



ST. PETER CATHOLIC CHURCH

Monthly Newsletter

In This Issue:

- 2** Surviving Divorce Ministry:
*Finding Healing and
Strength in Faith*
- 3** We Provide the Gifts, God
Performs the Miracles
- 4** Meet Fr. Jason Doher and
Fr. Brian Wirth
*Parish Welcomes Our New
Parochial Vicars*
- 6** GodTeen: *Leading Our
Youth in their Catholic
Faith*
- 7** Getting to Know the
"Summertime" Saints

JULY 2022



Surviving Divorce Ministry: Finding Healing and Strength in Faith

Without a strong faith life, navigating divorce while staying close to the Church can feel frustrating and alienating. Mike Timmins, facilitator of the diocesan Surviving Divorce program has been there and now is working to help others find healing and strength through a life of faith.

"The people that participate in the program are all over the spectrum in terms of where they are in the divorce process," Mike says. "Some are still where it's raw, in the middle of court proceedings, some come before they've filed for divorce, and some come years after their divorce and they haven't fully healed."

Mike has facilitated Surviving Divorce at the diocesan level for about eight years and is now working to bring more support and resources directly into the St. Peter parish community. While participants begin with the 12-week course through the diocese – which covers the emotions that come with divorce, how to help children through it, the annulment process, and more – Mike is building a mentorship program and "study hall" to help parishioners walk through the annulment process.

When Mike went through his divorce years ago, he struggled to find resources within the Church. Mike recognizes that Catholics in the midst of a divorce are often directed straight to the annulment process, without much attention to the grieving and healing that they need to begin with.

"I ended up doing it all wrong," Mike says. "I started and stopped the annulment process at least six times, and



*Mike Timmins and
his wife, Kathy*

then, 25 years later, got the annulment. For me, that's when I was healed and recognized what was missing all those years – being accepted and connected in the Church."

Mike has noticed that a deep faith and spiritual life is a great help to those going through a divorce.

"They know they're not alone in the process," Mike says. "Jesus Christ is with them."

Others tend to struggle through the aftermath, dealing with a lot of resentment and anger at the Church.

"The program does a great job balancing where people are coming from and nudges them to embrace the sacraments during this time and spend quiet time in adoration," Mike says.

Having learned a lot in his years of healing as well as working with others who are experiencing divorce, Mike's faith and understanding of marriage have been strengthened.

"It taught me that our faith values marriage more than any other faith," Mike says. "The Church needs to do a better job at acknowledging those who feel rejected by the Church. We love you, we welcome you, and we want to help you. This program is one of the ways to do that."

Mike is currently looking for mentors to volunteer at the parish level. Parishioners who have been through the annulment process and are willing to help others can reach out to Mike to find out more about training and the program.

The next Surviving Divorce course will begin Oct. 3, 2022. More information can be found at the Diocese of Lincoln website. Mike Timmins can be reached at 402-770-8810 or mtimmins@gmail.com.

A Letter from Our Pastor

WE PROVIDE THE GIFTS, GOD PERFORMS THE

Miracles

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

It is human nature to try to neatly place things into categories. If we categorize the miracles performed by Christ, the two largest groupings might fall under the headings “Healing” and “Feeding.”

This is exactly what we are about here at St. Peter. At the base of all our liturgies is the Eucharist, when we come together in communion with the Lord and with one another to be both fed and healed. Even one of Christ’s most famous miracles – the Feeding of the Multitude – involved both healing and feeding from a spiritual and a literal perspective.

The reason the large crowd gathered was because Jesus’ reputation as a healer had spread and grown. He felt compassion for that crowd, which is another way of saying He loved them and felt sorry that they were hungry due to their willingness to sit and be with Him for so long. Recognizing it was late in the day and that many of them had not eaten, Jesus literally fed them – but that day, He didn’t stop with physical nourishment. He also fed them spiritually with His words, and simultaneously, healed their wounded hearts by preaching a message of hope and forgiveness in the midst of a dark and hardened world.

