



CATHEDRAL of SAINT PETER

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

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Understanding Our Cathedral: *A Haven of Hospitality for Diocese and Church*

The bishop is the chief shepherd of our diocese. He is our link to the apostles and the head of all the parishioners in the Belleville Diocese. And here at St. Peter, he is our pastor. That's part of what it means for us to be the Cathedral of the Diocese of Belleville.

"According to the Church's tradition, the priest assigned to the cathedral is called a rector, because, in a technical sense, the cathedral is the bishop's parish," Fr. Godfrey Mullen says. "He is the pastor."

Yet, even as Fr. Godfrey acknowledges that as the cathedral, St. Peter is the bishop's parish, as the rector he functions as our pastor.

"Practically speaking, the rector functions as a pastor in every respect, with the same responsibilities and rights," Fr. Godfrey says.

St. Peter became the cathedral for the Diocese of Belleville on Jan. 7, 1887, when the diocese was established. Pope Leo XIII divided the Diocese of Alton into two, establishing the southernmost 28 counties in the state as the Diocese of Belleville. He designated St. Peter as the cathedral of this new diocese, and it remains so today.

"Every diocese typically has a cathedral," Fr. Godfrey says. "It is a designated church in which sits the

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LIVING STEWARDSHIP THROUGH PARISH HOSPITALITY MINISTRIES: *A Gift of Talents*

Stewardship is not just a one-time act — it's a way of life for Catholics. It's about recognizing that everything we have comes from God and using our time, talents, and treasure to serve Him and others. One powerful way to live out this calling is by actively participating in parish hospitality ministries, serving as ushers, greeters, and lectors during the Mass. These roles not only enhance the Mass experience but also allow us to share our gifts with our parish community.

Ushers: The Guardians of Order

Ushers play a crucial role in maintaining a sense of order and reverence during the Mass. Their responsibilities go beyond seating parishioners — they are stewards of the worship space. By becoming an usher, you can live out stewardship in the following ways:

Creating a Welcoming Environment: Ushers ensure that parishioners feel welcome and comfortable. Their friendly demeanor sets the tone for the entire congregation and helps newcomers feel at home.

Supporting the Celebrants: Ushers assist the priest and other liturgical ministers, making sure that the Mass flows smoothly. Their dedication contributes to a seamless and uplifting worship experience.

Strengthening Community: Serving as an usher fosters a strong sense of community. It's an opportunity to connect with fellow parishioners and deepen your bonds with the Church.

Greeters: The Face of Hospitality

Greeters are often the first point of contact for parishioners and newcomers. Their warm and friendly welcome can make a significant impact. By taking on this role, you can live out stewardship by:

Sharing the Love of Christ: As a greeter, you embody Christ's love through your warm greetings and friendly demeanor. Your actions can bring joy and comfort to those who enter the Church.

Nurturing a Sense of Belonging: A welcoming environment helps people feel they belong to a caring and loving community. This can lead to more active participation and involvement in parish life.

Lectors: The Proclaimers of the Word

Lectors have a unique and profound responsibility in the Mass. They bring the Word of God to life through their readings. Becoming a lector allows you to live out stewardship by:

Sharing the Scriptures: Proclaiming the Word is a sacred duty, and lectors have the privilege of bringing the teachings of Christ to life. This act of service inspires reflection and deepens understanding among the congregation.

Enhancing Spiritual Growth: Lectors deepen their own understanding of Scripture and spiritual growth as they prepare and share God's message. It is a personal journey that enriches the lives of others as well.

Engaging in parish hospitality ministries is a fulfilling way to live out stewardship as a way of life. By sharing your talents as ushers, greeters, and lectors, you enhance the Mass experience for yourself, your family, and your fellow parishioners. Your welcoming presence, organizational skills, and passionate proclamation of the Word contribute to a more vibrant and inclusive parish community, fostering spiritual growth and a stronger sense of belonging. Through these ministries, you demonstrate your commitment to living a life of stewardship, embracing the call to serve God and His people.

A Letter from Our Cathedral Rector

HONORING

Our Lady of the Rosary

Dear Parishioners,

As we enter the month of October, our thoughts and prayers turn to the Feast of Our Lady of the Rosary, celebrated on Oct. 7. This feast, rich in history and spiritual significance, invites us to deepen our devotion to Mary and to reflect on the power of the Rosary in our lives.



