

SPRING 2016

In This Issue

-Council of Catholic Women
Page 2

-The Blessed Virgin, Mary
-Volunteer Appreciation
Dinner
Page 3

-Work Camp
-Growing Through Loss
Page 4

-Parish Photos
Page 5

-Ministry Opportunities
Page 6

-Faithful Shepherd Catholic
School: Upcoming Events
-St. Peter's Kids' Wordfind
Page 7

Upcoming Parish Events
Page 8

Get to know Deacon Tim Hennessey

We are so thankful to have a new deacon at our parish. Deacon Tim Hennessey joined us in January. Here are a few fun facts that will give you a little insight into our deacon. If you wish to know more about him, you can read his bulletin articles on our parish website.

Where did you grow up? *St. Anthony Village, Northeast Minneapolis.*

How many children and grandchildren do you have? *I have 7 children and 3 grandchildren.*

What did you want to be when you were a kid? *I wanted to be a doctor. Doesn't everyone?*

What is your favorite Bible passage? *I like all of Matthew, chapter 6.*

What is your favorite religious book, not including the Bible? *Interior Freedom, by Father Jacques Phillippe. This is the first book Father Steven gave me when we began spiritual direction.*

What is your favorite nonreligious book? *I've got to pass on this one. I have rarely read anything but spiritual books for the past 10 years!*

What is your favorite food(s)? *Pasta is my favorite, although anything that is not liver*

could be included in the LONG list of things I like to eat.

What is your favorite place to eat? *Lately, Pizza Luce in Roseville has been a favorite. For a really nice dinner, Acqua Restaurant in White Bear Lake.*

If you could live anywhere, where would it be? *I would love to live in Ireland. I haven't been there yet, but I hear it is stunningly beautiful.*

Do you have a favorite pastime? *I love to cook. I also like to write and play music.*

Vikings or Packers? *This seems like a loaded question. I am basically allergic to sports, so you won't find me in front of the TV screaming at whichever team is losing. In deference to our beloved pastor, I might have to wear the occasional green and gold though.*

How can we best welcome you to St. Peter's? *Keep reminding me of your name, even if you think I should already know it! I have a long learning curve.*

If you could tell each person at St. Peter's one thing, what would it be? *God loves you so much! We forget this, and we always need to remember that He is with us, in every moment of our day. God never lets go of us, so we need to hold onto Him!*

Council of Catholic Women

As I was looking back through the old Current articles, I came across several mentioning the CCW. Whether it was an upcoming event they were promoting or an article on one of the members, the same theme was prevalent year after year—vibrant, strong, giving, talented, faithful.

The active members of the CCW make up only about 10 percent of St. Peter's members, yet these women are volunteering their time and talent in several different ministries. The CCW plans the Lenten Soup Supper, Appalachian Christmas, funeral lunches and the Christmas plant and card sale just to name a few. They are involved in spiritual activities as well: May Crowning, Feast of the Assumption Flower Shower, St. Paul Deanery Advent Retreat, Prison and Native American Christian Education Mission, prayer partners, and A Prayer for Children project. They give money to St. Peter's Capital Campaign, the Uganda Student Scholarship Fund and Sharing and Caring Hands. They also donated money for five new vestments for Father, vestments for Deacon Tim, and altar cloths for St. Peter's. These women help make our parish flourish.

I had a chance to sit down with Connie Powell and ask her what it was that convinced her to join. "Joining the CCW was not what I had planned. Marge Sullivan asked me to come to a meeting, so I did. I told her I would give it a year. I'm so grateful she asked me! I am retired and it was finally a way of giving back to the church community that I believe in. There is this comradery of working with different people, promoting good works in the parish. I'm so grateful for this group of beautiful women who share my faith. They are a blessing!"

Whether you are a new member of our parish or have been here for years, consider joining the CCW or come support them at one of the many events they sponsor.

Upcoming CCW Events

Why a Retreat? By Sr. Brenda Rose
St. Paul Deanery Meeting
St. Patrick's Catholic Church in IGH
Thursday, April 21, 8 a.m.—1:30 p.m.

It's not Unhealthy to Think about Death
Guest speaker, Hospice Physician Wayne Thalhuber
Heritage Center
Thursday, April 21, 7-9 p.m.

ACCW Annual Convention
St. Vincent De Paul Catholic Church, Brooklyn Park
Friday, April 29, and Saturday, April 30

Board Meeting
Wednesday, May 4, 9:40 a.m.

