

**ON-LINE MASS**  
[stpeterspeterborough.ca/livestream](http://stpeterspeterborough.ca/livestream)

Welcome. We are glad that you have been able to join us to celebrate the Birth of our Lord. During the holiday season, we extend a warm welcome to the visiting families and friends of our parishioners. No matter where you live, how frequently you attend Mass or where your religious roots are, your donations during the holiday season to this congregation are needed and greatly appreciated.



**E-GIVE**  
Open the QR  
Code  
reader/camera  
on your mobile  
device.

**PRE-AUTHORIZED  
OFFERTORY PLAN**

The best way to give since it is easy,  
reliable and has the lowest handling  
costs.  
**REGISTER THROUGH THE  
OFFICE.**

**ENVELOPE**

Always appreciated, envelope  
donations may be placed in the  
basket, dropped off at the  
rectory, or mailed.

**TO RECEIVE A CHARITABLE DONATION RECEIPT FOR 2023, PLEASE ENSURE WE RECEIVE YOUR GIFT BY DECEMBER 30TH.**

*Thank you to our bulletin advertisers for their continued support.*

*Please think local and support those who support the Cathedral.*

- Highland Park Funeral Centre
- Sterling Pools and Spas Ltd.
- Ashburnham Funeral Home
- Remax - The Galvin Team
- Duffus Funeral Home Limited
- Call-A-Cab Taxi
- Mattress Outlet
- Royal LePage - Mark Sokolski
- Nisbett Funeral Home
- Whelan's Flooring Centre
- IDA - Mather & Bell Pharmacy
- Doyle Tree Service
- Kawartha Monuments

**CATHEDRAL MASS SCHEDULE**

**CATHEDRAL CONFESSION SCHEDULE**

Monday - Friday: 7:30am & 12:10pm  
Saturday: 9:00am & 5:00pm  
Sunday: 7:30am, 9:00am & 10:30am

Monday - Friday: 11:30am - 12:00pm  
Saturday: 4:00pm - 4:45pm  
Sunday: Before 9:00am & 10:30am Mass

Our Weekend Mass is available on-line by visiting our website: [www.stpeterspeterborough.ca](http://www.stpeterspeterborough.ca)

*For Unto Us a Child is Born!*



**Cathedral of St. Peter-In-Chains**

411 Reid Street

Peterborough, Ontario

[www.stpeterspeterborough.ca](http://www.stpeterspeterborough.ca)

[office@stpeterspeterborough.ca](mailto:office@stpeterspeterborough.ca)

705-745-4681



## PASTORAL TEAM

Most Rev. Daniel Miehm

Pastor

Rev. Thomas Lynch

Rector

Rev. Peter Lukow

Associate

Rev. Max Delamour

Associate

Rev. Andrew Begin

Chaplain to Seniors

Dcn. Bill Radigan

Permanent Deacon

Catherine Ward

Office Administrator

## We Pray for the Sick...

Fran Barry, Jeannie Caravaggio,  
John Davies, Christine Marie  
Hatherly, Steve Henry, Millie  
Lafleche, Javier Lopez, Henry  
Madden, Margaret MacMaster,  
Crystal McCausland, Maureen  
McGillis, Fergus O'Brien & Pauline  
Sherry



### 1. What is "the real meaning of Christmas"?

Although many voices suggest that the true meaning of Christmas is being kind to each other, or being with our families, the real meaning of the day--and the season it begins--is the celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ. The Catechism of the Catholic Church explains: Jesus was born in a humble stable, into a poor family. Simple shepherds were the first witnesses to this event. In this poverty heaven's glory was made manifest. The Church never tires of singing the glory of this night (525).

### 2. Is Christmas based on a pagan holiday?

No matter how many times you hear Christmas is based on a pagan holiday, we simply have no evidence of this. In his book, *The Spirit of the Liturgy*, Pope Benedict comments: "The claim used to be made that December 25 developed in opposition to the Mithras myth, or as a Christian response to the cult of the unconquered sun promoted by Roman emperors in the third century in their efforts to establish a new imperial religion. However, these old theories can no longer be sustained" (pp., 107-108).

