

UPON THIS ROCK

THE COMMUNITY VOICE OF ST. PETER CHURCH

ST. PETER CHURCH, NORTH RIDGEVILLE

SUMMER 2014

★ ST. PETER ROCK STARS ★

Fran Edwards honored at Peace and Justice Dinner

"I'm just an ordinary person supported by a family who loves me."

Those were the words of St. Peter parishioner, Fran Edwards, as she accepted the Faithful Servant Award during the 24th annual Peace and Justice dinner on March 29. The event was sponsored by the Catholic Action Commission of Lorain County.

Edwards attended St. John's Nursing School, then served as a registered nurse during WWII. After the war she married Bob Edwards and they raised four children with the same Catholic values she had known growing up.

The Edwards were active members of St. Peter Church and Fran Edwards began volunteering at Birthright of Lorain County. Birthright was founded by Louise Summerhill in Canada in 1968 and Fran Edwards helped to introduce Birthright to Lorain County in June, 1973 following the legalization of abortion in the United States.

The creed of Birthright is to "save one baby at a time from abortion" and offers pregnant women help before and after the birth of their babies. Fran Edwards volunteered with Birthright since its founding and served as director from 1993 to 2005.

She also worked with inmates from the Grafton Correctional Institute and at 91 years of age continues to serve people today, leading the rosary at Center Ridge Nursing Home, helping at Birthright on Tuesdays and serving as a Lay Eucharistic Minister on weekends.



Fran Edwards has 15 grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren, including two on the way.

This year's annual dinner was dedicated to the memory of Bishop A.J. Quinn (1932-2013) and Christine Matusik-Plas was awarded the Bishop A.J. Quinn Award.

A social worker for 25 years, Matusik-Plas holds BA degrees in psychology and sociology from Wittenberg University and a master's degree from the University of Notre Dame.

Over the years she has been an advocate for homeless children, victims of domestic violence, disabled youth and senior citizens living in poverty. She has also operated shelters and social service programs in many counties.

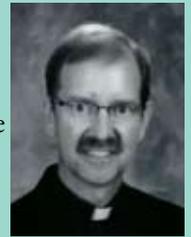
Matusik-Plas and her husband, Paul, have three children.

The guest speaker for the evening was Dr. Joseph Toma, a theology professor at Walsh University whose topic was "*The Best Kept Secret of Christianity is Christianity.*"

Fr. Bob's Corner

Dear Parish Family,

Summertime! It is finally here! Though there are some strange sights to be seen in parts of the country (there was still plenty of ice in Lake Superior off the shore of Marquette, Michigan on Memorial Day), the grip of our long winter has finally loosened its teeth on northeast Ohio.



Now that it is here, what are we to do with this season? Is it merely about outdoor activities and trying to keep up with the lawn? I believe nature itself gives us a lesson.

Summer is the season of growth. The buds of spring are gone. The fruits of fall are not yet here. However, between spring and fall things grow. Silently and almost imperceptibly, the fruits of the earth move toward maturity.

As it is no secret that a well-tended garden will be more fruitful, so it is with us. Like a good garden, our lives need to be weeded, watered, pruned and fertilized if they are to bear the fruit of the Holy Spirit. Here are some suggestions:

Weeding: Make use of the Sacrament of Penance. By examining our conscience, confessing our sins and being absolved of them, we will go a long way toward weeding out our bad habits and life choking

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Fr. Bob's Corner

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sins.

Watering: Pray daily and celebrate Sunday Eucharist each week. Attentive prayer and Mass truly nourish our relationship with Jesus Christ.

Pruning: Accept in a serene manner the disappointing things that we cannot change. This will truly prune our lives of the grumbling and complaining we often fall into.

Fertilizing: Holy reading (Sacred Scripture and other Catholic books) feed our minds and give us a more Christian outlook on life.