The origins of this feast date back to 1571, when Pope Pius V instituted it in thanksgiving for the decisive victory of the Christian fleet over the Ottoman Empire at the Battle of Lepanto. This victory was attributed to the intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary, invoked through the praying of the Rosary by Christians throughout Europe. The triumph was seen as a powerful reminder of the efficacy of the Rosary and the protection of Our Lady.

The Rosary is not merely a series of prayers but a profound meditation on the mysteries of Christ's life, death, and resurrection. As we recite the familiar prayers — the Apostles' Creed, the Our Father, the Hail Mary, and the Glory Be — we are invited to enter into the sacred mysteries of our faith. Each decade brings us closer to the heart of Jesus through the loving intercession of His mother, Mary.

In our daily lives, the Rosary serves as a source of comfort, guidance, and strength. It is a prayer that we can turn to in times of joy and sorrow, in moments of gratitude and need. The repetitive nature of the prayers can bring a sense of peace and stillness, allowing us to focus our minds and hearts on the divine.

During this month of October, I encourage you to make the Rosary a part of your daily routine. Whether you pray it alone, with your family, or in a group, let it be a moment to pause and reconnect with God. Consider setting aside a specific time each day to pray the Rosary, perhaps in the morning as you begin your day or in the evening as you prepare for rest.

As we honor Our Lady of the Rosary, let us also



remember the many intentions we hold in our hearts and the needs of our parish community. Let us pray for peace in our world, for the healing of the sick, for the comfort of the grieving, and for the strength to live out our faith with courage and conviction.

May Mary, Queen of the Holy Rosary, intercede for us and guide us ever closer to her Son, Jesus Christ.

Peace,

Fr Godfrey OSB

Very Rev. Godfrey Mullen, OSB
Cathedral Rector

Rosary Makers Honoring Mary and



“I am grateful to have the chance to give these to people. The missionary priests who get these rosaries are always very thankful.”
— **Mary Hallbauer**

We honor Mary with the utmost respect. She is the model of perfect love and obedience to Jesus. One way we can honor her is to pray the Rosary each day. A group of women here at the Cathedral not only does that but also makes rosaries for people worldwide. They pray and create.

When Mary Hallbauer retired, she was looking for an activity to fill her time. A friend recommended the Rosary Makers Ministry. Ten years later, she’s still making rosaries.

The group purchases the supplies from Our Lady’s Rosary Makers. That’s also where they send the finished rosaries for distribution. The ministry was founded in 1949 by Brother Sylvan Mattingly, C.F.X. He wanted people worldwide to have access to the Rosary and to fulfill what Mary asked at Fatima — for people to pray the Rosary daily. The rosaries are shipped all over, from Uganda to India and Malawi. The ministry members gather from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. each Friday to make rosaries together. Many members also take supplies to make them at home.

“It’s something I can easily do while I’m watching television,” Mary says. “It keeps me busy.”

Each Rosary takes 15 to 20 minutes to make. The Rosary Makers use beads of varying colors, which makes the job more fun and colorful. They’ve made around-the-world rosaries, with each decade representing a continent. In the past, members have attended a Parish School of Religion class to show the students how to make the rosaries.

“It was so fun to be with the kids and make rosaries together,” Mary says.

Mary prays the Rosary each day. It’s a special prayer for her, and she feels blessed to make rosaries for those most in need.

“I am grateful to have the chance to give these to people,” Mary says. “The missionary priests who get these rosaries are always very thankful.”

The group usually leaves a few rosaries at the parish for people to grab. The ones with the pink beads always go fast.

Bringing Jesus to Others Around the World

The Rosary Makers Ministry also gives Mary an outlet for seeing people. In this day and age of phones and computers, we know it's important to get together in person. There are always coffee and treats when they meet.

The ministry members would be open to more members. It's a wonderful social outlet that can help people. And you can use your free time at home to serve.

"It's important to keep this going," Mary says. "I want people in other countries to get the Rosary in their hands."

