

FR. PETER'S HOMILY  
TENTH SUNDAY ORDINARY TIME

There is a lot going on in the readings for this Sunday:

- The “fall” of Adam and Eve from God’s grace by giving in to the temptation of Satan.
- God’s first promise of a savior, an offspring of Eve who will strike at the head of the serpent.
- St. Paul’s inspiring words about courage in the face of hardship.
- The hope that comes from our faith in the promise of an eternal dwelling.
- Jesus accused of being in league with Satan.
- Jesus acknowledging those who do God’s will as the members of his family.

We could say this is a pretty basic summary of the Christian faith: We sinned; God saved us through Jesus; we are called to do God’s will revealed through the Gospel.

Today I am going to present another summary, this one of our recent listening sessions as part of our parish renewal process.

We asked two basic questions: “What brought you to St. Joseph’s?” and, “When was St. Joseph’s at its best?”

Approximately 40 individuals participated. Here is your story.

THEME 1. You told us that you came to St. Joseph’s because you found it to be a parish faithfully rooted in the traditions and devotional life of the Catholic Church.

For years parishioners have called St. Joseph’s their home because it is a church which celebrates a beautiful, reverent liturgy.

Parishioners have also been spiritually nourished by a vast offering of liturgical worship such as our weekly Thursday evening Holy Hour with its family rosary and Eucharistic adoration, our First Friday extended period of Adoration, the First Friday evening Latin Mass, and the new addition of our Adoration Chapel.

Pastors have come and gone, but the reverence towards Christ in the Eucharist and the Holy Mass have been a common theme throughout the years that has drawn parishioners of all ages.

The beautiful architecture as well as the simplicity of our church building have also attracted many to choose to worship here.

THEME 2. You told us that you appreciate how the leadership of the parish focuses on nurturing spiritual growth. You also spoke of their compassion and kindness. Good

preaching is found at St. Joseph's. The Men's Ministry and the Halo Ladies have also been a source of inspiration and support.

THEME 3. Another significant theme you mentioned was the family atmosphere and sense of community that helped you to choose St. Joseph Parish as your home.

You used phrases such as "a feeling of belonging," "a place where you felt at home," and "a spirit of concern for each other." Other terms that were used to highlight the sense of community were "felt comfortable," "among others with like beliefs," "people were kind and generous."

Whether here for a long time or for a much shorter period, you told us of a warm family environment at St. Joseph Parish that was a vital element in your choice to belong here.

THEME 4. Many people came to St. Joseph Parish because of our former school and Religious Education Program and would like to see these ministries started again. St. Joseph's used to be a place where families and young people were integrated into the life of the parish. We seem to have lost that.

Like any family our parish has had its ups and downs, but we stay loyal and committed in our dedication to St. Joseph Parish and living out God's plan.

That's the end of the summary.

Do you see yourself in this story of our past? Is there something that is missing?

If you would like to comment on or add something to our story, please stay after Mass today for a discussion here in the church.

All are welcome to participate.