



April 14, 2024

Third Sunday of Easter

St. Peter Church



Christ Appears to the Apostles Behind Closed Doors, Duccio di Buoninsegna, ca. 1308-11

406 Forman Avenue
Point Pleasant Beach, NJ 08742
(732) 892-0049
www.stpetersbytheshore.org

BAPTISM

A communal celebration of the sacrament of Baptism is held twice a month on the 2nd and 4th Sunday at 12:30 p.m. for registered parishioners. Baptisms will not take place during Lent. Please visit our website's Liturgy & Sacraments page to learn more about having your Baptism at St. Peter Church.

RECONCILIATION

Confessions are held on Saturdays from 4:00 - 4:45 p.m. and other times by request only. You are always free to make an appointment with a Friar to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

MARRIAGE

Engaged couples should contact our parish at least one year in advance of your proposed date of marriage and before making other arrangements. Please visit our website's Liturgy & Sacraments page to learn more about having your Wedding at St. Peter Church.

MINISTRY TO THE ILL AND HOMEBOUND

Before Mass, please come to the sacristy and complete the form that will give us needed information about our parishioners who cannot attend Mass regularly. We need the names of those who are ill or homebound, as well as those parishioners bringing the Sacrament to them. We also ask that all parishioners let the parish office know of anyone who is ill or homebound and **not** receiving Communion, so we can arrange for them to receive the Blessed Sacrament regularly. We are grateful for your cooperation in this important ministry at St. Peter's.

Pastor

Rev. Robert Schlageter, OFM Conv.

Parochial Vicar

Rev. Theodore Neculăș, OFM Conv.

Deacon George Korbela

**FOR LIFE AND DEATH
EMERGENCIES CALL:
(732) 228-3965**

**FOR PATIENTS AT OCEAN MEDICAL
CENTER (BRICK):** There is a Catholic
Priest available at Ocean Medical
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of the Sacrament of the Sick. To
request a Priest visit, please call (732)
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hospital operator.

Religious Education Office

(732) 899-4839

**Parish Catechetical
Leader:**

Mrs. Judith Garifine

**Sisters of St. Joseph
Convent**

(848) 232-3381

Director of Music:

Joe Dalton

(732) 581-3643

MASS INTENTIONS & CALENDAR

Sunday

7:30 a.m.

April 14, 2024

1. For the People of the Parish

9:00 a.m.

1. Dawn Brodeur
2. Tyler Rusinko

11:00 a.m.

1. Elaine Lipari Kaminski
2. Cornelius J. Broderick

Monday

8:30 a.m.

April 15, 2024

1. William Harth

Tuesday

8:30 a.m.

April 16, 2024

1. Richard T. Searls
2. Nicholas Gall

Wednesday

8:30 a.m.

April 17, 2024

1. Nascimento Ruela
2. John McCabe

7:00 p.m.

Eucharistic Adoration

Thursday

8:30 a.m.

April 18, 2024

1. Michael Marino
2. Lenore Punk

Friday

8:30 a.m.

April 19, 2024

1. Jim Bogan
2. Jacqueline Reynolds

Saturday

5:00 p.m.

April 20, 2024

1. Ugo Freda
2. Dorothy Hotz

Sunday

7:30 a.m.

April 21, 2024

1. For the People of the Parish

9:00 a.m.

1. Joseph Hines
2. Tyler Rusinko

11:00 a.m.

1. Secular Franciscans
2. Grace Strazzire & Dorothy Hager
3. Reyna Cadena

✠ CANDLE DEVOTIONS FOR THE WEEK OF APRIL 14TH ✠

☞ The St. Joseph Candle is Offered for Thomas Wall by Debra Kennedy-Yorio ☞

☞ The Blessed Mother Candle is Offered for Kellen Tyler Gall ☞

A Few Words From You Know Who...

On The Care of Souls at St. Peter

As I type this, we have three people in hospice and one of them is knocking on heaven's door. It is important that the parish keep them close in prayer. I had a very close friend (a Religious Sister for 60 years) who told me that the Devil longs to tempt people as they knock on heaven's door. That is why it is so important that the dying receive the Sacrament of the Sick and have people close to them reassuring them of God's love and God's mercy.

