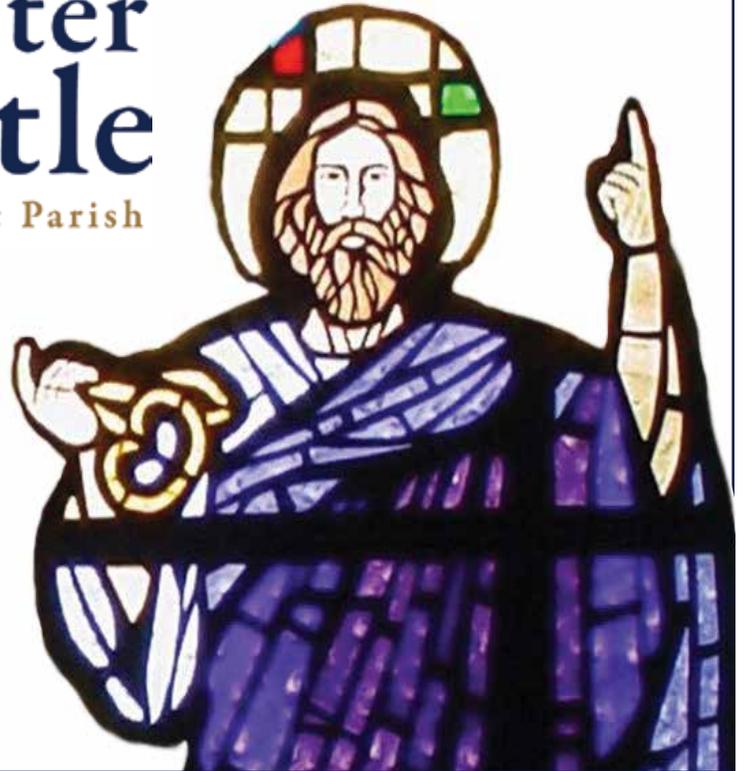




Saint Peter the Apostle Catholic Parish



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

11.2014

“It All Comes Down to Love”

A Look Back on Respect Life Month

Each October, Catholic churches around the country observe Respect Life Month, as we devote our time and efforts to the promotion of life through prayer and other activities in the community.

“Pro-life is about protecting the lives of the innocent,” says one St. Peter the Apostle parishioner. “I think sometimes young mothers see abortion as their only option, but it isn’t. One loving alternative is adoption. Giving one child up for adoption is a beautiful gift – not only for the child, but also for the adoptive parents and their extended families. I have an adopted niece, nephew,

and son-in-law who are part of my life only because their birth mothers chose adoption over abortion. I can’t imagine my life without any of these special people.”

There were several pro-life ministry events and activities last month in our parish and local community. Our parish’s Right to Life Ministry held its annual Baby Bottle Campaign, handing out plastic baby bottles after weekend Masses. Parishioners participated by placing their spare change into



11/4/14

Virtus Training class, 5:30 p.m., parish center, room one

11/6/14

Baptism class, 7 p.m., parish conference room

11/7/14

Holy Hour of Prayer, 8-9 a.m.

11/18/14

Confirmation Practice, 6:30 p.m.

11/20/14

Confirmation, 7 p.m.

11/26, 27, 28/14

Office closed for Thanksgiving

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A Look Back on Respect Life Month continued from cover

the bottles throughout October. At the end of the campaign, the members of the Right to Life Ministry collected the bottles and gave the proceeds to a pro-life organization. For the past few years, the funds from the Baby Bottle Campaign have been given in support of Savannah Care Center, an organization that gives support to pregnant women who need help.

This year, the campaign is going to benefit the Living Vine, a Christian maternity home for women who choose not to abort their babies, but have no support in their own homes. The Living Vine provides a place for these women to live during their pregnancy, and for a short period after the birth of their children.

“Being pro-life is not about judging or condemning,” says one member of the St. Peter the Apostle Young Adult Ministry. “It’s about celebrating the precious lives that God has created and supporting their mothers, both physically and spiritually. At the end of the day, it all comes down to love.”

The Right to Life Ministry also participated in 40 Days for Life, a national pro-life effort in which people gather in front of abortion clinics across the country every day for 40 days to pray for an end to abortion. This effort began in late September and continued until Oct. 31. Members of the Right to Life Ministry, parishioners and others from our community came together each day during this time to pray the Rosary in front of the only abortion clinic in Savannah.

