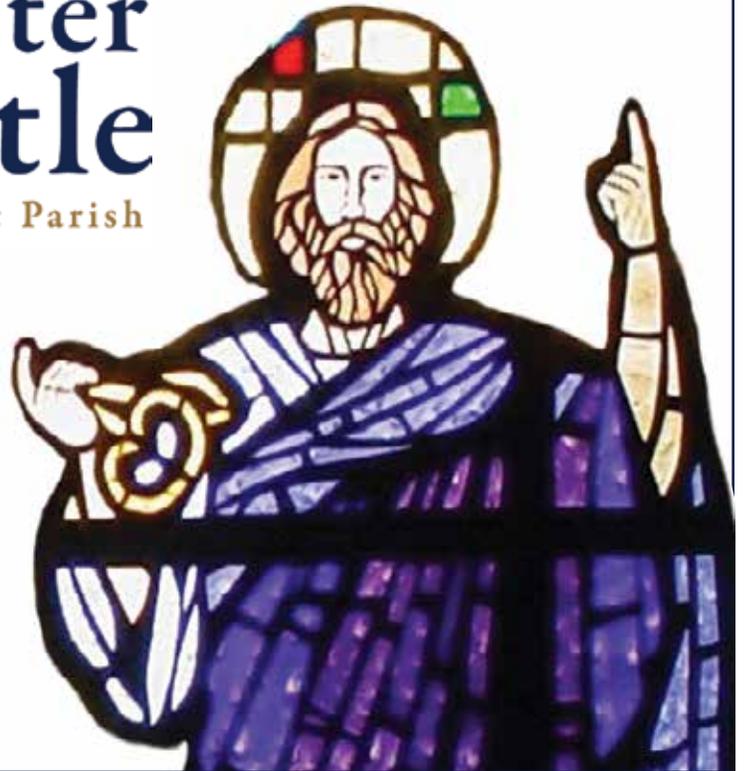




Saint Peter the Apostle Catholic Parish



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

10.2014

Youth Strengthen Their Spirit With Confirmation Retreat

Confirmation Boot Camp

The Sacrament of Confirmation is an important milestone in the faith journey of all Catholics, and it requires a lot of preparation. This year, St. Peter the Apostle Parish brought Confirmation preparation out of the classroom with a new four-week Confirmation retreat called Confirmation Boot Camp.



“Each week we had fun, we had faith and we had our talks,” says John Ebberwein, who teaches CCD at St. Peter the Apostle Catholic Church. “The reason we chose the boot camp model is because what we wanted them to take from that was a strengthening of their spirit. When you go to boot camp, you strengthen your body. Our boot camp was designed to strengthen their spirit for Confirmation.”

Confirmation Boot Camp was held four Sundays in a row, starting on Aug. 10, from 5 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. The program for these four weeks was based on a LifeTeen retreat focused on the Gospel passage about the Road to Emmaus, in which Jesus joins two disciples as they walk from Jerusalem to

Oct. 12

KOC 2nd Sunday Breakfast

Oct. 19

Confirmation Retreat,
10-5 p.m. for 7th & 8th
graders in the parish center

Oct. 19

LifeTeen Mass at 4 p.m. in
the church

Oct. 25

55 & Older Spaghetti
Supper, 6:30-8 p.m.

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“A Prime Example of Stewardship”

New Playground Completed as 2014-15 School Year Begins



The students of St. Peter the Apostle had something special to look forward to as they began this school year. Thanks to the hard work and generosity of many in this parish family, the students were greeted with a new, state-of-the-art wonderland of a playground!

Lori Sculati, an assistant in our Pre-K program, and Christina Swenson, St. Peter’s Home and School Association President, served on the Playground Committee. Lori used her organizational skills to organize volunteers, set schedules and communicate with the many groups of people involved in the project. Christina, who happens to be an architect, helped design the playground and even became construction manager. However, the two are quick to point out that this labor of love involved many.

“Over 55 people – including Msgr. Costigan, Fr. Paul, the Knights of Columbus, parishioners, teachers and parents – donated their time and talent to the playground on numerous days throughout the summer,” Lori says.

The idea for the project came about after parents raised concerns about the safety of the existing playground and the lack of equipment and space dedicated to the middle school students. So parents and the Home and School Association hosted their annual Big Bash fundraiser, donating the proceeds to a brand new playground.

