

SAINT PETER'S CATHOLIC CHURCH

DECEMBER 6, 2020



As it is written in Isaiah the prophet: "Behold, I am sending my messenger ahead of you; he will prepare your way.

A voice of one crying out in the desert: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths.'"

John was clothed in camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist.* He fed on locusts and wild honey. And this is what he proclaimed:

"One mightier than I is coming after me. I am not worthy to stoop and loosen the thongs of his sandals. I have baptized you with water; he will baptize you with the holy Spirit."

Mark 1:2-3,6-8

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 7, *Saint Ambrose, Bishop and
Doctor of the Church*

5:00 pm Rosary

5:30 pm Marilyn Kurtzman

Tuesday, December 8, *The Immaculate Conception of
the Blessed Virgin Mary*

7:00 am Mary Cetinich

7:00 pm Immaculate Conception Mass

Wednesday, December 9, *Wednesday of the Second Week
of Advent*

7:00 am Parish

Thursday, December 10, *Thursday of the Second Week of
Advent*

7:00 am Parish

Friday, December 11, *Friday of the Second Week of Advent*

5:00 pm Rosary

5:30 pm Ed and Maryanne Voytko

Saturday, December 12, *Vigil of the Third Sunday of
Advent*

5:00 pm John and Rose Anne Rozic

Sunday, December 13, *Third Sunday of Advent*

7:30 am Parish

9:30 am Wiecher Family

11:30 am Michael J. Payton

**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.

With a character all their own, the weeks of **ADVENT** begin the church year and prepare us for Christmas. On Sundays we return to the **Cycle B readings**, and during the week we read **Cycle One** in the weekday **lectionary** (the book of Scripture readings used at Mass).

Originally a season of penance in preparation for baptisms on Epiphany, Advent by the 10th century was also a time of "joyful anticipation" of the Lord's coming.

Advent focuses on more than one aspect of time: we remember the past, celebrate the present, and look forward to Christ's glorious return. The seriousness of the season as it looks toward the second coming of Christ and the final judgment is balanced by the joyful anticipation of a Savior who will make everything right in a world that is so obviously out of joint.

Advent reminds us that **we must watch and wait for the Lord** – watch for signs of grace in our lives, and wait for the revelation of God.

Of Advent, *St. Charles Borromeo*, writing in the sixteenth century, said: "Behold, now is the acceptable time spoken of by the Spirit, the day of salvation, peace and reconciliation: the great season of Advent. This is the time eagerly awaited by the patriarchs and prophets, the time that holy Simeon rejoiced to see. This is the season that the Church has always celebrated with special solemnity. We too should always observe it with faith and love, offering praise and thanksgiving to the Father for the mercy and love he has shown us in this mystery."

Advent is also a season that is frequently overlooked in our lives. We focus on Christmas, gift giving, parties, and holiday cheer. I remember as a child being part of the Holy Childhood Society. It was particularly during this time of the year when we made sacrifices, offered our simple gifts and prayers to prepare our hearts for the coming of Christ. "Keep Christ in Christmas" was a focus. In a day when our society is becoming increasingly secularized, perhaps this might be a time to focus on the coming of the Savior – asking for his blessings on our aspirations and for answers to our prayers.

Father Gregory Hite, Pastor

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, 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 that 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 for an investment advisor for more information.

CALENDARS AVAILABLE

Starting the first weekend in December the Herlihy-Chambers Funeral Home and Wappner 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 **"PURPLE 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

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, Marty Moritz, 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, Elsie Person, Jacob Randall, Lana Milli, Pam Taylor, Rena Brown.

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...



Rose Saul

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."

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!

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



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)
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School Collection

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

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

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*

NO PSR THIS WEEK

Following the Restart Smart Program there will be no PSR this week. We will keep you updated for the following week, please check the All Event Calendar for updates. This applies to Confirmation class on December 9th as well.



Introducing FORMED®



All are invited to our next parish-wide Formed 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 sign 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 Office 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
- The rest of "The Bible and the Virgin Mary" series that we will begin together at our December 7 event



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. 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!

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

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. 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.



SAINT JUAN DIEGO DEANERY ADVENT PENANCE SERVICES**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. @ Sacred Heart of Jesus:

Penance Service for Sacred Heart of Jesus, Bethlehem.

