

# SAINT PETER'S CATHOLIC CHURCH

## NOVEMBER 29, 2020

"Watch, therefore; you do not know when the lord of the house is coming, whether in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockerow, or in the morning."

Mark 13:35



104 WEST FIRST STREET • MANSFIELD, OHIO 44902  
419.524.2572 | MANSFIELDSTPETERS.ORG

### Mass Schedule:

Saturday: 5:00 P.M.  
Sunday: 7:30 A.M., 9:30 A.M., 11:30 A.M.  
Monday & Friday 5:30 P.M.  
Tuesday - Thursday 7:00 A.M.

### Spanish Mass:

*Resurrection Parish, Lexington*

All Masses are cancelled until further notice.

### Parish Office Hours:

Monday - Friday: 9:00 A.M. - 2:00 P.M.  
Saturday and Sunday: Closed

### Pastoral Care Contacts:

Ms. Kristi Reindl 419.524.2572  
*Hospital & Follow-up  
Nursing Homes/Assisted Living &  
Prayer Pipeline*  
Deacon John Reef 419.529.3694  
*Shut-ins/Homebound*

### Sacrament of Baptism:

Please contact the Parish Center to begin plans for the baptism of your baby or child.

### Sacrament of Reconciliation:

Saturday: 3:00 - 4:30 P.M.  
Other times by appointment.

### Sacrament of Marriage:

Arrangements should always be made at the **Parish Center office at least eight months** in advance of the ceremony. A wedding date is confirmed after the initial meeting with a priest.

### Bulletin Deadline:

Friday, 12:00 noon. All requests must be submitted in writing or email and must receive prior approval.

### Parish Administrative Assistant:

Ms. Kristi Reindl 419.524.2572 ext.2122

### Pastoral Staff:

Fr. Gregory R. Hite, *Pastor*  
Fr. Kevin Moebius, *Parochial Vicar*  
Mr. Bill Johnson,  
*Director of Music & Liturgy*  
Ms. Lynne Lukach, *Pastoral Associate*  
Mrs. Elizabeth Wurm, *Director of  
Religious Ed. & Youth Minister*

### Deacon:

Mr. John Reef

### St. Peter's School:

Mr. Jonathan Cuttitta  
*High School, Jr. High School*  
Mrs. Ashley Rastorfer  
*Elementary School and Montessori*

### Business Manager:

Dr. Vincent Palombo

### Director of Marketing:

Mr. Jason Crundwell

A PARISH OF THE SAINT JUAN DIEGO DEANERY, DIOCESE OF TOLEDO

**MASS INTENTIONS**

Monday, November 30, *Feast of Saint Andrew, Apostle*

5:00 pm Rosary

5:30 pm Marilyn Kurtzman

Tuesday, December 1, *Tuesday of the First Week of Advent*

7:00 am James R. Blank

Wednesday, December 2, *Wednesday of the First Week of Advent*

7:00 am Kathy Weaver

Thursday, December 3, *Memorial of Saint Francis Xavier, Priest*

7:00 am Parish

Friday, December 4, *Friday of the First Week of Advent*

5:00 pm Rosary

5:30 pm Parish

Saturday, December 5, *Vigil of the Second Sunday of Advent*

5:00 pm Theresa Schroeder

Sunday, December 6, *Second Sunday of Advent*

7:30 am Parish

9:30 am Dean Robertson

11:30 am Thomasena Wilhelm

**ST. PETER'S RESTART SMART COMMITTEE MESSAGE**

St. Peter's Restart Smart Committee would like to thank the community for their prayers as we continue to safely reopen campus. Opening those doors to students in the midst of a pandemic is an overwhelming effort that requires the support of the whole community. From purchasing PPE, developing new cleaning protocols and gathering supplies, investing in remote learning technology, reconfiguring classrooms, installing a new restroom, training faculty to teach remotely, opening buildings to provide for social distancing, and the myriad of sweeping changes we have made to create a safe learning environment for our children, St. Peter's has made unprecedented investments in our school. In keeping with the mission and ministry of our parish to answer the Gospel's call to model the teachings and evangelizing of Jesus, we ask our faith community to consider supporting our schools during this challenging time.

Donations of any amount will help us ensure those doors stay open to students and to allow us to continue to heed Jesus' call in Matthew 28 to "teach them to carry out everything I have commanded you."

***Greetings from St. Peter's High School and Junior High!***

As for many, 2020 has been a very challenging year of school for students and teachers alike, however, we have nearly reached the end of the first semester. Despite the difficulties presented by the pandemic, we have had a successful school year so far. Both staff and students have been flexible in their approach to learning and diligent in their adherence to the new health restrictions. Thus far, our Restart Smart plan has gone well, with very few cases of COVID in the building and no evidence of spread to this point. We are hopeful that we will be able to continue forward as we have for the past two months.

Unfortunately, the pandemic has interfered with many of our usual school events. For example, our senior class retreat has been postponed until the spring. We are hopeful that our seniors will get the opportunity to participate in that experience. Another change has been relocating weekly Masses to the auditorium where students can be more easily socially distanced. This transition has gone well and we are pleased that students are able to experience school Masses even if it is in a different setting.

December is traditionally a month where we have many things going on, such as the Christmas Classic and choir and band concerts. Unfortunately, we have been forced to make adjustments here as well. The Christmas Classic will now be a drive-through event. The plan for our Christmas concerts is for them to be recorded and then posted online for parents and community members to view. We are fortunate to have the technological knowledge and equipment available to make this a reality.

This has certainly been a year of challenge and change for everyone, yet we are continuing to persevere and provide an outstanding Catholic education for our students, whether they are attending virtually or in-person. While the pandemic has certainly been a barrier, it has also encouraged us to try new and innovative ways of reaching and teaching our students. Our staff has done an excellent job of using a variety of new technology and programs to make learning happen for our students which we will likely be able to integrate into our instruction for years to come.

As always, we greatly appreciate the support of St. Peter's Parish in making our educational mission possible. Thank you to all of those who contribute time, talent, and treasure to St. Peter's School.

