



ST. PETER CATHOLIC CHURCH

Monthly Newsletter

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SAINT PETER

AUGUST 2022



ST. PETER CATHOLIC CHURCH

PARISH SCHOOL COMMUNITY WELCOMES CURT AND NIKKI FEILMEIER HELPING OUR STUDENTS DEVELOP AND SHARE THEIR GOD-GIVEN TALENTS

Each new school year brings a host of its own exciting developments and changes. For the 2022-23 school year, we are welcoming a new principal to the school, as Curt Feilmeier takes the helm. His wife, Nikki Feilmeier, will join us as a kindergarten teacher. We are so happy to have Mr. and Mrs. Feilmeier – along with their three children, Ethan, Noah, and Lily – join our school community!

Mr. and Mrs. Feilmeier most recently worked at Lourdes Central Catholic School in Nebraska City, Neb., where Mrs. Feilmeier was a first-grade teacher and Mr. Feilmeier was the preschool to 12th-grade principal.

“Our family is excited, and we feel blessed to be asked to join the St. Peter Catholic Parish and be a part of the school community,” Mr. Feilmeier says. “We hope to do our best to serve its mission, grow in our faith as a family, and become supportive members.”

Mr. Feilmeier has a love for Catholic education. He enjoys being part of the faith and educational journeys of his students. He looks forward to getting to know the students, faculty, staff, priests, and sisters at St. Peter.

“I love to help students identify,



Curt and Nikki Feilmeier with their three children

develop and share their God-given talents and gifts,” he says. “I love seeing them reach their personal potential and define their successes through partnership with faculty, staff and parents.”

St. John Baptist De La Salle, the patron saint of teachers, is Mr. Feilmeier’s hero.

“As educators, we are to have a zeal for the children entrusted to our care,” he says. “His life and teachings have assisted me in my zeal for

education, in understanding that teaching is built on relationships and the school is a community.”

In their free time, the Feilmeier family enjoys visiting family in Mr. Feilmeier’s hometown of Hartington, Neb., and Mrs. Feilmeier’s hometown of Columbus, Neb. They also enjoy traveling and attending sporting events. Mr. Feilmeier enjoys golf, and Mrs. Feilmeier enjoys shopping and bargain hunting.

“I love to help students identify, develop and share their God-given talents and gifts. I love seeing them reach their personal potential and define their successes through partnership with faculty, staff and parents.” – Curt Feilmeier, Principal

A Letter from Our Pastor

MUCH WILL BE REQUIRED OF THE PERSON ENTRUSTED WITH MUCH

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

No matter your situation in life, chances are there is someone out there who has more than you. Too often we may hesitate to follow stewardship as a way of life because we are waiting for someone more blessed than we are to show us the way.

You may be aware that the Scripture readings we hear at each Mass are part of a three-year cycle. In general, the Gospel passages in Cycle A are from Matthew; Cycle B is principally Mark; and Cycle C, the year we are now in, is primarily from Luke. John is mixed in and especially used during Lent. We are in what might be called a “Luke year.”

As we hear the Gospels from Luke, we need to be acutely aware of the stewardship messages found there. In one recent Gospel passage from Luke, Jesus uses a parable to remind us of an important stewardship lesson. He precedes the parable by reminding us all, “Take care to guard against all greed, for though one may be rich, one’s life does not consist of possessions” (Luke 12:15). You and I both know that God does not judge us based upon what we may have accumulated during our lifetimes, but based upon how we lived those lives, and especially how we used those gifts – those possessions.

The parable focuses on a “rich man” who builds larger grain bins to store his abundant harvests. God calls the man a fool and reminds him that growing rich for himself is not as important as growing rich in the sight of God. The very next week (the 19th Sunday in Ordinary Time), Luke again tells us how Jesus warns and cautions His disciples – “For where your treasure is, there also will your heart be” (Luke 12:34). The Lord warns them that they do not know what day or what hour He will return and summarizes it all with another important insight into what is expected of us – “Much will be required of the person entrusted with much, and still more



will be demanded of the person entrusted with more” (Luke 12:48).

You see, we are not “off the hook” if someone else has more gifts but fails to use them well. Stewardship demands that each of us use our gifts, and each of us is gifted whether we want to admit it or not, to serve God and others. Luke’s implied stewardship messages come full circle in the Gospel reading on Aug. 21 – “For behold, some are last who will be first, and some are first who will be last” (Luke 13:30).

