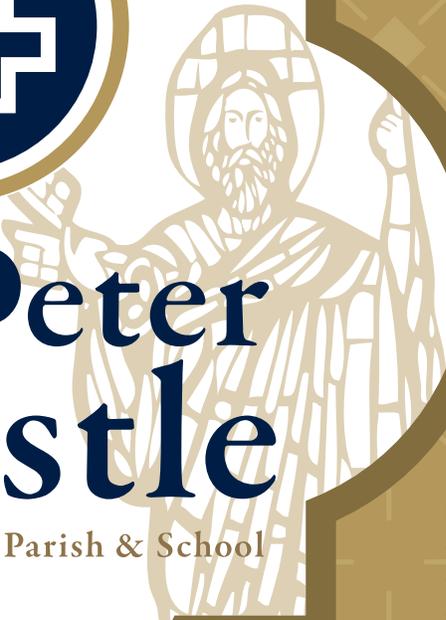




# Saint Peter the Apostle

Catholic Parish & School



## MASS SCHEDULE

SATURDAY ANTICIPATED: 5:30PM  
 SUNDAY: 7:30AM, 9AM\*, 11:15AM\*  
 CHAPEL WEEKDAY MASS: 7:30AM  
 HOLY DAYS: 8:30AM and 7PM  
 SATURDAY RECONCILIATION: 4:30-5PM

\* Nursery available

## Enhancing Communication at St. Peter the Apostle



It might not be something that immediately comes to mind when thinking about parish life, but it's true nevertheless – parishioners simply can't be involved in the life of the parish if they don't know about what's going on!

Of course, communication is a fundamental component of any Catholic parish's ministry. A parish must be able to effectively broadcast information to parishioners about parish life — upcoming events, special liturgical celebrations, new ministries and opportunities for parishioner participation and service.

“To have the maximum attendance or to maximize a ministry's outreach, that communication is necessary to have everyone aware of what's going on,” says Sheri Moyer, Co-Chair of the Parish Communications Committee with Rose Mary Cone. “Without that kind of communication, you could have low attendance on a really life-changing opportunity. Without that communication, people wouldn't know about these special events and the parish at large would miss

*continued on page 7*

### Jan. 4

Coffee and donuts after Masses

### Jan. 11

K of C Second Sunday  
 Breakfast after 7:30 and 9 a.m.  
 Masses

### Jan. 25 to Jan. 30

Catholic Schools Week

### Feb. 1

Coffee and donuts after Masses

### Feb. 8

K of C Second Sunday  
 Breakfast after 7:30 and 9 a.m.  
 Masses

### Feb. 18

Ash Wednesday, Masses at 8:30 a.m. and 7 p.m.

### Feb. 20

K of C Lenten Fish Fry, 5 to 8 p.m.

### Feb. 20

Lenten Service, 6:30 p.m.

### Feb. 24

First Penance, 7 p.m.

### Feb. 27

Lenten Service, 6:30 p.m.

# Teaching Children to Live a Life of Stewardship

How old do you have to be to practice stewardship?

Can a 5-year-old embrace stewardship? How about a 10-year-old?

Although there is no guideline to what the right age is to begin to live a life of stewardship, God's call certainly extends to each of His children — even the young ones.

It is especially important to show children that they are not too young to share their time, talent and treasure to help build God's kingdom.

## Sharing Your Time

A young child can share of his time in a variety of ways appropriate to his ability. For example, during the day, a child can pray for a loved one that is hurt, or say prayers with his parents or siblings. He can participate in Mass each Sunday, and even take time from his day to thank God for a veteran who has served our country.

Spending time being virtuous — such as being patient, generous and kind — is also a great example of sharing our time for love of God.



## Sharing Your Talent

Using God-given talents to glorify God can also be performed by both young and old. An elementary school-aged child can easily clean her room or perform chores such as raking leaves, doing laundry, or taking care of pets. Making cards for people who are sick or who have had a death in the family are other concrete examples of being a faithful steward.

Even using our talents — such as playing a musical instrument or football — to the best of our abilities to give God glory is an example of being a good steward.

## Sharing Your Treasure

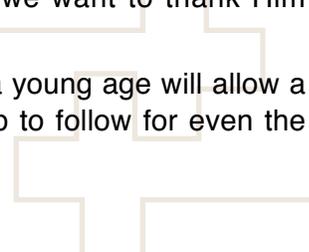
Although children do not have the same type of treasure to share as adults, instilling the importance of sharing finances is an important lesson.