### 3. Is Christmas just the one day?

We tend to think of Christmas as being just December 25th, but the Christmas season lasts longer than that. Christmas Time runs from First Vespers (Evening Prayer I) of the Nativity of the Lord up to and including the Sunday after Epiphany or after 6 January.

### 4. What is the Octave of Christmas?

Embedded within the Christmas season is an "octave"--a period of eight days--that begins on Christmas Day. You could think of it as a season within a season. The days of the octave are: a. Sunday within the octave or, if there is no Sunday, December 30, is the feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph, b. December 26th is the feast of Saint Stephen, the first Martyr, c. December 27th is the feast of Saint John, Apostle and evangelist, and December 28th is the feast of the Holy Innocents, e. December 29th, 30th & 31st are days within the octave, and f. January 1st, the octave day of the Nativity of the Lord, is the solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God.

***"Mankind is a great, an immense family...This is proved by what we feel in our hearts at Christmas."***

***-Pope St. John XXIII***

## MASS INTENTIONS

### Sunday, December 24th

4:00pm - + Frank Gaudreau - Mary Anne Connor & Family

8:00pm - + Peter Pearson - The Family

10:00pm - Deceased Members of the Coulas Family - Allan Coulas

### Monday, December 25th

9:00am - + Vern & Margaret Keating - The Foley Family

10:30am - + Anne Anglesey Merriles - The Anglesey Family

### Tuesday, December 26th

NO MASS

### Wednesday, December 27th

NO MASS

### Thursday, December 28th

9:00am - Intentions of Michael Montgomery & Joan Carragher - Dawn Michie

### Friday, December 29th

9:00am - + Brian Fitzgerald - Maria & Family

### Saturday, December 30th

9:00am - Intentions of Catherine Offierski - A Friend

5:00pm - + Brian Fitzgerald - Bev O'Toole

### Sunday, December 31st

7:30am - + Ben Rudolph - Barb & John Hartwick

9:00am - Living & Deceased Members of the O'Brien Family - Michelle Myles

10:30am - + Jack Cannon - The Family and People of the Parish

5:00pm - +Reg Shaughnessy - The Family and +Peter Pearson - The Family

### Monday, January 1st

9:00am - Intentions of Deirdre Thomas - A Friend

10:30am - + Brian Fitzgerald - Jeffrey & Sheilagh Breskey

### Tuesday, January 2nd

7:30am - Intentions of Ian & Deb McRae - A Friend

12:10pm - Intentions of Maria Magliocco - The Cathedral Pastoral Team

### Wednesday, January 3rd

7:30am - + Mary O'Brien - Ronald & Rosemarie Gibbons

12:10pm - + Mr. Joseph Okpataku - Dawn Michie

### Thursday, January 4th

7:30am - + Paul & Brigit Jones - Laurie Jones

12:10pm - + Brian Fitzgerald - Frances Flaminio

### Friday, January 5th

7:30am - Intentions of Living & Deceased Donors to the Perpetual Fund

12:10pm - Intentions of Jack & Irene Zeyen for their 70th Anniversary - Dave & Chris Smith

### Saturday, January 6th

9:00am - + Dan McBride - Lafleche Family

5:00pm - + Brian Fitzgerald - Barry & Jacqueline Graham

### Sunday January 7th

7:30am - People of the Parish

9:00am - Living & Deceased Members of the O'Brien Family - Michelle Myles

10:30am - Intentions of Merina Csercsics - Cathedral Pastoral Team



**FAMILY FRIENDLY ON FORMED.ORG**

This Christmas while the children are home from school, take advantage of the family friendly catholic content on Formed.org - free of charge through the Peterborough Diocese subscription!