“It’s a good thing not only for the people walking in to the clinic, but it’s good for the people driving by in their cars,” says Dennis Conlon, Right to Life Ministry Chair. “They see a group of active people taking a stand against abortion. If we talk about abortion in our Catholic churches, you’re preaching to the choir, because I would say most Catholics are against abortion. To really be successful, we have to get the message across outside the Church. And this 40 Days for Life helps with that.”

There is another pro-life ministry in our community with a different focus from the others. Rachel’s Vineyard is a diocesan program that seeks to help and support those who have had an abortion. This program holds two retreats each year – one in the fall and one in the spring. The most recent retreat was held on Oct. 31 through Nov. 2.

“Through the grace of the Holy Spirit, you truly get to see God’s miracles in modern time,” says Stephanie May, Rachel’s Vineyard Retreat Team Leader. “People that are so horribly damaged that arrive on Friday, leave as a new creation on Sunday afternoon. We marvel at being part of that ministry and being part of that process that totally changes people’s lives.”

For more information about St. Peter the Apostle’s Right to Life Ministry, please call Dennis Conlon at 912-897-3098. For more information about Rachel’s Vineyard, please call Stephanie May at 912-897-6895.



A Letter from Our Pastor

A Time of Hope and Giving Thanks

My Sisters and Brothers in Christ:

In so many ways, November is special to us as Catholics, and also to us as Americans. It begins with All Saints Day on Nov. 1 and closes with the First Sunday of Advent on Nov. 30. Of course, the fourth Thursday of the month is Thanksgiving Day.

When it comes to the Solemnity of All Saints, we have always recognized the connection with those who have died and joined the Lord in heaven. All Saints Day was instituted to “honor all saints, known and unknown.” The “unknown” has always left me enthralled. How many saints have each of us known among our friends and family, in our parish and our neighborhoods? To me, a “saint” might be someone who has provided an example of what it means to be a disciple of Christ. Thus, we begin the month by paying tribute and recollecting all those in our lives who showed us what it meant to be a good Christian.

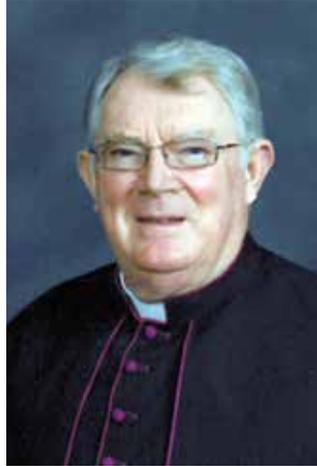
Thanksgiving Day also gives me time to remember. It is a day to reflect on the ways in which God has so richly blessed us. Every day and every week should be a time of thanksgiving for us as good stewards. Appreciating that God is the source of all our blessings is at the heart of stewardship. Just a few days after Thanksgiving, our Church launches our new year with Advent — a time of expectation of the coming of Christ, and a time when we begin the whole process of thanking God for the blessings we have received.

As part of his Advent message last year, Pope Francis said, “For the great human family, it is necessary to renew always the common horizon toward which we are journeying. The horizon of hope!” This month should renew our hope, from honoring the saints we have known to our expectation of the coming of Christ. We join the Holy Father in recognizing the journey – may God continue to bless you and keep you on your own journey.

Yours in Christ,



Msgr. P. James Costigan
Pastor



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stewards.
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A Look Back at Recent Parish Events

Our St. Peter the Apostle community has enjoyed an activity-packed fall season, with a number of special events taking place. This October, we celebrated the Blessing of the Pets, in remembrance of St. Francis of Assisi's love for all creatures. Also in October, our community shared in fun and fellowship at the Fall Frolic.

Blessing of the Pets





Fall Frolic



Ministry Service Leads to Deeper Participation in Parish Life

Dennis Conlon

Dennis Conlon has been a member of our parish family here at St. Peter the Apostle for almost a decade. He and his wife, Ellen, moved here in August of 2005 and immediately became members. Since then, Dennis has been involved in a number of areas of parish life. He is a member of the Knights of Columbus, President of the Parish Council, recipient of the Gartland Award and Chair of the Right to Life Ministry.