One of the books I plan on reading this summer is called *Forming Intentional Disciples: A Path to Knowing and Following Jesus* by Sherry A. Weddell. Though I have heard good things about the book, I might have been attracted to it simply by the title. This I know: we do not merely drift into the Kingdom of God. Cooperating with God's grace, we must make intentional decisions to become a follower of Jesus.

Another book I will be rereading this summer is called *33 Days to Morning Glory* by Fr. Michael Gaitley MIC. This book is a 33 day guide to making a consecration to the Blessed Virgin Mary. I will be leading a study group through this process. Our first meeting will be Tuesday, July 8 at 7:00 PM in the Galilee Room. Our goal will be to make a consecration to Mary on the Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin

Mary on August 15. July 8 will be an introduction to the book and process. The 33 days of prayer and meditation will begin on July 13. Books may be ordered through the parish office and after the Masses on the weekend of June 21-22 and 28-29.

Our patronal Feast Day, the Solemnity of Sts. Peter and Paul, lands on a weekend this year. We will celebrate as a parish that weekend by serving Donuts and Coffee after all the Sunday Masses.

Two days later, on July 1, our parish staff will grow by one. Michael Cox has been hired as the Coordinator of Youth Ministries for St. Peter Parish. He is a gifted musician and technological guru. However, his greatest gift, as well as the passion of his heart, is the ability to form our youth to be better disciples of Jesus Christ. Please pray for Michael as he joins our staff.

Finally, I will be leading a pilgrimage to the Our Lady of Guadalupe Shrine in Mexico City. This six day pilgrimage will begin on Sunday, October 19. We will return on Friday, October 25. For more information, please pick up a brochure at the parish office or in St. Peter Church. The tour company is on line at www.206tours.com. All are welcome.

Sincerely in Christ,



Fr. Bob Franco
Pastor, St. Peter Parish

UPON THIS ROCK is published by St. Peter Church of North Ridgeville, Ohio for the parishioners of the church.

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Articles may be sent to tip060@windstream.net

VBS 2014

Are you ready for a one-of-a-kind adventure at VBS 2014? God filled the world with lots of crazy creatures – including you!



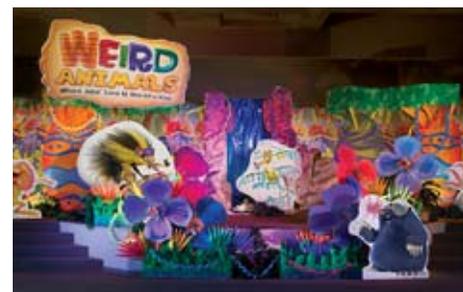
When kids feel weird, different, or even lost in a crowd – nothing compares to the extraordinary love of Jesus. Weird Animals is filled with incredible Bible-learning that kids see, hear, touch, and even taste! Fun crafts, team-building games, cool Bible songs, and tasty treats are just a few of the Weird Animals activities that help faith collide with real life. On line registration at <https://www.groupvbspro.com/vbs/ez/stpeternr> is now available. Hope to see you there!

Dates: July 20-24, 2014

Time: 6-9 pm

Cost: 20.00 for one and 35.00 max for 2 or more children

Ages: preschool-grade 6



Those who believe in the heavenly or spiritual realm are simply saying that there are more realities than can be perceived by the human senses.

This is common sense to anyone who's bought a whistle only his dog can hear.

The Use of Holy Water

At first glance there's nothing special about holy water. It's regular tap water over which certain words have been said by a priest or bishop. These words, however, transform the water into a sacramental, or a "sacred sign which bear(s) a resemblance to the sacraments." By this blessing the water has been sanctified and made holy for use in liturgical ceremonies and administering the sacraments, particularly Baptism. Its resemblance to the sacraments consists in its ability to obtain the remission of sin and confer actual grace upon souls, so it, too, purifies and renews but to a lesser degree.

