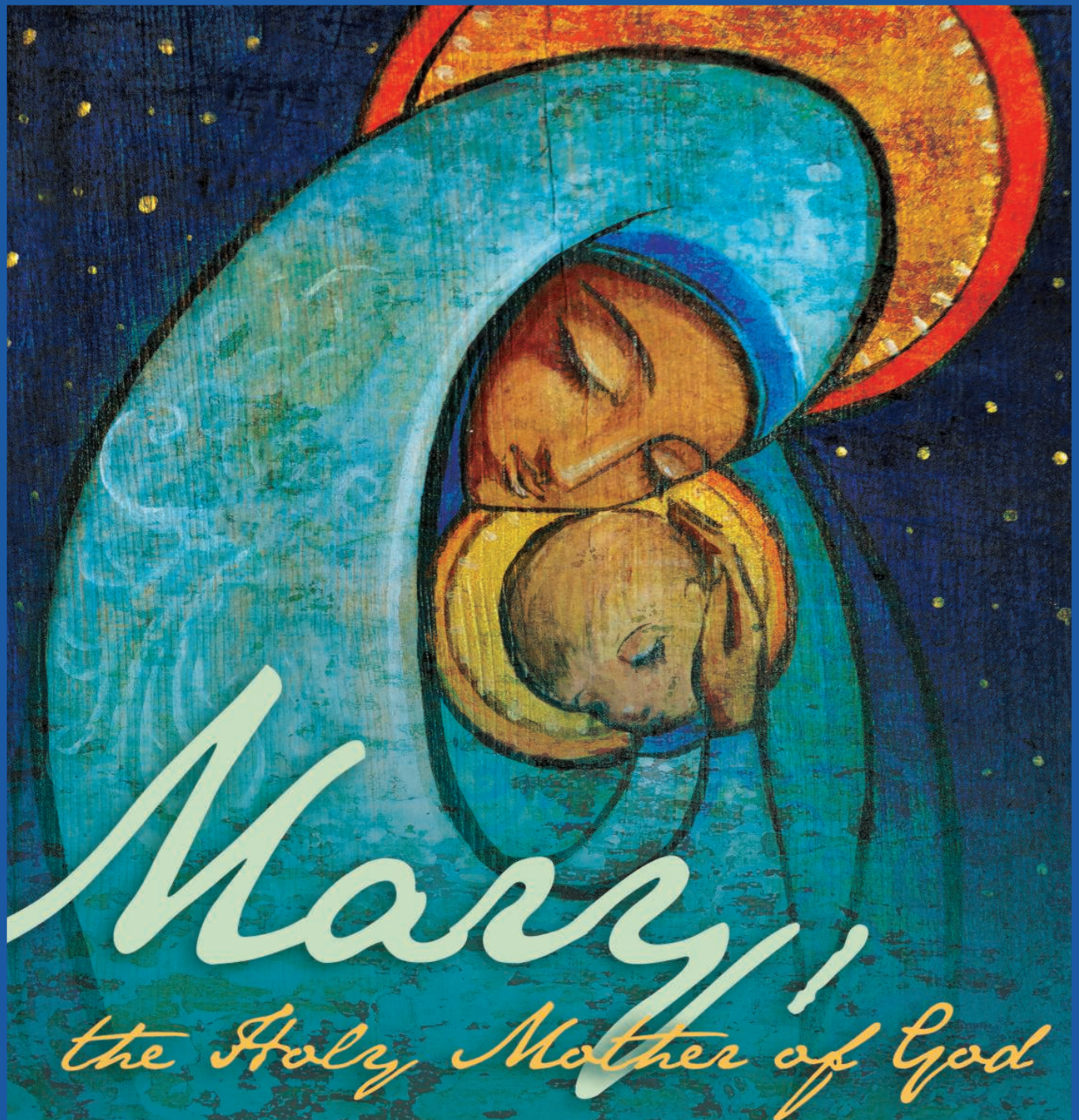


Church of St. Peter
1405 Highway 13 PO Box 50679
Mendota MN 55150-0679
January 1, 2017



**When eight days were completed for his circumcision,
he was named Jesus, the name given him by the angel
before he was conceived in the womb. - Lk 2:21**

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.

