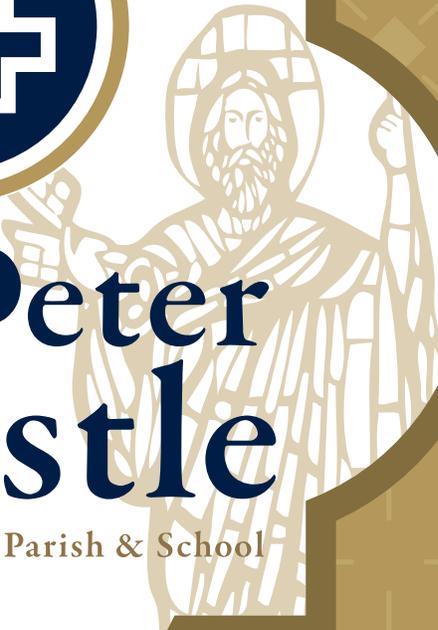




Saint Peter the Apostle

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

Morning Mass During Lent Offers Opportunities for Growth

While attending morning Mass all through the year is a regular activity for a group of our parishioners, attending the 7:30 a.m. morning Mass during Lent carries a significant meaning to them – a chance to grow in faith and living as a Disciple of Christ.

“It makes my faith in the Lord grow stronger and helps me do God’s will more often,” Bridget Mainor says.

“One good reason to attend morning Mass during Lent is that you receive a special indulgence,” Mary Alice Marcantel says. “Another good reason is that it helps me be a better disciple.”

For Ana Portman, Director of the St. Peter’s Youth Choir, and Music/Spanish teacher at our school, morning Mass during Lent is particularly special because the celebration is enhanced by musical accompaniment and hymns led by the students.



Annie Marcantel and Meghan Mainor lead the singing during the morning Masses during Lent.

March 13 – K of C Second Sunday Breakfast, after 7:30 and 9 a.m. Masses

March 15 – Living Stations by SPA School, 2:00 p.m.
Stations of the Cross and Benediction, 6:30 p.m.

March 17 – St. Patrick’s Day, parish office and school closed

March 18 – Stations of the Cross and Benediction, 6:30 p.m.
K of C Lenten Fish Fry, 5-8 p.m.

March 20 – LifeTeen Mass, 5 p.m.

March 22 – Chrism Mass at Cathedral, 7 p.m.

March 24 – Holy Thursday Mass, 7 p.m.

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Morning Mass *continued from front cover*

"Usually at morning Mass, there are no song leaders nor accompaniment," she says. "Students from St. Peter the Apostle School are volunteering their time to lead the singing four out of the five mornings during Lent. The four girls are Annie Marcantel, eighth grade; Mary Alice Marcantel, fifth grade; Meghan Mainor, sixth grade; and Bridget Mainor, fifth grade. These girls have volunteered their time and talent to do this for five or six years now."

Many of the regular morning Mass attendees have taken the time after Mass to thank the students for their service either as a song leader or altar server, Mrs. Portman says.

"In the past, they have even remembered them with small gifts of thanks," she says.

Msgr. Costigan has made it a tradition to take the students who are altar servers and hymn leaders during Lent to breakfast at Sunrise.

"After Easter, he takes the children out of school, takes them for breakfast, and thanks them for their dedication, service and talent," Mrs. Portman says.

Not only do the four students assist with the Lenten morning Masses, but they and many other Youth Choir members also lead the singing at the 9 a.m. Sunday Mass throughout the school year.

"We meet every Thursday after school to rehearse music for Sunday Mass and Lenten Music for the week," Mrs. Portman says. "Choir members range in age from second grade through eighth grade. Betty Barsic and Eddie Seginack, two students that have



Bridget Mainor and Mary Alice Marcantel give of their time and talent as altar servers during four of the five morning Masses during Lent.

graduated from St. Peter's and moved on to high school, still sing with us on Sunday at Mass."

While each person attending morning Mass during Lent has personal reasons for taking part, the fact that this is the Year of Mercy is playing a role in attendance.

"All of us are seeking Mercy," Mrs. Portman says. "We're seeking forgiveness for our sins, and even though we don't deserve it, we're seeking mercy for our wrongdoings. For me, why I enjoy teaching here, it is so much easier to be a good Christian when we're surrounded by reminders, and

being with people who believe as you do."

To attend morning Mass during Lent, this recognizes that Lent is a time of change, when we are examining our consciences and try to change our hearts.

"Jesus prayed for 40 days, so we should try to make changes ourselves," Mrs. Portman says.

