



ST. PETER'S CATCH

Quarterly newsletter of St. Peter Parish

Winter 2007-08

CHURCH OF ST. PETER

3655 OBERLIN AVE.

LORAIN, OHIO 44053

282-9103

Students, parish work to fight hunger

By Florence Ellis
St. Peter Catch Writer

St. Peter Parish maintains a strong and long-standing connection to the Catholic Charities Family Center of Lorain.

Actually, make that several connections.

No one attending Mass on the third weekend of every month could miss the first connection – all you have to do is look at the altar. It is piled high with bags and bags of canned and boxed foods and other items donated by St. Peter parishioners.

Or maybe you have seen other parishioners loading those bags into their vans and cars after Mass. The volunteers then take the donations to the Family Center, located on Eighth Street, where they replenish the facility's shelves.

In addition, the parish's St. Vincent de Paul Society plays a huge role in providing provisions for the Family Center. The society's members buy fresh foods from Fligner's Market in Lorain each week and deliver them to the center. The amount spent on that endeavor averages to about \$1,000 per month, according to the society's records.

But don't think St. Peter's connection ends there. On many days during the week, the Family Center benefits from the hard work of adult volunteers — from the parish at large as well as the St. Vincent de Paul Society — who stop in for a few hours' work on the food line and other chores.

Another connection you might not



St. Peter eighth-graders (from left), Alex Sciuilli, Zach Tomasic and Nicole Mahilo, join a Family Center worker, far left, to serve food recently at the Catholic Charities Family Center of Lorain. In the background is Laura Collins, mother of Sean Collins, who was also volunteering.

be aware of, unless you are the parent of a St. Peter School student, is the annual Thanksgiving Food Drive, sponsored by the school's Student Government. Kathy Petro, a St. Peter School junior high teacher who oversees the project, said the food drive was established at St. Peter's "before I came here, which was 1978."

In the days preceding Thanksgiving, students bring in food and other items, such as toothpaste and soap, and place them in specially-decorated boxes in their homerooms, explained Miss Petro. Then, on the Tuesday before Thanksgiving, the children take the boxes to the altar during a Thanksgiving prayer service. Later, the donations are taken to the Family Center.

St. Peter School also has another

connection to the Family Center, in its service project for eighth grade students:

Most Thursdays during the school year, you can find eighth graders at the Family Center, serving the clients who come in for the noon meal. Students, usually four at a time, collect tickets, pour beverages, man the food line and clean tables.

Four students who recently participated in the Family Center project agreed it was a worthwhile service and a good learning experience,

as well as being fun. Aaron Gomez, Chloe DeAngelis, Kayla Chrisman and Hannah Ernst said they liked the feeling of making a difference in the lives of others.

"It was a very positive experience," noted Hannah, adding that it also helped her "to see what other people go through, and it felt good to help them." Aaron said the experience left him "more hopeful about helping others," and more likely to pursue volunteer work in the future.

"They are able to experience the good feeling of helping others," stated Dorothy Standen, a junior high school teacher at St. Peter's who directs the program. "They see the Family Center helps the Lorain community, and gives them an opportunity to help others less fortunate."

Message from Fr. Ken

Respite. When I think of the Advent season, "respite" comes to mind. Respite from heavy traffic, from jammed parking lots at shopping malls, from long lines at check-out counters and short tempers, from holiday music piped through all the stores, from too much to do and too many places to go.

Ah! Respite, in the quieter, more meditative yet joyful liturgies of Advent. For me, Advent liturgies are a lot like taking a walk on a crisp, clear, cool night after dark with the moon and stars lighting up the sky.

Besides respite, an opportunity for spiritual refreshment and renewal is offered in the communal celebration of the Sacrament of Reconciliation. The celebration consists of an opening hymn and prayer, a Scripture reading and short reflection, an examination of conscience, the recitation of an act of contrition, individual confessions and absolution, and a prayer of thanksgiving and blessing.

Our cluster of seven parishes is offering two such celebrations: at Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish on Sunday Dec. 16 at 2 p.m., and here at our parish on Monday, Dec. 17 at 7:30 p.m. A good number of confessors will be available. Please extend an invitation to family and friends to come with you.

Advent and the Sacrament of Reconciliation will help us remember what it is that we are really preparing to celebrate — the coming of God among us as our Savior!