“My wife was very involved in the Right to Life movement when we lived in Long Island,” Dennis says. “Not too long after I retired, my wife passed away. Msgr. Costigan was over at my house not long after that, and he said, ‘We’ve got to give you something to do.’ He asked me to head up the Right to Life Ministry, and I’ve been doing it ever since.”

The Right to Life Ministry has had a special meaning for Dennis since he got involved. He helps with all of the ministry’s events and activities, including the 40 Days for Life and Baby Bottle Campaign, which took place last month.

“The biggest concern I have is getting more people involved in the Right to Life,” Dennis says. “The people in this parish are very generous with their dollars in the collections. I’d like to get them a little more generous with their time and coming out to support the Right to Life movement. I understand it’s difficult for parents who are very busy to give time, but they have to try and take out a little bit of their time and support Right to Life, because it is so important. I try to get involved with getting more people involved.”

Dennis’s involvement in this ministry has brought him closer to our parish family and opened up new opportunities for him to participate in parish life.

“With the parish office staff, I’m there at least once a week, just finding out if there’s anything I should know,” Dennis says. “Because I’m active in this ministry and engaging the parish staff, I wind up doing other things. We started helping senior citizens out in their houses. It has helped me become involved in other things in the parish. I wouldn’t have been involved with that if it wasn’t for my Right to Life involvement.”

It has also impacted his faith life.

“I’ve always been familiar with the Rosary, but now I carry a rosary with me and I find myself praying for these people who are contemplating abortion,” Dennis says. “I pray for the children who are being aborted. It’s also given me friends within the parish that feel the same as I do, that feel strongly about it. That’s a nice thing to know that you’re not out on an island. When people become engaged in this, they come up and they become a part of it. That helps me. It’s a good thing for me to be involved in that. I get a lot out of it spiritually.”



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St. Peter the Apostle Students Reflect on What it Means to be Thankful *The Kindergarten Thanksgiving Feast*



The annual Kindergarten Thanksgiving Feast is coming up! At noon on Nov. 25 – the Tuesday before the Thanksgiving holiday – the kindergarten class will host a Thanksgiving Feast for their families. This event has become a fun and exciting tradition for our kindergarten students.

Throughout November, the kin-

dergarten class learns about the history of Thanksgiving, and spends time discussing what it means to give thanks for all that we have. The children host the Thanksgiving Feast as a way to show thanks to their parents, grandparents and siblings – and have a lot of fun doing it!

“The Thanksgiving Feast is an

activity that we do to involve the parents,” says Anne Marie Whid-don, who has taught kindergarten for 14 years. “We have the families come and celebrate with us. We do a unit in November on the pilgrims and Indians and what it means to give thanks. We talk about the hardships that the pil-

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Saint Peter the Apostle

Catholic Parish

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The Kindergarten Thanksgiving Feast *continued from page 7*

grims had to go through and how glad they were to have something to be thankful for to God in the new world that they were in.”

To prepare for the feast, the students bring canned foods and help cook the meal themselves. They also bring in materials for their costumes with feathered headdresses, which they get to paint and decorate.

“The children make drums and costumes, and they’ll sing a couple of songs to entertain the guests,” Mrs. Whiddon says. “The children bring in the food that we cook for the feast and help put it all together. We have soup, cornbread and pie – the kinds of foods that they can participate in making. They help put the canned vegetables into the soup, and we make it. Then, the parents and grandparents come and enjoy a meal together.”

In addition to celebrating the Kindergarten Thanksgiving Feast, St. Peter the Apostle School also holds a canned food drive in November each year to gather food for less fortunate people around the community.

“We talk about that also, when we talk about giving thanks and being thankful for what we have,” Mrs. Whiddon says. “We try to tie that in.”

The Thanksgiving Feast is a fun way to bring the idea of giving thanks to life for the children, as well as a great opportunity to offer thanks to the parents who send their children to St. Peter the Apostle.

“The main purpose of the feast is to bring the families together, to show the parents that we are thankful for them entrusting their children to our care,” Mrs. Whiddon says. “The big lesson here is about being thankful for what we have, just like the pilgrims were thankful so many years ago. Each year, we reflect on what it means to be thankful for what we have, and this is our way to show thanks to the parents for letting us teach the children.”

For more information on the annual Kindergarten Thanksgiving Feast, please call the school office at 912-897-5224.

November 2014