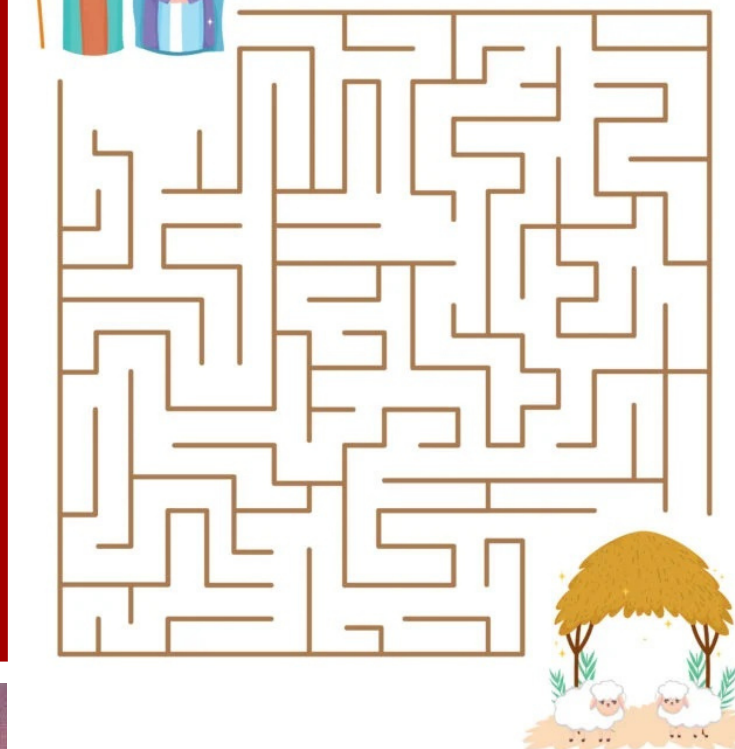
Take a few minutes to sign up:

- Go to [www.formed.org](http://www.formed.org)
- Click on "Formed for Individuals" button
- Enter your email address & click "submit" button
- Enter "Cathedral of St Peter In Chains & click "next" button
- Enter your name & email address & click the "sign up" button.

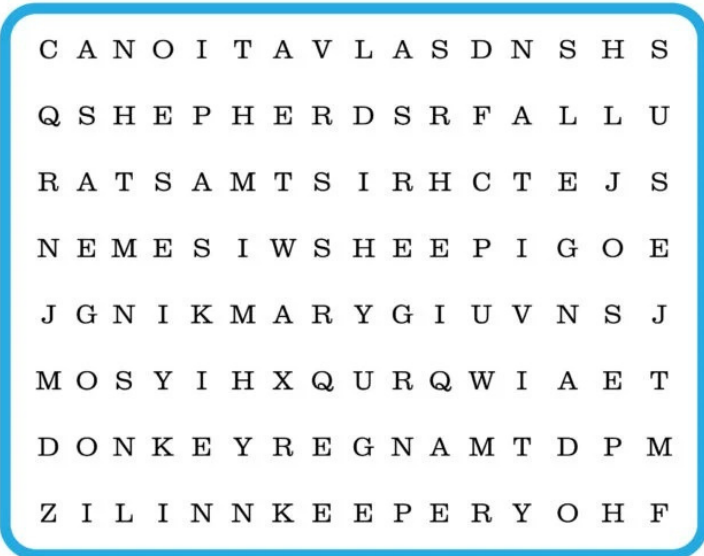
Enjoy programs such as St. Nicholas: The Boy Who Became Santa, The Twelve Days of Christmas Dance with Marcam and Hildegard's Gift.