Dr. Computer to the rescue

By Florence Ellis
Catch Writer

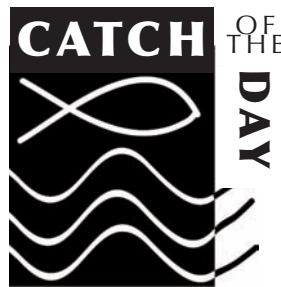
To friends and family, he's known as "Art," or, in the case of his son, "Dad."

But once Art Petkosek goes through the doors of St. Peter's Parish Center, he's known as "Dr. Computer."

And with good reason. The soft-spoken Petkosek has been keeping the parish computers in good working order for the past 25 years. The Rev. Kenneth Wolnowski, pastor, relies so heavily on Petkosek's expertise that he long ago gave him the medical moniker.

"Whatever goes wrong, he can fix it," related Fr. Ken. "Just like a doctor."

Not that too much goes wrong with the computers these days, but, in the beginning, the hardware and software weren't as good as today's versions, noted Petkosek. He comes in to the parish center once a week, and spends about three hours keeping things in working order. It is entirely a volunteer project for Petkosek, who recently retired as manager of a computer



department at the Federal Aviation Agency in Oberlin. Prior to that, he was an air traffic controller at the facility.

Petkosek also did all the wiring for the computer system, when the parish center was moved from the rectory to the present building a few years ago. Not one to take all the credit, Petkosek was quick to mention that "a lot of people put a lot of effort" into transferring data into the new system when the parish entered the computer age.

Petkosek's involvement

with St. Peter's does not end with his computer work, however. He and his wife, Anne, have been hard-working chairpersons for the parish festival for years, ever since their son, Michael, was in grade school at St. Peter's. Michael is now 27 and a research scientist for the Air Force research lab at Wright Patterson Air Force Base in Dayton.

The Petkoseks ran the pop concession at the festival for 15 years, and left that three years ago to chair the car raffle.

While Petkosek was being interviewed for this story, Ed Klimczak, parish comptroller, stuck his head in the door and quipped:

"Whatever he tells you, make it three times better! We wouldn't survive without him."



Art Petkosek

AUTOMATED GIVING

We invite you to consider "automated giving," a process for parishioners to have their weekly offering delivered electronically to the parish checking account. This process benefits both you, the contributor and St. Peter Parish. Please call the parish center

at 282-9103 for more information.

GIFT CARDS

Many varied gift cards are available for purchase in the parish center, school office, and after masses during the weekends. Purchasing cards from St. Peter Church or school benefits the parish.

St. Peter School thrives on tradition

By Emily Fabanich, Principal

Throughout the past 45 years St. Peter School has been making a difference in the lives of families in our community and the surrounding communities.

SPS standardized test scores are high and increase the longer students attend school here. The Catholic identity of our school is evident in more intangible ways,



such as how our students and teachers greet visitors, interact with each other, and pray together daily. We have heard teachers of area high schools praising our students for their good study habits, organizational

skills, and overall academic excellence.

One indication of true success is when students who have gone through the school enroll their children. Currently, we have many second generation St. Peter School students.

Let us celebrate this tradition and show appreciation to the following alumni parents and their children.

SPS honors alumni, welcomes second generation

Rick Dawson, SPS Class of '81 & **Gina Bennett Dawson** '85, **Lauren** '15, **Alexandria** '11, **Nicholas** '09

Bryan Hilenski '78 & **Jane Molnar Hilenski** '78, **Brandon** '14

Mark Whalen '75 and **Diane Mishak Whalen** '75, **Kassidy** '13

Allison Bolyos Hamrlik '90, **Alexis** '16, **Nicholas** '18

Robert Psaropoulos '85, **Joanna** '16, **Cristos** '18

Margaret Burns Formholtz '82, **Samuel** '16

Cynthia Chulik Jackson '85, **Chris** '16

Michael Matejcik '86, **Mackayla** '16

Jessica Mishak '96, **Anthony** '16

Aimee Kuester O'Donnell '88, **Aleesh** '16, **Amber** '10, **Ashley** '09

Dan Foisy '77, **Keith** '09

Mary Kay O'Brien '75, **Matthew** '08

Pat Randall '84, **Kristina** '10

Fred Ritenauer '69, **Fred** '09

Keri Katrincak Berstling '86, **Alexis** '09

Christina Tremaine '92, **Alexis** '16

Please call 282-9909 or email stpeterlorain@leeca.org to add any alumni who were not recognized here. If you know any SPS alumni, please encourage them to register on our school or parish website.