“Since the beginning of this renovation, we have had an outpouring of support from parishioners with different areas of expertise, such as contractors, engineers, site workers, landscapers, and architects – all of whom donated their time and talent to this project that helped us tremendously in keeping with our small budget,” Christina says. “We also received anonymous donations, which was a great relief as we were able to achieve future phases of the playground master plan.”

The result of all this dedication is an amazing space for our children that far exceeds the Playground Committee’s original goals for the project.

“The playground was designed with two sides – one with equipment such as climbing jacks, a ten spin, flip flop climber, eight-foot slide, fitness center, balance stumps, and an area designed for 2 to 5-year-olds,” Lori says. “The other side has a basketball court, four square court, and an open field for play. There is something for everyone!”

The intangible results are perhaps even more amazing.

“This project is a prime example of stewardship,” Christina says. “Working side by side with individuals continuously for two months allows for strangers to become acquaintances and acquaintances to become friends. Our parish can take ownership of this playground as a lot of us have poured lots of emotion, stress and energy into this project. We have discovered a deeper feeling of community and belonging. It’s made me realize how awesome our parish community is and what the true meaning of ‘together’ is.”

“The children seem to be having a blast,” Lori adds. “Their smiles are payment enough for all.”

Make October a Spiritually Fulfilling Month

My Sisters and Brothers in Christ:

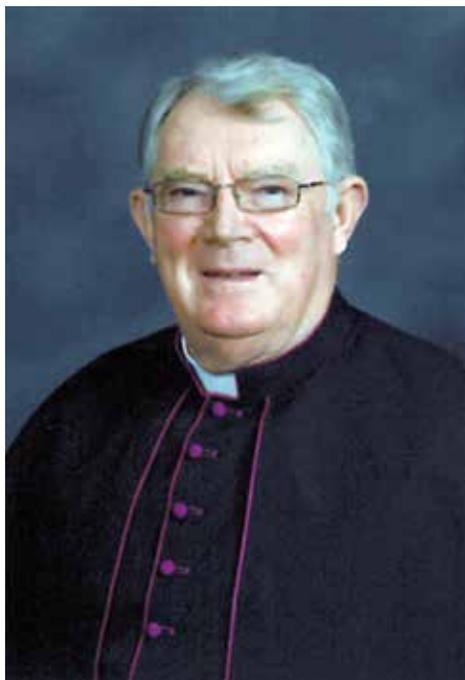
Through the centuries, the Church has developed and established a theme and devotion for each month of the year. Officially, October is the month of the Rosary, highlighted by the Feast of Our Lady of the Rosary on Oct. 7.

The Rosary and its importance to our prayer lives is a fixture of our Catholic faith. It is satisfying and affirming for me to see people with rosaries at church. However, this is not as prevalent today as it was one generation ago.

A family praying the Rosary together was once the norm. Since October is the month we highlight this devotion, there is no better time to bring it back to the forefront of our faith lives.

So, this month, I invite you to do two things. First, find your rosary. If you don't have one, ask your friends in the parish who might have one you can use, or you can also check the local Catholic shop or find one online for purchase. And, second, make a concerted effort to pray the Rosary this month — either individually, or more importantly, with your family.

Families and family life are under attack from secular society. Last year, Pope Francis announced an Extraordinary Synod of Bishops to occur this month from October 5-19. The topic of discussion will be the "Pastoral Challenges of the Family in the Context of Evangelization." Participants will include the presidents of national bishops' conferences (our president is Archbishop Joseph Kurtz of Louisville), the heads of the Eastern Catholic Churches, and the leaders of major Vatican offices. It will be interesting



to see what comes out of this significant meeting.

The pope has consistently emphasized the importance of the family to our Church. One of his comments contained "food for thought" for each of us in relation to our own families. He said, "People should take Sundays off so they can be with their families." Of course, we all understand this can be difficult given the busy and complex world in which we live. The Holy Father added, "Turn off the television during family meals and set aside time to play with or to talk with your children." In addition to praying

the Rosary, I would recommend that our families make an effort to heed Pope Francis' words.

Finally, I would like to suggest a couple of words and one phrase that would make our relationships to one another stronger and more comfortable, whether in our families, or right here in our faith family. The words are "please" and "sorry," and the phrase is "thank you." It is amazing what these words might mean to someone. I do not think we can say them enough. As we approach our busy fall season with all the joy it brings, let us keep in mind how the Lord has gifted us, and respond with the heart of a generous steward.