Many saints used holy water when they felt threatened or fearful and routinely praised its efficacy. St. Teresa of Avila considered it a "powerful spiritual armor" which she found most useful in combating temptation. "I have found by experience that there is nothing from which the devils fly more quickly than from holy water. They also fly from the

Cross, but they return almost immediately." It appears to hold a unique power over the devil since, as St. Teresa reports, he cannot stand to be in close proximity to it or to anyone who has been sprinkled with it. To think that such a simple element could be so powerful! For this reason it can be a valuable aid whenever we're in need of help, supernatural or otherwise.

Holy water confers numerous blessings on those who use it appropriately and the Church encourages us to take advantage of it. For this reason there is a holy water font, or stoup, at each door of the church. Each time we reverently bless ourselves with holy water we gain a partial indulgence and a remission of temporal punishment. Many Catholics keep a supply at home for devotional use. Some people sprinkle it liberally about the house when storms threaten or when sickness is present. Others have made it a habit to sprinkle it on their sleeping children at night as added pro-

tection. Each time you dip your fingers in holy water and make the sign of the cross you invoke the Holy Trinity seeking blessing and pardon, so it should be done slowly and attentively.

Holy water is traditionally consecrated on Holy Saturday and the vigil of Pentecost, but the Church maintains an adequate supply year round. It is free, plentiful and available upon request. If you would like a small bottle to keep handy for use at home, please call the parish center at 440-327-2201.



Candles in Church

In Jerusalem, in the 4th century, the rite of offering a lighted lamp or candle was in honor of Him who is the Light. From Jerusalem the service spread westward, and in the Catholic Church the candle remained, symbolic of light and grace and beauty.

Candles from the beginning were created with beeswax but are now composed of one or more materials. Did you know that religious candles were always made of beeswax and candles used in Catholic churches are still supposed to be at least 51% beeswax? The Sacred Congregation of Rites no longer require candles made entirely of wax, but the Pascal Candle, the candles used in the blessing of baptismal water, and the two candles needed for the celebration of Mass must be made of wax, at least in maxima parte (maximum part). All other candles used on the altar must

contain a "greater or notable part of wax".

For the celebration of Mass it is required that two lighted candles be placed "on or next to the altar" which are extinguished after mass. Two lighted candles are also placed by the tabernacle symbolizing Jesus's Light of the world. Candles are present at the baptismal font; they are passed from the hands of the newly ordained to that of the bishop; they flicker in the dimness of the sick room and at the hour of prayer, in monasteries and cathedrals, and are a symbol of Ecclesia Orans (The Praying Church).

The sanctuary candle is generally in a red glass container and burns day and night near the Blessed Sacrament. It is a reminder of Christ's constant presence, His abiding love and serves to encourage us to respond with loving adoration

in return.

During the Lenten season next to each of the Stations of the Cross is a personalized memorial candles to celebrate the memory of loved ones. The candles will be lit each Friday for the praying of the Stations of the Cross and will remain through out the weekend. To arrange for desired week(s) during Lent and preferred stations contact the Parish Center.

Votive Candles are present on racks below the statues of Mary and Joseph. To light a votive candle indicates one's intention to say a prayer for another person or a specific issue. Some are lit in remembrance of the deceased and are usually lit in November for All Souls' Day and All Saints' Day. The burning flame represents the prayer that rises to God and remains even if you are no longer present.

Have you made God smile today?

In a world filled with confusion,
disbelief, hunger and evil wile.
Just one little act of kindness
would surely make Him smile.

A sure word of hope and joy
to someone to show you care.
Flowers from your garden
or just one little prayer.

A pot of homemade soup
for a sick friend in need.
A trip to the library
for a book for them to read.

One simple errand for someone
who has lost a family member.
A visit to show your concern
means more than a card or letter.

One sweater to keep someone warm
provided to a charity.
Simple things to meet household needs
will convey solidarity.

To those serving in the military
a letter a warmth to read and to share.
A package of homemade cookies
to remind them of home and you care.

Little things fill wanting souls
and brings to others brightness.
One joyful deed of given kindness
well ease them through their crisis.

Each time you give to another
leaves memories of your embrace.
Then life for others is worthwhile
and brings a smile to God's face.

Mary Lou Cole

Hessian Soldier?