Our Confirmation Students (around 50) are in the final stages of preparation to receive the Sacrament from Bishop O'Connell. They have written their requests, they will all be given the opportunity to go to Confession, and there will be a final interview with the Friars before they are Confirmed.

Our First Communion Students (44) are ready and excited about receiving our Lord for the first time. As we have announced several times and will continue to announce because First Communions are a parish-wide celebration, they have been moved to Sunday Masses so the whole Church may rejoice in this special moment in the lives of our little ones. Of course, each of the children's families will have a whole pew for that special day. Many of you will have to sit someplace else. If all of this is too much for you, just go to either a 7:30 am Mass or a 5:00 pm Mass on First Communion weekends.

Our Easter Sacrament RCIA participants are finishing up. They have two more meetings. It was a joy to get to know them. Once finished, we will begin advertising for anyone else who wants to become Catholic or get Confirmed at next year's Easter Vigil.

In April, we will have eight Baptisms and three Weddings. Most of the preparations are done, and every one of these moments is very special to the families involved and special to our parish.

Around our Campus

In addition to all the holy things that happen in our parish every day, this is what's going on...

Friary Insulation

Last week, the Friary attic was insulated with foam insulation. In the winter the second floor is always cold. In the summer the central air-conditioning doesn't work, and we needed both central air and window units to cool the bedrooms down just a little. We have been told that while expensive, this foam insulation should work to solve both of these problems, and truth be told it is cheaper than a new central air-conditioning. I'll keep you posted.

New Technology

We are near the end of our search for a new IT company. We interviewed eight companies. It has become abundantly clear to me after doing a lot of research that we were vulnerable to being hacked. The new computers and security systems we are purchasing will protect our parish records from any kind of intrusion. In the event that we are hacked, we will now have a company which will take over and repair any damage a hacker could cause. This whole project is funded by the \$75,000 grant from the Virginia and Paul Patti Foundation which came to us via one of our summer parishioner families. It has enabled us to completely upgrade our parish technology and keep our precious data safe. We could never have accomplished this important work without the grant. I want to thank Rich Grandelli who has been a big help in helping us evaluate all of the proposals. This is something we just don't want to get wrong.

Lower Kolbe Hall and the Parish Office

As you know, the same grant will also allow us to fix up lower Kolbe Hall, which desperately needs to be refreshed, as well as the parish office. In Lower Kolbe, we will be putting in a new floor, painting the walls, and upgrading the plugs and lighting. There will also be some small technology upgrades. The ladies have approved the color palette for lower Kolbe; you can see it in this photo. The grant will also enable us to buy new tables and chairs for both upper and lower Kolbe which will be easier to move and store. Now it takes two people to take down one of our heavy plywood tables.

The main parish office will be painted, and a new security window was installed. This was the suggestion of the security review which was done by the Ocean County Prosecutor's Office. New filing cabinets have been purchased, and a new desk is being made. The whole office will be painted. Everything will be much neater and more organized.

The last component of the grant from the Virginia and Paul Patti Foundation will be streaming equipment. We will use this equipment not only in our Church, but also in our School and Kolbe Hall. This equipment will allow us to stream Masses, Weddings and Funerals, and special days like First Communion and Confirmations. This is really important, especially when Grandma and Grandpa can't travel to a ceremony like First Communion. We will also be able to broadcast some of our sporting events or school plays from our school building and use this new equipment to share any of our Adult Faith formation programs we might have over the internet.

The Federal Security Grant

As I have told you several times, we also received a significant security grant from the federal government for both Kolbe Hall and our beautiful church. It's sad to say, but the threats to places of worship continue to grow and there are several other parishes in the Diocese of Trenton applying for similar grants. Sadly, I noticed at the Chrism Mass that there are now bodyguards present when Bishop O'Connell celebrates major events, and I am sure that they will help keep not only him but everyone present at these events safe. The process of getting the work scope defined, bid, accepted, and paid for from the federal security grant is onerous at best. We are very grateful that we have a professional who knows the ropes and is willing to help us wade through all of the red tape. Once done our church will have cameras so that law enforcement will be able to see what is going on in the church should the need ever arrive. All of the doors will be fitted with appropriate hardware to allow for easy locking and egress in the event of an emergency. There will be panic buttons strategically located inside of the church, enabling us to call for help with the push of a button. I never dreamt that we would need anything like this in a church, but times are certainly changing, and we need to do our due diligence.

