“When he saw them, he said, “Go, show yourselves to the priests.” And as they went, they were cleansed.

One of them, when he was healed, came back, praising God in a loud voice. He threw himself at the feet of Jesus and thanked him—and he was a Samaritan.”

Luke 17:14-16
As I’ve written before, I especially enjoy the ways in which Sacred Scripture makes the point that God’s way of working in the world is almost always the exact opposite of the way we expect. God’s saving action in the world defies our expectations and stands them on their heads.

Naaman had a couple of strikes against him in spite of his somewhat exalted status. He had been favored by God in that God gave him victory in battle and he was exalted by his master, the King of Aram, as a result. But Naaman was afflicted with leprosy and, moreover, he was a Syrian. He was almost the ultimate outsider from the point of view of the Israelites. Naaman’s wife had a servant – a little Hebrew child – and the little servant girl urged her mistress to persuade Naaman to go see the prophet Elisha in Samaria (another example of subverted expectation since the Samaritans and the Jews were adamantly opposed to one another!) The little girl was sure the prophet could cure Naaman’s leprosy.

Naaman approached his master, the King of Aram, and asked for permission to go to Israel and seek out the prophet. The King consented and sent along a letter and gold and silver to help persuade the King of Israel to help. The King of Israel, suspecting a trap, refused to help, but Elisha learned about Naaman’s need and sent word to the King telling him to allow Naaman’s request to take place.

Now in the usual circumstances, Naaman would have been laughed out of town. After all, he was a leper and a Syrian and the King of Israel didn’t like him. But Elisha granted Naaman’s request and sent him to was in the Jordan and he was healed and from then on he was determined only to worship the God of Elisha and the Israelites. (The story of what happened with Gehazi, Elisha’s servant, in this tale will have to be told another time.)

The Gospel today relates a similar story. Jesus, passing through a Samaritan village was approached by ten lepers who begged him to heal them. Jesus healed all ten and sent them to the priest to verify their healing. Only one of the ten returned to thank Jesus and, it turned out, he was a Samaritan. The other nine were not heard from again.

We might be tempted to look at the obvious lesson here, which is that we ought to be thankful to God for the ways he works in our lives and for the healing he gives us. But there is a subtler point here. God’s healing is given to those who ask for it regardless of their nationality, their religion or their other flaws. God reaches beyond the limits of race and religion and sees the person underneath those exterior qualities. He heals them because they are his children, the same as the people of Israel and, I might point out, the same as you and me.

We would do well to learn from Jesus and from God to see beyond the superficial and meaningless things that distract us from seeing the Christ in others. We are called to recognize that all people are injured brothers and sisters and we are called to recognize Jesus in them. Where has Jesus appeared to you? Did you recognize him? Did you help?

Bill Johnson
Director of Music and Liturgy
Please Pray for the Sick of Our Parish


Names will only be listed for 4 weeks. If you wish to have additional time, contact the Parish Center at 419.524.2572.

St. Peter's Music Series

St. Peter's Music Series invites you to join us as famed a cappella ensemble The Thirteen will present Tallis Through the Looking Glass on Tuesday evening, October 22, at 7:30 P.M. in St. Peter's Church. Featuring Tallis’ symphonic-in-scope work Gaude Gloriosa Dei Mater as well as Benjamin Britten's touching and powerful Hymn to St. Cecilia, and Pulitzer Prize winner Caroline Shaw's Fly Away I, and selected pieces from the American Sacred Harp repertoire, this concert promises to be a performance of virtuosity and artistry. Admission is free and open to the public. A free-will offering will be accepted. Call the Parish Music Office at 419-524-2572, ext. 2113, for more information.

Prison Ministry Corner

Our RiCI brothers send sincere thanks for the many ways our parishioners support their efforts toward recovery, rehabilitation, and reintegration. Thank you for the thousands of plastic grocery bags (please do NOT include newspaper sleeves) used to make mats for homeless shelters and the tremendous outpouring of knitting materials (yarn, plastic knitting needles and crochet hooks) used to make clothing and toys for domestic shelters and first responders for traumatized children. Mark the items “Lynne” or “Prison” and bring to the Parish Center or Give to Lynne after 7:30 A.M. Sunday Mass.