I wish health and happiness to all of you as we enter this holiday season,

*Jon Cuttitta*

## PLEASE REMEMBER TO SUPPORT THE MINISTRIES OF ST. PETER'S PARISH

**By mailing in your offering envelopes, OR**

**By visiting the website at [www.mansfieldstpeters.org](http://www.mansfieldstpeters.org), to learn about opportunities for electronic giving.**

**We greatly appreciate your generosity and support during these difficult days!**

## THANK YOU!

Thank you for your continued generosity to our parish during this pandemic. Every sacrificial gift is accepted in the Lord's eyes.

**Please remember to include our parish in your estate planning.**

## RESTRICTIONS ON TAKING COMMUNION TO THE SICK

Due to the continuing pandemic, OhioHealth Mansfield is still restricting patient visits for Holy Communion. If you have a family member who is in their home and would like a visit from a priest or deacon, please contact Kristi at [Reindl.kristi@myspartans.org](mailto:Reindl.kristi@myspartans.org) or 419.524.2572 ext.2122 with their name, address and phone number.

## PSR CLASSES

PSR classes have now begun! If you have a student who is in preschool through the eighth grade. To register please contact Elizabeth Wurm at [wurm.elizabeth@myspartans.org](mailto:wurm.elizabeth@myspartans.org) for class sign up today!

Registrations are also now being accepted for First Eucharist and Confirmation!

## MANSFIELD AREA CATHOLIC CEMETERIES COMMITTEE

The Mansfield Area Catholic Cemeteries Committee would like to remind parishioners that grave spaces are available in both the Mansfield Catholic Cemetery and the Prince of Peace Cemetery. The price for grave spaces are reduced during the month of November from the normal price of \$500 to \$450. For more information about purchasing grave spaces please contact David Barber, Chair of the Committee at the St. Peter's Parish Office 419.524.2572, x 8003.

## CALENDARS AVAILABLE

Starting the first weekend in December the Herlihy-Chambers Funeral Home will once again have their calendars for 2021 available all at entrances.

We are very thankful for this annual donation

## ASK FOR HELP

Ask Our Lady to help you. Ask her to entreat her Son to let you know what you should do. —Bl. Marie Rose Durocher

## SAINT PETER'S PARISH MASK POLICY

Richland County is now under a **"Red Level"** for the COVID-19 Virus, but the State of Ohio is still under mandatory mask wearing orders.

We respectfully ask that all who come to worship with us **WEAR A MASK OR FACIAL COVERING, USE HAND SANITIZER, AND RESPECT SOCIAL DISTANCING OF 6 FEET.**

**Dispensation to attend Sunday Mass, Holy Days of Obligations, remains in place for the foreseeable future until we are notified otherwise.**

Those who are at high risk, especially the elderly and those with pre-existing health conditions, are strongly advised to refrain from Mass attendance out of concern for their own well-being and out of Christian charity for others.

Thank you for your consideration. Please pray for all during this time of pandemic! Mary, Help of the Sick, Pray for us!

## DO YOU KNOW SOMEONE SERVING IN THE US MILITARY



Do you know someone serving in the US Military or someone who gave their life for our country while serving in the armed forces? These people can be honored by submitting their names to St. Peter's. They will then be placed on bulletin board by the cry room at the main entrance to St. Peter's. These people will then be remembered by many parishioners prayers. What a great gift to be given to these serving our country.

**For all of the current important information about St. Peters Parish operations during these troubled times, please visit our website at:**

**[MANSFIELDSPETERS.ORG](http://MANSFIELDSPETERS.ORG)**

**There you will also find devotional materials for use at home for you and your family.**

## PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK OF OUR PARISH



Bill Ruhl, Jeannie Burkhalter, Aaron Blank, Cindy Lassen, Dina Riley, Eliana Nelson, MaKaya Butler, Sharon Valdry, Maria Loschinkohl, John Ziegler, Marlene Ziegler, Dorothy Trinter, JoAnn Marbaugh, Gwen Yockey, Mel Switzer, Louise Steggall, Tammy Dudley, Keith Combs, Mady Ziegler, Elaine Johnson, Cindy Jasnek Cartier, Jeannine Klotz, Tom Powell, Chief Master Sergeant Joseph Basting, Peggy Basting Taylor, Kathy Carcione, Carol Pittenger, Jill McMillen, Catherine R. Liston, Alan Gallaway, Marty Moritz, Joe Mollica, Beverly Strauser, Larry Strauser, Bob Strauser, Christi Strauser, Jennifer Strauser, Dennis Caldwell, Mark Hawkins, Barb Jefferies, Lucille Thompson, Myrna Bohr, Patrick and Judy Boyer, John Doty, Ardis Steggall, David Donley, Elsie Person, Jacob Randall.

Names will only be listed for 4 weeks. If you wish to have additional time, contact the Parish Center at 419.524.2572.

## IN GOD'S ARMS...

James Moyer

Robert Keppler



**ETERNAL REST GRANT UNTO THEM, O LORD.**

## PARISH AND SCHOOL MINISTRIES

Did you know that there are many ways in which you can become more involved at St. Peter's? We are always looking for volunteers for the various ministries provided by both the parish and school. The complete list can be found on our website at [mansfieldstpeters.org](http://mansfieldstpeters.org) or by contacting the Parish Center office at 419.524.2572.

## PRISON MINISTRY CORNER



On July 14 of this year, our federal government restarted the practice of capital punishment following a 17-year hiatus from federal executions. Over these past four months the Department of Justice has executed eight people, including last week, more than doubling the total number of federal executions in the 57 years prior, with two more scheduled yet this year. See the excellent website Catholic Mobilizing Network for the upcoming virtual prayer vigils before each of these executions or contact Lynne at the Parish Center for more information. Fortunately, we have had no executions in the State of Ohio since 2018.

## PARISH OFFICE HOURS

The parish offices will be closed Wednesday, November 25 through Friday November 27, and will reopen on Monday, November 30.

## TV MASS SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITY

You may know that we are broadcasting our Sunday Mass on WMFD TV in Mansfield, as well as on our Facebook, YouTube and Parish Web pages. While there is no cost associated with the internet transmissions, the cost of broadcasting on television is \$135.00 per half hour.