*To learn more about the Rosary Makers
and to get involved, contact Mary Hallbauer
at 618-235-4576.*



Understanding Our Cathedral *continued from front cover*

bishop's chair or 'cathedra,' a symbol denoting the bishop's authority. On a practical note, our parish's service as the cathedral means we become a haven of hospitality for all the people of the diocese, a ministry of welcome for all as the 'mother church' of the diocese."

Additionally, the cathedral is where the bishop celebrates all of the major feasts. So, as parishioners of St. Peter, we often get to participate in big moments in the life of the Church, in grand celebrations right here in our home parish. Besides the bishop celebrating Mass on Christmas, Easter, Pentecost, and more, he also celebrates ordinations, the Rite of Election, the Chrism Mass, and other annual liturgies that showcase growth in the life of the Church year after year here at St. Peter.

"While this places demands on our parishioners and, even more so on our staff, it also gives us a front-row seat for these major liturgies and events," Fr. Godfrey says. "At the same time, there are other parishes who look to the cathedral for liturgical and other pastoral examples for their own parishes."

This means, as members of the cathedral, we have a great

responsibility to the people of Belleville. As we offer them hospitality, we must also serve as a shining example of what it means to live as active Christian disciples today. This is a role Fr. Godfrey feels that we, here at St. Peter, play beautifully.

"In my two years here, I believe it is obvious that the people of St. Peter take pride in being the cathedral parish," he says.

For his part, Fr. Godfrey says he is grateful to be here.

"It is uncommon for a Benedictine monk to be the rector of a cathedral," Fr. Godfrey says. "Now I have been rector in two cathedrals. In so many ways, it is identical to being a pastor anywhere else. In the Diocese of Belleville, where I am also the Director of the Office of Worship, it means that I have a good understanding of where things are and how they work for diocesan liturgies. I love being a pastor."

Fr. Godfrey loves being a pastor, and we all love being St. Peter Parish and the Cathedral for the Diocese of Belleville! May we continue to take pride in our identity as such and offer an example of hospitality and loving service to all who enter here!

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS ABOUT OUR Annual Stewardship Renewal

It's time for our Annual Stewardship Renewal. This is an annual occurrence – part of the rhythm of parish life at the Cathedral of St. Peter. Just as the Church proposes a time of spiritual renewal each Lent, we believe in the importance of a yearly examination of commitment. Is the Lord asking you to give more time, talent, or treasure to our parish this year? The following should help you discern your commitments to our cathedral parish this year.

“My life is already too busy with family and work. I barely have time to relax. How can I possibly share my talents with our parish?”

We all have obligations to our families, jobs, schools, and other endeavors. But we also have the same number of hours each day to accomplish these things. The issue is not how much time we have, but how we prioritize. Before you fill out your Commitment Card, reflect on your priorities, and where God fits into your day-to-day life. Remember, living as true stewards of God's gifts involves giving back the first fruits of what He has given to us in thanksgiving, not the “leftovers.”

“I'm happy with my current parish participation. Why do I need to fill out a Commitment Card each year?”

As part of the renewal process, we must consider our current level of participation in parish life. Sometimes, the call to stewardship involves the quality of service along with its quantity. In looking through the opportunities for ministries available at the parish, you may find yourself drawn to a new ministry or new ways to share of your time with God to enrich your prayer life. So, your current level of participation might not change drastically, but how you participate may evolve as you grow in stewardship. Even if you end up participating in the same ministries as in the past, turning in a Commitment Card means you have reviewed your present ministries and recommitted.

“I'm not very active in the Church and feel it may be too late to get involved. Why fill out a Commitment Card?”

It's never too late to renew your faith life, and filling out a Commitment Card is a simple step to immediately return to the life of the parish. Our parish community is not

here to judge but to welcome and nourish you in your faith journey. Begin by checking, “Attend weekly Mass and Holy Days of Obligation,” and discern additional ways God is calling you.

“I'm reluctant to make a yearly financial pledge in case things change and I'm unable to fulfill it. Should I?”