If a child receives an allowance, he can return a portion of it to the Church in the collection basket. If he gets money for his birthday, he can give a small portion of it back to God in thanksgiving. Little ones can even share things like their Halloween candy with their siblings or friends as a way of demonstrating generosity.

## The Most Important Lesson

Above all, the most important lesson to teach our children is why we share. We don't share because we "have to." We don't share because our parents tell us to. We share our time, talent and treasure with God because we are thankful for the blessings He has given us and we want to thank Him for His generosity.

Teaching these lessons at a young age will allow a lifetime of good stewardship to follow for even the youngest of God's children.



# Are We Prepared to Match Jesus' Gifts to Us?

My Sisters and Brothers in Christ:

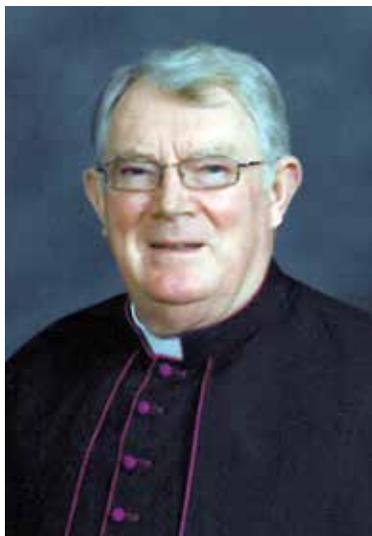
Another Christmas season has come to a close, and for most of us, it was another wonderful season filled with extraordinary gift giving. Now, with a new year upon us, I would like to turn our focus to an even more extraordinary type of gift.

This gift is not the traditional "present" we give to loved ones. No, this gift is ongoing and never-ending, bearing a value far beyond the realm of our comprehension.

This is the gift of the Eucharist. "Behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world." Those are words that we associate with the presence of Jesus Christ in the Eucharist. They are words that carry a meaning beyond our abilities to really appreciate them at times. Christ's eternal gift to us calls us to share it with others. We need to strive in this new year to receive the Lord with humility and love, and then to pass that on to our families, our friends, our faith community, and all those with whom we may come in contact.

It is through the Eucharist that we become one with the Lord. It is through Him that we receive the strength to be good stewards. We need to receive this incredible gift and share the Good News with all around us. When we approach the Eucharist, we must always keep in mind the real presence of Jesus Christ, and that in itself is a humbling experience.

In addition to the Eucharist, we continually receive the gifts of time and talents. A new year reminds us of these gifts. Although each of us may receive different gifts, we all receive an equal gift of time. If you are making resolutions, a good one might be to find the time to pray and to reflect and to share our gifts with others. Each of us needs to set aside time each day for God. In fact, each of us should endeavor to



set aside multiple times a day to pray to and to listen to God.

Are we prepared to take the risk in using our time, talents and resources to build the Kingdom of God? That is the true determination of stewardship — whether we accept this risk with the kind of trust in God to which we are called. Our faith is measured by the risks we are willing to take to live it out. Christ Himself risked it all by going to the Cross and models true sacrifice for all of us. Through that sacrifice, He continues to give us the greatest gift of all — the Eucharist.

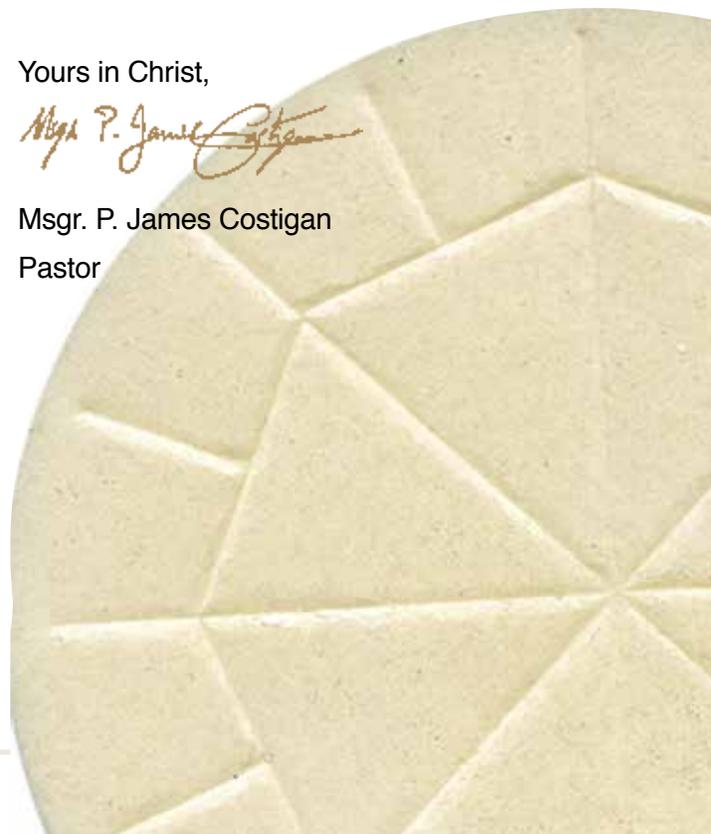
We need to accept that gift and use it to fulfill our own lives and the lives of those around us.

