

LEGACY

A Publication for the Ss. Peter and Paul Jesuit Church Community

*Being transformed
by the Liturgy*

WINTER 2018



Julie Ford

CAN YOU FEEL IT?

Although I have been at SSPP now for over 2 years, I still feel a sense of awe each time I walk into this place. I was raised worshipping in a church that sat maybe 75 people, and my first experience playing for a service, when I was still a high school student, was on their aging electronic organ. It took me a few more years to realize that God was nudging me toward a vocation in the church.

I am most deeply inspired by the seemingly little things that happen in any given mass. When I see folks reaching across the pews to hold hands during the Our Father. When a young child peeks around the organ to watch me. When a newly-trained minister serves for the first time. When the choir sings something they've worked so hard to learn. But above all of these things, my greatest joy is when the singing from the congregation swells, our voices join together with the great Communion of Saints, and for a moment we forget where we are and simply bask in the presence of the Almighty. When we gather for mass each week, we are reminded that we are called to be extraordinary, and our magnificent church serves as a reminder that we are part of the amazing legacy started in this place 170 years ago.

Each time I walk into this place, I feel a sense of excitement for where we are going and what we are doing. As hymn writer Fred Pratt Green says in his hymn "When In Our Music God is Glorified", *So has the Church, in liturgy and song, in faith and love, through centuries of wrong, Borne witness to the truth in every tongue: Alleluia!*



Helen Peters

THE WORD OF THE LORD

I am amazed each time I say these words at the end of a reading, of how profound is their true meaning. I am, at the same time, both humbled and honored that these utterances should come through me. What better way to "Proclaim the Good News", than to actually Proclaim the Good News!

When my husband and I came to Ss. Peter and Paul, our intention was to help out wherever we could. So when we were approached to do a reading, we both said yes. When the signup sheets for the Christmas liturgies were slow to fill up we added our names to the roster. That was how we got started. I highly recommend this ministry for anyone interested in diving deeper into the Gospel message. It helps to center your focus and gives you more background on the words you are sharing.

All readers are provided with a Lectionary, a workbook that gives context to the readings for that week; a tremendous aid in allowing you to "Proclaim" the words, not just to read or say them. This is a ministry of service to my fellow congregants that is also very personally fulfilling. When I am sitting in the pew each week, I am thankful to my fellow lectors who have taken the time to prepare for their proclamation of "The Word of the Lord."

ARE YOU LOOKING FOR A PARISH? A COMMUNITY?

WE REACH OUT AND INVITE ALL TO JOIN US.
TRANSFORMED BY OUR LITURGY AND
COMMITTED TO PRAYER AND A SPIRITUALITY
OF SERVICE IN THE JESUIT TRADITION, WE LIVE
AS MEN AND WOMEN FOR OTHERS IN THE
SPIRIT OF JESUS.

SS. PETER & PAUL JESUIT PARISH IS A DIVERSE
CATHOLIC COMMUNITY, LOCATED IN A
HISTORIC CHURCH IN THE HEART OF
DOWNTOWN, AND ENGAGED IN TODAY'S
REVIVAL OF THE CITY.

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Mary Beth Weichbrodt

GROWING IN MY FAITH THROUGH SERVICE

Liturgy is the most important way that we as a community celebrate our faith and worship our God. The Mass is a beautiful and ancient prayer that brings us in contact with both the Word of God and the promise of the Son of God to give us his life.

“For me, there is no better way to be close to Jesus...”

For me, there is no better way to be close to Jesus than to provide service at Mass. When I lector, I pray beforehand that God may use my voice to reach all the people who come to receive him, and that they may hear his Word. When I am a Eucharistic minister of the holy body or blood of Christ, it is my special honor to offer Jesus to everyone who comes forward in search of God’s love. Nothing strengthens my faith more than to meet each person who seeks this gift to be in communion with the Lord. For me, the experience is incomparable to any other prayer – any other service – any other activity I can do in life. I am deeply thankful for God’s invitation to serve him and his people.

I came to SSPP one evening for the 7:30 p.m. Mass and was asked to help as a Sacristan. My response was, “I can do that!” Helping as Sacristan just grew into being available if there is a need. The gifts must be prepared, the altar dressed, candles lit, parishioners welcomed, the priest assisted. Participants at Mass form the people of God – the Church. Each of us plays a role, from singing to responding to the priest, to sharing our gifts of time, talent, and treasure. Service helps me to feel a part of what is happening. My faith grows exponentially. I believe I leave the building inspired by the Holy Spirit to act with joy, kindness, patience, love, and hope.



Andrew Bugelli

SERVING PROVIDES A DIFFERENT VIEW

When I moved downtown two years ago, I never thought that I would find a strong faith family. Having grown up Catholic, my parents always emphasized the importance of going to church regularly. So when I transitioned from living in the suburbs to the city I knew that I needed to find a new church to call home. On my second Sunday of searching I came into Ss. Peter and Paul and felt a true sense of belonging and faith. I soon learned that

“...we all come together as a people of faith...”

many of the parishioners also lived in my building and from that connection developed friendships at church. My new friends encouraged me to become a Eucharistic Minister and after an impromptu lesson I soon found myself regularly on the schedule.

