



From the Desk of Father Peter

We Believe that Faith is a Gift

*As Catholics, we believe that faith is a gift that we receive at Baptism and it grows within us as we **live, learn, worship, and celebrate** with our Christian family—**THE CHURCH**. Faith is a powerful gift and Jesus in the Sacred Scriptures speaks about it very often. Faith the size of a mustard seed would be sufficient to uproot a sycamore tree and cast it into the sea Luke 17:6. Because of her faith, the woman who suffered twelve years of hemorrhages was healed simply by touching the tassel of the cloak Jesus was wearing Matthew 9:22. Sight was restored to some who were blind because of their faith Matthew 9:29, and the faith of the men who lowered their friend through the roof brought healing and forgiveness to their paralyzed companion Mark 2:5.*



*We cannot take the gift of faith for granted. It was in his own hometown of Nazareth that Jesus was distressed by the lack of faith found in his people Mark 6:6. We may profess our faith each week in the **CREED** but we must guard against just reciting words. Jesus criticized those who performed acts of prayer, fasting or charity in order to appear holy; our actions should flow from the faith we profess right from the time of our Baptism. When we act out our faith, we **grow in faith**. This weekend, as your Pastor, I am calling on all to act out in faith as we pray and reflect on the power and presence of God in our lives.*

Jesus continually draws us to himself and has written in our hearts a deep desire for communion with him. Faith is our response to this

*desire expressed in our religious practices and values we hold in life. It is in our faith relationship with God that **In him we live and move and have our being** Acts 17:28. **Faith is a gift from God—a response from us to God.** I am thankful to God for your faith and generosity to our beloved St John's.*



Peace and love to all,

Fr. Peter Enyan-Boadu