

SAINT PETER'S CATHOLIC CHURCH

DECEMBER 13, 2020



And Mary said:

"My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord; My spirit rejoices in God my savior.

For he has looked upon his handmaid's lowliness;

Behold, from now on will all ages call me blessed.

The Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name.

His mercy is from age to age to those who fear him.

Luke 1:46-50

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, December 14, *Memorial of Saint John of the Cross, priest and doctor of the Church*

5:00 pm Rosary

5:30 pm North Central Ohio Vocations Club

Tuesday, December 15, *Tuesday of the Third Week of Advent*

7:00 am Marilyn Mertler

Wednesday, December 16, *Wednesday of the Third Week of Advent*

7:00 am Parish

Thursday, December 17, *Thursday of the Third Week of Advent*

7:00 am Donald Chambers

Friday, December 18, *Friday of the Third Week of Advent*

5:00 pm Rosary

5:30 pm Angel Oriol

Saturday, December 19, *Vigil of the Fourth Sunday of Advent*

5:00 pm Lucy Hauck

Sunday, December 20, *Fourth Sunday of Advent*

7:30 am Parish

9:30 am Edward Hirsch

11:30 am Mary A. Miller

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, 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.

JN 1:6-8, 19-28 - "Who are you?"

St. Peter's Parishioners and Friends,

So good to be with you again and it's hard to believe we're already a whole two weeks into the month of December! Amazing! Time flies when you're the Associate Pastor at St. Peter's! OR...Maybe everyone else is feeling the same way! In that case, we're all having fun! Praised be Jesus Christ!

In today's gospel, from the Third Sunday of Advent, we hear the testimony from John the Baptist. John says, "*I am the voice of one crying out in the desert, make straight the way of the Lord.*" Some of you may be thinking, "*Father, didn't we just hear that read in last Sunday's gospel?*" To which I would respond, "*Yes!*" That's right, Father gets to give the same homily from last weekend. Wrong!So then, what's different?

David Eighinger blows the whistle!!! "Fweet!... Fweet!... Fweet!" Guess what that means?....It's halftime. We all walk back to the St. Pete's locker room. Coach Barrett asks: *How are you feeling? What went well in the first half? What adjustments need to be made?*

The season of Advent originated as a 40 days fast in preparation for Christmas. In the 9th century Advent was reduced to 4 weeks or 4 Sundays before Christmas. Nevertheless, Advent preserved its penitential season, as a counterpart to Lent. This Sunday, this Gaudete Sunday is similar to Lent's Laetare Sunday, and signifies the midway point through this Advent season.

Today, John is asked a question different from the First Sunday of Advent, "Who are you?" The same question Jesus is asking us today. Now, it's time to dig deep, find ourselves and show him what we've got. Christ will come a second time, just like that second half. Whether we're up at halftime or we're down, we suit up, tighten up our laces, go out on that floor, play as a team and win the game! In other words, "PLAY LIKE CHAMPIONS TODAY!" See you in the locker room for the celebration.



Have a blessed week,

Fr. Kevin

END OF THE YEAR CHARITABLE GIVING

The end of the year is fast approaching, and it is time to think about those last-minute charitable deductions and reduce your 2020 tax burden. Here are a few ways that may work for you.

New for 2020 - \$300 Above the Line Charitable Contribution

As part of the CARES Act passed by Congress earlier this year, allows individuals and couples who do not itemize deductions to deduct \$300 of qualified charitable contributions as an "above-the-line" deduction. This will lower your adjusted gross income. Your weekly Sunday stewardship and other donations to St. Peter's count towards this deduction.

IRA Charitable Rollovers

If you are 70 ½ or older, you can elect to make a qualified charitable distribution from your IRA. This distribution will lower your overall taxable income for the year. More seniors are taking advantage of this option and are making a one-time distribution to cover all their annual stewardship gifts for the year.

Transfer of Appreciated Stocks

If you hold a stock that has appreciated significantly over this year, you can avoid capital gains taxes and make a charitable deduction by donating the stock to St. Peter's. These transfers can be done electronically, so contact the Development Office for more information. Stock transfers should be initiated by December 22 to guarantee they will be completed before the end of the year.

