



St. Peter's Currents

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Men's Club Provides Great Opportunity for Christian Brotherhood Among Parish Men

Can you imagine the sense of brotherhood shared by Jesus' disciples? They basically lived together as they followed Our Lord around the countryside, hearing His teaching, watching His miracles, and helping to carry out His work.

For Jesus' 21st century disciples — like the parishioners at St. Peter — a similar sense of Christian camaraderie is still an important component of our lives as Catholics. At St. Peter, the men of the parish have access to two fraternal organizations geared toward developing this camaraderie — the Knights of Columbus and the Men's Club.

"There is a lot of overlap in membership between the Knights and Men's Club, and ideally we work together on a lot of the same projects," says Men's Club President John Vogel. "One thing that differentiates us a little bit, though, is that the Knights are a tri-parish organization, while the Men's Club promotes fraternity and community exclusively amongst the men of our parish."

The St. Peter Men's Club strives to promote Christian brotherhood amongst the members in three main areas.



Members of the Men's Club enjoy a brewery tour.

"We have three different committees within the group — our Social Committee, our Spiritual Committee and our Service Committee," John says. "Most of what we're involved in, though, is providing service to the parish. We help out at parish events like the parish festival every fall, we alternate weeks putting on Doughnut Sunday with the Council of Catholic Women, we help with spring clean-ups around the church, and we do small remodeling sorts of things like demolition and sheet-rocking."

The Men's Club year follows the school year, with regular monthly meetings held

Men's Club *continued from front cover*

on the third Thursday of the month at 7 p.m. from September through May. Each of the group's major events fall during those months, as well. At present, they are in the process of planning several key events for the spring.

On March 17, the Men's Club will co-host the St. Patrick's Day Luncheon together with the Council of Catholic Women. Lunch will be served following the 11 a.m. Mass and will include all of the traditional Irish favorites like soda bread, and corned beef and cabbage. Entertainment will consist of Irish music and various themed games and events. A few weeks later, the club will host its annual Spring Wine Tasting event, the group's major fundraiser of the year. Then, in June, the club will provide a major presence at the annual parish Golf Outing.

Through all of its ventures, sharing experiences of service and spiritual growth together provides the members of the Men's Club with a great sense of belonging and brotherhood.

"The Men's Club provides an easy way for a guy to get involved in the community," John says. "Sometimes men find it a little more difficult to make connections and get involved — but everybody can serve food and be useful at a parish event. Once you start serving, you start meeting people and you become part of the community. I have found being a member very worthwhile. It's rewarding and fun at the same time"

The core membership of the club — the men that are routinely active — is currently around 20 members, a number that John would love to see grow substantially.

"One of the difficulties that we run into is that a lot of our guys are already very active in other ministries, not to men-



Men of all ages are welcome to participate in the Men's Club

tion their family and work lives," John says. "For example, the church already offers great spiritual outlets like Bible studies, so we try not to conflict with those sorts of things. Nevertheless, we do have an important niche serving the parish and building community among our members. So, we're looking to get guys more active."

Indeed, members do not need to make a large time commitment to serve with the Men's Club.

"Whether it's bartending at the wine tasting, setting up and tearing down tents, or serving a meal, most of the events we're helping out at are pretty simple and only take an hour or two of time," says John.

The Men's Club is open to all adult men in the parish. Anyone interested in joining can talk to a current member or contact John Vogel at 651-688-7427.

Don't Forget to Return Your Commitment Card!

The 2013 Stewardship Renewal is ongoing. Please remember to turn in your commitment cards to the parish as soon as possible. We appreciate your willingness to participate in this year's renewal. The more we grow to embrace and understand the stewardship way of life, the more our parish will flourish and grow!

Church of St. Peter
2013 Commitment Card
My Offering of Time, Talent & Treasure

First & Last Name (One card per family) _____
Street Address _____
City _____ State _____ ZIP _____
Telephone (important) _____
Email _____
Email 2 _____

After completion, please bring this card to Mass on **January 19 or 20** or mail using the envelope provided. Thank you and God bless you!

Easter — the Holiest Time of the Year

Dear Parishioners,

We have begun our Lenten journey of faith. Easter will be here on March 31, and by that time we should have a new Pope. This Lent is sure to be like none other in modern times, as it will see the end of the pontificate of Pope Benedict XVI and the election of his successor. The Holy Father's decision was announced shortly before this edition of *The Currents* was printed, so there is little I can include here about the conclave that will surely capture the world's attention.

