



ST. PETER CATHOLIC CHURCH

Monthly Newsletter

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DECEMBER 2022



ST. PETER CATHOLIC CHURCH



2022 ST. PETER PARISH *Christmas Wish List*

- Camera with a quality microphone for parish events (\$1,500)
 - Catholic Art Prints Framed for Parish Office (2 at \$150)
 - Pascal Candle with 4" Diameter (\$750)
 - 14 Stations of the Cross (\$1300 each - 15 stations)
 - Fix Parish Office Window (\$350)
 - St. Mary Conference Room Beautification - Paint, Curtains, Lighting (\$2,000)
 - Professional Exterior Washing for Church, School & Courtyard (\$3,000)
 - Grounds Ministry Landscaping Supplies - shrubs, flowers, mulch, etc. (\$2,000 or any amount)
 - Cordless Vacuum for St. Paul (\$345)
 - Sponsor Full or Partial Tuition for a Family in Need (\$3,200 or any part of that)
 - Carpet a Classroom (\$3,800)
 - Virco 2000 brand chairs for classrooms (\$60 each - 100 chairs)
 - Vacuums for School (2 at \$500 each)
 - Window Blinds for Classrooms (\$225 per classroom)
 - Sponsoring a Personal Bible (\$20 each) or Classroom Set (\$200)
 - Coding-Sphero Bolt Robots (15 count for \$3000)
 - Lyons Orff Instrument Set for Music Class (6-piece \$1700 or 9-piece \$2300)
 - 25 Computer Lab Headphones (\$125)
 - Portable Youth Soccer Goals (\$3000)
 - Branded Entry Rugs and Mats (\$2500)
- Your donations toward the purchase of one or more of these items would be greatly appreciated. All donations are welcome, no matter the amount.*

If you have questions regarding donations, please contact Brenda Shields at 402-423-1239. Go to www.saintpeterslincoln.com to donate online or write a check with the donation item written in the memo line and place in the collection basket or drop off at the Parish Office.

A Letter from Our Pastor

UNWRAPPING THE GIFT OF *Stewardship*

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

Most people associate stewardship with giving. Some think its only goal is for the Church to collect money. Some think of it as giving of their time, talent, and treasure to a worthy cause. Still, others think of stewardship as a single, noble gesture of generosity so common this time of year.

But I have come to understand stewardship as a way of life rather than a singular act, donation, or the answer to a plea for resources. It is a lifestyle where a person, recognizing the great gift of God in His son Jesus, takes responsibility for continuing His mission here and now. It is lived by providing from one's time, talent, and treasure to make Jesus known so that others can share in our abundant joy and blessings.

At Christmas, when gift-giving and receiving is so common, couldn't it also be the time when stewardship as a way of life is unwrapped in each of our lives and shared with others? After all, the gift of the first Christmas was the gift of God's own Son, whom He shared with all of humanity with love and joy.

Personal conversion changes our mindset, and the catalyst for stewardship is encountering Jesus Christ. As