Reflections From Our Pastoral Associate

"Mary kept all these things, reflecting on them in her heart." (Luke 2:19)

What does this very simple, yet inexplicably powerful verse mean? Why does it resonate so deeply with so many of us? It is a revelation in Mary's role in our prayer life. Mary's approach to prayer demonstrates a freshness of spirit and a desire for prayer as a definitive aspect of the Christian life. She ponders, not with worry, not in consideration of how to punish Jesus for his disappearance or in anxiety at the crowd of strangers invading the makeshift nursery of her precious son, but with wonder. She ponders trustingly and allows the experiences to draw her into deeper communion with God within her.

After amazing everyone around them with the story of the child just born in a manger, the shepherds return and proceed to make a big deal of Mary's son. One can safely assume that the new mother graciously participates in all that goes on (what mother doesn't enjoy seeing her perfect baby awed over), but then her response is to take it all in, to hold onto it and to ponder it completely. Knowing, as she does, the true identity of her child, Mary possesses a singular awareness of the immediacy of God, both in her life and in the events leading up to and including this moment. There is a link between love of the Blessed Mother and the growth of Jesus in our hearts. Like the shepherds on that first Christmas, we will always find Jesus with his mother.

Mary models for us what it means to acknowledge and embrace this living God within us. Theoretically, we likely all agree that this presence of God in us is the very center of our being. It's just as likely that some, or even most of the time, we don't act as though we do. Our actions follow our thoughts. When our thoughts are turned to God, our actions inevitably follow that course.

Are we allowing Mary into our lives as a model for an attitude of openness? As these events unfold again for us in the Scriptures proclaimed during this season, they reawaken in us an interest in prayer. Are you, like so many people today, hungering for a richer, deeper, more authentic prayer life? Mary has much to teach us in these times. The part she can play in the movement of our awareness of the indwelling presence within us is determined by our own openness and our own willingness to become vulnerable in the world in order to become more secure in our relationship to God, through his Son, Jesus. Mary is uniquely situated to lead us there. The Fathers of the Second Vatican Council described her life as a pilgrimage of faith.

So, then, how can we begin to imitate Mary's example? It could very well begin with the acknowledgement that the tiny, daily moments of our lives contain lessons from God. We can observe the moments, tuck them away in our hearts and then take time later to pull them out to ponder. We can contemplate what God is saying to us through those moments.

We can pay closer attention to our thoughts. Mary is like all of our Saints throughout history, in that she spent her life contemplating the life and teachings of Christ. At any given time, it's likely her last, most dominate thought was of Jesus. Mary's thoughts, and therefore her actions, were consistently oriented toward God. So, the question for us is, "What are we thinking?" What are we thinking on our way to work, in line at the store or while waiting for our kids to get on the two tons of winter gear that seem to slow everything down?

Unsure of what we might meditate upon? The rosary is a beautiful place to start. Now, I don't mean to say that simply sitting down and pounding out a cluster of Our Fathers and Hail Marys in routine patterns is going to get us anywhere in contemplating the mystery of Jesus and God at the center of our soul. I do, however, mean that the rosary, as the story of the Good News through the eyes of Christ's mother, is a great way to begin to ponder the life and teachings of Jesus. The rosary helps us to see with the eyes of faith, with our hearts open to the growing presence of Jesus in our hearts and offers us a way to greater clarity and understanding of Christ.

Beginning on this special feast day and throughout the new year, we can invite more silence into our inner chamber and, with Mary's help, allow Jesus to more fully enter in. In reflecting on our daily lives and more carefully shaping our thoughts, we can begin to contemplate Christ and so begin to emulate him in our everyday lives. We can see him through the eyes of her who knew him best, his mother, and therefore become more fully alive in Him and finally become the women and men God created us to be -- saints.



Lisa Amos
Pastoral Associate

Wedding Banns

First & Second Proclamation
Shehan Perera and Rose Cronin

Religious Education News

Elementary and Middle School Religious Education

Grade 1 – 8 will resume classes on Wednesday, January 4. Grade 2 will resume classes on January 18.

Sunday School and Liturgy of the Word for Children

There is no Sunday School or Liturgy of the Word for Children today, Sunday, January 1. We will resume both of these programs on Sunday, January 8.

First Eucharist Program – Grade 2

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 Heritage Center, from 6:30-8 p.m., as we all grow in our love of Christ and His Church. Our next meeting is January 4. For more information contact Elizabeth McCanna at 651-905-4312 or emccanna@stpetersmendota.org.

Workcamp News

Join us this summer for Workcamp!

All high school youth are invited to join Elizabeth 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.



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Visitation School Open House

Visitation School, located at 2455 Visitation Drive in Mendota Heights, will host an Open House for prospective Upper School (grades 9–12) families on **Tuesday, January 3, at 7 p.m.**

For more information, visit our website at www.visitation.net or call 651-683-1700.