The students at St. Peter the Apostle School have a deep understanding of the meaning of Lent, she says. Daily readings of the Gospels for the day help their comprehension and they frequently sing Lenten music.

"We're faith-based, and the students understand this is a time of preparation," Mrs. Portman says. "They know it is not a joyous time. We're really going inside of ourselves to see how we can be better Christians."

While morning Mass traditionally is held in the Daily Chapel, during Lent, the 7:30 a.m. service is moved to the main sanctuary.

This Month

March 25 – Good Friday

- Stations of the Cross, 3 p.m.
- Veneration of the Cross and Holy Communion, 7 p.m.
- Living Stations by SPA LifeTeen & Youth, following 7 p.m. Service

March 26 – Holy Saturday Anticipated Mass of the Resurrection, 8 p.m.

March 27 – Easter Sunday

Masses 7:30 a.m., 9 a.m., 10:30 a.m., noon

March 28 – Easter Monday, parish office closed

April 1 – Holy Hour of Prayer, 8-9 a.m.

April 3 – Coffee and Donuts after all Masses

April 10 – K of C Second Sunday Breakfast

April 17 – LifeTeen Mass, 5 p.m.

April 23 – SPA School Spring Extravaganza, Hollywood Style

Make Prayer and Hospitality Pillars of Your Lenten Journey

My Sisters and Brothers in Christ:

In the coming weeks, we will conclude our Lenten observance, experience Holy Week, and celebrate the joy of Easter. Of course, I hope that you have made some effort to make this Lenten season special and significant, but if you have not, it is never too late to accomplish that goal.

With thoughts of Lent, Easter and the Year of Mercy at the top of my mind, I offer a couple suggestions to help carry you to the end of your Lenten journey.

As you know, prayer is foundational to stewardship, as it is one of the Four Pillars of a stewardship parish — along with hospitality, formation and service. With this in mind, here are some suggestions on how you might make your prayers even more consequential.

Pick someone to pray for, perhaps even someone you don't get along with. Just pray for them. You do not have to tell them you are praying for them, but the exercise is good for you, and for them, as well. If possible, find a time this month to pray before the Blessed Sacrament, especially if this is something you do not normally do. Pray every morning shortly after you get up, and again each evening before you turn in. It does not have to be a long prayer, but it does need to be done consistently.

In terms of the pillar of hospitality, there is also much we can do in this area, both as a parish and as individuals and families. Here is a suggestion that involves hospitality — one that is also connected to gratitude and even the Year of Mercy. Many of us spend time at a computer. It is a way for us to stay connected to those who are close to us, and to the world around us. Why not begin and end each week emailing someone a note of thanksgiving? Again, it does not have to be lengthy, but when we think about it, each of our lives is filled with people to whom we should be grateful.

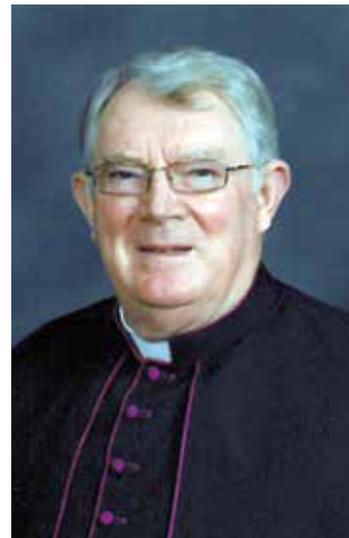
Just send that someone a note thanking them for something specifically, or in general. By starting and ending each week like that, our minds are in the right place for prayer and for having the attitude that Christ asks us to have.

I thank you for all you do, for our parish, for the Church, for one another, and for me personally. I am blessed. Like most, I may not express it often enough. I pray for you, and I ask you to pray for me during this holy time.

Yours in Christ,



Msgr. P. James Costigan
Pastor



Living Stations of the Cross Bring the Passion to Life

For all Catholics, the Stations of the Cross are a deeply moving, time-honored tradition. Here at St. Peter, school students bring Christ's Passion to life through a dramatic depiction of the Stations. For the past six years, these students have been able to provide a visual representation of Jesus' ultimate sacrifice, allowing us to physically see how much God loves us.



"I really wanted the children to be able to get a visual of what Christ actually went through," says Lucy Fonseca, who directs the Living Stations and has taught at the school for the past 12 years. "They are able to actually walk that journey with Christ, and every year that I've done it, I have seen the Holy Spirit just fill these children's hearts. We thought that, for children, this would be a good supplement to the traditional form of Stations of the Cross. Tradition is very important to our faith, but this might also give them a better understanding of what the Stations are all about."

