



CATHEDRAL of SAINT PETER

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

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Reflecting on the Solemnity of Sts. Peter and Paul *How We Can Understand the Faith Journey of Our Patron, St. Peter*

June 29 gives us a special opportunity to celebrate. It's the Solemnity of Sts. Peter and Paul, which is the patronal feast of our Cathedral.

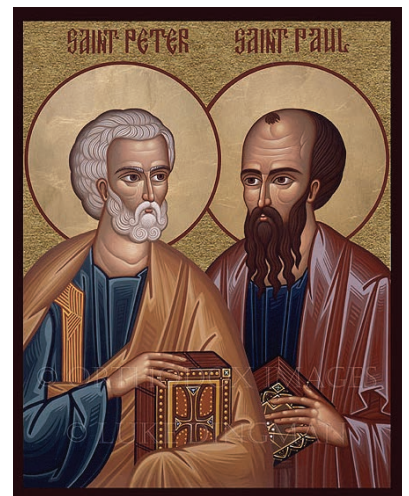
Although the Cathedral doesn't hold a special celebration, we recognize that it's an important feast.

Across the world, Catholics celebrate the Solemnity of Sts. Peter and Paul with both reverence and joy. In Rome, where both were martyred, the day includes special Masses, celebrations, and often fireworks. At the same time, in countries like the Philippines and Poland, parishes mark the feast with festive liturgies and community gatherings — uniting Catholics worldwide in honoring these pillars of the Church.

Bishop Godfrey Mullen, OSB, notes that this year the feast falls on a Monday. He recommends attending the 6:45 a.m. Mass and celebrating with prayer.

"People could offer particular prayers for our parishioners, especially those who live alone or find themselves lonely," he says. "They could pray for the wisdom of St. Peter, who, although he denied Christ three times, also professed his love for Him three times as well."

He also recommends praying for a better understanding of our gifts and for more generosity with them.



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Stewardship

Keeping Our Stewardship Commitments in the Summertime

The kids are out of school and our fast-paced lives centered on school and youth sports activities have slowed down. Our own internal clocks are now on summer time. We're ready for a break from our hectic lives.

And while we take vacations and enjoy the leisurely pace of the season, we need to remember that summer is not the time to take a vacation from God. In fact, summer can serve as the perfect opportunity to grow in our relationship with God, especially since most of us have considerably more free time.

So, instead of neglecting our faith due to busy days and late nights, try these simple steps to embrace God during the quieter summer months and during your vacation.

Get More Active in a Parish Ministry

The summer is actually a perfect time to get more involved in a parish ministry. Because we no longer have to get the kids to and from school, or get them to sporting events or other activities that normally occur during the school year, our schedules are a bit less cluttered. Summer is indeed a perfect time to fill some downtime with service to God through ministry and giving of your talents. Take a look through the parish ministries to find something that suits your particular interest or talent.

Give Thanks for the Sun

Praise God for the sun, time off from school, and easygoing days by attending adoration and saying a quick prayer. Bring a journal or rosary along to help stay focused.

Little children can even bring a religious coloring book to give thanks to God on their own terms. Or, before heading to the pool, why not attend daily Mass with the kids? It's a perfect way to start the day and set the tone that — vacation or not — God is still an important part of your family life.

Don't Take a Vacation from Mass

Often, while on a vacation away from our parish family, we are not familiar with where to attend Mass. Don't let that be an obstacle for you. Check out masstimes.org in order to find out where and when to go to Mass. In addition, if you are lodging at a hotel, the concierge will assist you with directions to the nearest Catholic Church.

Summertime Stewardship of Treasure

The prime reason for keeping up our pledge all summer is that God doesn't go on vacation. He continues to sustain us throughout the summer months. He persists in pouring out blessings on us, even during the hottest weather. He keeps on meeting us in His sacramental presence when we go to Mass wherever we travel. As God remains faithful to us during the summer, we are called to be faithful in our commitments to Him and our parish family, even during our vacation time.

So, enjoy the warmer temperatures and the relaxed atmosphere. Just don't forget Who provides the sun and the sand! And most importantly, remember to take God with you wherever you go on vacation!

A Letter From Our Bishop and Rector

The Example of St. Joseph and the *Gift* of Fatherhood

Dear Parishioners,

As we enter the month of June, our attention naturally turns to Father’s Day — a time to honor and give thanks for the fathers who have shaped our lives. In the life of the Church, this celebration also invites us to reflect on the example of St. Joseph, the foster father of Jesus, whose quiet strength and faithful obedience continue to offer a powerful model of discipleship for us all.

St. Joseph is a remarkable figure not because of what he said, but because of how he lived. The Gospels record none of his words, yet his actions speak clearly. He listened to God, trusted in His plan, and responded with humility and courage. When faced with uncertainty, Joseph did not turn away. Instead, he stepped forward in faith, accepting the responsibility entrusted to him and placing his life at the service of God’s will.

