



A Century of Faith, Fellowship, and Celebration

SAINT PETER PARISH PREPARES FOR ITS 100TH ANNIVERSARY!



Since its founding on June 16, 1927, Saint Peter Parish has served as a cornerstone of faith, community, and shared blessings. As the parish approaches its landmark 100th anniversary, a full calendar of engaging events and lively activities is lined up to bring the community together, foster fellowship, and celebrate a hundred years of shared history leading up to the grand occasion.

UPCOMING EVENTS & ACTIVITIES IN 2027

Mardi Gras Celebration (Feb. 6): Bring festive energy and community spirit for a colorful pre-Lenten celebration.

Night at the Races (May 1): Enjoy a fast-paced evening of simulated horse racing and high-energy excitement.

First Annual Saint Peter Church Golf Tournament (May 21): Hit the greens for the parish's inaugural golf tournament at Green Pond Country Club, combining healthy competition with outdoor fellowship.

100th Anniversary Mass (June 13): Bishop Schlert will celebrate Mass at St. Peter at noon that Sunday. Watch the bulletin for information about ticket sales for the celebratory dinner at Woodstone Country Club after Mass.

These events offer the perfect opportunity to reconnect with old friends, welcome new faces into the flock, and honor the rich heritage of Saint Peter Parish. Watch the bulletin for additional events throughout the year.

Mark your calendars and join in as the parish family comes together to celebrate a century of blessings and look forward to a vibrant future!

My Journey to the Catholic Faith



Hi, my name is Madeline. I attended Order of Christian Initiation of Adults (OCIA) this past year, and I can honestly say that the experience has been one of the most joyful and meaningful journeys of my life.

For a long time, I had a deep desire to grow closer to Christ and to understand what it truly meant to have a relationship with Him. Beginning my journey through OCIA gave me the opportunity to finally take that step. Along the way, I learned so much—not only about the Catholic faith, but also about myself and the place that God has always held in my life.

One of the most beautiful parts of this journey has been the people I have met. Their kindness, encouragement, patience, and willingness to share their faith made me feel welcomed and supported every step of the way. I never felt like I was walking this journey alone.

Becoming Catholic was incredibly important to me, and becoming a member of St. Peter's has given me a sense of belonging that I will always cherish. Through the framework and traditions of the Church, the sacraments, the sense of community, and the opportunity to develop a deeper and more personal relationship with God, St. Peter's Church, Msgr. James and my Aunt Eileen have been truly pivotal in my faith journey.

I am so grateful for the foundation that OCIA and St. Peter's have given me. My journey is far from over – I am still learning, still growing, and still discovering new ways to deepen my faith and draw closer to Christ. But I feel incredibly blessed to have found my way to the Catholic Church and to have been welcomed into this community.

What began as a desire to become closer to Christ has grown into something much deeper: a faith that I want to continue nurturing for the rest of my life. I am excited to see where God leads me next, and I will always be grateful to those who helped me take these first steps.



Would You Like to Volunteer?



There are many opportunities to serve in St. Peter's parish ministry. Fill out the "Say Yes" pew card and drop it in the collection basket or scan the QR code to see where you might be able to help.



**THANK YOU, VOLUNTEERS,
FOR AN INCREDIBLE PARISH
HOMECOMING FESTIVAL!**

Mark Your Calendar *Dates are subject to change – always check the weekly bulletin.*

OCTOBER

- | | |
|--|---|
| 11 Children's Liturgy Mass (St. John)..... 8 a.m. | 21 NO Holy Hour (St. Peter) |
| 11 Whitehall Coplay Hunger Initiative Bingo2-5 p.m. | 24 St. Peter Holy Name Society Hoagie Pick up.....2-6 p.m. |
| 13 Flame of Love 6 p.m. | 25 All Saints Day Cemetery Service 1 p.m. |
| 14 Holy Hour (St. Peter)..... 6 p.m. | 25 Holy Name Society Meeting..... after 10:30 Mass |
| 16 Pork & Sauerkraut To Go Dinner 4-6 p.m. | 26 Parish Leadership Team Meeting 7 p.m. |
| 18 Children's Liturgy & Ministry Mass (St. Peter) 10:30 Mass | 27 Flame of Love 6 p.m. |
| 18 Altar Rosary Society Meeting 9 a.m. | 28 Holy Hour (St. Peter)..... 6 p.m. |
| 18-20 Forty Hours Devotions | 29 Finance Council Meeting 7 p.m. |
| 19-20 St. Peter Pierogie Making | 31 Hallow Surrender Novena begins |
| 20 Flame of Love 6 p.m. | |

