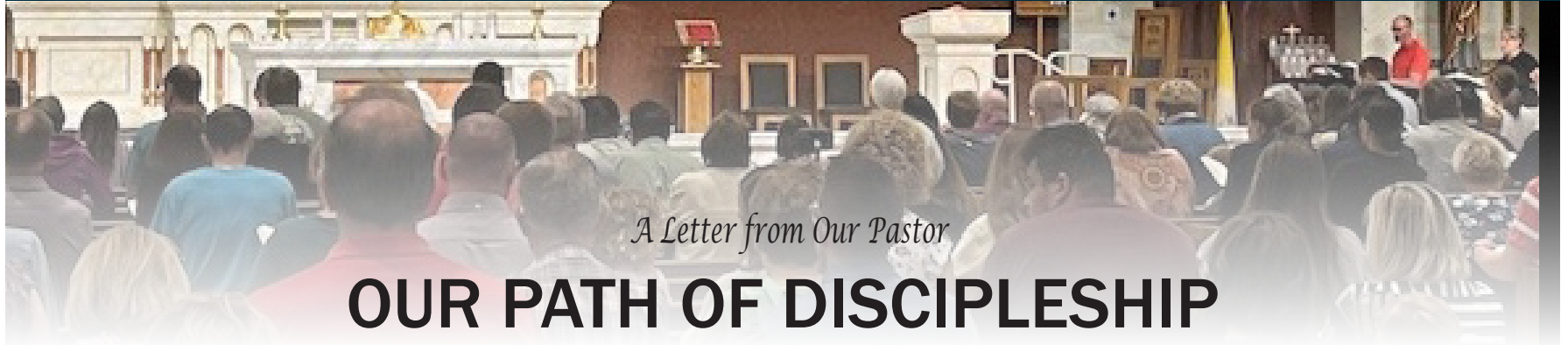
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APRIL / MAY 2025



ST. PETER CATHOLIC CHURCH



A Letter from Our Pastor

OUR PATH OF DISCIPLESHIP

Dear Parishioners,

As I left for college to UNL in the fall of 1999, I believed that college was about trying adventurous things like rodeo, success in getting good grades, and trying to find the perfect romance. Although I promised my mom that I would go to Mass on Sunday, I did not believe that I needed God in my daily life. I could live as a sinner six days a week, but on the seventh I would pretend to be a saint.

That was until one November day when a fraternity brother, Josh, asked me if I had a personal relationship with Jesus. Since I trusted him, I knew I needed to take this to prayer. As I prayed, I heard Jesus say, "No, you do not have a personal relationship with me. You have so much more - intimacy. But you have been unfaithful." I was cut to the heart.

I began to be open to spiritual change. Soon I began growing in my intimacy with Christ by being involved in a Bible study. As I was engaged in this spiritual quest, I knew Christ was calling me out of my brokenness to leave my sinful lifestyle behind to follow Him.

Providentially, another person asked me how long it had been since I went to confession. I was at the point of decision: would I live an abundant life for Christ or a shallow one in the world? By His grace, I was moved to go to confession for the first time in many years. The grace of that conversion moment prompted me to get involved with the Fellowship of Catholic University Students (FOCUS) at UNL.



Over the next several years, I embarked on a faith formation journey guided by a FOCUS missionary named Jim Jansen. Jim taught me how to live a life of virtue, how to pray, and eventually equipped me for a lifelong mission to share my faith and help others grow spiritually.

I was searching for adventure, success, and romance my freshman year, and I found them in the person of Jesus Christ. As St. Augustine (another notorious sinner) once wrote, "To seek God is the greatest adventure; to find Him is the greatest success; and to fall in love with Him is the greatest romance."

This was the beginning of my discipleship journey and a road that I want to pave for each one of you.