And there is more...

As I look out my window, I can see Vinnie and his crew planting the pansies in the gardens. Thanks to his efforts and the efforts of many, our property always looks great.

The glass company is installing new frames for the new safety glass which will be placed in the sacristy vestment closet and parish office security window. As I mentioned, the old tempered glass was not safe and not up to code. Yes, we are a beehive of activity, and that is the way I like it.

Divine Mercy Sunday

Someone asked me to post my homily on Divine Mercy Sunday online. I put it on our parish Facebook page and as I type this 3,000 people have reacted to it. I'm surprised! If you want to read the homily, just go to our website and click on the banner picture of Our Lord's Divine Mercy image and you will be able to read it. His mercy endures forever.

Rosarian Flea Market / Bake Sale

They did it again. Every year my beautiful senior Jersey Girls clean out their houses, gather all the stuff they no longer want or need, bring it to Kolbe Hall, and convince other people to buy it. Then they support their activities and the Church with the proceeds. I'm told they made close to \$1,000 this year. When the sale is over, they gather up whatever remains and take it to Goodwill, which is only too happy to receive it and try to sell it again. Thank you, ladies, for all your hard work. No wonder you look so young. By the way, the baked goods were too good!



This Week's Gospel Reading

Gospel Reading

Luke 24:35-48

Jesus appears again to his disciples and shares a meal with them.

Background on the Gospel Reading

On the third Sunday of Easter, we continue to hear Gospel accounts of Jesus' appearances to his disciples following his Resurrection. Today's reading, taken from the Gospel of Luke, follows immediately after the report of Jesus' appearance to his disciples on the road to Emmaus. This is the event being recounted by the disciples in the opening verse of today's Gospel.

Consistently in the reports of Jesus' post-Resurrection appearances, Jesus greets his disciples with the words, "Peace be with you." This is a most appropriate greeting. The disciples have witnessed the death of someone they loved, and they now fear for their own lives as well. Peace is what they need more than anything else. Jesus often connects this greeting of peace with another gift—forgiveness. In today's Gospel, this connection is made in the final verses.

Even as they hear Jesus' greeting of peace, the disciples are startled and terrified. They are uncertain about what to make of the figure before them and, quite understandably, they mistake Jesus for a ghost. Yet the figure before them is not a ghost; Jesus invites them to experience his resurrected body with their senses, to look and to touch. The figure before them is flesh and bone, still bearing the marks of crucifixion. Although the disciples cannot forget his suffering and death, peace begins to take root in their hearts, as their fears turn to joy and amazement.

As further proof of his identity and of his resurrected body, Jesus eats with his disciples. The disciples have known Jesus best through the meals that he has shared with them. Descriptions of these meals are a defining element of Luke's Gospel. By eating with his disciples after his Resurrection, Jesus recalls all these meals, and most importantly, he recalls the Last Supper.

Luke's report of the Last Supper and the meals that Jesus shared after his Resurrection unveil for us the significance of the Eucharist. Having shared a meal with his disciples, Jesus now uncovers for them the significance of what was written about him in the Scriptures. So, too, our celebration of the Mass is an encounter with Jesus, through the Word and the Sacrament of the Eucharist. As Jesus commissions his disciples to be witnesses to what Scriptures foretold, our celebration of the Eucharist commissions us. Like the disciples, we are sent to announce the good news of Jesus' forgiveness of sins.

ST. PETER CHURCH

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION

will take place during both the 9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.
Masses on

SUNDAY, APRIL 21ST

and

SUNDAY, APRIL 28TH

Each family will have a reserved pew. Other guests and parishioners may sit in all unreserved pews.

ST. PETER CHURCH

REGISTRATION NOW OPEN

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1st through 8th Grade

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stpetersbytheshore.org/religious-education-1



CATHOLIC SCHOOL REFLECTION

In this age of uncertainty and political correctness, Catholic Schools
teach and live traditional moral values.

(send your one sentence reflection to stevebaglivio@icloud.com)



Astonishing

There are a lot of things I love about being Catholic, but at the top of the list is the Eucharist. Most people have never really stopped to think about it, but the Eucharist is amazing.

