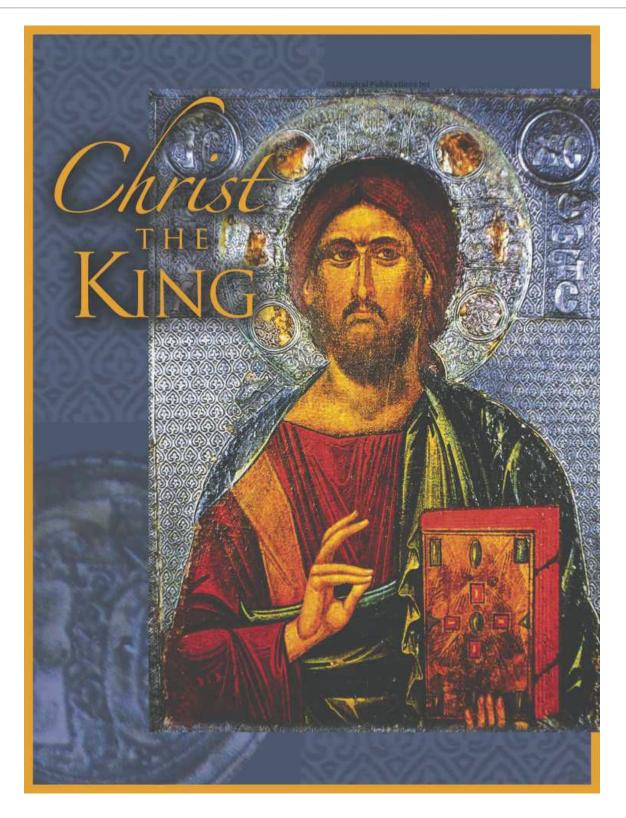


NOVEMBER 25, 2012

1405 HWY 13, PO BOX 50679

MENDOTA, MINNESOTA



### **From the Pastor's Desk**

In Thursday we celebrated Thanksgiving Day, and this holiday reminds us that we have a need to give thanks. It's fitting to ask the question, "To whom should we give thanks?" When people speak in public about the holiday we observe, it usually sounds as though they're advocating a general sense of gratitude to some kind of nothingness. This is not how Thanksgiving started, however.

Thanksgiving was originally meant to be a day for Americans to thank God specifically. Religious language is sprinkled liberally throughout the proclamations of a onetime national day of thanksgiving by George Washington in 1789 and by Abraham Lincoln in 1863. Washington mentioned "Providence," "the great Lord and ruler of nations," and "the Author of all the good that was that is or that will be." Lincoln, as you will be able to read for yourself, spoke directly of "Almighty God" and "our beneficent Father."

I thought it would be a good idea to reprint the proclamation by which President Abraham Lincoln, in the midst of the ravages of the Civil War, established the holiday we just celebrated. It is startling to read the words of a political leader who unabashedly speaks about God and his mercy, and also about "our national perverseness and disobedience." Lincoln's words remain valid for today. Let us join together, then, to offer God our thanks, our penitence, and our prayer for the suffering.

#### Abraham Lincoln's 1863 Thanksgiving Proclamation

The year that is drawing towards its close, has been filled with the blessings of fruitful fields and healthful skies. To these bounties, which are so constantly enjoyed that we are prone to forget the source from which they come, others have been added, which are of so extraordinary a nature, that they cannot fail to penetrate and soften even the heart which is habitually insensible to the ever watchful providence of Almighty God. In the midst of a civil war of unequalled magnitude and severity, which has sometimes seemed to foreign States to invite and to provoke their aggression, peace has been preserved with all nations, order has been maintained, the laws have been respected and obeyed, and harmony has prevailed everywhere except in the theatre of military conflict; while that theatre has been greatly contracted by the advancing armies and navies of the Union. Needful diversions of wealth and of strength from the fields of peaceful industry to the national defence, have not arrested the plough, the shuttle, or the ship; the axe had enlarged the borders of our settlements, and the mines, as well of iron and coal as of the precious metals, have yielded even more abundantly than heretofore. Population has steadily increased, notwithstanding the waste that has been made in the camp, the siege and the battle-field; and the country, rejoicing in the consciousness of augmented strength and vigor, is permitted to expect continuance of years, with large increase of freedom.