Save the Date!

2019 Diocesan Celebration of Wedding Anniversaries

Our Lady, Queen of the Most Holy Rosary Cathedral

October 27, 2019 | 3:00 P.M.

If you are celebrating a milestone wedding anniversary in 2019 – 25, 40, 50, 60, or 60+ years – plan to join Bishop Daniel Thomas for the Order of Blessing Married Couples within Holy Mass. Registered couples receive a commemorative certificate and are invited to a reception following mass. To register go to: www.toledoanniversarymass.org or call Alice Jacobs at 419-214-4978, or contact your parish secretary for more information.

Save the Date—Friday, November 8, 2019

St. Peter's School Fall Gala Presents:
Family Feud
Live and Silent Auction! Games and Fun!
Mid-Ohio Conference Center 6:00-11:00 P.M.

Sunday Offering

<table>
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<th>Year to Date</th>
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<td>Sunday Collection &amp; Holy Day Collection:</td>
<td>$207,386</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total Budgeted Sunday Collection To Date:</td>
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School Collection

| Total School Collection To Date: | $34,219 |
| Total Budgeted School Collection To Date: | $36,000 |
| School Collection Surplus/(Deficit) | ($1,781) |
ST. PETER’S SCHOOL

VISIT OUR SCHOOL ANY DAY WITH APPOINTMENT

Parents, if you are considering St. Peter’s School for your child’s education, you are invited to spend part of a school day here at St. Peter’s with your child to experience all the activities and classroom instruction that take place.

Please call the school administrators to arrange a visit that is convenient for you and your child.

• Mrs. Ashley Rastorfer – Montessori Director and Acting Elementary School Principal  419.524.2572 ext. 4101
• Mr. Jonathan Cuttitta – Acting High School & Junior High Principal  419.524.2572 ext. 3100

St. Peter’s School admits students of any race, color, national and ethnic origin to all rights, privileges, programs and activities generally accorded or made available to students at the school. It does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national and ethnic origin in administration of its educational policies, admissions policies, scholarship and loan programs and athletic and other school-administered programs.

WORSHIP WEDNESDAYS

We hope your child can join us for Worship Wednesdays! This is a great hour of fun, where we will learn a little about Christ and then sing and dance to praise Him! All Worship Wednesdays will take place once a month in Assisi Hall in the High School building from 4:00-5:00 P.M. If your child attends St. Peter’s, they may stay after school and spend that first hour studying or doing homework before Worship Wednesdays begins and a snack will be provided or you can choose to bring them back at 4:00 P.M. If your child attends PSR and would like to stay until PSR starts, they are also welcome to stay and share some food with us before class begins. The dates for Worship Wednesdays are: October 16th, November 20th, January 15th, February 19th, March 18th. If you are interested in your child attending Worship Wednesdays, please contact Elizabeth Wurm at wurm.elizabeth@myspartans.org.

THANK YOU!

We are grateful to Tom and Bill Wappner and their families for their recent donation to restore the marble on the high altar in the sanctuary of the church. Restored craftsmanship includes a new “crook” on the top of the St. James stature (missing for decades, but attested to past photos), as well as hand and finger parts from the Last Supper scene on the lower part (center) of the altar. We are most grateful for their generosity!

CONFIRMATION MASS

On Sunday, October 27 at the 11:30 A.M. Mass we will be celebrating the Sacrament of Confirmation with our candidates. Msgr. William Kubacki, Vicar General, will be the celebrant. Please note that his Mass may have more in attendance than usual, and that incense will be used. You may wish to choose another Mass this weekend if this creates an inconvenience.

OPEN TEACHING POSITIONS

St. Peters School has an opening for a part-time Theology teacher in the High School and Junior High. The position is every other day and requires teaching a total of three classes to eighth and tenth-grade students. Ideal candidates will have prior experience teaching the subject matter to similar-aged students. All candidates must be Catholic and have a minimum of a Bachelor’s degree. They must also possess or be willing to obtain the appropriate certification including BCI and FBI background checks and the Diocese of Toledo VIRTUS program. This position is a part-time salaried position with a contract for the 2019-2020 school year. Salary will be commensurate with education and experience. Interested candidates should send a cover letter, resume, and other relevant information to Jon Cuttitta, Acting HS/JH Principal at cuttitta.jon@myspartans.org.

