



# St. Peter Catholic Church

*Parish Newsletter*

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DECEMBER 2025 / JANUARY 2026



# ST. PETER CATHOLIC CHURCH

## *A Letter from Our Pastor*

### **OUR MISSION IS TO MAKE DISCIPLES AND BUILD GOD'S KINGDOM AT HOME**



Dear Brothers and Sisters,

As we get ready for the new year, let us pause and reflect on one of the primary calls of discipleship, sharing the faith with others. In our recent relationship survey as part of our partnership with Communio, we found out that as a community,

42% of families have open conversations about the faith in the home regularly (at least weekly or more).

Let's admit it, it can be intimidating to have open conversations about the faith. It takes intentionality, vulnerability, and wisdom. Yet in the recent study, *A Report on American Religious Catholic Parenting*, having these conversations is the most important thing parents can do to raise lifelong disciples. The intimate, consistent labor of discipleship within our homes and relationships is well within our grasp.

Our parish's mission is to make disciples so that our homes and the church can be a place where we abide in Christ and build his kingdom. I encourage all families to take steps to have open conversations in the home more frequently.

The most important thing to keep in mind for your conversations with your children (neighbors and coworkers) is that they need to know that you know Jesus personally and he has had an impact on your life.

Consider how you can articulate these things by expressing how:

- The rituals you do daily bring you to encounter Jesus and how they've brought you to know him in his church.
- The stories you tell and share (personal, Bible, lives of the saints, and good literature) help reveal Jesus to you and how they've brought you into relationship with him.
- The songs and arts you sing and view help you remember and participate in the life of faith as tangible reminders of our life in Christ.

It is often easier to build a physical church than to make disciples. The same is true at home: building a structure is simpler than forming our children's spiritual character. We must let the attention we give to their physical needs inspire an even deeper commitment to the humble work of family discipleship. By honoring both the visible work (providing a home) and the unseen work (forming faith), we ensure our children gain an enduring foundation for life itself.

Thank you for your faith, your generosity, and your commitment to your family and our parish family.

In His Mercy,

Pastor



# HIGHLIGHTS OF OUR 2025 DISCIPLESHIP RENEWAL

## **BUILD HIS KINGDOM**

This past August, St. Peter had our 2025 Discipleship Renewal. This renewal provided our parish community with a vital opportunity to discern how we are utilizing the gifts of time, talent, and treasure God has given us, both in service to the parish and in return to Him.

We are now delighted to share some of the highlights and fruits of the 2025 Discipleship Renewal with you this month.

The seven categories below correspond directly to the options found on the commitment card—each representing a step on our Clear Path of Discipleship. These commitments are all rooted in our perpetual adoration program, the source and summit of grace. We are excited to witness the growth and commitment of each person on their discipleship journey.

**ENCOUNTER**  
Building trust and friendships with people who have yet to encounter Jesus

Parish Social Events

**175**

Households Committed to Attending Parish Socials

Inviting people into your daily life & activities

**34**

Households Committed to Hosting their Neighbors

**RESTORE**  
Fostering an encounter with Jesus through the call to conversion and discipleship

The Way

**27**

People Currently Attending *The Way*

**FOLLOW**  
Supporting disciples growing in the habits of missionary discipleship

Small Groups

**82**

NEW People Joined a Small Group

Called and Gifted

**23**

People Joined *Called & Gifted*

**GO FORTH**  
Equipping disciples as they are sent out on mission in the Holy Spirit

Reach One More

**14**

People Committed to Attending *Reach One More*

Adoration

**16** NEW People Signed up for a Holy Hour



# ST. PETER CATHOLIC CHURCH

## ST. PETER PARISH HOEDOWN DANCE *GRAB YOUR BOOTS AND GRAB YOUR PARTNER*

Get ready to do-si-do! St. Peter Parish is gearing up for a lively, foot-stomping evening as the St. Therese Circle hosts its inaugural Hoedown Dance on Saturday, **January 10, at 6 PM in JPll Hall**. This 21+ event marks a fun new tradition and serves as a celebration of the parish's successful Date Night Challenge.

The PCCW St. Therese Circle is excited to foster deeper fellowship within the St. Peter community with this first-ever Hoedown. It promises a night of joy, community, and energetic square dancing. The evening is welcoming to everyone, from seasoned dancers to those who have never set foot on a dance floor. You won't have to worry about knowing the steps ahead of time, as the event will feature a live caller. This expert guide will walk attendees through every step, ensuring that everyone can easily join the fun. Square dancing is an energetic, lighthearted activity—the perfect antidote to the post-holiday slump!

The Hoedown Dance is a capstone to St. Peter's ongoing Date Night Challenge, a commitment launched in October to encourage couples to prioritize quality time and ongoing dating in marriage. Nearly 100 couples joined in the fun! We hope this event continues that momentum into the new year, and singles are warmly invited to join in the festivities as well.

The event runs on a free-will donation basis, ensuring cost is not a barrier and allowing all members of the St. Peter family to attend. Any donations received will go directly

toward the charitable efforts of the St. Therese Circle.

While you're enjoying the evening, you're invited to consider the Adventures in Marriage Retreat, coming up the weekend of February 20–22, 2026. Adventures in Marriage (AIM) is internationally recognized as one of the most effective relationship education programs available, helping couples learn the practical skills needed to build a strong, lasting marriage.

Highly interactive and faith-based, AIM teaches couples hands-on tools for better communication, conflict resolution, and understanding how personality differences affect relationships. Fun, practical, and easy to apply, the retreat supports couples at every stage—helping good marriages grow stronger and struggling ones find new hope.

Mark your calendars for Saturday, January 10th at 6 PM at St. Peter Parish. Come enjoy the music, the fellowship, the dancing, and help make this first-ever Hoedown Dance a resounding success!