**Help Mary and Joseph get to the stable.**



**Nativity Word Search**



- |           |           |
|-----------|-----------|
| angels    | manger    |
| Christmas | Mary      |
| donkey    | nativity  |
| innkeeper | salvation |
| Jesus     | sheep     |
| Joseph    | shepherds |
| king      | star      |
|           | wisemen   |



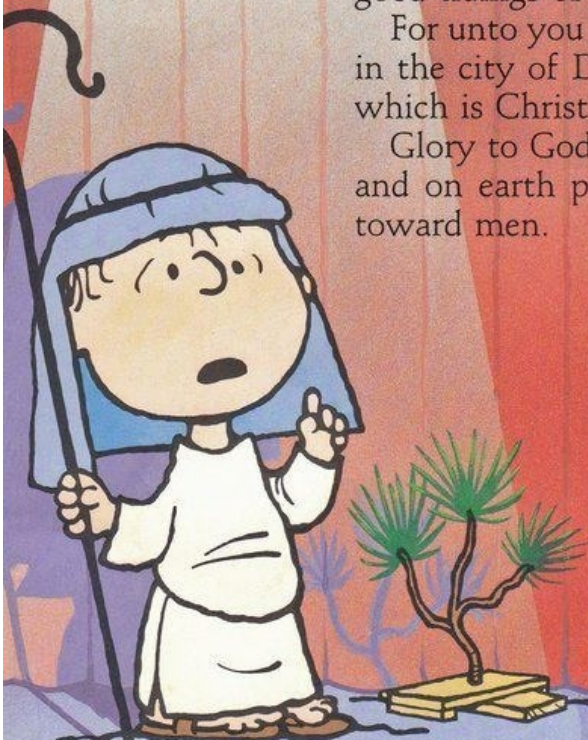
And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night.

And the angel of the Lord came upon them, and said, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy.

For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.

Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.

LUKE 2:8-14  
(RSVB)



Dear Friends in Christ,

An Advent season of just three weeks has not given us very much time to heed the call of St. John the Baptist to "prepare the way of the Lord." This shortened runway has probably meant that we have been busier than ever in the lead-up to Christmas, maybe even more frazzled than usual, and not as ready spiritually as we would like to be. The Christmas rush seems to get ever more rushed, and we do our best to manage it all.

What a consolation then, to remember that Christmas is not so much about what we do, but about what God has done for us. Cardinal John Henry Newman (canonized in 2019) once wrote in a sermon that the special charm of Christmas is that Christ comes to us as our guest. And in that coming, Newman notes "He brightens everything. He does not take away, he adds. He makes the world our home, for he deigns to be the light of it."

In this busy season, with all that is pressing in on us, may our hearts be attuned to Christ who comes to us as the Son of God, the Word made flesh, the Savior of the World. Let us open our hearts in welcome because, ready or not, here He comes!

May His coming fill our families, churches and communities with light and joy this holy season.

Yours in Christ,

Bishop Daniel Miehms



**CATHEDRAL PERPETUAL FUND CHRISTMAS GREETINGS**

At this very special time of year when we are celebrating the birth of Christ, getting together with family and friends and renewing old acquaintances we want to first thank all the Donors and Friends of the Perpetual Fund.

Have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Your support and friendship means a lot to us. God Bless All of you !

Ronald Pearson, President  
On Behalf of the Board of Directors





## CHRISTMAS GREETING FROM THE RECTOR

It is almost exactly a year ago that Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI died. I think his first Christmas message as Pontiff sums up the essence of "the reason for the season".

"In Jesus Christ, the Son of God, God himself, God from God, became man.... God's everlasting 'today' has come down into the fleeting today of the world and lifted our momentary today into God's eternal today. God is so great that he can become small. God is so powerful that he can make himself vulnerable and come to us as a defenseless child, so that we can love him. God is so good that he can give up his divine splendor and come down to a stable, so that we might find him, so that his goodness might touch us, give itself to us and continue to work through us. This is Christmas: 'You are my son, this day I have begotten you.' God has become one of us, so that we can be with him and become like him. As a sign, he chose the Child lying in the manger: this is how God is. This is how we come to know him. And on every child shines something of the splendor of that 'today,' of that closeness of God which we ought to love and to which we must yield".

I can only add to you my prayers and best wishes for you all in this holy season of joy.