Elimination of the 60% Charitable Limit

Under the CARES Act, Congress temporarily modified the contribution limits for individuals and allows individuals who itemize to deduct qualified charitable contributions up to 100% of their adjusted gross income. The excess contributions will be carried forward for the next five years. These changes only apply to cash contributions made to a 50% charity, excluding supporting organizations and donor-advised funds. Stock donations and gifts to private foundations are still subject to the 30% of AGI rule.

Eliminating the contribution limit creates a huge opportunity for donors who want to make a significant impact to charities this year. Under these rules, a donor could take a significant distribution from their IRA, rather than the annual \$100,000 limit, donate it to charity, and take a deduction for the full amount. If you're considering leaving a large portion of your IRA to charity in your estate, this may be a year to consider a large gift, especially if you are expecting to have a taxable estate. You could benefit from tax savings and also see the benefits your charitable donation produces during your lifetime.

If you have any general questions you can call the Development Office for more information. For specific questions related to your personal situation, please contact your tax professional or an investment advisor for more information.

CALENDARS AVAILABLE

Starting the first weekend in December the Herlihy-Chambers Funeral Home and Wappners Funeral Home will once again have their calendars for 2021 available all at entrances. We are very thankful **for this annual donation**

PLEASE WELCOME OUR GUESTS



Mary and Joseph brought their child into the world in a stable because there was no one to show them hospitality. We are going to have a great many visitors for our Christmas Masses. Let us be sure to show them warm and welcoming hospitality by making room for all who come to worship with us.

On a related note, as in past years, there is no reserved seating and seats may only be held for late-arriving members until the ushers begin seating people.

Thank you in advance for your hospitality.

PARKING LOT AND SAFETY EMERGENCY

Please remember to lock car doors and keep valuables out of sight when you come for weekend Mass. Also, please do not park in emergency lanes, behind the priests' garage doors or the center aisle lane, it makes it impossible for emergency vehicles to help 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

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, Krista Marshall, Aaron Blank, Cindy Lassen, Dina Riley, Eliana Nelson, MaKaya Butler, Sharon Valdrey, 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, Marilyn B. Williamson, Tom Powell, Chief Master Sergeant Joseph Basting, Peggy Basting Taylor, Kathy Carcione, Carol Pittenger, Jill McMillen, Catherine R. Liston, Alan Gallaway, Joe Mollica, Beverly Strauser, Larry Strauser, Christi Strauser, Jennifer Strauser, Barb Jefferies, Lucille Thompson, Myrna Bohr, Patrick and Judy Boyer, John Doty, Ardis Steggall, David Donley, Jacob Randall, Lana Milli, Pam Taylor, Rena Brown, Jordan Hiser, Amy Malaska, Mary Page, Michelle Page.

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...



Barbara Marshall

Anthony Glasser

James Moyer

Reverend Thomas J. Leyland

ETERNAL REST GRANT UNTO THEM, O LORD.

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 or 419.524.2572 ext.2122 with their name, address and phone number.

PRISON MINISTRY CORNER



Messages from our brothers at Richland Correctional:

"Dear brothers and sisters of St. Peter's, Thank you so much for the prayers. I know the Covid numbers are not looking good out there. I continue to pray for all of you to stay safe and keep the faith. This place seems to be very healthy right now—just antsy! We got the flu shot for those who wanted it, so, hopefully, that won't hit us too hard. Thank you for all your letters, prayers and words of encouragement. Thank you to all the clergy and all your ministries. You are all in my prayers. We really appreciate the televised Mass."

APOSTLES OF THE INTERIOR LIFE

St. Peter's parishioner **Kate Cropp**, who is the daughter of Lance and Kelly Cropp of our Parish, is a member of *The Apostles of the Interior Life* and is currently studying in Rome. You may remember that Kate spoke at all Masses earlier this year to give us some information about her vocation. *The Apostles of the Interior Life* are a community of consecrated women religious who dedicate their lives to God, and who live by the evangelical counsels of chastity, poverty, and obedience. Kate wrote to us this week that one of the women in her community made her profession this past Saturday, December 12th. For those interested in knowing more about this community, a video of the profession liturgy is available on the community's YouTube page. You may view the liturgy by searching YouTube for *Apostles of the Interior Life*.

