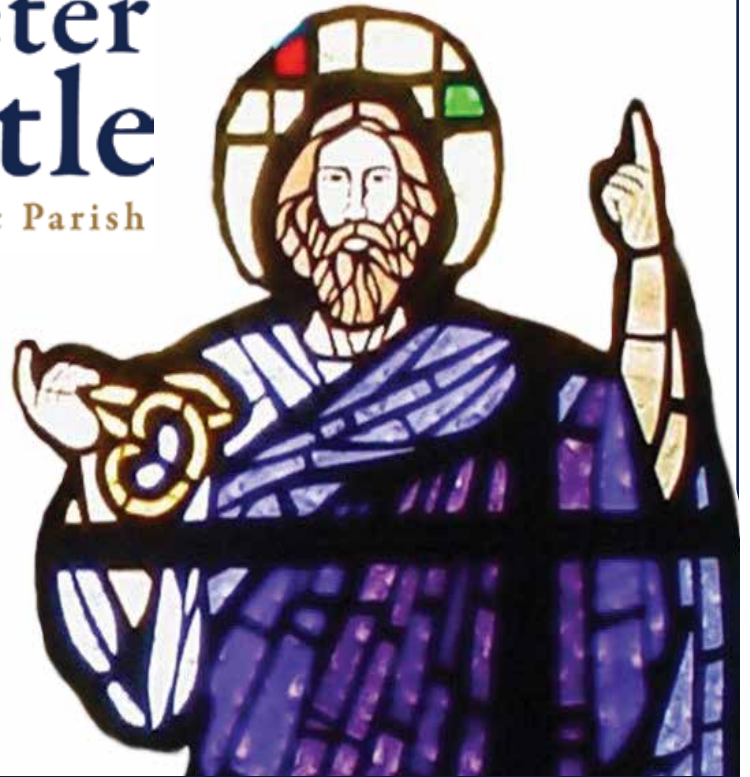




Saint Peter the Apostle Catholic Parish



MASS SCHEDULE

Saturday Anticipated: 5:30 PM

Sunday: 7:30 AM, 9 AM*, 11:15 AM*

*Nursery available

Chapel Weekday Mass: 7:30 AM

Holy Days: 8:30 AM and 7 PM

Saturday Reconciliation: 4:30 PM – 5 PM

09.2014

“We’re Learning Women’s Role in Christianity”

A Multigenerational Women’s Scripture Study

As society wages war on women and calls into question our role and rights, a few women are returning to the source and looking for answers.

“When you look at the Bible, women are very much a part of the Old Testament, and studying the Bible helps us understand our role,” says Cathy Scanlon, coordinator of the Women’s Scripture Study at St. Peter. “We’re learning women’s role in Christianity. These women had a huge impact on faith development. They can be an inspiration to us even today.”



Every Wednesday afternoon from September to May, approximately 10 to 12 women gather in the Parish Center to discuss Scripture-based books or hagiographies. The group started meeting about four years ago.

“We were looking for something multigenerational, so young moms and retired women could get together,” Cathy says. “A few of us said it would be nice to have it in the afternoon. We are trying to meet women’s needs because everyone is so busy, but the afternoon time has worked for us.”

In anticipation of these Wednesday gatherings, each woman does individual reading from the text that the group is studying.

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Sept. 5 – Holy Hour of Prayer

8-9 a.m. in the Daily Chapel

Sept. 6 and 7 – Ministry Fair

after all Masses in Parish Center

Sept. 17 – CCD begins

Sept. 21– EDGE and LifeTeen Kickoff

Sept. 22 – RCIA begins

Month

H&SA Enhances School and Parish Community

In any Catholic school, it is important for the parents and teachers to work together for the good of the children. This is exactly why we have the St. Peter the Apostle School Home and School Association, or H&SA.

