

Church of
ST. PETER
MENDOTA

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Deacon Tim Hennessey 651-905-4301

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COMMUNITY LIFE COORDINATOR:

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Parish Office: 651-452-4550

Office Hours: 8 am-4 pm Monday through Friday

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Parish School: Faithful Shepherd

651-406-4747, www.fscsmn.org
3355 Columbia Drive
Eagan, MN 55121



SUNDAY MASSES (all in the Main Church)

Saturday 5 pm

Sunday 9 am and 11 am

WEEKDAY MASSES (all in the Historic Church)

9 am Monday-Friday

HOLY DAYS As announced.

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Fridays, 8 to 8:45 am and Saturdays 3:30 to 4:45 pm
and also any time by appointment.

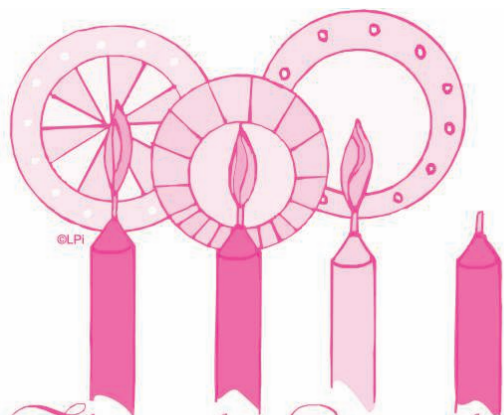
BAPTISMS, NEW PARISHIONERS, WEDDINGS

Call the parish office for more information.

PRAYER CHAIN REQUESTS

Mary LeClair. E-mail: maryleclair62@gmail.com or call the
parish office at 651-452-4550.

December 11, 2016
Third Sunday of Advent



Third Sunday
of Advent

Reflections From Our Music Director

The central mystery for which we prepare in this season is that of the arrival of the Savior. God in human form, Jesus alone is capable of redeeming our race. By his qualifications of both full divinity and full humanity, Christ alone has the capacity to bridge the chasm between our fallen nature and our Creator's undimmed holiness.

To some extent, though, we can ask: Why do we need a savior? What is the nature of our fall? What is it about "sin" that prevents us so completely from approaching the Father?

These days, it is increasingly difficult to grasp the nature of sin and its effects. In order to communicate in some fashion what we lose through sin and the lengths necessary to remedy our separation from God, some imagery can be helpful.

I am a very fickle reader, and I don't claim to be a huge consumer of great literature, but generally there is something about good fiction that I find can be illuminating about our own nature. This fascination is always fed and strengthened by the writings of J. R. R. Tolkien, whose imagery betrays his deeply Catholic faith. My principle reason for even mentioning this is the way his third-most popular novel, The Silmarillion, speaks to our human predicament.

While famously anti-allegory in reference to his own, most famous works (The Hobbit and The Lord of the Rings), elements of the origin story of his "elves" can be rather instructive on the points in question.

The elves were created to live without death and were invited to the "Undying Lands" where all the immortal creatures had their home. As they were endowed with such skills and arts, the elves delighted in the creation of beautiful things -- works of skill and creativity -- and living in peace and harmony with the world. Their greatest creations mingled with the work of the other, higher beings of that place and so grew in beauty and renown among all of their kind.

As is typical of evil, some beings of that place were envious and, indeed, offended by the happiness the elves enjoyed amongst the immortal beings. Those evil forces, through cunning and treachery, debased and defiled the most prized and beautiful of the elves' artifacts and stole them.

In their anger at the treachery, but also in their love for their own works, many of the elves committed acts of violence and treachery of their own, devising a means to escape the Undying Lands to pursue the treasures that were taken from them. In so doing, however, they destroyed the trust of their immortal allies and their means of return. From that time on, those who left, and

their offspring with them, were banned from returning, despite their persistent desire to answer the burning call of their people to dwell with the highest powers.

We are very much like these elves: created out of nothing, invited to an eternity with God, called to share the blessings of God's all-sufficient care forever, but duped by the abuse of our own genius to chase after those illusory prizes of our own devising. Having jilted our greatest lover, we separated ourselves from that love, so generously offered.

This is the nature of our fallen human state, and for us, the state into which we are born. Without an act of mercy, we are consigned to our inconstant passions, and because of our limitations as creatures, we are lacking any capacity to regain that lost, promised land.

Yet, our call is no less. Our desire for that "forever love" only God can legitimately offer is written throughout our history and only thinly veiled by the constant proclivity to attach to something, to cling to addiction, and to mistake our earthly loves as comparable or sufficient to satisfy that longing.

