



Dear Friends in Christ,

I pray that this summer is off to a great start! Just as you are receiving this newsletter, I will be returning from my latest pilgrimage to Medjugorje. You can be assured that I have been praying for all of you, and I have confidence that God will send graces in abundance. I hope to return to Medjugorje, and you would be a welcome pilgrim!

Even as I write this, God is finally sending us some much needed rain. While the weather has been beautiful, the ground has been dry and cracked in the fields. Yet it is amazing how resilient the young green sprouts of corn are in the hard ground! They have managed to survive, as if drinking from some secret source, as from the dew at night. But they are thirsty for some good long drinks of steady, gentle rain. How satisfying it will be to see them drink that in.

Our lives are like soil, and the mystery of prayer is like rain. God himself has planted his divine seed in us, and it readily sprouts. But it thirsts for water in order to thrive, and God sends us rain through our prayers. As Catholics, we have powerful sources of grace entrusted to us, above all the **Holy Eucharist**.

Besides faithful participation in weekly Mass, receiving the Body and Blood of the Lord Jesus, the Church also encourages us to spend time in Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. There is no need to become spiritually dry when the very oasis of **Living Water** is so readily available to us! If we are bored, it does not mean that the life of faith has become irrelevant--it means that we have become spiritually dry, and we need watered! This is why I pray that we will become revived precisely through a greater closeness to Jesus in the Eucharist. It is wonderful on Tuesdays to see people coming and going from the Church after some quiet time in Adoration. And I would like to create more opportunities for this.

Night of Healing: On Thursday, **July 6th** from 7-8 pm we will have a night of prayer with the Eucharist. The rosary will be prayed, along with prayer along with interspersed songs and short periods of silence. I will be available in the confessional to both hear confessions and pray with those asking for Jesus healing power.

Becoming Catholic? For anyone interested in joining the Catholic Faith, now is the time to be putting us in contact! Beginning on Wednesday, **July 26th** at 6:45 pm we will start the dynamic series created by Fr. John Riccardo. Anyone is welcome to attend.

As I come to the end of my first full year as your Pastor, I wish to express my profound gratitude to the Lord and to you all for your kindness to me!

May the Lord bless you with His peace.

Fr. William Pifher

May 7, 2023 First Holy Communion



Above: First Communicants with Father Bill

At the 10:30 Mass on Sunday, May 7, eight of our second grade Religious Education students received Jesus in the Eucharist for the first time as they made their First Holy Communion.

Having family and friends in attendance made this occasion special for our First Communicants, and coffee and rolls were served in the parish hall following the Mass.

May 21, 2023 Baccalaureate Mass & Luncheon

Our graduating seniors were honored in a special way at the baccalaureate Mass on Sunday morning, May 21, at 10:30. Following the Mass, the K of C provided a wonderful luncheon in the parish hall for the graduates, their families, and our parish family.

Congratulations to Ella Bowman, Carson Dominique, Devon Morris, and Natalie Seibert on this exciting milestone in your lives!



Left: Graduates Devon Morris and Natalie Seibert with Father Bill and Deacon Larry

Below: Natalie Seibert received the Knights of Columbus Scholarship.



April 11, 2023 Community Meal



Our church once again provided the Community Meal on April 11, 2023 at St. John United Church of Christ. It is always heartwarming to see the spirit of service among our parishioners who volunteer in so many ways, and this community meal is no exception. From preparing the food, to serving it and cleaning up afterward, members of our parish family were present and working together as one...it is always an inspiring experience.

June 15-17, 2023 Rosary Altar Society Garage Sale



Our last garage sale was pre-COVID-19, but it was back this year! Proceeds from the sale went to the Rosary Altar Society to use toward its endeavors, and any leftover clothing and other items were donated and transported to the St. Vincent de Paul Society in Fayette. Thanks to all the volunteers who helped in any way to make the garage sale a success.

Left: Many volunteers from the parish came to help get the sale ready.

June 17-23, 2023 Youth Mission Trip

Our Youth Group raised funds throughout the past several months with all proceeds going toward their Mission trip (Catholic Heart Workcamp) in New Castle, PA. We are excited for our young parishioners to have the opportunity to be a part of this beautiful example of service to those less fortunate. In our next newsletter, we'll share some of their stories from this mission experience.



Above: Members of our Youth Group preparing to leave for their Mission experience on Saturday, June 17.

Left: One of their fundraisers was a strawberry pie sale, held after the Masses on April 29 & 30. (The students made the pies and they were delicious!)



Church Construction

Church Construction: Taking care of drainage around the Church is not a glamorous project, but a necessary one in order to deal with our decades-long water seepage problem. Our Maintenance Committee has approved a \$33,000 bid, and work will hopefully begin in July. Thanks to your great generosity with the **Living Christ Campaign**, we have the funds ready to go! Unfortunately, all the trees and greenery along the north/east side of the Church/annex will have to be uprooted to get to the drainage tiles. May the Lord inspire us as to how we may beautify those areas in the future.

Left: Volunteers have removed the pavers in preparation for the repair work.

Religious Education at St. Peter

Next spring, thirteen of our junior high school parishioners will be Confirmed. Please keep these individuals in your prayers as they prepare to receive a special outpouring of the Holy Spirit in the Sacrament of Confirmation. The 2023-2024 Religious Education program will begin after the conclusion of the Fulton County Fair. If you are interested in helping with the Religious Education program next year, please contact the parish office. —*Deb Herring*

VBS 2023 will be hosted by St. Martin Lutheran Church this year (July 31-August 4 from 6pm to 8pm) for kids ages 4 and up. Registration is now open:
<https://www.myvbs.org/thewelcomeplace>

“Ten Things You Might Not Know About the Deacon” was the title of Deacon Larry’s presentation on Wednesday evening, April 19. A summary of his presentation is available in handouts which can be found on the table in the church hall.

“For wherever two or more are gathered together in My Name, there I am in the midst of them.”
—**Matthew 18:20**

Welcome!

We want to extend a warm ***“welcome to our parish family”*** to our newest parishioners, Kent and Jackie Holsopple!

Rosary Altar Society News

The Rosary Altar Society meets monthly (September-May) on the second Sunday of the month, after the 10:30 Mass. The meeting typically lasts about an hour, sometimes less. All women of the parish are included in our membership and are welcome.

Our Mission

The mission of the Rosary Altar Society at St. Peter Church is as follows:

“To promote the spiritual growth of all parishioners by recitation of the rosary, care of the altar, sharing fellowship, and providing service for the needs of the Church and the community.”

PLANT SALE

The plant sale (featuring beautiful ferns) is an annual event for the Rosary Altar Society, and this year it was held on May 19 and 20. Proceeds from the plant sale and other fundraisers are used for care of the altar (candles, wine, etc.), providing opportunities for fellowship (coffee and rolls, among others) and annual donations to a number of local causes/charities as well as the Propagation of the Faith.