NOVEMBER

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1 Fellowship Sunday (St. Peter)..... after 10:30 Mass | 15 Altar Rosary Society Meeting 9 a.m. |
| 1 Filling Fundraiser Begins | 16-17 St. Peter Pierogie Making |
| 3 Pastoral Council Meeting..... 6:30 p.m. | 16 Filling Orders Due |
| 3 Flame of Love 6 p.m. | 17 Flame of Love 6 p.m. |
| 4 Holy Hour (St. Peter)..... 6 p.m. | 18 Holy Hour (St. Peter) No Confessions..... 6 p.m. |
| 6 Steak/Sausage To Go Dinner 4-6 p.m. | 19 Christmas Show Bus Trip |
| 8 Children's Liturgy Mass (St. John)..... 8 a.m. | 22 Holy Name Society Meeting..... after 10:30 Mass |
| 8 Whitehall Coplay Hunger Initiative Bingo2-5 p.m. | 22 Ecumenical Services at St. John Lutheran Church..... 7 p.m. |
| 10 Flame of Love 6 p.m. | 24 Filling Pick-up 4-6 p.m. |
| 11 Holy Hour (St. Peter) No Confessions..... 6 p.m. | 24 Flame of Love 6 p.m. |
| 14 Christmas Cookie Fundraiser Begins | 25 Holy Hour (St. Peter)..... 6 p.m. |
| 14 Knights of Columbus Halupki Dinner..... 4-6 p.m. | 29 Christmas Cookie Orders Due |
| 15 Children's Liturgy & Ministry Mass (St. Peter) 10:30 Mass | 29 First Sunday of Advent; Hallow Advent Challenge begins |

DECEMBER

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1 Flame of Love 6 p.m. | 16 Holy Hour (St. Peter)..... 6 p.m. |
| 2 Holy Hour (St. Peter)..... 6 p.m. | 16 Confessions @ St. Peter8:30-9:30 a.m. |
| 6 Fellowship Sunday
Christmas Party (St. Peter)..... after 10:30 Mass | 17 Combined Confessions @ St. John the Baptist 6:30 p.m. |
| 7 Vigil Mass, Feast of the Immaculate Conception
(St. John's)..... 6:30 p.m. | 18-19 Christmas Cookie Pick-up..... see bulletin for times |
| 7 Flame of Love 6 p.m. | 20 Children's Liturgy & Ministry Mass (St. Peter) 10:30 Mass |
| 8 Feast of the Immaculate Conception Mass
(St. Peter)..... 8 a.m. | 22 Flame of Love 6 p.m. |
| 8 Holy Hour (St. Peter)..... 6 p.m. | 23 Holy Hour (St. Peter)..... 6 p.m. |
| 13 Children's Liturgy Mass (St. John)..... 8 a.m. | 24-25 Christmas Vigil, Christmas Eve & Christmas Day
Masses see bulletin for locations/times |
| 13 Altar Rosary Society Christmas Luncheon 1 p.m. | 26 No 8 a.m. Mass |
| 15 Flame of Love 6 p.m. | 27 Holy Name Society Meeting..... after 10:30 Mass |
| 15 Confessions @ St. John the Baptist..... 8:30-9:30 a.m. | 29 Flame of Love 6 p.m. |
| | 30 Holy Hour (St. Peter)..... 6 p.m. |

JANUARY 2027

1 Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God Holy Day Mass..... see bulletin for locations/times	12 Flame of Love 6 p.m.
3 Fellowship Sunday (St. Peter)..... after 10:30 Mass	13 Holy Hour (St. Peter)..... 6 p.m.
3 Free Community Meal 4-6 p.m.	17 Children's Liturgy & Ministry Mass (St. Peter) ... 10:30 Mass.
5 Flame of Love 6 p.m.	18-19 St. Peter Pierogie Making
6 Holy Hour (St. Peter)..... 6 p.m.	19 Flame of Love 6 p.m.
10 Whitehall Coplay Hunger Initiative Bingo.....2-5 p.m,	20 Holy Hour (St. Peter)..... 6 p.m.
10 Children's Liturgy Mass (St. John)..... 8 a.m.	26 Flame of Love 6 p.m.
	27 Holy Hour (St. Peter)..... 6 p.m.