The narrative of Christ taking a small amount of food and using it to feed thousands is familiar to all of us. It is reported in all four Gospels. However, I would like



to highlight one aspect of that miracle. It all started with one boy who was willing to share what little he had. Because the boy made the gift of his fishes and loaves, the Lord took it and multiplied it many times over, nourishing so many more people than what that little bit initially could.

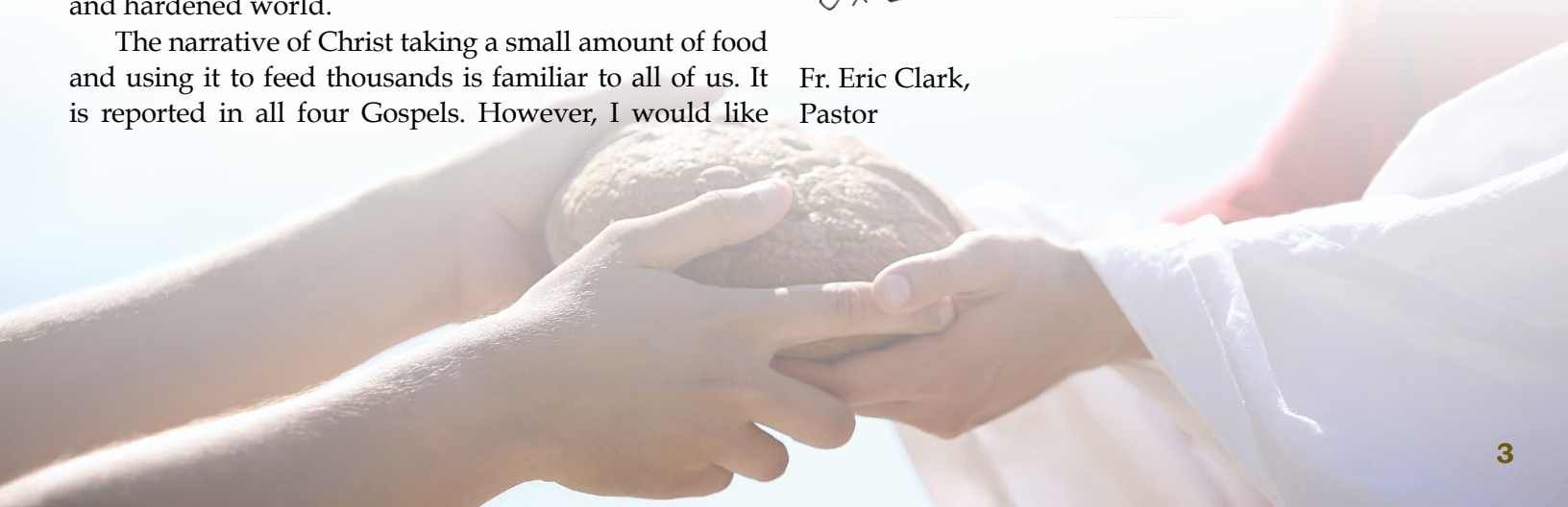
Isn’t that what we as a parish are called to do? We make gifts of our time, our talent, and our treasure as good stewards – but nevertheless, it is God who takes those gifts and performs miracles with them. Our goal is to give what we have so that Christ might use it, multiplying it to feed, to heal and draw a multitude of people closer to Him.

The reality is that without the gifts, there can be no miracles, and without miracles, we are a hungry and broken people. Christ has come to renew, nourish, fulfill, and restore – and that, brothers and sisters, is what Christianity is all about.

In His Mercy,

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

Fr. Eric Clark,
Pastor





MEET *Fr. Jason Doher* *Parish Welcomes Our*



Fr. Jason Doher

Our St. Peter community sends a big welcome to Fr. Brian Wirth and Fr. Jason Doher, who recently joined us as our new Parochial Vicars. Fr. Doher will also serve as a co-chaplain at Frassati, while Fr. Wirth will keep his other assignments as a teacher at Pius X High School, as Director of Rural Life in the diocese, and as an advocate on the diocesan tribunal. We look forward to getting to know both of them!

