



CATHEDRAL of SAINT PETER

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

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Gift Bearers Ministry Offers Great Way to Serve in Key Role at Mass

When the bread and wine are brought forward before the Eucharistic prayer, we are symbolizing our offering to God. As Pope Francis says, it is good that the faithful bring up the gifts because “they signify the spiritual offering of the Church gathered there for the Eucharist.”

Sister Theresa Markus — Sr. Tess for short — coordinates the Gift Bearers Ministry at the Cathedral of St. Peter. She believes this ministry is a great way to involve more people in the Mass, particularly families and children. Maybe those children can even help get their parents involved!

“Younger children don’t often have a way to contribute to the Mass,” Sr. Tess says. “The Gift Bearers Ministry is a way to involve them.”



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Liz Horn and family

Thanksgiving:

A CIVIC HOLIDAY WITH SACRED SIGNIFICANCE

Thanksgiving is a cherished holiday in the United States, celebrated on the fourth Thursday of November each year. While it may not have religious origins, Thanksgiving holds a deep significance in the Catholic Church and serves as a perfect example of living the stewardship way of life. As Catholics, we can find spiritual meaning in this holiday and apply the principles of stewardship to our Thanksgiving celebrations.

Thanksgiving and Stewardship

Stewardship is a core principle in the Catholic faith, emphasizing the responsible and generous use of time, talent, and treasure for the service of God and others. Thanksgiving aligns with this principle in several ways:

- **Gratitude to God:** Thanksgiving encourages us to express gratitude for the blessings we have received. In the Catholic faith, acknowledging and thanking God for His gifts is a fundamental aspect of stewardship.
- **Sharing with Others:** The act of sharing a meal with loved ones and providing for those in need echoes the spirit of stewardship. Just as stewards share their resources with others, Thanksgiving prompts us to service by sharing our abundance with family, friends, and the less fortunate.
- **Acknowledging God's Creation:** Thanksgiving often centers around a feast featuring the fruits of the earth. This feast reminds us of our role as stewards of God's creation and our responsibility to care for the environment.

Living Stewardship on Thanksgiving and Beyond

Here are ways Catholics can live the stewardship way of life on Thanksgiving:

- **Gratitude and Prayer:** Begin your Thanksgiving celebrations with a prayer of thanksgiving, acknowledging God's providence and expressing gratitude for His blessings. Encourage everyone to share what they are thankful for during the meal.
- **Sharing with Others:** Reach out to those in need by volunteering at a local shelter, donating food, or participating in charitable initiatives. Sharing your talent or treasure is a practical application of stewardship.
- **Family and Community:** Thanksgiving is an excellent time to strengthen family bonds and build a sense of community. Welcome those who may be alone or in need, extending the spirit of stewardship to your own household and beyond through hospitality.
- **Gratitude Journal:** Encourage family members to maintain a gratitude journal throughout the year. Documenting daily blessings reinforces the stewardship principle of recognizing and appreciating God's gifts.

Thanksgiving may be a civic holiday, but its significance in the Catholic Church is profound. It provides an opportunity to express gratitude to God, share blessings with others, and practice stewardship in daily life. As Catholics, we can embrace the principles of stewardship on Thanksgiving by focusing on gratitude, charity, and environmental responsibility. This holiday serves as a beautiful reminder that living the stewardship way of life is not confined to the church walls but can be incorporated into our everyday lives, enriching our faith and our relationship with God.



A Letter From Our Cathedral Rector

In Stewardship, We Are Called to Holiness

Dear Parishioners,

Having just completed our annual Stewardship Renewal cycle, we all have heard once again the importance of recognizing God's gifts and offering them to Him and to the Church gratefully and generously. I hope that each of us has prayed about what God may be calling for from our lives.

So why do we do this every year? Isn't it unnecessarily repetitive? On the one hand, it is. But why do we come to Mass every weekend? It's repetitive too, but there is grace that is available to us. We do a Stewardship Renewal each year to provide some intentional reflection on what we are doing with the gifts God has given us.

Over 60 years ago, the bishops from around the world at the Second Vatican Council approved the Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy, *Sacrosanctum Concilium*. The bishops were clear: *Mother Church earnestly desires that all the faithful should be led to that fully conscious, and active participation in liturgical celebrations which is demanded by the very nature of the liturgy. Such participation by the Christian people as "a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a redeemed people" (1 Pet. 2:9; cf. 2:4-5), is their right and duty by reason of their baptism.* Fully conscious and active participation is not easy to accomplish this side of heaven. Week after week, we strive for it, because it is our right and our duty.



We might also see that the grateful and generous sharing of our gifts — time with God in prayer, talents to build the Kingdom, and treasure God has assisted us in gathering — also calls for fully conscious and active participation. To receive gifts from God and allow them to



sit by idly is not the way of the Christian steward, the Christian disciple. The annual renewal gives us reason, sounds an alert, for us to reconsider how we're doing as stewards of God's goodness.

