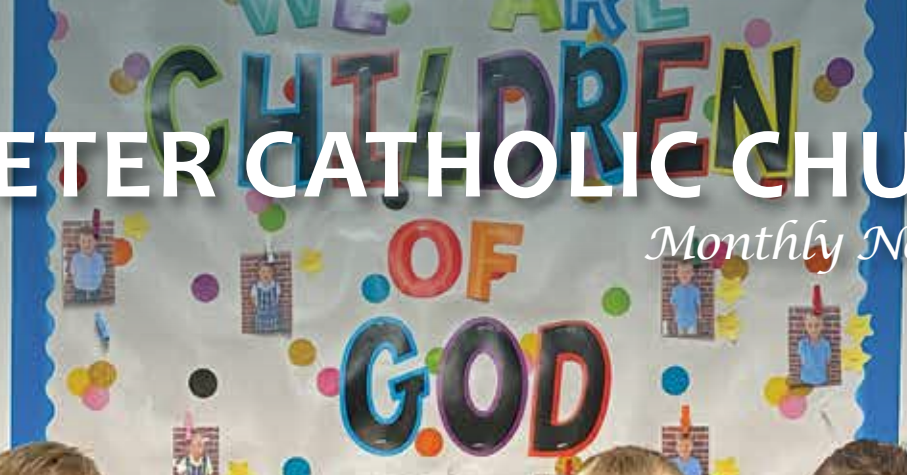




# ST. PETER CATHOLIC CHURCH

Monthly Newsletter



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**JANUARY 2023**



## HELPING OUT IN OUR PARISH OFFICE: A GREAT WAY TO SHARE YOUR TALENTS

When we turn in our Commitment Cards each fall, we are showing our willingness to share our talents with St. Peter Parish. With the list of ministries in our ministry catalog, our talents can be put to good use in a variety of ways. One of those ways is by volunteering to help out in our Parish Office from time to time.

“We can use help with all kinds of things,” says Sarah Schafers, Parish Secretary. “These range from stuffing envelopes to filing, or recording sacraments in our registers.”

When parishioners return their Commitment Card and mark *Parish Office Help*, Sarah gets those names and their contact information to compile her list of volunteers.

When it comes to help in the parish office, the need is mostly sporadic, so it is very helpful to have a large pool of people to call upon.

“If we have an event or appeal coming up, we might need envelopes stuffed, or papers organized,” Sarah says. “I’ll send an email out to my list, and give the dates and times that we need help. Then whoever can come, comes and helps.”

When the list is sent, Sarah says that “All are welcome that are available. I try to have coffee going – hot and ready! It’s a good time to meet other parishioners and enjoy the time to work and socialize.”



*Sarah Schafers and Brenda Shields work together in our Parish Office. Stop by anytime to say “hi!”*

Sarah is joined in the parish office by Brenda Shields, our Communications Development Coordinator. The two of them work closely and, from time to time, share the workload of big projects.

If anyone doubts that he or she has minimal talent, Sarah puts that notion to rest.

“Each talent is a gift from God,” she says. “Nothing is too big or too small. We can always use volunteers who are willing. Really, for any talent, there usually something at the church we can find for you to do.”

The best way to get involved in this ministry, or any ministry, is to fill out your Commitment Card every fall during our Stewardship Renewal. And if you haven’t

filled one out yet, it is not too late. Ministry Catalogs and Commitment Cards are available in the church lobby or feel free to stop in the parish office for one as well. Take a look at the explanation of the different ministries and see what piques your interests.

“If you find you have a calling to join a ministry that you did not mark on your Commitment Card, you can let us know and we can add you to that ministry,” Sarah says. “Just call our parish office at 402-423-1239, and we will connect you to ministry leader if you have questions we cannot answer.”

The parish office hours are 8:00am to 4:30pm unless otherwise posted in the bulletin or on the office door.

