

UPON THIS ROCK

THE COMMUNITY VOICE OF ST. PETER CHURCH

ST. PETER CHURCH, NORTH RIDGEVILLE

SPRING 2014

★ ST. PETER ROCK STARS ★

5th Grade Excellence



Before the end of 2013, St Peter School participated in its second annual *Pasta for Pennies* campaign to raise money to benefit the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society. Mrs. Costanzo's fifth grade class went above and beyond. They were the school's highest level classroom of contributors, raising \$512.60. The students generously donated from their allowances, piggy banks and even from their Christmas money, to help this worthy cause.

Their efforts won them a catered lunch from the Olive Garden Italian restaurant. Mrs. Perry, their classroom aide, said "I was amazed at the generosity and compassion the students had for others who are battling this disease." As a whole, St. Peter School raised a combined total of \$1,444.78, which more than doubled the amount raised the previous year.

Natalie Byrne summed it up when she said, "It felt good to work together to raise money to help research and families, and it will feel good to enjoy such a great lunch at school."

We are so proud of the 5th graders and their wonderful example of living what they learn as Christians. Mrs. Costanzo's class and all St. Peter students will certainly carry forward making a positive impact on countless lives as they grow and mature.

Thank you to Mrs. Costanzo, Mrs. Perry, and all those on the faculty who impress the importance of love and generosity on these students. Congratulations 5th graders. Your success proves that anything is possible when a team comes together with a mission of love.

Fr. Bob's Corner

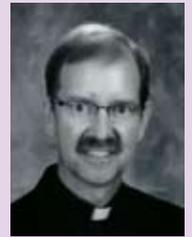
Dear Parish Family,

Most of us have set routines. For the most part, these are good. They are the glue that holds our lives together in an orderly and peaceful manner. However, sometimes our routines become ruts that blind us to the work of the Lord. Tolkien's *The Hobbit* begins with some dwarves visiting Bilbo Baggins, a very comfortable and non-adventuring hobbit. At the instigation of the wizard Gandalf, the dwarves are able to coax Bilbo away from his creature comforts and into an adventure that would eventually change their whole world.

We are about to enter Lent. Just as the sun begins to call forth new life from the earth, so this season beckons us to let go of old ways and see the world more clearly through the lens of Jesus Christ. Here is what Cardinal Jorge Bergoglio (better known as Pope Francis) said in 2009:

The great risk of becoming accustomed to something is *indifference*. Nothing surprises us, causes us to shudder, delights us, strikes us, or inspires us to question anything. This can happen with the sad sights that appear more every day in our streets... To this jaded heart comes a call that wakes it up and rescues it from the evil of indifference...

Continued on page 2



Fr. Bob's Corner

Continued from page 1

Lent is this wakeup call! Ash Wednesday is March 5. We will hear the prophet Joel say, "Return to Me with your whole heart." (Joel 2:12) St. Paul will say, "Be reconciled to God..." (II Corinthians 5:21) We are to be shaken out of our ruts and indifference and begin afresh with the Lord.

One great way to do this is through the Sacrament of Penance. Every Catholic church in our diocese will be offering Confession on Wednesday, March 12 from 5:00 PM to 8:00 PM. Fr. Sanson and I, as well as Fr. Jerry Lajack (retired pastor of St. Wendelin Parish) will be hearing confessions at that time. If another Catholic church in our diocese is more convenient for you, please stop in there and begin anew!

Fr. Damian Ference, assistant professor of philosophy and formation faculty member at Borromeo Seminary, will be leading the annual St. Peter & St. Julie Lenten Mission. We are hosting the three evening mission at St. Peter Parish from Sunday, March 23 through Tuesday, March 25. Each evening will begin at 7:00 PM.

We are fortunate to have Fr. Damian Ference conduct our mission. Ordained a priest for the diocese of Cleveland, he served as parochial vicar at Saint Mary Parish in Hudson, Ohio from 2003-2007 and earned a licentiate in philosophy at the Catholic University of America in Washington, DC in 2009. He writes regularly for Fr. Robert Bar-

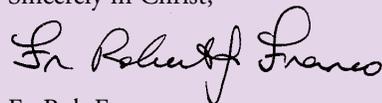
ron's *Word on Fire* blog, and his articles have appeared in *America*, *Catholic Universe Bulletin*, *Commonweal* and other publications.