That admonition from the Lord has always seemed a bit confusing. It more or less says that to be first, we need to be last, and if we are first, we may be last. I think perhaps all of these messages, including the first and last one, are cautions to us that we cannot be complacent and we cannot take salvation and holiness for granted. We need to work on them. We are not measured by our possessions; God indeed does expect a lot of us, no matter how small or extensive our gifts may be. Regardless of how holy we may strive to be, it is God who will judge; it is by His grace that we will be saved.

Amid all these magnificent stewardship messages, we celebrate the Assumption of our Blessed Mother on Aug. 15 – “My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord; my spirit rejoices in God my Savior for he has looked with favor on his lowly servant” (Luke 1:46-48). God bless you all!

In His Mercy,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Fr. Eric Clark". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Fr. Eric Clark,
Pastor



OUR ANNUAL STEWARDSHIP THANKING GOD FOR THE BLESSINGS HE HAS GIVEN

You have to take care of yourself before you can take care of those you love. This rationale is difficult for many of us to accept. Mothers and fathers routinely place the needs of their children before their own; soldiers at war often throw their own safety to the wind in the interest of protecting their fellow soldiers. The story of Jesus also focuses on giving to others. If Christ calls us to imitate Him – to become completely selfless – then it would seem that focusing on ourselves might counteract our efforts as Christians.

Nevertheless, as we enter into our annual Stewardship Renewal, Fr. Clark is asking us all to focus a bit more on ourselves. No, he's not encouraging self-centeredness; he's asking us to examine our own lives and determine the areas that are in need of growth. Before the stewardship way of life can totally transform our parish, it must begin in each of our hearts. As each individual's spiritual life blossoms and grows, so will our parish as a whole. Will you plant the seed of stewardship in your own heart?

*Commitment Weekend is
Aug. 20-21. Don't forget to bring
your Commitment Card to Mass!*

How do I use my Commitment Card?

Your commitment card allows you to make commitments to prayer, parish ministries, and offertory giving. It is designed to be used by the whole family.

Time Section: Except for the ill and homebound, everyone should be able to check "Come to Mass on Sundays and Holy Days." Try to check at least a few other items. Daily prayer should be a priority for every person trying to grow closer to God.

Talent Section: You can either sign up for new ministries or re-commit to your current ministries. Be sure to write your first name next to the ministry! This is especially important if the card is being used by more than one person.

Treasure Section: Clearly print how much money you plan to give each week or month to our parish. Try to take a step toward giving five percent of your income to St. Peter.

Is your prayer life in need of a tune-up?

Ask yourself, what is the quality of my life of prayer with God? Consider each moment you spend in prayer as nourishment for your soul. With food, a person can be over-nourished but in the spiritual life there is no such thing. Do you return to be nourished throughout the day like snacking, make a holy hour each day like a large meal, or fill yourself with empty calories from the distractions that keep us from God. You don't want to feed yourself with bad food, so why would you with your soul? The spiritual health of our parish is only as strong as the sum of its parts (individual parishioners).

Is your level of parish involvement in need of a boost?

We give our talents back to God when we get involved in ministries at St. Peter. And, with a host of ministries to choose from, there's something for everyone. Sure, ministries give parishioners opportunities to serve others in the community, but they also benefit those in the ministry itself. Ask anyone who actively participates in a ministry at St. Peter, "Why do you enjoy serving in this way?" They'll probably say, "I get more out of the ministry than the people I serve." This year, as you're discerning how you will offer your talents to God, consider

RENEWAL HAS BESTOWED ON US

signing up for a ministry that may benefit you, like a Bible study, prayer group, or retreat. Or contribute to an outreach ministry where your good deeds not only help others in the community but also give you feelings of satisfaction and thankfulness.

Do you give a percentage of your income to the offertory?

It may be hard to see offertory giving as a way to “help yourself,” but when we approach the subject from a spiritual viewpoint, it can lead to individual spiritual growth and an increase in faith. Even the savviest businessperson worries about his or her personal finances from time to time. Adding a weekly offertory check to the list of monthly bills may seem crazy but, ultimately, sacrificial giving forces us to cut unnecessary spending, create a budget and have faith that God will help us make it through the month. All of these are good things for each of us, individually. After faithfully giving to the offertory for a few months, many Catholics find that it’s not only possible to give a weekly offering, but that the fruits of their gift far outweigh the expense.