No human counsel hath devised nor hath any mortal hand worked out these great things. They are the gracious gifts of the Most High God, who, while dealing with us in anger for our sins, hath nevertheless remembered mercy.

It has seemed to me fit and proper that they should be solemnly, reverently and gratefully acknowledged as with one heart and voice by the whole American people. I do therefore invite my fellow citizens in every part of the United States, and also those who are at sea and those who are sojourning in foreign lands, to set apart and observe the last Thursday of November next, as a day of Thanksgiving and Praise to our beneficent Father who dwelleth in the Heavens. And I recommend to them that while offering up the ascriptions justly due to Him for such singular deliverances and blessings, they do also, with humble penitence for our national perverseness and disobedience, commend to his tender care all those who have become widows, orphans, mourners or sufferers in the lamentable civil strife in which we are unavoidably engaged, and fervently implore the interposition of the Almighty Hand to heal the wounds of the nation and to restore it as soon as may be consistent with the Divine purposes to the full enjoyment of peace, harmony, tranquillity and Union.

In testimony whereof, I have hereunto set my hand, and caused the seal of the United States to be affixed. Done at the city of Washington, this third day of October, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and sixty-three, and of the independence of the United States the eighty-eighth.

A. Lincoln

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#### Advent Is Coming

This Solemnity of Christ the King is the last Sunday of the liturgical year, which always begins anew on the First Sunday of Advent. Advent begins with the Vigil Mass on Saturday, December 1, just as darkness settles over the land and the new day begins, according to the ancient Jewish reckoning of the day from sunset to sunset. The beginning of the Church year is determined by our need to have four Advent Sundays before December 25. Since Christmas can be on any one of the seven days of the week, there are years in which Christmas falls on a Monday and the fourth week of Advent is just one day long. There are years in which Christmas falls on a Sunday and the fourth week of Advent is a full seven days long. That's when Advent is at its maximum length of 28 days. This year, with Christmas coming as it does on a Tuesday, Advent is 23 days long. Get your Advent calendars adjusted, then, by opening two doors on the first day. Get out those Advent wreaths and buy new candles for them. But the best way to observe Advent is to be ready to let the season enter your hearts so you can use these weeks to resolve to listen more closely to God's voice.

# Religious Education/ Faith Formation

### Youth Group Outing—ComedySportz

On Friday, November 30, all high school students are invited to attend our annual youth group outing to ComedySportz in Uptown. ComedySportz is an improv comedy played as a competitive sport, and is funny and family friendly. We'll meet at St. Peter's at 7 p.m. and return at approximately 10 p.m. Cost is \$12. To attend you must reserve your spot by Thursday, November 29. To sign up or to get more info, contact Ed Overell at 651-905-4312 or visit www.spyministry.org.

# Archdiocesan Council of Catholic Women Advent Event at St. Peter's

The Archdiocesan Council of Catholic Women (ACCW) will be hosting "Greet Advent as Women of Hope: A Morning of Prayer, Praise Presentation" at St. Peter's on Saturday, December 1. Our speaker for the event is Minnesota-based Nancy Jo Sullivan, a nationally-known speaker and author of Small Mercies, who will highlight some of the characteristics which Mary, Mother of Jesus, and her cousin Elizabeth shared as women of hope. The event includes morning refreshments, prayer, presentation, and Mass with Archbishop Nienstedt. Vendors will be on hand to help you with your Christmas shopping. Registration is \$15 by Friday, November 23, and \$20 thereafter. Information and online applications can be found at www.accwarchspm.org/forms/greetadvent-women-hope or by contacting the ACCW office at 651-291-4545.

# **Christmas Flower Offering**

There are envelopes available on the information counter to make a donation for Christmas flowers in memory/honor of a loved one. All names will be printed in the bulletin on December 30/January 6. Be sure



to indicate who this is in memory/honor of and—if giving cash—please put your name on the envelope. All envelopes are due in the office by Monday, December 17, to meet our bulletin deadline.