Dear Families,

Each year the Montessori students collect items to send to a local charity. In years past, we have collected books to donate to a local literacy program. This year, the Elementary will join us in collecting nonperishable food items and hygiene items to donate to Catholic Charities.

We will be collecting these items from December 7—December 17.

Examples of items include: Cans of vegetables, beans, fruits, etc. Hygiene items include: Toothbrushes, toothpaste, shampoo, soaps, toilet paper, etc.

Please send these items in with your child and we will have a box in the front entry of the Elementary school for drop off and a box in the Montessori as well.

Thank you all for participating in our charity project and helping those in need!



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



FY 20/21 YTD

Nov 2020

Sunday and Holy Day Collections

Sunday Collection & Holy Day Collection:	\$335,528.00
Total Budgeted Sunday Collection To Date:	\$355,000.00

Sunday Collection Surplus/(Deficit) (\$19,472)

School Collection

Total School Collection To Date:	\$40,671
Total Budgeted School Collection To Date:	\$60,000

School Collection Surplus/(Deficit) (\$19,329)

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.

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. 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.

CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE



The church will open one hour before each Mass!

Christmas Eve—Thursday, December 24, 2020

4:00 P.M. (in Church)

4:00 P.M. (in High School Auditorium)

7:00 P.M. (in Church)—***Incense will be used***

7:00 P.M. (in High School Auditorium)

7:00 P.M. (WMFD-TV & Online)

12:00 Midnight—Church (Music begins at 11:30 P.M.)

Incense will be used

Christmas Day—Friday, December 25, 2020



ANNUAL CATHOLIC APPEAL UPDATE

Our parish goal is \$55,000.00 so far we are at \$50,273.10, with pledges from 355 households or 91.41%. 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.

*"Currently, due to the generosity of increasing donors, we are **less than \$5000 in meeting our goal to this year's Annual Catholic Appeal goal**. The youth of our diocese, seminarians studying for our diocese, and assistance for our school principals in their ministries continue to require your commitment. **We have until December 31st**. May St. Peter's Parish share their sacrificial gift as part of this year's appeal."*

For more information, visit the Diocesan website at Toledodiocese.org/ACA. Your pledge may be sent to: Annual Catholic Appeal, Diocese of Toledo, 1933 Spielbusch Avenue, Toledo, Ohio, 43604.

Gratefully yours,
Father Hite





Thank you to all who attended our Formed event after 5:00 P.M. Mass last Saturday evening. Even if you couldn't be with us this past Saturday, we encourage everyone to view the excellent series "The Bible and the Virgin Mary" these final weeks of Advent.

Our next parish-wide Formed event is scheduled for four Saturday evenings in a row: January 9, 16, 23, 30—after 5:00 P.M. Mass. We will view the inspiring series *THE SEARCH*, followed by discussion and fellowship each week. Watch the bulletin for more details.

We hope more and more parish households are spending time with the many fine FORMED materials—videos, audio talks, ongoing series, numerous resources on prayer, children's materials, etc. If you haven't already signed up for this FREE parish subscription, the instructions are simple:

- Go to [Formed.org](https://formed.org).
- Click on "I belong to an organization or parish."
- Type in or scroll to find: St. Peter's Catholic Church, 104 West First Street, Mansfield OH.
- Type your name and email.
- Enjoy browsing the thousands of titles and let us know what you are finding most helpful. Questions or comments? Contact Angie Dillon, Bill Johnson, or Lynne Lukach at the Parish Center—419.524.2572—and we're happy to be of assistance.

SAINT JUAN DIEGO DEANERY ADVENT PENANCE SERVICES

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.

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 or 814-449-8808. FREE TICKETS are available right now: 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.

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

STEUBENVILLE YOUTH CONFERENCE

We are now taking reservations for the Steubenville Youth Conference, June 11- 13th. Students who will be incoming freshman to graduating 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. 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.

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 3rd, 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.

The Pope’s Encyclical Letter *Fratelli tutti* (On Fraternity and Social Friendship) may be found at 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

117. When we speak of the need to care for our common home, our planet, we appeal to that spark of universal consciousness and mutual concern that may still be present in people's hearts. Those who enjoy a surplus of water yet choose to conserve it for the sake of the greater human family have attained a moral stature that allows them to look beyond themselves and the group to which they belong. How marvellously human! The same attitude is demanded if we are to recognize the rights of all people, even those born beyond our own borders.