The first time around I was quite nervous and worried that I might make a fool of myself, but now everything feels routine. Being extra involved has been very gratifying. Serving at Mass gives you a different perspective from sitting in the pews. I mean this both literally and thoughtfully. In the literal sense, standing at the altar looking out at the congregation gives you a great view of the whole church and congregation. But it has also opened my eyes to the truth that although each of us is different, have experienced different joys and hardships, and come from different parts of the state and world at large; we all come together as a people of faith to partake and celebrate in the good new that is Jesus.

I enjoy serving as a Eucharistic Minister and would encourage anyone who is interested in growing in their faith and helping their church community to reach out and give it a try.



Anne Widlak

A DEEP SENSE OF WONDER

My first experience as a liturgical minister took place many years ago, when my first cousin, Edward Oakes, S.J., asked me to read at a small family Mass in the living room of my childhood home. Participating in the Mass in this role deepened my faith in unexpected ways, and some 20 years ago led to my involvement as a reader at our parish. Since I began serving, I have come to understand that whether Mass is celebrated in a cathedral or someone’s living room, it is a transformative community experience of hope and meaning.

It has transformed me from a person who once attended Mass as an individual in quiet prayer to one who now joyfully identifies as a member of a community of faith in prayer. It reminds me that if we listen carefully when God tells us to “love one another,” we receive the gifts of a community composed of individuals of faith. We can provide support to each other during the sometimes daunting times on Earth that Jesus knew all too well. This has helped me understand the mystery and redemptive power of suffering, with all of its pain and uncertainty. But most importantly, it has also shown me all of the hope and strength that community provides.

“I am filled with that deep sense of wonder at the beauty and power of the Mass...”



Dennis Nordmoe

AN ILLUMINATING DRAMA

I enter our church for the weekly liturgy knowing that I will witness another rehearsal of a great cosmic drama. I will see again in my mind’s eye the source and bloody awfulness of so much of the world’s turmoil. I will also glimpse a contrasting vision of an end to history where the power of grace leads to a just and caring fellowship of all creation.

I have learned that somewhere in the hymns, the spoken word, and the fellowship of the day there will be experiences pointing in direction of our ultimate destiny. Here in this urban temple, hallowed by the years but gifted with the wisdom and arts of this age, life is seen as more than career path or biological unfolding and withering, or as a series of projects followed by public credits and discredits. The accidents of gender, age, race, class, or education are here neither levers of power nor limits of identity.

Rather, life here is love illuminating new ways of bringing joy to the world through the amazing array of possibilities in our urban existence.

In every liturgical rehearsal of this cosmic drama, I am reminded again that I am not defined by my shortcomings or errors or whether I am spiritual enough. I only need to accept my calling in this time and place in the confidence that I will also receive grace proportionate to the demands of that calling.

I leave not beaten down by impossible demands, not manipulated into a false enthusiasm or a phony spirituality. I leave happy to have seen and felt the power of Christ coming into our time and space. I leave eager to do my part at the intersections of urban life where I find myself. The extraordinary final music accenting the final greetings of Christ’s family sends me on my way with a hint of the glorious final version of this great drama of creation and redemption.

EXPRESSING GRATITUDE

“I don’t need your money to pay bills,” said a pastor at the beginning of his homily one Sunday morning. After pausing to observe the stunned faces, the pastor then said, “But you have a need to share your gratitude to God, and when you satisfy that need, the bills will be paid!”

The Offertory collection at mass is an integral part of the liturgy because it is then that we express our gratitude to God for the blessings He has given us. As people of God, we are called to be stewards of God’s gifts to us, to use them in ways that build up our families, our parish, our community, our world. Stewardship requires a deliberate and prayerful weighing of our obligations against our resources of money, time and energy. When we give to our parish and the greater church, we become witnesses to Christ’s calling for selfless love and affirm our commitment to support the work of our church.

Ss. Peter and Paul has experienced undeniable growth in numbers and robustness as we focus on becoming a mission-based church. The Offertory is our opportunity during Mass this Christmas, and indeed during Masses throughout the year, to share our gratitude with God and give thanks for the many blessings that we have received and the lifting in spirit that is sweeping our parish.

Mary Gresens, Christina Pauken, Greg Ridella, Bat Seymour, III—Ss. Peter and Paul Finance Council

Did You Know?

WHEN FIRST OPENED, THERE WAS NO HEAT AT ALL IN THE CHURCH. THE ORIGINAL LIGHTING WAS GAS AND DURING THE 1850-80S THE HEATING SYSTEM WAS SIMPLY WOOD BURNING STOVES IN EACH OF THE FOUR CORNERS.

THE 10 PILLARS HOLDING UP THE CHURCH ROOF ARE TREE TRUNKS FROM THE UPPER PENINSULA OF MICHIGAN, BROUGHT DOWN ON A BARGE. THERE IS NO METAL IN THE FRAME OF THE BUILDING.

THE CHURCH WAS DESIGNED TO HAVE A TALL SPIRE, BUT THIS WAS NEVER BUILT. IN 1872, PARISHIONER ANN KOLENY DONATED THE CHIMES THAT ARE IN THE EXISTING CHURCH TOWER.