Many parishioners and area businesses have stepped up to underwrite the cost of these broadcasts. In these uncertain days that need may continue for quite some time to come.

If you or your business would like to underwrite a TV Mass, please contact Jason Crundwell or Bill Johnson at the Parish Center at 419.524.2572 ext. 2125 or ext. 2113 for more information.

## SCHOOL MASSES

Our students will be attending Mass every other week during this school year. Because of the need for social distancing only students and teachers will attend. **At this time we cannot accommodate additional people in the High School auditorium.** Please keep all students and teachers in your prayer during this challenging school year.



**RECYCLING—NEXT DATE: DECEMBER 11, 2020**

**WE STILL SELL GARBAGE BAGS FROM THE YELLOW BAG PEOPLE IN THE PARISH CENTER.**

## FOOD COLLECTION: December 12 & 13

### SUNDAY OFFERING



Year to Date  
October 31, 2020

#### Sunday and Holy Day Collections

Sunday Collection & Holy Day Collection:	\$272,792
Total Budgeted Sunday Collection To Date:	\$284,000

<b>Sunday Collection Surplus/(Deficit)</b>	<b>(\$11,208)</b>
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#### School Collection

Total School Collection To Date:	\$33,330
Total Budgeted School Collection To Date:	\$48,000

<b>School Collection Surplus/(Deficit)</b>	<b>(\$14,670)</b>
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## EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES



### DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT & ADVANCEMENT

St. Peter's Parish & School is seeking to fill a new position in our Development Office. The Director of Development & Advancement provides leadership, planning and management of the Advancement Office and is responsible for designing, implementing and maintaining a comprehensive institutional advancement program. Minimum qualifications include a bachelor's degree in a related field or equivalent experience with a minimum of five years experience in fundraising, event planning, donor relations and alumni relations. Outstanding knowledge of fundraising data software and database management software is required. Practicing Catholic preferred. Please send cover letter, resume, salary requirements and references to Vincent Palombo, Business Manager at [palombo.vincent@myspartans.org](mailto:palombo.vincent@myspartans.org).

*All candidates must also complete the Diocese of Toledo VIRTUS training and pass FBI/BCI background check.*

### SUBSTITUTE SECRETARY AND CLASSROOM SUBSTITUTE

St. Peter's Elementary is in need of substitute teachers and substitute secretaries for the 20-21 school year. Must have Bachelor's degree, substitute/teaching license, and have BCI, FBI checks completed as well as VIRTUS requirements. Send resumes to [rastorfer.ashley@myspartans.org](mailto:rastorfer.ashley@myspartans.org). The secretary subs do not need a degree/license...they just need FBI, BCI, and VIRTUS. Thanks!

*All candidates must also complete the Diocese of Toledo VIRTUS training and pass FBI/BCI background check.*

## ANNUAL CATHOLIC APPEAL UPDATE

The 2020 Annual Catholic Appeal Campaign is underway with a campaign goal of \$3 million. We can assure the continued existence of many important programs that help tens of thousands in our Diocese each year; education of our seminary students, care of the sick and needy are among them. We ask you once again for your help; we have to work together. Please respond generously when you are asked to make your pledge. Thank you for your attention and thank you for being my parish family. For more information, visit the Diocesan website at [Toledodiocese.org/ACA](http://Toledodiocese.org/ACA). Your pledge may be sent to: Annual Catholic Appeal, Diocese of Toledo, 1933 Spielbusch Avenue, Toledo, Ohio, 43604.

Our parish goal is \$55,000.00 so far we are at \$49,973.10, with pledges from 351 households or 90.86%. Thank you for your support of our diocesan ministries and the help you provide to our seminarians and deacons who are in formation to serve our parish's future. Through your generosity, 4 men were ordained to the priesthood on June 27, 2020, and we **Welcome Fr. Kevin Moebius** to our parish. **Your pledge** to the Annual Catholic Appeal helped to make this possible!

**Remember, we have a Seminarian in Training, Hayden Eighinger**, studying at the Athenaeum of Ohio (Mt. St. Mary's of the West) who depends on your support to continue his formation as he continues in his studies for the priesthood. In his name, and for the ministries that serve our parish, I am making a last time appeal to you for your generous and faithful support. We are still within reach of our goal with only 5,026.90 to go!

Thank you for your consideration,  
Father Hite, Pastor







# Introducing FORMED®



All are invited to our next parish-wide Formed e-event:

Date: Saturday, December 5

Time: After 5:00 P.M. Mass

Location: In church

Topic: The Bible and the Virgin Mary: A Biblical Introduction to Mary

Join us for this inspiring video lesson on Mary's essential role in Salvation, followed by discussion. This month we will remain in church for the video and discussion. Nearly 200 individuals have signed up for our free parish Formed subscription. If you haven't yet signed up, simply go to [Formed.org](https://formed.org), click on "I belong to a parish or organization," type in or scroll for "St. Peter's Catholic Church, 104 West First Street, Mansfield," provide your name and email address, and you're all set.

Enjoy browsing the Formed offerings to find "spiritual food" to feed your soul. Please let us know if you need help finding something you're looking for; call the Parish Center and ask for Angie Dillon, Bill Johnson, or Lynne Lukach. Here are some programs fellow parishioners have recommended:

- FORMED daily—a few moments of faith instruction and an inspiring way to begin the day
- Any of the excellent *Lectio* series
- A variety of resources for Advent preparation and prayer



Thanks to a generous donor, the Diocese of Toledo is offering FORMED free to every parish! FORMED offers outstanding Catholic content through thousands of videos, audio, books, faith enrichment series, children's programming and more! We encourage all our parishioners to take advantage of this amazing resource.

**It's easy to begin: Go to [formed.org](https://formed.org). Click on Sign Up. Click "I belong to a Parish or Organization." Type "St. Peter's..." and a list will instantly appear. Be sure to choose our parish - listed as St. Peter's Catholic Church, 104 West First Street, Mansfield.... Then type your name and email address and you're done.** There are no passwords or codes. Enjoy looking over the range of materials. Watch the bulletin and the announcement screen before Mass for special programs, including plans to gather at the parish, view a video together, and have discussion and hospitality (observing distancing guidelines). More to come!