RE-ENVISAGING THE SOCIAL ROLE OF PROPERTY

118. The world exists for everyone, because all of us were born with the same dignity. Differences of colour, religion, talent, place of birth or residence, and so many others, cannot be used to justify the privileges of some over the rights of all. As a community, we have an obligation to ensure that every person lives with dignity and has sufficient opportunities for his or her integral development.

119. In the first Christian centuries, a number of thinkers developed a universal vision in their reflections on the common destination of created goods.^[91] This led them to realize that if one person lacks what is necessary to live with dignity, it is because another person is detaining it. Saint John Chrysostom summarizes it in this way: "Not to share our wealth with the poor is to rob them and take away their livelihood. The riches we possess are not our own, but theirs as well".^[92] In the words of Saint Gregory the Great, "When we provide the needy with their basic needs, we are giving them what belongs to them, not to us".^[93]

120. Once more, I would like to echo a statement of Saint John Paul II whose forcefulness has perhaps been insufficiently recognized: "God gave the earth to the whole human race for the sustenance of all its members, without excluding or favouring anyone".^[94] For my part, I would observe that "the Christian tradition has never recognized the right to private property as absolute or inviolable, and has stressed the social purpose of all forms of private property".^[95] The principle of the common use of created goods is the "first principle of the whole ethical and social order";^[96] it is a natural and inherent right that takes priority over others.^[97] All other rights having to do with the goods necessary for the integral fulfilment of persons, including that of private property or any other type of property, should – in the words of Saint Paul VI – "in no way hinder [this right], but should actively facilitate its implementation".^[98] The right to private property can only be considered a secondary natural right, derived from the principle of the universal destination of created goods. This has concrete consequences that ought to be reflected in the workings of society. Yet it often happens that secondary rights displace primary and overriding rights, in practice making them irrelevant.

Rights without borders

121. No one, then, can remain excluded because of his or her place of birth, much less because of privileges enjoyed by others who were born in lands of greater opportunity. The limits and borders of individual states cannot stand in the way of this. As it is unacceptable that some have fewer rights by virtue of being women, it is likewise unacceptable that the mere place of one's birth or residence should result in his or her possessing fewer opportunities for a developed and dignified life.

122. Development must not aim at the amassing of wealth by a few, but must ensure "human rights – personal and social, economic and political, including the rights of nations and of peoples".^[99] The right of some to free enterprise or market freedom cannot supersede the rights of peoples and the dignity of the poor, or, for that matter, respect for the natural environment, for "if we make something our own, it is only to administer it for the good of all".^[100]

123. Business activity is essentially "a noble vocation, directed to producing wealth and improving our world".^[101] God encourages us to develop the talents he gave us, and he has made our universe one of immense potential. In God's plan, each individual is called to promote his or her own development,^[102] and this includes finding the best economic and technological means of multiplying goods and increasing wealth. Business abilities, which are a gift from God, should always be clearly directed to the development of others and to eliminating poverty, especially through the creation of diversified work opportunities. The right to private property is always accompanied by the primary and prior principle of the subordination of all private property to the universal destination of the earth's goods, and thus the right of all to their use.^[103]

Continued on Page 11

ENCYCLICAL LETTER - continued from page 10*The rights of peoples*

124. Nowadays, a firm belief in the common destination of the earth's goods requires that this principle also be applied to nations, their territories and their resources. Seen from the standpoint not only of the legitimacy of private property and the rights of its citizens, but also of the first principle of the common destination of goods, we can then say that each country also belongs to the foreigner, inasmuch as a territory's goods must not be denied to a needy person coming from elsewhere. As the Bishops of the United States have taught, there are fundamental rights that "precede any society because they flow from the dignity granted to each person as created by God".^[104]

125. This presupposes a different way of understanding relations and exchanges between countries. If every human being possesses an inalienable dignity, if all people are my brothers and sisters, and if the world truly belongs to everyone, then it matters little whether my neighbour was born in my country or elsewhere. My own country also shares responsibility for his or her development, although it can fulfil that responsibility in a variety of ways. It can offer a generous welcome to those in urgent need, or work to improve living conditions in their native lands by refusing to exploit those countries or to drain them of natural resources, backing corrupt systems that hinder the dignified development of their peoples. What applies to nations is true also for different regions within each country, since there too great inequalities often exist. At times, the inability to recognize equal human dignity leads the more developed regions in some countries to think that they can jettison the "dead weight" of poorer regions and so increase their level of consumption.