At St. Peter, we ask that you give five percent to our parish and five percent to other charities. Why a percentage of income? First, because the tithe (10 percent) is a scriptural benchmark that the Church has honored for centuries (see Malachi 3:10). Secondly, we give a percentage of income because it is a common-sense standard by which everyone can equitably support the parish. Most of all, we give because we believe God comes first in everything, even finances.

“At the Feet of St. Peter”

of ACTS 4:35



ST. PETER CATHOLIC CHURCH

2022 COMMITMENT CARD

My offering of time, talent & treasure

First & Last Name

Phone

Email

Spouse: First & Last Name

Spouse: Phone

Spouse: Email

Address

City

State

ZIP

Please bring this card to Mass, mail it to the parish office or fill it out online at saintpeterslincoln.com.
Thanks and God bless you!

Every parish family receives a special “Stewardship Package” in the mail that further explains our parish’s vision of stewardship. It includes a booklet that describes every ministry in the parish, as well as your commitment card.



STEWARDSHIP'S "SUPREME TEACHER" FOLLOWING CHRIST'S EXAMPLE

Former President and Five-Star General Dwight D. Eisenhower once said, "You don't lead by hitting people over the head — that's assault, not leadership." President Eisenhower's words are both blunt and humorous, but he makes a great point. Almost any successful endeavor in life requires the benefit of strong leadership. And a truly effective leader does not lead by simply telling others what to do, but by providing a strong example of how to carry oneself on a daily basis.

This is no different for us in our lives as Catholic Christians. As individuals who face numerous difficult choices every day, we require a leader who, through word *and* example, can show us the path to living according to God's will. For us, Jesus is the supreme teacher of every aspect of Christian life, and His life as documented in the Gospels is a model that we should strive to imitate in living as good Christians. And as we have learned, stewardship — the sharing of the gifts that God has given to us — is a big part of Christian life, and one for which Jesus left many examples of successful living.

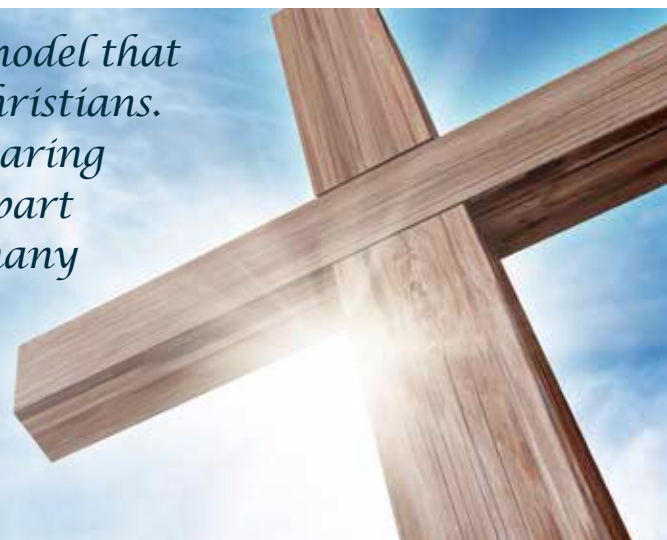
Jesus' nature of selfless service, documented many times throughout the New Testament and culminating with His death for our sins, is an underlying aspect of living the stewardship way of life. As the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops points out in its pastoral

document *Stewardship: A Disciple's Response*, "In Jesus' teaching and life self-emptying is fundamental. Now, it might seem that self-emptying has little to do with stewardship, but in Jesus' case that is not so. His self-emptying is not sterile self-denial for its own sake; rather, in setting aside self, he is filled with the Father's will, and he is fulfilled in just this way" (19).

Jesus points out to Peter in Mark's Gospel that this "self-emptying" requires sacrifice, but ultimately leads to "eternal life in the age to come" (Mk 10:30). But the Christian steward's ultimate reward is not his or her only benefit from living the stewardship way of life. By sharing of our time, talent and treasure, and living in imitation of Christ, we can relate more closely to Him in sharing, in a small way, in His sacrifice. "To be a Christian disciple is a rewarding way of life, a way of companionship with Jesus, and the practice of stewardship as a part of it is itself a source of deep joy. Those who live this way are happy people who have found the meaning and purpose of living" (*Stewardship: A Disciple's Response*, 21).