Finally, just as those elves in Tolkien's fiction, it took the mercy of the scorned Lover of Souls to reforge a path to His love.

Jesus is that path.

Jesus is the way.

Jesus is the truth that sets us free from our misguided affections.

Jesus alone is the life that holds us forever in the presence of God.

Incidentally, if you're interested in a breathtaking interpretation of the creation of the world, do read the first chapter of The Silmarillion. Tolkien can be an "acquired taste" (meaning some just don't enjoy the genre), with a multiplicity of names and unfamiliar terms, but the first chapter is especially rewarding to any music lover.

David M. Dunst

David Dunst
Music Director

Eucharistic Adoration

Parishioners and friends are welcome for private prayer before the Blessed Sacrament in the Historic Church on Tuesdays after the 9 a.m. Mass until 6 p.m.

Matthew 26:40-41—Jesus said to Peter:

"Could you not watch with me one hour?"

Watch and pray."

For more information or if you have questions, please contact Rita Lew at 651-399-0921 or ritalew5@mac.com.

Christmas Pageant

Don't Forget! Christmas Pageant Dress Rehearsal is Saturday, December 17, from 9:30 to 11 a.m. Please have children bring their costumes, as this is our dress rehearsal. Snacks will be served during the last 20 minutes of this rehearsal.



The **Christmas Pageant** performance is on **Sunday, December 18, after the 9 a.m. Mass.**

Religious Education News

RE Classes

There will be no Grade 1 – 8 classes on Wednesday, December 21 or 28 due to the Christmas break. We will resume classes on Wednesday, January 4. Grade 2 will not resume classes until January 18.

No Sunday School or LWC

There will be no Sunday School or Liturgy of the Word for Children on Sunday, December 18, 25 or January 1. We will resume both of these programs on Sunday, January 8.

First Eucharist Program

Classes for the First Eucharist program will begin on Wednesday, January 18. Your second grade child should have been registered in the Reconciliation program (Grade 2) and will therefore be automatically enrolled in the First Eucharist program. Please call Kathy Raible at 651-905-4311, if you have any questions or concerns.

Perissos

High School Youth

All high school youth are welcome to join us at Perissos, our new high school ministry. Join us on Wednesdays, in the Youth Room, from 6:30-8 p.m., as we all grow in our love of Christ and His Church. Our next meeting is December 14. For more information contact Elizabeth McCanna at 651-905-4312 or emccanna@stpetersmendota.org.



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Workcamp News

Join us this Summer for Workcamp!

All high school youth are invited to join Elizabeth, Fr. Steven and the rest of the Workcamp Team, as we travel to Covington, Tennessee from June 24 through July 1! Spend a week being the hands and feet of Christ for the people of Covington, all while making new friends, having fun and eating lots of Dairy Queen! Fundraising starts in just a couple weeks so make sure to sign up today! For an information packet and application, please contact Elizabeth McCanna at emccanna@stpetersmendota.org or 651-905-4312.



Workcamp Bake Sale Next Weekend!

Stop by the Workcamp table after Mass next weekend, December 17 and 18, to get a sweet treat or two to support our high school mission trip to Covington, TN! All items are available for a free will donation, and all funds raised go directly towards offsetting the cost of the trip for our youth.



Want to join us this summer? If you're in high school, contact Elizabeth at emccanna@stpetersmendota.org or 651-905-4312 for more information and to get signed up!

Looking Into Our Past

Because our Parish has such a rich history, and many parishioners have been "life-long members," we are hoping that some people might have pictures and/or articles of our church. We would love to make copies of the pictures/articles and display them. The pictures that we are most interested in, are of the early years of our parish, as well as when it was a school. Thank you in advance for your help. If you are interested in helping out with this project, please contact Anne O'Keefe at aokeefe@stpetersmendota.org or call 651-905-4308.

2016 New Parishioners

New Parishioner Dinner

St. Peter's is hosting a dinner for all new parishioners on **Saturday, January 7**, following the 5 p.m. Mass, to welcome you and give you a chance to meet other new members and some long-time parishioners. There will be drawings for a few prizes, as well as a tour of our Historic Church. If you plan to attend, contact Anne O'Keefe at 651-905-4308 or aokeefe@stpetersmendota.org.

Volunteers Needed!

Interested in helping at the New Parishioner dinner? We need people who are excited to welcome new parishioners to St. Peter's! Please contact Anne O'Keefe if you are interested, at 651-905-4308 or aokeefe@stpetersmendota.org.