Annual Fashion Show and Luncheon
Price: \$20.00 per ticket
Door prizes and Raffles,
Heritage Center
Saturday, May 7, 11:30 a.m.—2 p.m.

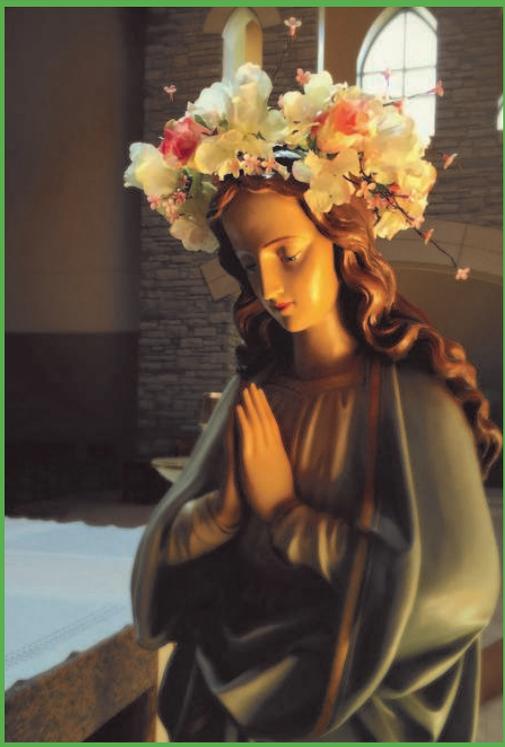
How the Dakota County Sheriff's Department Operates
Guest speaker, Dakota County Sheriff, Tim Leslie
Heritage Center
Thursday, May 19, 7:30–9 p.m.

Board Meeting
Wednesday, June 1, 9:40 a.m.

Installation of new officers for 2016-2017
Mass and reception
Thursday, June 9

"Father, we are your creation: the women of your church. You have given us Mary, your Mother, to be our guide and counselor. We give you thanks and praise for all the blessings you have given us. We dedicate ourselves to building up your kingdom through the work of the members of the National Council of Catholic Women." Excerpt from the Litany for the Women of Council

Mary in the Month of May



Each month of the liturgical calendar year has a special dedication. The month of May is dedicated to Mary. During May, there are three days in particular that give special honor to Mary: Mother's Day on the second Sunday of May, Our Lady of Fatima on May 13, and the Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary on May 31. Mother's Day was never intended to be a religious holiday. It is primarily a secular celebration intended to honor all mothers and the importance of motherhood. For Catholics it is also a day to honor the greatest of all mothers, Mary, the Blessed Mother. Our Lady of Fatima recalls the appearance of Mary to three shepherd children in Portugal on May 13, 1917, and the Visitation of the Blessed Virgin recalls Mary's encounter with Elizabeth. (Luke 1:39-45)

The month of May is a time to venerate the Blessed Virgin Mary. Here at St. Peter's, we will do the May crowning following the 9:00 First Communion Mass, on Sunday, May 1. You will notice bouquets of flowers near images of Mary as well. May is a wonderful time to pray the rosary, either for groups at church, for families at home or in the car, or privately. In addition to the Hail Mary, there are many excellent prayers that honor Mary: Memorare, the Litany of Mary, the Hail Holy Queen or Salve Regina, and the Angelus.



You are Our STARS! Volunteer Appreciation Dinner



Every day of the week, 365 days a year, there are parishioners who volunteer by helping in some form or fashion, our parish and its community. They give their time and talent in so many different ways. Though they are appreciated every day, once a year we hold a volunteer appreciation dinner to honor all the volunteers who have worked countless hours at St. Peter's.

Please join us on Saturday, May 14, from 6 to 8 p.m., for an "Old Hollywood" event to honor the "Stars" of our parish. Feel free to dress up as your favorite hollywood star from the past. Enjoy a night on us—it is our turn to serve you. Following dinner, we will have a talent show starring some of our very talented parishioners and staff members!

If you are interested in being part of the talent show, please contact Anne O'Keefe at 651-905-4308 or aokeefe@stpetersmendota.org.



All parishioners who have given of their time or talent to St. Peter's, as well as a spouse or guest, are invited to attend. Watch for more information to come.

