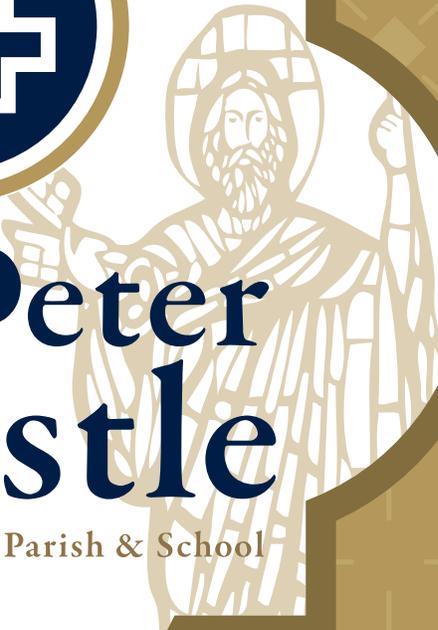




# Saint Peter the Apostle

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

## Engaging Speaker and Lively Music Make Community Event Special

# THE BOOK OF KELLS

Every once in a while, it is beneficial for a faith community to share in uplifting spiritual rejuvenation. Our St. Peter the Apostle parish family enjoyed just such an opportunity during a special event in February, as we welcomed guest speaker Chris Stefanick and special musical guests, The Kells.



"In 2014, world renowned Catholic speaker Chris Stefanick came to Savannah and spoke at the Cathedral of St. John the Baptist on the issue of relativism," says John Ebberwein, who acted as liaison to Chris Stefanick and the Kells Band with his wife, Leigh. "There was a large turnout and great feedback. While Chris was in Savannah, he fell in love

- 5/9**  
First Communion,  
9:30 a.m.
- 5/10**  
May Crowning at  
9 a.m. Mass
- 5/12-16**  
Parish Pictorial  
Directory  
Photography
- 5/15**  
Knights of  
Columbus Golf  
Tournament,  
Bacon Park
- 5/17**  
LifeTeen Mass,  
5 p.m.
- 5/19**  
Eighth-Grade  
Graduation, 6 p.m.
- 5/22-23**  
Parish Pictorial  
Directory  
Photography
- 5/25**  
Memorial Day,  
parish office  
closed, Mass at  
9 a.m.
- 5/29**  
Pre-K Program,  
5:30 p.m.,  
Kindergarten  
Graduation,  
6:30 p.m.
- 6/2**  
Last day of school
- 6/5**  
Holy Hour of  
Prayer, 8-9 a.m.
- 6/5-6**  
Parish Pictorial  
Directory  
Photography
- 6/21**  
LifeTeen Mass,  
5 p.m.

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# The Book of Kells

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with our deeply rooted Irish Catholic heritage. Chris, being Irish Catholic, decided to develop an event exclusive to Savannah. The Kells Band was contacted and together, they put together an evening designed to illuminate the Gospel in word and song.”

So on Feb. 25 of this year, St. Peter the Apostle Catholic Church hosted the Book of Kells event, a night of music and teaching hosted by the Savannah Deanery Youth.

“Msgr. Costigan is always willing to host inspiring speakers and jumped on board to help make this event a huge success,” John says. “This year is the 25th anniversary of our parish, and the Book of Kells event was an experience for our parish to begin our year of celebration in a joyful and inspirational way. There were many parishioners who helped to make this event successful. The office staff at St. Peter’s can not be commended enough for their enthusiastic work in making events like this successful for our parish and community.”

The Kells are a group of musicians who play traditional Irish music, using traditional Irish instruments such as the uilleann pipes and a drum called a bodhrán. The members of the band all share musical roots in the Irish heritage, and using their impressive talents, bring the rich and beautiful music of Ireland to life on stage, as they did for all who attended the Book of Kells event at our parish.

Chris Stefanick is an author, an experienced youth minister and a recognized speaker who travels the country speaking to thousands of youth and adults in schools, parishes and conferences about issues such as chastity, faith and relativism each year.



“Chris Stefanick is a young, energetic speaker who shares the Gospel in a way that engages people of all ages to want to enter into it,” John says. “He engages people in a way that makes them want to encounter Jesus on this journey of faith with them. Anyone who attended the event was empowered with a strong message and then enlightened by high energy Irish music. The 2015 Grand Marshall of the St. Patrick’s Day parade, Hugh Coleman, and his aides were invited to attend and were able to kick off this most special Irish season in a spiritually uplifting way.”

Not only was the Book of Kells a wonderful way for our parish to begin the celebration of its 25th anniversary, it was also a spiritually enriching experience for all who participated.

“I believe people are hungry for these events as they feed the soul in a way that makes you hungry for more,” John says. “Events like this take months to prepare, run for two hours and then hopefully change your life forever.”



*“Msgr. Costigan is always willing to host inspiring speakers and jumped on board to help make this event a huge success. This year is the 25th anniversary of our parish, and the Book of Kells event was an experience for our parish to begin our year of celebration in a joyful and inspirational way.” – John Ebberwein*

# The Love for *God* and One Another

My Sisters and Brothers in Christ:

If we listen closely to the Mass readings throughout this month of May, we will recognize a common theme – love. Of course, every month and every day – and every minute, for that matter – is a time to show our love for one another. St. John begins many of the passages of his letters with the word “Beloved.”

