



CATHEDRAL of SAINT PETER

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

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Moving Forward in *Faith*: Our Upcoming Capital Campaign

As a parish family, we are blessed with a Cathedral that has stood for generations as a place of worship, beauty, and encounter with Christ. Today, we find ourselves at a pivotal moment — one that invites us to continue that legacy through an upcoming Capital Campaign focused on the needed improvements to our sacred home.

“Soon, the parish will be announcing an appeal for capital projects,” says Bishop Godfrey Mullen, our rector who was installed as bishop on May 1. “Many of these projects are the result of our aging buildings and mechanicals.”

While the Cathedral remains a place of great beauty, time and use have brought real challenges that now require our attention.

This effort is not simply about maintaining a building — it is about supporting the life of the parish and the people who gather here each day. In a particular way, these improvements are tied closely to our call to stewardship.

“While we all know that stewardship takes three shapes — time, talent, and treasure — we also know that we’ve been given beautiful gifts for which we are grateful,” Bishop Godfrey says. “We have a parish filled with generous people.”

One of the clearest ways this campaign connects to stewardship is through

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Moving Forward in Faith Campaign

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its emphasis on hospitality. The condition of our spaces directly impacts how we welcome parishioners, visitors, and those seeking the Lord.

“Our church is a spectacular building, but our parishioners and guests know that regulating the heat and assuring that we have air conditioning has been a challenge for several years,” Bishop Godfrey says. “Tens of thousands of dollars are expended annually to keep these antiquated systems running. Our goal is efficiency and comfort, especially for weekend Masses, funerals, and weddings.”

Several of the proposed projects are aimed at making the Cathedral more welcoming and accessible.

“Creating a new cry room under the choir loft will help families have space for restless children,” Bishop Godfrey says. “It will also give us a dedicated space for wakes and for small events as well.”

These kinds of improvements allow families, especially those with young children, to feel more at home, while also providing appropriate space for gathering in moments of both joy and grief.

Other updates will enhance the dignity of our sacramental life.

“Our confessionals are small and not soundproof,” Bishop Godfrey says. “A confessional that is accessible and soundproof would be a great improvement.”

These changes will help ensure privacy, reverence, and accessibility for all who come to receive God’s mercy.

The campaign will also address critical structural and mechanical needs, including roof repairs and updates to heating and cooling systems. These are not always visible improvements, but they are essential to preserving the Cathedral for future generations and ensuring a comfortable environment for worship.

Care for the broader parish grounds is also part of this vision.

“We are nearly out of space for the interment of cremated remains at the cemetery,” Bishop Godfrey says. “A new columbarium is needed.”

In this way, the campaign supports not only the present needs of the parish but also honors those who have gone before us.

This appeal builds on a strong foundation of generosity already present in the parish.

“I am amazed by the wonderful generosity of our parishioners,” Bishop Godfrey says. “We have responded greatly to stewardship over the past four years. All of these increases point out to me that the parish believes in the mission of the Church.

“The appeal will be an extra opportunity to address projects and needs that could never be covered by our ordinary income,” he adds.

As the campaign unfolds in the coming months, parishioners will be invited to participate according to their ability.

“As with our stewardship renewal, every parish household will receive a mailing inviting their support,” Bishop Godfrey says.

“This is an ambitious list of projects,” he adds. “It may very well be that we will have to delay some, based on priority. It’s time now to address the needed updates and repairs to the church.”

At this time, Cathedral leadership continues to prayerfully discern the scope and next steps of these improvements. As we move forward in faith together, may this effort be an opportunity not only to care for our buildings, but to deepen our commitment to stewardship and to the spirit of hospitality that defines our parish.

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— Bishop Godfrey Mullen, OSB

A Letter from Our Cathedral Rector

With *Gratitude and Prayer* as a New Chapter Begins

Dear Parishioners,

As many of you know, I have been appointed Bishop of the Diocese of Belleville, and I now begin this new chapter of my ministry. I am grateful to continue serving as rector of the Cathedral of St. Peter, even as my responsibilities expand in this new role.

Serving this parish has been a blessing. From the beginning, I have been grateful for your welcome, your faith, and your love for the Church. Together, we have gathered for the celebration of the Eucharist, walked through the seasons of the Church year, and shared in the daily life of this parish community. These are the heart of who we are as Catholics.

