

Saint Peter ^{the} Apostle

CATHOLIC CHURCH



551 N. Rush Street | Itasca, Illinois 60143 | 630.773.1272 | www.stpeteritasca.com

Restore • Renew • Rejoice

SCHEDULE OF MASSES

Saturday Vigil: 5:00 pm | Sunday: 8:30 am and 11:00 am
Monday-Friday: 8:00 am

CONFESSIONS

Saturdays | 4:15 pm - 4:45 pm
Wednesdays | 8:30 am (*following 8:00 am Mass*)



November 22, 2020

Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe

From the Pastor



Dear Parish Family:

On June 30, all parishes in the Diocese of Joliet ended the fiscal year. On page 6 of this bulletin and located on our parish website, you will find the 2019-2020 annual parish finance report. Please take time to read through it and get a greater understanding of our parish statistics and financial updates.

I would like to thank you and congratulate you on your generous care of the parish over the last year through your God-given gifts of treasure, time and talent. These past months of pandemic and mandatory shut-down of our churches has been a real jolt for all of us. We not only suffered spiritually and socially but also financially. The good news is that we are on a rebound. Back to worshipping God as we should, being nourished by Christ and His Church through receiving the sacraments, and the gathering of community even with social distancing to hear God's Word. Financially, I hope that our parish continues to rebound so that we can provide the necessary tools to further God's work here in our parish. You were very generous with your gifts to God's poor, especially the contributions you make every month through our Saint Vincent DePaul collection. With the coming of Christmas, please make an effort to give to our brothers and sisters, especially those who are unemployed and underemployed. I encourage you to respond generously to the needs listed on our Advent Giving tree this December. Thank you to our dedicated parish staff and the many volunteers who assist with parish ministry. Thank you also to the members of the Parish Finance Committee for all their diligent work and dedication. As your new Pastor, I look forward to receiving their help and expertise in order to keep Saint Peter the Apostle Parish on sound financial footing.

All that we have, all that we are, is possible because of God's grace and your continued and consistent generosity to Saint Peter the Apostle Parish. I want to take this opportunity to thank all of you for your warm welcome. I especially want to thank you for your sincere practice of the Catholic Faith, even in these trying times of COVID and social distancing. Thank you to all the volunteers who have and continue to serve in the capacity of daily cleaning our church and other proper procedures that are keeping us all safe.

Our Religious Education program for our children and other parish programs are up and running again. Please keep praying for each other and those parishioners who choose to still stay away out of necessity or fear of getting this horrible virus. Continue to pray that all of us will soon come together and be the people God intends us to be, His Body that participates in devout and sincere practice of our Faith. Encourage those who have not yet returned back to Church. Encourage them to pray daily and to seek Christ in the celebration of holy Mass and our devotional prayer life.

May God bless you for being part of our "family of faith" after the Heart of Christ. If you have any questions concerning the Financial report you may call Deacon Ron Searls or one of the members of the Finance Council.

Sincerely in Christ,

Fr. Noesen

Pastor

Finance Council - Kevin Grisamore, Terry Camp, Chris Kunze, Deacon Ron Searls, Jim Wuerffel

Mass Intentions



Sunday	November 22 (<i>Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe</i>)
8:30 am	†Dino Guidarini
11:00 am	†Antonio and Leonisa Calip †Deceased Members of the Calip Family †Biagio Loreto Gariti †Ronald Maros †Claudina Pensa People of the Parish
Monday	November 23 (<i>Weekday/Last Week of Ordinary Time</i>)
8:00 am	†Jennifer Ruffing
Tuesday	November 24 (<i>St. Andrew Dũng-Lạc and Companions</i>)
8:00 am	†Karen Beaudet
Wednesday	November 25 (<i>St. Catherine of Alexandria</i>)
8:00 am	†Jennifer Ruffing
Wednesday	November 25 (<i>Vigil: Mass of Thanksgiving</i>)
6:30 pm	†Thomas Fahey
Thursday	November 26 (<i>Mass of Thanksgiving</i>)
9:00 am	†John DeBella, Sr.
Friday	November 27 (<i>Weekday</i>)
8:00 am	†Margaret Maier
Saturday	November 28 (<i>Vigil: First Sunday of Advent</i>)
5:00 pm	†Fr. Jerry Beat †Andrzej Szymikowski †Charles Whalen People of the Parish
Sunday	November 29 (<i>First Sunday of Advent</i>)
8:30 am	†Carol Keegan
10:00 am	†Robert Battaglia
11:30 am	†Andrzej Bednarek †Josephine Fiorante Cirrincione †Ted and Betty Hemstreet †Claudina Pensa For an End to Abortion