Yours in Christ, Fr. Tom Lynch, Rector

### LIFE IN SACRAMENTS

"The seven sacraments touch all stages and all the important moments of Christian life" (CCC 1210). The sacraments provide us an opportunity to encounter the Mystery of Christ in our own lives. They are a joyous celebration for the whole Christian community. When we welcome each other into the Church through the sacraments of Baptism, Eucharist, and Confirmation, we grow larger and stronger. When we celebrate the sacraments of Holy Orders and Matrimony, we celebrate the particular vocations to which we are called to in service to the Church and its continuing growth. When we celebrate the sacraments of Reconciliation and the Anointing of the Sick, we strengthen each other as we bring healing between Christ and the Church.

Please pray for our brothers and sisters preparing to receive the sacraments. We have three candidates for sacraments at Easter, twenty-six young people who will receive First Holy Communion this spring, and nine young people who will be confirmed on Pentecost. May the reception of the sacraments continue to strengthen us as we journey toward Christ.

### SACRAMENTS IN 2023

Baptism: 36

First Communion (Spring): 16

First Reconciliation (Fall): 24

Confirmation: 14

RCIA: 6

Marriage: 4



## TODAY FOR TOMORROW - BE A PART OF THE FUTURE!

In the winter of 1837, the Irish settlers came in from their farms with their horses and sleighs. They came in from their farms in Assumption and Douro, and with their chisels and crowbars cut the limestone in Jackson Creek quarry for the walls of St Peter-In-Chains Church. From the tall pines and maples covering this country, they cut the wood for the window frames and beams. They sent for stained and painted glass all the way from Toronto, and the next Spring, they built the Cathedral with their own hands. This Church in which you are sitting, or in which you have sat so many Sundays, is a living testament to the abiding nature of the Catholic Faith. Our role now is to sustain and restore this historic monument to our faith so that it will continue to be the outstanding symbol of hope for our future generations.

It is in thinking about our future generations of Catholics in Peterborough that we are asking for your help with our Today for Tomorrow Campaign. We are hoping to seek your assistance in continuing to build up the Church in Peterborough and to once more have the Cathedral be a beacon of faith and respite for Catholics everywhere. Some people will be able to assist us financially through giving to the current restoration efforts or through a bequest. Some may not be able to contribute financially to our efforts, but what we seek most earnestly are your prayers. It will be your prayers for the parish and for the campaign that will make this a success and allow for us to continue to be a home for Catholics from across the diocese for another 200 years.



### BUILDING UPDATE

It has been a long year with two major projects on the go at once. Supply chain problems, labour shortages and finances held up the upper stone work phase of the roof which we hope and pray will have its finish this spring with the installation of a new stone cross over the main door. These problems led to a very late start on the removal of shingles, installation of the water proof membrane (which is the blue stuff you see on the church now) and finally, as you see in the accompanying photograph, the new steel. This will give an antique look to the roof with 10 foot strips of steel which are riveted and crimped. They will keep working throughout the winter and we foresee having the entire roof done in late winter. The new silver roof will be literally eye catching for years to come.

The cross and steeple are a complex affair. We are still negotiating with the insurance and several construction companies as how to replace the cross and repair the roofing on the steeple. As you can see, it is extremely high and this means special techniques are required for the replacement - but we are replacing it as a symbol for the entire city. None of this is inexpensive and if you are able to help in small or larger ways, please contact Fr. Tom and together we can finish these vital phases.





## ST. ANDRE BESSETTE RELICS

St. André Bessette, C.S.C. (9 August 1845 – 6 January 1937), was a lay brother of the Congregation of Holy Cross and a significant figure of the Catholic Church in Canada credited with thousands of reported miraculous oil healings associated with his pious devotion to Saint Joseph.

We were very blessed to be visited by Père Jomon Kalladanthiyil, CSC & 2 volunteers with a relic of St. Andre. After the Masses on the weekend of November 11th & 12th, parishioners were invited to come forward for a blessing with St. Joseph oil as well as to venerate the relic. There were also talks given on the life of St. Andre.