Each year, Mrs. Fonseca has written an original script for the Living Stations. Pulling from different resources, such as the existing Stations, as well as the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, the script and type of production varies each year, highlighting various aspects of the Passion in different ways.

While the fourth-graders typically perform the Living Stations, this year it will be performed by both the fourth and seventh-graders.

"We have auditions," Mrs. Fonseca says. "I have a panel of teachers and students who have previously performed, and they choose all the parts. I change it every year – I never change the content of the Stations, but I change the acting, where they are standing, what they are doing. The first time we did it, it was with all second-graders – they did a still form with no speaking. Now, we have everyone speak – sometimes we even have people in the crowd pre-casted to yell out."

To prepare, the students practice for two months, at least twice a week. They are able to do this during the time they'd usually have religion class at school. Although the Living Stations are cast, rehearsed and performed as a dramatic production, Lucy takes care that it doesn't come across as entertainment.

"Even though it is a performance, we don't allow anyone to clap, and the students don't take bows," she says. "It's really for them to touch souls in the audience. More than once in Scripture, Jesus says that in order to enter heaven, you must become like a little child. When adults see these children who

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Living Stations of the Cross

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are so innocent and filled with the spirit when they perform, it really touches them deeply.”

This is also a particularly moving experience for the students who participate in the Living Stations.

“It’s really impactful – especially for the younger ones – to actually see how even though Pontius Pilate knew Jesus was innocent, he still said nothing and let Him be crucified,” Mrs. Fonseca says. “He gave into the peer pressure from others. Kids are always dealing with that kind of thing, and this can encourage them to stand up and say, ‘I’m not going to fall for this peer pressure – I’m going to do what a Catholic should do.’”

“I also think that this helps them whenever they do the traditional form of Stations of the Cross,” she continues. “It really reinforces and helps them understand the traditional form. Instead of just reciting it, now they really comprehend what happens to Jesus at each station.”

For those who are dealing with difficulties in their lives, attending the Living Stations can inspire them to carry their crosses just as Jesus did. They are also able to see the joy and hope of the coming resurrection.

“Seeing this visual representation helps us to understand what Jesus went through, and that if He could go through this, we can carry any cross laid on us,” Mrs. Fonseca says. “Every time Jesus falls, He looks up to the Father and says, ‘Father, I know I can carry this cross with your help.’ And that’s how we have to live our lives – we know we can get up and handle whatever we’re going through, because Christ did it, too.”

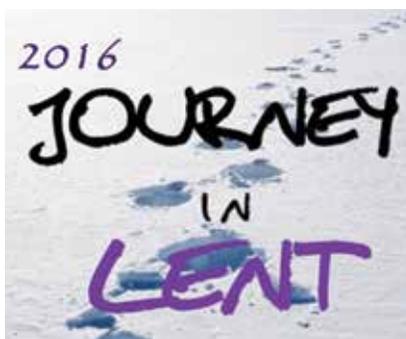
“At the end of the Stations, we light up the church and everyone has candles lit – that’s the light of Christ that lives on forever and ever,” she adds. “We are able to experience that we’ve been given the hope of eternal life, all because of what Jesus went through.”



This year, the SPA School Living Stations will be held on March 15 at 2:00 p.m. in the Church. The SPA LifeTeen/Youth Living Stations will be held on March 25th following 7:00 p.m. Mass. All are invited to attend this powerful reminder of God’s immense love for us.

A Look Back on Recent Events at St. Peter the Apostle

As January gave way to February, our St. Peter the Apostle students, faculty and community celebrated the wonderful gift of Catholic education during Catholic Schools Week 2016. And just days after the week's events concluded, we entered into the Lenten season on Ash Wednesday, Feb. 10.



Saint Peter the Apostle School

**2016 SPRING
FUNDRAISER**

HOLLYWOOD STYLE!

Saturday, April 23 ★ 6:30PM ★ Parish Center

★ AUCTION ★ RAFFLE ★ DINNER
★ BALLROOM DANCING PERFORMANCE

★ Help us make this fundraiser a huge
success for our school by supporting
the raffle & auction and...join the party! ★



Saint Peter the Apostle

Catholic Parish

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TOGETHER ... Continuing the Vision

Living in a **FORMED** Parish

“Continuing the Mission in 2016”

Please prayerfully consider your role in this Mission.

Parish Code: VXR23M