I would like to direct our thoughts to the coming feast of the Resurrection of the Lord, the holiest time of the year.

The date of Easter can vary between March 22 and April 25, but the matter of the date is secondary to the real significance of Easter, which commemorates Our Lord's victory over death.

St. John Chryostom called Holy Week "the great week" of the year, and Easter Sunday the "queen of all holy days." The word "Easter" is significant in that it stems from the direction found within it — the East. It is in the east that the sun rises — it refers to the spring sun which brings new life. Just as that sun brings life, Jesus Christ brought and brings us new life. Easter celebrates Christ's victory over sin, death, and the devil, as well as the promise of our justification and everlasting life.

Holy Week is an excellent opportunity for Christian growth. It offers tremendous potential for satisfying spiritual hunger. We are given several opportunities during this week to spiritually grow, as the potential is there to be exposed to God's Word and Sacrament. In other words, we grow in Holy Week not by imitating Christ's last days — we grow as the Holy Spirit works



through the Gospel and Sacrament that we hear and receive during these days. This Holy Week, make an effort to taste and see that the Lord is good!

Easter is a time for us to commemorate the holiest of occasions for us as Catholics — the Crucifixion and Resurrection of Jesus Christ. It is a time for reflection, renewal, and rebirth, and a time to reaffirm our faith.

As we finish our preparations for Easter, and as these preparations culminate with Holy Week and finally the joy of Easter Resurrection itself, we might attempt to reach for the Lord and deepen our faith by following these three simple steps:

- To reach for and gain a more profound understanding of Who the Lord is and was.
- To strive to love the Lord and all those around us in a more cherished way.
- To make the effort every day through stewardship to truly be a disciple and follow the Lord more closely.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Fr. Joseph Gallatin
Pastor

Getting to Know Spending Time with Our Lord



As Catholics, Eucharistic Adoration is a special way for us to come face-to-face with Christ fully present in the Blessed Sacrament. Attending Adoration can help us take some time out of our day to devote to God, and to help us truly develop our relationship with Him.

Eucharistic Adoration at St. Peter began on March 10, 1992. Today, it takes place every Tuesday, starting after the daily 9 a.m. Mass in the historic church. The Blessed Sacrament is exposed throughout the day until 5 p.m., when it is reposed. The ministry has 22 committed adorers and 25 others on the substitute list. The parish hopes that in time, increased parishioner interest will allow these hours to be extended.

George and Jane Vasiliou have been regular adorers since the inception of Adoration at the parish.

“We go in before Mass, and we have a table in the back of the church when you come in with lots of books — we have about 50 books to choose from,” says Jane. “We also have a rosary and a book to sign in, as well as for petitions. The committed adorers sign in for their hours. We have our hour in the afternoon. I usually do the *Liturgy of the Hours*. There’s always enough things to pray for, that the hour goes by very fast. We are kind of just quiet sometimes — just talking to God.”

For Jane, Adoration has been a special blessing in her life.

“It’s amazing,” she says. “You are there with Him, and you just realize it more. If I want to spend my eternity with Him, I think I’d better give Him a chance to get to know me.”

Diane Ebben, another longtime adorer, considers Adoration to be an integral part of her spiritual life.

“It isn’t very often that I miss, but when we go on vacations and I have to get a sub, it feels like a hole in my life, and I can’t wait to get back,” Diane says. “It’s very calming and centering and sometimes when life is so hectic — the day is really busy. It gives me an opportunity to remember what my life is about, and what it should be about, spiritually. It gives me an



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Know God: Through Eucharistic Adoration

opportunity to reconnect with God, and to be grateful for the gifts and blessings I've received. Sometimes I spend my hour by reading, and sometimes I just sit and reflect on whatever comes into my mind."

Rosemary Mossberg, who has been a regular substitute for committed adorers for the past seven years, sees Adoration as a time to take a break from the daily routine and focus on God.

"It makes you stop and think," says Rosemary. "It helps you to spend more time praying. Sometimes, I have some booklets that I pick up at retreats, and during my time there I get a chance to review them. You're there for a purpose, not just to pass the time away."

