



ST. PETER CATHOLIC CHURCH

Monthly Newsletter

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MAY 2022



ST. PETER CATHOLIC CHURCH

SIGN UP NOW FOR TOTUS TUUS: A FUN AND EXCITING TIME FOR YOUTH TO GROW IN FAITH

“Totus Tuus” – which is Latin for “Totally Yours” – was the papal motto of St. John Paul II, signifying his desire to give himself completely to Jesus through Mary. In turn, this motto has been adopted by the Catholic summer youth program that is hosted in many dioceses across the country.

The parish is excited to welcome the Totus Tuus missionaries back again this year, as they put on this fun and meaningful program for the youth of the church. For several years, the parish has facilitated this summer program and has seen how impactful it has been for the youth of the parish.

“This is a summer staple at our parish,” says Blake Vajgrt, Parish Catechist. “We make sure that this program is on the schedule before we plan any other summer activities for the kids.”

Totus Tuus sends a team of four missionaries, two men and two women, who have been trained in the curricula of the program. Their curriculum follows the Catechism of the Catholic Church and breaks it down into a six-year cycle so that students who attend multiple years in a row learn different parts of the Catechism. These six parts include the Mystery of Salvation, the Apostles’ Creed, the Sacraments, the Commandments, the Virtues and Prayer, and the Our Father.

Intermixed with learning about the pillars of our Catholic faith is confession, Mass, Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, and a lot of FUN! This year St. Peter will be hosting two teams. Children attending will enjoy learning and playing games with their friends and having fun learning about the Faith.

“It is a really energizing week for the kids!” Blake says. “Totus Tuus helps kids see that living our Faith isn’t just something we do during the school year. This program is an opportunity to have fun and experience these young adults who are on fire for their faith. I was a missionary for Totus Tuus in the summer of 2013. When you teach and get involved, it really changes your life and your heart. The kids see that there are very active and vibrant ways to live their faith. They sing, learn, play games and really encounter Christ.”



Totus Tuus will take place in the parish on June 6-10. Registration can be found at www.osvhub.com/saintpeterslincoln/forms/totus-tuus, or refer to the bulletin for more information on how to sign up. Parents or other parishioners are needed to help with facilitating the program. Providing meals, setup/teardown, organizing and cleaning are all ways that parishioners can assist. If you would like to volunteer, please email Blake Vajgrt at blake-vajgrt@cdolinc.net or call the parish office at 402-423-1239.

A Letter from Our Pastor

THE MONTH OF MARY: A TIME FOR CELEBRATION AND JOY

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

In the Catholic Church, we designate a particular devotion for each month – and May is when we honor our Blessed Mother Mary. Thus, this is a good time for us to think about and concentrate on our devotion to the Mother of God. Perhaps we can add a few more Marian prayers to our daily routine. Praying the Rosary might be even more important. Of course, that assumes that daily prayer is part of our daily routine – which it should be.

Our Blessed Mother is important to our faith and our Church. Her willingness to serve in a way that allowed the Lord to take human form made our salvation a possibility. Because of her complete trust in God, she lived her life free from sin, and after her life, she was assumed into heaven by the power of God and crowned Queen of Heaven and Earth.

She is, of course, not divine. We worship only our Lord Jesus Christ, but we honor Mary as a saint, and also in many other ways. We honor God when we remember the role of Mary in our salvation. Devotion to Mary always leads to Jesus Christ Himself.

Mary was joyous when she said “yes” to God. That is the kind of joy we need to seek – and we, too, must say “yes” to the Lord. Let us be grateful to Mary for bringing us her Son. This is

why we crown her on our Catholic version of Mother’s Day. Through Mary, we are given an invitation into the Catholic fold. Her feminine presence and the safety of her motherhood may help us grow.



For most of us, this time of year is a month of growth in relation to nature. It is difficult not to have May as one of our favorite months for so many reasons. May is a beautiful time. We are called to make it even more beautiful, and we can do that as we serve and love one another.

I am deeply blessed to be your pastor. I may say that often, but it is true. My priesthood has been a blessing and serving you all has made that blessing even more significant.

I pray for you daily. Please pray for me. God bless you and keep you always.