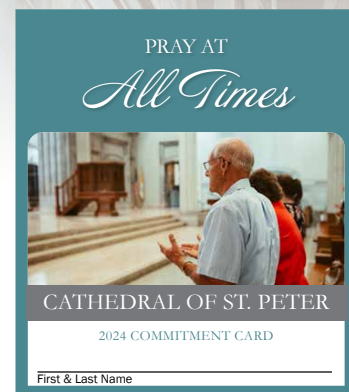
Your Commitment Card is not a contract; it is a pledge of intentions. Commit based on what you are setting out to do to give back to God and do your best to fulfill that pledge. If your circumstances change, your gift will likely change, as well, but remember to prioritize God first. Nobody will send a bill collector if you can't fulfill your Treasure commitment due to a change in your financial situation. But we must begin our commitment by writing down goals for giving back our gifts to God.

I've expressed interest in a ministry in the past, but nobody ever followed up with me about it.

We do our best to follow up with everyone who has shown interest, but we are human, and we sometimes fall short. If this has happened in the past, we sincerely apologize, and encourage you to renew your interest again on your Commitment Card this year. Every year, we go into the renewal to make sure everyone is contacted, and we will do so again this year.

I don't agree with everything that goes on at our parish and feel when I fill out a Commitment Card, it condones things I disagree with.

You are not making a pledge between yourself and our parish; you are pledging to God. Disagreements occur in life. This is a part of being human, and we respect the opinions of every parishioner. But it is important that each of us fulfills our discipleship of Christ by growing in relationship with Him and utilizing the gifts He has given us to carry out His mission, regardless of disagreements. Beyond helping the parish, filling out a Commitment Card expresses a devotion to spiritual growth and strong belief in the Catholic faith.



Commitment Weekend is Oct. 26-27.

Don't forget to bring your Commitment Card to Mass!

BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS COMMITTEE

Prioritizing the Good Care and Maintenance of Our Parish

Maintaining the largest Catholic Cathedral in Illinois is a constant project. The parish campus includes the church, rectory, school and gym, parking lots, and the cemetery. At any given time, a number of projects are underway and in the queue. About a year ago, Fr. Godfrey put out a call for volunteers to form the Buildings and Grounds Committee to bring some order and organization to the many needs of the parish.

“As with many parishes, we were on a triage system, with less preventive maintenance and more reaction to crisis,” Fr. Godfrey says. “The Buildings and Grounds Committee is a group of men and women who help with gathering bids for work that is needed, help with prioritizing projects, and assist with contacts for getting maintenance projects underway.”