Middle School Fun Day

Calling all youth in grades 6 through 8. Join us on Sunday, January 8, for an afternoon of fun just for you! We will meet after the 11 a.m. Mass in the Youth Room. We'll enjoy some pizza and games before we head to Buck Hill to go tubing. All are welcome - invite your friends! For more information, and for a permission slip, contact Elizabeth McCanna at 651-905-4312, or email her at emccanna@stpetersmendota.org.



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.

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.

ACCW Leadership Day

The Archdiocesan Council of Catholic Women will host a Leadership Day on Saturday, February 4, at 8 a.m., at Sacred Heart Church, 4087 West Broadway Avenue, in Robbinsdale.

Join us for "Martha and Mary Revisited."

More information to come.

St. Peter's Ministry Fair

Everyone is invited to join us for our Ministry Fair on January 7 and 8, after all Masses. Learn more about the many exciting ministries with which our volunteers are involved, and find out how you can be a part of the work of Christ being done here at St. Peter's. There is something for everyone and opportunities that will suit any schedule. We will have donuts and coffee following the Sunday Masses as well.

Our ministry leaders and members are looking forward to sharing their stories with you and answering your questions. We also love to hear from you. This is a chance to consider more fully where God is leading you to serve as His disciple. We can help you match the gifts He has given to you with the many ways they can help other beloved children of God.

Feed My Starving Children

"Lord, when did we see You hungry, or thirsty, or a stranger, or naked, or ill, or in prison, and not minister to your needs?" Matthew 25:44

Please join us to see how a little time and a whole lot of love can make a huge difference in the life of so many children! St. Peter's will be meeting at the Feed My Starving Children in Eagan, 990 Lone Oak Road (just east of Lexington), Suite 136. We will meet on Tuesday, January 17, from 6 to 7:30 p.m.

In five events during 2016, the St. Peter's community helped pack more than 70,000 meals; feeding 220 kids for a full year!

To sign up or learn more, please contact Paul or Peggy Hirsch at 651-431-1832 or at phirsch651@aol.com.



*St. Peter's wishes you
all a joyous and
blessed new year!*

The Week of January 2

Monday, January 2

Parish Office Closed

9 am Mass, Historic Church (8:30 rosary)

6 pm Cut Scout Den Meeting, Classroom 4

Tuesday, January 3

9 am Mass, Historic Church (8:30 rosary)

9:30 am Adoration Before the Blessed Sacrament until 6 pm, Historic Church

9:30 am Women's Bible Study, Ravoux Room

Wednesday, January 4

9 am Mass, Historic Church (8:30 rosary)

9:30 am CCW Board Meeting, Conference Room 1

9:45 am Divine Mercy Cenacle, Ravoux Room

4:30 pm RE Grades 1, 3-4, Classrooms

6:30 pm RE Grades 1, 3-8, Classrooms

6:30 pm Perissos, Youth Room

6:30 pm Cana Dinner Meeting, Conference Room 1

Thursday, January 5

9 am Mass, Historic Church (8:30 rosary)

6:30 pm Liturgy Committee Meeting, Conference Room 1

7 pm AA Meeting, Classroom 5

Friday, January 6

8 am Confessions, Main Church

9 am Mass, Historic Church (8:30 rosary)

9:30 am Anointings, Historic Church

5 pm Eagle Scout Ceremony, Heritage Center

Saturday, January 7

Ministry Fair Weekend

9 am Parish Pastoral Council Meeting, Conference Room 1

9 and 10:30 am

AA Meeting, Classrooms 2, 4

10 am Saturday Scripture Study, Community Room

3:30 pm Confession, Main Church

4:30 pm Choir Rehearsal, Music Room

5 pm Mass, Main Church

6 pm New Parishioner Registration, Gathering Space

6 pm New Parishioner Dinner, Heritage Center

Sunday, January 8 - Hospitality Sunday

Ministry Fair Weekend

8:30 & 10:30 am

Choir Rehearsal, Music Room

9 am Sunday School, Classrooms

9 & 11 am

Mass, Main Church

Liturgy of the Word for Children, Ravoux Room

12:30 pm Middle School Fun Day, Youth Room

12:30 pm Baptism Class, REFF Office

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 January 1

Sunday: Nm 6:22-27/Ps 67/Gal 4:4-7/Lk 2:16-21

Monday: 1 Jn 2:22-28/Ps 98/Jn 1:19-28

Tuesday: 1 Jn 2:29--3:6/Ps 98/Jn 1:29-34

Wednesday: 1 Jn 3:7-10/Ps 98/Jn 1:35-42

Thursday: 1 Jn 3:11-21/Ps 100/Jn 1:43-51

Friday: 1 Jn 5:5-13/Ps 147/Mk 1:7-11 or Lk 3:23-28 or 3:23, 31-34, 36, 38

Saturday: 1 Jn 5:14-21/Ps 149/Jn 2:1-11

Next Sunday: Is 60:1-6/Ps 72/Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6/Mt 2:1-12

