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CATHEDRAL of SAINT PETER

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

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Moving Forward in Faith

All Are Encouraged to Be a Part of This Historic Moment



The Cathedral of St. Peter is far more than a historic landmark. It is the spiritual heart of our parish family, where people continue to encounter Christ through the Mass, the sacraments, prayer, and countless moments of grace. Through the Moving Forward in Faith Capital Campaign, we have an opportunity to help preserve that sacred mission for future generations.

Over the past several weeks, parish families have been invited to participate through campaign presentations, receptions, and in-pew commitment weekends. Many parishioners have already responded with generous three-year pledges to help strengthen the Cathedral of St. Peter.

For those who have already participated, thank you. Your generosity is a beautiful witness of the faith and love that define our cathedral family.

"I am amazed by the wonderful generosity of our parishioners," says Bishop Godfrey Mullen. "There is a practical wisdom among so many of our parishioners. They realize the need and have responded generously."

The campaign is about much more than preserving a historic building. It is about preserving the spiritual home where countless Catholics have encountered Christ through the Mass, the sacraments, weddings, funerals, and other defining moments of faith. As the Cathedral Church of the Diocese of Belleville, St. Peter has been a visible sign of our Catholic faith for more than 180 years, and together we can ensure it remains a place of worship, welcome, and hope.

The campaign will replace the aging heating, cooling, piping, and control systems while completing critical roof repairs to protect the church from further water intrusion. These essential improvements cannot be funded through ordinary parish income.

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A Legacy of Faith

Passing on the Gift of Faith Through Stewardship

Stewardship begins with gratitude. When we recognize that every good gift comes from God, we naturally desire to share those gifts with others. While people often think about sharing their time, talent, and treasure, one of the most important gifts we can share is our faith.

None of us came to know Christ entirely on our own. Someone helped guide us along the way. Parents, grandparents, pastors, teachers, mentors, and faithful friends introduced us to prayer, taught us about God's love, encouraged us through challenges, and helped us grow as disciples.



The faith we possess today is, in many ways, part of a legacy that has been handed down from generation to generation.

Throughout Scripture, God's people are called to remember His goodness and proclaim His works to those who come after them. Parents are instructed to teach their children about the Lord. Elders are encouraged to share the stories of God's faithfulness. Each generation is entrusted with the responsibility of helping the next generation come to know and love Jesus Christ.

This responsibility is deeply connected to stewardship. As Christian stewards, we recognize that everything we have ultimately belongs to God. We are called to receive His gifts with gratitude, cultivate them responsibly, share them generously, and return them to Him with increase. The gift of faith is no exception. God has entrusted us with the Good News of Jesus Christ not simply for our own benefit, but so that we may share it with others.

Parents fulfill this mission in a special way as the primary teachers of the faith for their children. Through family prayer, participation in the sacraments, and conversations about God's presence in everyday life, they help lay the foundation for a lifelong relationship with Christ. Yet the work of passing on the faith extends beyond the family. It is a responsibility shared by the entire parish community.

Grandparents often play a particularly important role. Through their prayers, encouragement, and witness, they help younger generations understand the value of a life centered on God. Many Catholics can trace some of their strongest faith influences to a grandparent who prayed faithfully, attended Mass consistently, and demonstrated trust in God through both joyful and difficult times.

Catechists, ministry leaders, parish volunteers, and fellow parishioners also contribute to this important mission. Every conversation about faith, every invitation to Mass, every act of kindness, and every example of Christian discipleship can help someone grow closer to Christ.

Often, the most powerful lessons are not taught in a classroom but observed through the witness of faithful lives.

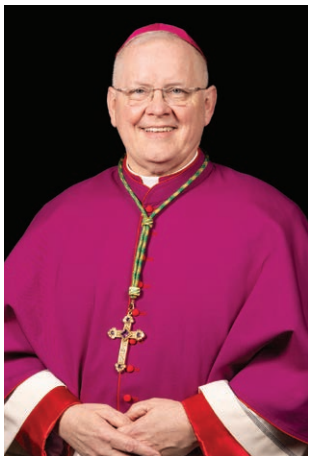
As stewards, we are called to think not only about the blessings God has given us today but also about the legacy we will leave behind. Material possessions eventually fade, but a faith-filled example can continue to bear fruit for generations. When we share our faith, encourage others, and help lead people to Christ, we participate in God's work of building His kingdom.

Each of us has received the gift of faith from someone who came before us. Now God invites us to share that gift with those who will come after us. By embracing this responsibility, we live stewardship in a profound way and help ensure that the light of Christ continues to shine in future generations.