FEBRUARY 2027

2 Flame of Love 6 p.m.	14 Whitehall Coplay Hunger Initiative Bingo.....2-5 p.m.
3 Holy Hour (St. Peter)..... 6 p.m.	15-16 St. Peter Pierogie Making
6 Mardi Gras Fundraiser	16 Flame of Love 6 p.m.
7 Fellowship Sunday (St. Peter)..... after 10:30 Mass	17 Holy Hour (St. Peter)..... 6 p.m.
9 Flame of Love 6 p.m.	19 Stations..... see bulletin for locations/times
10 Ash Wednesday Mass (St. Peter) 8 a.m.	21 Children's Liturgy and Ministry Mass (St. Peter). 10:30 Mass
10 Ash Wednesday Mass (St. John the Baptist).....6:30 p.m.	23 Flame of Love 6 p.m.
12 Stations..... see bulletin for locations/times	24 Holy Hour (St. Peter)..... 6 p.m.
13 Holy Name Society hoagie pick up	26 Stations..... see bulletin for locations/times
14 Children's Liturgy Mass (St. John)..... 8 a.m.	26 Holy Name Society Meeting..... after 10:30 Mass

My Journey to the Catholic Faith



I have been attending St Peter's regularly since 1999 and converted to Catholicism in 2005 through the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) program. My journey to the Catholic Faith has been a very meaningful part of my life. My family and friends have played an important part in my journey. Their love, support and example helped me appreciate how important faith is in our lives. My Catholic faith also gives me an opportunity to stop and reflect on all the blessings I have been given and to give thanks to God for the many good things in my life.

I especially like St Peter's because it feels like a true church family. I enjoy attending mass, praying, and being surrounded by people who share the same faith and values.

Being Catholic has taught me to be more thankful, to appreciate the people God has placed in my life, and to remember that even the simple blessings we sometimes take for granted are gifts for which we should be grateful. I am thankful for my family, friends, church, and all the good things God has given me. I feel blessed to be part of St Peter Roman Catholic Church and look forward to growing in my faith and sharing it with others.

Thank you,
Richard (Rick) Hess



Financial News

PARISH FUNDRAISING MAY THROUGH AUGUST 2026

\$28,441.50

May
collection, online giving

\$22,878.40

June
collection, online giving

\$24,482.40

July
collection, online giving

\$35,866.60

August
collection, online giving

\$61,639.00

Parish Homecoming Picnic

Parish Financial Report

July 1, 2025-June 30, 2026	
INCOME	
Sunday Collection	\$ 315,650.00
Other Collection	44,158.00
Christmas & Flowers Collection	17,758.00
Easter & Flowers Collection	13,278.00
Memorials/Donations	26,713.00
Stole Fees	9,340.00
Fundraising	176,096.00
AD Times	943.00
Votive Candles	2,252.00
Building Rentals	10,150.00
Miscellaneous	65,797.00
Capital Improvements	32,808.00
TOTAL	\$714,943.00
EXPENSES	
Administration	\$ 207,792.00
Religious Education	11,662.00
Good Shepherd Catholic School Subsidy	82,576.00
Church and Social Hall	117,442.00
Rectory	42,204.00
Convent	6,010.00
Insurance & Taxes	36,198.00
Diocesan Assessments	58,644.00
Fundraising	84,647.00
Capital Expenditures	143,757.00
TOTAL	\$ 790,932.00
Total Income	\$ 714,943.00
Total Expense	\$(790,932.00)
NET	\$ (75,989.00)*

Cemetery Financial Report

July 1, 2025-June 30, 2026	
INCOME	
Lots	\$ 18,868.00
Crypts/Niche Sales	7,880.00
Foundations	640.00
Inscriptions	615.00
Internments/Entombments	12,800.00
Endowed Care	4,162.50
Miscellaneous	40,722.32
Total	\$85,687.82
EXPENSES	
Administration	626.00
Maintenance	28,934.00
CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS	
Total	\$29,560.00
Total Income	\$ 85,687.82
Total Expense	\$(29,560.00)
Net	\$ 56,127.82

**The deficit is deceiving because it includes capital improvement expenditures that were funded from parish savings, not from the operating budget. The parish was in the black by \$67,768.00.*

Online Giving

Online giving is a quick and simple way to make a donation. Please scan the QR code or call the office for more information.

Parish Office: 610-262-2417



Homebound Ministry | SAINT PETER & SAINT JOHN THE BAPTIST PARISHES

We need your help.