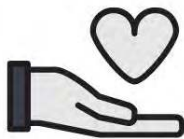


In November, we will give alms for the intention of holy vocations. More information will be shared in the bulletin and social media. You can also visit [ReconnectToledo.org/November](https://ReconnectToledo.org/November).

## **HOW TO PARTICIPATE**

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### **Week of Sunday, November 22**



#### **Give Alms**

Make a donation to the Annual Catholic Appeal. Donations are essential for the education of seminarians and permanent deacons.



#### **Pray**

Print (or cut out from your bulletin) the diaconate formation poster. Pray for the men who are in formation for the diaconate and all deacons of the Diocese of Toledo.

#### *Prayer for Permanent Deacons*

Holy God, Saint Vincent served You as a permanent deacon and gave his whole life and soul to You, even to the point of becoming a martyr. I lift up to You the deacons of the Church and all those who are being called by God to become deacons. Guide them as they discern how to serve the Body of Christ. Prevent the attractions of the world and the busyness of secular jobs from interfering with their vocations. Teach them to grow in humility. Help their families learn from their examples and support their diaconates with trust and joy. Saint Vincent, pray for us. Amen.



#### **Watch**

Go to [reconnecttoledo.org/november](https://reconnecttoledo.org/november) to watch a series of videos about the permanent diaconate.

*Reconnect*  
navigating Catholic life through a pandemic

## GIVING TREE 2020

St. Peter's has a long history of supporting our Community families with love and generosity through providing Christmas gifts through our annual Giving Tree program. Planning for this event has been in progress for months with our partner agencies with respect to safety and challenges of Covid-19. Although there will be changes to the overall Giving Tree operations, we remain committed offering an opportunity to serve families in our community. Please look for upcoming bulletin announcements for information of how our program will implement changes soon. Thank you in advance for your ongoing support to the families!

## PRESENCE FOR CHRISTMAS 2020 | ST. JOAN OF ARC

Particularly in this long season marked by *distance*, there are no presents that surpass the gift of *presence*. Plan on joining us now for Presence for Christmas, a multi-week ADVENTure into the heart of Christ's Mass involving inspiring speakers, uplifting worship, and confession on Wednesdays, beginning at 6:30p, at St. Joan of Arc Church, Toledo. Our themes this year correspond to the first three Joyful Mysteries: 12/2 "Personal Presence" (Peter Herbeck/ Renewal Ministries) 12/9 "Family Presence" (Stephanie Schlueter/ Mass Impact) 12/16 "Kingdom Come" (Dan DeMatte/ Damascus)

Presence for Christmas is sponsored by Mass Impact. Contact: [Alive@MassImpact.us](mailto:Alive@MassImpact.us) or 814-449-8808. FREE TICKETS are available right now: [PresenceForChristmas.com](https://www.presenceforchristmas.com). Commit to four weeks of talking and praying with family/friends in your home using the free Live IT Gathering Guide: [ILoveMyFamily.us](https://www.ilovemymfamily.us).

## NIGHT OF HEALING

Join us in person for Worship, Witness, Adoration, Word, and Healing on Tuesday December 15 from 7-8:00 P.M. at St. Jerome, Walbridge on 300 Warner St., Walbridge OH 43465

## JESUS 2020

Jesus, the King of Kings, calls us beyond a life that is insular, tired, and bored. Instead, He anoints us with the Holy Spirit and with fire, then sends us out in Power to a world thirsting for the Gospel. As we prepare to cap off this year, will you join us for JESUS 2020 Empowered by the Spirit? On Friday December 11 from 6:30-9:30 P.M. and on Saturday December 12 from 8:30-5:30 P.M. Register now at <https://www.nsc-chariscenter.org/jesus-2020/> the cost is FREE.

## STEUBENVILLE YOUTH CONFERENCE

We are now taking reservations for the Steubenville Youth Conference, June 11- 13th. Students who will be incoming freshman to outgoing seniors for the 2021-2022 school year are eligible to attend. Registration forms are available in the parish office and by contacting Elizabeth Wurm at [wurm.elizabeth@myspartans.org](mailto:wurm.elizabeth@myspartans.org). All those wishing to attend MUST preregister no later than December 13th. We hope you can join us!

## EVERY SATURDAY AT PLANNED PARENTHOOD



**Saturdays give us time** to do things we don't have time for during the week. Saturdays are also a great chance to spend time in prayer such as the Rosary. A gathering of "pray-ers" takes place every Saturday morning at 10:30 A.M. in front of Planned Parenthood. Prayers are so necessary in the effort to end abortion. Your prayers will aid in that cause. Please join us.





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**SAINT JUAN DIEGO DEANERY ADVENT PENANCE SERVICES****Thursday, December 3, 6:30 P.M. @St. Joseph, Galion****Sunday, December 6, 1:00 P.M. @ St. Mary of the Snows, Mansfield:**

Confessions for all Religious Education students and their parents and siblings.  
Tri-Parish Penance Service for St. Mary of the Snows, Mansfield, Resurrection,  
Lexington & St. Peter's, Mansfield

**Wednesday, December 9, 7:00 P.M. @ St. Joseph, Crestline:**

Penance Service for Sacred Heart of Jesus, Bethlehem and St. Joseph, Crestline.

**Wednesday, December 9, 4:00 P.M.—8:00 P.M. @St. Francis Xavier, Willard:**

Not an Advent Penance Service, but extended Confession hours.

**Thursday, December 10, 6:30 P.M. @Holy Trinity, Bucyrus****Friday, December 11, 10:00 A.M.—12:00 P.M. @ St. Francis Xavier, Willard:**

Not an Advent Penance Services, but extended Confession hours.

**Wednesday, December 16, 10:00 A.M.—2:00 P.M. and 5:00 P.M.—8:00 P.M****@St. Bernard, New Washington:**

Not an Advent Penance Service, but extended Confession hours.