The Hessians were soldiers from German states which their princes often hired out for combat duty. The Hessians did not act individually. Their princes determined whether to hire out the units. Many of the men were press-ganged into Hessian service. The princes charged for their services to countries like England during the Revolutionary War. They also served under Napoleon in his campaign against Russia.



There has long been a rumor that a Hessian soldier is buried in St. Peter's cemetery and it is true. The parish records show that Nicholas Hollander who fought under Napoleon in the Russian campaign was buried here in 1887. His wife Anna and son John are buried beside him. Since we could not locate any existing family we can only speculate what circumstances drew him to freedom in America.

Our old cemetery shows the markers of people and families that shed their tears, toil, joy, love and triumphs of the past.

St. Peter 8th Grade Honor Students

Congratulations to the following honor students:

Katie Barlow
Tyler Brown
Noelle Byrne
Lucas Carson
Carter Evard
Lilly Farner
Paige Flatley
Gregory Gorczyca
Jakob Hwang

Brad Kelling
Maddy Knoth
Lauren Konold
Matthew Lee
Andrew Lewis
Colin Price
David Priebe
Kelly Stopper

We welcome to our parish community newly registered at St. Peter Parish:

Mikki Ahmetovic
Mr. & Mrs. Ryan & Julia Buddie
Mr. & Mrs. Andrew & Diane Lorince
Mr. & Mrs. John & Isabel Louis
Joanna Rooney
Mr. & Mrs. John & Sarah Ross
Mr. & Mrs. Matt & Lindsey Shelley
Robert Stoll
Therese Trapp
Mr. & Mrs. Tony & Dolly Calabrese
Mr. & Mrs. Carmen & Karen Casement
Mr. & Mrs. Brian & Emily Dalton
Lauren Hase
Maggie Hess

Mr. & Mrs. Geoff & Natalie Kenny
Mr. & Mrs. Tony & Karen Kuhn
Mr. & Mrs. Kevin & Ember Mahaffery
Mike Manns
Mr. & Mrs. Dan & Gail McVey
Mr. & Mrs. Eric & Sharon Rader
Spencer Sedar
Mr. & Mrs. Joe & Melissa Simonetta
Mr. & Mrs. Dennis & Carrie Yeckel
Mr. & Mrs. Mike & Mary Alice Basik
Evelyn Englander
Mr. & Mrs. Bill & Erika Fielder
Mr. & Mrs. Shane & Kim Hoover
Pat Lysaght

Mr. & Mrs. Tom & Irene Mangan
Mr. & Mrs. Eric & Jacki Meister
Mr. & Mrs. Rick & Laura Nierychlewski
Mr. & Mrs. Valentino & Amanda Rosas
Rose Yacobucci
Mr. & Mrs. Mark & Marra Blasik
Ron Burger
Mr. & Mrs. Charles & Ginger Fiscella
Chris Kleinholz
Mr. & Mrs. Rick & Jean Paschal
Michael Uehlein
Mr. & Mrs. Sean & Lin Urquhart
Mr. & Mrs. Christopher & Susan White
Mr. & Mrs. Kevin & Kelly Wilson

Improvements at St. Peter Parish

Our parishioners have been busy improving life around the church. There is now more light in the confessional, a hand rail near the pulpit and the steps on the west side have been redone. In addition, a rest room has been installed in the lobby, new directional signs have been added and the columbarium is nearing completion. New plants are springing up to glorify our summer worship.





St. Peter School Welcomes You

“We welcome each person, nurturing his/her spiritual, academic, and societal gifts, in a Catholic family environment while promoting diversity, openness, and respect.”
- (St. Peter School Mission statement)

So many of us have spent the past 9 years as students at St. Peter School. Time has gone by really quickly. Our parents and teachers have watched us grow up.

A few of the activities we are looking forward to are these: May 14 is our Grade Eight Recognition assembly. The students and staff believe that each one of us has made a positive difference at

St. Peter School so each one of us is recognized for our talents.