“We all have such busy lives,” says Amy Green, co-president of the Home and School Association. “It’s important that we have a group that lets us know what’s going on in all the different areas. It keeps the parents informed on all the volunteer and fundraising activities that are going on, as well as the socialization. We’re a very small parish community and all our efforts overlap – we all have to work together to make the school and parish community as strong as it can be.”

The members of the H&SA meet four times a year to discuss recent developments at the school, as well as upcoming events and initiatives. Part of the ministry of the H&SA includes raising funds to benefit the school in some way, and every year they sponsor a number of fundraising events. This year, some of those events will include the Fall Frolic, which will be held on Saturday, Oct. 4, and St. Peter’s Spirit Nights in collaboration with Papa John’s Pizza and Chick-fil-A.

“For this past year, one of our largest contributions was around the Fall Frolic that was planned, because it was both a school and parish event, as it will be this year as well,” Amy says. “We would like to encourage the



school as well as the parish and the community to come and participate in this day. That is one of the main ways to contribute.”

But the work performed by the H&SA isn’t just about raising money. They also host two parent social events each year. This year’s first social is the “School’s in Session Parent Get-Together,” and it will be held on Friday, Sept. 12. The second will be held in May in conjunction with the school’s Fine Arts Night.

“It’s all volunteered time, and we could not put on the events and activities that we do without the parents and parishioners that give of their time and money for the betterment of the school,” Amy says. “And that’s so important for the Home and School Association.”

Over the summer, the H&SA helped make a very noticeable contribution to St. Peter the Apostle School with the renovation of the school playground. This renovation included cleaning up the existing drainage system, building a retaining wall, adding a new basketball court, and installing new playground equipment.

“The existing playground we had was in dire need of replacing,” says Christina Swenson, co-president of the Home and School Association. “Some of the equipment was rusty and not looking very nice. And the older kids in the middle school didn’t have much to do out there. Instead of replacing the equipment, we decided to put a whole new design together to accommodate all age groups.”

These renovations were largely done by volunteers. More than 55 volunteers helped out over the course of several work sessions.

“Thanks to our parents who donate their time to work on the playground, our teachers, and the Knights of Columbus Islands Council for their support and the time they have invested,” Christina says.

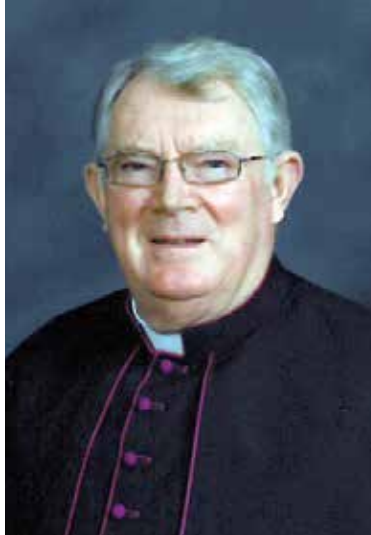
Special thanks to Lori Sculati, Trent McCurry of United Rentals, Anthony Sapone of Catskill Builders, Joe Douglas of Southbend Company, Ross and Heather Harrison of Olde Savannah Garden & Produce, and Scott Swenson.

For more information on the H&SA, please call Amy Green at 912-200-4984 or Christina Swenson at 912-897-7272.

Let Us Renew Our Efforts to Give Out of Love as Good Stewards

My Sisters and Brothers in Christ:

If your calendar looks like mine, then we all know that everything is shifting back into “high gear,” as they say. Schools are back in session; most people are home from vacation; clubs, organizations and ministries are back at work full-time; and life is suddenly more hectic. As I looked at the calendar for September, certain things became obvious to me. These were accentuated by a comment someone made to me recently about how Pope Francis made them proud to be a Catholic.