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



# Meet the 2014 Gartland Award Recipients Janet Hubbs and Bob Zuccarini

This past November, Bishop Gregory J. Hartmayer held a special Mass at the Cathedral of St. John the Baptist to confer the Gartland Award to those who have exemplified distinguished service to the Catholic Church. The award was given to individuals from parishes all across our diocese, including two members from our own parish, Janet Hubbs and Bob Zuccarini. And just like all the recipients in the past, both Janet and Bob are quick to share the honor with their families, their spouses, and the parish community saying that, after all, service to the Church is a collective effort.

“This was such a surprise to me,” Bob says. “At the time I was asking myself what I had done to be awarded such a prestigious honor. I really didn’t feel worthy. But when we attended the ceremony at the Cathedral in Savannah and I was part of the most beautiful Mass I had ever seen, the only word that comes to mind in describing this whole experience is ‘awesome.’”

Of course, for those who know Bob, the honor comes as no surprise. Born in a small town in Keota, Mo., Bob and his two brothers and one sister lived in a farmhouse that his father built with his own hands. Bob’s father also worked as a coal miner, so everyone had to



*Gartland award recipient Janet Hubbs with her husband, Ed, and Bishop Gregory J. Hartmayer*

pitch in with the farm work. While Bob says sometimes it was very hard, he sees it now as a blessing and as something that every child should experience. While both his parents were faithful, but it was Bob’s mother who made sure everyone attended Mass on Sunday, even during the brutal winters.

“My mother was born in Italy and moved to America with her family in 1911,” Bob says. “Soon after they got here, her father was killed in a coal mine, which left her mother, unable to speak English, with two small children and no means of support. They didn’t have food stamps, there wasn’t any federal aid – and yet, through all the hardships, my mother’s family maintained a very strong faith.”

And it was the faith of his childhood that stayed with Bob through the years, even after he left home a

day after he graduated high school when he signed a professional baseball contract with the St. Louis Browns and the St. Louis Cardinals, playing in their minor league system from 1951 to 1957. During those years, he spent the winters down south, worked as an insurance salesman when he could, and in 1953 married his wife, Jennie, with whom they had one son, Robert.

Today, Bob is retired from the postal system, and even after working for an additional 15 years for the parish, he continues to be the go-to guy for anything needing to be built, repaired, painted, or adjusted. Some of his bigger projects included the wooden fence around the rectory, the renovation of the youth center, and the covered walkway at the school, but he is always ready and willing to lend a hand anywhere.

“My father built his own house, my grandfather was a blacksmith, so I guess I learned to work with my hands,” Bob says. “And I like to be involved in the parish because I feel it’s my duty to help with matters in which I can share my talents – especially now that I have the time – and I like to work with members of the parish. When you work with someone, you get to know them, and it just seems that

## 2014 Gartland Award Recipients *continued from page 4*

people who are involved make the best friends.”

Like Bob, fellow recipient Janet Hubbs had to take some time to process the fact that she had been nominated for this year’s Gartland Award. She even called Msgr. Costigan to tell him that she couldn’t believe it – but she admits that once the shock wore off, she felt humbled and very grateful.

“The ceremony at the Cathedral was incredible,” Janet says. “And my husband, Ed, made the day a big deal by giving me a beautiful card and a bouquet of red roses. Some of my friends from Forever Young even came to the Mass, so it was so special. I never really thought something like this would happen, but it’s nice to think that with all my commitments, at least someone was watching!”

What is especially poignant about this award is that Janet came into the Catholic faith later in life. Originally from Pennsylvania, Janet and her brother grew up in the Poconos and were raised in the Episcopalian religion. Her mother was very involved with their church – in fact, in 1993 she received the Episcopalian equivalent of the Gartland Award for her untiring work in her church and community, and Janet says she learned her first lessons on faith from her mother. After graduating from high school, Janet immediately was trained by, and went to work for, a telephone company, and it wasn’t until she met Ed and they decided to marry that her journey to the Catholic faith even began.