Jim Bucci '81, **Victoria** '15

Angela Gonzalez '94, **Alexia** '15

Kim Banks Lopez '88, **Alexis** '11, **Aaron** '08, **Jimmy** '15

Erin Horvath Michalski '80, **Matthew** '08, **Luke** '10, **Jake** '18

Sarah Ralich Fultz '96, **Autumn** '15

Tina Miller Velazquez '85, **Trinity** '16, **Gavin** '15, **Gaege** '12,

Colleen Bury Ransom '87, **Grace** '16, **Colin** '14

Jennifer Speckhart '93, **Xavier** '14

Meggan Bury Deel '83, **Spencer** '14, **Mallory** '10

Jim Burns '79, **Jerome** '13, **Bradley** '11

Jennifer Higgins Fayer '88, **Audrey** '13, **George** '18

Cher LoPresti McCann '86, **Jacob** '17

Melissa Markutsa Post '83, **Gabrielle** '13, **David** '17

Melissa DeAngelis '83, **Thomas** '13, **Chloe** '08

Matthew Markutsa '85, **Kaitlyn** '13

Ann Higgins Dury '82, **Stephen** '12

James Jacoby '78, **Joey** '10, **Jacob** '14

Raymond Muzik '73, **Tyler** '12

Patricia Robbins Spataro '81, **Michael** '08

Anita Calabrese Opalenik '77, **Lauren** '11

Mary Shelton Stursa '73, **John** '09

Jerry Hromada '80, **Jasmine** '13, **Jacob** '10

Scott Caco '78, **Erica** '13, **Lauren** '10

Andrew Kachure '84, **Ava** '17

Laura Pogachar Krebs '85, **Alex** '18

MINISTRY SUNDAY

Thank you to all who participated in our Ministry Sunday which was held on September 16. Many participated as speakers at the masses, chairpersons organized displays of their ministries, and many baked for the hospitality portion of our Ministry Sunday.

The Stewardship Committee revised the Ministry booklet and the volunteer form. If you did not receive a booklet, please pick one up when you come to mass or when you are at the Parish Center. If you did not return the volunteer form, please do so by dropping it in the Sunday collection basket or bringing it to the Parish Center.

Opportunities to share Christmas joy

It's that time of year again – time to start thinking of sharing and giving to others in the spirit of Christmas. And if you're looking for a good way to help needy children have a merrier Christmas, St. Peter's has the answer.

It's the annual "Gently Used Toy Drive," which was begun several years ago at St. Joseph Parish in Lorain, and has spread to other parishes in the city over the years. St. Peter's has been participating the past five years.

Toys – and they must be clean and gently used with no parts missing – are collected in the day school and the parish school of religion during November. There is also a box placed in the church commons, which parishioners may use.

When the drive ends after Thanksgiving, the toys are picked up by Frank and Rita Davoli of Nativity Parish. The couple takes all

the toys home where they are inspected and made ready for a December party at St. Joseph Church where they are distributed to needy children.

So, when making room for the new toys your children may receive this Christmas, why not take the time to select a few gently used ones for the toy drive?

GIVING TREE

During the weekend of November 17-18, our parish Giving Tree project will begin for the sixteenth year. The kindness and generosity of parishioners and school classes over these past years has been an inspiration to the Lorain community.

The Christmas trees in the



commons and in the main entrance to the church will be filled with "angels" listing possible gifts for the children involved with various agencies located in Lorain County. Parishioners are asked to take an "angel", purchase the requested item, wrap it,

ATTACH THE ANGEL TO THE PACKAGE, and bring the wrapped gift to the church sanctuary the weekend of December 8-9.

Thank you to the many volunteers who have labeled the "angels" and who will come on the morning of December 10 to organize the many gifts for the various agencies. St. Peter Parishioners are outstanding in their concern for children!

NON-PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT NO. 136
LORAIN, OHIO

3655 Oberlin Ave.
Lorain, Ohio 44053