At St. Peter Church, we should desire that all experience the greatest adventure, success, and romance—life in Jesus. We can achieve this by developing a clear path of discipleship that leads those distant from Christ to fruitful discipleship in Him. Our mission is to make disciples by befriending others, inviting them to experience life-changing conversions, forming them in discipleship, and preparing them to be sent out as apostles. In doing so, we fulfill Jesus' Great Commission (Mt. 28:19).

In His Mercy,

Fr. Clark, Pastor



DO YOU KNOW YOUR CHARISMS?

DISCERNING YOUR CHARISMS FOR A MORE ABUNDANT LIFE

Have you ever wondered what unique gifts you possess that could truly make a difference in the world? What if discovering these gifts could unlock a deeper sense of purpose and fulfillment in your life? St. Paul in his first letter to the Corinthians tells us that the Holy Spirit gives each of us gifts to build up the kingdom of God here on earth. We call these gifts charisms (the Greek word for gift). Understanding and discerning your charisms not only helps you recognize your God-given gifts but also empowers you to use them to serve others and live out your true purpose. When we are confident in the gifts God has given us, we are ready and equipped to be disciples of Jesus Christ and serve our particular mission in the body of Christ.

What is a charism? Charisms, or spiritual gifts, are unique abilities bestowed upon ALL Christians by the Holy Spirit, enabling them to serve others, strengthen the Church, and contribute to God's mission in the world. Charisms are a double gift: a gift to the world to share the love of God, and a gift to us because they bring a fullness of joy and spiritual fulfillment. Unlike the gifts of the Holy Spirit, which nurture our own personal growth and sanctification, charisms are given to us to give away to others, playing a key role in the building up of the Church. Some of the charisms include teaching, knowledge, administration, healing, prophecy, mercy, and hospitality.

Benefits of discerning your charisms:

- Helps you know where and how God calls you to serve, making decisions easier.
- Helps avoid burnout by allowing you to work within your strengths.
- Seeing your life and work as a way to serve God, leading to your satisfaction and his glory.
- Reduces comparison with others by acknowledging your uniqueness and appreciating the uniqueness of others.
- Improves family dynamics by nurturing each member's gifts.
- Validates extraordinary spiritual experiences.
- Supports evangelization by enabling you to share your faith in the way God has uniquely designed for you to do.

There are a couple of simple ways to discover your charisms at St. Peter:

- Take a FREE spiritual gifts inventory using the QR code below.
- Join the "Called and Gifted" group for a 10-week exploration of spiritual gifts, starting June 5. Email bailey-frey@cdolinc.net for details.

**Scan the Code to
Visit our Charisms
Resources**





ST. PETER CATHOLIC CHURCH

THE WAY PROFILES

THE FRUIT OF EVANGELIZATION AND ACCOMPANIMENT

This year we will have one of our largest groups participating in the Order of Christian Initiation for Adults (OCIA), the adult faith formation classes we call The Way. Large groups don't just happen; they are the fruit of the Holy Spirit and the result of the work we do as a parish in bringing others to know Jesus. Let us celebrate with them as well as celebrate the increasing number of people called by the Lord into his Church.

Jesus calls us to be his disciple makers, even when we don't feel equipped. The Way Team added a new member this year, Kelly Honke. Kelly became Catholic in 2014 at the Newman Center and became a parishioner at St. Peter in 2020. Kelly in reflecting on joining the team, said, "I think a lot of people believe the lie that they don't have anything to offer [to people interested in exploring faith]. I definitely feel like I'm not holy enough or don't know enough to really help people, or like I need a big sign to tell me what to do. But sometimes being

given the opportunity to help is the sign that Jesus believes you have something to offer."

Jesus reminds us in the Gospel of Matthew, "The harvest is abundant but the laborers are few; so ask the master of the harvest to send out laborers for his harvest." (9:37-38) If there is one thing that this year's The Way class shows, it is that people are wanting to be known and invited to come to know Jesus. The harvest is ripe, so will you join in the labor?