Readings for the Week

Monday:	Rv 14:1-3, 4b-5; Ps 24:1bc-4ab, 5-6; Lk 21:1-4
Tuesday:	Rv 14:14-19; Ps 96:10-13; Lk 21:5-11
Wednesday:	Rv 15:1-4; Ps 98:1-3ab, 7-9; Lk 21:12-19
Thursday:	Rv 18:1-2, 21-23; 19:1-3, 9a; Ps 100:1b-5; Lk 21:20-28 Thanksgiving Day (suggested): Sir 50:22-24; Ps 145:2-11; 1 Cor 1:3-9; Lk 17:11-19
Friday:	Rv 20:1-4, 11 — 21:2; Ps 84:3-6a, 8a; Lk 21:29-33
Saturday:	Rv 22:1-7; Ps 95:1-7ab; Lk 21:34-36
Sunday:	Is 63:16b-17, 19b; 64:2-7; Ps 80:2-3, 15-16, 18-19; 1 Cor 1:3-9; Mk 13:33-37

RESERVE A MASS TIME NOW...

In an effort to prepare for the coming holidays during this unprecedented time, Father Noesen has added additional Mass times for Thanksgiving and Christmas.

The online Mass Sign-ups for Thanksgiving and Christmas are **NOW OPEN** to allow ample time for advance sign up. Please see Mass times below and visit the website at stpeteritasca.com for links to the sign-up pages for each holiday.



MASS OF THANKSGIVING

Wednesday, November 25 | 6:30 pm

Thursday, November 26 | 9:00 am

Let's truly set the tone for a wonderful holiday of giving with thanks to the Lord!

Please bring non-perishable food items to donate to the Itasca Food Pantry. Unlike previous years, collection boxes will be available in the Narthex to place items prior to entering the Sanctuary.

Drivers may be needed to help transport the food after Mass to the Itasca Food Pantry. If you are available, it will only take an extra half hour of your time.



CHRISTMAS EVE

Thursday, December 24

3:00 pm | 5:00 pm | 9:00 pm

CHRISTMAS DAY

Friday, December 25

8:00 am | 10:00 am | 11:30 am

Stewardship of Treasure

A Way of Life
St. Peter the Apostle

	Sunday Collection	Year to Date
Fiscal Week 20: 11/15/2020	\$ 6,978.00	\$ 167,313.44

Financial figures reflect the parish fiscal year of July 1st through June 30th.

If you have any questions concerning the collection numbers, please feel free to contact the Business Office at 630-773-1272 (ext. 204).

If you would like information on using E-basket to conveniently make your weekly offering, please contact the Parish Center (ext. 204)



This Week at St. Peter's...

- Tuesday November 24**
7:15 pm Tuesday Evening Rosary (Church)
- Saturday November 28**
4:15 pm Confessions (Church)



The Parish Center will be CLOSED Thursday & Friday, November 26-27, in observance of the Thanksgiving holiday.



Schedule

Saturday, November 28 | Sunday, November 29

Communion Ministers	Lectors
5:00 pm John North Kay North	5:00 pm John Los
8:30 am Kathy Frank Jim Ruffing	8:30 am Kevin Grisamore
11:00 am Deacon Fred Maier Anthony George	11:00 am Nancy Magnus

CHRISTMAS GIVING TREE — *Light-up someone's holiday*



It is time again for St. Peter's parishioners to pick an ornament from the **Giving Tree**. This project benefits Catholic Charities as well as local needy families.

Here is how it works:

Beginning this weekend, the giving tree is up and available for parishioners to select a "tag" with information about a gift for a needy person. Parishioners are asked to purchase a new gift as suggested on the "tag" (please no used items); wrap the gift and affix the "tag" securely to the package; and, return to the boxes in the back of church by **Sunday, December 6**.

Please note that each gift is designated for a specific individual and if you take an "tag" and do not return a gift, someone will be disappointed on Christmas.

St. Peter's is again providing the Christmas Giving Tree to help the less fortunate fulfill some holidays wishes.

In past years, Catholic Charities has provided a list of needy individuals and families for the Giving Tree program. This year, in addition to the Catholic Charities list, we would also like to ensure that those struggling within our own parish community are assisted.