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 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

A LOVE EVER MORE OPEN

95. Love also impels us towards universal communion. No one can mature or find fulfilment by withdrawing from others. By its very nature, love calls for growth in openness and the ability to accept others as part of a continuing adventure that makes every periphery converge in a greater sense of mutual belonging. As Jesus told us: "You are all brothers" (Mt 23:8).

96. This need to transcend our own limitations also applies to different regions and countries. Indeed, "the ever-increasing number of interconnections and communications in today's world makes us powerfully aware of the unity and common destiny of the nations. In the dynamics of history, and in the diversity of ethnic groups, societies and cultures, we see the seeds of a vocation to form a community composed of brothers and sisters who accept and care for one another".^[75]

Open societies that integrate everyone

97. Some peripheries are close to us, in city centres or within our families. Hence there is an aspect of universal openness in love that is existential rather than geographical. It has to do with our daily efforts to expand our circle of friends, to reach those who, even though they are close to me, I do not naturally consider a part of my circle of interests. Every brother or sister in need, when abandoned or ignored by the society in which I live, becomes an existential foreigner, even though born in the same country. They may be citizens with full rights, yet they are treated like foreigners in their own country. Racism is a virus that quickly mutates and, instead of disappearing, goes into hiding, and lurks in waiting.

98. I would like to mention some of those "hidden exiles" who are treated as foreign bodies in society.^[76] Many persons with disabilities "feel that they exist without belonging and without participating". Much still prevents them from being fully enfranchised. Our concern should be not only to care for them but to ensure their "active participation in the civil and ecclesial community. That is a demanding and even tiring process, yet one that will gradually contribute to the formation of consciences capable of acknowledging each individual as a unique and unrepeatable person". I think, too, of "the elderly who, also due to their disability, are sometimes considered a burden". Yet each of them is able to offer "a unique contribution to the common good through their remarkable life stories". Let me repeat: we need to have "the courage to give a voice to those who are discriminated against due to their disability, because sadly, in some countries even today, people find it hard to acknowledge them as persons of equal dignity".^[77]

Inadequate understandings of universal love

99. A love capable of transcending borders is the basis of what in every city and country can be called "social friendship". Genuine social friendship within a society makes true universal openness possible. This is a far cry from the false universalism of those who constantly travel abroad because they cannot tolerate or love their own people. Those who look down on their own people tend to create within society categories of first and second class, people of greater or lesser dignity, people enjoying greater or fewer rights. In this way, they deny that there is room for everybody.

100. I am certainly not proposing an authoritarian and abstract universalism, devised or planned by a small group and presented as an ideal for the sake of levelling, dominating and plundering. One model of globalization in fact "consciously aims at a one-dimensional uniformity and seeks to eliminate all differences and traditions in a superficial quest for unity... If a certain kind of globalization claims to make everyone uniform, to level everyone out, that globalization destroys the rich gifts and uniqueness of each person and each people".^[78] This false universalism ends up depriving the world of its various colours, its beauty and, ultimately, its humanity. For "the future is not monochrome; if we are courageous, we can contemplate it in all the variety and diversity of what each individual person has to offer. How much our human family needs to learn to live together in harmony and peace, without all of us having to be the same!"^[79]

Continued on Page 12

ENCYCLICAL LETTER - continued from page 11BEYOND A WORLD OF "ASSOCIATES"

101. Let us now return to the parable of the Good Samaritan, for it still has much to say to us. An injured man lay on the roadside. The people walking by him did not heed their interior summons to act as neighbours; they were concerned with their duties, their social status, their professional position within society. They considered themselves important for the society of the time, and were anxious to play their proper part. The man on the roadside, bruised and abandoned, was a distraction, an interruption from all that; in any event, he was hardly important. He was a "nobody", undistinguished, irrelevant to their plans for the future. The Good Samaritan transcended these narrow classifications. He himself did not fit into any of those categories; he was simply a foreigner without a place in society. Free of every label and position, he was able to interrupt his journey, change his plans, and unexpectedly come to the aid of an injured person who needed his help.