In a particular way, I am thankful for the way so many of you strive to live stewardship as a way of life. Your commitment to prayer, your willingness to serve, and your generosity in supporting the mission of the parish have been a witness to me. Through these simple, faithful acts, the Church is strengthened and the Gospel is made visible.

While my responsibilities have changed, I remain part



of this parish community in a new way. The cathedral will continue to be a central place of worship and unity for our diocese, and we continue this journey together. I am grateful that this place — and all of you — remain a part of my life and ministry.

Please know of my prayers for you. I ask that you continue to pray for me, that I may serve the people of this diocese with fidelity and humility. I also ask your prayers for our parish, that it may continue to grow in faith, unity, and love.

Thank you for the many ways you have supported me during this time. It is a privilege to serve you, and I look forward to what lies ahead for all of us.

Peace,

Fr Godfrey OSB

Bishop Godfrey Mullen, OSB



Meet Kim Schwartzkopf,

Called to Leadership as a Mentor

For some, service begins in childhood and lasts a lifetime. In Kim Schwartzkopf's case, it all started with her involvement in Girl Scouts.

"My mom was very involved in Girl Scouts when I was a kiddo," Kim says. "So I was, and technically still am, a lifetime member of Girl Scouts. I would have done Girl Scouts except I had boys."

Kim has two boys, Peter in seventh grade and Jackson in third grade. Boy Scouts start with Cub Scouts. In kindergarten, they're Lions, then they progress yearly — Tigers, Wolves, Bears, and Webelos, before earning the Arrow of Light in fifth grade. They then transfer to a Boy Scout troop.

Kim's oldest started in Cub Scout Pack 11 as a Lion.

"When he started in 2018, I was his Den Leader," she says. "Then his Bear year, somebody else took over. His younger brother came into the Pack. I went back to being a Lion leader and became the Cubmaster congruently."

The Cubmaster oversees the entire Pack. Throughout the year, the children — boys and girls are allowed in the Pack — earn merit badges and awards for various accomplishments. Many are based on service, and some on faith.

"In the Scouting program, we live by 12 points," Kim says. "One is reverence. We are based out of St. Peter's Cathedral. Earlier this year, we had Scout Sunday. The kids read, greeted — we take over. Scouting is technically non-denominational, but since we're based out of our Catholic church, it's an

opportunity to open that conversation. We have kids from public schools as well. Scouting encourages them to grow deeper in their own faith while finding commonalities."

This helps the children to make efforts in understanding and celebrating their faith more.

"It's nice to see a safe area for kids to express their faith and learn how to respect other faiths as well," Kim says. "Last year, when my youngest was a Wolf, it centered on First Communion. It gives them an opportunity to take what they learn in religion or PSR classes and advance that."

Now in her eighth year of Pack 11, fourth year as Cubmaster, Kim has

seen the children grow and gained many friendships and connections.

"I'm getting ready for our awards," she says. "My back is turned, and I heard what sounds like a gentleman. I was like, 'Who's that?' I turn around and see an older sibling. Seeing that change in him is fun, seeing the kids grow up, and growing together. Many don't go to the same school anymore. Our Catholic school, unfortunately, closed, and we scattered. These kids continue to come back together and still have that little Notre Dame family. Seeing them mature is really cool."

Continuing that connection enriches the scouting experience, fostering the sense of family and



Pack 11 celebrated Mass at the Cathedral of St. Peter on Scout Sunday, Feb. 8.

Cubmaster of Cub Scout Pack 11

and Fostering Service in Our Youth

service to the community.

“God calls us to find our place in the world,” Kim says. “Scouting, for me, has been an easy avenue. I grew up with scouting. Knowing you need to be involved in your community and your faith, that’s the only way to get something out of life. It’s an opportunity to reach these kids, teach them different things, and give the leaders the tools to help these kids grow.”

The Scouts have structure through their oath and law, enforcing the lesson of responsibility.

“A scout is trustworthy, loyal, helpful, friendly, courteous, kind, obedient, cheerful, thrifty, brave, clean, and reverent,” Kim says. “We’re teaching kids to be responsible for themselves, to be active stewards and helpful to each other. We teach them physical responsibility, taking care of the body God gave them. Being in a positive environment is big.”