Over the last few years, we have studied our leadership gifts and have taken a formal Survey (Clifton Strength Explorer) to recognize these leadership gifts (they are life long) and to spend time cultivating them. We've won many contests (including regional science fair competitions on the way to state, and the VFW Patriot's Pen contest). A group of us will also be inducted into the St. Peter School Honor Association on this day.

We'll be making a final field trip to the State House in Columbus on May 16. We are looking forward to our Leadership experience at Camp Nuhop in Ashland on May 28.

We'd like to thank everyone at St. Peter Parish for supporting us and encouraging us along the way during our grade school experience. We appreciate you and we ask you to keep us in your prayers as we move along our life's journey into high school.

~ St. Peter Eighth Grade Students
– Class of 2014

More random thoughts from Deacon Don

Try to imagine, if you can, some evil enemy bent on destroying as much human life as possible unleashing a devastating plague upon the United States. Imagine that this plague wipes out over one third or nearly 38 percent of our nation's entire population. Try to grasp the ramifications for our nation at the loss of every man, woman and child living in the eighteen states of Oregon, Idaho, Montana, Wyoming, Colorado, Utah, New Mexico, Minnesota, North Dakota, South Dakota, Arkansas, Nebraska, Missouri, Kansas, Iowa, Oklahoma, Mississippi, and Louisiana. Does it sound like science fiction? Does it sound preposterous? Do you believe it to be something that could never happen? Do you think all of those people and their contributions to society would be missed? Well, it isn't science fiction and it does sound preposterous but, unfortunately, it has already happened, it continues to happen every day and it is only God who knows what wondrous discoveries and accomplishments could have been made by

the victims of this plague. Those victims are the more than FIFTY MILLION children who have succumbed to the evil enemy of “legal” surgical abortions that have occurred since January of 1973. That fifty million number is the number that equals the populations of those eighteen states mentioned earlier. Remember, too, that I said “legal.” I can't even fathom how many illicit, unreported abortions have also taken place in those forty-one years since Roe vs. Wade became the law of the land.

When people looked the other way as the Nazis murdered six million Jews during World War II it was dubbed “Holocaust.” What name should we give to the legalized murder of over fifty million children through abortion these past forty-one years which has gone relatively unnoticed by most of the country? This modern-day atrocity must end, and end soon, but it will never end without our help. Write letters, let your voice be heard in Washington! Support Pro-Life causes, especially those that offer alterna-

tives to killing a child through abortion. Stand vigil outside of an abortion clinic and pray for those inside and for an end to this plague. Abortion was the “foot in the door” that has made possible the death on demand of patient requested Euthanasia and assisted suicide. If we don't act, and act now, how long do you think it will be before the decisions to end a life, no matter why or when, will be taken out of the public's hands and placed in the hands of bureaucrats? Fiction? Preposterous? Couldn't happen? Think again! *First they came for the Socialists and I did not speak out because I wasn't a Socialist. Then they came for the Trade Unionists and I did not speak out because I wasn't a Trade Unionist. Then they came for the Jews and I did not speak out because I wasn't a Jew. Then they came for me and there was no one left to speak out.*

In Christ, – Deacon Don



Praying for Sunny Weather



The St. Peter Garden Committee is once again hard at work planting and maintaining the parish plot northeast of the cemetery. Sales of produce after mass go to support the Outreach Meal. The excess produce from the sales is taken to Community Care, Meals on Wheels and Holy Name in Slavic Village.

Volunteers are needed to "Adopt-A-Row" and "Saturday-Harvesting-for-Sunday-Sales". Join the committee. Meetings are the second Monday of the month at 7pm in the Parish Center.

Parishioner plots are still available. You can plant your 4' x 6' space with your own choice of produce and flowers. The soil is prepared for planting. Some people have reported the soil is so well prepared they didn't need a shovel, just their hands. Forms are available in the church racks or leave Vince Loparo a message at the Parish Center

After Mass sales usually start the last weekend in June. Cook books will also be for sale.