*“Each talent is a gift from God. Nothing is too big or too small. We can always use volunteers who are willing. Really, for any talent, there usually something at the church we can find for you to do.” — Sarah Schafers, Parish Secretary*

*The parish office hours are 8:00am-4:30pm unless otherwise posted in the bulletin or on the office door.*

*A Letter from Our Pastor*

## **A NEW YEAR, NEW CHALLENGES, NEW OPPORTUNITIES**

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

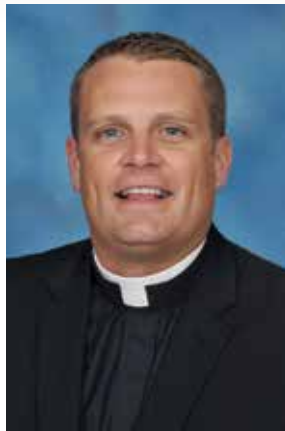
Once when I was visiting my sister in San Francisco, a poor beggar came up to me as we were walking down the street. I had recently finished my time as a FOCUS missionary and didn't have much, if any, money to my name. I gave the man the last \$20 in my wallet, a move that my sister thought was radical and foolish at the least.

I was always ready to abandon my possessions like that to the poor. It took years in the making and the accumulation of experiences of seeing how God provided for me during my time as a missionary. Without those experiences, I would have seen the gift I shared as a worthy gesture, but that doesn't mean I would have given him my money.

All through the world, people are beginning New Year Resolutions. Most everyone starts a New Year resolution(s), some make progress, and a few make lasting changes. Later this month, we celebrate the conversion of St. Paul on Jan. 25. We can learn much about making lasting changes by learning from him.

First, Paul was searching for a true and meaningful way of living passionately. He cared deeply about his faith, although for a while he was misguided. This ultimately made him ready to make a drastic change in his life when he encountered Jesus on the way to Damascus. Second, Paul listened to others and took small steps to become the Paul we know. Finally, Paul was willing to let things go. He realized after he encountered Jesus on the road that he could not just add Christianity to his life. He had to pursue the Lord Jesus and let go of all his other pursuits.

As I consider the ways I've changed and grown, there is value in realizing that change takes time. You



should compare yourself to who you were yesterday, not to another person today. I wasn't able to embrace voluntary poverty until I had years to teach myself to do so. Paul had a profound conversion but his soul was ready to make a change because of the way he was living his life.

If you are beginning to make a change in your life, I encourage you to take St. Paul as your example. I invite you to consider first the state of your spiritual life. If you don't get this right, any other changes you make won't

matter. "Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal," says the Lord.

As you pursue resolutions, do it with passion for what is good, true, and beautiful. If you do this you won't get caught up in another fad. Seek out the counsel of others and realize you aren't your savior. You need a community and accountability to create meaningful change. Finally, recognize that we cannot do everything. Do what is most meaningful to the negation of what is not.

May God bless you as conform yourself closer to the image of His Son this New Year.

In His Mercy,

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

Fr. Eric Clark,  
Pastor



# ST. PETER CATHOLIC CHURCH

## CATHOLIC SC

### CELEBRATING THE GIFTS OF EDU



Every day at a Catholic school is a gift to the students, the parish and the Church — and our St. Peter School community looks forward to the week when we celebrate that gift. Catholic Schools Week, celebrated by Catholic schools nationwide, is a chance to savor what makes St. Peter special and to appreciate how our students are growing in faith.

Principal Curt Feilmeier looks to the big picture where Catholic education is concerned.

“The purpose of Catholic Schools Week is to take time to celebrate, to recognize and to reflect on our mission as a school, church and parish — and, ultimately, to further our mission to build a Catholic culture where families and children can grow spiritually, academically, and in service of neighbor to prepare for the Kingdom of Heaven,” Mr. Feilmeier says.

There is freedom in Catholic education where students and teachers pursue truth through the fullness of our faith. This is truly an irreplaceable gift that is made available to all families with the help of

the Good Shepherd Scholarship.

“I believe the week also serves as a celebration of all the educational pursuits our church and parish undertake,” Mr. Feilmeier says. “By celebrating all that is undertaken to help all become educated about God so they can find God, we together as a community enhance our collective path to salvation.”

Within the school, the celebration will take many different forms throughout the week. Some favorite events happen every year, such as Grandparents’ Day and the Boy Scout Pancake Breakfast. But every year also brings new and exciting celebrations. Carnivals, field trips, and dress-up days all serve to make this week special and memorable to the students.

At St. Peter, the curriculum is founded on and driven by living a sacramental life. By uniting academics with faith and spiritual growth, students are empowered to see their gifts and talents in the light of faith. The parish and the school are united in this effort to prepare the students for their future

# SCHOOLS WEEK

## EDUCATION, FAITH AND COMMUNITY



in the world and in the Church. Parishioners can support the school and the students through prayer as well as offering their time and talents to support the students' growth.

While Catholic Schools Week is marked by fun and celebration, Mr. Feilmeier hopes that Catholic education will have an enduring impact on

all St. Peter students.