COMPLETION OF THE CHURCH REVEALED ITS FAULTY ACOUSTIC QUALITIES. THEREFORE, IN 1857 THE SIZE OF THE COLUMNS WAS REDUCED BY TWO-THIRDS, AND THE CEILING WAS ARCHED AND DECORATED.

Ss. Peter and Paul’s 2018-19 budget anticipates the roll out of new and exciting ideas and opportunities that are emerging and taking shape in response to the growth and development we are witnessing in our parish. Another successful Annual Appeal is key to these efforts. The Finance Council has launched our 2018 Annual Appeal – our only fundraising event during the year. Prayerfully consider your commitment to this parish community and give today.



Go to www.sppjesuit.org. When you click on the 2018 Annual Appeal logo you will be directed to a donation form to use your credit/debit card or checking account.



Givelify is an app that you download to your phone. Simply enter your credit/debit card or checking account information and give with one click. Make us your home church!



Please complete the necessary information on the attached return envelope and mail your check into the Parish office.

All donations are tax deductible as allowed by IRS guidelines.



Don Blevins and his wife, Jayme Cicchelli



BEAUTY...TRUTH...REALITY

It was my wife, Jayme, who started dragging me to services. I was intensely skeptical—of faith, of God, that there was anything there for me. But as I sat in the pews, week after week, I was struck by the Beauty of the liturgy. The community, the hymns, the homily, all of it seemed to touch something deep and real. All too often, something in the liturgy would speak with uncanny precision to a problem I was working through or to a question I had. And each time that happened, I was struck with inexplicable feelings of wonder and awe. I soon felt drawn, compelled toward the liturgy in a way my head couldn't explain, and I was extremely thankful for the feeling of being invited, even though I didn't know whom I was thanking or what exactly I was being invited to.

Now, I feel there's some Truth in the liturgy that I cannot quite grasp. It seems to glimpse some Reality that other means do not. And although I initially felt like a fraud because I didn't have faith, I've come to think that faith isn't something you simply have or not. Rather, perhaps, faith is a practice; it is an orientation toward something and an openness to being guided in that direction. I still struggle with the concept of it all, but it is through the liturgy that I practice my faith. And I am ever eager to do so.





ALL IN THE FAMILY

As a child, my parents often took my sister, my grandmother and I to Ss. Peter and Paul for Sunday Mass. Then we would go out for breakfast and stop to feed the ducks on Belle Isle heading home. It was always a special day; after all, my parents were married in St. Catherine Chapel on June 20, 1942. My mom is a graduate of the Sacred Heart Academy and attended their first location, across the street from our church.

Gail Horan
McKnight

I always loved to be a part of the Mass; my husband, Dick would lector, I would help with communion, and our children were servers. When we first started coming to Ss. Peter and Paul for weekday Masses, I would read and help with communion. I decided I was going to do more, and became a lector for the weekend Masses too. It is SO important that the words of the readings are clear and meaningful to the church family. I practice my reading so I can convey the true meaning of the words. The parish family has been so kind to me after I read. I know I am serving God in a special way. The congregation gives me strength to do well as I look out at the many faces. We are then one body of Christ.



Madge and Ed Horan

Ss. Peter and Paul is where my family—Madge and Ed Horan, their parents, my aunts and uncles, my husband’s father and sister, our children Ted and Mollie—were present in their lifetime at the church. Their presence is very real to me especially when I am reading to all present, in person and in heaven. I am so blessed to be a lector.



Pictured above are the descendants of the Dinan Children at the 100th Anniversary.

100 YEARS OF SERVICE

Bishop Gallagher consecrated the altars of St. Catherine Chapel on November 28, 1918 after spending Thanksgiving with the Jesuit Community. Donors Michael and John Dinan, named the chapel for their mother Catherine Danahey Dinan. Today the lower floor houses

the Pope Francis Center, which serves more than 200 people six days a week with nutritious meals, clean clothes and showers.

The former choir loft on the upper floor houses clinic space for medical, dental and legal services. The top floor serves as the Parish Offices and meeting space for parish committees and groups.

Pictured at the right is the chapel during Holy Week observances.





Ss. Peter and Paul Jesuit Church

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JOIN US IN CELEBRATING ...

The Nativity of the Lord

Monday, December 24, 2018 5:00 p.m.

Tuesday, December 25, 2018 12:00 p.m.

The Feast of the Holy Family

Sunday, December 30, 2018

11:00 a.m. Mass & 7:30 p.m. Mass

Regular MASS SCHEDULE Resumes January 8

Tuesday and Wednesday 11:40 a.m.

Sunday 11:00 a.m. and 7:30 p.m.

OUR NEXT ISSUE....*Parish life!*

Keep up with what's happening
on Social Media....



Rev. Gary Wright, SJ, Pastor
Rev. Tim McCabe, SJ, Associate Pastor
Ms. Mara Rutten, Parish Life Director
Mrs. Lydia Maola, Operations Director
Mrs. Julie Ford, Liturgy and Music Director