I think I grasped the significance of that, and it has a September theme. We begin the month with Labor Day on the 1st. Last year Pope Francis said, “Work is fundamental to the dignity of a person... It gives one the ability to maintain oneself, one’s family, to contribute to the growth of one’s own nation.” That is certainly true as we honor our workers on Labor Day and reflect on the dignity of “labor.” Every human being enjoys a basic right to be respected – not because of any title, position, prestige, or accomplishment, but first of all because we are created in the image and likeness of God. God bless all those who labor. What we do to maintain the fabric of our culture through our work is not just a blessing, but an important part of our stewardship in relation to our lives and our society.

The second aspect of the September calendar which seemed significant to me was that Friday, Sept. 5, is the Feast Day of Blessed Mother Teresa of Calcutta. Small in stature, but so very Catholic in everything she represented and did, Blessed Teresa was an important part of my own perception of what it meant to be Catholic and Christian. It is difficult to believe that she has been gone for 17 years. She was the absolute epitome of what it meant to be Catholic, to love and to serve. She represented a living example of stewardship in our lifetimes. What she had to say about our lives and how we should live them became

some of the more quotable illustrations of living stewardship that we reflect upon today. For example, she said, “It is not how much we give, but how much love we put into giving.” That is our challenge as we begin the busy part of our year, to do everything we do with love.

Finally, on Sunday, Sept. 14, we celebrate the Exaltation of the Holy Cross. The Cross has enormous meaning to us as Catholics. How many times do we make the Sign of the Cross to signify the Holy Trinity and to remember that the Cross represents so much

to us? It is a renewal of our Baptism every time we make the Sign of the Cross.

Some 1,700 years ago, St. Helen discovered the true cross in Jerusalem. The Church of the Holy Sepulchre in Jerusalem was built on that spot, and it was dedicated on Sept. 14, 335, thus our veneration of the Cross on that date.

When we make the Sign of the Cross, we are also indicating our discipleship, our pledge to be good stewards. Whether it is in our labors that we glorify God, in serving the Lord and others with love, or constantly reminding ourselves of Christ’s salvation of us on the Cross, we need to constantly rededicate ourselves to service and stewardship. This month – when we revive so much in our parish – is a good time to do that. Blessed Mother Teresa also said, “The needs are great, and none of us, including me, ever do great things. But we can all do small things, with great love, and together we can do something wonderful.”

Yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in brown ink that reads "Msgr. P. James Costigan". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Msgr. P. James Costigan
Pastor



A Look Back at the Beginning of the 2014-2015 School Year

This August, our St. Peter the Apostle School community celebrated the beginning of a new academic year, as the first day of school and the Open House/Orientation took place. We wish all of our new and returning students, faculty and school families a wonderful 2014-2015 school year!





Meet Mr. Joe Thomas

New Principal of St. Peter the Apostle Catholic School

If you're looking for St. Peter the Apostle's new school principal, you'll find him with the students. Or he'll be with the teachers. You can find him greeting parents during morning drop-off, or talking with children during recess. You may even catch him as he's doing lunchroom duty. And if you leave him a telephone message, he will call you back – on that same day, sometimes even within the hour. The truth is, if you're looking for Mr. Thomas, he is easy to find.

"I have an open door policy," Mr. Thomas says. "You don't need an appointment – you can talk to me any time, even if you see me during car duty. And I do return phone calls. I think it's important to answer a message right away because if you don't, you'll just get another one and then, before you know it, there is a pile of unanswered messages. As principal, I want to maintain open lines of communication in order to build rapport with the



Principal Joe Thomas

"The same things I expect from my own children – and grandchildren – are the very same things I expect from the students. If we are all on the same page, if we are all firm, fair and consistent in how we handle a child, then it makes everyone's job easier. And while it's true that we are in a supportive role to the parents, ultimately we all want the same thing." – Joe Thomas, principal

faculty, the parents and the students."

The fact that Mr. Thomas wants to be easily visible, instantly recognizable, and always available is because he sees his role as a principal as one of the many working parts that must come together in order to teach children. We all have roles – the parents, the teachers, the administration, the priests – and we must all stand united for the good of every single child.