Work Camp



For Joe Zirnhelt, Workcamp is a family affair. His older sister, Maggie, and his Aunt Sarah Alt, went to Workcamp with Joe last summer, and all

three of them will be on the trip to Racine, WI this year. Last year, Joe helped paint a house for someone who would not otherwise have been able to do the upkeep. I asked him what one of the best parts of Workcamp was for him and he said, "getting to meet all sorts of people and make a difference in someone's everyday life." Come support the Workcamp at our bake sale on April 23 and 24 and our car wash on Sunday, June 11. Thanks for supporting Workcamp through the year!



Growing Through Loss

"I will turn their mourning into joy, I will comfort them." Jeremiah 31:13

Growing Through Loss is a biannual series providing support and information about the grieving process for adults who have experienced a loss. The series provides support from others who are also grieving and a safe and confidential environment for sharing memories and feelings. Following the speaker, a trained facilitator will be at each table to lead the discussion and offer help and support through conversation among the participants. One-on-one listeners will also be available each week.

St. Peter's is hosting the Spring, five-part series, which runs Tuesdays, April 5 through May 3, from 7-9 p.m. Each session is complete in itself. You are welcome to attend one or all.

Parishioner Mary Seefeld, who has been representing St. Peter's as a growing through loss facilitator for three years, has recently created an on-line presence for the ministry. Mary designed and maintains a website and facebook page. You can visit www.growingthroughlossstcsouth.com for more information.

Easter Egg Hunt

The Knights of Columbus hosted their annual Easter Egg Hunt this past March on the grounds of St. Peter's. Grand Knight, Paul Epstein, explained the symbolism of the Easter Egg and it's representation of the Jesus' tomb. The children and adults had a wonderful morning.





Saint Nicholas came to visit



First Grade Faith Formation



Christmas Pageant 2015



Tri Parish Pep Rally



Thank you to everyone who participated in or attended our recent parish events!

If you have photos from any events at St. Peter's and you're willing to share them, please contact Anne O'Keefe at aokeefe@stpetersmendota.org or 651-905-4308.



Easter Egg Hunt



Troop 264 hosted our Lenten Fish Fry



Ministry Opportunities

The sun is out, the snow has melted, and people are walking around with an extra spring in their step. Now is the time to get involved in some wonderful ministries that St. Peter's has to offer.

GARDENING

As you stop to smell the roses, do you ever wonder who takes care of them? We have a gardening team that is always looking for extra hands to help tend the gardens! You can even adopt a garden for the summer!

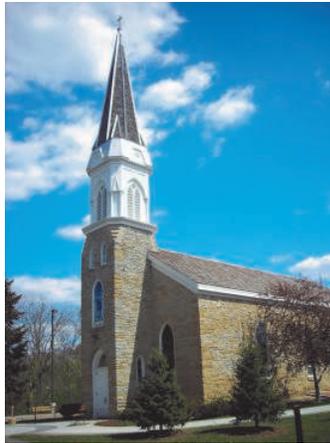
Contact Nancy Stanton if you are interested. nanrr1@yahoo.com or 651-686-9009



HISTORIC CHURCH TOURS

If you haven't had a chance to tour the Historic Church, we highly recommend it. St. Peter's is rich in history and the tours are very insightful. The tours are offered to the public by appointment and one day each week during the summer.

If you would be interested in becoming a tour guide, contact Anne O'Keefe at 651-905-4308 or aokeefe@stpetersmendota.org.



NEW PARISHIONER WELCOMING TEAM

Has anyone ever told you that you are warm and welcoming? Do you find yourself always going out of your way to try and help make people feel more comfortable? If so, this is the ministry for you! Call Anne O'Keefe at 651-905-4308 or aokeefe@stpetersmendota.org.



YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY

As we prepared for the first young adult wine and cheese night, we were unsure of how much food and drink to buy. Would anyone show up? It is a question one often asks when they are organizing the first event for a new group. We prayed for a good turnout.

As 5:00 Mass ended, a group of young adults made their way up to the Ravoux room.

After the initial ice breaker, the group was talking and laughing and enjoying each others company. What a blessing to find a group of people who were looking to find other individuals who want to deepen their faith and share their faith. It was a success!

If you are interested in a book club, rock climbing, wine and cheese, volunteer opportunities to serve our community, deepening your faith, and more, this is the group for you!

Contact Lisa Hursin for more information at lhursin@aol.com.



Faithful Shepherd Catholic School

www.fscsmn.org
651-406-4747

Upcoming Events



Enrollment Now Open For Fall 2016!

Our parish school is now accepting applications for the 2016-2017 school year. Visit their website at www.fscsmn.org or contact enrollment coordinator, Shawnessy Schwartz, by phone at 651-262-2898 or by email at sschwartz@fscsmn.org for more information.