As well as the Cathedral, the group travelled to a few parishes in the Diocese and a number of schools.



**"Practice charity with your neighbor—and this doesn't mean only to give money to the poor."**

**-St. Andre Bessette**

## FROM FR. PETER

I sincerely hope that the remembrance of Christ's birth brings you much peace and hope. As we celebrate Christmas, I would like to thank you for your support and prayers for me. Know that I pray for you, your loved ones and your intentions.

*May God bless you this Christmas, may all darkness in your lives be removed by the light of Christ. May your hearts be filled with the Joy of Christ's birth and may you be missionaries of that joy, Amen.*

May you have the grace to find happiness and joy this Christmas and throughout the New Year.

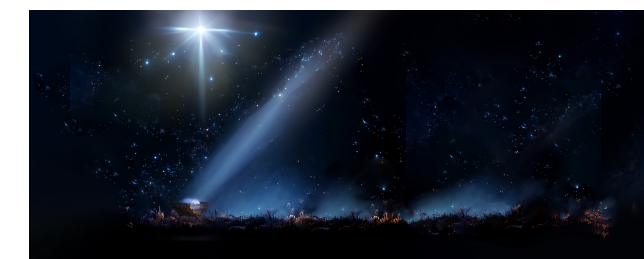
Yours in Christ,  
Fr. Peter Lukow  
Associate Pastor

## FR. MAX'S GREETING

"Behold, the virgin shall be with child and bear a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel, which means God with us". May the light of Emmanuel "God-with-us" make your families shine brightly and bring you the hope of a new year illuminated by his presence and grace.

Merry Christmas  
And  
Blessed and Happy New Year.

Fr. Max Delamour  
Associate Pastor



## CANDLELIGHT MASS

This year we continued the tradition of our now annual All Souls Day Candlelight Mass. On the evening of November 2nd, the lights in the Cathedral were dimmed as parishioners gathered for a special Mass celebrated by Most. Rev. Daniel Miehms with the priests of the Cathedral concelebrating.

5-day candles were purchased in memory of those who have died and provided the primary light. A list of all those remembered was also handed out.



## WORLD YOUTH DAY 2023

A number of youth from the Cathedral travelled with Fr. Peter Lukow & Fr Stephen DeCarlo to Portugal in the summer to be part of the World Youth Day celebrations with Pope Francis. They were joined by over one million young people from around the world and participated in many of the reliquary visits, talks, and other events that took place in Lisbon.

On Nov. 26th, many of the pilgrims gathered at the Knights of Columbus hall to share their testimonies about their time in Portugal.







Father Eric Mason grew up in a large Catholic family near Fowler's Corners, a few kilometres northwest of Peterborough. He attended St. Peter's Secondary School, earned an anthropology degree at Trent University and, after completing his seminary studies, was ordained in 2015 by Bishop William McGrattan at St. Peter-In-Chains Cathedral.

Fr. Mason began his ministry as an associate at parishes in Lindsay and Bowmanville before becoming pastor at St. Joseph's Church in Powassan, the most northerly parish in the diocese.

This fall, he embraced a new role – and enjoyed a homecoming – when he was appointed campus chaplain to serve Catholic students at Trent University and Fleming College. "I spend time at both campuses," says Fr. Mason. "I really enjoy it. The role is quite well-established and I've had lots of help transitioning into the position."

The campus ministry includes three full-time Catholic Christian Outreach (CCO) missionaries. "One of the main benefits is the weekly Mass on campus and being able to come together as a community," says CCO missionary Erika Schoonderwoerd, a Trent nursing graduate. "Campus often feels like a place that's far from God."

She attended a recent weekly Mass that Fr. Mason celebrated, in Classroom 106.6 on the ground floor of Bata Library at Trent. The Masses usually attract 30 to 40 students, says Fr. Mason, but with the end of the fall semester approaching, along with exams and term paper deadlines, attendance was smaller than usual. Fr. Mason called upon Matthew Tadgell, a third-year philosophy student, to do the readings. Tadgell, who was raised in a secular family in Mississauga, is currently participating in the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults. "Without the campus ministry I wouldn't become a Catholic," he says.