**SAVE THE DATE!**



**MARRIAGE RETREAT**

**FEBRUARY 20-22, 2026**

St. Peter Catholic Church

SCAN FOR MORE  
INFO AND TO  
REGISTER



Cost per couple: \$40

## Christmas Wish List

Item:	Price:
Pascal Candle	\$500
Incense	\$200
Parking Lot Lights	\$5,000
Holy Water Bucket	\$500
Wedding Chasuble and Vestment set	\$1,000
Gold Book of the Gospel Cover	\$1,000
Professionally Seal Marble Floor	\$1,500
Tuition Assistance (K-8)	\$3,400
Bishop and Pope Framed Portraits for Classrooms	\$1,000
Virtue in Education Year Subscription	\$750

SEE BULLETIN INSERT OR GO ONLINE FOR COMPLETE LIST OF ITEMS

All donations are welcome, no matter the amount.  
Please scan here to donate online or you can drop  
off a check with the donation item in the memo line.



## Christmas

### MASS SCHEDULE

Wednesday, **December 24th**  
4:00 pm, 6:00 pm, and 10:00 pm

Thursday, **December 25th**  
8:00 am and 10:00 am

Holy Day of Obligation -  
Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God  
Thursday, **January 1st**  
8:00 am, 9:30 am, and 11:00 am



# ST. PETER CATHOLIC CHURCH

## A QUIET WITNESS

### *TIM BARTSCH'S COMMITMENT TO GLORIFYING GOD IN DAILY SERVICE*

Tim Bartsch's life is marked by a deep commitment to his faith and discipleship. Born and raised in Lincoln, he grew up in a supportive Christian household, anchored by Godly parents and grandparents. While his early faith tradition was generally Protestant—a classification he uses only to denote a spiritual home prior to greater understanding—Tim's current life is a testament to the transformative power of conversion and dedicated service within the Catholic Church.

His journey began in earnest with a spark of curiosity ignited by extended and immediate family members joining the Catholic Church. As he prayerfully wrestled with what he was learning, his spiritual curiosity deepened into conviction. This quest led him to the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) in the fall of 2017, culminating in his reception into the Church at the Easter Vigil the following spring. This decision was not merely a change of denomination but a personal commitment to a deeper spiritual path.

Tim began attending St. Peter Parish in 2017 and quickly found a home in the vibrant faith community. It is the very warmth and inviting atmosphere that captivate him most. His appreciation for the sacred liturgy is evident, especially his profound admiration for the moving music and singing during Advent and Lent, which elevates his worship experience and connects him to the mysteries of the faith.

His discipleship was immediately displayed through service. He first contributed his creative talents to the church's outreach through videography, starting with the spring musicals in 2019 and later producing various video features. After serving with the grounds ministry for a season, he took over the photography ministry, capturing moments of grace and fellowship. Crucially, his involvement in small groups helped him not only deepen his relationship with God but also cultivate meaningful,

Christ-centered relationships with others—an essential element of communal discipleship.

Tim's decision to become a custodian was a vocational calling that aligned his daily work with his faith. "I absolutely love being a custodian now! I get to attend daily Mass. That didn't always fit in with my old schedule," he shares. He attests that this consistent, intimate participation in the Eucharist has been singularly instrumental in helping him grow closer to God.

His work environment is now his mission field. He enjoys the daily variety and the interactions with the parish staff, teachers, and students. A pivotal moment, underscoring his sense of responsibility, occurred in 2021 while interviewing students for a Catholic Schools



## *Abide in Christ and Build His Kingdom*

Week video. Hearing their candid testimonies about their faith brought a profound realization of their vulnerability. “There’s a tremendous weight and responsibility on us as adults to set the right example and help guide them down a deeper spiritual path. It made me all the more eager to step into this role. My actions, big or small, are noticed. I want to make sure that I’m glorifying God by my attitude and actions while



being a witness to those around me,” says Tim.

With this awareness shaping his daily life, Tim approaches his work with intentionality and purpose. Whether interacting with students, caring for the school environment, or using his creative gifts—such as filming the stunning church renovation tour and highlighting the significance of each sacred item—he strives to be a source of Christ’s light and love. His hope is simple yet profound: that every task, no matter how ordinary, becomes a quiet act of witness pointing others toward the beauty and truth of the faith.

Through his humility, diligence, and devotion, Tim Bartsch embodies a life of intentional discipleship. His journey, marked by conversion, service, and a deep sense of responsibility, is a quiet but powerful witness to the enduring fulfillment found in centering one’s life on God. Whether he is capturing the spirit of a performance or ensuring the sanctity of the school environment, Tim’s commitment is clear: to live out his faith daily, demonstrating that ordinary work, when embraced with a spirit of service and devotion, becomes a powerful form of Christian witness.





# ST. PETER CATHOLIC CHURCH

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## 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

*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*

## DECEMBER & JANUARY SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Friday, December 12, 2:30pm and 6pm

Stations of the Nativity

Saturday and Sunday December 13 & 14, after  
all Masses

St. Nicholas Mass Refreshments

Wednesday, December 24, 4:00pm, 6:00pm, &  
10:00pm

Christmas Eve Mass

Thursday, December 25, 8:00am & 10:00am

Christmas Day Mass

Wednesday, January 1, 8:00am, 9:30am, & 11:00am

Holy Day of Obligation - Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God

Saturday, January 10, 6pm - 9pm

Parish Hoedown Dance

Saturday, January 17, 8am - 3pm

Biblical Studies Leadership Training by the Emmaus Institute

Sunday, January 25, after 8:00am & 9:30am Masses

Boy Scouts Pancake Feed

Friday, January 30, 6:30pm

Trivia Night