If you are struggling with finances this holiday season or know of someone who is, please contact Fr. Noesen to make arrangements to participate in the Giving Tree program.



Tuesday Rosary Ministry

Join the Rosary group as they gather in the church to pray the Rosary on Tuesday evening beginning at 7:15pm.

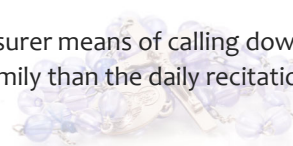
Attendees are welcome to lead one of the decades if comfortable and called to do so.

Everyone is invited and encouraged to attend. Bring your Rosary, your personal intentions and your voice.

Invite friends and be a part of this beautiful and powerful gift of prayer.

Please visit the parish website to SIGN UP in advance and to review guidelines to be observed. Assistance with cleaning will also be needed once concluded.

“There is no surer means of calling down God's blessing upon the family than the daily recitation of the Rosary.”



(Pope Pius XII)

*Almighty, everlasting God,
 Who in Thy beloved Son,
 King of the whole world,
 hast willed to restore all things anew;
 grant in Thy Mercy that all the families of nations,
 rent asunder by the wound of sin,
 may be subjected to His most gentle rule.
 Who with Thee lives and reigns world without end.
 Amen.*

In Memoriam

Our sympathy and prayers are with the family and friends of

Robert Battaglia

(brother-in-law of Father Noesen)

Thomas Fahey

(brother of Kathy Wojcicki)

and

Daniel Nicolini

May they rest in the peace of Christ.



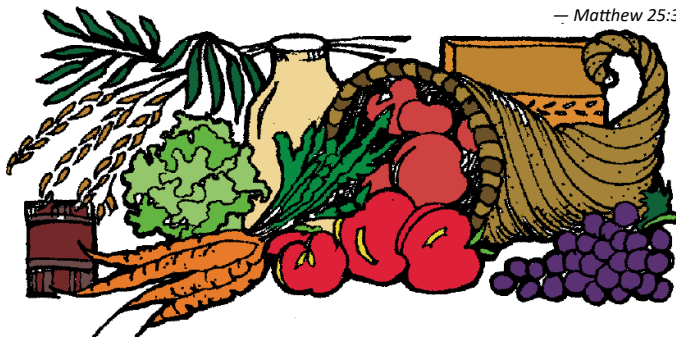
Join our Holy Father,
 Pope Francis, in his November
 prayers for the Church and
 for the world:

Artificial Intelligence.

We pray that the progress of robotics and artificial intelligence may always serve humankind.

*"I was hungry and you gave me food,
 I was thirsty and you gave me drink,"*

— Matthew 25:35



**Please Pray for the Sick
of our Parish Family**

- | | | |
|-----------------------|--------------------|----------------------|
| Brian Beers | Phil Hatke | Bonnie Pollock |
| Sue Bobka | Jack Hayes | Megan Putzke |
| John Booth | Ken Hemstreet | Brendan Reidy |
| Janet Both | Mary Hosters | Jerry Riordan |
| Ken Buffo | Shirley Janik | Terry Rode |
| Theodora Calip | Brian Josephus | Ann Marie Rossi |
| Mike Carey | Anne Keeton | John Rossi |
| Jacqueline Castellano | Debra Kelly | Savannah Rose Russo |
| Eunice Cleveland | Joe Kryger | Roxanne Ruiz |
| Regina Conti | Ruth Kryger | Alana Ruiz |
| Joseph Crocilla | Tom Kryger | Janina Sabat |
| Collin Cummins | Rickie Kruzal | Angela Scanlon |
| Mary Cummins | Celeste Kucharczyk | Mark Sgarbossa |
| Michael Cummins | JoLynn Lash | Shauna Sheffer |
| Paul Cummins | Sharon Laughlin | Marilyn Sieradzki |
| Margaret Del Preto | Pasquale Lopardo | Wayne Slowiak |
| Angeline DiFranco | Eileen Marino | Dan Sobucki |
| Charles DiFranco Jr. | Patricia McMahon | Belinda Sobucki |
| Teresa Dunhac | Ann McNally | Sharon Sowers |
| John Elia | Jack McNally | Karen Stewart |
| Scott Erickson | Gene Mikulecky | Linda Szweda |
| Tracy Fink | Christopher Mizera | Pat Tardi |
| Stephanie Fortino | Rich Mrugacz | James Thompson |
| Sally Franz | Robert Neumann | Patricia Vitale |
| Dan Galuszek | Barbara Neumann | Jennifer Weil |
| Joe Galuszek | Jean Nowobielski | Helen Wilczko |
| Geri Gerard | Don Olenek | Agnieszka Wisniewska |
| Mel Gerard | Vince Oraziotti | Grzegorz Wisniewski |
| Mike Graziano | Fred Oslager | Ray Young |
| Gary Grote | Anne Marie Pagni | Carol Zell |
| Joseph Halec | Harriett Pinkowski | Deacon Bob Ziomek |
| Carole Hatke | | |