Knights of Columbus Pizza Night

The Knights of Columbus are hosting a Pizza Night at Solos Pizza in the Eagan Promenade (1270 Promenade Place). Simply print the flyer from the K of C website at eaganknights.com and come in to Solos on Wednesday, December 14, between 4 and 9 p.m. Thirty percent (30%) of your purchase will be donated to the Knights to benefit the good work being done in our community.

Thank you for your support.

Angel Tree Prison Ministry

The Prison Ministry program at the recent deanery meeting here prompted attendees to request information about Angel Tree, a program of prison fellowship that reaches out with the love of Christ to children of prisoners and their families. It's an opportunity to share God's love by helping to meet the physical, emotional and spiritual needs of the families of prisoners. For more information go to www.prisonfellowship.org/about/angel-tree/.

Year End Giving

Christmas Envelopes

This year, Christmas Day falls on a Sunday. We hope that you will maintain your regular weekly support along with offering a special Christmas contribution to the parish.

Automatic Withdrawal—Electronic Funds Transfer

Please consider using our automatic giving program through our ACH program. Forms are available in the parish office or online at www.stpetersmendota.org/community/stewardship/financial-giving/.

Stock Contributions

Appreciated stock is a great way to make a contribution AND perhaps maximize your tax benefit. Please contact Mary Jubenville at the parish office at 651-905-4307.

End of the Year Information

Parishioners are reminded that all donations must be received in the parish office or postmarked by Saturday, December 31, to be included as a 2016 contribution. All proceeds from the 5 p.m. Mass on December 31 will be recorded as received in 2016. All proceeds from the 9 and 11 a.m. Masses on January 1 will be recorded as received in 2017. No exceptions can be made. If a stock contribution is to be made, be sure to allow enough time for the transaction to be completed. Stock transfer instructions are available by calling Mary Jubenville at 651-905-4307.

Christmas Flowers

We are now accepting donations for Christmas flowers in memory or honor of a loved one. If you would like to make a donation, pick-up an envelope on the information counter or in the parish office, and return it through Sunday collections or to the parish office by Monday, December 19. All names will be listed on a flyer in our Christmas bulletin.



Thank You, Gardeners

A big thank you to all of the volunteer gardeners who assisted with keeping the grounds of St. Peter's looking great this past summer. It is a huge task keeping all of the gardens weeded, trimmed, watered and looking good. We appreciate the volunteers, and we can always use a few more! If you are interested in helping out next season, please stop by our table at the Ministry Fair in January.

Thanks again for all of your work!

Mike Berndt

The Week of December 12

Monday, December 12

- 9 am **Mass, Historic Church** (8:30 rosary)
 9 am Giving Tree Pick Up, Ravoux Room
 6 pm St. Paul Civic Symphony Rehearsal,
 Heritage Center
 7 pm Boy Scout Meeting, Ravoux Room

Tuesday, December 13

- 9 am **Mass, Historic Church** (8:30 rosary)
 9:30 am Women's Bible Study, Ravoux Room
 9:30 am Adoration Before the Blessed Sacrament
 until 6 pm, Historic Church
 6:30 pm Advent Speaker Series; From Eternity to
 Eternity, Heritage Center

Wednesday, December 14

- 9 am **Mass, Historic Church** (8:30 rosary)
 9:45 am Divine Mercy Cenacle, Ravoux Room
 4:30 pm RE Grades 1-4, Classrooms
 5:30 pm Chill, Youth Room
 6:30 pm RE Grades 1-8, Classrooms
 6:30 pm Perissos, Youth Room
 7 pm Choir Rehearsal, Music Room

Thursday, December 15

- 9:30 am Grandparents Meeting, Conference Room 1
 6:30 pm RCIA, Ravoux Room
 6:30 pm Parish Advent Penance Service, Main Church
 6:30 pm ACCL Meeting, Conference Room 1
 7 pm AA Meeting, Classroom 5

Friday, December 16

- 8 am **Confessions, Main Church**
 9 am **Mass, Historic Church** (8:30 rosary)
 9:30 am Small Faith Group, Ravoux Room

Saturday, December 17

- 9 and 10:30 am
 AA Meeting, Classrooms 2, 4
 9:30 am Christmas Pageant Rehearsal, Main Church
 10:00 am Saturday Scripture Study, Community Room
 3:30 pm **Confessions, Main Church**
 4:30 pm Choir Rehearsal, Music Room
 5 pm **Mass, Main Church**
 After Mass
 Workcamp Christmas Bake Sale, Gathering
 Space
 CCW Poinsettia Pick Up, Gathering Space