I was asked once: What would have to happen for you to leave the Catholic Church? I thought about the question for a long time. I combed through the lowest moments in Catholic history, testing each to see if one of them would have been the breaking point that made me leave. But after thinking it through I decided I could never leave the Catholic Church. The reason is because I believe that Jesus is truly present—body, blood, soul, and divinity—in the Eucharist. Where else can I get the Eucharist?

Sure, some other churches might have better music, but in the whole scheme of things, music is trivial compared to the Eucharist. Other churches might have more engaging preachers, but these are trivial compared to the Eucharist. When we go to Mass on Sunday, the danger is in thinking that the music and the homily are the most important things. Don't take the trivial and make it important. That's the way of the world. Get clear about what's really important, what matters most, and life will be a lot simpler and more joyful.

At Mass on Sunday, the homily could be in a language I don't understand, the music could be a complete train wreck, there could be kids running up and down the aisles screaming at the top of their lungs, throwing crayons and eating snacks (or eating crayons and throwing snacks), and that's OK – because the moment when I receive the Eucharist is a pivotal moment in my week. It's a moment of transformation, a moment when I get to receive who and what I wish to become. And I could never leave that. It doesn't matter how good the music or preaching is elsewhere; I cannot leave the Eucharist. I will not leave Jesus. I hope you won't either.

When I reflect on the gift of faith I have been given, I am led to the conclusion that once we believe in the Eucharist, we are given the grace to look beyond a bad homily; the grace to look beyond uninspiring music and the grace to look beyond music that elevates our hearts, minds, and souls. For it is beyond all of these things, way beyond all these things, that we find Jesus in the Eucharist.

This sets the Catholic Church apart: Jesus truly present in the Eucharist. The Eucharist is uniquely Catholic.

Let me ask you a question. If you had to spend the rest of your life on a deserted island, and you could only take five people with you, whom would you take?

I can tell you a priest would be on my list of five people. No priest, no Mass. No Mass, no Eucharist. I can't live without the Eucharist. More importantly, I don't want to. And once you come to understand the power of the Eucharist, you won't want to either.

I was born Catholic, and I will die Catholic. There are lots of reasons for that, but none more compelling than the Eucharist.

You might be thinking to yourself, "I'm not sure if I believe that Jesus is truly present in the host I receive at Mass on Sunday." You wouldn't be the first person to have doubts. Great faith and great doubt often go hand in hand. There was a priest who lived in Lanciano, Italy around the year 700, who was plagued with doubts about the True Presence...until one day. After that day he never again doubted that Jesus was truly present in the Eucharist.

What happened on that day? I'm glad you asked. On that day, the priest was celebrating Mass in the small church, even though he was filled with doubts about the Real Presence of Jesus in the Eucharist. As he said the Words of Consecration "Take this, all of you, and eat of it, for this is my body which will be given up for you,") the bread changed into living flesh and the wine changed into blood before his eyes.

Today, you can go to Lanciano and see the flesh and blood that has remained there for more than thirteen hundred years. The flesh and blood have been studied by scientists on a number of occasions, and the following conclusions have been drawn: The flesh is real human flesh, and the blood is real human blood, the flesh is muscular tissue from

the heart, and there is no evidence of preservatives, or any other chemical agents present. This is one of thousands of Eucharistic miracles that have been documented throughout the life of the Church.

At the Last Supper Jesus “took the bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to them, saying, ‘This is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.’” (Luke 22:19) We take Jesus at His word. At Mass on Sunday the priest extends his hands over simple bread and wine and asks the Holy Spirit to transform them into the body and blood of Jesus Christ.

If the Holy Spirit can do that to bread and wine, imagine what he can do for you if you open yourself up to the experience of Communion.

You are not just a body. You are a delicate composition of body and soul. If you haven’t already, one day you will discover you need to feed your soul in order to live a full and happy life. And when that day comes, I want you to remember today, because there is no better way to feed your soul than with the Eucharist.

The Eucharist is astonishing. God Himself wants to nourish us. God Himself wants to feed us spiritually. God wants to dwell in you.