# Leading the FLOCK

BY BISHOP DANIEL E. THOMAS



## “Fratelli tutti”

With these very first words of his third and newest Encyclical Letter, signed by Pope Francis in Assisi and published on October 3<sup>rd</sup>, the vigil of the Feast of Saint Francis of Assisi, the Holy Father quotes his namesake in an address to all his brothers and sisters, proposing to them “a way of life marked by the flavor of the Gospel.” In the introduction, the Pope mentions how he has taken his inspiration from the saint of fraternal love, simplicity and joy; how the issues of human fraternity and social friendship have always been a concern of his; and how, in this Encyclical, he has sought to bring together reflections he has spoken of repeatedly and in other contexts, situating them in a broader context of reflection.

This Encyclical represents a summation of the underlying vision that the Holy Father has proclaimed throughout his papacy: “It is my desire that, in this our time, by acknowledging the dignity of each human person, we can contribute to the rebirth of a universal aspiration to fraternity. Brotherhood between all men and women” (n. 8).

In the current worldwide situation in which we find ourselves, strained by the effects of a pandemic, and the resulting polarization,

isolation and division, it is not hard to see why Pope Francis strives to offer a message of concord instead of discord, turning to the Gospel Parable in which Jesus tells of a man assaulted by thieves and lying injured on the wayside. He writes: “The parable eloquently presents the basic decision we need to make in order to rebuild our wounded world. In the face of so much pain and suffering, our only course is to imitate the Good Samaritan. Any other decision would make us either one of the robbers or one of those who walked by without showing compassion for the sufferings of the man on the roadside. The parable shows us how a community can be rebuilt by men and women who identify with the vulnerability of others, who reject the creation of a society of exclusion, and act instead as neighbours, lifting up and rehabilitating the fallen for the sake of the common good. At the same time it warns us about the attitude of those who think only of themselves and fail to shoulder the inevitable responsibilities of life as it is” (n. 67).

It is Pope Francis’ conviction that the practice of social friendship, whether it be between nations, peoples or individuals, is one where each person knows and maintains his or her identity, but is also able to know and respect the

identity of others and work toward “coming up with shared goals that transcend their differences and can thus engage in a common endeavor” (n. 157). Further, the way forward to a new political future based on fraternity and social friendship begins with “moving beyond ourselves” which requires dialogue: “Authentic social dialogue involves the ability to respect the other’s point of view and to admit that it may include legitimate convictions and concerns” (n. 203). And it is religion which can play such a significant role in helping the dialogue of social friendship which leads to a greater sense of fraternity in our political world. Touching as he has before on topics of import in the realm of the Church’s social teaching, Pope Francis highlights that the religions of the world are called to the service of fraternity.

In receiving this new Encyclical Archbishop Jose Gomez, President of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, wrote: “In analyzing conditions in the world today, the Holy Father provides us with a powerful and urgent vision for the moral renewal of politics and political and economic institutions from the local level to the global level, calling us to build a common future that truly serves the good of the human person. For the Church, the Pope is challenging us to overcome the individualism in our culture and to serve our neighbors in love, seeing Jesus Christ in every person, and seeking a society of justice and mercy, compassion and mutual concern.”

As we receive this new Encyclical, we affirm that among Catholics, among other Christians and

those of other religions, “the effort to seek God with a sincere heart, provided it is never sullied by ideological or self-serving aims, helps us to recognize one another as travelling companions, truly brothers and sisters” (n. 274). And we understand more deeply that “The Church has a public role over and above her charitable and educational activities. She works for the advancement of humanity and of universal fraternity. She does not claim to compete with earthly powers, but to offer herself as a family among families, this is the Church, open to bearing witness in today’s world, open to faith, hope and love for the Lord and for those whom he loves with a preferential love. A home with open doors. The Church is a home with open doors, because she is a mother” (n. 276).

In releasing this new Encyclical, the Holy See concluded: “Faced with those injured by the shadows of a closed world and still lying by the roadside, we are invited by Pope Francis to make our own the world’s desire for fraternity, starting with the recognition that we are all ‘*Fratelli tutti*,’ brothers and sisters all.” May this be the starting point for us all.

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The Pope’s Encyclical Letter *Fratelli tutti* (On Fraternity and Social Friendship) may be found at [bit.ly/fraternity2020](https://bit.ly/fraternity2020).



Most Rev. Daniel E. Thomas  
Bishop of Toledo  
October 9, 2020

**ENCYCLICAL LETTER**  
**FRATELLI TUTTI**  
**OF THE HOLY FATHER FRANCIS**  
**ON FRATERNITY AND SOCIAL FRIENDSHIP**

76. Let us turn at last to the injured man. There are times when we feel like him, badly hurt and left on side of the road. We can also feel helpless because our institutions are neglected and lack resources, or simply serve the interests of a few, without and within. Indeed, "globalized society often has an elegant way of shifting its gaze. Under the guise of being politically correct or ideologically fashionable, we look at those who suffer without touching them. We televise live pictures of them, even speaking about them with euphemisms and with apparent tolerance".<sup>[59]</sup>

Starting anew

77. Each day offers us a new opportunity, a new possibility. We should not expect everything from those who govern us, for that would be childish. We have the space we need for co-responsibility in creating and putting into place new processes and changes. Let us take an active part in renewing and supporting our troubled societies. Today we have a great opportunity to express our innate sense of fraternity, to be Good Samaritans who bear the pain of other people's troubles rather than fomenting greater hatred and resentment. Like the chance traveller in the parable, we need only have a pure and simple desire to be a people, a community, constant and tireless in the effort to include, integrate and lift up the fallen. We may often find ourselves succumbing to the mentality of the violent, the blindly ambitious, those who spread mistrust and lies. Others may continue to view politics or the economy as an arena for their own power plays. For our part, let us foster what is good and place ourselves at its service.