Sunday, December 18 - Hospitality Sunday

- 8:30 & 10:30 am
 Choir Rehearsal, Music Room
 9 & 11 am
Mass, Main Church
 10 am Christmas Pageant Performance, Main Church
 After Mass
 Workcamp Christmas Bake Sale, Gathering
 Space
 CCW Poinsettia Pick Up, Gathering Space

Parish Pastoral Council

- Paul Hirsch.....651-431-1832
 Sarah Larsen.....612-384-1474
 Laurie Reding.....651-688-8536
 Maria Schwartz.....651-452-1796
 Alice Sheeler.....651-457-8119
 Nancy Stanton.....651-686-9009
 Joseph Towle.....651-683-9250

Parish Pastoral Council Email:

ParishPastoralCouncil@stpetersmendota.org

Trustees:

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

Readings for the Week of December 11

- Sunday:** Is 35:1-6a, 10/Ps 146/Jas 5:7-10/Mt 11:2-11
Monday: Zec 2:14-17 or Rv 11:19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab/Jdt 13/Lk 1:26-38 or Lk 1:39-47
Tuesday: Zep 3:1-2, 9-13/Ps 34/Mt 21:28-32
Wednesday: Is 45:6b-8, 18, 21b-25/Ps 85/Lk 7:18b-23
Thursday: Is 54:1-10/Ps 30/Lk 7:24-30
Friday: Is 56:1-3a, 6-8/Ps 67/Jn 5:33-36
Saturday: Gn 49:2, 8-10/Ps 72/Mt 1:1-17
Next Sunday: Is 7:10-14/Ps 24/Rom 1:1-7/Mt 1:18-24

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Mass Intentions

The following are the intentions remembered by the priest at Mass:

Monday, December 12 - †Bob Wilhelmy

Tuesday, December 13 - Sandra Erickson

Wednesday, December 14 - †George Zirnheld

Thursday, December 15 - †Bob O'Neill

Friday, December 16 - Sandra Erickson

Saturday, December 17 - Mass For The People

Sunday, December 18 - 9 a.m. - †Chapdelaine Family

11 a.m. - †Julie Indihar Merrill

PASTORAL MINISTRY

Join Us For Christmas Caroling

The St. Peter's Choir will be going Christmas caroling on December 18, at the two senior living centers nearest to the church. We will begin at 2 p.m., at Lilydale Senior Living, near the intersection of Highway 13 and 35E; and proceeding to White Pine Senior Living, near the intersection of Highway 110 and Dodd Road. Everyone is welcome! Please join us in bringing the joy of the coming of Christ.



Is Jesus Calling You To Be An Instrument of His Mercy?

Each December, the Office of Vocations sponsors a discernment retreat for men who are considering a vocation to the priesthood. This retreat has been instrumental for many men in finding clarity in their discernment process. This year, our retreat will be held on December 16 - 18, at Christ the King Retreat Center, 621 1st Avenue South, in Buffalo, with Archbishop Bernard Hebda and Bishop Andrew Cozzens as the Retreat Directors.

We invite men, ages seniors in high school to age 50, who have been praying about their vocation, to consider attending this retreat. We are asking of each retreatant \$75 to help defray expenses.

The Gift of Being Grand

St. Peter's is joining other parishes around the archdiocese in developing a ministry to help grandparents learn how to pass on their Catholic faith to their children and grandchildren and to support them in this important role in their families.

Pope Francis also recognizes the special gifts grandparents have to share.

All grandparents and family elders are invited to gather on Thursday, December 15, at 10 a.m. in Conference Room 1. The meeting will include prayer, Scripture reflection, discussion and an opportunity to receive materials and suggestions designed to help you begin to make a difference in the spiritual lives of your grandchildren. You are invited to bring pictures and share stories about your own family's traditions.

For further information or questions, please contact Joan Pilney at 651-454-1568 or fpilney@gmail.com.

Advent Speaker Series

From Eternity to Eternity - Made by Love; Saved by Love; Heavenward in Love.

From Eternity to Eternity — A true Love Story: Made by Love; Saved by Love; Heavenward in Love

Come and join us for our continuing series as Fr. Steven Hoffman takes us through an inspiring and in-depth look at our origins, our restoration by grace and our life in Christ in the light of God's infinite love. The goal of this three part retreat is very simple: To be rooted and grounded more deeply in love, that we may have the power to comprehend with all the Saints, what is the breadth and length and height and depth of Christ's love, that all may be filled with all the fullness of God (Eph 3:19). Come with your family and friends - all are welcome. You will never see your life the same way.

Tuesday, December 13

6:30-8:30 p.m., Heritage Center

Refreshments will be provided for fellowship following the evening's talk.

Collection Today for Retirement Fund for Religious

Aging religious need your help.