A Saints Life – St. Anne Feast Day, July 26

Of St. Anne we have no written knowledge. She is not mentioned in the New Testament, and we must depend on dubious facts, chiefly the Protoevangelium of James, which dates back only to the second century.

In this document we are told that Anne, wife of Joachim, was advanced in years and that her prayers for a child had not been answered. Once as she prayed beneath a laurel tree near her home in Galilee, an angel appeared and said to her, "Anne, the Lord hath heard thy prayer and thou shalt conceive and bring forth, and thy seed shall be spoken of in all the world." Anne replied, "As the Lord my God liveth, if I beget either male or female, I will bring it as a gift to the Lord my God; and it shall minister to Him in

holy things all the days of its life." And thus Anne became the mother of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

The devotion of St. Anne was known in the East in the fifth century, but it was not diffused in the West until the thirteenth. In 1382 her feast was extended to the whole Western Church, and she became very popular, especially in France.

She is patroness of housewives, women in labor, cabinet-makers, and miners. Her emblem is a door. St. Anne has been frequently represented in art, and the lovely face depicted by Leonardo da Vinci comes first to mind in this connection. The name Anne derives from the Hebrew Hannah, meaning "grace."

Taken from *Lives of Saints*, Published by John J. Crawley & Co., Inc.

We welcome to our parish community the newly baptized:



Kellan Andrew McVey
Mia Bryanna Rosas
Abraham Jason Anderson
Kathryn Mae Fielder
Anna Marie Kowal
Leya Maureen Mann
Julia Noelle Torreo
Antonia Marie Vedda
Evan Alexander Paukst
Maclin John Nelson

Writers Needed

Have a nose for news? A yen for the pen? Want to spread the good word about parish groups? Join the newsletter staff. We publish four times a year and always looking for good stories. Call the parish office or email tip060@windstream.net.

St. Peter Pets

"A little dog... a heartbeat at my feet"
- Edith Wharton



Lady Emma Ann II – CGC, TDI, TDIA

Seven year old toy poodle Emma, is a busy girl. She is the official greeter of the household and a great lap warmer. She is also a Certified Therapy Dog who visits the residents of Life Care of Elyria on a regular basis. ~ Alice M.Hook

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St. Peter Church
35777 Center Ridge Road
North Ridgeville, Ohio 44039

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Save the Date

Corpus Christi Procession
after the noon mass
June 22

St. Peter and Paul
June 29

Cleveland Catholic
Charismatic Conference
July 18 - 19

Assumption
August 15

Outreach Meals
Last Wednesday
of the Month

Please check the bulletin for
current news and updates

Worship

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

Every Tuesday 8:45 a.m. to 7 p.m.
Liturgy of the Hours and
Benediction at 6:40 p.m.

Legion of Mary Rosary

Following 8:15 a.m. weekday Mass

Miraculous Medal Novena

Following 8:15 a.m. Monday Mass

Reconciliation (Confession)

3:30 - 4:30 p.m. Saturdays

Prayer

Prayer for the Needy

Grant, Lord, that I may gladly share
what I have with the needy, humbly
ask for what I need from him who has,
sincerely admit the evil I have done,
calmly bear the evil I suffer, not envy
my neighbor for his blessings, and
thank you unceasingly whenever you
hear my prayer.

Eucharistic Celebration

Monday thru Friday: 8:15 a.m.

Weekends:

Saturday: 5 p.m.

Sunday: 6 a.m.

8 a.m.

10 a.m.

12 p.m.

Parish Staff

Pastor: Rev. Robert J. Franco

Senior Parochial Vicar:

Rev. Robert Sanson

Deacon: Rev. Mr. Don Jankowski

Principal: Sr. Mary Patricia Vovk, S.N.D.

Music Director: James Akoury

Lay Ecclesial Minister: Cheryle Koberna

Director of Religious Education:

Sr. Mary Sean Groh, S.N.D.

Business Manager: Karen Doubrava

Secretary: Christine Stefanek