Would you like to take part in a very meaningful ministry that connects you with parishioners who can no longer attend Mass or participate in other parish functions? Would you like to bring the joy of the Gospel a homebound parishioner?

You may want to simply visit one of the homebound parishioners on a weekly or monthly basis, or might also be willing to bring Holy Communion to one or two homebound parishioners on a weekly basis.

This is not a ministry of transportation, shopping, or house/yard work. It's a ministry of presence and support.

If you would like to volunteer for this new ministry, please fill out the form in the parish bulletin and place it in the collection basket in an envelope marked "HOMEBOUND MINISTRY," return it to the parish rectory or scan the QR code to fill it out online.



Once we have determined who would like to participate in the ministry, we will have a training.

Questions? Call the office at **610-262-2417**.



Parish Plan Goal Progress (Disciple Maker Index Survey)

1 INCREASE ACTIVE MEMBERSHIP by an additional:

21

parishioners
Apr.-Dec. 2025

30

parishioners
Jan.-Dec. 2026

32

parishioners
Jan.-Dec. 2027

**Factors include: New Registrants, Movers in/out, Deaths, Active/Inactive Members*

PROGRESS:*



2 ESTABLISH TWO RE-EVANGELIZATION INITIATIVES EACH YEAR Jan. 2025 through Dec. 2027 to draw inactive members to the active practice of their faith.

PLANS FOR 2026 INCLUDE:

- Continued Monthly Fellowship Sundays
- Hallow Corner added to Bulletin
- Hallow Heralds will be available after Masses to assist parishioners
- Parish Parents Group being formed
- Silent Masses were conducted
- Latin Mass in progress for Fall
- Say Yes Campaign initiated (37 initial responses received)
- Children's Liturgy Mass is being extended to all St. Peter Masses start date TBD
- Children's Mass (School age children will be participating in music and liturgies)
 - 3rd Sunday of each month starting Oct. 18
- Homebound/Visitation Ministry registration Sept. through Nov. 1.

3 ESTABLISH TRANSPARENT COMMUNICATIONS on a quarterly basis, of all key church activities and initiatives by June 30, 2025

PROGRESS:

This is the fifth publication of our parish newsletter and is available on our website, stpeterchurchcoplay.com, or scan the QR code.



Your feedback is welcomed. If there is anything you would like to see included in the newsletter, please let us know via the suggestion boxes or reach out to any of the contacts listed in this newsletter.

Contact: Sue 610-730-4655

ST. PETER ADULT CHOIR

Singing is Praying Twice! We are always looking for new members! We practice Mondays, 6:15 p.m.

Contact: Kathy 610-262-4095



Carlo Acutis Prep

Carlo Acutis Prep – Classes conducted at the Blessed Carlo Acutis Catholic Education Center, 3008 Ruch St., Whitehall, PA 18052 The program runs from September to the end of April. These classes are necessary for eligibility to receive the Sacraments of Penance, Eucharist, and Confirmation.

Contact: Mrs. Downey 610-261-0144

Remembering Those We Lost May Perpetual Light shine upon them.

William J. Beslanovits 5/1

Dorothy Turk 5/20

Glennon Becker; 6/10

Shirley Werner 7/1

Hilda Weber 7/27

Edward Kametz Sr. 8/2

Anna Marie Schanta 8/27

Catherine Martnick 8/30

Contact: Lina 610-262-2417



St. Peter Roman Catholic Church
4 S.5th St.
Coplay, PA 18037

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ST. PETER BY THE NUMBERS May 1 through Aug. 31, 2026 the following statistics have been recorded:

33 New Members

2 Weddings

6 Baptisms

13 Anointing of the Sick

ALTAR & ROSARY SOCIETY

- Meetings: 9 a.m. the third Sunday of each month (excluding January, February, July, August and December)
- Holy Rosary is said at 9:55 a.m. after the meeting and before Mass.

Contact: Beth Ann 610-462-9732

HOLY NAME SOCIETY

- Holy Name Mass: 10:30 Mass on the 4th Sunday of the month
- Meetings: the last Sunday of each month after 10:30 Mass

Contact: Al 484-515-6204

Hallow Corner

Anyone needing assistance to set up their free subscription to Hallow, please contact Sue at srabenold7@gmail.com or call 610-730-4655.

PARISH HALLOW CHALLENGES:



- **The Surrender Novena**
Begins Oct. 31, 2026 and runs through Nov. 8, 2026. Scan the QR code to participate.

- **Pray 26 Advent Challenge** starts Nov. 29
Details to follow.