### FAITHFUL SHEPHERD CATHOLIC SCHOOL AND TRI-PARISH CENTER

St. John Neumann, St. Peter, St. Thomas Becket 3355 Columbia Drive, Eagan, MN 55121 651.406.4747, www.fscsmn.org

# **Pastoral Ministry**

#### **Giving Tree**

Our annual Giving Tree is now in the Gathering Space with its doll "decorations." Each doll represents



a specific gift request from one of our families in need. Please take one or more dolls, purchase the gift, wrap it and return to the tree with the doll taped to the package. Please return all your gifts by Sunday, December 9, by the beginning of the 11:00 a.m. Mass.

We can always use help sorting and delivering the gifts. The more the merrier! There is something for adults and young adults to do, and the rewards are huge! Please consider spreading the Christmas spirit by helping with this very important project. Call Carol at 651-453-1345 for more information.

### **Faithfully Fit Forever**

Join us; new participants are always welcome! This exercise class for mature adults focuses on whole body health. Please join us on Tuesdays from 1-2 in the Ravoux Room. Questions? Please contact Lisa Amos at 651-905-4304 or lamos@stpetersmendota.org.

### **Immaculate Conception**



Saturday, December 8, is the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary and a holy day of obligation. Because it is the national feast day of the United States, December 8—like December 25—is a holy day of obligation every year.

The Church teaches, "...the faithful are obliged to participate in the Eucharist on days of obligation, unless excused for a serious reason (for example, illness, the care of infants) or dispensed by their own pastor. Those who deliberately fail in this obligation commit a grave sin" (*Catechism of the Catholic Church* 2181).

The timing of the holy day could add some complications to your decision about when to come to Mass, as it falls on a Saturday. We will have two options for Mass on this feast of Our Lady: 5:00 p.m. on the eve of the holy day (**Friday, December 7**) and 9:00 a.m. on the holy day itself (**Saturday, December 8**). Both Masses will be celebrated in the Main Church.

The normal 5:00 Mass on the afternoon of Saturday, December 8 will be the Mass of the Second Sunday of Advent.

## **St. Peter's Community News**

### **Annual Giving**

### Weekly Contribution Summary

Budget for the period 11/12-11/18/12	\$24,035
Actual for the period of 11/12-11/18/12	\$18,757
Year-to-Date Budget	\$347,840
Year-to-Date Actual	\$300,250

### **Year End Gift Opportunities**

#### **Christmas Envelopes**

We hope that you will maintain your regular weekly support along with offering a special Christmas contribution.

#### Automatic Withdrawal—Electronic Funds Transfer

Please consider using our automatic giving program through our ACH program. Forms are available in the parish office.

#### **Stock Contributions**

Appreciated stock is a great way to make a contribution AND perhaps maximize your tax benefit. Please contact the parish office.

#### **Employer Matching Funds**

You may wish to consult with your employer to determine if a matching gift can double the value of your contribution to our parish or one of our specific ministries.

#### "Forward In Faith" Debt Reduction Campaign

We have created a special debt reduction campaign account separate from our regular operating fund. If you have not offered your response please complete your decision and return it this week.

#### **Need Help Structuring A Contribution?**

Please contact Mary Jubenville (651-905-4307) in our parish office. Thank you!

### **Knights of Columbus at Culver's**

Faithful Shepherd Knights of Columbus is having "Night with Santa" at Culver's—3445 O'Leary Lane, Eagan—on Thursday, November 29. The Knights of Columbus will get 10% of all sales, including drive thru. Bring your cameras and take pictures of the kids with Santa. Bring the family out to dinner and give mom a break from cooking. She will love that!

VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT www.stpetersmendota.org

## Minute Memo from Ms. Shimshock, Principal of Faithful Shepherd

Thanksgiving—the time to take personal inventory of our blessings. One of the greatest blessings in our lives is the relationships that we have with others. Friends, whether close and personal or casual acquaintances, bond us together like nothing else. I am blessed to have such great friends. They listen and support my ideas and are there when I need guidance. Sometimes I get too busy in my daily life and take them for granted. In retrospect, I know I need to be more present to them. How similar to our greatest friend, Jesus. I get caught up in my life and forget about the sacrifice He made for mine. During this Thanksgiving season, be thankful of your friends, including Jesus. Tell them how thankful you are for having them in your life.

> Two are better than one. If one falls down, his friend can help him up. But pity the man who falls and has no one to help him up.