126. We are really speaking about a new network of international relations, since there is no way to resolve the serious problems of our world if we continue to think only in terms of mutual assistance between individuals or small groups. Nor should we forget that "inequity affects not only individuals but entire countries; it compels us to consider an ethics of international relations".^[105] Indeed, justice requires recognizing and respecting not only the rights of individuals, but also social rights and the rights of peoples.^[106] This means finding a way to ensure "the fundamental right of peoples to subsistence and progress",^[107] a right which is at times severely restricted by the pressure created by foreign debt. In many instances, debt repayment not only fails to promote development but gravely limits and conditions it. While respecting the principle that all legitimately acquired debt must be repaid, the way in which many poor countries fulfil this obligation should not end up compromising their very existence and growth.

127. Certainly, all this calls for an alternative way of thinking. Without an attempt to enter into that way of thinking, what I am saying here will sound wildly unrealistic. On the other hand, if we accept the great principle that there are rights born of our inalienable human dignity, we can rise to the challenge of envisaging a new humanity. We can aspire to a world that provides land, housing and work for all. This is the true path of peace, not the senseless and myopic strategy of sowing fear and mistrust in the face of outside threats. For a real and lasting peace will only be possible "on the basis of a global ethic of solidarity and cooperation in the service of a future shaped by interdependence and shared responsibility in the whole human family".^[108]

CHAPTER FOUR**A HEART OPEN TO THE WHOLE WORLD**

128. If the conviction that all human beings are brothers and sisters is not to remain an abstract idea but to find concrete embodiment, then numerous related issues emerge, forcing us to see things in a new light and to develop new responses.

BORDERS AND THEIR LIMITS

129. Complex challenges arise when our neighbour happens to be an immigrant.^[109] Ideally, unnecessary migration ought to be avoided; this entails creating in countries of origin the conditions needed for a dignified life and integral development. Yet until substantial progress is made in achieving this goal, we are obliged to respect the right of all individuals to find a place that meets their basic needs and those of their families, and where they can find personal fulfilment. Our response to the arrival of migrating persons can be summarized by four words: welcome, protect, promote and integrate. For "it is not a case of implementing welfare programmes from the top down, but rather of undertaking a journey together, through these four actions, in order to build cities and countries that, while preserving their respective cultural and religious identity, are open to and know how to promote them in the spirit of human fraternity".^[110]

Continued on Page 12

ENCYCLICAL LETTER - continued from page 11

130. This implies taking certain indispensable steps, especially in response to those who are fleeing grave humanitarian crises. As examples, we may cite: increasing and simplifying the granting of visas; adopting programmes of individual and community sponsorship; opening humanitarian corridors for the most vulnerable refugees; providing suitable and dignified housing; guaranteeing personal security and access to basic services; ensuring adequate consular assistance and the right to retain personal identity documents; equitable access to the justice system; the possibility of opening bank accounts and the guarantee of the minimum needed to survive; freedom of movement and the possibility of employment; protecting minors and ensuring their regular access to education; providing for programmes of temporary guardianship or shelter; guaranteeing religious freedom; promoting integration into society; supporting the reuniting of families; and preparing local communities for the process of integration.^[111]

131. For those who are not recent arrivals and already participate in the fabric of society, it is important to apply the concept of "citizenship", which "is based on the equality of rights and duties, under which all enjoy justice. It is therefore crucial to establish in our societies the concept of *full citizenship* and to reject the discriminatory use of the term *minorities*, which engenders feelings of isolation and inferiority. Its misuse paves the way for hostility and discord; it undoes any successes and takes away the religious and civil rights of some citizens who are thus discriminated against".^[112]

132. Even when they take such essential steps, states are not able, on their own, to implement adequate solutions, "since the consequences of the decisions made by each inevitably have repercussions on the entire international community". As a result, "our response can only be the fruit of a common effort"^[113] to develop a form of global governance with regard to movements of migration. Thus, there is "a need for mid-term and long-term planning which is not limited to emergency responses. Such planning should include effective assistance for integrating migrants in their receiving countries, while also promoting the development of their countries of origin through policies inspired by solidarity, yet not linking assistance to ideological strategies and practices alien or contrary to the cultures of the peoples being assisted".^[114]

