

New Pastor GREETINGS!

Dear Parishioners of St. Peter Church:

What a blessed four months this has been for me in getting to know the people of Archbold, and I look forward to getting to know many of you. I feel a sense of rising energy to revitalize and to *ring in* new things. I pray that you will take some time to reflect upon some of these *spiritual* and *social* opportunities announced in this letter, and ask yourself how you can become part of them. There is a lot happening! Though space is limited here, we will communicate some of them here to you!

Spiritual Initiatives

I invite everyone to consider fulfilling the *Fatima Challenge* of the *First Five Saturdays*. This is both a request and a promise that the *Blessed Virgin Mary* when she appeared to the three shepherd children at Fatima in 1917. "If you do what I tell you, many souls will be saved, there will be peace," Our Lady told them. Furthermore, She instructs us: "My *Immaculate Heart* will be *your refuge* and the way that will lead you to God."

These are the remedies for our times, and we need that safe *refuge* now more than ever in this time of great confusion, fear and paralysis. I feel it is our duty to lead the way deeper into this motherly refuge through our spiritual initiatives. It is for that reason that I invite you to take control of your time and bracket the next *five months* for these simple spiritual initiatives:

Fatima First Saturdays: (November-March) Each First Saturday of the month we have Rosary, Mass and Adoration at 8:00 am, and all completed by 9 am. I hope to have at least 50 people commit to joining to do this together. That's only *one hour* a month! Let us use well the time given to us!

Daily Mass: Take advantage of the great opportunities Tuesday evenings, Wednesday and Friday mornings. There is no music and lasts only 25 minutes.

Daily Rosary: Renew family prayer, even if you start with just one decade.

Tuesday Rosaries: All the Tuesdays in November we will pray the Rosary during Adoration at 6:30 pm before Mass, with Benediction.

Home Visits: During the months of November and December especially, I will be making extra time to bless homes and statues of Our Lady. I encourage you to dedicate a *devotional altar* in your home with a Cross, Bible, Candle, Holy Water and statue of at least Our Lady. Also, we are re-inaugurating our visitation to bring Holy Communion to the sick and homebound. Please give us a call to let us know of someone who like such a visit from our visiting team.

On Wednesday evening, November 19. I invite you to come to the Church for a presentation I will give about the Virgin Mary, including Marian Consecration and the apparitions of Our Lady. I will be glad to share my own experiences of pilgrimages to the Marian Shrines, and will just have returned from Medjugorje.



"My daughter, look at My Heart surrounded with the thorns with which ungrateful men pierce it at every moment by their blasphemies and ingratitude. You at least try to console me, and say that I promise to assist at the hour of death with all the graces necessary for salvation all those who on the first Saturday of five consecutive months, go to Confession and receive Holy Communion, recite five decades of the Rosary and keep me company for a quarter of an hour while meditating on the mysteries of the Rosary, with the intention of making reparation to me".

Blessing of Bells

Did you know that Church bells are consecrated with a special blessing when they are installed and even given names? Traditionally, Church bells have been rung as a protection against storms as the Litany of Saints was prayed. As sacramental, they are instruments of grace that repel evil. I will endeavor to discover the names of our Bells, and perhaps re-bless them and give them names!

Church and Rectory Maintenance News...

Chime Masters is a professional *Bell company* out of Lancaster, OH. Our **Church bells** suffered electrical damage from a lightning strike last year, and soon we will have their usage restored with new capabilities. The cost for repair and updates of \$15,000 was taken from our **Building and Maintenance Funds**. I want to express my gratitude to all who have regularly contributed to that. From that we also made some improvements on the rectory flooring by replacing some of the worn carpeting with a waterproof wood laminate, and are updating the guest bathroom to replace the bathtub with a shower.

There are some larger maintenance needs for our Church exterior that will soon need to be accomplished, and for which we are looking at bids. Namely:

Tuck-pointing and sealing of the brick and mortar around the Bell-tower and other area that show deterioration. We would not want to see the bricks crumble for such a noble and beautiful Church!

Drainage eaves on the Church roof and drainage issues around the Church foundation.

Religious Education at St. Peter...

The Religious Education year is off to a great start. On our opening night, we celebrated Mass then enjoyed a **pizza party** hosted by the Rosary Altar Society. A wonderful crowd of families gathered on October 5th to have their **pets blessed** by Father Bill. Other events happening this month include praying the **Rosary** and visits from **The Culture Project** who will present talks to our youth in grades 6 through 12 and their parents. Second graders are already preparing for their **First Reconciliation**. Our high school program is meeting each week this year. It is never too late to join our Religious Education program! Our classes minister to children in Kindergarten through 12th grade and meet **Wednesday evenings from 6:30 to 7:45**.



**The Blessing of the Animals
October 5, 2022**

Rosary Altar Society News...

Parish Potluck / Cookie Walk / Silent Auction

It's back! The **parish potluck** and **cookie walk**! This year we're planning to have a **silent auction** as well! The tentative date for this fun celebration of fellowship is **Sunday, December 4** after the 10:30 Mass. We'll be accepting donations of new items or craft items for the silent auction. Watch the bulletin for more information in the weeks to come!

Cleaning Hour!

We've identified some areas of our church (that are not part of its routine cleaning) that could use a little TLC! For anyone interested in helping, we're planning our first "Cleaning Hour" on **Saturday, October 29 from 9:00-10:00 am!** This is a great opportunity for both service and fellowship—and we promise that we will be finished in **ONE HOUR**, regardless of how much we accomplish! Bring your bucket and your favorite cleaning supplies and join us!!! **All are welcome!**

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