"My hope is that they further realize the opportunities that God has provided them and take advantage of those opportunities so they may further their God-given talents and gifts — to share them with others and become saints and reach the Kingdom of Heaven," Mr. Feilmeier says.

*"The purpose of Catholic Schools Week is to take time to celebrate, to recognize and to reflect on our mission as a school, church and parish — and, ultimately, to further our mission to build a Catholic culture where families and children can grow spiritually, academically, and in service of neighbor to prepare for the Kingdom of Heaven." — Curt Feilmeier, Principal*

To learn more about St. Peter School, visit [www.saintpeterlincoln.com/school](http://www.saintpeterlincoln.com/school) or call the school office at 402-421-6299.



## OUR KINDERGARTEN STUDENTS GROW



Kindergarten is a wonderful age for children. As they gain more independence and start heading to school for full days without their parents, they are learning not only academic skills, but also essential social skills. In the kindergarten classroom, students begin learning how to read, basic math skills, and important skills for following directions and interacting with their peers in a school environment. These standards are widespread across most kindergarten curriculums, so what makes the kindergarten program different at St. Peter? Kindergarten teachers Sydney Osburn and Nikki Feilmeier share a little bit about what makes their classrooms unique.

“I have seen in my classroom how important it is to be able to talk about God and our faith in our everyday lives,” says Mrs. Feilmeier. “I am able to make observations like, ‘Jesus is in our hearts so we need to treat others how we would treat Jesus.’ Being able to connect their lives in so many ways to God can completely change the students’ perspectives. I can encourage the children to give their worries or their rough moments to Him by pausing to talk to Jesus. It makes a big difference in how they grow.”

The beauty of this is that God is not just present in religion class. Incorporating our faith into all parts of the children’s education is a valuable part of the education that these students receive. From art to science, math to reading, God is intimately involved in these areas of a child’s life at St. Peter.

“Our lesson plans coincide with the liturgical calendar, as well,” Mrs. Osburn says. “So between church and the classroom, students experience the reinforcement of what they hear and learn there. It is amazing to see them light up when they make those connections – ‘I heard about that in church!’ or ‘We talked about that in class!’”

In addition to students having God incorporated through their entire day and religion teaching in the

# PROGRAM: IN FAITH, FAMILY AND ACADEMICS

classroom, students attend the Atrium where they experience Catechesis of the Good Shepard. CGS is a Montessori-based curriculum where students go and experience hands-on learning about God, the life of Jesus and the physical elements used in the Mass. Children work with their hands to learn to set up the altar or place small replicas of the priest's vestments on small stands. They also work with physical landscapes of the holy land to learn about where Jesus lived and did His ministry. This method of catechesis has proven to be a very effective model of learning about our Catholic faith for children in the school.

Beginning in kindergarten, students at St. Peter attend daily Mass. The kindergarteners begin the year attending once a week and gradually work their way up to attend five days a week. Students learn to be respectful and pay attention. Older students are responsible for the liturgical roles filled at Mass such as altar serving or reading.

*"The children become part of the Mass as they grow,"*

Mrs. Osburn says. "They learn the parts of the Mass and they are very comfortable with it since they have been going since a young age."

As Catholics, our faith and our relationship with God are of utmost importance. As our children begin their education, our parish school offers children an opportunity to experience excellent academics that are steeped in the richness of our Catholic faith. The school environment feels more like a family than a school.

"Our family moved here last year and since day one, my children and myself have felt welcomed," Mrs. Feilmeier says. "It is a very family-centered environment. As teachers, you know the students in the different grades and it creates a warm and safe space."

"The morale of the teachers in the school is unmatched," Mrs. Osburn adds. "When you have a group of caring, loving and supportive teachers, it makes a big difference in the environment that the students are learning in."



*To learn more about the school or set up a tour, please contact the school office at 402-421-6299.*



# ST. PETER CATHOLIC CHURCH



4500 Duxhall Dr. | Lincoln, NE 68516  
402-423-1239 | [www.saintpeterslincoln.com](http://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*

*Please Join Us For*

# HOLY HAPPY HOUR TRIVIA NIGHT

Friday, January 27th at 7:00pm  
St. Peter Church - Bishop Vasa Hall  
Themed Tables Are Encouraged

*Watch for sign-up-genius to reserve  
a spot for your team of 5-8 players.*



**B.Y.O.B.**