A Letter from Our Bishop and Pastor

Following the Example of the Saints

Dear Parishioners,



Throughout the month of September, the Church invites us to celebrate the lives of many remarkable saints through feast days and memorials on the liturgical calendar. During the final days of the month, we commemorate St. Matthew on Sept. 21, St. Pius of Pietrelcina (Padre Pio) on Sept. 23, St. Vincent de Paul on Sept. 27, the Archangels Michael, Gabriel, and Raphael on Sept. 29, and St. Jerome on Sept. 30. Each lived in a different time, served the Lord in different ways, and possessed different gifts. Yet they all shared one important characteristic — they offered their lives completely to God.

In many ways, they lived stewardship long before the Church ever spoke of it in those terms.

When Jesus called St. Matthew, he immediately left behind his former way of life to follow Christ. Padre Pio devoted countless hours to prayer and hearing confessions, generously sharing his time and spiritual gifts for the sake of others. St. Vincent de Paul recognized the face of Christ in the poor and spent his life serving those most in need. The Archangels faithfully carried out God's will, reminding us that our highest calling is loving obedience to Him. St. Jerome used his remarkable intellect and talents to translate and teach Sacred Scripture, making God's Word more accessible to generations of believers.

Although their vocations were very different, each understood the same fundamental truth: everything they had was a gift from God and was meant to be returned to Him in loving service.

That is also the foundation of Christian stewardship. Stewardship is not simply about supporting the parish or volunteering for a ministry. It is first a way of life that recognizes every aspect of our lives as a gift entrusted to us by God. Our time, our talents, our resources, our relationships, and our opportunities are all meant to be used for His glory and for the good of others.

Most of us are not called to extraordinary lives that will one day be recognized by the Church. We are called to something equally important — faithful discipleship in the ordinary circumstances of everyday life. Holiness grows through daily acts of prayer, generosity, service, forgiveness, and love. These are the same virtues that shaped the saints, and they are the virtues God desires to cultivate in each of us.

As our cathedral family continues moving forward in faith, we are also reminded that stewardship sometimes calls us to care for the sacred places where generations encounter Christ in the Eucharist, the sacraments, and the life of the Church. When we generously offer our gifts, we strengthen not only our parish today but also its mission for those who will follow us.

The saints remind us that stewardship is ultimately about becoming the people God created us to be. As we celebrate these great witnesses of the faith throughout September, may their example inspire us to follow Christ more faithfully, serve others more generously, and continue growing in holiness one day at a time. Like the saints before us, may we offer our lives to God with grateful hearts, trusting that He will use our gifts to accomplish His work in the world.

Peace,

+ Godfrey Mullen, OSB

Bishop Godfrey Mullen, OSB
Bishop and Pastor



Food Truck Fest Offers Great Evening of Food and Fellowship for Our Community

Good food, live music, children's activities and fellowship with friends have made the Cathedral of St. Peter's annual Food Truck Fest a favorite parish tradition. The eighth annual event returns Oct. 17 from 4 to 9 p.m. at the Notre Dame Center, offering a fun evening for all ages while helping support the parish's Moving Forward in Faith Capital Campaign.

"We have a committee of 16 people," says Josie Weiler, who has coordinated the event for eight years. "They all know what they're going to be asked to do."

Unlike a traditional parish picnic, the Food Truck Fest allows volunteers and parishioners alike to relax and enjoy one another's company. Guests can gather under the canopy or inside the air-conditioned building while sampling a wide variety of food.

"The trucks — usually about six savory and three sweet trucks — bring everything, including their own generators," Josie says. "Our parishioners are able to spend time with each other. So, it's more of a hospitality thing, spending time with each other."

Proceeds from the evening will benefit the cathedral's Moving Forward in Faith Capital Campaign.

"We have large projects that need to be accomplished," Josie says. "We get a percentage of the sales from each food truck. We operate a soda and a water booth. We ask parishioners to donate the soda and water, so that's pure profit. We make sangria and have a beer trailer."

Of course, attendees can also look forward to the raffle.

"It's different every year — a lot of baskets, a lot of certificates from local businesses," Josie says. "We had some big items last year, a pub table and an Adirondack chair. We want to mix it up each year so it's not repetitive. There's always a cash prize — $500 usually. We usually get a $250 gift certificate to a local butcher shop so people can fill their freezer."

Children will have plenty to enjoy as well.

"There'll be inflatables," Josie says. "We have a bunch of yard games. We try to add a yard game every year. The kids have a good time. We had face painting last year also. We have a bubble machine going all night. It's a good wholesome family event."

The event even welcomes some of the children's favorite characters.

"Last year, we had Mario and Bluey," Josie says. "We try to see what the popular thing is around and then we arranged for a person to wear it."

The Food Truck Fest will once again feature live music, along with returning favorites like That's a Wrap and That's a Smash.