RECIPROCAL GIFTS

133. The arrival of those who are different, coming from other ways of life and cultures, can be a gift, for "the stories of migrants are always stories of an encounter between individuals and between cultures. For the communities and societies to which they come, migrants bring an opportunity for enrichment and the integral human development of all".^[115] For this reason, "I especially urge young people not to play into the hands of those who would set them against other young people, newly arrived in their countries, and who would encourage them to view the latter as a threat, and not possessed of the same inalienable dignity as every other human being".^[116]

134. Indeed, when we open our hearts to those who are different, this enables them, while continuing to be themselves, to develop in new ways. The different cultures that have flourished over the centuries need to be preserved, lest our world be impoverished. At the same time, those cultures should be encouraged to be open to new experiences through their encounter with other realities, for the risk of succumbing to cultural sclerosis is always present. That is why "we need to communicate with each other, to discover the gifts of each person, to promote that which unites us, and to regard our differences as an opportunity to grow in mutual respect. Patience and trust are called for in such dialogue, permitting individuals, families and communities to hand on the values of their own culture and welcome the good that comes from others' experiences".^[117]

135. Here I would mention some examples that I have used in the past. Latino culture is "a ferment of values and possibilities that can greatly enrich the United States", for "intense immigration always ends up influencing and transforming the culture of a place... In Argentina, intense immigration from Italy has left a mark on the culture of the society, and the presence of some 200,000 Jews has a great effect on the cultural 'style' of Buenos Aires. Immigrants, if they are helped to integrate, are a blessing, a source of enrichment and new gift that encourages a society to grow".^[118]

136. On an even broader scale, Grand Imam Ahmad Al-Tayyeb and I have observed that "good relations between East and West are indisputably necessary for both. They must not be neglected, so that each can be enriched by the other's culture through fruitful exchange and dialogue. The West can discover in the East remedies for those spiritual and religious maladies that are caused by a prevailing materialism. And the East can find in the West many elements that can help free it from weakness, division, conflict and scientific, technical and cultural decline. It is important to pay attention to religious, cultural and historical differences that are a vital component in shaping the character, culture and civilization of the East. It is likewise important to reinforce the bond of fundamental human rights in order to help ensure a dignified life for all the men and women of East and West, avoiding the politics of double standards".^[119]

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT ST. PETER'S SCHOOL

Despite COVID-19, St. Peter's continues to do its best in keeping traditions alive. This week the high school announced the members of the 2021 Homecoming and Rose Arc Courts. You can visit our YouTube or Facebook page to watch the video with the special guest presenter.

The high school students are currently in the process of voting for St. Peter's 62nd Homecoming Queen. That announcement will be made in the coming weeks.

Our students will remain in remote learning through the week after Christmas Break.



Not too early to start thinking about 2021-22 registration! Please contact Jason Crundwell, 419-524-2572 x2125 to schedule a tour. Tours will be conducted after-school hours for the safety of your family!

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JOHN THE BAPTIST

At a school open house a woman could be overheard introducing her husband to some of the other parents. "Oh, Bill, I'd like you to meet Johnny's father. And over here, this is Marie's mom; you know, the little girl from our Ellen's soccer team." With satisfied resignation Bill introduced himself not by name: "I'm Ellen's Dad."

It's good to know who you are. Be it someone's father or mother, son or daughter, husband or wife, it's important to embrace the full meaning of our various roles.

John the Baptist knows who he is. And who he is not. He is not the Christ. Nor Elijah. Nor like any other prophet God's people had ever seen.

John the Baptist knows his mission is divine. He's more than satisfied to be the one to announce the coming of God's reign. The Christ is near. Make straight your paths.

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FEAST OF FAITH

The Shape of the Mass

In the renewal of the liturgy that followed the Second Vatican Council, the full, conscious, and active participation of the assembly was the primary consideration. By participation, the Council Fathers did not mean just joining in the singing and the spoken responses, but active engagement and prayerful understanding of the rites. They envisioned a transparent liturgy, a worship that spoke so directly to the hearts and minds of the faithful that it would require no explanation at all.