Kelly Honke



Nate & Heidi Shaddick

Nate & Heidi Shaddick have lived in our parish boundaries for many years. However, it was in May 2024 that they stepped into St. Peter for the first time. The Shaddicks, as they began to explore the Catholic faith, shared, "As people who have always had a deep love for our faiths, we've found that our relationship with Jesus has become more vibrant and alive. As we attended The Way, classes at Emmaus Institute, and attended Mass, there was nothing that contradicted what we already believed. Rather we found ourselves in a position of having our

faith strengthened through the biblical teachings, Catholic traditions and learning about the gifts of the sacraments."

When asked what has helped them in The Way, they said, "The Way is an accessible, practical and a wonderful way to learn 'fact from fiction' where the Catholic Church is concerned. It has also provided some really beautiful beginnings to friendships with others in the class. There has been a renewed discipline and desire to worship Jesus. As we've left class each week it's led to deep conversations ,which has strengthened our marriage."

Abide in Christ and build His kingdom



Reed Devall

Reed Devall has attended St. Peter with his wife and children since 2015 but was not raised Catholic. After being invited to attend The Way by some parishioners this summer, he made a commitment to attend classes. Reed reflected on what changed and how it's impacted him, "There wasn't necessarily concerns or objections to the Catholic faith, but I just didn't fully ever commit. Once I decided to take the leap and change my priorities, the biggest change happened. I learned early in the class that you learn as you go, and faith doesn't totally rest on knowing things but rather knowing Jesus and coming to believe he founded the Catholic Church."



Joe Norton

Joe Norton moved to Lincoln with his wife Maggie and his daughter Lilah almost two years ago. They found a home and became parishioners this last September. Fr. Eric Clark has been a strong influence on Joe. "He has inspired me to take a deeper look into my spiritual journey, while taking the time to answer my questions and investing in my spiritual life," said Joe. Joe, describing his hopes for the future, shows his excitement to be a disciple maker. "I am hoping that I can better lead my family and bring them closer to Christ. I hope that through my experience in joining the Catholic Church, I am able to share a different perspective and experience to those who may want to make the leap in their conversion."



Olivia Dayka

Olivia Dayka and her family have been members of the parish for seven years. When she first moved to the parish, she just had their second child. She was raised in a strong Lutheran church, and at that time she was not Catholic. When her family attended Mass here, with "a screaming infant" she felt the conviction and welcome as she heard Fr. Clark say in a homily, "If your parish isn't crying, it's dying." It started a journey of discernment and exploration through The Way and the parish's CCD program. Olivia remarked, "The Way has aided me in learning my roles within my family, and in my faith and community. I have learned what it means to truly be there for someone who is in need. I have gained clarity and have been granted humility, and most importantly, God's grace through the sacraments."

Parishioners can follow along each year with the classes digitally on the parish website at <https://saintpeterlincoln.com/faith-formation/rcia> or by scanning the QR code. One of the best ways to help support The Way is to be encouraging and courageous with your neighbors to find ways to share faith and invite them to come and explore the Catholic faith in The Way.





ST. PETER CATHOLIC CHURCH

STATE OF THE PARISH

WHERE HAVE WE BEEN? WHERE ARE WE? WHERE ARE WE GOING?

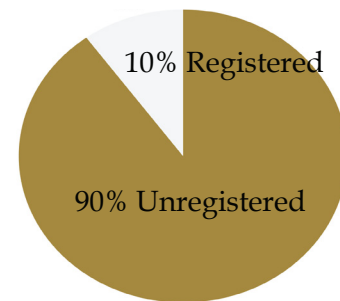
VISION: St. Peter Catholic Church will abide in Christ and build His kingdom

MISSION: To fulfill the mission of Jesus Christ to make disciples by participating in His ministry as priest, prophet and king

CURRENT PARISH SNAPSHOT

Total Population: 3,637	Staff: 34 Full-Time
Households: 1,403	& 22 Part-Time
Adults: 2,217	\$4.7 Million Budget
Children: 1,420	