St. Peter’s School is also looking for qualified substitute teachers for all grade levels. Substitute teachers require a Substitute Teaching License from the Ohio Department of Education. This requires a minimum of a Bachelor’s degree as well as BCI and FBI background checks and completion of the Diocese of Toledo VIRTUS program. Interested candidates should contact the appropriate building principal: Jon Cuttitta, Acting HS/JH Principal at cuttitta.jon@myspartans.org or Ashley Rastorfer, Acting Elementary Principal at rastorfer.ashley@myspartans.org.

MARY POPPINS AUDITIONS

Auditions for The St. Peter’s Department of Theater and Performing Arts’ 2020 performance of Mary Poppins will begin on October 1, 2019. As this is a Parish and school production, auditions are open to all parishioners between the ages of 6-200. All materials needed to prepare and sign up for a time are available online at www.spspringmusical.wordpress.com. If a print version is needed, please contact Cassandra Parente at CassandraParente5@gmail.com or (216)798-6306.

Catholic Cruises and Tours
860.399.1785

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN FINANCIAL UPDATE

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As of September 1, 2019
ADULT FAITH ENRICHMENT

We have two opportunities this week. Location for both is Assisi Hall, 4th floor Parish Center. Enter thru Parish Center entrance, 104 W. First Street.

WOMEN’S BIBLE STUDY

We will begin tomorrow, Monday, October 14 and meet each Monday at 6:15 P.M. for eight weeks. Join a dynamic group of women to watch the Jeff Cavins series “Unlocking the Mystery of the Bible.” A workbook may be purchased for $27.50 but is not required. Please contact either Dianne Randall 567.241.6608/diannecream@gmail.com or Kelly Wurm 419.884.7785/kmwurm@yahoo.com. We hope you can join us and learn more about our Catholic faith.

ROMANS: THE GOSPEL OF SALVATION

Thursday at 6:30 P.M. All are welcome. No fee or registration. Join us to enter into St. Paul’s Letter to the Romans.

OUR ALL SOULS’ MASS AND RECEPTION WILL BE ON SUNDAY, NOV. 3, AT 2:00 P.M.

Information has been mailed soon to families who have had a family member die since October 01, 2018. If you have had an immediate family member (father, mother, sister, brother, child or spouse) die in the last year and was not buried through St. Peter’s Parish, we would like to include them and your family in our All Souls’ Mass this year. Please call Kristi at 419-524-2572 with their name, their relationship to you, and their date of death by October 18th.

DO YOU KNOW SOMEONE SERVING IN THE US MILITARY

Do you know someone serving in the US Military or someone who gave their life for our country while serving in the armed forces? These people can be honored by submitting their names to St. Peters. They will then be placed on bulletin board by the cry room at the main entrance to St. Peters. These people will then be remembered by many parishioners prayers. What a great gift to be given to these serving our country.

TURKEYS TURKEYS AND NOW HAMS TOO!

This year the raffle includes hams! Mark your calendar for November 22 and watch for announcements every week up until the fundraiser. Tickets are available in advance by calling Dave at 419.571.0800 or email MansfieldKofC687@gmail.com

Recycling—Next Date: November 8, 2019

BLUE BARRELS: November 9 & 10

175TH ANNIVERSARY NOTES

Continuing our look at the Pastorate of Fr. Herb Weber, we are grateful to Lynne Lukach for her authorship of this column and the preceding two. The summer of 1999 proved to be a remarkable moment in Fr. Herb’s pastorate – and in the life of the parish through our present time! Three particular events are noteworthy:

The Franciscan Activity Center was built that year. On Tuesday, Feb. 23, the boys’ basketball team played their final game in the Bob Frye gymnasium, with our school teams’ future games starting that fall to be played in the new Activity Center. On Sunday, June 13, the official dedication service for the St. Peter’s Franciscan Activity Center began with the 12:15 Mass celebrated by Bishop James Hoffman, followed by an informal procession to the “new” building for a blessing and brief program.