We will hear in one of the readings, “Beloved, let us love one another, because love is of God.” If we would simply follow that one commandment to “Love one another,” we will carry out the stewardship of all of our gifts. Living as a steward is indeed living a life of love – for God, for the Church, for everyone in need, for our families, and for everyone with whom we come in contact.

Our Holy Father Pope Francis has spoken about this often during his papacy. At his very first Mass as pope, he said in his homily, “Everything has been entrusted to our protection, and all of us are responsible for it. Be protectors of God’s gifts.” There are two important parts to this statement: first, we need to recognize that all is a gift from God, everything we have and everything we are; second, we have a responsibility to use those gifts wisely in service to others.

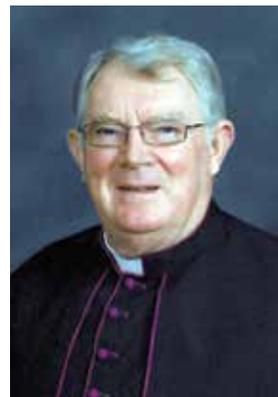
Pope Francis has also emphasized this stewardship of service throughout his papacy. Speaking to young people in Brazil, he said, “Let us protect with love all that God has given us.” Not only does he point out how we are gifted, but he recognizes that our motivation for using and sharing those gifts should be love. Recently, at an audience with young people, he was even more specific: “Have you thought of how you can put your talents at the service of others?” he asked. “Do not bury your talents! Set your stakes on great ideals, the ideals that enlarge the heart, the ideals of service that make your talents fruitful.”

We all have been called to love – called by our Lord and Savior, by our saints, by our Pope, and by our spiritual leaders. Nevertheless, we also understand that loving in this way and being good stewards is never easy. Let us vow to work together to love and to carry out our lives in ways so many have challenged us to do.

Yours in Christ,



Msgr. P. James Costigan  
Pastor

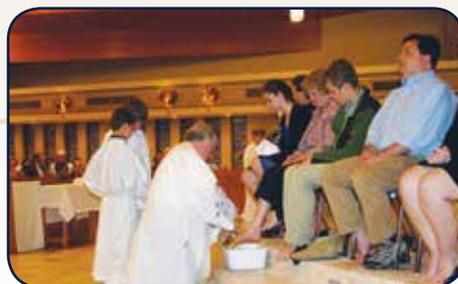


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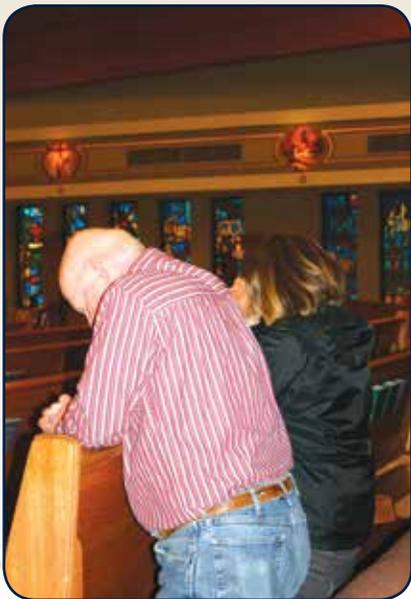
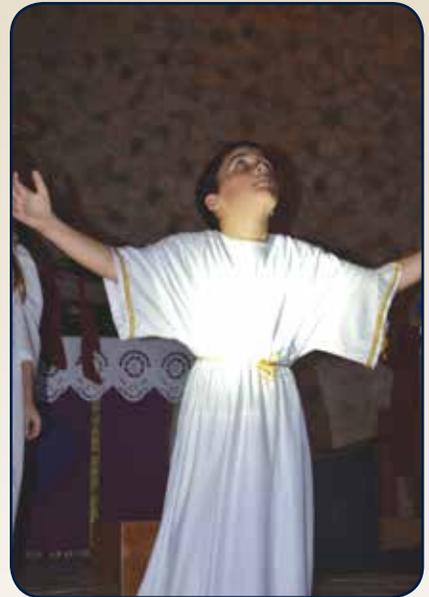
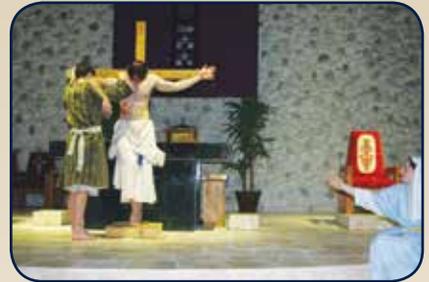
# A Look Back on our Lenten Journey of Faith

This past February, we entered into the season of Lent on Ash Wednesday – and as a parish family, we began a journey of faith that culminated in the resurrection of Jesus Christ at Easter.