“Honestly, when I decided to convert, I initially did so in order to be married,” Janet says. “I knew it was important to be of the same faith. Over the years, though, I slowly grew into my Catholic faith, and today it’s an important part of my life. Without faith, life can sometimes feel so hopeless.”



*2014 Gartland Award winners Janet Hubbs and Bob Zuccarini*

Today, Janet and Ed have been married 36 years, and since they were both previously married they have a blended family of two boys and three girls – which Janet says is almost like *The Brady Bunch*. After 45 years with the telephone company, Janet officially retired, but ironically hasn’t stopped working since. At first she worked part-time at a Hallmark store and also took infant photos at the hospital, but Janet had always envisioned that where she really wanted to use her time and talent was in the parish. So she made a decision to quit working at Hallmark, she gave up taking infant photos, and she began volunteering with the mailings – bulletins, newsletters

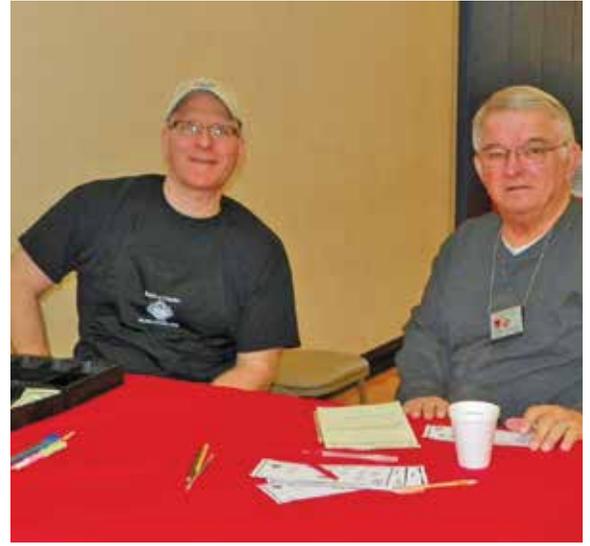
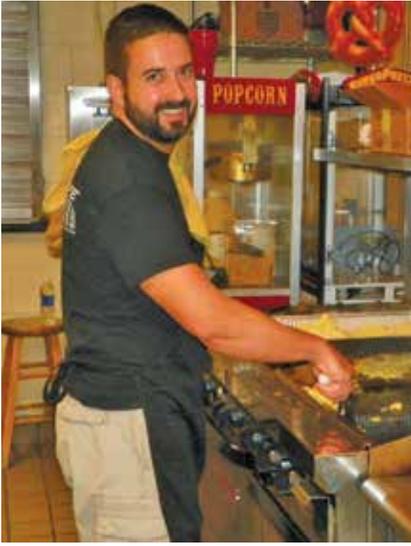
– in the parish office. In any stewardship journey, all it takes is that first step – and with that decision, Janet has found various ministries for which she is passionate. She prepares beautiful flower arrangements that are delivered to nursing homes every Monday; she helps decorate the altar at Thanksgiving and Christmas; she served on the Parish Council; and she is the coordinator *extraordinaire* of Forever Young – organizing potlucks, entertainment, parties, day trips, and speakers. There is no doubt that Janet stays busy, but she has found joy in the ministries she has been involved with in our parish.

“When we moved to Savannah, we arrived on a Saturday and it was snowing,” Janet says. “The next day, we went to church and it was mostly empty, which Fr. O’Brian explained was a result of the ‘bad weather’ that kept everyone home. But we felt an immediate connection with St. Peter the Apostle, and we’ve been here ever since.”

In the end, both Bob and Janet believe that we are all called to put our faith into action – that when we serve others by working together as a parish and a community, then great things are accomplished in God’s name.

“When I try to promote Forever Young, I like to remind people that a busy mind is a healthy mind,” Janet says. “Well, something similar can be said of stewardship, because the more you do and give of yourself, the more you are able to find the time, talent and treasure to do even more.”

## *Children and Parents Enjoy Breakfast With Santa*



*We thank all who attended this year's Breakfast With Santa, and we hope everyone in our parish family enjoyed a wonderful Christmas season!*

## **Enhancing Communication** continued from front cover

the opportunity to take advantage of these occasions.

The Parish Communications Committee was initiated in August 2012 by Dick May, the Parish Council President at that time, to explore ways to communicate better with parishioners about upcoming activities and opportunities to get involved in various ministries. The committee started with just three members whose main function was working to get information about upcoming events onto the parish website and bulletin ahead of time, so that parishioners were given the chance to participate.