Ecclesiastes 4:9-10

Ms. Shimshock

## **Liturgical Ministry Postcards**

A postcard has been sent out to all liturgical ministers requesting availability dates and preferred ministries. Please return to the parish office, email or call in your requests by Sunday, November 25. If you have not received a postcard but would like to be scheduled, please contact Sara Rogers at 651-905-4308 or srogers@stpetersmendota.org.

The January 2 through April 30 schedules will be available and distributed in mid December. If you have not yet indicated your availability for these months, or no longer are interested in serving in your ministry, please contact Sara Rogers at the phone number or email address above and indicate the dates you are <u>NOT</u> available during this time period. **The deadline for indicating unavailable dates is Sunday, November 25.** Thank you!

### **New Parishioner Registration**

Interested in joining the parish? New parishioner registration will be held after all Masses the first weekend of each month in the Gathering Space. You can also register by contacting Sara Rogers at 651-905-4308 or clicking on the "Join Us" link on the parish website.

# The Next Week

Monday, No	vember 26
9 am	Mass, Historic Church (8:40 rosary)
6 pm	St. Paul Civic Symphony Rehearsal,
opm	Heritage Center
	Tierituge Center
Tuesday, No	ovember 27
9 am	Mass, Historic Church (8:40 rosary)
) um	Adoration Before Blessed Sacrament
	After the 9 am Mass Until 5 pm
9:45 am	Women's Bible Study, Ravoux Room
11 am-12 N	
	Mobile Meals
1 pm	Faithfully Fit Forever, Ravoux Room
1 pm	
Wednesday	, November 28
9 am	Mass, Historic Church (8:40 rosary)
9:45 am	Divine Mercy Cenacle, Conference Room I
4:30 pm	Grades 1-5
6:30 pm	Grades 6-8
7 pm	Choir Rehearsal, Main Church
/ pm	Chon Renearsal, Main Charen
Thursday, N	lovember 29
9 am	Mass, Historic Church (8:40 rosary)
9:30 pm	Daily Birthday Celebration,
ste o p	Heritage Center
6:30 pm	First Reconciliation, Main Church
7 pm	Al-Anon, Room 7
7 pm	Alcoholics Anonymous, Room 5
, p	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·
Friday, Nov	ember 30
9 am	Mass, Historic Church (8:40 rosary)
Saturday, D	ecember 1
9 and 10:3	0 am
	Alcoholics Anonymous, Rooms 2, 4
8:30 am	Archdiocesan Council of Catholic Women
	Event "Women of Hope"
10 am	Scripture Study, Community Room
1 pm	First Reconciliation Service, Main Church
4 pm	<b>Reconciliation, Main Church</b>
4:30 pm	Choir Rehearsal
5 pm	Mass, Main Church
After Mass	
	New Parishioner Registration
7 pm	Partners In Praise Christmas Concert,
	Historic Church
	cember 2—First Sunday of Advent
8:30 & 10:	
0.0.11	Choir Rehearsal, Main Church
	Mass, Main Church
9 am	Sunday School
	Liturgy of the Word for Children
10 am	Confirmation Class
After Mass	Ses -
	Boy Scout Wreath Sale
	Boy Scout Wreath Sale Hospitality
12.20	Boy Scout Wreath Sale Hospitality New Parishioner Registration
12:30 pm 6:30 pm	Boy Scout Wreath Sale Hospitality

#### Church of St. Peter

## **Parish Pastoral Council**

Paul Boller, Chair	651-994-8566
Alice Sheeler, Secretary	651-457-8119
Joanne Rocco Carter, Vice Chair	651-454-7853
David Doty	651-330-2129
Mary Pat Ferraro	651-454-1091
Kelly Garrett	651-340-8963
Ann Hoey	651-994-7870
Yvonne Houle-Gillard	651-452-5316
Sarah Larsen	612-384-1474

Parish Pastoral Council Voice Mailbox: 651-905-4309 Parish Pastoral Council Email: <u>ParishPastoralCouncil@stpetersmendota.org</u>

