



# CATHEDRAL of SAINT PETER

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

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## *Annual Winter Dinner*

**a Chance for Parish Family to Share in Faith, Fellowship, and Food**

*Join Us on Valentine's Day, Feb. 14*

On Feb. 14, we will be blessed to celebrate Valentine's Day together with the St. Mary parish family at our Annual Winter Dinner. Join us at 5:30 p.m. at the Notre Dame Center for a wonderful evening of fun and fellowship.

"This dinner gives us the

opportunity to socialize with one another apart from meetings or other distractions," says Sister Tess Markus, Director of Religious Education. "This dinner brings together parishioners from both St. Peter and St. Mary, our partner parish, and it gives us a chance to get

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*"Most of the time we get together with other parishioners, it's for meetings and we are busy focusing on things that need to be done. This event allows us to simply socialize. It's always very enjoyable."*

— Sister Tess Markus

# How Can We Model the Faith

## for Our Children?

The Church has made it clear that parents are primarily responsible for the spiritual and cognitive development of their children in matters of the faith. As the Dogmatic Constitution of the Church, *Lumen Gentium*, states, “Husbands and wives find their proper vocation in being witnesses of the faith and love of Christ to one another and to their children” (Chapter 4, Section 35). The *Catechism of the Catholic Church* further emphasizes this vocation, by pointing out that the moral education and spiritual formation of children is not only the right, but the responsibility, of their parents: “The right and the duty of parents to educate their children are primordial and inalienable... Parents have the first responsibility for the education of their children” (CCC 2221, 2223).

But how can we as parents create an environment in the home conducive to spiritual and moral development? As busy adults, how are we to hand on the knowledge and understanding of the tenets of the faith to our children in the way that a trained and experienced catechist can? Furthermore, how do we strike a balance between teaching our children in the home and not interfering with the faith formation and sacramental preparation they are currently receiving through their parish school or religious education program?

The answer to all of these questions is stewardship.

Indeed, it is important that we reinforce the lessons that our children learn in school and at religious education classes by talking to them about the faith, reading Sacred Scripture with them, and spending time in family prayer.

And there are several helpful resources online that can help parents in this task, including Catholic Parents OnLine — [www.catholicparents.org](http://www.catholicparents.org) — which links parents to numerous websites and documents that can help them in talking to their children about the faith.

But the best way that we can teach our children is by serving as a living example to them of how to live as disciples of Christ. If we want our children to grow up as strong Catholics and to display a lifelong commitment to their faith, then it is important that we ourselves live a committed faith life. This includes an ongoing commitment to our own faith formation as adults and active participation in the sacraments. It also includes the giving back of our time, talent, and treasure in service of our community in thanksgiving for the gifts that God has given us.

Parenting can be a tough vocation, and children deal with many influences in their lives that exist in stark contrast to the values that their parents often hope to instill within them. Fortunately for parents, the stewardship way of life provides a simple and effective model for teaching our children in matters of the faith. By living as stewards of God’s gifts and reaping the spiritual rewards that accompany this lifestyle, we are tangibly showing our children that sharing of our gifts and talents leads to a life of happiness and spiritual fulfillment. In doing this, we give them a good opportunity to follow in our footsteps and make their faith a top priority for the rest of their lives.



*A Letter from Our Cathedral Rector*

# Reflecting on the Beauty of the Family During *National Marriage Week*

Dear Parishioners,

As we approach February, we are reminded of the many blessings of love and family, particularly during National Marriage Week, celebrated Feb. 7-14. This week offers us an opportunity to reflect on the beauty and sacredness of the Sacrament of Matrimony and the vital role marriage and family play in the life of the Church.

The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) reminds us in their teachings that marriage is not merely a human institution but a divine vocation — a sacramental bond that mirrors Christ’s love for His Church. The grace of this sacrament strengthens husbands and wives to love each other selflessly and to serve as the foundation of the domestic church, the family. In their document *Marriage: Love and Life in the Divine Plan*, the bishops write:

“Marriage is a unique communion of persons, a sharing of the whole of life. It calls for fidelity and openness to new life, both of which flow from the very nature of the marital covenant.”

In a world that often challenges the permanence and sanctity of marriage, the Church invites us to bear witness to God’s enduring love. For married couples, this witness begins in the home — through shared prayer, sacrificial love, and the nurturing of children in the faith. Families, then, become schools of virtue and communities of life and love, radiating Christ’s presence in the world.