Middle School Performance of *Disney's Peter Pan, Jr*

Monday, May 9, at 7 pm

Tuesday, May 10, at 1 pm and 7 pm

Tickets are \$4 for adults, \$2 for students and free for children five and under. Order forms are available online at www.fscsmn.org.



Summer Program Registration Now Open

Looking for summer activities for your child? We offer Summer Enrichment Programs for children in grades K-8 including sports camps, Lego classes, a book club, Mad Science camps, and more! Programs are open to ALL students in the south metro area. Visit the FSCS website at <http://www.fscsmn.org/page/3361> for a list of programs and to register for classes. Please



Faithful Shepherd Grants for Kindergarten

Faithful Shepherd Catholic School is proud to announce that we have received a \$50,000 grant from the Catholic Schools Center of Excellence. This award recognizes our commitment to academic excellence and will allow us to award grants of \$1,000 to each Kindergarten student for the 2016-17 school year. In addition, Faithful Shepherd has over \$100,000 available in financial aid for families in need of additional help. Our goal in offering these grants and additional financial aid is to allow everyone the opportunity to experience the Faithful Shepherd difference.

Enrollment is now open for the 2016-2017 school year. To learn more or to apply, please visit our website at www.fscsmn.org or call us at 651-406-4747. We're proud of our vibrant, faith-filled community, and we want you to become a part of it. We are committed to providing a Catholic education for all who seek one.

St. Peter's Kids Corner



Easter Egg Hunt

BIBLE WORD SEARCH!

BASIC WORDS OF THE BIBLE

G	E	N	T	I	L	E	B	I	B	L	E	D
O	B	A	A	B	R	T	J	E	M	D	I	I
D	P	I	E	S	I	M	N	I	P	B	N	
T	E	M	P	T	A	T	I	O	N	J	A	H
H	R	P	S	H	L	H	R	P	I	E	P	O
E	S	R	A	L	V	E	A	N	S	R	T	L
F	E	A	C	E	A	H	C	A	T	U	I	Y
A	C	Y	R	H	T	O	L	Z	R	S	Z	S
T	U	E	I	E	I	L	E	A	Y	A	E	P
H	T	I	F	M	O	Y	J	R	H	L	N	I
E	E	S	I	N	N	A	J	E	W	E	H	R
R	W	E	C	L	F	A	I	T	H	M	L	I
B	S	J	E	S	U	S	C	H	R	I	S	T

JESUS CHRIST
SALVATION
JEW
GENTILE
HOLY SPIRIT
GOD THE FATHER
PERSECUTE

PRAY
TITHE
MINISTRY
BIBLE
HOLY
SACRIFICE
FAITH

MIRACLE
NAZARETH
BETHLEHEM
JERUSALEM
BAPTIZE
TEMPTATION
SIN

CREATED BY MUNDIA SKAGGS



1405 Highway 13
P.O. Box 50679
Mendota, MN 55150-0679

Phone: 651.452.4550
www.stpetersmendota.org

Mission Statement

The Church of St. Peter, the first Catholic parish in Minnesota, serves as a cornerstone of faith and heritage, where we welcome all to celebrate and live as the Body of Christ. We embrace our commitment to continue this founding legacy, care for future generations, and advance the Kingdom of God.

Non-profit Org.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Twin Cities MN
Permit No. 5000

Address Service Requested

Spring and Summer Events

Work Camp Bake Sale

Saturday and Sunday, April 23 and April 24

Spring Wine Tasting

Friday, April 29, 6:30-9 p.m.

First Holy Communion

Saturday and Sunday, April 30 and May 1

CCW Style Show

Saturday, May 7, 11:30a.m. to 2 p.m.

Volunteer Appreciation Dinner

Saturday, May 14, 6:00

CCW Installation Mass and

Reception

Thursday, June 9

Workcamp Car Wash

Saturday and Sunday, June 11 and June 12

During Mass

Feast of St. Peter Picnic

Sunday, June 26

Save the date for our first annual Feast of St. Peter Picnic. Following a Mass in honor of St. Peter, plan on joining us for an old fashioned picnic with outdoor games for kids and adults. More information to follow.

Currents published by Church of St. Peter
Editor: Anne O'Keefe

If you are receiving this and you no longer consider yourself a parishioner, please contact the parish office at 651-905-4302 to remove your name from our database.

Thank you to Streamworks and its president, parishioner Tony Zirnhelt, for their mailing services!