Jane recalls how she was initially reluctant to become a committed adorer, but how sticking to her commitment greatly benefited her spiritual life.

"It wasn't so easy at first, but I had made the commitment — I was going to do it, and it has gotten to be that this is what we look forward to now," says Jane. "Everyone is different — some people fall in love with it immediately, but for others it takes a while. That's the thing about a commitment, you stick with it. You don't see the grace you get from it until you see how your life has smoothed out. I have met people who said their lives have had some hard turns, and they say that if they didn't have this hour, they could not get through their lives. Nobody knows what it would be like to be quiet with the Lord for an hour until they've tried it. Once you make the commitment, it falls into a pattern in your life. You don't know how much you need it until you do it."

All parishioners are encouraged to attend Adoration and consider becoming a committed adorer or substitute. For more information, please contact George and Jane Vasiliou at 651-454-5292.

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Christ is Risen: Let Us Rejoice!

Christ redeemed mankind and gave perfect glory to God principally through the paschal mystery. By dying, he destroyed our death. By rising, he restored our life. The Easter Triduum of the passion and resurrection of Christ is thus the culmination of the entire liturgical year.

We celebrate the saving work of Christ through a series of seasons. Through Advent, Christmas, Lent, Easter, Pentecost and Ordinary Time, we celebrate the birth, life, death and resurrection of Jesus — who is, of course, the center of our lives as Christians. All of our liturgical celebrations point to Him and, in truth, they all point ultimately to the paschal mystery — Jesus' passion, death, and resurrection — which is celebrated as the highest feast of the year!

During Advent, we prepare through prayer to celebrate the birth of Jesus, who was born of a virgin to bring about the salvation of all. In the Christmas season, we celebrate the miraculous incarnation. The Son became a man out of complete love for us so that, through His passion, death, and resurrection, we could gain eternal life.

The Ordinary Time in the Church serves as a period of time for us to reflect on the fullness of the Christian mystery. We concentrate on the lives of the saints, who pointed us to Christ through their examples. They lived as witnesses of the Gospel, and we are all called to do the same.

Lent readily prepares us to celebrate the Lord's paschal mystery. We spend 40 days fasting and praying, just as Jesus did in the desert those many years ago. We prepare to walk the road to Golgotha with our Savior in a very real way during Lent. Jesus fasted in the desert for 40 days, tempted by Satan. When he emerged, strengthened in His Spirit, He proclaimed, "The Kingdom of God is at hand, repent and believe in the Gospel." He was preparing to live His public ministry, which preceded His passion, death and resurrection. In the same way, we rejoice in the paschal mystery. During the Easter Triduum, we celebrate that for which Jesus came to Earth! His mission has been fulfilled, and He has affected the salvation of the world!

What a cause for celebration! Because of Jesus' selfless act, we are made adopted sons and daughters of the great high priest! We can now, by no merit of our own, enjoy eternal life with God in heaven — the life for which we were originally created.

In an effort to celebrate the high point of the Christian mystery, the Church has designated time — during what we call the Easter Triduum — for us to reflect upon each of the most significant aspects of Christ's salvific act.

On Holy Thursday, we celebrate the Mass of the Lord's Supper. Here, we celebrate the institution of the priesthood

and the first celebration of the Eucharistic meal.

Jesus took bread, blessed it, broke it, and giving it to His disciples said, "Take and eat; this is my body." He then took a cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you, for this is my blood of the covenant, which will be shed on

behalf of many for the forgiveness of sins. I tell you, from now on I shall not drink this fruit of the vine until the day when I drink it with you new in the kingdom of my Father."

After celebrating the Eucharist with His disciples, Jesus went out to the Mount of Olives to pray and prepare for the gruesome events that would follow.

On Good Friday, we celebrate the crucifixion of Jesus. Our Lord and Savior was put to death for our sake. But there is a beauty in this suffering, for even though Good Friday is commemorated as a solemn celebration, it is truly a cause for great joy. Through Christ's passion and death, He entered into the realm of sin, only to conquer it three days later!

On Holy Saturday, as we await the glorious resurrection, we commemorate Christ's descent into hell. Christ descended to hell to deliver the souls of the just who had died before His coming. Scripture tells us that He went into the depths of Hades so that the dead might hear the voice of God and so that all who would hear Him would live. Yet again, every action of Jesus is aimed toward the salvation of mankind, which we see, in the great Easter celebration!