78. We can start from below and, case by case, act at the most concrete and local levels, and then expand to the farthest reaches of our countries and our world, with the same care and concern that the Samaritan showed for each of the wounded man's injuries. Let us seek out others and embrace the world as it is, without fear of pain or a sense of inadequacy, because there we will discover all the goodness that God has planted in human hearts. Difficulties that seem overwhelming are opportunities for growth, not excuses for a glum resignation that can lead only to acquiescence. Yet let us not do this alone, as individuals. The Samaritan discovered an innkeeper who would care for the man; we too are called to unite as a family that is stronger than the sum of small individual members. For "the whole is greater than the part, but it is also greater than the sum of its parts".<sup>[60]</sup> Let us renounce the pettiness and resentment of useless infighting and constant confrontation. Let us stop feeling sorry for ourselves and acknowledge our crimes, our apathy, our lies. Reparation and reconciliation will give us new life and set us all free from fear.

79. The Samaritan who stopped along the way departed without expecting any recognition or gratitude. His effort to assist another person gave him great satisfaction in life and before his God, and thus became a duty. All of us have a responsibility for the wounded, those of our own people and all the peoples of the earth. Let us care for the needs of every man and woman, young and old, with the same fraternal spirit of care and closeness that marked the Good Samaritan.

Neighbours without borders

80. Jesus told the parable of the Good Samaritan in answer to the question: Who is my neighbour? The word "neighbour", in the society of Jesus' time, usually meant those nearest us. It was felt that help should be given primarily to those of one's own group and race. For some Jews of that time, Samaritans were looked down upon, considered impure. They were not among those to be helped. Jesus, himself a Jew, completely transforms this approach. He asks us not to decide who is close enough to be our neighbour, but rather that we ourselves become neighbours to all.

81. Jesus asks us to be present to those in need of help, regardless of whether or not they belong to our social group. In this case, the Samaritan *became a neighbour* to the wounded Judean. By approaching and making himself present, he crossed all cultural and historical barriers. Jesus concludes the parable by saying: "Go and do likewise" (Lk 10:37). In other words, he challenges us to put aside all differences and, in the face of suffering, to draw near to others with no questions asked. I should no longer say that I have neighbours to help, but that I must myself be a neighbour to others.

82. The parable, though, is troubling, for Jesus says that the wounded man was a Judean, while the one who stopped and helped him was a Samaritan. This detail is quite significant for our reflection on a love that includes everyone. The Samaritans lived in a region where pagan rites were practised. For the Jews, this made them impure, detestable, dangerous. In fact, one ancient Jewish text referring to nations that were hated, speaks of Samaria as "not even a people" (Sir 50:25); it also refers to "the foolish people that live in Shechem" (50:26).

Continued on Page 13



**ENCYCLICAL LETTER - continued from page 12**

83. This explains why a Samaritan woman, when asked by Jesus for a drink, answered curtly: "How is it that you, a Jew, ask a drink of me, a woman of Samaria?" (*Jn* 4:9). The most offensive charge that those who sought to discredit Jesus could bring was that he was "possessed" and "a Samaritan" (*Jn* 8:48). So this encounter of mercy between a Samaritan and a Jew is highly provocative; it leaves no room for ideological manipulation and challenges us to expand our frontiers. It gives a universal dimension to our call to love, one that transcends all prejudices, all historical and cultural barriers, all petty interests

The plea of the stranger

84. Finally, I would note that in another passage of the Gospel Jesus says: "I was a stranger and you welcomed me" (*Mt* 25:35). Jesus could speak those words because he had an open heart, sensitive to the difficulties of others. Saint Paul urges us to "rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep" (*Rom* 12:15). When our hearts do this, they are capable of identifying with others without worrying about where they were born or come from. In the process, we come to experience others as our "own flesh" (*Is* 58:7).

85. For Christians, the words of Jesus have an even deeper meaning. They compel us to recognize Christ himself in each of our abandoned or excluded brothers and sisters (cf. *Mt* 25:40.45). Faith has untold power to inspire and sustain our respect for others, for believers come to know that God loves every man and woman with infinite love and "thereby confers infinite dignity" upon all humanity.<sup>[61]</sup> We likewise believe that Christ shed his blood for each of us and that no one is beyond the scope of his universal love. If we go to the ultimate source of that love which is the very life of the triune God, we encounter in the community of the three divine Persons the origin and perfect model of all life in society. Theology continues to be enriched by its reflection on this great truth.

86. I sometimes wonder why, in light of this, it took so long for the Church unequivocally to condemn slavery and various forms of violence. Today, with our developed spirituality and theology, we have no excuses. Still, there are those who appear to feel encouraged or at least permitted by their faith to support varieties of narrow and violent nationalism, xenophobia and contempt, and even the mistreatment of those who are different. Faith, and the humanism it inspires, must maintain a critical sense in the face of these tendencies, and prompt an immediate response whenever they rear their head. For this reason, it is important that catechesis and preaching speak more directly and clearly about the social meaning of existence, the fraternal dimension of spirituality, our conviction of the inalienable dignity of each person, and our reasons for loving and accepting all our brothers and sisters.

CHAPTER THREEENVISAGING AND ENGENDERING AN OPEN WORLD

87. Human beings are so made that they cannot live, develop and find fulfilment except "in the sincere gift of self to others".<sup>[62]</sup> Nor can they fully know themselves apart from an encounter with other persons: "I communicate effectively with myself only insofar as I communicate with others".<sup>[63]</sup> No one can experience the true beauty of life without relating to others, without having real faces to love. This is part of the mystery of authentic human existence. "Life exists where there is bonding, communion, fraternity; and life is stronger than death when it is built on true relationships and bonds of fidelity. On the contrary, there is no life when we claim to be self-sufficient and live as islands: in these attitudes, death prevails".<sup>[64]</sup>

MOVING BEYOND OURSELVES

88. In the depths of every heart, love creates bonds and expands existence, for it draws people out of themselves and towards others.<sup>[65]</sup> Since we were made for love, in each one of us "a law of *ekstasis*" seems to operate: "the lover 'goes outside' the self to find a fuller existence in another".<sup>[66]</sup> For this reason, "man always has to take up the challenge of moving beyond himself".<sup>[67]</sup>

89. Nor can I reduce my life to relationships with a small group, even my own family; I cannot know myself apart from a broader network of relationships, including those that have preceded me and shaped my entire life. My relationship with those whom I respect has to take account of the fact that they do not live only for me, nor do I live only for them. Our relationships, if healthy and authentic, open us to others who expand and enrich us. Nowadays, our noblest social instincts can easily be thwarted by self-centred chats that give the impression of being deep relationships. On the contrary, authentic and mature love and true friendship can only take root in hearts open to growth through relationships with others. As couples or friends, we find that our hearts expand as we step out of ourselves and embrace others. Closed groups and self-absorbed couples that define themselves in opposition to others tend to be expressions of selfishness and mere self-preservation.