Fr. Wirth was ordained in May of 2020. He was in McCook for a year and at Cristo Rey Parish here in Lincoln for a year. He looks forward to his new assignment here at St. Peter Catholic Church. Fr. Wirth credits life on the farm with his call to the priesthood. He grew up on a sixth-generation farm in Nebraska City. His dad, Jim, and brother, Alan, still run the farm. Alan and his wife, Megan, have two children. Fr. Wirth's mother, Cheryl, recently retired from CHI Health St. Mary's. Fr. Wirth grew up with both sets of grandparents as an influence in his life.

"Regarding my vocation, in many ways, I experienced the face of God in His infinite love and mercy," Fr. Wirth says. "Living on the farm allowed me to see from an early age the truth and beauty of God's Creation, as well as experience the power of silence and prayer."

He was also a regular altar server at St. Mary's in Nebraska City. Fr. Wirth credits the good and holy priests at St. Mary's and his high school for setting an example for him.

Truly believing his vocation is a gift, Fr. Wirth most enjoys celebrating the Mass and sharing the Eucharist with people. The priesthood has blessed him in so many ways. In his free time, Fr. Wirth enjoys working out, playing sports, singing, music, reading, cooking, eating, hunting, fishing, trap shooting, and playing cards and games. He's also a big baseball fan.

Fr. Wirth asks for all of our prayers and looks forward



Fr. Brian Wirth

continued on page 5

AND *Fr. Brian Wirth* New Parochial Vicars

to getting started and meeting everyone. He will be praying for all of us.

“The parish community continues to grow both physically and spiritually, and I am looking forward to just being with the people and serving them,” he says. “I look forward to being the face and person of Jesus Christ for them, above all, in the sacraments and the sacrifice of the Mass.”

Fr. Jason Doherty recently celebrated five years as a priest. He has spent time at Sacred Heart Catholic Church and St. Wenceslaus Catholic Church in Wahoo. A cradle Catholic, Fr. Doherty grew up here in Lincoln, attending St. Patrick’s.

“I first felt the call to the priesthood in my first year of college,” Fr. Doherty says. “I didn’t want to be a priest

at first, but the Lord worked on me.”

Fr. Doherty attended St. Gregory the Great Seminary and completed his studies at Mount St. Mary’s University in Emmitsburg, Md. He spent two years of discernment working with his autistic brother, Jared — Fr. Doherty also has two other brothers. His parents, Sid and Mary, recently retired and live here in Lincoln.

In his free time, Fr. Doherty enjoys cooking, exercising, making wine and liqueurs, and working with his hands. As for his favorite part of the priesthood, Fr. Doherty enjoys celebrating the sacraments and being with people when they have those “aha” moments in the faith.

“I am excited to get to know everyone at the parish,” he says. “I can’t wait to walk with them on this journey of their faith.”

*Fr. Doherty and Fr. Wirth were able to join us for our Annual Fundraiser on June 3.
(from left) Fr. Bedient, Fr. Schwenka, Fr. Clark, Fr. Wirth and Fr. Doherty.*



“The parish community continues to grow both physically and spiritually, and I am looking forward to just being with the people and serving them.” — Fr. Brian Wirth



GodTeen: Leading Our Youth in their Catholic Faith

St. Jose Sanchez Del Rio, St. Therese of Liseux, and St. Maria Goretti lived with heroic virtue as teenagers and young adults. We all can marvel at their faith in the midst of their trials and be inspired to draw close to the Lord Jesus. Holiness doesn't come at a certain age. It is for all, young and old.

One way high school students in the parish can come to know Jesus better is by joining a GodTeen group. As freshmen, teens are placed with a group, led by a married couple, and stay together as a group until graduation. Groups gather once a week for discussions of the Faith, prayer, and of course social time with snacks and games!

"One of the biggest values of this program is getting to grow as a group as you get to know each other and the lead couple," says Blake Vajgrt, parish catechist. "There is something about getting together in a home for both the high school students and the leaders that opens up growth in faith," Blake says. A GodTeen group brings together individuals who maybe don't know each other, but are ones that you can share your faith and be together, and that's important." At the heart of being together as a group is an opportunity to encounter the living God.