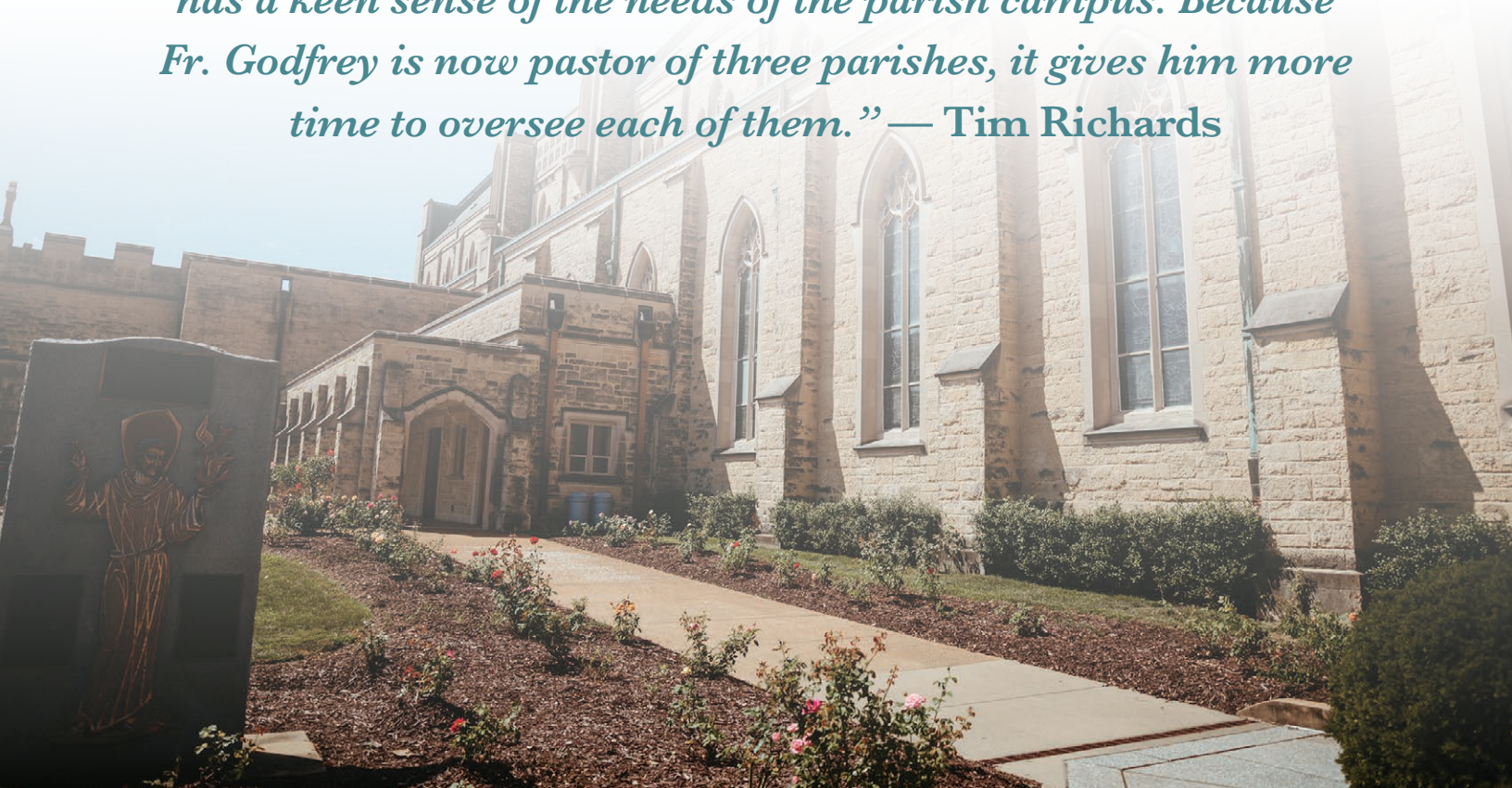
Tim Richards has served as the chair of the Buildings and Grounds Committee since he responded to Fr. Godfrey’s call for volunteers in the bulletin. Tim serves on the committee alongside Fr. Godfrey, the parish Business Manager, the head of maintenance, a deacon, and three engineers. They meet monthly to discuss and plan upcoming needs.

“The committee, which is made up of active parishioners, has a keen sense of the needs of the parish campus,” Tim says. “Because Fr. Godfrey is now pastor of three parishes, it gives him more time to oversee each of them.”

The parish is currently having four roofs replaced, including the cemetery chapel, two roofs on the church, and the gym. Two parking lots are being resurfaced as well. There are also some security upgrades being made which are primarily funded by a security grant from the

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Buildings and Grounds Committee *continued from page 7*

state government. Tim notes that the slate roof of the church is in need of repair and bids are being taken for this larger project.

As a parishioner, being part of the committee has made Tim more aware of what it takes to maintain the church and parish.

“I have a deeper understanding of the needs of the parish, and how parishioners like myself can take an active role,” he says. “I can also give back to the parish, as a lifelong member, my talent.”

All of us, whether we serve on a committee or not,

can take some ownership of our church home. Whether it’s offering your time for a needed project, helping fund improvements, or bringing things to the attention of the committee, the care of the parish calls for all of us to give some time, talent, or treasure in stewardship. Tim and the Buildings and Grounds Committee are key to making sure that the gifts of our parish family are used for what is most needed.

“This committee is an excellent example of what parishioners can do to help improve the physical needs of the parish which need attention,” Tim says.

Parishioners are welcome to bring their concerns to the committee through Tim Richards or Business Manager Josie Weiler. Contact Tim at tjrichs@gmail.com or 618-407-3916.

MASS TIMES

Saturday Vigil Mass: 4:00 p.m. | Sunday: 8:00 a.m., 10:30 a.m., 5:00 p.m.

Weekdays: Monday-Friday 6:45 a.m.

SACRAMENT OF PENANCE (CONFESSIONS)

Monday-Friday: 7:15-7:30 a.m. | Thursday: 6:00-7:00 p.m. | Saturday: 3:00-3:45 p.m.