Published and/or announced prayer requests require permission from the named individual or their family. Names will be listed for six weeks, after which time you may call the Parish Center to renew your request.

**Lord, hold our troops in your loving hands.
 Protect them as they protect us. We ask this in Jesus' name. Amen**

- PFC Ryan Caspary, US Army 101st Airborne
- LCpl James J. Cullotta, US Marines
- SGT Michael D'Andrea, US Army
- Maj Joseph DeHaven, US Army
- CPT Steven Gregor, US Army
- PFC Michael Helle, US Army
- Cpl Brandon Helm, US Marines
- PVT Aleksandra Juzwiak, Army National Guard
- SGT Jacob Los, US Army
- Major Ryan L. Morrissey, US Army
- 1stLt John Kenneth Murphy, US Marines
- SGT Marcin Platek, US Marines
- 2LT Megan Putze, Army National Guard
- Cpl MacLane Read, US Army
- SGT Michael Schatzman, US Army
- LTJG Albert J. Schrautemyer III, US Navy Pilot (Persian Gulf)
- SGT Jeremy Schumacher, US Marines
- Robert P. Woods Lt. JG. US Navy
- Thomas Zablocki, US Marines
- PO2 Benjamin Zubak, US Navy

To our Parish Family,

On the following page, you will see the Financial Statement for St. Peter the Apostle parish for the year beginning July 1, 2019 and ending June 30, 2020.

HIGHLIGHTS (all dollar amounts are rounded to the nearest 1,000)

Total Revenues, including Parish and Religious Education, totaled \$647,000. This was below our planned revenue but through your continued generosity, especially during the months of March through June when the parish was not accessible due to COVID, the parish remained on accessible solid financial footing.

Total Expenses were \$345,000, as we continued to reduce or contain expenses when possible, often through the generosity of the many volunteers who assist with repair and maintenance of the parish grounds and buildings.

Net Operating Income for the year of \$301,000 was used to continue to pay down our building loan from the Diocese and for the completion of the addition to the church which included the entablatures and lighting for the Stations of The Cross.

Non-operating Revenues of \$294,000 included \$192,000 for memorials, principally the stained-glass windows on the west side of the church. All of the west side windows have been paid for at this time while work continues by the contractor. The windows are hand built one at a time and take 3-4 months per window. We expect another window in place by late this year or early in January.

As we look forward to this fiscal year, ending on June 30, 2021 —

Our debt, which is \$505,000 as of September 30, 2020, will continue to be paid down on schedule. To provide background, the construction cost of the church was approximately \$7.4 million. Though the donations and pledges that you made to the "Keys to Our New Home" Capital Campaign we had \$5.4 million in the bank as we started construction, leaving a balance of \$2 million which the Diocese provided as a loan at a favorable interest rate. Because of the operating surplus over the past four (4) years, we paid down \$1.5 million of the debt, due in no small part to your continued generosity, an achievement for which we all should be proud.

Operating Expenses for the coming year and going forward are expected to be higher than in previous years as the Church and surrounding grounds are now requiring maintenance and upkeep. For example, the parking lot, while new four years ago, required sealing and restriping and the exit to Cherry Street and the old Parish Center driveway needed replacing. We also had a number of large and/or dead trees removed or trimmed on the grounds since our insurance carrier informed us it was necessary so as to not affect our rates. The former school building, which stills generates income through Religious Education classes, is requiring HVAC maintenance and possible replacement.

Our next large project is addressing the sound issue in the Church. We have had several vendors research the issue and have found that it is not the sound system itself but rather the echo effect that is causing the issues. As you would expect in a project of this size, during construction changes were made and in our case the ceiling height and the balcony was added which was not in the original plan due to budget issues. These changes are the source of the sound issues and the remedy is the addition of acoustic panels to dampen the echo effect. The estimate for the panels is roughly \$27,000 and we are hoping we can finalize a vendor and have the work begin in early January.