% OF PARISH BOUNDARY REGISTERED

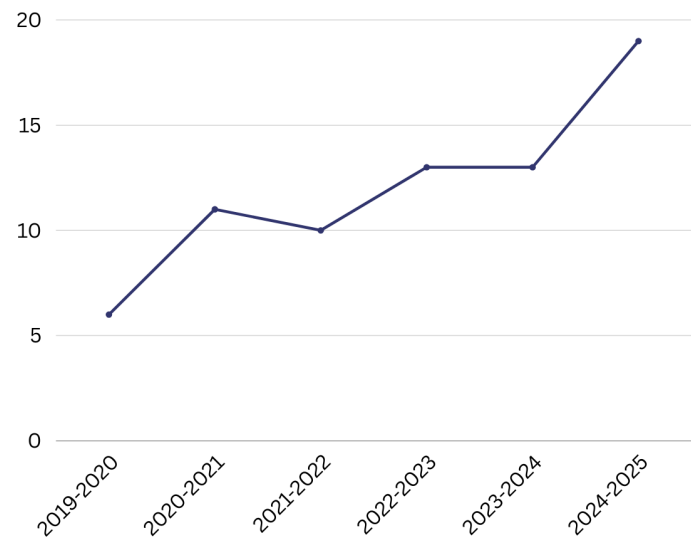


SACRAMENTS FOR THE LAST 5 FISCAL YEARS

	Baptism	Marriage	Funeral
2023-2024	50	6	12
2022-2023	53	17	13
2021-2022	58	14	17
2020-2021	63	9	23
2019-2020*	35	8	13

*COVID

FULLY INITIATED CATHOLICS THROUGH THE WAY (OCIA)



DISCIPLESHIP FORMATION

180 Parish Retreat Participants | 160 People in Small Groups | 42 Completed Reach One More

Abide in Christ and build His kingdom

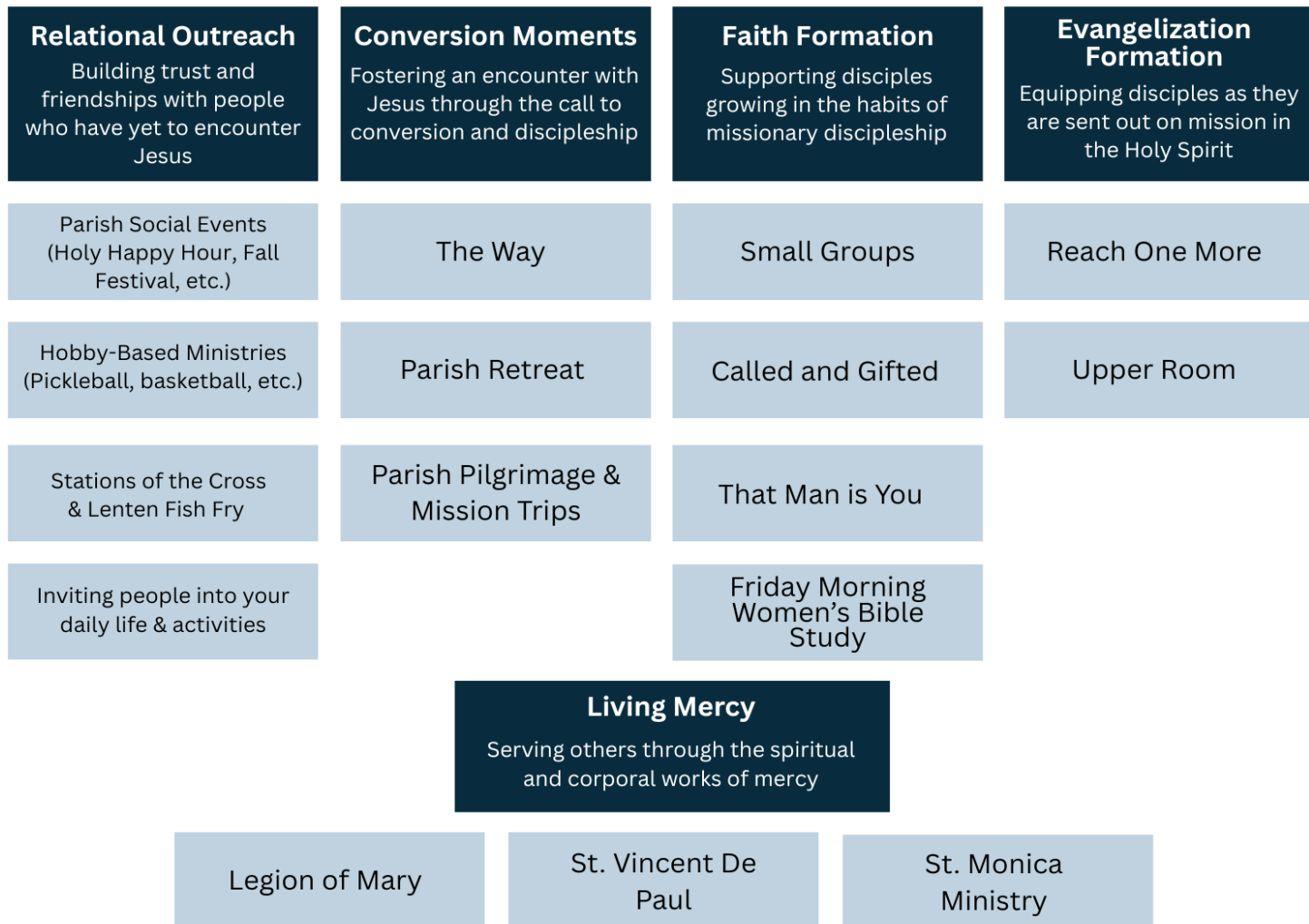
In order to make disciples, we will work to build Jesus' kingdom by creating a Clear Path of Discipleship in the years to come. A Clear Path is a parish framework to make and mature disciples as missionaries for Jesus in their homes, workplaces, and neighborhoods.