In His Mercy,

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

Fr. Eric Clark,
Pastor





MAY CROWNING CELEBRATION STUDENTS JOYFULLY HONOR OUR

Blesse



Since the founding of St. Peter School in 1990, we have joyfully celebrated a beautiful Marian tradition each May. The month of May is traditionally dedicated to the Blessed Virgin Mary, and so we honor our Blessed Mother by crowning her as our Queen. This year, the May Crowning was held on Monday, May 2 during the entrance procession for the 8:15 a.m. Mass.

May is a month to celebrate the gift of motherhood. Mother's Day reminds us to honor our own

mothers, but the entire month is a time to honor our spiritual mother, Mary. St. Peter School principal Sister Mary Michael recognizes the great value in this reminder to look to Mary as our mother.

"As Catholics, it's so well embedded into our Church and our faith that Mary is our mother," Sr. Mary Michael says. "We need both God our Father and Mary our Mother to help us be whole people and foster a sound spiritual life."

At the May Crowning, about 300

children brought flowers for Mary. The five sisters, wearing Marian blue, received the flowers on behalf of Mary. Many parents helped, and they passed the flowers down to be placed in the Marian Shrine.

"It's beautiful to see the kids all bring something for Mary," Sr. Mary Michael says. "Kids want to please their mother."

The May Crowning was particularly special for the eighth-grade students. The eighth-graders spent time in class discussing the

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— Sister Mary Michael, Principal

Blessed Mother



attributes of Mary and imagining what it would have been like to be Mary. The students wrote down and discussed hundreds of adjectives that describe the Blessed Mother. After their discussion, the students anonymously wrote down the names of three girls they thought were most like Mary. The student most chosen, with two others to accompany her, received the special role of bringing up the crown for Mary.

“These days, we are losing our sense of masculinity and femininity,” Sr. Mary Michael says. “It’s beautiful to keep these traditions of our Church because they have deep meaning for us.”

Despite the impact of COVID-19, the school has kept up this tradition. Rather than having the procession in the church in 2020, a car procession process. Students arrived in cars and the sisters received the flowers from the children through their car windows.

“It’s so important to honor our Blessed Mother, to have the Hail Mary on our lips and in our lives, in good times and tough,” Sr. Mary Michael says. “Marian devotion goes a long way. There have been times when something tragic happens and praying the Rosary brings such consolation. To pray not just once, but over and over again to our Blessed Mother and to ask for her help — these are beautiful parts of our faith that we need to safeguard.”





ST. PETER CATHOLIC CHURCH



THE ROSARY: OUR LADY'S LASSO

There was a priest who once said, "It is no coincidence that rosaries look like lassos, as Our Lady wraps them around lost souls and pulls them out of the depths of hell."

This thought is comforting but provokes inquiry — what exactly is the Rosary, how does one pray it, and why should one pray it?

Since May is the month of Mary, this is a great time to consider the theology behind this intense spiritual weapon.

There are two putative origins of the Rosary. For many centuries, it was believed that the Blessed Virgin appeared to St. Dominic and exhorted him to encourage the use of the Angelic Salutation — or Hail Mary — for the conversion of souls and comfort of the afflicted. Modern scholarship traces the Rosary back to Irish monasticism of the ninth century. Monks would pray all 150 psalms or "psalters" every day, a form of prayer too complicated for uneducated laypeople without access to copies of Scripture. So, many began reciting the Lord's Prayer or the Angelic Salutation in response to each psalm, keeping count with pebbles or a knotted rope. Through many centuries, the Rosary evolved

into three sets of five mysteries, each mystery consisting of 10 Angelic Salutations and one Lord's Prayer recited while meditating upon the life, death or glory of Jesus Christ.

In *The Secret of the Rosary*, St. Louis de Montfort expounds the dynamics of the Rosary. The prayer consists of both vocal or exterior prayer, and meditative or interior prayer. The first vocal component of the Rosary, the Creed, is important because faith is "the foundation of all Christian virtues, of all eternal virtues, and also of all prayers that are pleasing to Almighty God." The Lord's Prayer is the "perfect prayer" to the God of heaven because it was authored by Christ, is free of all human limitations, and "contains all the duties we owe to God, the acts of all the virtues and the petitions for all our spiritual and corporal needs." The Hail Mary blesses the name of Mary and her Divine Son and implores her powerful intercession as mediatrix of graces.