Finally, we recognize that we are still very much affected by this COVID plague. We are thankful that we remain open and are able to offer our parishioners the Holy Sacrifice of Mass every day. Many of you have returned to weekend Masses, and at times we are at capacity. In an effort to provide additional capacity while remaining socially distanced, Father Noesen has added a 10:00 am Sunday Mass and moved the last Mass to 11:30 am. We are grateful for this effort to meet our parish needs. We all suffered from the closing of the church in the Spring as a result of COVID and hope that we can avoid this in the future.

While our weekly collections are down, we are still a strong parish and we urge all parishioners, even those who are not yet ready to return to mass in person, to continue your support of the parish. To facilitate giving, we will be adding an online giving option using a platform called GiveCentral, which will be available on the parish website. Look for more information on this soon!

If you have any questions on the financial condition of the parish, please feel free to contact any one of us on the Finance Council, our emails are included.

Sincerely,

Finance Council - Kevin Grisamore (kevin.grisamore@sbcglobal.net), Terry Camp (grndmacamp@aol.com),
Chris Kunze (ckunze@sbcglobal.net), Deacon Ron Searls (business@stpeteritasca.com),
Jim Wuerrffel (jwuerrffel@sbcglobal.net)

Pastor - Father Robert Noesen

**SAINT PETER THE APOSTLE PARISH FINANCIAL REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2020**

	TOTAL PARISH		CHURCH		RELIGIOUS EDUCATION
Revenue					
Sunday Collections	\$ 502,571	\$	502,571	\$	-
Other Collections	89,517		89,517		-
Fundraisers, Net	5,382		4,528		854
Tuition and Fees	47,746		125		47,621
Interest	64		64		-
Rental Income	400		400		-
Roof Fund	1,390		1,390		-
Other Unrestricted Revenue	90		90		-
Total Revenue	\$ 647,160	\$	598,685	\$	48,475
Operating Expenditures					
Salaries & Benefits	\$ 179,649	\$	135,322	\$	44,327
Repairs & Maintenance	6,264		6,264		-
Services	64,772		59,081		5,691
Materials & Supplies	27,366		26,604		762
Curriculum Materials	6,854		-		6,854
Communion & Confirmation expense	1,029		-		1,029
Insurance	17,350		17,350		-
Utilities	42,190		36,138		6,052
Other operating expenses	298		-		298
Total Operating Expenditures	\$ 345,772	\$	280,759	\$	65,013
NET OPERATING SURPLUS / (DEFICIT)	\$ 301,388	\$	317,926	\$	(16,538)
Non-Operating Revenues					
Restricted Revenues, Net	\$ 53,102		53,102	\$	-
Interest Income from Diocese	47		47		-
Capital Campaign Income	35,512		35,512		-
Keys to Our New Home	13,805		13,805		-
Memorials	192,421		192,421		-
Total Non-Operating Revenues	\$ 294,887	\$	294,887	\$	-
Non-Operating Expenses					
Capital Expenditures - Non-restricted	23,860	\$	23,860		-
Diocesan Assessment	42,614		42,614		-
Interest Expense - Diocesan	27,409		27,409		-
Christ Our Hope - Diocesan	2,180		2,180		-
Gift Expenses	938		938		-
Restricted Expenses - Other	1,396		1,396		-
Total Non-Operating Expenses	98,397	\$	98,397	\$	-
TOTAL SURPLUS / (DEFICIT)	\$ 497,878	\$	514,416	\$	(16,538)

Why We Need Christ the King

Kevin Tierney

The Solemnity of Christ the King, properly understood, is one of those great gems of the Church's liturgical calendar. Unfortunately, it is often misunderstood, and as a result, little attention is paid to Christ the King as it passes by.

The misunderstandings about this feast are numerous. There are some who believe that since the Feast of Christ the King was moved to the last Sunday of the year, the feast is more or less an eschatological feast. While we look forward to Christ's Kingship, on Earth it doesn't exist. Others interpret Christ's Kingship as mostly a political agenda for a supposed golden age when Catholic monarchs ruled Europe.