Yours in Christ,

Msgr. P. James Costigan
Pastor



Back-to-School Middle School Mixup

Seventh and eighth-graders from St. Peter the Apostle Catholic School and other Catholic schools in the Savannah deanery kicked off the new school year with the Second Annual Middle School Mixup dance and fundraiser. This year's Mixup raised more than \$2,500 benefiting the Suzanne Fogarty Education Fund.



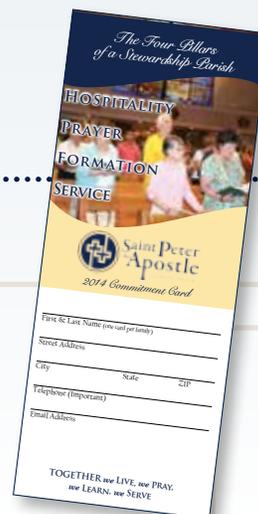
A Look Back on Our Ministry Fair

Our parish Ministry Fair took place on the weekend of Sept. 6-7. We thank all who attended the fair, as well as the ministry leaders who were present to inform our community of the many opportunities for stewardship here at St. Peter the Apostle!



Don't Forget to Return Your Commitment Card!

The 2014 Stewardship Renewal is ongoing. Please remember to turn in your commitment cards to the parish as soon as possible. We appreciate your willingness to participate in this year's renewal. The more we grow to embrace and understand the stewardship way of life, the more our parish will flourish and grow!



A Reflection of Our Parish Family's Stewardship

The Church Redecoration Project

When the last brush stroke has dried, the last tile has been placed, and the new fixtures bathe the sanctuary with warm light, the St. Peter the Apostle parish family can look at the church redecoration project and truly say, "Yes, we all did this."

Bob Scanlon, Project Manager and Redecoration Committee Chair for the church redecoration project, says the effort to beautify the church has been a reflection of stewardship on the part of our fellow parishioners, in the giving of our time, talent and treasure.

"One of the goals we had when we looked at the design changes was, we knew we had a pretty church, but we wanted 'wow!'" Bob says. "We wanted something that really grabs your eye. And the reaction has been that we accomplished that goal."

Bob says those who were a bit skeptical at first about the project are now in agreement with the work that has been done.

He says that parish participation has extended even to the set-up and tear-down for Mass at the parish center.

"After the 11:15 a.m. Mass, we asked everyone who can help with the tear-down, to stay," he says. "We've been able to break down the altar and more than 300 chairs, and have everything put away in less than 20 minutes each Sunday. We asked people to come in on Saturday morning to help set up, and it is done in less than 30 minutes. In two weeks, we had the eighth grades set up for us. It's been a real parish project, a lot of people who chipped in."

The project began about two years ago, and the planning process involved a lot of people.

"The envisioning committee was organized and parishioners were invited to share their ideas," Bob says. "A committee was formed to take those ideas into a plan. The committee met with designers who developed strategies for the flooring, paint and artistic work. We had a church architect guide us with the choices of color."

The church building itself is 24 years old with a style that was fairly common at that time. The lighting installed then followed that style, but it was not uniform in how it lit the church.



Illustrated here are the changes brought by the church redecoration, with the "after" photo showing the church as it was prepared for a wedding in late September. After a high price was quoted by a cleaning company, 25 parishioners brought their Shop-Vacs and cleaned the church so that it would be ready for the nuptials. The whole project is slated for completion by mid-October.

Redecoration

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“From the altar, there were places in the sanctuary that were so dark, you couldn’t see the faces in church,” Bob says.

The remedy was the installation of new LED lights that brighten the church. These lights will be energy-efficient and long-lasting.

“We don’t expect to have to change the LEDs for 28 years,” Bob says. “We’re also submitting an application to get a grant from the power company for the lighting, which for a church, is significant.”