**ENCYCLICAL LETTER - continued from page 13**

90. Significantly, many small communities living in desert areas developed a remarkable system of welcoming pilgrims as an exercise of the sacred duty of hospitality. The medieval monastic communities did likewise, as we see from the Rule of Saint Benedict. While acknowledging that it might detract from the discipline and silence of monasteries, Benedict nonetheless insisted that “the poor and pilgrims be treated with the utmost care and attention”.<sup>[68]</sup> Hospitality was one specific way of rising to the challenge and the gift present in an encounter with those outside one’s own circle. The monks realized that the values they sought to cultivate had to be accompanied by a readiness to move beyond themselves in openness to others.

The unique value of love

91. People can develop certain habits that might appear as moral values: fortitude, sobriety, hard work and similar virtues. Yet if the acts of the various moral virtues are to be rightly directed, one needs to take into account the extent to which they foster openness and union with others. That is made possible by the charity that God infuses. Without charity, we may perhaps possess only apparent virtues, incapable of sustaining life in common. Thus, Saint Thomas Aquinas could say – quoting Saint Augustine – that the temperance of a greedy person is in no way virtuous.<sup>[69]</sup> Saint Bonaventure, for his part, explained that the other virtues, without charity, strictly speaking do not fulfil the commandments “the way God wants them to be fulfilled”.<sup>[70]</sup>

92. The spiritual stature of a person’s life is measured by love, which in the end remains “the criterion for the definitive decision about a human life’s worth or lack thereof”.<sup>[71]</sup> Yet some believers think that it consists in the imposition of their own ideologies upon everyone else, or in a violent defence of the truth, or in impressive demonstrations of strength. All of us, as believers, need to recognize that love takes first place: love must never be put at risk, and the greatest danger lies in failing to love (cf. 1 Cor 13:1-13).

93. Saint Thomas Aquinas sought to describe the love made possible by God’s grace as a movement outwards towards another, whereby we consider “the beloved as somehow united to ourselves”.<sup>[72]</sup> Our affection for others makes us freely desire to seek their good. All this originates in a sense of esteem, an appreciation of the value of the other. This is ultimately the idea behind the word “charity”: those who are loved are “dear” to me; “they are considered of great value”.<sup>[73]</sup> And “the love whereby someone becomes pleasing (*grata*) to another is the reason why the latter bestows something on him freely (*gratis*)”.<sup>[74]</sup>

94. Love, then, is more than just a series of benevolent actions. Those actions have their source in a union increasingly directed towards others, considering them of value, worthy, pleasing and beautiful apart from their physical or moral appearances. Our love for others, for who they *are*, moves us to seek the best for their lives. Only by cultivating this way of relating to one another will we make possible a social friendship that excludes no one and a fraternity that is open to all.

# WHAT'S HAPPENING AT ST. PETER'S SCHOOL

In Mr. Bradner's classes this past couple of weeks, high school students were busy preparing Christmas Cards to send to local First Responders and front line health care workers. Students in the elementary school also took part in making cards to thank all those working in challenging conditions this year.



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## MARK'S JESUS

Mark's Gospel is the shortest and tersest of all four. The discourses of Jesus tend to be terser as well. Mark's portrayal of Jesus has none of the poetry of the Sermon on the Mount or the Sermon on the Plain as in Matthew or Luke, nor the extensive, reflective "I Am" discourses as in John. Mark's Jesus "cuts to the chase," we would say today. This is reflected quite well in today's passage.

It is no accident that the dialogue of Jesus at this point in the Gospel according to Mark—the concluding words about the end of the world—immediately before his passion, is riddled with exclamation points and an overall sense of urgency.

We would do well to re-tool our own way of living this Advent, for we live in a world urgently in need of hearing the message of Jesus proclaimed. It's time for us to "wake up!" and get out into the world to do it.

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## FEAST OF FAITH

What is the Mass? There is no simple answer to that question. The Church uses many different images and terms to describe our most important prayer. The Mass is the celebration of the Eucharist, a Greek word that means "thanksgiving." It is the Lord's Supper. It is the Breaking of the Bread. It is the memorial of the Lord's passion, death, and resurrection. It is the Holy Sacrifice, in which the sacrifice of Christ on the cross is perpetuated. It is the holy and divine liturgy, the sacred mysteries. It is the source and summit of our Christian lives, the new covenant, the work of the Holy Spirit, the paschal mystery. The many different words and images that we use when we speak of the Mass are not signs of confusion, but of wonder at what the Catechism of the Catholic Church (1328) calls the "inexhaustible richness" of the Eucharist. The Mass, our greatest prayer and our deepest mystery, is celebrated every day, many times a day, the world over. The Eucharist is both "bread from heaven" and "daily bread." The Mass is our everyday miracle.

—Corinna Laughlin, Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co.



## TODAY'S READINGS

**First Reading** — We are the clay and you, O Lord, are the potter: we are the work of your hands (Isaiah 63:16b-17, 19b; 64:2-7).