Senior Catholic sisters, brothers and religious order priests have offered their lives in service to others - educating the young, comforting the sick, seeking justice for the oppressed. Today, many are frail, elderly and in need of assistance. Your gift to the Retirement Fund for Religious helps to furnish medications, nursing care and other necessities. Please give generously to today's second collection.



Cor Jesu

Meaning "Heart of Jesus," Cor Jesu is a moving opportunity to worship Christ in community with the Church through Eucharistic adoration, confession, praise and worship, benediction and fellowship.

Join college age and young adults for these evenings at St. Mary's Chapel at the Saint Paul Seminary School of Divinity, 2260 Summit Avenue, in St. Paul, at 8 p.m. on the following first Fridays: February 3, March 3, April 7 and May 5.

Thank You From Archbishop Bernard Hebda

Dear Father Steven,

With Thanksgiving on the horizon, I hope that you will accept a long overdue “thank you” for the kindness that you and your parish have shown to me. As I count my blessings, your hospitality at the time of my installation is right near the top of the list.

Please be assured of my prayers for you and your parishioners.

Faithfully in Christ,
Archbishop Bernard A. Hebda

Cursillo Corner

All are welcome to attend the Cursillo Winter Retreat, which will be held January 6-8, at Christ the King Retreat Center in Buffalo. Register at www.tc-cursillo.org.

Future events include Sunday, January 29, at 7 p.m., at the South East Metro Ultreya, Church of St. Patrick, 3535 72nd Street East, in Inver Grove Heights.

Also, please pray about working, sponsoring or attending the next set of Cursillo weekends. This could be a life changing retreat which will deepen your relationship with Jesus. The weekends will be held at Mary, Mother of the Church in Burnsville. The men’s weekend will be February 9-12. The women’s weekend is February 16-19.

For more information about all Cursillo events and weekend retreats, see www.tc-cursillo.org or contact janemarie.rief@gmail.com or at 651-485-7089.

Uganda Mission Trip

Space Still Available!

We have spaces remaining for our Ugandan Mission trip scheduled for May 31 through June 12, 2017. We would love to have you join us! The trip will involve a pilgrimage to the Ugandan Martyrs Celebration as well as mission work at the schools, where we support children through sponsorships. For more information, please contact Laurie Reding at lreding1@aol.com, or by phone at 612-419-1709.



Come as a Guest
Leave as a Friend

Catholic Single Adults Club Dinner/Dance

The Catholic Single Adults Club of the Twin Cities invites all single Catholics, 21 and older, to join us Saturday, January 7, for our annual Christmas dinner and dance. A social hour and dinner will begin at 5:30 p.m.; dancing begins at 8 p.m. The cost for dinner and dancing is \$25. The cost for the dance only is \$10. Dinner reservations for a delicious buffet meal at Gulden’s Restaurant in Maplewood are required by Monday, December 26. No reservation is required for dance-only participants. For dinner reservation information, please call Carl at 651-603-1412 or Greg at 651-636-3508.

Save the Date for the Cana Dinner!

Dr. John R. Buri, a professor at the University of St. Thomas, will be the featured speaker at St. Peter’s Annual Cana Dinner on Saturday, February 11. A social hour will begin after the 5 p.m. Mass, and dinner will begin at 7 p.m. Dr. Buri, who has taught in the Psychology Department at St. Thomas for over 40 years, will speak on the topic, “As For Me, We Comes First.”

Dr. Buri is locally, regionally and nationally a frequent speaker on subjects ranging from marriage and parenting to dating and family life. He has published over 60 articles and book chapters during his tenure. He has also published two books: “How To Love Your Wife” and “Intentional Dating; When You’re Ready To Leave Behind the Liars, Losers, and Lemons – 15 Keys To Finding Love For a Lifetime.”

Buri, who has taught a highly-popular course, Psychology of Marriage and the Family, for over 30 years, also works in the Archdiocese’s Marriage Preparation Program. He has been married for 44 years to Kathy, his high school sweetheart. “She is the love of my life and the best thing that has ever happened to me, and I cannot imagine life without her,” remarks Dr. Buri. The Buri’s have six children (five sons and a daughter) and 13 grandchildren.

Pallium Mass for Archbishop Hebda

All people of the Archdiocese are invited to attend the Pallium Mass on Sunday, December 18, at 2:30 p.m. The Apostolic Nuncio will confer the Pallium on Archbishop Hebda, at this special Mass at the Cathedral of St. Paul, 239 Selby Avenue, in St. Paul. This Pallium was blessed at Saint Peter’s Basilica by Pope Francis, on the feast of Saints Peter and Paul on June 29.

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