



St. Peter Catholic Church

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November 2009

Dear People of St. Peters:

We are a parish of somewhat over 500 active families which amounts to approximately 1500 parishioners. Our parish was founded in 1870 just 139 years ago. As I see us as a parish I picture us as a people called to good stewardship.

We are called to a **SPIRITUAL LIFE**. Signs of God's love for us are the blessings in our lives - our abilities, careers, property, income and our family's great love. Our patron, St. Peter says "*As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another - use it to serve one another as good stewards of God's varied grace.*" (1 Peter 1:10) and St. Paul asks, "*What do you possess that you have not received?*" (1 Corinthians 4:7)

We are called to **TITHE** to give back to God part of our time, talent and treasure. In today's bulletin you have opportunity to sign up in this area or to continue serving in areas you already have pledged to serve. But unless we have suffered severe hardships, we will have something to give back to God to do His work in our parish. This means 5% in our parish weekly collection; 4% to local causes and fund drives like the cancer fund, heart fund, etc. and 1% to the Diocese to operate offices that benefit our parish.

5% to the parish in the weekly offering; this goes to do God's work among us like operating our school, PSR, Confirmation, Youth Group, sacramental ministries, health insurance, utilities and the maintenance of our newly renovated buildings. This year it takes \$3,000 per student to attend St Peter School for one year. Parents are expected to give \$30 each week in the Sunday collection. Fund-raisers like the recent successful Dinner Auction and the great Harvest Festival help a lot but not near what is needed.

As you can see by last Sunday's bulletin we are somewhat behind our budget by \$7,693.24. A parish is a faith family; the tithe of all people support the education of all the children. That is the way it is supposed to be. Thanks to those for their generosity. We are living in scary times with regard to the economy. I hope and pray that our means will allow us to sustain a 5% tithe. As I mentioned we have no debt on the renovation of the church, school, hall and rectory. All these expenses were paid for from the payment of the pledges that you made to the Capital Campaign and Bequests given to the parish. So not one penny that you give in the weekly offertory collection is to pay off a debt.

I kindly ask you also to respond to our Bishop's request in the (C.S.A.) Catholic Stewardship Appeal to consider giving 1% to the Diocesan Offices that benefit each parish in our Diocese. As the pledges that people made to the Bishop three years ago are paid up over five years the CSA Goal for each parish is reduced. Our goal of \$22,370 this year, this is the same as last year. Please respond to this appeal in the return mailer that came with the letter from Bishop Gaydos. If you lost the envelope please use an ordinary envelope and mail to P.O. Box 104900, Jefferson City, MO 65110. Make the check out to C.S.A.

If we here at St. Peter trust in God and give thanks for our blessings through tithing, we will be all right in our parish finances. Thank you so much for being parishioners. I take pride and joy in serving you. God bless you and those dear to you!

Fr. Kevin Gormley, Pastor