Some people say that the bread and wine are just a symbol of Jesus’ body and blood, but that is not what we believe as Catholics. And the evidence found in Divine Revelation suggests that it is not just a symbol. The Scriptures don’t suggest a symbol. Jesus didn’t say, “Unless you eat a symbol of my flesh and drink a symbol of my blood you will not have life.” And remember there are two aspects of Divine Revelation: Scripture and Tradition. And from the earliest times, Christians have believed that the Eucharist was the body and blood of the Risen Jesus, and not just a symbol.

At the heart of the mystery that is the Catholic faith is the Eucharist. I hope with every passing year of your life you will explore and embrace the mystery of the Eucharist more. The wiser you become, the closer you will want to be to God. And God wants to be close to us. St. Francis de Sales wrote, “In the Eucharist we become one with God.” To be one with God is a beautiful thing, and whether you are aware of it or not, it is your deepest yearning. You have an insatiable yearning to be one with God. I hope you will start listening to that yearning.

If you want to have a life-changing experience, find an Adoration Chapel in your area and visit it. Sit there in Jesus’ presence for one hour. You will be amazed how powerful Jesus’ presence is, and how much He will teach you about yourself and your life in one hour.

There is a lot of talk these days about superfoods. Superfoods are high in nutrients and rich with antioxidants, and they keep your immune system strong to fight off disease. The Eucharist is the ultimate superfood for the soul, loaded with grace to keep you spiritually healthy, give you the wisdom and strength to choose the right path, and fight off diseases like selfishness and other related vices and bad habits. And that is just a tiny fraction of the power the Eucharist holds.

When you go to Mass next Sunday, keep in mind, the Eucharist is not just a symbol. This is Jesus. The same Jesus who healed people with a touch. The same man who taught with more wisdom than any person who ever walked the earth. This is the guy who fed five thousand people with five loaves and two fishes. The same Jesus who rose from the dead.

We’ve all got problems. We all have struggles. But whatever you’ve got, He can handle. You need grace. You may not know it yet, but the sooner you realize it the better. And the Eucharist is the supreme source of the grace you need.

Isn’t it time you allowed God to unleash the power of grace in your life?

Matthew Kelly. From “Beautiful Eucharist”. Wellspring Books. Reprinted with Permission.

News Out and About Our Parish

**THANK YOU FOR
YOUR SUPPORT OF
ST. PETER CHURCH!**

2024 Annual Catholic Appeal Progress:

| | |
|---------------|------------------------------|
| Goal: | \$65,000 |
| Pledged: | \$37,159.00 (57% of Goal) |
| Paid: | \$32,213.00 (50% of Goal) |
| Total Donors: | 139 |
| Total Gifts: | 143 |
| Average Gift: | \$259.85 |

| | 4/7/2024 | 3/31/2024 |
|----------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Easter Collection | \$1,535.00 | \$31,958.50 |
| 1 st Collection | \$8,369.00 | |
| Online | \$4,444.00 | \$2,204.00 |
| 2 nd Collection | \$2,452.00 | \$0.00 |
| Total | \$16,800.00 | \$34,162.50 |

ACA 2023 Performance Comparison as of 4/1/23

| | |
|---------------|------------------------------|
| Pledged: | \$46,414.62 (71% of Goal) |
| Donors: | 180 |
| Average Gift: | \$245.58 |

Mass Attendance: April 7, 2024

| | |
|--------------|------------|
| 5:00 p.m. | 137 |
| 7:30 a.m. | 151 |
| 9:00 a.m. | 135 |
| 11:00 a.m. | 301 |
| Total | 724 |

Please Remember St. Peter Church in Your Will

Mass Intentions/Cards & Candle Devotions can be requested through our parish website at www.stpetersbytheshore.org (under Parish Office/Request Mass Intention.) Mass Intentions/Cards can also be requested in the Parish Office, located on the 2nd floor of Kolbe Hall, Mon-Thurs from 9:00am-3:00pm, by calling (732) 892-0049, or by sending an email to office@saintpeteronline.org

If you have been sexually abused as a minor by a member of the clergy or anyone representing the Catholic Church, or if you know of someone who was, you can report that abuse through the Diocesan Abuse Hotline: 1-888-296-2965 or via email at abuseline@dioceseoftrenton.org

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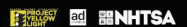
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