He has risen! He has conquered sin and death — rising from the dead, Christ has brought new life to all who believe! "We bring you the Good News that what God promised to the fathers this day, He has fulfilled to us their children by raising Jesus from the dead" (Acts 13:32-33), so that "as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life" (Rom. 6:4).

We are called to share this good news with those around us, for Christ has risen so that all may find newness of life in Him. Let us rejoice!



Drawn to Service

Alice Sheeler

As Catholics, the inspiration to step up and become actively involved in our parish community can come from nearly anywhere. For some, it is the example of someone they admire. For others, it is the quiet encouragement and steadfast support of a loved one. For parishioner Alice Sheeler, it was her mother's example that led her to become involved with the St. Peter community.

"Growing up, between her and my grandmother, they were very strong role models and they were always involved in church activities," Alice says. "It was a way of spending time with both of them."

Alice and her mother joined St. Peter in the spring of 1980, and together they joined the parish Liturgy Committee.

"Through my mother's example, I've always been drawn to service of the Church," Alice says. "When we joined the parish together, we did the Liturgy Committee, and that's how I got involved in the liturgy and the Fall Festival. We did those things together."

Over the years, Alice has been a very active member of our parish. In addition to her involvement with the Liturgy Committee and the Fall Festival, she taught seventh grade Religious Education for around 20 years, and still works as a volunteer for Religious Education on Wednesday nights.

Alice is currently involved in a number of areas of parish life. She serves as a sacristan and as an extraordinary minister of Holy Communion for the 5 p.m. Mass. She is also the recording secretary for the Pastoral Council, and is a member of the Environment Team. On the first Tuesday of every other month, she helps coordinate volunteers and serve a meal to the homeless at the Dorothy Day Center. Alice also assists with our parish's Volunteer Appreciation Dinners.

"It's life-fulfilling," Alice says. "It can strengthen your faith, and you can make some wonderful friendships."

Alice is also involved with a committee here at St. Peter that supports first-year seminarians through parish life.

For Alice, her involvement in the parish community is directly connected with other aspects of her life.

"It ties in together," she says. "Career-wise, I'm a nursing assistant. For the last 13 years, I've done transitional care nursing, trying to get the people from the hospital, and we try to rehab them and get them strong enough so they can go home.



I know what I do at the parish comes out of what I do at work. From feedback I get from residents or family members, they say, 'you care, you listen, you're involved, you must really have a strong faith life.' So I know the two are connected in me."

Her active participation in our parish has also given her a greater sense of unity with the rest of the parish family, and she encourages everyone to participate in the life of the St. Peter parish community.

"Don't be afraid to take the step and get involved," Alice says. "Don't be afraid to take the risk. St. Peter is a very welcoming community and they will help you all they can."

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Church of St. Peter

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Parish Events for March & April

Stations of the Cross

Fridays of Lent at 7:00 p.m.

March 5, 12, 19

Growing Through Loss Speaker Series,
7:00-9:00 p.m. in Heritage Center

Sunday, March 10

“From Good to Great: The Grace of Ordinary Holiness”
with Dr. Jacquelyne M. Witter,
4:00-6:00 p.m. in the Heritage Center

Thursday, March 14

Parish Penance Service, 7:00 p.m.

Friday, March 15th

Lenten Pasta Dinner, 5:00 - 7:00 p.m.

Thursday, March 21

“Secret Access: The Vatican” video presentation,
two screenings: 10:15 a.m. and 12:15 p.m. in the Ravoux Room

March 28, Holy Thursday

The Mass of the Lord's Supper, 7:00 p.m.

March 29, Good Friday

The Passion of Our Lord, 7:00 p.m.

March 30, Easter Vigil

Vigil Mass, 8:00 p.m.

March 31, Easter Sunday

Morning Masses: 9:00 a.m., 11:00 a.m.

Saturday, April 13

Parish RECREATION Event,
6:00-8:30 p.m. in the Heritage Center

www.stpetersmendota.org

Weekend Mass: Saturday, 5:00 p.m. Vigil | Sunday, 9:00 & 11:00 a.m.

Daily Mass: Monday - Friday, 9:00 a.m.

Confession: Saturdays, 4:00 - 4:45 p.m. and by appointment