Maybe this year we need to take inventory of how much time we actually give to God in prayer. Or perhaps we've been thinking for years about becoming a lector, an Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion, a sacristan, or a volunteer with St. Vincent de Paul. So why not now?

And then there is always the touchy question of our money. The disciples in the early days of the Church *would sell their property and possessions and divide them among all according to each one's need (Acts 2:45)*. How heroic were they in their sharing? And what does their example demand of me and my treasure?

Brothers and sisters, we all have the great opportunity to step up in one way or another (or many ways). During this month, remembering our beloved dead and giving thanks for the produce of the land, we stand directly in the midst of the beautiful example of our ancestors in faith, their generosity and wisdom, and the duty we have always and everywhere to give God thanks. We, too, are called to the holiness of being saints. We, too, are commanded to gratitude for all God's good gifts.

Being faithful stewards of God's many gifts to us will always place us squarely on Christ's way. Let us be grateful, participate fully and consciously in the Mass and in building the Kingdom of God. May our beloved dead rest forever in eternal peace and may we all give thanks to God now and always — it is right and just! God bless you and your family. Happy Thanksgiving!

Peace,

Fr Godfrey OSB

Very Rev. Godfrey Mullen, OSB
Cathedral Rector

Community Celebrates Another A Fun and Welcoming

The Food Truck Fest has been a staple at the Cathedral since 2016. The fall event includes sweet and savory food trucks along with plenty of time for fellowship. This year, the Food Truck Fest was moved to June to make it a gathering as part of the closing of Notre Dame Academy.

Josie Weiler, business manager at the Cathedral, helps coordinate the event. The idea came after she attended a similar event at Scott Air Force Base. This year, she felt the date change was a great way to pay tribute to the 177 years of Catholic education at the Cathedral. Money raised went toward a one-time tuition scholarship for former Notre Dame Academy students to attend another Catholic school in the diocese. Josie is thankful to the volunteer planning team of 10 people who help make this great event happen.

“We are truly grateful for all who volunteer to make our truck fest events successful,” she says.

This event was created as an alternative to a parish picnic. Organizers wanted it to be an opportunity for people to gather without too much work involved. It wasn't meant to only be a fundraiser — rather, it was a chance to gather for fun and community building. Volunteers help set up the booths, inflatables, and canopies, serve drinks, coordinate the raffle and clean up. In the past, the cathedral has coordinated a dessert booth, but with less time to plan this year, there were dessert food trucks.

“Our guests did enjoy the variety of desserts available this year,” Josie says. “Also, this year, our raffle expanded to offer various baskets of which most items were donated.”

The Food Truck Fest is also an opportunity for the public to check out the Cathedral of St. Peter. This year, there was no shortage of delicious food. There were trucks from our area and the St. Louis area. Trucks included: Spud Shack, offering stuffed baked potatoes; The Sweet Side, providing desserts; Duchess Rose Royal Street Food, making cheesesteak sandwiches and more; White Cottage, selling ice cream; Casa Maria, offering Mexican food; Missouri Kettle Corn, with roasted corn and kettle corn; and Fantastick

“Seeing everyone at our truck events enjoying great food and each other’s company fills my heart with joy.” — Josie Weiler



er Wonderful Food Truck Fest

Fellowship Event for All

Pops, offering homemade popsicles.

“Seeing everyone at our truck fest events enjoying great food and each other’s company fills my heart with joy,” Josie says.

Attendees also enjoyed a Clydesdale horse from JFP Equine, a car cruise-in, and live music from Second Generation Swing. For the kids, there were inflatables, a bubble machine, yard games, face painting, and visits from famous cartoon characters.

Josie always loves hearing from parishioners about the event. A common question is, “When is the next Food Truck Fest?”

“Parishioners have said how much they enjoy the fellowship at this event,” Josie says. “We have families of parishioners who come from hours away just to attend every year!”



Stay tuned for more information in the future on the 2025 Food Truck Fest.

Gift Bearers Ministry *continued from front cover*

The Presentation of the Gifts is an important moment of the Mass. It’s a simpler ministry in the liturgy than most others. It’s simple, yet important. Sr. Tess makes the gift bearer schedule and is very accommodating with the members and their life schedules.

“They get to see the priest in a new way when they bring up the gifts,” she says.

As you reflect on how you can give your talent, consider becoming a gift bearer. It’s a ministry that requires little commitment. You are already at Mass — so why not help?

“These are the gifts that come from the earth and are made by human hands,” Sr. Tess says. “They become the Body and Blood of Jesus. This is such an important ministry.”

Liz Horn and her family have served as gift bearers for about a year. She loves seeing her boys excited to have a “job” at Mass.

“I want my children to grow up being involved with the Mass and feeling a part of it,” Liz says. “I want them to

see the importance of that participation and enjoy helping.”

In turn, as Liz says, she finds that the boys pay more attention at Mass, knowing they have to be prepared for their role. Just serving in the role of bringing up the gifts makes a big difference for them.

“They both are excited and anxious to help,” Liz says. “This ministry matters to us as everyone can be involved regardless of age.”

Raising your hand to take on a ministry is a beautiful way to give back to our good Lord. And you are guaranteed to meet some friends along the way.