A host of activities and ministry events served to highlight various key points on this Lenten faith journey. From important steps on the formation journey – including First Penance and RCIA – to sharing meals and fellowship at Lenten Fish Frys, to the solemn reflections of Living Stations of the Cross, to the joyous celebrations and welcoming of Holy Saturday, our St. Peter the Apostle family has enjoyed numerous wonderful opportunities to grow in our faith during the Lenten season.

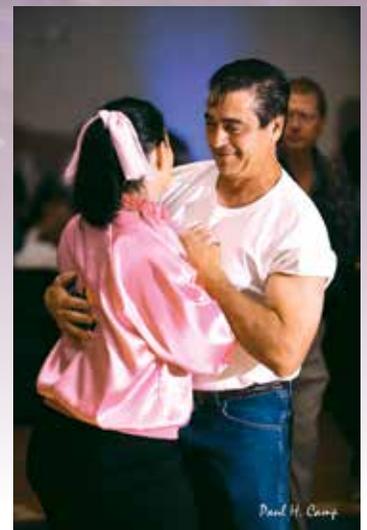


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St. Peter the Apostle School hosted its annual fundraiser Saturday, April 25. The theme, Dancing through the Decades, was a truly an extravaganza with professional ballroom dancers, live music, cash prizes, and a silent and live auction.

Despite the wind, rain, and power outage, the 360 plus guests were energized and very generous! Thank you to everyone who supported this event!



Photos courtesy of Paul Camp



# Caitie Thomson:

## *The Journey to Catholicism*

Everyone's faith journey is a little different. Some are born into their religion, some find their faith through a life altering event, and some spend their lifetime searching until they find exactly what they are looking for. But for some, their journey begins when they realize that they are ready for a change and that faith is a good place to start. Such is the case with parishioner Caitie Thomson who, in recognizing that she wanted to find a spiritual home for her and her daughter, Ella, kept searching until God led her to a new home in the Catholic Church.

In the beginning, Caitie wasn't exactly sure what she was looking for, but she trusted that God would lead her to a church and that she would know it when she found it. At first, she began with the Episcopal faith – the faith of her childhood – but after attending a service, she didn't feel as if she was being called to pursue that religion. So, she began to check out other churches and denominations in the area. Then one day, close friends of her parents, Ty and Debbie Kruk, invited Caitie to attend Mass with them at Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church. It took just one visit, and just like that, Caitie knew that she had found a home in the Catholic Church.

"Everything about the Mass spoke to my heart," Caitie says. "I loved the structure, the music, and the sense of tradition. I felt as if the Mass allowed me to really focus on God's Word, and it was all so calming and very, very peaceful. I knew right away that I was done searching."

That September, Caitie signed up for RCIA classes here in our parish. The RCIA program is designed to give those interested in the faith the time they need to receive a thorough foundation in the teachings of the Catholic faith. It's a process where even the fears, doubts and questions that anyone experiences along the way are meant to help you discern God's call, and it's not something that is meant to happen overnight. To be sure, the length of the program can be daunting – especially for someone like Caitie who works full-time as a nurse practitioner at St. Joseph Hospital, and therefore had to arrange for a babysitter to watch her daughter – but the hard work made it all worth it.

"There was so much to learn," Caitie says. "I loved studying the Bible, learning Church doctrine, re-visiting the Ten Commandments, and being introduced to the saints. I had no idea there were so many saints and that there was a saint for everything!



*Parishioner Caitie Thomson with her daughter, Ella, visiting the Easter Bunny at the mall*

Did I feel overwhelmed? Yes, every single week, but it was in the best way possible. The class was motivating, it challenged me, and I looked forward to every single Monday night."

This past April, Caitie fully entered into the Church during the Easter Vigil Mass, and the experience still moves her today.

"It was everything they tell you it is going to be," Caitie says. "It was solemn, beautiful, and I felt so incredibly honored to finally be able to receive Holy Communion. In fact, that still continues to be a powerful experience for me, and when I am able, I also try to attend Mass at least once during the week."

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# Saint Peter the Apostle Catholic Parish

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## Caitie Thomson *continued from page 7*

In thinking back on her faith journey, which was about making a change in her life, Caitie shows us how the search can be an important part of the journey. But with perseverance, an open heart and trust that God will show you the way, it is possible to find exactly what you are looking for. And Caitie will continue that journey of daily conversion to live our faith and to grow in God's grace and love.

"In many ways, I'm still the same person," Caitie says. "But now, I feel enriched and saturated by the Holy Spirit. I have a great desire to continue to learn and grow as a Catholic while I strive to incorporate my faith into everyday life."



*Caitie Thomson during the Baptism of her daughter, Ella, in October 2014*

*"There was so much to learn [during RCIA]. I loved studying the Bible, learning Church doctrine, re-visiting the Ten Commandments, and being introduced to the saints. I had no idea there were so many saints and that there was a saint for everything! Did I feel overwhelmed? Yes, every single week, but it was in the best way possible. The class was motivating, it challenged me, and I looked forward to every single Monday night." – Caitie Thomson*

MAY/JUNE 2015