This example is especially meaningful as we consider the role of fathers today. Fathers are called to be more than providers or protectors. They are called to be witnesses of faith — men who lead by example, who pray, who serve, and who guide their families with patience and love. In a world that often pulls families in many directions, the steady presence of a faithful father can be a source of strength, stability, and spiritual direction.

At the same time, the example of St. Joseph speaks to all of us, not only to fathers. Each of us is called to live with the



same spirit of trust and obedience. Discipleship requires that we listen with our hearts for God’s voice, respond generously, and remain faithful even when the path is not entirely clear. These are not extraordinary expectations reserved for a few, but the daily call of every Christian.

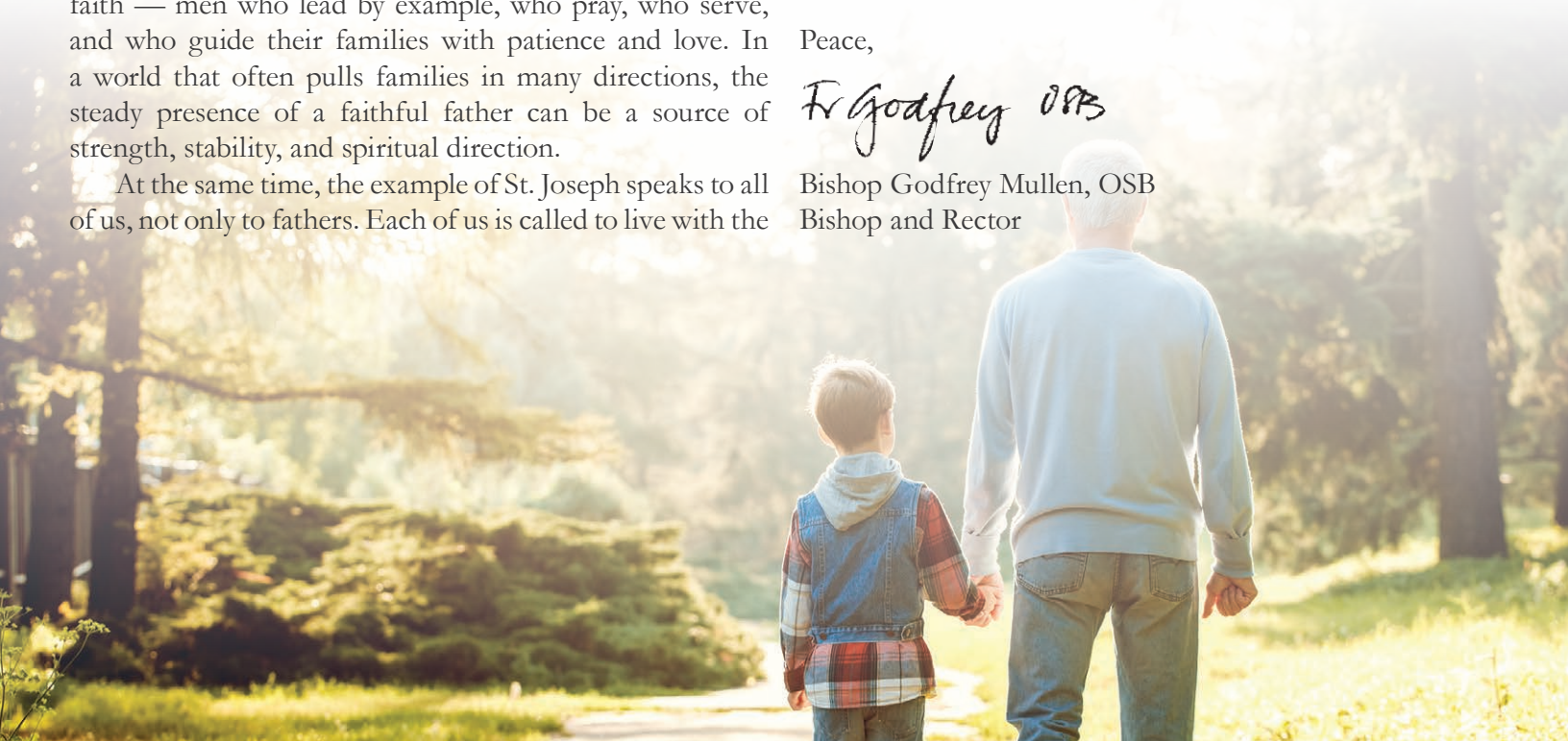
Stewardship is one of the ways we live out this call. Like St. Joseph, we are entrusted with gifts that are not meant for ourselves alone. Our time, our talents, and our resources are given to us so that we might serve God and one another. When we offer these gifts with humility and consistency, we participate in the work God is accomplishing in our parish and in the lives of others.