It would not be Lent at St. Peter Parish if I did not mention these three staples of our Lenten parish life. First: **The Fish Fry!** Under new oversight this year, the Fish Fry will have a variety of new menu items, including Lake Erie Perch. Dinners and carry outs are available from 4:30 to 7:00 PM. The **second** staple of Lent is **Stations of the Cross**. These will begin at 7:30 PM on all the Fridays of Lent, except Good Friday, when our middle school students perform the Shadow Stations at 7:00 PM.

The **third** event I would like to mention is the annual St. Peter School Auction, **Raise Your Paddle**. The date is Saturday, March 15 at 6:00 PM at Wagner's in Westlake. Besides attending the dinner and auction, there are a number of other ways that you can participate in this fun-filled fund raiser for our school. For tickets and more information, please see <http://www.stpeterryp.com>.

God is about shaking us out of ruts! Let us embrace the adventure the Lord has for us. The road will lead us to the Cross, the Resurrection and eternal life!

Sincerely in Christ,



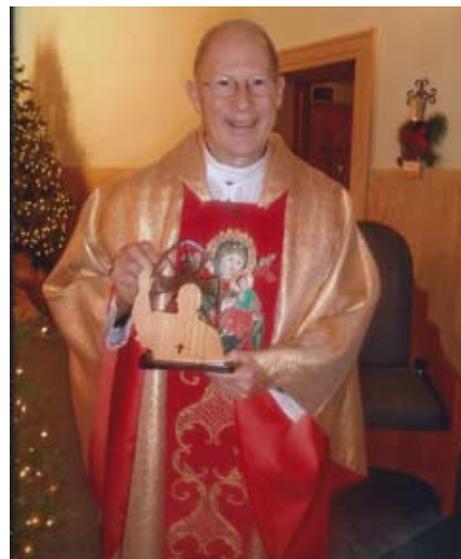
Fr. Bob Franco
Pastor, St. Peter Parish

Raise Your Paddle

If you're looking for a date night alternative...Here it is!!! For the price of heading out with your special someone you can join the fun at St. Peter School's 2014 Raise Your Paddle event! We will have a sit down dinner with drinks, live and silent auctions, side boards, games and entertainment all hosted by Cleveland celebrity Alan Fee from Q104!

We also have 50/50 raffles as well as an opportunity to win free tuition. All proceeds to benefit the students of St. Peter. For event ticket information please visit www.stpeterryp.com. All are welcome to attend! If you are unable to attend but wish to help the students of St. Peter we encourage you to visit the event website and become an event sponsor, a great way for your business to be seen and heard. You can also donate items to the live and silent auctions or gift baskets. Every little bit helps us reach our goal of "Advancing our Students with Technology."

We look forward to seeing you!



Father Bob Sanson celebrates Christmas

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*A Lenten Thought
Remember, you are dust and
unto dust you shall return.*

8th Graders Developing Life-long Skills



Ron Barlow and a team that included Mrs. Byrne, Noelle Byrne, and Katie Barlow organized a CPR class for the 8th graders at St. Peter School. Ron, who recently became a CPR Instructor with the American Heart Association (June 2013), has taken tremendous pride in teaching life saving skills to the next generation.

While discussing some ideas Student Council had for the upcoming school year, they thought that the CPR class would be a great project for the 8th grade students. Ron approached Dave Stein, whose son Jordan is also in the 8th grade, to help him coordinate and run the class. Dave has been an instructor for many years as part of his job with the North Olmsted Fire Department.

The team scheduled four one-hour sessions to meet with the 8th grade class during the fall. During the teaching process, the students learned how to perform CPR on adults, children, and infants. The students were also taught how to recognize a person who is in cardiac arrest. Furthermore, they were instructed how to start the chain of survival by activating the 911

system, quickly accessing an AED, and the proper technique for giving rescue breathing and chest compressions.

Lastly, they were taught how to properly utilize an AED. The AED is a frontline tool that can be used to save a person in cardiac arrest. Several AEDs are deployed throughout St. Peter School and Parish. We made sure the students were able to review the proper operation of the AED located on the St Peter grounds (they examined the AED located near Mrs. Hepp's room).

The entire 8th grade class is now certified by the American Heart Association in CPR /AED. They were issued certification cards during the second quarter honor assembly at school. The cards are issued for two years, at which time they will hopefully recertify and continue to be potential lifesavers.

The Sign of the Cross

The sign of the cross is often misunderstood and taken for granted by Catholics and non-Catholics alike. It's usually performed before and after prayer, from habit and with little thought for what it signifies. But it is much more than a mere formality or empty gesture; it is, in fact, a profound expression of faith rich in meaning, symbolism and power.