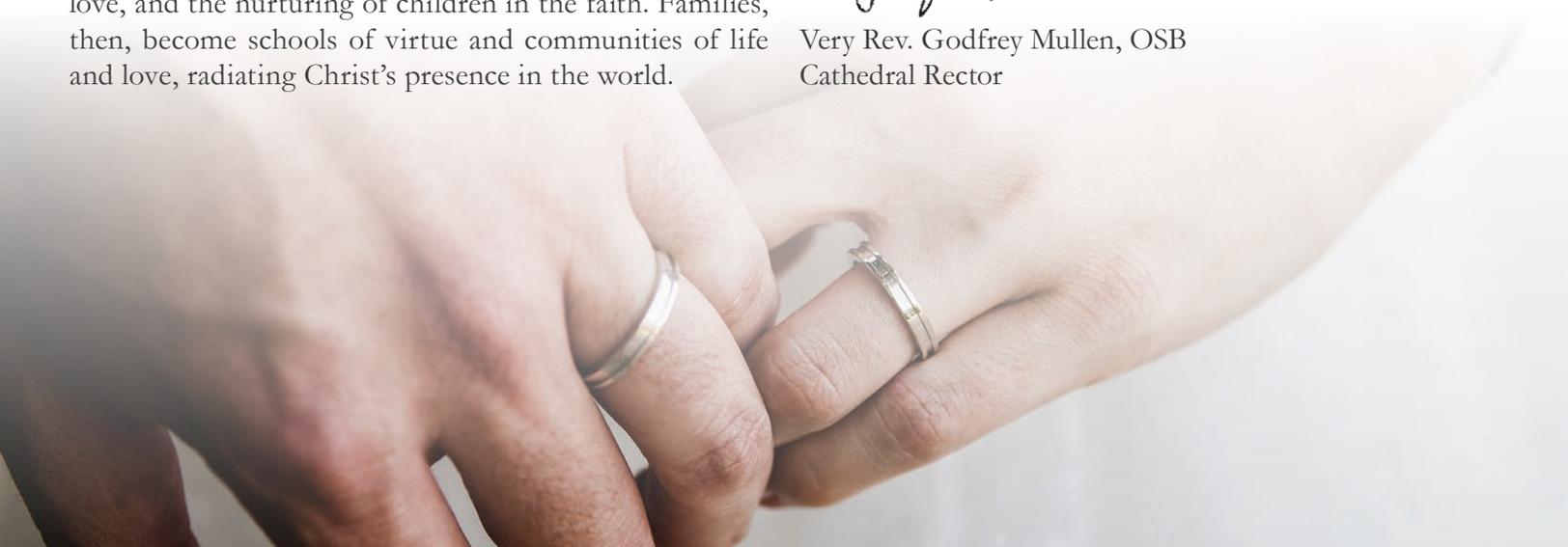
During National Marriage Week, I encourage our parish community to celebrate and support marriage in a variety of ways. Couples might take this time to renew their vows, pray together, or attend Mass with their families. For those discerning marriage, this is a moment to reflect on God’s call and seek His guidance. And as a parish, let us pray for all married couples, for those facing challenges in their relationships, and for families striving to grow in holiness.

As Pope Francis reminds us in *Amoris Laetitia*, “The strength of the family lies in its capacity to love and to teach how to love.” Let us strive to strengthen our families, making them places of peace, joy, and faith where God’s love can flourish.

May this National Marriage Week be a time of renewal and grace for all married couples and families in our parish. Together, let us uphold the beauty and dignity of the Sacrament of Matrimony as a sign of hope for the world.

Peace,

Very Rev. Godfrey Mullen, OSB  
Cathedral Rector



# The Two by Two Toddler Group

## A Community of Fellowship for Our

Let the children come to me. These words of Jesus help shape the work of the Church. Because of Jesus' example, our parish community wants to be sure to welcome young families. The Two by Two Toddler Group will be restarting this summer!

The Cathedral wants to serve everyone in our parish community, regardless of age. One group that might be a little more challenging to serve is our young families, who can often be very busy. But young families of our parish needn't worry — the Two by Two Toddler Group will be restarting this summer! The group meets monthly in the mornings to hang out, play, and be together.

"The reason I started this with my sister was to create a place for stay-at-home moms, grandparents, sitters — anyone watching little ones during the day," says Natalie Pavlak. "I felt like the church didn't have anything specifically for us."

The group caters to children 8 and under, along with their caretakers.

"Fr. Godfrey loved the idea of this ministry," Natalie says. "He was very happy to provide space."

Natalie brings items to occupy the kids when they gather in the church basement. Adults bring their coffee and sit together to talk or play with the children.

"It's a very informal gathering that just gives us that opportunity for social interaction," Natalie says.

Natalie's sister, Alison Lombardo, helped kick off this ministry about two years ago. For Natalie, having a place to spend time and socialize with other adults has been most enjoyable.

"When you are home all day with toddlers, it's nice to get out and have that adult socialization," she says. "It's not just for young moms. We've even had some grandparents attend. It's nice to get another perspective on parenting from them."