Plans, preparation, and very hard work for the installation of air conditioning in the church had been in process for quite some time. In the Aug. 1, 1999, bulletin, Fr. Herb wrote: “We are all thrilled that the air conditioning has been installed in church. This has been a major task that we could not have managed or afforded without the splendid volunteer labor of Paul Malaska, Joe Marzetti, and Dan Krouse.”

Also, for quite some time leading up to the summer of 1999, plans and fundraising had been underway for the purchase of a grand piano. Here is the “Note from the Loft” in the Aug. 22 bulletin: “We are happy to announce that a beautiful Yamaha grand piano has been purchased for our church sanctuary. It is a Model C-3 which is six feet and one inch long, and we were very lucky to find it very reasonably priced. Thanks to everyone who contributed to the fund!”

Regular Parish activities under Fr. Herb’s leadership and encouragement included the Parish Festival and Giant Garage Sale (with net incomes some of those years over $50,000!), end-of-summer Parish Mass and Picnic, Eucharistic Days in the fall, Spring Auction event, Christmas Classic and Easter Bake Sale, Feed the Needy, Parish Adult Retreats, the Renew small groups mentioned in last week’s column, the Scripture reading from Acts being read in a variety of languages at Pentecost, and “Time Out for Catholicism” classes taught by Fr. Herb on a variety of topics. There was also the Fulfilling the Promise…Facing the Future capital campaign toward the end of Fr. Herb’s time with us. A major change in parish life was the restructuring of weekend Masses from five to four. Starting Aug. 1, 2004, the Sunday Mass schedule changed from 7:45, 9:15, 10:45, 12:15 to our current 7:30, 9:30, 11:30. The 5:00 Saturday Vigil Mass was not changed.

During Holy Week, 2005, Fr. Herb received word from Bishop Leonard Blair that he was appointed to develop and open a new parish in northwest Wood County. Blessed John XXIII Parish (now Saint John XXIII) Parish in Perrysburg opened that summer and continues to thrive under Fr. Herb’s leadership.

In his Farewell Thank You in the June 26, 2005, bulletin, he wrote: “During the last three months I have had time to think about my eleven years at St. Peter’s. Certainly there have been exciting and joyful moments just as there have been some difficult and sad times. As I look at it all, the most over-riding need I have is to express gratitude: thanks to God for these years and the many blessings that have come my/our way, and thanks to you for allowing me to serve as pastor.

“Being pastor of a parish is a unique position. It takes leadership, but it’s more than that. It means being available to people in their need, but it also goes beyond that. For me, a pastor is one who tries to “carry” the vision of the church for the people and to share the good news of God’s love. A pastor is one who is as well as does. A good pastor embodies what he preaches.

“I don’t think I’ve always lived up to these lofty images of pastor, but I have tried. For my failures, please forgive me. And forgive me if I let you down or failed to inspire you.

“St. Peter’s is one of the premiere parishes of the diocese. It is blessed with a parish will continue to grow in grace and readiness to serve…

 “…it is hard to leave because I have come to know so many of you through special circumstances like funerals, weddings, baptisms, visits, counseling, and work projects. The children that I have seen so regularly will always claim a piece of my heart.

And please pray for me in my new undertaking. Thanks for the love. Fr. Herb.”

Our column next week will continue the study of the Pastors of St. Peter’s as we get closer to our 175th Anniversary as a Parish.
St. Peter's Family Day Out. Join us after 11:30 A.M. Mass on October 27th for fellowship and fall fun at Honey Haven Farm, 1327 County Road 1475 in Ashland. Admission is free, food is available for purchase. Additional free and low-cost fall activities are available: horse-drawn hayrides, corn maze, barnyard zoo, pumpkin slingshot and more. We hope to see you there! Contact Cassandra Parente for more information at cassandraparente5@gmail.com.

Designer Purse Bingo will be held at St. Joseph Convocation Center, 333 North Thomas Street in Crestline on Saturday, October 19th, doors open at 5:30 P.M. Tickets are $35. Call Andrea Burton for more information at 419.683.1284.