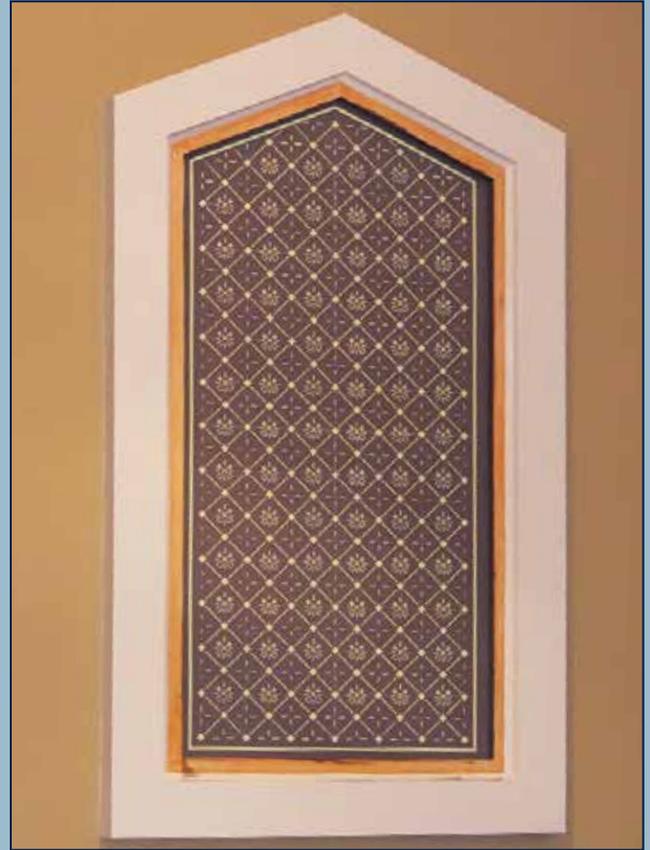
The burgundy carpeting is gone, replaced in the altar area with marble flooring and porcelain tiles in the aisles. Niches were constructed for the statues of the Blessed Mother and St. Joseph, and these areas have been stenciled by an artist, with gold leaf applied around the niches and along the proscenium arch over the altar.

Finally, an anonymous parishioner has commissioned the painting of 15 individual Stations of the Cross, and these will be hung on the sanctuary wall. These paintings will be quatrefoil, or four-petal flower shape, and 2 feet high and 2 feet wide.

“The church needed some refurbishing,” Bob says. “And that’s what we’re doing.”

Many parishioners and parishioner-connected companies have taken part in the project, as well.

“Electrical work has been performed by Rabey Electric Co., which is owned by a parishioner,” Bob



says. “The lights were purchased through Hagemayer, represented by a parishioner. The wall painting was done by parishioner Glen Tambon Painting. The installation of the marble flooring on the altar, the wheelchair lift and sacristy door was done by Dan Sheehan Co., which was founded by a parishioner, now deceased. The supply and installation of the floor tile was by Culver Rug Co., owned by a parishioner. The artistic design and art work was by Conrad Schmitt Studios of Wisconsin, who specialize in church design and who have completed several projects throughout the Diocese of Savannah, including the Cathedral. And architectural assistance was through Barnard Architects, who was represented by a parishioner.”

“One of the goals we had when we looked at the design changes was, we knew we had a pretty church, but we wanted ‘wow!’ . We wanted something that really grabs your eye. And the reaction has been that we accomplished that goal.”

– Bob Scanlon, Project Manager and Redecoration Committee Chair



Saint Peter the Apostle

Catholic Parish

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Confirmation Boot Camp

the nearby town of Emmaus on the day of His resurrection, but they do not recognize Him. Jesus talks with them all day as they walk, then as they sit down together for the evening meal, the two disciples recognize Jesus and He disappears from their sight. “Then they said to each other, ‘Were not our hearts burning [within us] while he spoke to us on the way and opened the Scriptures to us?’” (Lk 24:32).

“Our goal for all these young people was that they would encounter Christ during the four weeks,” John says. “Just like the two apostles at the end of the Road to Emmaus, saying, ‘Were not our hearts burning?’ That’s the challenge we gave them. We wanted to let them know that the Catholic Church gives them the tools they need to follow Christ in their life, but they have to participate. We want them to begin the journey, and continue down the journey. That involves turning away from sin, turning towards Christ.”

Each day of the Boot Camp included talks given by different speakers, with a different topic for each of the four days — Mass, adoration, Confession and the Rosary.

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“They were very receptive,” John says. “At each talk, they seemed engaged. Each week, they came ready to go with whatever we threw at them. They encouraged each other in their groups. There were students that literally told me that they did not want to come, that their parents made them come, and that they were so glad that they did this. I had kids tell me that they had never had fun at a retreat before, that they had never gotten anything out of a retreat like that before. It was really fun to hear their stories at the end.”

The youth were not the only ones involved with Confirmation Boot Camp. There were also many adult volunteers who made the program so successful.

“The amount of people that worked on this boot camp was unbelievable to me,” John says. “I never asked someone to do something and they said ‘no.’ It was beautiful. Anybody that you could think of to help came out and helped with this.”

Confirmation will be held Nov. 20. Please join us in praying for the youth of our parish as they prepare to receive this important sacrament!