#### **Trustees:**

Jim Oricchio	651-452-3587
Helen Wilkie	651-365-1334

# Readings for the Week of November 25

Sunday:	Dn 7:13-14/Rv 1:5-8/Jn 18:33b-37
Monday:	Rv 14:1-3, 4b-5/Lk 21:1-4
Tuesday:	Rv 14:14-19/Lk 21:5-11
Wednesday:	Rv 15:1-4/Lk 21:12-19
Thursday:	Rv 18:1-2, 21-23; 19:1-3, 9a/Lk
	21:20-28
Friday:	Rom 10:9-18/Mt 4:18-22
Saturday:	Rv 22:1-7/Lk 21:34-36
Next Sunday:	Jer 33:14-16/1 Thes 3:124:2/Lk
	21:25-28, 34-36

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### **Mass Intentions**

### The following are the intentions remembered by the priest at Mass: Monday, November 26 - †Thomas Vuciccvic Tuesday, November 27 - †Charles Dorn Wednesday, November 28 - †Richard Boehm Thursday, November 29 - Choice of the Priest Friday, November 30 - †Raymond LeClaire Saturday, December 1 - †John Clifford Sunday, Dec. 2 - 9 a.m. - Mass for The People 11 a.m. - †Deacon Gerald Blissenbach



#### **CHURCH OF ST. PETER**

### We Need YOUR Decision to Help Our **Campaign Move Forward**

We want to thank the growing number of contributors that have offered support to help fund our principal and interest payments over the next three years, apply additional funds directly to our mortgage principal to reduce interest expense, repay archdiocesan assessments, and complete several deferred repairs and improvements in our facilities.

We have a considerable challenge to reach our objective of every household responding with their decision. Recognizing that all gifts are welcome and appreciated, regardless of the size, your decision is a very important part of our success. By offering your financial commitment before we begin our follow up efforts, you will save us the time, energy and expense to contact you.

Commitment packets can be found in the back of the Historic Church, the Gathering Space and the parish office. Please take a few moments to complete the commitment card, seal it in the confidential envelope, return it by mail, deliver it to the parish office, or place it in the collection basket next weekend. Let's keep the momentum moving forward. Thank you!

Fr. Joseph Gallatin	Jim Oricchio	Helen Wilkie
Pastor	Parish	Parish
	Trustee	Trustee

## **Boy Scout Wreath Sale**

St. Peter's-sponsored Boy Scout troop will be selling Christmas wreaths after the 9 and 11 a.m. Masses on Sunday, November 25 and December 2. Thank you for your support!



# **Partners in Praise Girls Choir Concert** 22222 St. Peter's Historic Church. Saturday, December 1, 7 p.m. There will be no charge for this concert.

A free will offering will be taken.

PASTOR: Fr. Joseph Gallatin	651-	452-4	4550
PASTORAL ASSOCIATE: Lisa Amos	651-	905-4	4304
BUSINESS MANAGER: Mary Jubenville Heritage Center Rental Information			
Mary Jubenville, staff contact			4307
<b>RELIGIOUS EDUCATION/FAITH FORMA</b>			
Kathy Raible, Director			
Ed Overell, Youth Coordinator			
Beth Newton, Sunday School Coordinator			
Rita Holien, Religious Ed Secretary			
Religious Education Information Line	651-	905-4	4314
MUSIC: David Dunst, Director of Music	651-	905-4	4323
COMMUNITY LIFE COORDINATOR: Sara Rogers	651-	905-4	4308
OFFICE STAFF:			
Geri Korman, Receptionist			
Darlene Olson, Communications Coord	651-	905-4	4302
MAINTENANCE:			
Tom Deshler			
John Jubenville	651-	452-4	4550
Parish Office:	51_4	52_4	550
Office Hours:			
<b>Fax:</b>			
E-mail:church@stpeters			
<u></u>			
Parish School: Faithful Shepherd	S	AITH	ERD
651-406-4747	6	atholis, S	shool
3355 Columbia Drive			6
Eagan, MN 55121			
		9	

#### SUNDAY MASSES

Saturday 5 pm Sunday 9 am and 11 am (all in the Main Church) WEEKDAY MASSES (all in the Historic Church) 9 am Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday

HOLY DAYS As announced.

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION Saturdays 4 to 4:45 pm or by appointment. **BAPTISMS, NEW PARISHIONERS, WEDDINGS** Call the parish office for more information.

### PRAYER CHAIN REQUESTS

E-mail: pmarkee@frontier.com

