

ST. PETER'S CURRENTS



DECEMBER 2014

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Get to Know Your Priest

While you may have met Fr. Steven Hoffman and may already know quite a bit about him, we asked him to share a few small facts about himself. If you would like to know more about our new priest, you can read his bulletin articles by visiting our parish website and clicking on the blog.

Where did you grow up? I grew up in the beautiful small river town of Prescott, Wisconsin.

How many siblings do you have (and genders/ages)? I have an older sister, Susan, and a younger brother, Michael—I'm stuck in the middle.

Where did you go to seminary? I went to the St. Paul Seminary on the St. Thomas campus.

What did you want to be when you were a kid? I wanted to be a rich and famous rock star.

What is the funniest thing that's happened to you during Mass? I once bonked a deacon on the head with a brass censor.

What is your favorite Bible passage? One of my many favorites is the Parable of the Prodigal Son.

What is your favorite religious book, not counting the Bible? Abandonment to Divine

Providence by Jean Pierre de Caussade

Favorite non-religious book? The novels of Charles Dickens

Favorite food(s)? Steak and ice cream

Favorite sport to play? Bean Bag toss

Favorite sport to watch? Green Bay Packer football

If you could live anywhere, where would it be? In the Alps of Austria

How can we best welcome you to St. Peter's? Smiles and prayers!

If you could tell each person at St. Peter's one thing, what would it be? Let us grow together closer to Jesus, and all will be well, and all will lead us to heaven.

Ask Your Priest

Have a question about the Catholic faith? Submit your questions for Fr. Steven to Sara Rogers (651-905-4308 or srogers@stpetersmendota.org) and he'll answer them in our upcoming issues!

“O Come, All Ye Faithful”

by Kathy Raible, Director of Religious Education and Faith Formation

We know we are in the beautiful season of Advent when we see a large group of children in the church on Saturday mornings! For three consecutive Saturdays, children from the ages of 4 and up rehearse to bring us their very special version of the story of Christ’s birth. From being a donkey to being an angel, from being the Star of David to singing in the pageant choir, our children work hard to share this very special gift with their families and all of the parishioners.



Although the details of the script that is used have changed a few times over the years, we always focus on the story of Mary and Joseph’s journey and the night that Jesus was born. This special program has been an annual tradition here at St. Peter’s for over 25 years! Each year the program is similar but at the same time very unique due to the different personalities and talents of the children that participate in any given year. If you

have never had the opportunity to watch our children portray this beautiful story, please join us on Sunday, December 21 after the 9:00 am Mass in the main church.

If you have children (ages 4 and older) that are interested in participating in the pageant, please complete a registration form located on the information counter in the gathering space or on St. Peter’s website www.stpetersmendota.org. Children are invited to be in the pageant or in the pageant choir. Our rehearsals are on Saturday mornings from 9:30 to 10:30 am on December 6, 13 and 20. If you have any questions, please contact Kathy Raible (651-905-4311).



We hope to see many of you there on December 21 after the 9:00 am Mass. Let the children help you remember what it is we are truly preparing for during these very busy weeks of Advent.



“Let the children help you remember what it is we are truly preparing for during these very busy weeks of Advent.”

Returning Our Gifts to God

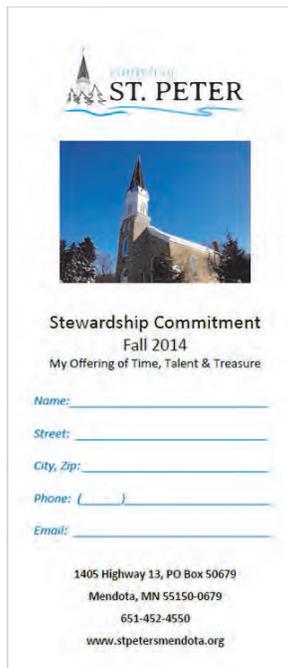
A Letter from St. Peter's Stewardship Committee

We are in the midst of our annual stewardship renewal. We know that everything we have—our life, our relationships, our possessions, *everything*—is a gift from God. By the time you receive this newsletter, many of you will have already prayerfully considered what gifts you can return to God. Thank you for that! Our parish needs the gifts of each of our parishioners to make it the vibrant community that it is.

For the last several years we have been reflecting on stewardship as a three-legged stool: time, talent, and treasure. Each of the legs is vital to being good stewards of God's gifts to us.