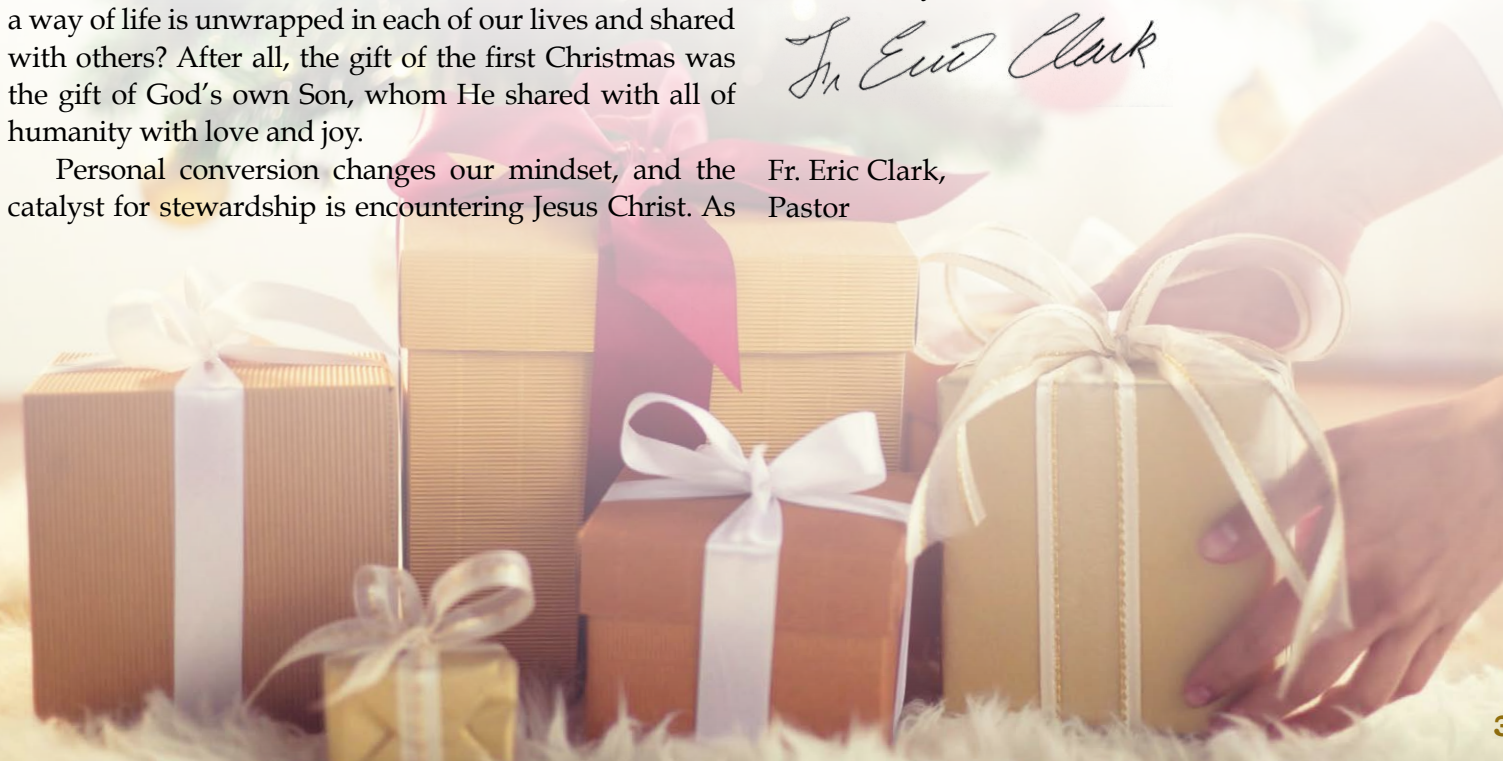
we recognize that all we God's beloved children, fashioned out of love, we cannot help but to share that love with others. This season highlights that Christmas is more than just a "holiday stewardship," which seems so common at this time of year. Encountering Jesus and following after Him is central to this way of life, and once that gift is unwrapped our conversion takes hold, and our lives transform into a life of faithful stewardship and active discipleship intended by our God.

My hope and prayer for you and your family are that each and all of you be blessed during this season of God's grace, unwrapping the callings Jesus intends for you as you find the joy and peace of His gift during this season of grace and all year long.

In His Mercy,

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

Fr. Eric Clark,
Pastor





JOIN FELLOW PARISHIONERS FOR *An Opportunity to Gather*



Fr. Eric Clark spent some of his seminary studies writing the Stations of the Nativity, a beautiful prayer in the format of the Stations of the Cross, following the early life of the Holy Family, Jesus, Mary, and Joseph. He wrote this devotion after finding a prayer card listing the Stations of the Nativity. The devotion includes connects Old Testament prophecies with their New Testament fulfillment and are expounded upon with writings of the Church Fathers.

“This was my private devotion for five or six years,” Fr. Clark says. “I am excited to be able to share it.”

Join fellow parishioners and Fr. Clark in praying this after Mass on Dec. 9. This is a beautiful time of prayer that you won’t want to miss.

As Fr. Clark wrote, “May we search the mystery of God through wisdom like the Magi from the East. May we seek to find the infant Messiah in the manger through the reflections of this meditation.” The prayer follows 14 points of the Nativity, beginning with the announcement of the birth of John the Baptist and ending with the return to Nazareth.

The chant for these stations is, “The Word became flesh and dwelt among us.”

This will be the second year of this communal devotion, as the parish works to make it a lasting tradition. As with last year’s devotion, it will be followed by fellowship, snacks and a

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“The season of Lent is a great preparation for Easter. People realize the religious component of it, but Advent is so secular. This is a great spiritual devotion to get ready for Christmas.” — Fr. Eric Clark

Stations of the Nativity

for a Joy-Filled Evening

graham cracker house building contest!

Parish Catechist Blake Vajgrt attended last year's event and encourages everyone to come and pray the Stations of the Nativity. He found it to be a beautiful prayer experience.

"It's a chance to walk with Jesus, Mary, and Joseph to prepare oneself for the Nativity of our Lord," he says.

Blake especially appreciates the aspect of hearing the writings of Church Fathers like St. Ambrose and St. Augustine for those who pray the Stations. "We don't always have a chance to read the writings of the Church Fathers," Blake says. "To be exposed to that richness and depth is good."