When we cross ourselves, moving our hand from forehead to heart to shoulders, we mimic the shape of the cross upon which Jesus was crucified. By saying, "In the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit," we invoke the three persons of the Blessed Trinity and ask for their help and blessing on whatever action we are about to perform, whether it's attending Mass or sitting down to dinner. It's also a gesture that witnesses to anyone who observes our actions that we are Christians and Jesus' disciples, so it actually becomes an unintentional way of evangelizing.

Though usually affiliated with formal prayer, it would be a good habit to make the sign of the cross at every opportunity that presents itself – when washing the car or cutting the grass, before starting dinner or helping with homework, when tossing and turning during a sleepless night – because in and of itself it is a prayer rich in blessings when done attentively and with respect. St. John Vianney says that by it, "we are pronouncing all that we hold holy and most sacred in our religion," and recommended we do it especially when we are tempted because it is a "most terrible weapon against the devil" causing "all hell to tremble." It is



the sign by which evil was vanquished, and we can only benefit by being aware of what we do when we cross ourselves because it will remind us of the infinite value of our souls and the price that was paid to redeem them.

4th Grade Girls CYO Basketball



The 2014 basketball season was filled with many moments of greatness. In our regular season we had 8 scheduled games and we also participated in 3 tournaments. The girls played their hearts out and the team made it to the semi-finals in the first two tournaments. After that, the team participated in the Ray Buescher Memorial Tournament in their home gym and were able to go undefeated and bring home the championship.

The team worked so hard this year and their transformation and understanding of the game was evident in their play. It was a great pleasure to be able to coach such a great group of girls who were so dedicated to the team. When it was all over they truly left everything they had on the court as they won like champions in overtime. Congratulations to the team and the parents whose help was truly appreciated.
~ Coach Sean Van Dyke



Father Bob Franco celebrating Memorial Day Mass in the spring sunshine brings everyone warmer thoughts

We welcome to our parish community the newly baptized:



Megan Ann Weaver
Jackson Franco Taylor
Benjamin Edward Stasenکو
Carson Michael Kaminski
Ashton Tyler Ambler
Samantha Rose Yanak
Liam Joseph Gorski

The Sudarium of Oviedo

The napkin, which was placed over the face of Jesus, was not just thrown aside like the grave clothes. The Bible takes an entire verse (Gospel of John (20:7), to tell us that the napkin was neatly folded, and was placed at the head of that stony coffin.

When Simon Peter arrived and went inside the tomb, he noticed that the linen cloth used to wrap Jesus' body had not been moved but the linen that covered Jesus' head was folded up and lying to the side and the body of Jesus was gone. Grave robbers could not have taken the body without disturbing the cloth. The disciples knew Jesus' behavior and knew that it was exactly what Jesus would do, not something a robber would do. John believed that Jesus had



that the face cloth was carefully folded had its own distinct purpose. The folded napkin had to do with the Master and Servant. It was routine for the servant to set the dinner table for the master and would make sure that it was exactly the

done what He said He would do. Jesus had chosen to fold the cloth for he is in utter control of death and life.

The fact that the face cloth was carefully folded had its own distinct purpose. The folded napkin had to do with the Master and Servant. It was routine for the servant to set the dinner table for the master and would make sure that it was exactly the

way the master wanted it. The table was prepared perfectly, and the servant, now out of site, would wait until the master had finished eating. The servant would not dare touch that table, until the master was finished. If the master were finished eating, he would rise from the table, wipe his mouth, his fingers, clean his beard and would wad up that napkin and toss it onto the table. The servant would then know to clear the table. For that wadded napkin meant, 'I'm done.' But if the master got up from the table, and folded his napkin, and laid it beside his plate, the servant would not chance touching the table, because the folded napkin meant, 'I'm coming back!'

Jesus is Coming Back!

We Observe Lent at St. Peter Parish

A solemn time of year as we contemplate how sacrifices enrich our lives.
The promise of warm spring weather and fish fries also sustain us.





St. Peter School Welcomes You

“We welcome each person, nurturing his/her spiritual, academic, and societal gifts, in a Catholic family environment while promoting diversity, openness, and respect.”

- (St. Peter School Mission statement)

At St. Peter School we pride ourselves in coming closer to God and trying to strengthen our faith and practice it. The goal of every teacher here is to get the students to achieve their own personal and academic goals. A mission for both students and teachers is to help others to live the Gospel, which is a major focus at St. Peter School.

Every year we help raise money for different charities. This year, our main fundraiser was for The Leukemia and Lymphoma Society. The name of this fundraiser was “Pasta for Pennies.” The class that raised the most money would receive an Olive Garden lunch. The winning class was 5th grade, which raised a total of \$512.60. Activities like

this are eagerly participated in by the students because they have a chance to focus their energy on activities that go beyond academics.