Youth-Grades 7-12. You are invited to the 11th Annual Building a Culture of Life Youth Retreat & Dinner on Saturday, October 26 from 6:00-9:00 P.M. at St. Stephen Catholic Church, 44 Britton Street in West Salem. This free, fun event will include: Spaghetti Dinner & Ice Cream Bar, Games and free T-Shirts. Eucharistic Adoration/Confession, the speaker is Elizabeth Benda. Please register by October 20th with Wendy or Todd McKee at 330.262.1096 or rosarywtm@gmail.com.

Volunteers Needed. Catholic Charities is seeking volunteers for various work areas: volunteer guardians, H.O.P.E. Food pantry, clerical/office/reception. If you are available for a couple of hours a week your help is greatly appreciated! Without our volunteers, we would not be able to serve the many needs of the community. We appreciate any amount of time you are able to give and we thank you for your support. Contact Pam Sellards 419.524.0833 x235 or psellards@toledodiocese.org.

“Don’t get upset with your imperfections. It’s a great mistake because it leads nowhere—to get angry because you are angry, upset at being upset, depressed at being depressed, disappointed because you are disappointed. So don’t fool yourself. Simply surrender to the Power of God’s love, which is always greater than our weakness.”

~~Saint Francis de Sales~~
HEALING AND SALVATION

The readings today speak of healing and salvation. In Second Kings, Naaman, a commander of the army of the king of Syria, develops leprosy. He goes to a stranger, a prophet from Israel, when no one else can cure his disease. Much to his surprise, after a simple bath in the river, he is cured. In Luke's Gospel, Jesus cures ten lepers and sends them to the priest. Only one, a Samaritan, returns to thank Jesus for his cure and only he hears the words, Your faith has saved you. The psalm and Timothy remind us that salvation involves justice, kindness, and faithfulness and forever links us with Jesus. In a world as broken as ours, both healing and salvation are necessary.

TREASURES FROM OUR TRADITION

Christian liturgy has always contained an opportunity to make a choice for sharing. From the beginning, Christians pooled their resources, especially for the care of widows and orphans, at the weekly Eucharist. Over the years, the collection became detached from the liturgy and baskets or plates would be passed through the community while the Mass was going on at the altar, or contributions would be collected at the doors. In Milan's Ambrosian Rite, these gifts have always been brought to the altar by lay people in procession. In German countries, the ancient custom was for the entire assembly to process with their gifts --first the men, then the women, then the priests and deacons--to offer their gifts at the altar. The old ceremony of canonization included a curious vestige of this procession: people would present the pope with two loaves of bread, two barrels of wine and water, five candles, and three cages containing pigeons or turtledoves!

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TODAY'S READINGS

First Reading -- Naaman, cleansed from his leprosy, returns gratefully to Elisha (2 Kings 5:14-17).

Psalm -- The Lord has revealed to the nations his saving power (Psalm 298).

Second Reading -- If we have died with Christ we shall also live with Christ (2 Timothy 2:8-13).

Gospel -- Ten lepers are healed by Jesus, but only one, a Samaritan, returns to give him thanks (Luke 17:11-19).

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: Rom 1:1-7; Ps 98:1-4; Lk 11:29-32
Tuesday: Rom 1:16-25; Ps 19:2-5; Lk 11:37-41
Wednesday: Rom 2:1-11; Ps 62:2-3, 6-7, 9; Lk 11:42-46
Thursday: Rom 3:21-30; Ps 130:1b-6ab; Lk 11:47-54
Friday: 2 Tm 4:10-17b; Ps 145:10-13, 17-18; Lk 10:1-9
Saturday: Rom 4:13, 16-18; Ps 105:6-9, 42-43; Lk 12:8-12
Sunday: Ex 17:8-13; Ps 121:1-8; 2 Tm 3:14 -- 4:2; Lk 18:1-8

This week’s cover art: Christ Cleanses Leper Man, Wikimedia Commons
# 776400  **1200** bulletins please

St. Peter Church  
104 W First Street  
Mansfield, OH 44902-2199

419-524-2572  
Attn: Joyce/Kristi