Spending time with God in prayer strengthens our relationship with God and gives us spiritual food for our life's journey. Sharing your talents with your parish allows us to carry on the wide variety of ministries and activities that we offer at St. Peter's. Without individuals sharing their God-given talents, there would be no religious education programs for our children, no funeral lunches to comfort the grieving, no outreach ministries like preparing and serving meals at the Dorothy Day Center and Sharing and Caring Hands. The list goes on and on for the many ministries available because of the generosity of our parishioners.

The third leg of the stool is treasure. As much as some of us find making a financial commitment difficult, it is essential. We need to pay our bills and pay our hardworking staff. We need money to fund our many ministries. In order to do this we need to know how much money we will have to work with, and this can



The form is titled "ST. PETER" and "Stewardship Commitment Fall 2014". It includes a photo of the church and asks for the following information: Name, Street, City, Zip, Phone, and Email. At the bottom, it provides the address: 1405 Highway 13, PO Box 50679, Mendota, MN 55150-0679, phone number 651-452-4550, and website www.stpetersmendota.org.

only be done if we know what the level of giving will be. This is why we need each parishioner to make a financial commitment if you are able to. This story, found on the Archdiocese of St. Louis' website, sums this up nicely:

A wise pastor went to get a haircut. The barber, who also happened to be a parishioner, took the opportunity to tell the pastor the reasons why the barber was not going to complete his stewardship pledge card.

"I don't think we should have to promise to give money to God. We should give what our heart tells us at the time. I like to be able to just put in the collection whatever I have that week."

The pastor listened carefully and after his haircut he handed the barber \$1 for the \$10 haircut, saying, "I like to give what my heart tells me – just whatever I have in my pocket at the time."

"Father," the barber protested, "I can't pay my rent, take care of my expenses and run my business successfully if everyone would do that."

"Neither can God," the pastor replied.

If you haven't already completed a stewardship pledge card, please take the time to do so today! If you have misplaced yours, they are available at the information counter outside the coat room, at the parish office, or you can fill it out online by going to our parish website. Thank you all for being good stewards of God's gifts!

As each one has received a gift, use it to serve one another as good stewards of God's varied grace.

1 Peter 4:10



Parishioner Spotlight: The Silgen Family

by Mary Jubenville, Business Manager

Pat and Jen Silgen and their family are active parishioners at St. Peter's, and you may recognize them from the talk they gave at all Masses in support of our Stewardship Renewal in September. Pat and Jen have four children ranging in age from six to fourteen. All four of their children attend Faithful Shepherd Catholic School (FSCS). Jay is fourteen years old and in 8th grade, Kelley is nine years old and a 4th grader, Eric is eight years old and a 2nd grader, and the youngest is Aaron who is six and just started kindergarten this year. Their house is also home to a guinea pig and fish. As you can imagine, they are a very busy household with many activities to attend.



The children keep busy with various activities through church, school and sports. Jay is involved in traveling basketball, which Pat coaches, and the school team. He also participates in track, plays the saxophone and is a member of the Star Crew which is the school's student council. He is also an altar server here at St. Peter's, typically at the 9 am Mass. Kelley plays traveling basketball, is on the FSCS swim team, runs track and plays soccer. Whew! She also plays the flute and loves animals. Eric also in sports, plays flag football and baseball, both of which Pat has coached. He plays the piano, enjoys LEGOS and loves collecting things. Aaron, who is busy keeping the family laughing, also plays basketball, baseball and soccer.

When Pat and Jen are not busy running their kids to and from activities or coaching them, they are busy with

their careers. Jen finds time to be a part-time bookkeeper and works in the St. Thomas Becket preschool office. She volunteers at the school, is on the FSCS school Board, has volunteered in our music ministry, is a money counter, Fall Festival committee member, Religious Education/Faith Formation teacher/helper, Christmas Pageant volunteer and prepares meals for new parents. Her number one occupation, though, is being a mom. Pat is a Medical Physicist at Methodist Hospital, has been on our Finance Council and Capital Campaign team, and is currently an Usher and Fall Festival volunteer.

You have seen them around the parish for almost seventeen years. When asked what it means to be a parishioner at St. Peter's, they said:

"Being parishioners at St. Peter's is an opportunity to serve Christ..."

"Being parishioners at St. Peter's is an opportunity to serve Christ and the mission we are called to do. It's also an opportunity to teach our kids the importance of charity, and serve with other people in our parish to learn from one another."

"St. Peter's Church is a wonderful community of people/families to be a part of. The reverence and respect parishioners have while in the worship space of the Main Church and Historic Church is something we value. St. Peter's is just the right size, not too big and not too small. Being active members of St. Peter's has been a treasured opportunity to build our relationships with other parish members. We are grateful for the many good families we have met at St. Peter's."