Typical School Day

A typical day at St. School as an 8th grade junior high student begins at 7:05 and ends at 2:00. In the morning Sr. Patricia, the principal, greets each student with a hello as they walk to their classrooms. At 7:30, Sr. Patricia uses the P.A. for morning announcements. After announcements are over our homeroom teacher, Mrs. Byrne, who teaches 8th grade, gives the students the news and schedules for the day. We then gather our books and head to periods 1 and 2. These classes, literature and social studies, are taught by Mrs. Verbus. At 9:05 we switch classes. This leads us into periods 3 and 4. These subjects, math and science, are taught

by Mrs. VanDyke. At 10:30, we switch classes and end up back at homeroom for periods 5 and 6. These subjects, vocabulary, English, and Religion are taught by Mrs. Byrne. When these classes end, around 11:05, we head off to lunch. Coming back to the building after lunch, we attend Art, Music, Computer or P.E. classes. On Wednesdays, we have some extra-curricular activities which may include Band, Serving Leader program, forensic science, video production, cooking, magic, golf, and crafts. (These are better known as our Lifetime Activities—or LTAs.)

Come and join us for open house on March 23 from 11:00 AM until 12:30 PM! You’ll find our school to be a welcoming place with lots of activities for all!

- Noelle Byrne, Paige Flatley
(8th grade students of St. Peter School)

More random thoughts from Deacon Don

As I sit here contemplating the meaning of life, while watching the snow continue to pile up, I can’t help but think, did you ever wonder, “How come?” Well, here’s a few “How Comes???” that I’ve come up with...

How come when we were kids, our moms, no matter how cold it was outside, pushed us out the door in the morning and threatened us with a slow, agonizing death if we missed the school bus? We then walked to the bus stop and stood there, in the open, wind howling, waiting for the bus and never, once, got a day off because it was too cold, ever!

How come roads in places like Beirut, Baghdad and Kandahar seem to be in better shape than the ones around here??

How come when they do finally get

around to repaving a road, the very next day after it’s been finished there will be a crew digging a hole in it to “fix” something? Doesn’t it make sense that the “fix” should have been done first???

How come the environmentalists, will raise a huge ruckus and block progress on a project over a perceived threat to some obscure critter yet remain silent while those ridiculously hideous wind farms, the ones with the giant windmills, are killing endangered eagles and all sorts of other winged critters at an alarming rate?

How come fast food drive-thru windows have messages posted that are written in Braille???

How come when a product says, “New and Improved,” it generally means that you’ll be paying the same price, or more,

for the same product but only less of it???

How come contracts to construct things that directly affect the health, safety and well-being of the public such as roads, bridges, nuclear power plants and the like are always awarded to the “lowest bidder?” Does anyone else see a problem here?

How come it seems that this winter is lasting forever???

How come I keep thinking up this goofy stuff???

Enough of this for now. Stay warm and well and I’ll see you around the parish!

In Christ,

– Deacon Don



St. Peter

Feast Day June 29

Simon Peter or Cephas, was the first pope, Prince of the Apostles, and founder, with St. Paul, of the see of Rome.

Peter was a native of Bethsaida, near Lake Tiberias, the son of John, and worked, like his brother St. Andrew, as a fisherman on Lake Genesareth. Andrew introduced Peter to Jesus, and Christ called Peter to become a disciple. In Luke is recounted the story that Peter caught so large an amount of fish that he fell down before the feet of Jesus and was told by the Lord, "Do not be afraid; from now on you will be catching men." Jesus also gave Simon a new name: Cephas, or the rock. Becoming a disciple of Jesus, Peter acknowledged him as "the Messiah, the son of the living God." Christ responded by saying: "you are Peter and upon this rock I will build my church" He added "I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven. Whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven; and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven." Peter was always listed as the first of the Apostles in all of the New Testament accounts and was a member of the inner circle of Jesus, with James and John. He is recorded more than any other disciple, and was at Jesus' side at the Transfiguration, the raising of Jairus daughter, and the Agony of the Garden of Gethsemane. He helped organize the Last Supper and played a major role in the events of the