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Mass Intentions

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

Monday, January 2 - †Bob LeMay

Tuesday, January 3 - †Frank Indihar

Wednesday, January 4 - †LaVonne Perron

Thursday, January 5 - †Elsie Formanek

Friday, January 6 - †Debra Wilkowski

Saturday, January 7 - Mass For The People

Sunday, January 8 - 9 a.m. - †Ann Connelly

11 a.m. - †Carol Haskell

PASTORAL MINISTRY

St. Peter's Group Trip

Join Fr. Steven and Lisa Amos for our trip to the Weisman Art Museum (WAM) in Minneapolis. WAM creates art experiences that spark discovery, critical thinking and transformation, linking the University and the community. Our tour will highlight innovative design and surprising artworks together by exploring the WAM building – designed by Frank Gehry – and various selections from the permanent collection of twentieth-century American art. Enjoy free time to explore on your own the works from current exhibitions, including American Modernism, Ceramics, Mimbres Pottery or Drawing and Prints.

On Wednesday, February 1, we will depart in our coach bus from St. Peter's, following the 9 a.m. Mass, for a guided tour of the museum, time to explore the exhibits and shop in their gift shop and have lunch in historic Dinkeytown. We will return to St. Peter's at approximately 2:30 p.m. Reservations are limited; reserve your spot now by contacting Lisa Amos at 651-905-4304 or lamos@stpetersmendota.org. Cost is \$40/person, which includes tours, lunch and bus. We look forward to seeing you then!

Worldwide Marriage Encounter

What am I most thankful for in my marriage in this past year?

Enjoy the blessings of your spouse by enriching your marriage. The next **Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekends** are February 10-12, and May 5-7, in Buffalo. Early registration is highly recommended. For more information, visit our website at: www.twincitieswwme.org or contact Brent & Tracy at applications@twincitieswwme.org or 612-756-8720.

Parish Records

We need your help in keeping our parish records current.

If you have moved out of the area and are no longer a member of St. Peter's, if your children are on their own, or if there is any other information you would like to update, please email Rita at rho lien@stpetersmendota.org. Thank you for your cooperation!

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 The Giving Tree!



Through your efforts, our Giving Tree was able to help many families for Christmas. We sincerely thank all those who participated this year. It wouldn't be possible without your generosity in purchasing gifts, and the dedication of time by countless volunteers, including our Confirmation candidates. You have brought hope to those who are hurting. May you and your families have a Blessed Christmas Season and a joyous New Year.

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

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.

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.

Prayer Vigil for Hope, Healing and Mercy

St. Mary's Chapel at The Saint Paul Seminary

For over forty years, legalized abortion has left many men and women empty, confused and longing to be whole again. This vigil is open to all and is a special invitation to those who have been hurt by abortion to pray for hope and healing. Archbishop Hebda will celebrate Mass on Saturday, January 21, at 7 p.m. Find more details, including the full evening schedule, at www.archspm.org/archspm_events/.



Rachel's Vineyard Retreat

It's time to forgive yourself.

Pope Francis said, "God forgives always." If you or someone you love is grieving the loss of a child or children to abortion, come and experience the compassionate mercy of Jesus Christ on our weekend retreat. Rachel's Vineyard Twin Cities' retreats are open to anyone impacted by abortion - women, men, grandparents, siblings and health care professionals.

The next retreat takes place on February 24 - 26, in Buffalo. For more information contact Nancy at rachels@rvinyardmn.org, call 763-250-9313 or see www.rvinyardmn.org.

Neighbors, Inc. Food Shelf

Those who come to the Neighbors, Inc. Food Shelf are grateful for anything they are given. It is often the last chance to get food after other sources have run out. If you'd like to contribute to our local food shelf, please consider bringing any non perishable food in to our donation bins, which can be found in the Gathering Space and up by the parish offices. Some items that are most appreciated by those who rarely get "comfort food" are peanut butter, pancake mix and syrup.



Thank you for any way you can help.

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.

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