But the Rosary is not simply a physical incantation. Vocal prayer is accompanied by contemplation of the mysteries of Christ's life and the virtues of the Virgin Mary. It is by lifting the incorporeal soul in

prayer that one quiets the passions, tastes the peace of Christ, marvels at His loving plans and promises, and grows in the desire to emulate Him and His sinless mother. Because the soul animates the body, a strengthened soul means nobility of action and a will that is commensurate with the will of God. As St. Louis de Montfort says, "The Rosary is a blessed blending of mental and vocal prayer by which we honor and learn to imitate the mysteries and the virtues of the life, death, passion and glory of Jesus and Mary." The Rosary's emphasis on both vocal and meditative prayer caters to man's nature as an embodied soul — one's entire being, both physical and spiritual, cries out to God in praise, repentance, thanksgiving and supplication.

Thus, it is no surprise that the magisterium and countless saints have encouraged devotion to the Rosary. Pope St. John Paul II said of the prayer, "The Rosary is my favorite prayer, marvelous in its simplicity and its depth." The late pontiff also added five more "luminous" mysteries to the Rosary to help the faithful meditate upon significant moments in Christ's earthly ministry.

THE LANDSCAPING MINISTRY AN OPPORTUNITY TO ENSURE THE GOOD STEWARDSHIP OF OUR PARISH HOME

In 2015, Pope Francis wrote the encyclical *Laudato si'* (*On Care for Our Common Home*). The pope asks all of us to consider the words of St. Francis of Assisi, who called the Earth "our sister," and asks everyone, not just Catholics, to work together to shape a healthy future for the planet. We can simultaneously take care of our planet and beautify our grounds by getting involved in the Landscaping Ministry.

Raul Saavedra is looking for someone to take over this ministry as he would like to retire from the work. Raul lives right by St. Peter Catholic Church, and he got started by pulling and spraying weeds in the parking lot. Next, he was asked to take over landscaping, which means organizing a few workdays throughout the spring and fall to tackle the big projects. There are tasks to be completed in the summer, too. A company handles the mowing.

"I am a retired nurse, so it's hard for me to sit still," Raul says. "I saw a need, and I liked to be outside, so I just started helping."

The work is getting to be a lot for Raul, so he'd like to see someone else step up. The more folks who get involved, the easier the work will be. It's like the adage says, "Many hands make light work."

There are bushes to trim, weeds to pull and branches to cut. In the summer, volunteers will get started early to avoid the heat. Raul would love to see teams of family or friends form to tackle the work together. The benefit of this ministry is that this work can be done whenever it's convenient.

"If you enjoy being outside and have a knack for landscaping, this ministry is for you," Raul says. "If you have a gift of gardening, use that gift for the parish."



After all, it takes every one of us to keep St. Peter Catholic Church going, and there is work to be done both inside and out.

"God's house should look good, whether it's inside the church or out in the parking lot," Raul says. "When the outside looks good, people are more drawn to what is inside."

Raul knows what it means to give his time to St. Peter Catholic Church. As an acolyte and sacristan, he keeps track of the priests' vestments and church candles and makes sure every Mass runs smoothly.

"When I retired, I knew I needed to find something to keep me going," Raul says. "I enjoy giving of my time to St. Peter Catholic Church."

Raul encourages everyone to step forward and consider how they might help the parish, whether in the Landscaping Ministry or elsewhere.

"One reason I help is to show my thankfulness to our Lord for all of the conflicts that I made it through in my time in the military," Raul says.

*If you would like to get involved in the Landscaping Ministry,
please contact the parish office at 402-423-1239.*



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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.

Saturday: 8:15 a.m.

CONFESSION

Monday & Friday: 7:00 a.m. - 8:00 a.m.

Saturday: 3:00-4:00 p.m.

PINTS for PETER

St. Peter's Fundraiser and Social Gathering

FRIDAY, JUNE 3, 2022

6:30 - 11:00PM