As we celebrate Father’s Day this month, let us give thanks for the fathers in our lives and pray for them. Let us also ask for the grace to follow the example of St. Joseph — to live with quiet faith, to serve with generosity, and to trust in God’s plan each day.

Peace,

Fr Godfrey OSB

Bishop Godfrey Mullen, OSB
Bishop and Rector



The St. Vincent de Paul Society Providing a Meal and Compassion

As Catholics, we are called to feed the hungry and visit the lonely. These are among the Works of Mercy each of us is invited to live out in our daily lives. Faith is not just something we profess with words, but something we demonstrate through our actions.

For more than 20 years, the St. Vincent de Paul Conference of our cathedral has provided breakfast on Saturday mornings for the poor and lonely in our very own community. The meals are enjoyed by an average of 80 to 100 guests each week.

The initiative is twofold. While they seek to feed the hungry with material nourishment, the volunteers also provide a space where the individuals may find fellowship and belonging, providing for their social needs.

“We call it a breakfast for the poor and lonely,” says Deacon Wayne Weiler, spiritual advisor for the conference. “We recognize so many of the material needs they have, but there are emotional needs and things that people experience through loneliness. Just to chat with someone, it’s an outlet for that. It gives people an opportunity to come together in a social atmosphere.”

The members and leadership decided early on that they didn’t want the appearance of a soup kitchen. Rather, they felt drawn to the idea of something familial and communal in nature, where the guests are intentionally served with dignity, care, and attentiveness.

As with a restaurant, the guests sit down with a menu that includes available food items, they select what they’d like, place their “order” with a server, who then collects the food and brings it to them on a tray filled with the items.

“We see that as a real distinct difference in what we do,” Deacon Wayne says. “It’s a focus on showing people common decency and dignity when they come to us. They may not get that opportunity, and we can take it for granted.”

The Saturday morning breakfast currently has over 130 volunteers, not including the groups that come to help periodically, such as schools, Scouts, honor societies, and other parishes in the community. Having so many involved has helped the initial team members find some relief. In the early years, they were facing burnout from having to keep things running with a small group of volunteers.

“It started out with just a few people — the members of the conference before

“Service is part of what we do as Catholic Christians — it’s part of who we are. This outreach and service to neighbors through the poor and lonely — it’s our Catholic identity to serve.” — Deacon Wayne Weiler



Saturday Morning Breakfasts Mission for Our Neighbors in Need

it had grown,” Deacon Wayne says. “It wasn’t long before they experienced a bit of burnout because it was becoming more of a commitment than a lot of folks could do. When people started seeing how it relates to their own spiritual journeys and how they could give of their time, even of their treasure, to help, it truly grew. More and more people became interested in helping.”

It takes around six to eight people per week to make the breakfast go smoothly. Now, with the number of volunteers they have, each group of volunteers only serves around every four to six weeks, which is much more manageable for everyone involved.

“It really lends itself to the stewardship of the parish,” Deacon Wayne says. “It shows the willingness of the parishioners, once given an opportunity in service to others, to live their baptismal call. People are hungry themselves to do that — they just need the opportunity to do it. They responded and came forward. Now, 20 years later, this is still going.”

The leadership team prepares the meals, then the volunteers come in and help with serving and hospitality. Many of those who help regularly eventually become members of the conference, also known as Vincentians.

“Service is part of what we do as Catholic Christians — it’s part of who we are,” Deacon Wayne says. “This outreach and service to neighbors through the poor and lonely — it’s our Catholic identity to serve. We encourage

them to take part, and they willingly do.”

The St. Vincent de Paul conference more broadly assists with the material and social needs of those in our community who need our help. They serve the community members by offering financial assistance, lending a listening ear or a helping hand, and providing donations of winter clothing seasonally. They also help direct people to community services or resources as needed and have a food pantry available on Tuesdays and Thursdays each week. Their work is funded by donations from the generosity of our parishioners and could not exist without this support.

The Saturday morning breakfasts remain a steadfast part of the conference’s offerings. For one family who attends regularly, the breakfast provides not only food, but a unique space for them to gather. To them, this ministry is invaluable.

“It is the only time their family can get together,” Deacon Wayne says. “How much do we take for granted, the opportunity to do such a thing, that this offering is providing that basic need, well beyond food. We have to remind ourselves that there are folks who would give a lot for our worst day. Many folks are in need of basic communication and interaction that we take for granted. That’s a wonderful outreach.”



For more information about the Saturday morning breakfasts or St. Vincent de Paul conference of our parish, contact Ron Lassman at 618-550-3883 or Diane Crawford at 618-698-4563.