The Pack performs service projects throughout the year, from cleanup at Green Mount Cemetery to their November Food Drive. Leading the children in service, teaching responsibility to self and community, as well as their duty to God, has been the focus of Kim’s path through Scouting.



Cubmaster Kim Schwartzkopf (top left) and Pack 11 gathered for the annual Pinewood Derby on Jan. 18. of St. Peter on Scout Sunday, Feb. 8.

“I believe in the Scouting programs,” Kim says. “What I did as a Girl Scout helped make me into the person I am. At the heart of Girl Scouts and Boy Scouts is a program to build on character and leadership skills, teaching kids how to be involved in their community and live in the world around them.”

Anyone interested in getting involved in Cub Scout Pack 11 may call or text Kim Schwartzkopf at 541-324-0584 or email her at schaefer0380@hotmail.com. You can also visit stlbsa.org.

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— Kim Schwartzkopf

Patron Saint of Holy Fun

The Faith Journey of St. Philip Neri



Can a saint have fun on the way to attaining holiness?

Many would say that St. Philip Neri definitely fits that bill.

Born in 1515 in Florence, Italy, St. Philip Neri showed his fun side from a young age. One such incident almost cost him his life. Seeing a donkey loaded with

fruit for market, the impulsive and spontaneous little boy jumped on the donkey's back. Surprised, the donkey lost his footing and, along with the fruit and young Philip, tumbled into a cellar. Miraculously, Philip was unhurt.

Philip's father struggled financially, so 18-year-old Philip was sent to work with an older cousin who was a successful businessman. During this time, Philip found a favorite place to pray in a spot upon a mountain that had been turned into a chapel.

During these hours of prayer, Philip is said to have decided to leave worldly success behind and dedicate his life to God.

Eventually, Philip went to Rome. In 1548, Philip formed a confraternity with other laymen to minister to pilgrims who came to Rome without food or shelter. The spiritual director of the confraternity convinced Philip he could do even more work as a priest. After receiving instruction from this priest, Philip was ordained in 1551.

As a young priest, Philip learned to love hearing confessions. Young men especially found in him the wisdom and direction they needed to grow spiritually. But Philip began to realize these young men needed something more than absolution — they needed guidance. So, Philip began asking the young men to come by in the early afternoon to discuss

spiritual readings, and then to stay for prayer in the evening.

Philip understood it wasn't enough to tell young people not to do something — you had to give them something to do in its place. So, at Carnival time, when the worst excesses were encouraged, Philip organized a pilgrimage to the Seven Churches with a picnic, accompanied by instrumental music for the midday break. After walking 12 miles in one day, everyone was too tired to be tempted!

Philip was known to be spontaneous and unpredictable, charming and humorous. He seemed to sense the different ways to bring people to God. One man came to the Oratory just to make fun of it. Philip wouldn't let the others throw him out or speak against him. He told them to be patient, and eventually the man became a Dominican. On the other hand, when he met a condemned man who refused to listen to any pleas for repentance, Philip didn't try gentle words. Instead, Philip grabbed the man by the collar and threw him to the ground. The move shocked the criminal into repentance, and he made a full confession.

Humility was the most important virtue he tried to teach others, as he continually worked to learn it himself. Some of his lessons in humility seem cruel, but they were tinged with humor — like practical jokes — and were related with gratitude by the people they helped. His lessons always seemed to be tailored directly to what the person needed.

Philip did not escape this spiritual mortification himself. As with others, his own humbling held humor. There are stories of him wearing ridiculous clothes or walking around with half his beard shaved off. The greater his reputation for holiness, the sillier he wanted to seem.

But Philip was very serious about prayer. He was so easily carried away that he refused to preach in public and could not celebrate Mass with others around. But when asked how to pray, his answer was, "Be humble and obedient and the Holy Spirit will teach you."

Philip died in 1595 after a long illness. His feast day is on May 26, just in time to kick off the season of summertime fun.

Prayer to St. Philip Neri:

St. Philip Neri, we take ourselves far too seriously most of the time. Help us to add humor to our perspective — remembering always that humor is a gift from God. Amen.