The next time you are frustrated or unsure of how to best respond to God's gifts in stewardship, take a moment to open up the Bible. Jesus may not "hit us over the head" in His leadership, but He does provide numerous examples through His actions and teachings of how to live as one of His disciples.

Christ's life as documented in the Gospels is a model that we should strive to imitate in living as good Christians. And as we have learned, stewardship — the sharing of the gifts that God has given to us — is a big part of Christian life, and one for which Jesus left many examples of successful living.



PARISH PREPARES NEW YEAR OF CCD INVITING OUR FAMILIES TO ENCOUNTER THE PERSON OF JESUS CHRIST

Bring our children to meet – teaching them to know Jesus is the greatest gift we can give to them. More than wealth or worldly success, a deep faith and relationship with God leads to a fulfilling life. Blake Vajgrt, our Parish Catechist, has a deep desire to partner with families in the faith formation of their children and for the growth of the faith community.

“I’m looking forward to inviting our families to encounter the person of Jesus Christ,” Blake says. “Our aim each week in CCD is to give students opportunities to recognize His love and presence in their lives and to nurture that love, so they can give it back to others.”

This summer, the parish offered a summer formation series that brought parishioners closer to the Holy Spirit as they discerned with Him the various charisms He has given for the building up of the Kingdom. Blake hopes that this year in CCD, the students and teachers can continue this renewal of the Holy Spirit.

“I want us to explore what it means to discern and use our charisms,” Blake says. “At the heart of the charisms is receiving the Father’s love, and that love transforms our life. All that we are and do flow naturally from the Father’s love.”

At the heart of CCD is working with families to pass on the faith to their children, both in the home and in the context of the parish community.

“Current studies are showing that parents who share their faith, ask questions, and converse on spiritual matters have the most important impact on whether children will be faithful for the duration of their life,” Blake says. “My advice for parents, just do the best you can to love Jesus Christ, even if you start with just saying grace at meals. Recognize the great responsibility, but also the great fruit of your faithfulness. Your truest, sincerest efforts are going

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Middle school CCD students make graham cracker chairs in celebration of the Feast of the Chair of St. Peter.





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.

NEW YEAR OF CCD *continued from page 7*

to be the most impactful things to help your family stay true to the Lord Jesus.”

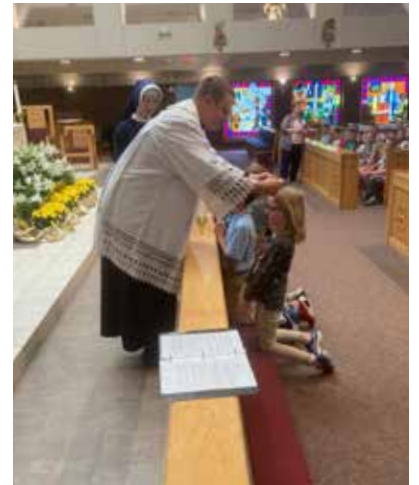
CCD and growing in faith at home also help children develop the virtue, the good behaviors and habits that we all desire. This virtue spills over into other areas of life, giving order and meaning to our efforts.

“The practice of our faith calls us to be disciplined,” Blake says. “Taking faith formation seriously is the foundation of a fulfilling life. You have to put the big rocks in first before trying to fill the rest of your daily jar.

“Daily prayer and coming to Mass develop the discipline which makes a person unshakable in any situation, and even when playing sports or in the band,” he adds.

On a practical level, Blake is looking for volunteers who are willing to step into the classroom, do some prep work for activities, and help organize rosters and registrations. Blake hopes to involve families as they walk with one another, help each other grown in faith.

“This year, I’d like us to have circles of friends to reach out to and to pray for one another,” Blake says. “We’re all in this together, and we want to love and support each other.”



Fr. Clark vests a CCD student with a brown scapular during the First Communion Retreat.

CCD classes meet on Wednesdays. First through fifth grades meet from 4:15 p.m. until 5:30 p.m., sixth through eighth meet from 6:45 p.m. until 8 p.m. Parishioners may register online at www.saintpeterlincoln.com/faith-formation/ccd. If you would like to volunteer or learn more, please contact Blake Vajgrt at 402-328-2866 or Blake-Vajgrt@cdolinc.net.