



Brothers and Sisters,

Last week I wrote a bit about our faith being apostolic. I then introduced the seminarians who will make their home among us for the next 2-4 years and the responsibility that we share in helping them to be formed and ready to receive the grace of the Sacrament of Holy Orders. This week I want to highlight another aspect of our apostolic faith. The responsibilities of married couples to educate their children in the faith. This responsibility to educate children in the faith does not primarily reside with the parish or the priest or the diocesan bishop. It primarily resides with the married couple. In fact, it is one of the facets that makes up the purpose of marriage in the Catholic Church.

The Catechism of the Catholic Church, paragraph 1660, states the purpose of marriage,

“The marriage covenant, by which a man and a woman form with each other an intimate communion of life and love, has been founded and endowed with its own special laws by the Creator. By its very nature it is ordered to the good of the couple, as well as to the generation and education of children. Christ the Lord raised marriage between the baptized to the dignity of a sacrament.”

Education of children is a responsibility that every married couple takes on the day they exchange their vows and are united by Christ in the Sacrament of Matrimony. When married couples present their children for the Sacrament of Baptism that child is baptized upon a profession of faith made by the parents of the child and it is stated more than once in the Rite of Baptism that the parents of the child are the first teachers of the faith to their child.

The parish then only provides guides or avenues for married couples to carry out this responsibility, if they choose to use them. In the recent decades there has been a trend for married couples to try and shift this responsibility solely to the parish. This trend has been detrimental to the apostolic nature of our faith. The parish's responsibility is to offer resources to the parents, those resources for teaching the faith may be in the form of formal classes, youth retreats or catechesis events, or online resources. It is the married couple's responsibility to choose, guided by the teachings of Jesus Christ articulated in the Catholic Church and through the wisdom of the Holy Spirit given to them at Confirmation and present in their marriage covenant, the method in which they will pass on the faith to their children.

Faith that is witnessed and passed on by parents to children is a true treasure. As a parish community we can do our best to aid and support this noble and important work of parents.

- ◆ **St. Peter's School** provides complete academic education for children Pre- K to Eighth Grade and is founded in the teaching of Jesus Christ articulated through the Roman Catholic Church. All parents are welcomed to enroll their children in St. Peter's School. Information about enrollment can be found on the school's website at <https://www.stpetershokah.org/school>.
- ◆ **Tri-Parish Faith Formation Programs** are provided as an option for parents whose children do not attend St. Peter's School or another Catholic School in the area. This year our Faith Formation Programs will look different in each parish of our Tri-Parish cluster.
- ◆ **St. Joseph Parish we will be offering in person Faith Formation Classes on Sunday mornings from 9:00 – 9:45 a.m.** Karen Eich, our parish Faith Formation Director, will be coordinating registration for the classes. A letter with details will be mailed in the next week.
- ◆ **St. Peter Parish will join Crucifixion Parish for Faith Formation Classes.** Contact information will be provided for you in the next week. This arrangement is in preparation for the clustering of St. Peter Parish with Crucifixion Parish on July 1, 2022.
- ◆ **Immaculate Conception Parish will continue to join St. Rose of Lima Parish for in person Faith Formation Classes.** Please contact St. Rose of Lima to register your child(ren).

The passing on of our faith is an important work of each married couple's life. Be assured of mine and your fellow parishioners' prayers, support and aid. A letter in regard to Faith Formation Program registration and starting dates will be coming to your homes in the next week. If you have questions please contact the Tri-Parish Office at 507-894-4944. Afternoons are the best time to call if you wish to speak with someone in person otherwise please leave a voicemail and your call will be returned as soon as possible.

God bless you, Fr. Tom



Immaculate Conception, Saturday, Sept. 4th 4:30PM
+Earl & +Veronika Rose

St. Peter, Sun., Sept. 5th 8:00AM — For the parishioners

St. Joseph, Sunday, Sept. 5th 10:00AM — +Elvin Plapp

St. Peter, Tuesday, Sept. 7th 8:30AM— +Matt Von Arx

St. Joseph, Wednesday, Sept. 8th 8:30am—
+Phyllis Feldmeier

St. Peter, Thursday, Sept. 9th 8:30AM — +Tom Piffner

St. Joseph, Friday, Sept. 10th 8:30AM —+Maggie DeStazio

Immaculate Conception, Saturday, Sept. 11th 4:30PM —
+Paul J. & +Dolores Maloney

St. Peter, Sunday, Sept. 12th 8:00AM —
+Eugene Laschenski

St. Joseph, Sunday, Sept. 12th 10:00AM —
For the parishioners

Church Support

Immaculate Conception — Aug. 28th — \$273

St. Joseph — Aug. 22nd— \$777

St. Peter — Aug. 29th - \$1,857

St. Peter – Liturgical Schedule

- Sunday, September 12th @ 8:00AM**

Lector— Pat Von Arx

Ushers— Dave Feuerhelm & Mike Ross

Servers— Alex Henke, Devon Schulte & Rylee Johnson

Greeter — Mary Kay Sheehan

Rosary— Dave Feuerhelm

St. Joseph – Liturgical Schedule

- September 12th @ 10:00AM**

Lector — Karen

Ushers — David & Gary

Rosary — Chuck

St. Joseph Church News:

The Knights of Columbus will be serving a pancake and eggs breakfast from 8 until 12:00 at Montini on Sept. 26th. At the same time the CCW will be conducting a bake sale. All are invited. There will be more information coming in the next few weeks. Please mark your calendars and plan to attend.

Plan ahead: **St. Joseph's Swiss Steak Dinner** is scheduled for October 17. A letter will be coming soon.



Please email or call if you would like to celebrate the Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick if you or know someone who is ill or having surgery. I will come to their home or arrange a visit at the hospital if allowed. Fr. Tom email — tmelvin@dowr.org phone #507-259-1747 (cell)

St. Peter's Roast Beef Dinner Sat., Oct. 9, 2021

We are excited to announce we will be having our Annual Roast Beef Dinner this year!! **Please save the date for October 9, 2021.** We will need volunteer assistance from October 8th through October 9th for various jobs. It really takes many volunteers to make this a success. If you are new to our parish, we would be grateful for any help that you can give us. Please call Carolyn at 608-769-3093. Thank You!!



St. Peter School News

Bussing.....reminder that bussing begins after Labor Day.

Yearbook Volunteer....looking for someone to put together the annual yearbook. Camera is 2 years old and in great shape. You can have students take pictures of events if you want. Mainly need someone to organize the pictures in the yearbook and make sure the events are covered. Please email principal@stpetershokah.org if you can help out.

PTO.....looking for PTO reps for each grade if possible. Karah Anderson re-started the PTO last year and we would like more parents to be on PTO. Mainly work on fundraising activities like KC Marathon, Extravaganza, Sweet Lou BBQ, etc. Please email principal@stpetershokah.org if you are interested.

Important Dates....

9/6	Labor Day, no school
9/7	8:25 am, mass Bussing begins
9/9	8:25 am, mass
9/14	8:25 am, mass
9/16	8:25 am, mass
9/21	8:25 am, mass Picture day
9/22	Picture day
9/23	8:25 am, mass
9/25	KC Marathon
9/28	8:25 am, mass
9/30	8:25 am, mass