"Starting the Two by Two group gave us the opportunity to try and provide a sense of community to others who may need it," Alison says. "It's a great way for adults and kids to get out of the house while still enjoying each other's company!"

Many toddlers who attend may not have a way to meet other toddlers. We can't underestimate the importance of the relationships they forge with one another through this group!

"My kids are always really excited to do this," Natalie says. "It's a fun place for them to play with friends. Now, they associate the church with playgroup, which is also great."



## Our Little Ones and Their Caretakers

Natalie and Alison love that this group is about the kids. It's a place where they feel extra welcome. In the future, Natalie and Alison hope to open this group up to parishioners of other parishes.

Natalie and her husband, Casey, serve as a sponsor couple. Natalie hopes that one of their sponsor couples will bring their children to the Two by Two Toddler Group in the future.

"What I most like about this group is that we are strengthening relationships with one another," she says. "This is a spot for adults and children to have some camaraderie."

Through this ministry, Natalie and Alison have met other families that attend other Mass times. They

appreciate that they could foster those connections in our faith community.

"One of the great things about the Church is that we are taught to be welcoming, and that's exactly what we want this group to be," Alison says. "We welcome parents and grandparents to come with whoever they may be a guardian to. We'd love for them to join us and help grow the group."

*To learn more about the Two by Two Toddler Group, contact Natalie Pawlak at [natalieannplatz@gmail.com](mailto:natalieannplatz@gmail.com).*

***"What I most like about this group is that we are strengthening relationships with one another. This is a spot for adults and children to have some camaraderie." — Natalie Pawlak***

## Annual Winter Dinner: Feb. 14 *continued from front cover*

to know one another better."

All adults from both St. Peter and St. Mary are invited and encouraged to attend. The night will begin with drinks at 5:30 p.m. followed by a delicious meal of pasta, salad, and bread.

"Julia Piper Jung, a St. Peter parishioner who used to work as a caterer, will cook the food," Sr. Tess says. "She always does a wonderful job, and everybody enjoys what she prepares."

Furthermore, Sr. Tess says that another parishioner has generously offered to donate the drinks, which will

include beer, wine, and soda. In addition, a group of parishioners from both parishes will pool their efforts to decorate the cafeteria of the Notre Dame Center. So, it is bound to be a most enjoyable evening for all — don't miss it!

"Most of the time we get together with other parishioners, it's for meetings and we are busy focusing on things that need to get done," Sr. Tess says. "This event allows us to simply socialize. It's always very enjoyable."

Mark your calendars for this Valentine's Day! We hope to see you there!

*To reserve your spot, contact Sister Tess Markus at 618-234-1166 or [tmarkus@ssndcp.org](mailto:tmarkus@ssndcp.org).*

# ST. SCHOLASTICA:

## A SAINT OF LOVE AND DEVOTION



When looking at her life, her unwavering faith, and her deep love for God and her brother, St. Benedict, St. Scholastica is a remarkable example for all Catholics to honor and emulate. As we approach her feast day on Feb. 10, let us delve into the history and importance of St. Scholastica in the Catholic Church.

Born in Nursia, Italy, around the year 480, St. Scholastica is best known for her close relationship with her twin brother, St. Benedict, who is considered the father of Western monasticism. Raised in a Christian family, the siblings were inseparable throughout their childhood. However, as they grew older, they chose different paths — Benedict became a monk and founded the famous Monte Cassino monastery, while Scholastica embraced the monastic life in a convent located nearby. Despite the geographical separation, their spiritual connection remained unbreakable.

St. Scholastica's life teaches us the importance of nurturing one's spiritual journey. Her deep commitment to the monastic life exemplifies how individuals can find their own paths to God. By dedicating herself to prayer and contemplation, Scholastica became an inspiration for those seeking to deepen their faith and grow closer to the Divine.

Her story is a testament to the power of sibling love, as well as a profound love for God. Her famous encounter with St. Benedict on the evening before her death is a

poignant example. On that night, the two siblings met for their annual spiritual rendezvous. As they conversed about matters of the soul, Scholastica implored her brother to stay with her, as she had a premonition that it would be their last meeting. When Benedict refused due to his monastic rule, Scholastica fervently prayed for a downpour. Miraculously, her prayers were answered, and a thunderstorm prevented Benedict from leaving. Three days later, Scholastica passed away, and Benedict saw her soul ascending to heaven in the form of a dove. This story encapsulates the pure and selfless love that we should all strive for in our relationships, both with our loved ones and with God.

St. Scholastica also stands as an advocate for women in the Church, proving that their spiritual contributions are equally valuable. As the founder of a Benedictine convent, she demonstrated that women could lead a life of dedication and prayer within the monastic tradition. Her legacy endures in the many women who have followed her example and become devout sisters and nuns, contributing significantly to the Church's spiritual growth and service to society.