The Feast of the Sacred Heart of Jesus

Celebrating Christ's Divine Love and Unwavering Compassion

The Sacred Heart of Jesus is probably the most widely recognized representation of Christ's divine love and unwavering compassion for all of humanity. Devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus has been practiced for centuries, and this devotion continues to play an important role in today's Catholic faith. As we celebrate the Feast of the Sacred Heart of Jesus on June 12, we have a wonderful opportunity to learn more about this essential Catholic devotion and its role in Church history.

Devotion to the Sacred Heart extends as far back as the 11th or 12th centuries. While there are no definitive texts or histories that verify initial devotees, it is understood that the devotion grew out of the Benedictine and Cistercian monasteries of the time. By the 16th century, documented devotional prayers and exercises had been formulated, and the ascetic writers began making more extensive references to the Sacred Heart. But it was not until the 17th century that devotion to the Sacred Heart moved beyond being practiced on a private, individual basis. St. Jean Eudes established the first feast of the Sacred Heart, and this was shared with devotion to the Immaculate Heart of Mary. It was then that the devotional feast of the Sacred Heart began to spread to other dioceses and religious communities.

However, the devotion as we know and understand it today largely stems from the visions of Jesus Christ to St. Margaret Mary Alacoque. While these visions were numerous, the most remarkable revelation, known as "the great apparition," occurred during the octave of Corpus

Christi in 1675. As Jesus said to Margaret Mary, "Behold the Heart that has so loved men... instead of gratitude I receive from the greater part (of mankind) only ingratitude."

Reporting her vision to Fr. Claude de la Colombière, Margaret Mary was then directed to write an account of the apparition. Despite her initial reluctance to do so, as well as her misgivings upon its completion, this written account would soon be published and widely read among both clergy and laymen, thus playing an instrumental role in spreading the devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus. Another book, *The Devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus*, was written by Jesuit Father Croiset after Jesus told Margaret Mary to have Fr. Croiset write it. Following Margaret Mary's death in 1690, Fr. Croiset composed a short biography of her life that was amended to his book, which served to further increase interest and practice of the devotion.

Over the course of the next century, devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus would continue to spread. By the latter half of the 18th century, a Mass of the Sacred Heart was given papal approval for Poland and Portugal, followed two decades later by Venice, Austria, and Spain. Then, in 1856, the Feast of the Sacred Heart was officially established by Pope Pius IX.

While the specific readings and exercises for the feast day have been changed and replaced over the years, the basic tenets that extend back to the visions of St. Margaret Mary Alacoque remain the same — the acknowledgment of and devotion to Christ's unending compassion and love for all of us.

Celebrating Bishop Godfrey Mullen's Ordination and Installation as Bishop of Belleville

On May 1, we celebrated the ordination and installation of Bishop Godfrey Mullen OSB as the Bishop of Belleville. Following the March announcement, when Bishop Godfrey was named bishop-elect, our community has awaited this celebration with great anticipation. We congratulate Bishop Godfrey as he begins to serve the entire Diocese of Belleville.





CATHEDRAL of SAINT PETER

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Reflecting on the Solemnity of Sts. Peter and Paul

continued from front cover

“They could celebrate with a special meal or treat, including a visit to White Cottage, our local ice cream haven,” he says. “They could pray a decade of the Rosary with their family.”

Bishop Godfrey reflects on the life of St. Peter, our great patronal saint. We see the times St. Peter fails, especially during the passion.

“As the rock upon which the Church is built, he surely struggles,” Bishop Godfrey says. “But finally, after the resurrection, his faith kicks in, and he becomes a fearless preacher, a healer of the sick and burdened, a companion and debater with St. Paul, and was so proud of Christ’s presence in his life that he ultimately suffers crucifixion as Jesus did.”

St. Peter was not unlike us — he struggled with his sins and fears.

“But with Jesus as the strength, we have every possibility to overcome them,” Bishop Godfrey says. “St. Peter didn’t

have a degree in theology. He didn’t have any knowledge that we don’t have, except his ability to walk closely with Jesus in the flesh.”

St. Peter’s life was surely marked by shame for denying Jesus. The transfiguration and the empty tomb changed his life. He was an example of stewardship, especially in prayer.

“He showed us how to ‘Stay close, listen carefully, accept the occasional rebuke or correction, keep believing,’” Bishop Godfrey says. “St. Peter accomplishes the great work of preaching the Gospel eventually. He had every reason as a fisherman to say that speaking, faith-sharing, and witnessing were not ‘his thing.’ Yet the encounter with Christ makes it so.”

Bishop Godfrey encourages us to follow the lead of St. Peter as we commemorate his and St. Paul’s solemnity. We should invest our talents and treasures to proclaim the Good News.

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.