These are some of the great opportunities available at St. Peter in the next year to help non-parishioners and parishioners take the next steps in their journeys of discipleship.

THE STEPS A PERSON TAKES TO BECOMING A MATURE DISCIPLE



THE STEPS OF A CLEAR PATH OF DISCIPLESHIP





ST. PETER CATHOLIC CHURCH



4500 Duxhall Dr. | Lincoln, NE 68516
402-423-1239 | www.saintpeterlincoln.com

MASS SCHEDULE

Saturday: 4:00 pm

Sunday: 8:00 am, 9:30 am, 11:00 am

DAILY MASS

Monday-Friday: 6:30 am, 8:15 am, 5:30 pm

CONFESSION

Monday: 7:00 am-8:00 am

Wednesday: 4:30 pm-5:30 pm

Friday: 7:00 am-8:00 am

Saturday: 3:00 pm-4:00 pm

Sunday: 30 minutes before each Mass

HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

Confessions

Monday, April 14

7:00-8:00 am

Tuesday, April 15

4:30-5:30 pm

6:00-7:00 pm

Wednesday, April 16

4:30-5:30 pm

Thursday, April 17

6:00-7:00 pm

8:30-9:30 pm

Friday, April 18

3:30-4:30 pm

6:00-7:00 pm

8:30-9:30 pm

Liturgies

Monday, April 14- Masses

6:30 am and 8:15 am

Tuesday, April 15- Masses

6:30 am, 8:15 am,

and 5:30 pm

Wednesday, April 16- Masses

6:30 am, 8:15 am,

and 5:30 pm

Holy Thursday

April 17- Masses

7:00 pm

Good Friday

April 18- Masses

Stations - 3:00 pm

Service - 7:00 pm

Easter Vigil

April 19

8:30 pm

Easter Sunday Masses

April 20

8:00 am, 9:30 am,

and 11:00 am