102. What would be the reaction to that same story nowadays, in a world that constantly witnesses the emergence and growth of social groups clinging to an identity that separates them from others? How would it affect those who organize themselves in a way that prevents any foreign presence that might threaten their identity and their closed and self-referential structures? There, even the possibility of acting as a neighbour is excluded; one is a neighbour only to those who serve their purpose. The word "neighbour" loses all meaning; there can only be "associates", partners in the pursuit of particular interests.^[80]

Liberty, equality and fraternity

103. Fraternity is born not only of a climate of respect for individual liberties, or even of a certain administratively guaranteed equality. Fraternity necessarily calls for something greater, which in turn enhances freedom and equality. What happens when fraternity is not consciously cultivated, when there is a lack of political will to promote it through education in fraternity, through dialogue and through the recognition of the values of reciprocity and mutual enrichment? Liberty becomes nothing more than a condition for living as we will, completely free to choose to whom or what we will belong, or simply to possess or exploit. This shallow understanding has little to do with the richness of a liberty directed above all to love.

104. Nor is equality achieved by an abstract proclamation that "all men and women are equal". Instead, it is the result of the conscious and careful cultivation of fraternity. Those capable only of being "associates" create closed worlds. Within that framework, what place is there for those who are not part of one's group of associates, yet long for a better life for themselves and their families?

105. Individualism does not make us more free, more equal, more fraternal. The mere sum of individual interests is not capable of generating a better world for the whole human family. Nor can it save us from the many ills that are now increasingly globalized. Radical individualism is a virus that is extremely difficult to eliminate, for it is clever. It makes us believe that everything consists in giving free rein to our own ambitions, as if by pursuing ever greater ambitions and creating safety nets we would somehow be serving the common good.

A UNIVERSAL LOVE THAT PROMOTES PERSONS

106. Social friendship and universal fraternity necessarily call for an acknowledgement of *the worth of every human person*, always and everywhere. If each individual is of such great worth, it must be stated clearly and firmly that "the mere fact that some people are born in places with fewer resources or less development does not justify the fact that they are living with less dignity".^[81] This is a basic principle of social life that tends to be ignored in a variety of ways by those who sense that it does not fit into their worldview or serve their purposes.

107. Every human being has the right to live with dignity and to develop integrally; this fundamental right cannot be denied by any country. People have this right even if they are unproductive, or were born with or developed limitations. This does not detract from their great dignity as human persons, a dignity based not on circumstances but on the intrinsic worth of their being. Unless this basic principle is upheld, there will be no future either for fraternity or for the survival of humanity.

108. Some societies accept this principle in part. They agree that opportunities should be available to everyone, but then go on to say that everything depends on the individual. From this skewed perspective, it would be pointless "to favour an investment in efforts to help the slow, the weak or the less talented to find opportunities in life".^[82] Investments in assistance to the vulnerable could prove unprofitable; they might make things less efficient. No. What we need in fact are states and civil institutions that are present and active, that look beyond the free and efficient working of certain economic, political or ideological systems, and are primarily concerned with individuals and the common good.

109. Some people are born into economically stable families, receive a fine education, grow up well nourished, or naturally possess great talent. They will certainly not need a proactive state; they need only claim their freedom. Yet the same rule clearly does not apply to a disabled person, to someone born in dire poverty, to those lacking a good education and with little access to adequate health care. If a society is governed primarily by the criteria of market freedom and efficiency, there is no place for such persons, and fraternity will remain just another vague ideal.

Continued on Page 13

ENCYCLICAL LETTER - continued from page 12

110. Indeed, "to claim economic freedom while real conditions bar many people from actual access to it, and while possibilities for employment continue to shrink, is to practise doublespeak".^[83] Words like freedom, democracy or fraternity prove meaningless, for the fact is that "only when our economic and social system no longer produces even a single victim, a single person cast aside, will we be able to celebrate the feast of universal fraternity".^[84] A truly human and fraternal society will be capable of ensuring in an efficient and stable way that each of its members is accompanied at every stage of life. Not only by providing for their basic needs, but by enabling them to give the best of themselves, even though their performance may be less than optimum, their pace slow or their efficiency limited.