While both of these views can be problematic when viewed in isolation, neither is wrong in and of itself. Christ's Kingdom is not of this world, and Christ rules from heaven, where we long to join him. While the Church has always professed this, her members also worked tirelessly to fashion civil society towards following the Gospel. That this didn't always work as advertised is true but beside the point. Christians believe that Christ is meant to be Lord not only of our hearts, but of all creation, and that includes governments. That's an uncomfortable truth in today's pluralistic society, but we really should believe governments be run according to the principles of the Gospel. Not to establish some theocratic regime, but because just as the Gospel can redeem individual souls, a society ran by the law of the Gospel is a society as God originally intended.

These two understandings of Christ's Kingship have been the source for a lot of debate, especially during the last forty years. Unfortunately, this has remained mostly an intellectual debate. Our society has continued to secularize at a frightening pace, and far from having hope about Christ's Kingdom in heaven, people are leaving the Church altogether. It has gotten so bad that within a generation, the Pope's own Latin America, once viewed as a model for the future of Catholicism, will cease to be Catholic. What can we do to move this debate beyond the intellectual to the practical? As with many things in Catholicism, the answer is to take both sides of this debate.

If religious conservatives have learned any hard truth over the past decade within America, it is that Christ's Kingdom is not of this world. The political coalitions that we were told would represent Christian interests have very quickly abandoned them, or only pay enough lip service to them so they can skate through the next election. The rest of the world isn't any better, and likely a lot worse. In order to really advance Christ's Kingship, we have to understand how little the world regards Him as King, and how that isn't likely to change in this generation, or even the next. We can shout for the conversion of nations and the Catholic confessional states all we want, we still aren't going to get them. We should also realize that, contrary to expressions of hope and optimism by some figures that true change is right around the corner, society isn't likely to move closer to the Gospel anytime soon, and very likely move even further away from it.



Faced with such a bleak outcome how is expanding Christ's Kingship even possible? While we are unlikely to influence civil government or secular society anytime soon, we must remember that Christ's Kingship covers far more than that. His Kingship first and foremost rules over the individual. This isn't some hope for the future; Christ is our King now. The most important thing about Christ's Kingship is that when we submit ourselves under it, we are part of the heavenly Kingdom. The first part about being part of the heavenly kingdom is to have a love and desire for it that surpasses all patriotism for nations on Earth.

The second thing to understand about membership in heaven's kingdom is that our actions are the visible proof of said membership. This is where the tension between the two concepts of Christ's Kingdom comes together. While we are ultimately to be directed towards heaven, we direct ourselves towards heaven by our actions here on Earth. Everything we do on earth should have heaven in mind. If we haven't reached that stage of perfection, congratulations, we still have holiness to grow into. Even if we never reach it perfectly, that is still the goal before us.

Once we have begun to do this on the individual level, we then turn to the family. While we cannot control what society at large is likely to do, we can control what our family does. We need to expand this understanding to the family, and realize that the family as well takes action that is directed toward heaven. How often do they pray together? How often do they do works of charity together? How is our family a witness to Christ?

When additional families begin doing this, this can be done together, and then you get the beginnings of society. One of the big barriers to living by the Gospel is people don't believe it is possible to do so. When you see a huge group of families living by its decrees, that myth is shattered. There is no greater gathering of Christian families than in our parishes. But how often are our parishes a living witness to Christ's Kingship? How often do we put our actions together and dedicate them towards heaven?

How often does the world see parishes together, as a Church, out there in the streets implementing Christ's gospel? Forget the world at large, how often do our parishes take care of the needs of their parishioners, helping them, to the best of their abilities, to live out the Gospel?

When looked at from this perspective, is it any wonder that nations long ago abandoned Christ's ruling over them? It isn't as if we Christians have done much about Christ ruling over our own hearts, or in those of our family, or our parishes. If faith comes from hearing the word of God, what is the world hearing from us? They are mostly hearing retreat and surrender, even from our top leaders.

Now that we have understood this problem, from where do we learn about how to overcome it? The usual Catholic response is to check out this or that blog and buy this or that book that is going to reshape everything we know about Catholic life. Maybe the Pope in his infinite wisdom can come up with some breathtaking new way to present the faith, or maybe we should focus on whatever the latest important document from Rome is.

The man who instituted the feast rejected all these ideas. Extra parish programs are good, but those are only likely to reach those who have a lot of spare time to kill. Papal encyclicals and directives from the popes are great, but in the words of Pius XI, they "usually reach only a few and the more learned among the faithful." It isn't that most Catholics don't care about the Bishop of Rome and what he says. They've just got better things to do than listen to every pronouncement from him. As far as us writers, tough as it may be to hear, most Catholics have no clue who we are, and an even smaller number have any interest in what we have to say.