**Psalm** — Lord, make us turn to you; let us see your face and we shall be saved (Psalm 80).

**Second Reading** — God is faithful; by God you were called to fellowship with the Son (1 Corinthians 1:3-9).

**Gospel** — Be watchful! Be alert! You do not know when the time will come. (Mark 13:33-37).

## READINGS FOR THE WEEK

**Monday:** Rom 10:9-18; Ps 19:8-11; Mt 4:18-22

**Tuesday:** Is 11:1-10; Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 17; Lk 10:21-24

**Wednesday:** Is 25:6-10a; Ps 23:1-6; Mt 15:29-37

**Thursday:** Is 26:1-6; Ps 118:1, 8-9, 19-21, 25-27a; Mt 7:21, 24-27

**Friday:** Is 29:17-24; Ps 27:1, 4, 13-14; Mt 9:27-31

**Saturday:** Is 30:19-21, 23-26; Ps 147:1-6; Mt 9:35 — 10:1, 5a, 6-8

**Sunday:** Is 40:1-5, 9-11; Ps 85:9-14; 2 Pt 3:8-14; Mk 1:1-8



## Parish Giving Tree - Collection dates Dec. 5/6th and Dec.12/13th

Due to the challenges of Covid-19 and to maintain safety for all, we have changed the operation of this year's Giving Tree. Instead of our Christmas Giving Tree with ornaments and traditional gifts, we will be collecting Gift Cards for the families we serve.

The groups included for the giving tree will be:

- Salvation Army
- St. Peter's parishioners and families
- St. Vincent de Paul clients
- Angel Tree – children of prisoners, these will not be gift cards, but rather donations for gifts.

The ways to participate in the giving tree this year:

- Purchase a gift card. The gift cards will be distributed to recipients from the giving tree. Gift cards can be:
  - Placed in one of 2 large wrapped boxes that will be located at the front of the Church.  
Mailed to or dropped off at the parish center, with a note that it is for the Giving Tree.
- Give a monetary gift. The total received will be used to purchase gift cards for the remaining Giving Tree recipients. A monetary gift can be provided by:
  - Placing cash or check in an envelope marked "Giving Tree" in the Wrapped boxes at the front of the church. Make the check payable to the Society of St. Vincent de Paul - in memo write "Giving Tree".
  - Mailing a check to (or dropping off at) the parish center, with a note that it is for the Giving Tree.

For the families receiving gift cards. If there are more gift cards than recipients, the St. Vincent de Paul Ministry will give more than one gift card per recipient, depending on need.

Gift card guidelines:

- Any amount is fine. We will combine gift cards as needed to make gifts as even as possible.
- Please write the dollar amount on either the gift card or envelope, and do not use a Gift box/bag or wrapping paper.

Gift cards can be for any store, but some suggestions are: Walmart, Target, Meijer. grocery stores, thrift stores, fast-food, or restaurants.

**Please assure donations made on or before the Dec. 13th deadline as they will be distributed the next day!** Thank you for your continued support to brighten Christmas for families in our community!



## ST. PETER'S SCHOOL

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St. Peter's School in Mansfield, OH is conducting a search for its first Head of School. Founded in 1868, as a ministry of St. Peter's Catholic Church, St. Peter's School serves over 300 diverse students in grades pre-K-12, including a Montessori Program. St. Peter's provides educational programs in a Catholic-Christian environment for students of all races, creeds, and socioeconomic levels within and beyond Richland County. Over the past five years, 95% of St. Peter's graduates went on to attend a college or university.

St. Peter's School strives to create an environment of academic excellence built upon Catholic spirituality and service and is looking for a creative, dynamic individual to continue these traditions and move the school forward in its attainment of excellence in all areas.

### **Position Description and Key Responsibilities**

The Head of School will provide educational, spiritual, executive, financial, advancement, and managerial leadership in order to achieve the fullest attainment of St. Peter's School's mission. Key responsibilities include but are not limited to: upholding and promoting the academic and educational standards of the school, striving for academic distinction and recognition; overseeing the recruitment, retention, and professional development of faculty and staff; assessing and evaluating building principals; managing the school's support systems; acting as a liaison with the Diocese of Toledo and any appropriate agencies or organizations; implementing objectives from the school's strategic plan; helping develop financial resources for the school; creating and reporting on key performance indicators to assess the school's success; exhibiting dedication to the ministry of Catholic education by modeling Gospel values and enhancing the Catholic identity of the school; developing, in cooperation with the directors of marketing and development, a long-range public relations and marketing plan; and communicating and collaborating with parish, staff, parents, parishioners, alumni, and community members, acting as the official spokesperson for the school.

All candidates must also complete the Diocese of Toledo VIRTUS training and pass FBI/BCI background checks.

### **Qualifications**

In addition to being a practicing Catholic, active in a parish, with a strong commitment to Catholic education, the qualified candidate must have appropriate State of Ohio licensure/certification, and be able to meet all Diocese of Toledo employment requirements.

*Continued on Page 20*

*Continued from Page 19*

Qualified candidates will additionally have and be able to exhibit:

- strong academic credentials. Advanced degrees in education, academic administration, and/ or business administration preferred.
- substantial experience in school and/ or business administration.
- strong educational leadership, vision, and managerial skills with a proven track record of managing, collaborating with, and inspiring colleagues in the achievement of objectives.
- an understanding of and appreciation for the work of educating children from early childhood through graduation.
- familiarity and ease with financial statements and processes, as well as the ability to generate financial resources.
- exceptional communication and public relation skills.
- the willingness and skill set to assist with institutional development and marketing efforts.
- excellent organization and problem-solving abilities.

### **Application Requirements**

Candidates should submit no later than December 11 an application package including the following:

- A cover letter indicating why they are interested and qualified for the position, as well as salary requirements.
- A current resume.
- A statement detailing the candidate's educational and leadership philosophy, vision and background, focusing on how he/she would enrich St. Peter's School.
- The names, addresses, and telephone numbers of three references. (We will obtain permission from candidates before contacting references).
- *Optional: Other supporting materials (articles, speeches, letters of recommendation, and other materials that would be useful to the Search Committee).*

These materials should be sent via email attachment to The St. Peter's Strategic Planning Committee at [strategicplan@myspartans.org](mailto:strategicplan@myspartans.org).

After an initial review of applicants' materials, the Search Committee will conduct a first round of interviews via Zoom during the month of January. Finalists for the position will be invited to St. Peter's School for a more comprehensive series of interviews. St. Peter's School will keep all applicants informed of their status throughout the process.