The liturgy itself is the best possible catechesis on the liturgy. What does the liturgy teach us? It shows us the ministry of Jesus continuing in the present. He gathers a community. He calls us to prayer and repentance and praise. He teaches us with the very word of God. He does not send us away empty, but sets before us a marvelous banquet, feeding us with his very body and blood. Then he sends us forth to do what he has done—to give ourselves for others, not just in words, but in deeds. The Mass is the pattern of our Christian lives.

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



TODAY'S READINGS

First Reading — As a garden makes its growth spring up, so will God make justice spring up before all the nations (Isaiah 61:1-2a, 10-11).

Psalm — My soul rejoices in my God (Luke 1:46-50, 53-54).

Second Reading — Do not quench the Spirit. Do not despise prophetic utterances. Test everything; retain what is good (1 Thessalonians 5:16-24).

Gospel — I am the voice of one crying out in the desert, make straight the way of the Lord (John 1:6-8, 19-28).

The English translation of the Psalm Responses from the Lectionary for Mass © 1969, 1981, 1997, International Commission on English in the Liturgy Corporation. All rights reserved.

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: Nm 24:2-7, 15-17a; Ps 25:4-5ab, 6, 7bc-9; Mt 21:23-27

Tuesday: Zep 3:1-2, 9-13; Ps 34:2-3, 6-7, 17-18, 19, 23; Mt 21:28-32

Wednesday: Is 45:6b-8, 18, 21c-25; Ps 85:9ab, 10-14; Lk 7:18b-23

Thursday: Gn 49:2, 8-10; Ps 72:1-4ab, 7-8, 17; Mt 1:1-17

Friday: Jer 23:5-8; Ps 72:1-2, 12-13, 18-19; Mt 1:18-25

Saturday: Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a; Ps 71:3-4a, 5-6ab, 16-17; Lk 1:5-25

Sunday: 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16; Ps 89:2-5, 27, 29; Rom 16:25-27; Lk 1:26-38

This Weeks Cover Art: "The Visitation," by Giotto di Bondone (c. 1267-1337), Wikimedia Commons.



Parish Giving Tree - Collection dates December 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

Graduating students who achieve academic excellence, practice Christian spirituality, and prepare to be of service to the world.

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.

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.

Parents of Priests *Prayers for Priests*

Prayers for Clergy, Religious, and/or Groups of Individuals for each day of the month.



Dear Lord,
we pray that the Blessed Mother
wrap her mantle around your priests
and through her intercession
strengthen them for their ministry.
We pray that Mary will guide your priests
to follow her own words,
"Do whatever He tells you" (Jn 2:5).
May your priests have the heart of St. Joseph,
Mary's most chaste spouse.
May the Blessed Mother's own pierced heart
inspire them to embrace
all who suffer at the foot of the cross.
May your priests be holy,
filled with the fire of your love
seeking nothing but your greater glory
and the salvation of souls.
Amen.

Saint John Vianney, pray for us.

December 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
++ DIOCESE OF TOLEDO ++		Pope Francis 1	Bishop Daniel E. Thomas 2	Your Parish Priests 3	Parents of Priests 4	Increase of vocations to the priesthood and religious life 5
Rev. James Halleron 6	Rev. Scott Hahn 7	Rev. Thomas Held 8	Rev. Adam Hertzfeld 9	Rev. Mark Herzog 10	Seminarian Mr. Jacob Livecchi 11	Rev. Gregory Hite 12
Rev. Msgr. Michael Hohenbrink 13	Rev. Robert Holden 14	Deacons and Missionary Priests 15	Rev. James Holmer 16	Rev. J. Howe 17	Rev. Mark Hoying 18	Rev. Monte Hoyles 19
Rev. Christopher Hudgin 20	Rev. John Jesudhason 21	Religious Brothers and Sisters 22	Rev. Joseph Joseph 23	Rev. Jason Kahle 24	Very Rev. Krzysztof Kardzis 25	Seminarian Mr. Bradley McNeal 26
Rev. Kent Kaufman 27	Rev. Franklin Kehres 28	Rev. David Kidd 29	Deceased Priests of the Diocese 30	Rev. Robert Kill 31	PRAY DAILY FOR A PRIEST!	