Cleanup at Green Mount Catholic Cemetery

Honoring the Memory of Those Who Have Passed

Set across 55 acres overlooking orchards and farmland, Green Mount Catholic Cemetery is a place of quiet beauty — and, reportedly, the highest point in St. Clair County. Through the steady work of the Cemetery Care Crew, that beauty is preserved so visitors can come, pray, and remember in a setting that reflects the dignity of those laid to rest there.

Parish volunteer Bill Mueller coordinates the Cemetery Care Crew, a group dedicated to cleaning, maintaining, and caring for the grounds.

“We meet usually once a month from March through October,” Bill says. “Members include Don Schaefer, Melanie Gniewek, Deacon Doug and Jill Lugge, Dennis and Janet Koch, Verlan Lanter, Steve Konradt, and myself. Our Cemetery Care Crew is charged with general cleanup of litter and wilted flowers and keeping the roadways trimmed and free of debris.”

After the winter months, the cemetery often requires significant cleanup.

“We focus on a couple of weeks before Memorial Day,” Bill says. “Through the summer, we’ll do at least one day per month where we ask people to show up. We’ll work maybe eight till noon. St. Peter hires a contractor who handles grass cutting and trimming around the tombstones, and we complement that work by focusing on the roadways and the areas people see first. You play it by ear depending on the condition of the cemetery.”

The cleanup leading into Memorial Day weekend is

the largest effort and requires the most volunteers.

“I’ve got a checklist,” Bill says. “There’s a plaza with memorial plaques. The infant cemetery is on the checklist, making sure the weeds and trees are trimmed. Of course, we feel the roadways are the most important.”

Parish Cub Scouts and Boy Scouts also play an important role in caring for the cemetery.

“Cub Scout Pack 11 and Boy Scout Troop 11 and parents conduct two to three workdays each year,” Bill says. “There’s a spring cleanup to retrieve and dispose of Christmas flowers prior to the Avenue of Flags on Memorial Day, a mid-summer cleanup, and a Saturday cleanup prior to Veterans Day, when Scouts pick up litter and place flags on the graves of our veterans.”

Green Mount Cemetery is the final resting place for more than 500 veterans, and the Avenue of Flags has become a meaningful tradition.

“This was a service project for the scouts but also a teaching experience for them and us on the importance of honoring our veterans who had sacrificed so much for our country,” Julie Harris says. “We feel it is a privilege to honor those who have gone before us. Our granddaughter, Molly, visits the cemetery with us. We stop, read the names, and pray for their souls. God has given us this opportunity, and we are grateful.”

Weather can present challenges, especially strong winds.

“Our biggest challenge is wind,” Bill adds. “One evening, the winds were up to 60 miles per hour. You

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An aerial view of Green Mount Cemetery



CATHEDRAL of SAINT PETER

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Cleanup at Green Mount Catholic Cemetery *continued from page 7*

can only imagine what that does to flowers and trees. It really messes up the place.”

When that happens, the Cemetery Care Crew responds quickly.

“I’ll call a few people, and we’ll go cover the grounds,” Bill says. “We’ll get at least the roadways. The contractor who’s working out there has done a great job — they’ve been there three years. We try to complement their work. We focus primarily on the graves and then along the road.”

Parishioners are also encouraged to help in simple ways during their visits.

“Members and their families are encouraged to visit Green Mount on their own and pick up any litter or flowers blowing in the wind,” Bill says. “Instead of whistling while they work, members are encouraged to say a prayer for all those buried at Green Mount Catholic

and Protestant cemeteries.”

Caring for the cemetery is ultimately an act of stewardship — one rooted in reverence, gratitude, and prayer.

“It’s important for the Cathedral of St. Peter to keep Green Mount Catholic Cemetery in pristine condition to honor those buried here, and their families and friends who visit,” Bill says. “It really doesn’t amount to work. It’s enjoyable to be out there, in pretty, wide-open spaces. The work isn’t too strenuous. That’s why we’ve had a good turnout.”

For more information or to get involved with the cemetery cleanup, contact Bill Mueller at 618-234-4960

MASS TIMES

Saturday: 4:00 p.m. | Sunday: 8:00 a.m., 10:30 a.m., 5:00 p.m. | Weekdays: Monday-Friday 6:45 a.m., Thursday 12:00 p.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.

ADORATION

Tuesday 12:00-1:00 p.m. | Thursday 6:00-7:00 p.m.