"The season of Lent is a great preparation for Easter," Fr. Clark adds. "People realize the religious component of it, but Advent is so secular. This is a great spiritual devotion to get ready for Christmas."

One of the Christ the King Sisters also adapted the Stations for children – the school students pray them a few weeks before Christmas.

"This is a great blessing for our school children leading up to Christmas," Blake says. "The children get to walk the stations and see what Joseph and Mary experienced. The students can fully enter into the mystery of the God becoming a human being. It's such a blessing."

Blake hopes more parishioners will join this evening of deep prayer followed by time for fellowship and fun.

"This is a good opportunity to come together and experience the richness of the Stations," Blake says. "It's an opportunity to gather for a true joy filled evening as we reflect on Jesus' birth."

Don't miss the Stations of the Nativity at 6 p.m. on Dec. 9, with fellowship and a meal to follow.

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on Dec. 9, with fellowship and a meal to follow.*



Boy Scouts:

Learning Life Skills, Growing in Character and Closer to Christ

There is more than camping and working on merit badges for the young men in Boy Scout Troop 32 here at St. Peter Parish. The young scouts are being given the opportunity to grow into quality young men with experience in leadership that will serve them well as they make their way in the world.

Matt Tapling is Scoutmaster for the troop, and he, along with Boy Scout parent volunteers, work with the 16-member troop each week as they meet at 5 p.m. each Sunday at St. Paul Outside the Wall Room.

While their activities range from working on a variety of merit badges to going on a weekend campout once a month in one of our local parks – fun activities, to be sure – it all has a purpose.

“We want to develop young boys into quality young men and we want to support them through the Boy Scout Oath and Law, through the principles

taught in the Oath and Law,” Matt says.

“What is important, is that we give the boys an opportunity to experience life and leadership in a safe environment,” Matt adds. “They are able to try and fail in a safe environment in which they can learn and have the opportunity to mature.”

Growing in fellowship is a big part of the scouting experience for the members of Troop 32. For most of them, they are together in their scouting journey for six years.

“They get together each week and they work to learn and have fun together,” Matt says. “Campouts are a special time together. It’s a boy-run organization, and they can lead. When you’re a young guy looking up to an older guy or one of the fathers, you know you will be in that role next. They have respect and support for each other. And when they fail, they do so in a safe manner and learn to try again. They don’t quit when they don’t

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“When you’re a young guy looking up to an older guy or one of the fathers, you know you will be in that role next. They have respect and support for each other.”

— Matt Tapling

Boy Scouts *continued from page 6*

succeed the first time. They get pretty close as friends.”

Attending summer camp is often a big step for many of the younger scouts as it is the first time they have been away from home for a number of days.

“They learn they can do it, and they overcome any fear as a very young scout,” Matt says.

The work the scouts do to earn a variety of merit badges also offers them an opportunity to learn a variety of essential life skills.

Through all the activities, whether it is working on merit badges or learning camping skills, the scouts are growing closer to Christ. Their leaders model what it is like to be men of character. Again, the scouts take part in discussions centering around the Scout Oath and Law.

“When we talk about ‘a scout is trustworthy,’ we talk about what develops that character and we reinforce it,” Matt says. “When we say that ‘a scout is brave,’ we explain it means you have the courage to do the right things. We talk about all these things and every two years we have a religious award they can earn. We talk about the sacraments and vocations, and talk about your role in connection with God’s calling. We spend six weeks talking about developing this maturity, and what is God calling you to do? What is your response to Christ and the interaction with those around you? We reinforce what they are learning here at St. Peter – what drives you to be a man of character?”

Troop 32 is made up of boys from both St. Peter and St. Michael parishes, after the St. Michael Parish troop was consolidated with St. Peter.

Parents of the Boy Scouts volunteer to help the troop run smoothly. If a parishioner would like to help the troop but does not have a son as a member, he or she is welcome to contact Matt as a potential merit badge counselor.



If you would like to learn more about Boy Scouts Troop 32, or if you are interested in help, please contact Matt Tapling at 402-570-5156.



ST. PETER CATHOLIC CHURCH



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

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.,
5:30 p.m.*

Saturday: 8:15 a.m.

CONFESSION

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

Wednesday: 4:30 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.

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

Sunday 30 minutes before each Mass

Christmas Mass Schedule

Saturday, Dec 24th

Christmas Eve at 4:00pm, 6:00pm, and 10:00pm

Sunday, Dec 25th

Christmas Day at 8:00am, 9:30am, and 11:00am

Saturday, Dec 31st

Vigil of Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God at 4:00pm

Sunday, Jan 1st

Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God at 8:00am, 9:30am, 11:00am