While we should have these things, there is something far better, and it is almost universally ignored by Catholics today. The Sacred Liturgy reaches all Catholics, and if we use it properly, it teaches the faithful far better than any catechism or encyclical ever could. We not only learn about Christ's Kingship during feasts like the one we celebrate this Sunday, we learn the virtues and good deeds required to put Christ's Kingship into reality in our hearts and the heart of society. How often do our parishes look at it in that perspective? How many homilies present the Gospel as an instruction for how to order your life towards heaven and as a sign towards society that living the Gospel is possible? If we have to start anywhere, I think it should be there.

Sunday Reflection...

Jesus teaches that when the Son of Man comes in glory, he will judge the nations, separating the sheep from the goats.

Today's Gospel passage [Matthew 25:31-46] is the conclusion of Jesus' discourse with his disciples. It is about the end of time, the coming of the Son of Man, and the final judgment. We hear this description of the final judgment at the conclusion of our liturgical year, the Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ the King. In the context of Matthew's Gospel, this passage might also be read as a conclusion of Matthew's report on Jesus' life and ministry; the remaining chapters report the events of Jesus' Passion and Resurrection.

In today's Gospel, Jesus describes to his disciples the scene of the judgment of the Son of Man. All the nations will be assembled before him, and he will separate them as a shepherd separates sheep and goats upon their return from the pasture. The judgments made by the Son of Man will be based upon the acts of mercy shown to the least ones—the hungry, the thirsty, the naked, the ill, and the imprisoned. Indeed, Jesus, who suffered on the Cross, identifies himself with the least ones.

Recall that last week's parable of the talents taught us that the gifts that we have been given are intended to be used for the service of others, especially the least among us. Our judgment before God will be based not only on how we have used these gifts and talents, but also on how we have extended ourselves in service to these least ones. Indeed, Jesus tells us that whenever we have served these least ones, we have served Christ himself.

When we read today's Gospel in the context of the chapters that follow in Matthew's Gospel, we learn the extent to which Jesus identifies with the least ones. In accepting death on the cross, Jesus shows himself to be one of the hungry, the naked, the ill, and the imprisoned. To accept Jesus is to accept him who suffered and died on the Cross as one of the least ones.



RECTORY/PARISH CENTER

mailing address: 551 N. Rush Street, Itasca, Illinois 60143

phone: 630/773-1272

Web site: stpeteritasca.com

Reverend Robert Noesen, Pastor
phone ext. 208

Diane Blackburn & Patti Zubak, Parish Secretaries
phone ext. 200 e-mail: office@stpeteritasca.com

Rev. Deacon Ron Searls, Operations Manager
phone ext. 204 e-mail: business@stpeteritasca.com

Rev. Deacon Robert Ziomek, Deacon
phone ext. 202 e-mail: deacon@stpeteritasca.com

Rev. Deacon Frederick Maier, Director of Liturgy
phone ext. 201 e-mail: liturgy@stpeteritasca.com

Mary Pietro, Director of Music
phone ext. 207 e-mail: music@stpeteritasca.com

Toni Pietrowski, Director of Religious Education
phone ext. 216 e-mail: religioused@stpeteritasca.com

Kathy Frank, DRE Assistant
phone ext. 215 e-mail: religioused@stpeteritasca.com

Knights of Columbus
phone ext. 205 e-mail: knights@stpeteritasca.com

Italian Catholic Federation (Branch 418) (Nick Tenerelli, Pres.)
phone: 847-224-9324

**PARISH CENTER BUSINESS HOURS**

Monday - Thursday: 8:30 am - 2:00 pm

Friday-Sunday: CLOSED (or by appointment)

TRAVELING?

Call 410-676-6000 or log onto www.masstimes.org for the location and schedule of Masses throughout the U.S.

PULPIT ANNOUNCEMENT AND BULLETIN DEADLINES

NOTE: Parish staff reserves the right to accept and/or decline, as well as edit, both pulpit announcements and bulletin submissions.

Pulpit announcement requests are to be submitted to the Parish Center no later than the **Tuesday preceding** the weekend during which the announcement is to be made. Announcements may be submitted by phone at 630-773-1272 (ext. 200) or by e-mail to office@stpeteritasca.com.