Campus ministry also includes small group faith studies, evenings of adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and the Sunday 10:30 Mass for students at the Cathedral, usually with a social event afterward.

Though new to the role, Fr. Mason has quickly experienced one of the rewards. "Young people discover that truths, which are ancient and sometimes appear worn out, are actually fresh and applicable to contemporary life," he says. "It's wonderful to see their horizons open up to a whole new reality."

Fr. Mason is eldest of six siblings – three boys and three girls. He says his call to the priesthood was a process that began when he was 15. He went on a pilgrimage to Rome organized by priests and was the lone Canadian amid a group of young men from the U.S.



"We were at the Vatican for Mass on New Year's Day celebrated by Pope John Paul II," he says. "We got to tour all around Rome. We saw some beautiful churches and had a great experience."

When he was in third year at Trent, he lived with four of prospective seminarians at a house of discernment in Peterborough. "It was a good introduction to a life of prayer, sacraments and apostolic works," Fr. Mason says. "It really helped me get ready for the experience of seminary."

He went on to study philosophy at Saint Philip's Seminary in Toronto and theology at St. Augustine's Seminary in Scarborough and says: "I really loved my time there."

# A Sweet Surprise!

This year, we were very honoured when the Buns & Sweets Bakery, located in Bridgenorth, made a gingerbread inspired by an extra special location: our Cathedral of St. Peter-In-Chains, where two of their bakers, Eric and Sarah, were married earlier this year.



## BUILDING OUR COMMUNITY

Different people hope to get different things from their Church community. Some wish to only come for Mass and Sacraments, but many hope to form bonds and make connections with other parishioners. Often, we hear from new people that they find this hard to do. Here are some suggestions to help:

1. Get active and involved – The first step is on you; you have to make the effort and be willing to keep trying until you find the right thing. Don't give up after your first activity or two or three. Showing up at Mass is NOT enough to get to know others.
2. Choose small group activities – You are not likely to get to know people well by attending big events like parish missions or Mass. While these are all wonderful — and Mass, critical — things to participate in, they are not necessarily the activities that lend themselves to making friends. Select our Moms Group, CWL, KofC or Bible studies.
3. Look for activities that require interactivity – Can you help with decorating the church for Christmas or Easter where you'll interact with others, assist with Sacramental Preparation classes, or participate in a study group that requires discussion? This is how you'll start to become more than just a face to your fellow parishioners.
4. Go on a retreat – If not at the Cathedral, many retreats are offered by the Franciscans at LaVerna Ministries, silent retreats through the IVE at Sacred Heart and wider networks in the province. On a retreat, where you spend many hours with the same folks, you'll develop a rapport and special camaraderie with some people and a closer relationship with God.
5. Learn people's names – Once you meet someone, make an effort to commit their name to memory. Whenever you see them or give them peace at Mass, USE THEIR NAME. Make a point to ask them how they are doing, or how the weather is treating them, or how their kids are getting along in school. Continue to break the ice until it's broken!

### How to Share Your Time, Talent, and Treasures

**Time:** we need people to make friendly phone calls, join the Hospitality Team, pray for the work of the church.

**Talent:** we are looking for people who have skills in photography, fundraising and community building.

**Treasures:** Pre-Authorized Offertory Payments provide a predictable revenue stream for the church, convenience to givers and has the lowest cost to maintain. Donations can also be made electronically or by using weekly envelopes.

My Catholic Giving Guide: Embark on a purposeful journey of stewardship with the My Catholic Giving Guide! This free tool helps you budget your charitable giving, keeping your 2024 financial resolutions on track and ensuring your donations support the things you care most about. Download the worksheet at [www.peterboroughdiocese.org](http://www.peterboroughdiocese.org).