"That's A Wrap is more on the healthy side for people who want to have fun but still











Join Us at the Notre Dame Center on Oct. 17

behave," Josie says. "That's A Smash is smashburgers and Philly cheesesteaks. We try to mix it up every year."

The event has featured pony rides and carriage rides as well, and Josie and the Food Truck Fest committee continue looking for new ways to keep the evening fun for everyone.

"Once it gets dark, once all the horses are gone, we shoot off confetti cannons for the kids," she says. "The ones that are still there after dark love running through all that confetti."

It's not just the committee members who work the event — other volunteers are needed as well.

"Our Knights of Columbus usually take care of our alcohol booth, the beer and the sangria," Josie says. "Parish volunteers will man the raffle booth to sell raffle tickets. We have some supervision with the kids' items. Setup and cleanup are the big things. We borrow the canopies for our raffle booth and our beer stand from our Boy Scouts and Cub Scouts. They set those up and take them down."

Setup starts Friday at 5 p.m. and lasts until around 9 p.m., with dinner provided for volunteers. Teardown begins at 9 p.m. Saturday and continues until about 10:30 p.m. Volunteering for this fellowship event is a great way to practice stewardship.

"This event allows us to spend time with each other and enjoy each other's company," Josie says. "When this first started, it was myself and my husband. Each year, people are willing to help out, which is wonderful.

"It's a pleasure to be a parishioner at St. Peter's Cathedral because people are so willing to lend a hand," she adds.









Those interested in volunteering may call the parish office at 618-234-1166.

A Look at the Photography Ministry

Capturing the Beautiful Moments that Make up the Life of Our Parish



Every photograph tells a story, but for Jeni McGuire, picking up a camera became part of her own story. Through the Photography Ministry at the Cathedral of St. Peter, she found a meaningful way to serve others while discovering friendship, healing, and a deeper connection to her parish family following the loss of her husband.

Since joining the cathedral in 2024, Jeni has become an active member of the Photography Ministry, using her love of photography to capture the life of the parish while encouraging others to share their own gifts.

Bishop Godfrey Mullen will often let Photography Ministry members know when he'd like photos taken. Other times, ministry members simply capture moments they believe are meaningful to preserve in the life of the parish.

"During the annual Stewardship Renewal, there are so many things you can choose from to serve the parish," Jeni says. "I saw that photography was there, and I love to take pictures, so I signed up for it."

Through her ministry, Jeni has met many new people. She also became involved with Walking with Purpose after

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A Look at the Photography Ministry

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Denise Hemmer introduced herself during the annual Food Truck Fest.

Jeni has photographed the Stewardship Renewal, the Triduum liturgies, the Chrism Mass and the recent Ordination Mass.

"I love the Chrism Mass," she says. "It's so enjoyable to see all of the brother priests getting together. They're all there from the diocese, and they're dressed so beautifully."

Photography has long been one of Jeni's favorite hobbies, making this ministry a natural fit.

"I just love to take pictures anytime I get the chance," she says.

In addition to serving in the Photography Ministry, Jeni is also a lector, an Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion, and takes the Eucharist to the homebound. She encourages others to become involved in the Photography Ministry — even an iPhone works well — or simply find another way to serve. For her, saying yes to ministry opened the door to new friendships during a difficult season of life.

> ***"I've met so many new friends. And if people want to meet new people, all of the ministries are great for connecting to the parish."*** **— Jeni McGuire**

"It's really helped with the grief and the loneliness that may have set in," she says. "I'm not lonely at all. I've met so many new friends. And if people want to meet new people, all of the ministries are great for connecting to the parish."

To get involved in the Photography Ministry, call 618-234-1166.













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Moving Forward in Faith

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If you have not yet made your campaign commitment, there is still time.

Throughout September, the parish will continue reaching out to households that have not yet responded. Whether you were away during the commitment weekends, wanted additional time for prayer and discernment, or simply have not yet returned your pledge card, we invite you to join your fellow parishioners in this important effort.

"We are all members of a community," Bishop Godfrey says. "That community has the responsibility to maintain what we enjoy in our parish church. Ultimately, providing a climate-controlled environment is an element of hospitality, a part of welcoming Christ in our brothers and sisters. Taking part in that in another way is a strong element of stewardship and discipleship, building the Kingdom."

Every gift makes a difference, and the campaign depends on the participation of our entire cathedral family.

As we continue Moving Forward in Faith, let us remain united in prayer, gratitude, and hope as we help strengthen the Cathedral of St. Peter for generations to come.

If you have misplaced your pledge materials or have questions about the campaign, please contact the parish office. Additional pledge cards are available in the narthex and parish office. Pledges and gifts may also be made through the cathedral website.

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.*