Bulletin submissions are to be submitted **no later than 8 days preceding** requested publication date. Notices and full page flyers will run for a maximum of two weeks, and priority will be given to items that are date sensitive. If possible, all items should be typed for legibility and accuracy and dropped off at the Parish Center or sent via e-mail to bulletin@stpeteritasca.com.

NEW PARISHIONERS

Please visit or call the Parish Center (ext. 200) to register.

RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS (RCIA)

Adults interested in becoming Catholic or learning about the Catholic faith should contact the Parish Center for information.

BAPTISMS

The sacrament of Baptism is celebrated either during a weekend Mass or on the third Sunday of the month at 12:30 pm (immediately following 11:15 am Mass). Parents must attend a Baptism Preparation class prior to the Baptism. Classes are held in the Parish Center at 7:00 pm on the first Thursday of each month. Please call the Parish Center for more information.

Required paperwork **MUST** be submitted to the parish office **no later than ten (10) business days prior to the baptismal date or your date will be rescheduled.** This includes all necessary information regarding family records and godparents. Please read the **baptism planning information** provided before selecting a godparent. A sponsor certificate must be provided **by each godparent.** The proper **sponsor certificate** for St. Peter the Apostle is included with the baptism packet. Christian witnesses are most welcome to celebrate with the family and community, but please note they are not recorded as sponsors on the Baptismal Certificate or in the Baptismal Register.

WEDDINGS

According to diocesan policy, the parish must be contacted six months prior to the intended wedding date. Please call the Parish Center (ext. 201) for information.

ANOINTING OF THE SICK

If you or someone you know is in need of this Sacrament, please contact the Parish Center at any time. Upon admission to the hospital, please make it known you.

IF YOU ARE HOSPITALIZED...

If you or a family member are admitted to the hospital, please contact the Parish Center to let us know. Due to federal regulations, most hospitals will not contact parishes unless you specifically request it. We want to visit parishioners in the hospital, but are often unaware of their hospitalization.

FRIDAY COMMUNION CALLS

Communion calls are made every Friday for those unable to attend Sunday mass due to health issues.

Please call the Parish Center at 630-773-1272 (ext. 200) to make arrangements.



If it is too difficult for you to walk to the front of the church to receive Communion, please know that at each Mass an Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion comes to the back of the church to distribute Communion. If you would like to have the Extraordinary Minister give you communion in the back of church, please let an usher know before Mass begins. At Communion time, when you see the Extraordinary Minister come to the back, please raise your hand so that they can see you and give you Holy Communion.

Welcome Guests and Visitors!

We're so glad you are here and invite you to walk the path to faith with us. The community of St. Peter the Apostle strives to grow closer to Christ in all that we do. We care for one another and together with Christ, we make a difference.

If you would like to become a registered parishioner, please fill out the information below and drop it into the collection basket at any mass or call the Parish Center at 630-773-1272 (ext. 200).

Family Name _____

Family Member Name(s) _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip Code _____

Phone _____

E-mail Address: _____

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On your next trip to the grocery store, please consider adding a few non-perishable food items to your shopping cart to contribute to the **Itasca Food Pantry**.



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If you would like more information about the food pantry, please call Pat Tardi at 630-773-4703.

ARE YOU CONNECTED???

Do you receive St. Peter's electronic newsletters??

This is a great way to stay informed and receive reminders about events that you may have forgotten about or overlooked in the bulletin.

If you have access to e-mail, but do not receive the parish's electronic newsletters, then please visit the parish website at stpeteritasca.com to sign up; you may also send your e-mail information to bulletin@stpeteritasca.com.

Please be sure to provide your name together with your e-mail address.



And don't forget to connect with the parish on Facebook:



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Remember to invite your friends!!!

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Catholic Charities has resources available to help those who are in need of food. Even if you may not have qualified for assistance in the past, Catholic Charities can help.

Please call our DuPage County office located in Lombard at 630-495-8008. To learn more about Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Joliet, visit our Web site at **www.cc-doj.org**

Reporting Incidents of Sexual Abuse

Sexual abuse is a sin and a crime. Victims of sexual abuse, in addition to contacting civil authorities, are asked to come forward in order to receive pastoral assistance. The Church has a responsibility to help victims of sexual abuse and to ensure that offenders are brought to justice.

Reports may be made to any pastor or to the Victims Assistance Coordinator at 815/263-6467. Contact DCFS at 1-800-25-ABUSE.

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