"Jesus is real, and He wants to have a relationship with you," Blake says. You can feel his presence when groups meet in the homes, in the joys of our social outings and opportunities for service, and when we come before Him in adoration. Blake is thankful for the many leaders who have contributed to GodTeen over the years. They have touched the lives of many.

"Anyone who has been through the program has said the leaders showed up and cared about them," Blake says. "The value is that they are involved in their life." The Christian life is never lived alone. Now is the

time to follow the Lord Jesus. He promises a life that is full, good, and not burdensome," says Blake.



Students and Godteen leaders enjoyed snacks after a round of mini golf.

If you have any questions about GodTeen or would like to become involved, please contact Blake Vajgrt at 402-641-3872 or blake-vajgrt@cdolinc.net.



Getting to Know the “SUMMERTIME” SAINTS

School is out, and summer is now in full swing. The days are longer, warmer and filled with plenty of fun summertime activities.

This summer, as we take family vacations, gather with friends and loved ones for barbecues, spend time by the pool, and enjoy all of the usual summertime activities, we can also take the time to reflect on some of the saints who are associated with the summer.

Family vacations are perhaps the most iconic of all summertime activities. Although there is no patron saint of vacations, there are a number of saints associated with traveling. One of the most popular is St. Christopher. According to his story, St. Christopher was an extremely tall and strong man who served Christ by helping people cross an especially dangerous river. That is why many people wear St. Christopher medals while traveling – to ask for his blessing and protection.

For those of us who are taking road trips this summer, there is St. Frances of Rome, the patron saint of cars and drivers. While St. Frances died well before cars were invented, her story says that her guardian angel went ahead of her when she traveled at night and lit the road with a lantern to keep St. Frances safe.

There are also saints we can look to when traveling by plane. St. Joseph of Cupertino was a Franciscan friar who is said to have frequently and miraculously levitated off the ground during intense prayer sessions. Because of this levitation, he is recognized as the patron saint of air travelers. St. Therese of Lisieux is also associated with aviators and flying.

If you are going on a cruise this summer, you can ask for the intercession of St. Brendan the Navigator, an Irish monk who founded the Clonfert monastery and monastic school, and is the patron saint of mariners and sailors. He and his brothers sailed the Atlantic Ocean and evangelized on a number of islands, and may have even reached the Americas.

Another favorite summer activity is swimming. Whether you choose a pool, a lake or the ocean, seek the intercession of St. Adjutor of Vernon, a knight who was captured in the First Crusade. His captors tried to force him to give up his faith, but St. Adjutor escaped by swimming to his freedom. For this reason, he is the patron saint against drowning, and for drowning victims, sailors and swimmers.

The summer is also a time of amusement and enjoyment. One of the biggest national celebrations of the summer is the Fourth of July. For this type of summertime activity, we look to St. Barbara, the patron saint of fireworks.

There are also a number of saints with feast days during the summer. The feast day of St. Anne, the mother of Mary and grandmother of Jesus, is celebrated on July 26. July 31 is the feast day of St. Ignatius of Loyola, who is also associated with stewardship. These are just two of the many saints whose feasts we celebrate this summer.

No matter what kinds of activities we choose to enjoy during the summertime, let us remember to honor the saints who have gone before us, and give their intercession for us as we walk through our own journeys of faith.



ST. PETER CATHOLIC CHURCH



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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

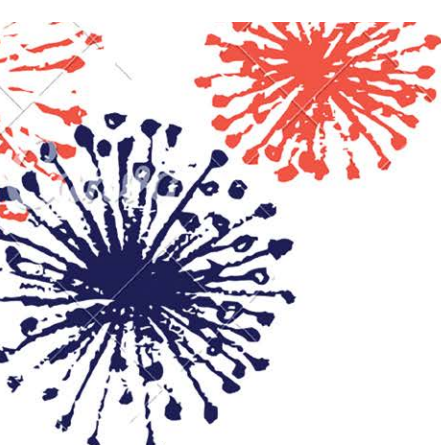
Monday-Friday: 6:30 a.m., 8:15 a.m.

Saturday: 8:15 a.m.

CONFESSION

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

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



GOD BLESS AMERICA!

HAPPY FOURTH OF JULY