St. Scholastica's feast day on Feb. 10 is a time for Catholics to reflect on the virtues she embodied and to seek her intercession in their lives. Her love for God, her profound spirituality, and her dedication to the monastic life make her a beacon of inspiration for Catholics. Honoring her reminds us to cultivate our spiritual lives, deepen our relationship with God, and embrace the powerful bonds of love with our family and community.

As we celebrate her feast day, let us remember her legacy and seek to emulate her example of selfless love, commitment to God, and dedication to the monastic life. St. Scholastica's life continues to inspire Catholics, reminding us of the profound impact one person can have on the faith and devotion of many.



*St. Scholastica Monastery*

## Highlights of Our

# 2024 Stewardship Renewal

*Pray at All Times*

This past autumn, our Cathedral of St. Peter leadership conducted the 2024 Stewardship Renewal. The Stewardship Renewal gave our parish community the opportunity to discern how we are using our gifts of time, talent, and treasure in service to the parish and in return to God.

This month, we are happy to share with you some of the highlights of the 2024 Stewardship Renewal.

There were 161 commitment cards received from 37 percent of active households.

There were 1,391 prayer commitments — the stewardship of time — from 93 percent of participating households.

There were 590 ministry commitments — the stewardship of talent — from 79 percent of participating households. Of these, 192 were new ministry commitments, while 398 were re-commitments to parish ministries.

There were 127 offertory commitments — the stewardship of treasure — from 79 percent of participating households. The average pledge was \$3,270.

We thank all those who participated in our 2024 Stewardship Renewal. If you did not have the opportunity to fill out and return a commitment card, we invite you to consider the ways you may share your gifts of time, talent, and treasure with God and the parish community!



# CATHEDRAL of SAINT PETER

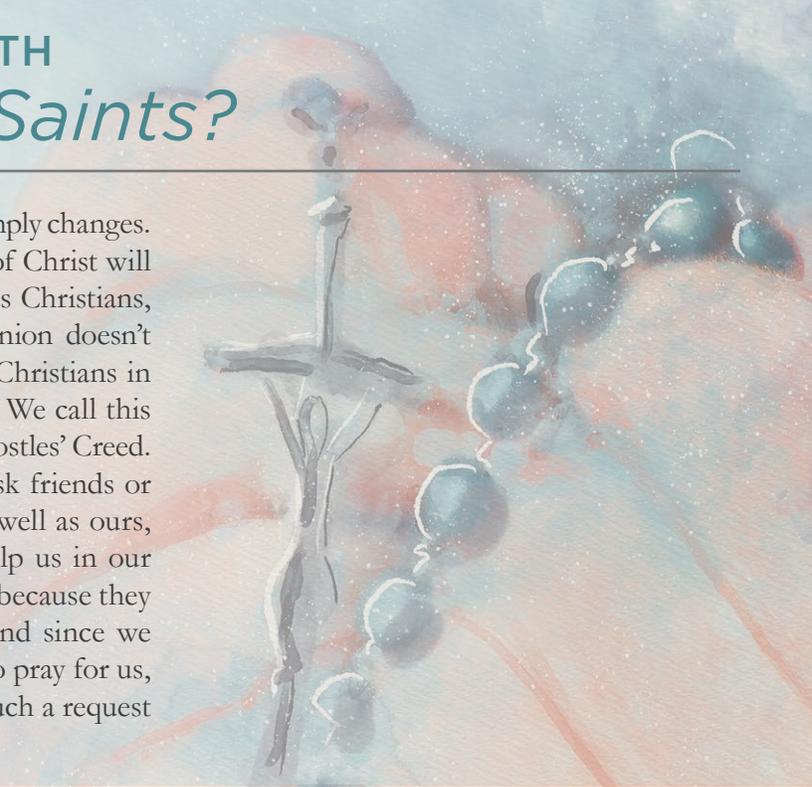
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## EXPLAINING OUR CATHOLIC FAITH *Why Do We Pray to Saints?*

**A**s Catholics, we believe our life doesn't end at death but simply changes. Those who have lived good lives and died in the faith of Christ will share in His Resurrection. While we live together on earth as Christians, we are in communion with one another. But that communion doesn't end when one of us dies. We believe that the saints — the Christians in heaven — remain in communion with those of us on earth. We call this the Communion of Saints, and it's an article of faith in the Apostles' Creed.

When we run into trouble in our lives, we frequently ask friends or family to pray for us. We know God hears their prayers as well as ours, and we want as many voices as possible asking Him to help us in our time of need. So, we pray to the saints and angels in Heaven because they stand directly before God and offer Him their prayers. And since we believe in the Communion of Saints, we can ask the saints to pray for us, just as we ask our friends and family. And, when we make such a request for their intercession, we make it in the form of a prayer.



### 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.*