Passion. When the Master was arrested, he cut off the right ear of a slave of the high priest Malchus and then denied Christ three times as the Lord predicted. Peter then went out and began to weep bitterly. After the Resurrection, Peter went to the tomb with the other disciple after being told of the event by the women. The first appearance of the Risen Christ was before Peter, ahead of the other disciples, and when the Lord came before the disciples at Tiberias, he gave to Peter the famous command to *Feed my lambs.... Tend my sheep.... Feed my sheep.* In the time immediately after the Ascension, Peter stood as the unquestionable head of the Apostles, his position made evident in the Acts. He appointed the replacement of Judas Iscariot; he spoke first to the crowds that had assembled after the descent of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost; he was the first Apostle to perform miracles in the name of the Lord; and he rendered judgment upon the deceitful Ananias and Sapphira. Peter was instrumental in bringing the Gospel to the Gentiles. He baptized the Roman pagan Cornelius, and at the Council of Jerusalem he gave his support to preaching to Gentiles, thereby permitting the new Church to become universal. Imprisoned by King Herod Agrippa, he was aided in an escape by an angel. He then resumed his apostolate in Jerusalem and his missionary efforts included travels to such cities

of the pagan world as Antioch, Corinth, and eventually Rome. He made reference to the Eternal City in his first Epistle by noting that he writes from Babylon. It is certain that Peter died in Rome and that his martyrdom came during the reign of Emperor Nero, probably in 64. Testimony of his martyrdom is extensive, including Origen, Eusebius of Caesarea, St. Clement I of Rome, St. Ignatius, and St. Irenaeus. According to rich tradition, Peter was crucified on the Vatican Hill upside down because he declared himself unworthy to die in the same manner as the Lord. He was then buried on Vatican Hill, and excavations under St. Peter's Basilica have unearthed his probable tomb, and his relics are now enshrined under the high altar of St. Peter's. From the earliest days of the Church, Peter was recognized as the Prince of the Apostles and the first Supreme Pontiff; his see, Rome, has thus enjoyed the position of primacy over the entire Catholic Church. While Peter's chief feast day is June 29, he is also honored on February 22 and November 18. In liturgical art, he is depicted as an elderly man holding a key and a book. His symbols include an inverted cross, a boat, and the cock.

from Catholic Online

We welcome to our parish community
the following who registered at St. Peter Parish:

Joanna Rooney
Michael Ann Ahmetovio
Mr. & Mrs. Andrew and Diane Lorence
Mr. & Mrs. Ryan and Julia Buddie
Mr. & Mrs. John and Sarah Ross
Mr. & Mrs. John and Isabel Louis
Therese Trapp
Mr. & Mrs. Matt and Lindsey Shelley
Robert Stoll
Mr. & Mrs. Tony and Darlene Calabrise

Mr. & Mrs. Carmen & Karen Casement
Lauren Hase
Maggie Hess
Mr. & Mrs. Kevin and Ember Mahaffey
Mike Manns
Mr. & Mrs. Dan and Gail McVey
Mr. & Mrs. Eric and Sharon Rader
Spencer Sedar
Mr. & Mrs. Dennis and Carrie Yeckel

St. Peter Pets



Ebonique (Ebbie for short). She is an 11 year old Standard Poodle and is a therapy dog. She has made countless faces smile over the years. Her loving owner is Mary Lou Cole

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St. Peter Church
35777 Center Ridge Road
North Ridgeville, Ohio 44039

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Save the Date

Diocesan-Wide Penance Service
March 12

Fish Fry
Fridays during Lent

Palm Sunday
April 13

Easter
April 20

Ascension
May 29

St. Peter and Paul
June 29

Outreach Meals
Last Wednesday
of the Month

Worship

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

Every Tuesday 8:45 a.m. to 7 p.m.
Liturgy of the Hours and
Benediction at 6:40 p.m.

Legion of Mary Rosary

Following 8:15 a.m. weekday Mass

Miraculous Medal Novena

Following 8:15 a.m. Monday Mass

Reconciliation (Confession)

3:30 - 4:30 p.m. Saturdays

Prayer

Prayer for Lent

O God, bless us during this season of spiritual renewal. Fill our minds and hearts with love, that we may be a sign of Jesus to all those living in our midst.

Eucharistic Celebration

Monday thru Friday: 8:15 a.m.

Weekends:

Saturday: 5 p.m.

Sunday: 6 a.m.

8 a.m.

10 a.m.

12 p.m.

Parish Staff

Pastor: Rev. Robert J. Franco

Senior Parochial Vicar:

Rev. Robert Sanson

Deacon: Rev. Mr. Don Jankowski

Principal: Sr. Mary Patricia Vovk, S.N.D.

Music Director: James Akoury

Lay Ecclesial Minister: Cheryl Koberna

Director of Religious Education:

Sr. Mary Sean Groh, S.N.D.

Business Manager: Karen Doubrava

Secretary: Christine Stefanek