



SAINT PETER'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

The Episcopal Parish of Chicago's Lakeview Neighborhood

The Rev. Shane Patrick Gormley, *Priest in Charge*

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The Feast of Hilda of Whitby, *Abbess*

Come, labor on!

Who dares stand idle, on the harvest plain

While all around us waves the golden grain?

And to each servant does the Master say,

“Go work today.”

Dear Friends in Christ,

Saint Peter's has shown remarkable resolve this year. In confronting COVID-19, the importance of maintaining our community safely has been paramount, and we come together in new ways. Heading into Advent and anticipating Christmas, we find ourselves separate, and yet still in communion.

And so: thank you! Thank you for understanding and helping others to understand; thank you for adapting and participating; thank you for continuing to support the work and life of Saint Peter's. Here are a few ways your support has helped us this year:

- ✘ It proved unnecessary for us to request or receive a PPP Loan.
- ✘ You supplied new software and equipment for the sake of live-streaming our services—which will continue to help us for years to come.
- ✘ We've reconnected with former members around the world.
- ✘ Our liabilities were paid in full and ahead of schedule.
- ✘ We've engaged in six months of online Bible study.
- ✘ Charlie Carpenter has continued to bless us with piano and organ music.

In the meantime, our Building Committee has been hard at work. From hiring Altus Works to our current contractor negotiations, they have remained on schedule, helping us find our way forward to 617 W. Belmont Avenue in 2021.

And thus, the main point: *In 2021, we relaunch Saint Peter's Episcopal Church as a witness to the power and love of Christ in Lakeview.*

As our wilderness journey approaches its end, God calls us to prepare. We move forward as responsible stewards God's gifts, appreciative of our distinctive worship and liturgy—a form of common life we've maintained in a basement and in our homes. We move forward eager to discern how we may best serve our communities, filled with hope that God has more in store than we can ask or imagine.

The question now is: Do you want to be a part of this fresh start at Saint Peter's, and help us relaunch the life of our Parish?

Your financial contribution to the life of Saint Peter's, along with your time and talent, is vital. In addition to supporting our limited staff and programs, in 2021 we face storage and moving costs, expenses to operate our own building and organ, and more. We need your help to make 2021 the year of Saint Peter's Episcopal Church's rebirth as a witness to the risen Christ.

Enclosed you'll find your **2021 Pledge Card**. Please take time to pray and discern how you can contribute to the life of Saint Peter's, and return it by January 6, 2021 (the Feast of the Epiphany). You can also complete it online at <http://www.stpeterschicago.com/donate.html>.

If you would like to speak with Fr. Shane or a member of the Vestry about the year ahead, email rector@stpeterschicago.com. We don't know what awaits us; but as Jesus' parable last Sunday reminded us, we can overcome any fear by making the most of God's gifts. And as Paul writes to Timothy,

"God did not give us a spirit of cowardice, but rather a spirit of power and of love and of self-discipline." (2 Tim. 1:7)

Who dares stand idle, the hymn asks, while the time is ripe for proclaiming our hope and our excitement for what God is doing in our midst? There is a lot of work ahead of us, and together with God's grace, we will find ourselves ready to get to work.

In Christ,



Shane Patrick Gormley +