"Nobody loves children more than I do," Mr. Thomas says. "But I also demand respect. The same things I expect from my own children – and grandchildren – are the very same things I expect from the students. If we are all on the same page, if we are all firm, fair and consistent in how we handle a child, then it makes everyone's job easier. And while it's true that we are in a supportive role to the parents, ultimately we all want the same thing."

With over 40 years working in the public school system, Mr. Thomas has learned to appreciate the

New Principal *continued from page 6*



Principal Joe Thomas with students on the first day of school

uniqueness and individuality of each child. He is always amazed at the things children come up with – that you never really know what they’re going to do or say – and over the years, Mr. Thomas has seen and heard a lot.

“I worked in the public school system as a troubleshooter,” Mr. Thomas says. “They would send me to schools that needed some problems solved, and because I was mainly working with inner city schools, I saw some tough stuff. I got a taste of all of it – the good, but a lot of the bad, too. So that’s why coming here, to St. Peter the Apostle, is like heaven. I look forward to coming to school every single day.”

And as he’s been getting to know us, there are a few fun things that you just might not know about Mr. Thomas – his favorite pastime is fishing, he loves to weight train, he is a member of a basketball league, his favorite food is any kind of seafood, he doesn’t sing and he’s not musical, and his favorite book is *The Old Man and the Sea* by Ernest Hemingway.

Finally, having served as interim principal toward the end of last year, and after having spent all summer preparing for the upcoming school year, Mr. Thomas is confident that with the combined efforts of students, parents and faculty, the 2014-2015 school year promises to be wonderful. Due to the efforts of the Knights of Columbus, volunteers and parishioners, students returned to school last month to discover beautiful new playground equipment that will certainly be put to good use during recess. Also new this year was the brand-new full-day 3-year-old pre-kindergarten program which, along with the 4-year-old preschool program, now offers parents more options for their children. And if the first day of school was any indication, things have gotten off to a great start.

“The first day of school was fantastic,” Mr. Thomas says. “During an assembly, I encouraged the students to give 100 percent effort, to pay excellent attention, and to be on their best behavior at all times. And if anyone needs to talk to me, the door is always open.”



Saint Peter the Apostle

Catholic Parish

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Women's Scripture Study *continued from front cover*

"We like to do books based on Scripture or based on lives of saints or people who have made a difference in the Church," Cathy says. "We try to find something of interest for women, but also books that are reader-friendly. We've done *Courageous Love*, and this entire year we did *Full of Grace* by Johnnette Benkovic, which was wonderful and helped us understand our faith better and apply it to our lives."

Though Irene Nave and Cathy both coordinate the group, when the women gather together, they take turns facilitating the group discussion based off of questions at the end of each chapter. They have found that the diversity in ages and stages of life in the group enriches their discussion.

"Everyone contributes to the discussion, and we go over everyone's perspectives," Cathy says. "We are all at different levels and that is great. It's great that it is multigenerational."

For Cathy, the weekly Scripture study has created an opportunity for her to learn from the Bible and from other women who are also seeking to understand the Bible.

"Personally, I've grown a lot from this and [we] from

each other," Cathy says. "We've learned so much about the Bible and different women in the Bible. It is a real education for us. It shows us that you don't have to be perfect to be a saint."

This fall, the study will have its first meeting on Sept. 17, and the women will be reading *Epic Food Fight* by Fr. Leo Patalinghug.

"It is a wonderful approach to the history of salvation and the struggle between good and evil," Cathy says. "Fr. Leo has a unique way of blending truths with humor and wit."

The Women's Scripture Study at St. Peter is open to all women who want to take the time to reflect on how women are called to live their vocation.

"Everyone is so busy now and we go to church all the time, but sometimes we don't see the impact that the faith has," Cathy says. "In a study like ours, we just take time to study Scripture, study the saints, and reflect on our own lives and our relationships."

For more information about the Women's Scripture Study, please contact Cathy Scanlon at 912-897-6664.