

## **St. Peter the Apostle University & Community Parish**

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Office Hours: Monday – Friday 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM

Under the pastoral care of the  
New Brunswick Congregation of the Oratory of St. Philip Neri  
Rev. Thomas Odorizzi, C.O., Pastor  
Rev. Jeffrey Calia, C.O., Parochial Vicar

### **Sunday Mass Schedule:**

Saturday Vigil: 5:00 PM  
Sunday: 8:00 AM, 11:00 AM, & 6:00 PM

### **Weekday Mass Schedule:**

Monday-Friday: 7:30 AM; Saturdays: 9:00 AM in Church  
Monday-Thursday: 12:15 PM in the Catholic Center Chapel

### **Confession Availability:**

Saturdays: 11 AM–12 Noon in Church  
Anytime, on request, whenever a priest is available, or by appointment

### **Activities & Opportunities for Involvement**

Eucharistic Adoration  
Choir & Liturgical Ministries  
Spiritual Enrichment Opportunities  
Altar Rosary Society  
Knights of Columbus  
Community Outreach (Social Concerns)  
St. Vincent de Paul Society  
Whole Community Catechesis & Sacramental Preparation  
Youth Ministry  
RCIA & Adult Confirmation  
Young Adult Outreach

*St. Peter's is becoming a*



**“University Parish”**



**What does it mean?**

## A Rich Heritage of Faith and Service

Founded in 1829, St. Peter the Apostle is the oldest parish in the Diocese of Metuchen. For over 150 years, our beautiful neo-Gothic church (1856/1865) has been a spiritual focal point for the local community. St. Peter's served as "Mother Church" to Catholic immigrant communities as they struggled to establish their own parishes around the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century; she gave birth to many other parishes as the surrounding area grew and developed. Our parish has become known for its rich heritage of faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, its warm hospitality, and its strong commitment to health care and Catholic education.

Times and circumstances have changed, but our commitments have remained, even as they have come to be expressed in new ways. St. Peter's enjoys a diversity and openness that speaks clearly of the universal gift of God's saving love. Although the parish schools could no longer be sustained, St. Peter's is still associated with the care and spiritual development of our young people. Over the past several years, a remarkable collaboration has taken shape between the parish community and Catholic campus ministry at Rutgers. Fostered by the priests from the Congregation of the Oratory and the Diocese of Metuchen, religious from the Brotherhood of Hope and the Sisters of Jesus Our Hope, and the dedicated lay staff who serve both apostolates, this collaboration has borne fruit in ways that benefit both existing parishioners and Rutgers students. The youthful energy of the students reinvigorates the parish, while the faithful presence of parishioners helps to ground the students' experience of Catholic life on a firm foundation. For example, our parish life of worship has flourished due in part to the synergy between the parish choir and student musicians, fostered by an excellent full-time music director shared by the parish and campus ministry.

The Diocese of Metuchen, led by Bishop Paul G. Bootkoski, has strongly supported the campus ministry apostolate and has promoted the ministry of the parish to extend to the university Catholic community. He invested in our future through the renovation of our former parish convent, creating a beautiful new campus ministry center (opened 2010), as well as the reconstruction of the church basement into a new parish hall and parish office (opened late 2011). The Diocese continues to generously fund the campus ministry apostolate through the Bishop's Annual Appeal.

## Renewing the Church

Against this backdrop, in 2012 the Church in New Brunswick entered a diocesan process of collaborative renewal called "*Renewing the Church*", which is bringing about a new vision for Catholic ministry and outreach in the city. Conceived in response to widespread demographic changes and anticipating the challenge of adequately staffing parishes with priests in the future, the *Renewing the Church* process is changing institutional structures to reflect present reality and future needs.

For us, *Renewing the Church in New Brunswick* provides an opportunity to further develop the collaborative partnership between the parish and campus ministry for greater potential impact. This will make us better able to carry out our commitment to the New Evangelization, serve the needs of our local community, and ensure the long-term flourishing of St. Peter's Parish. One example of this is our developing outreach to young adults seeking a spiritual home in the church after college.

## A University Parish

One result of the *Renewing the Church in New Brunswick* process is that St. Peter's is being established as a University Parish. While retaining its identity as a territorial parish serving the local community, St. Peter's will also be formally recognized in Church law as a parish for Catholics associated with Rutgers University. This means that, without rejecting our rich parish history or taking anything away from what we are today, we are taking on an additional specific outreach: the spiritual care of Catholics in the Rutgers community. The parish and campus ministry communities will seek to become one spiritual family with a common vision and community spirit, while respecting the unique gifts, circumstances, and needs of the students and of our traditional parishioners. There is great potential for parishioners and students to mutually enrich each other's faith and experience of parish life.

Besides the campus ministry that is directed primarily to university students, the St. Peter's Community and University Parish will also look for new and creative ways to share the Gospel and our Catholic way of life with university faculty, staff, graduate students and alumni/ae. We hope to provide them an experience of Christian community which is rooted in the person of Jesus Christ and the gift of the Catholic Church.

## An Invitation

If you are a part of the Rutgers University community – as a faculty or staff member or as an alumnus/a, you and your family are welcome to make St. Peter's your spiritual home. You can play a significant role in making St. Peter's an even more vibrant parish, joining with our existing members to advance the mission of Christ!

Change often introduces many different challenges; it requires embracing a process with patience and persistence. Most especially, it requires that we trust in our Lord and in each other as we journey forward together. We are grateful for the ways the Holy Spirit has been at work in our community of faith, and we are excited to see how the Spirit will write a new chapter in the long, rich history of St. Peter the Apostle Parish.