111. The human person, with his or her inalienable rights, is by nature open to relationship. Implanted deep within us is the call to transcend ourselves through an encounter with others. For this reason, "care must be taken not to fall into certain errors which can arise from a misunderstanding of the concept of human rights and from its misuse. Today there is a tendency to claim ever broader individual – I am tempted to say individualistic – rights. Underlying this is a conception of the human person as detached from all social and anthropological contexts, as if the person were a "monad" (*monás*), increasingly unconcerned with others... Unless the rights of each individual are harmoniously ordered to the greater good, those rights will end up being considered limitless and consequently will become a source of conflicts and violence".^[85]

PROMOTING THE MORAL GOOD

112. Nor can we fail to mention that seeking and pursuing the good of others and of the entire human family also implies helping individuals and societies to mature in the moral values that foster integral human development. The New Testament describes one fruit of the Holy Spirit (cf. *Gal 5:22*) as *agathosyne*; the Greek word expresses attachment to the good, pursuit of the good. Even more, it suggests a striving for excellence and what is best for others, their growth in maturity and health, the cultivation of values and not simply material wellbeing. A similar expression exists in Latin: *benevolentia*. This is an attitude that "wills the good" of others; it bespeaks a yearning for goodness, an inclination towards all that is fine and excellent, a desire to fill the lives of others with what is beautiful, sublime and edifying.

113. Here, regrettably, I feel bound to reiterate that "we have had enough of immorality and the mockery of ethics, goodness, faith and honesty. It is time to acknowledge that light-hearted superficiality has done us no good. Once the foundations of social life are corroded, what ensues are battles over conflicting interests".^[86] Let us return to promoting the good, for ourselves and for the whole human family, and thus advance together towards an authentic and integral growth. Every society needs to ensure that values are passed on; otherwise, what is handed down are selfishness, violence, corruption in its various forms, indifference and, ultimately, a life closed to transcendence and entrenched in individual interests.

The value of solidarity

114. I would like especially to mention solidarity, which, "as a moral virtue and social attitude born of personal conversion, calls for commitment on the part of those responsible for education and formation. I think first of families, called to a primary and vital mission of education. Families are the first place where the values of love and fraternity, togetherness and sharing, concern and care for others are lived out and handed on. They are also the privileged milieu for transmitting the faith, beginning with those first simple gestures of devotion which mothers teach their children. Teachers, who have the challenging task of training children and youth in schools or other settings, should be conscious that their responsibility extends also to the moral, spiritual and social aspects of life. The values of freedom, mutual respect and solidarity can be handed on from a tender age... Communicators also have a responsibility for education and formation, especially nowadays, when the means of information and communication are so widespread".^[87]

115. At a time when everything seems to disintegrate and lose consistency, it is good for us to appeal to the "solidity"^[88] born of the consciousness that we are responsible for the fragility of others as we strive to build a common future. Solidarity finds concrete expression in service, which can take a variety of forms in an effort to care for others. And service in great part means "caring for vulnerability, for the vulnerable members of our families, our society, our people". In offering such service, individuals learn to "set aside their own wishes and desires, their pursuit of power, before the concrete gaze of those who are most vulnerable... Service always looks to their faces, touches their flesh, senses their closeness and even, in some cases, 'suffers' that closeness and tries to help them. Service is never ideological, for we do not serve ideas, we serve people".^[89]

116. The needy generally "practise the special solidarity that exists among those who are poor and suffering, and which our civilization seems to have forgotten or would prefer in fact to forget. Solidarity is a word that is not always well received; in certain situations, it has become a dirty word, a word that dare not be said. Solidarity means much more than engaging in sporadic acts of generosity. It means thinking and acting in terms of community. It means that the lives of all are prior to the appropriation of goods by a few. It also means combatting the structural causes of poverty, inequality, the lack of work, land and housing, the denial of social and labour rights. It means confronting the destructive effects of the empire of money... Solidarity, understood in its most profound meaning, is a way of making history, and this is what popular movements are doing".^[90]

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT ST. PETER'S SCHOOL

Our Montessori students missed out on their annual Thanksgiving feast this year due to school being closed.

Students were provided with their own mini-feasts in their remote learning packets to celebrate the story of Thanksgiving with their parents.

Due to Richland County moving to Level 4 (purple) the school will be in full remote learning mode. Also, athletic events have been suspended and will be reevaluated each week.



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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).

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: 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

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.



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strengthen them for their ministry.
We pray that Mary will guide your priests
to follow her own words,
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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
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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!	