After such well expressed sentiments about being parishioners of St. Peter's, there is no question as to why we decided to spotlight this family! We are thankful to have the Silgen family here in the parish.



We'd like to take this opportunity to once again say **THANK YOU** to everyone who attended and supported our Fall Festival in any way. We had a great time together as a community and we raised over \$27,000 for the parish. We hope you can make it next year: save the date for **Sunday, October 4!**



If you'd like to get involved with the Fall Festival committee, please contact our chairperson, Gail Barta, at 651-454-9552.

In Thanksgiving to God,
Your 2014 Fall Festival Committee



Our Giving Tree

by Lisa Amos, Pastoral Associate



Every year, for over 30 years, the generosity of St. Peter's parishioners has made possible a more joyful Christmas for families in our community who need some extra help.

This ministry, among our longest continuing ministries, began so long ago that no one can remember its beginnings. We do know that almost 30 years ago, parishioner, Alice Sheeler, and her mother, Kay, took over for Mary and Birgey Olson, also parishioners. Mike and Teri Berndt soon jumped in and for over 25 years they have co-coordinated the Giving Tree, working for the last several years with Carol Mulvihill.

The ministry has evolved and grown tremendously over the years. Mike Berndt recalls that in the early years, they helped six to ten families. Today, we support over 35 families each year! No longer the work of two or three dedicated individuals alone, the ministry requires

the efforts of numerous volunteers in a variety of ways, including our Confirmation students, Divine Mercy Cenacle members and countless members of our parish family.

The work begins much earlier than most of us are even thinking about Christmas. In October, the request form is distributed in the parish bulletin and on our website. Once the requests are in, our dedicated volunteers get to work. Under the direction of Carol, Teri and Mike, dolls are cut out, gift requests are added and the dolls are lovingly hung on our Giving Tree in the Gathering Space just after Thanksgiving. Generous parishioners take those dolls and purchase the requested gifts, bringing them back to place under the tree for distribution.

Last, all of the gifts are sorted by our students preparing for Confirmation and then more volunteers gather for lunch and an afternoon of checking and rechecking the gift lists for families. It looks a bit like I imagine Santa's toyshop looks on Christmas Eve!

With God's grace and support and your prayers and participation, this ministry will continue to allow families in our community to celebrate the birth of Our Lord free of the stress that can accompany Christmas each year. If you have helped or plan to help this year, thank you.



NOEL HALLELUJAH MERRY CHRISTMAS HAPPY NEW YEAR



Faithful Shepherd Catholic School

Upcoming Events

❄️ Open House

Friday, December 5 from 8:30 am to 10:30 am

Held during an active school day, open house attendees will have the opportunity to take a guided tour of the school and speak with current Faithful Shepherd parents, students, and staff.



A kindergarten and 5th grade buddy pair work on their gingerbread houses last December.



Mrs. Swain's class enjoys the applesauce they made in celebration of Johnny Appleseed Day this fall.

❄️ Christmas Concerts

Everyone is welcome!

Kindergarten: December 9 at 6:15 pm

1st and 2nd Grade: December 10 at 7 pm

Choir and Band: December 11 at 6:30 pm

3rd and 4th Grade: December 16 at 6:15 pm

5th Grade: December 16 at 7:15 pm

❄️ Gala for Giving

Saturday, January 31

Please join us for this fabulous and fun event to benefit Faithful Shepherd Catholic School. Tickets can be purchased online at fscsmn.org.

St. Peter's Kids Word Search

FAITH
CROSS
BIBLE
LOVE
MENDOTA
PRAY
HOPE
SAINTPETER
JESUS
HOLYSPIRIT
FRSTEVEN
FATHER
MIRACLE
MISSISSIPPI

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



church of
ST. PETER

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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.

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Upcoming Events

Parents' Night Out

Friday, December 5
5-8 pm

ACCW Advent Retreat

Saturday, December 6
9 am-12:30 pm

Youth Group Christmas Party

Sunday, December 14
6-8 pm

CCW Peruvian Talk

Tuesday, December 16
6 pm

Reconciliation Service with Confessions

Thursday, December 18
6:30-8 pm

Workcamp Bake Sale

December 20 and 21
After all Masses

Children's Christmas Pageant

Sunday, December 21
10 am

Immaculate Conception Mass Times

December 8 at 9 am and 7 pm

Christmas Mass Times

December 24 at 4 pm and 10 pm
December 25 at 9 am and 11 am

Solemnity of Mary, the Mother of God Mass Times

December 31 at 4 pm
January 1 at 10 am

Currents published by Church of St. Peter
Editor: Sara Rogers

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