“I would encourage families to get involved to meet more parishioners and teach your children the importance of this community,” Liz says. “Your church becomes more like your home when you have a vested interest in all parts of Mass.”

To become a gift bearer, contact Sr. Tess at 618-234-1166 or tmarkus@ssndcp.org

St. Cecilia:

The Patroness of Music in the Catholic Church

St. Cecilia, the patroness of music in the Catholic Church, holds a special place in the hearts of the faithful. Her life and legacy are a testament to the Church's deep conviction that good music is an integral part of the liturgy and holds great value.

A Roman martyr, St. Cecilia lived during the 2nd or 3rd century. Legend has it that she was a devoted Christian who took a vow of chastity and, on her wedding day, converted her husband, Valerian, to Christianity. She is known for her unwavering faith and her deep love for music. Even in the face of persecution and martyrdom, she continued to sing hymns of praise to God.

St. Cecilia's significance lies in her association with music and the liturgy. She embodies the Catholic Church's belief that music is an integral part of worship, and her life serves as a testament to this conviction:

- **Music as a Spiritual Expression:** St. Cecilia's life exemplifies the idea that music is a powerful way to express one's spiritual devotion. Her hymns and songs were not just an art form but a means to connect with God at a profound level.
- **Music in Worship:** St. Cecilia's unwavering faith and the story of her singing during her martyrdom highlight the belief that music enriches the liturgy, elevating it to a more meaningful and spiritually uplifting experience.
- **Musical Inspiration:** Her devotion to music inspires musicians and composers to this day. Her life story reminds us that music is a sacred gift that can be offered as a form of worship, just as she did in her own time.

The Feast of St. Cecilia is celebrated on Nov. 22. It is a day dedicated to honoring her life, her dedication to music, and her unwavering faith. This celebration is an opportunity to reflect on the importance of music in the liturgy and to recognize the role of musicians and

composers in enhancing the worship experience.

Parish communities often mark this day with special Masses, musical performances, and gatherings that celebrate the harmonious fusion of faith and music. It is a time to appreciate the artistic talents of musicians and to remember the spiritual significance of the music that accompanies our worship.

St. Cecilia's story continues to remind us of the power of music to uplift the soul and deepen our connection with God, making her an enduring and beloved figure in the Catholic tradition.



Serving at the Altar Offers Valuable Stewardship Opportunities for Our Youth

When Deacon Doug Lugge was a boy, he and his two brothers were altar servers for their parish. The experience had a tremendous impact on him.

“It gave me a unique connection to the Mass,” Deacon Doug says. “The Mass meant so much more to me once I started serving. I had to pay attention, which gave me a greater appreciation for the Mass.”

In fact, altar serving had such an impact on Deacon

Doug that when he and his wife, Jill, were raising their children, he and Jill knew they wanted them to be altar servers.

“It is such a neat experience for our children,” Deacon Doug says. “We knew we wanted our children to have a great appreciation for the Church. Part of that is how they participate. We went to Mass every Sunday, and as much as we could have them involved, we did.”

As Fr. Thomas Lugge, one of Deacon Doug’s sons, looks back on his experience serving at the altar as a young boy and then as a young man here at the cathedral, he admits that the impact it had was invaluable.

“I would not be a priest if I had not been an altar server,” Fr. Thomas says. “Serving at Mass had a strong impact on me. It helped me become more familiar with the Mass. I saw that it was not something alien, but something I can be a part of.”

Fr. Thomas laughs as he acknowledges that his being an altar server was not initially his choice — Deacon Doug and Jill made the kids do it. Yet, he says that as he continued serving through the years,

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“Being an altar server offers our children a real opportunity to appreciate the Mass and the sacraments more. We want to help our children see how important it is to make Christ the center of our life in everything.”
— Deacon Doug Lugge



CATHEDRAL of SAINT PETER

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Serving on the Altar Offers Valuable Stewardship Opportunities for Our Youth *continued from page 7*

he developed a deep connection to the Church and her liturgy, and his love for the faith grew along with it.

“My mom and dad made sure that we were consistently serving at Mass,” Fr. Thomas says. “That consistency meant that we were often asked to serve at the big celebrations like Easter. Then, in high school, I was asked to be a sacristan. Being an altar server and then a sacristan was hugely instrumental in my discerning the priesthood.”

Currently, there are few youth altar servers here at the cathedral, and we are eager to revive the ministry.

“Being an altar server offers our children a real opportunity to appreciate the Mass and the sacraments more,” Deacon Doug says. “We want to help our children see how important it is to make Christ the center of our life

in everything.”

There are currently a few youth as well as some adult servers, but we would love to have more.

“If your son or daughter would like to serve, we will offer them the guidance they need,” Deacon Doug says. “I will provide them with a training session, and they will have guidance from our sacristans and priests as well.”

If you are interested in getting your children involved, visit cathedralbelle.org and click on the “stewardship” tab. There, you can indicate your interest in the altar servers, and Deacon Doug will be in touch with you.

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.