Since the committee was formed, it has grown to include about eight members, and its activities have increased as well. Our parish's new website was launched in August, and members of the Communications Committee update it each day. They also regularly update the parish calendars. The committee created and runs a Facebook page for our parish, and helped implement and administer the messaging tool, FlockNote, to increase communication among parish ministries.

"It enhances parish life because it brings awareness and it gives people the opportunity to get involved and to share their gifts and live out stewardship," Sheri says.

You may have noticed a new look to the cover of this month's newsletter. This new design is the result of the

collaboration between the members of the Communications Committee, particularly Jennifer Clanton, and parishioner and graphic designer Iris Stein. The design will also be implemented in the weekly bulletin.

Another new communication tool the committee will be using is a TV that will be set up in the narthex, and this will run videos and display information about upcoming events, ministry activities and other parish information. This way, parishioners who don't often visit the parish website can get the same information just by coming to Mass.

"We have a very diverse parish," Sheri says. "We have some young people that are very computer savvy. It's effectively communicating across the generations. We're reaching out to everybody, and everybody can be aware of the opportunities that are available to them. It enhances parish life tremendously."

For more information about the Parish Communications Committee or to get involved, please call the parish office at 912-897-5156 or email Sheri Moyer at moyersheri@aol.com. To get current parish information, visit the parish website at <http://saintpetertheapostle.com/church/> and "Like" us on Facebook by searching for "St. Peter the Apostle Catholic Parish."

## **Iris Stein: Parishioner, Graphic Designer, Volunteer**



*(From left) Iris Stein with her children, JJ and Samantha, and her husband, Jeff*

As part of the Parish Communications Committee's ministry in our parish, the header for the parish newsletter and bulletin were redesigned by parishioner and graphic designer Iris Stein. Iris has been a member of our parish family since 2001, and over the years she has been an active member of that family. She is currently an usher and a member of one of the Mass Setup Teams. She began her involvement in parish life as a member of the Council of Catholic Women, and still volunteers for the council's events when she can.

"Once I got involved with that, it ended up being part of my life," Iris says. "This is the first year I haven't been an active member of the Women's

Council, but I enjoy volunteering at those events. That's something I really enjoy doing – not just with the Women's Council but throughout the parish family. I like to make sure I'm helping out and making everyone's experience in our parish family what they're trying to get out of it."

For Iris, her participation in the life of our parish is not just enjoyable, it is also a great blessing in the life of her own family — her husband, Jeff, and their children, Samantha and JJ.

"It's given us a new perspective on how we are with other people and it makes you think about how you treat people and how you should treat people," Iris says. "When you hear the Gospel and the readings and the homily, it's one thing to go and listen – it's another to apply it to your own life. It gives us something to focus on as far as how to better ourselves and be closer to what God intended us to be and wants us to be."



**Saint Peter**  
**the Apostle**  
Catholic Parish

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## **Catholic Schools Week 2015**

### ***Catholic Schools: Communities of Faith, Knowledge and Service***

St. Peter the Apostle Catholic School will celebrate Catholic Schools Week from Jan. 25 to Jan. 30. There will be many fun and important activities and events, such as the weeklong Book Fair and the Eighth-Grade Bake Sale, which will be open Monday, Jan. 26 through Thursday, Jan. 29, during lunch time.

#### **Sunday, Jan. 25**

Students wear school uniforms during all weekend Masses  
Open House — 12:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.

#### **Monday, Jan. 26 — Student Appreciation Day**

Morning Prayer and Song — Pre-K  
Students dress comfy and cozy.

#### **Tuesday, Jan. 27 — Teacher Appreciation Day**

Morning Prayer and Song — kindergarten  
Mass with the Bishop at the Cathedral — first through fifth grades  
Honors Assembly and National Junior Honor Society Induction — 1:50 p.m. in the Parish Center

#### **Wednesday, Jan. 28 — Parent Appreciation Day**

Morning Prayer and Song — first grade  
Pancakes with Parents — 7 a.m. to 8 a.m.

#### **Thursday, Jan. 29 — Community Appreciation Day**

Morning Prayer and Song — second grade  
Deanery Spelling Bee — 10 a.m. in the Parish Center  
School Spelling Bee — 10 a.m. in the Lower School Gym  
SOCCKS Day (Serving Our Community Catholic Kids Style) — 1:50 p.m. to 2:50 p.m.

#### **Friday, Jan. 30 — Grandparent/Special Friends Day**

Morning Prayer and Song — third grade  
Mass — 9:30 a.m. in the church  
Students give tours of school and classrooms to grandparents and special friends.

For more information about Catholic Schools Week or to get involved, please call the St. Peter the Apostle Catholic School office at 912-897-5224.