

**SUNDAY MASSES**
(All in Main Church)Saturday at 5 p.m.
Sunday at 9 & 11 a.m.**WEEKDAY MASSES**
(All in Historic Church)Monday-Friday at 9 a.m.
Holy Days as announced.**RECONCILIATION**
(In Main Church)Friday 8-8:45 a.m.
Saturday 3:30-4:45 p.m.
Any time by appointment.***The Epiphany of the Lord*****REFLECTIONS FROM OUR PASTOR**

My dear friends,

This weekend we celebrate the Feast of Epiphany, a Greek word that means “manifestation.” In and through the whole mystery of the Incarnation, by taking on our humanity, God is “manifesting” Himself to the world, making Himself visible in Jesus Christ, and thereby revealing His will. All the events and teaching we find recorded in the four Gospels show us how this divine “manifestation” evolves in the life of Jesus. Of special note and highlighted throughout the four Gospels are several “key moments,” when certain individuals or groups understand the meaning of this divine “manifestation,” and by faith, recognize Jesus as Messiah and Lord, as the Son of the living God and Savior of the World. Many people heard Jesus speak and witnessed His actions, but only a few came to believe in His divinity and opened their hearts to the presence and power of God within Him.

To better understand the feast of Epiphany we have only to look closely at our own experience. Each of us has an “inner life,” a secret world hidden within our hearts. It is there that we ponder and think, where we desire and dream, where we feel. Though God’s loving gaze is able to know our deepest thoughts and desires at every moment, the only way other people can know them is if we “manifest” them in some way either by words, by facial expressions, by a gesture or some other action. I can vocalize my inner thoughts and concerns about the economy with a friend over coffee. I can show my love for a stranger with a smile and a kind “hello.” I may manifest my desire to comfort someone with an embrace or a hand on their shoulder. I can share my hopeful dream for the future of our parish by writing about it in the bulletin.

God too has an inner life that would be hidden from us, unless He revealed it. And by the fact that we are created in God’s own image and likeness, it is important that our interior life be shaped and informed by the thoughts and desires of God. What is God’s hope and desire for us and for the world? What does God want us to know about Him and ourselves? Why do I exist? Is there such a thing as “truth” that I can fully trust? What is love, really? What is the meaning of life? Why is there evil, suffering and death? Is there anything after death? The Feast of Epiphany celebrates the “revealing” of God’s own inner life within the Trinity and the “manifestation” of His mind and heart—His wisdom and will regarding ourselves and His plan to save us. What the law and prophets foreshadowed in part is now fully revealed in Christ.

The Magi were among the first to witness this “manifestation” of God in Christ. Though their journey ended when they found the new infant-king, Pope Benedict remarks that at this moment “a new journey began for them which changed their whole lives.” At the very moment when they knelt down before this child and

recognized Him as the promised king, an inner journey began for them. The account ends by saying that “being warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed for their country by another way.” Some of the early Christians interpreted the words “by another way” as also indicating the conversion of heart that took place in the Magi. Having seen the power of God come with such humility, His glory and majesty revealed in the poverty of the manger and littleness of the infant, how could they stay the same? How could they go back to “life as normal?” Benedict rightly says that they had to change their ideas about power, about God and about what it means to be human. In short, they had to change their hearts and their lives.

Though the 33 years of Jesus Christ on earth holds the greatest importance for the faith and life of the Church, God continues to “manifest” Himself to us in many ways. Comforting are the last words of Jesus recorded in Matthew: “I will be with you always, even to the end of time.” Each sacrament is a kind of “epiphany,” a real “manifestation,” a true encounter with God. God is invisible. We cannot see Him, so He makes use of visible things such as bread and wine, oil and flame, word and gesture to manifest His invisible presence and action. We bring to the sacraments the gift of faith, so that we can receive the invisible grace that God communicates through visible signs. The important thing is that, like the Magi, we allow these personal encounters with the Lord to change us. When I encounter the gentle, tender mercy of Jesus in Reconciliation, do I allow my own hard, critical heart to melt and become more patient and merciful toward others? When I am privileged to encounter Jesus in Holy Communion and His overwhelming love for me, do I turn around and love as He loves, trying to give and lay down my life for others? When I encounter Jesus each day in prayer, will I let Him gently correct the dishonesty toward myself and others, my rationalizations and excuses for putting off certain changes I need to make? When Jesus manifests His will through the teaching of the Church, will I acquiesce and follow it, or will I cling to my own opinions and try to plow my own path? When Jesus manifests His thirst for love in the poor and needy in my life, will I hear His voice and recognize His presence, or will I ignore Him or throw Him only ‘a crumb’ of what I am capable of?

Draw us ever closer to you O Lord, and help us to live a deeply personal relationship with you. May all the ways You so generously manifest Yourself to us heal and change us, so that we may become “manifestations” of Your Kingdom in the world.

God love you,

Fr. Steven

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RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Elementary Religious Education

Grade 2 will resume classes on January 18.

Sunday School & Liturgy of the Word for Children

We will resume Sunday School and Liturgy of the Word for Children today, Sunday, January 8. There will be no Liturgy of the Word for Children on Sunday, January 15.

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 email Kathy Raible at kraible@stpetersmendota.org, or call her at 651-905-4311, if you have any questions or concerns.



WORKCAMP

Join Us 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 at 651-905-4312.



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YOU ARE INVITED TO A MAGIC SHOW

Your family is invited to a magic show with Eric the Juggling Magician on Saturday, January 14, from 10:30 a.m. until 12 noon at Faithful Shepherd Catholic School. This event features a 35 minute magic show, followed by a variety of craft stations and a treat. This event is free and open to the public. Please call 651-406-4747 if you have questions. Faithful Shepherd is located at 3355 Columbia Drive in Eagan.

OFFICE INFORMATION

- ♦ Father Steven Hoffman: 651-452-4550
- ♦ Deacon Tim Hennessey: 651-905-4301

Parish Office Hours: Monday - Friday, 8 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Phone: 651-452-4550

Email: church@stpetersmendota.org

BAPTISMS, NEW PARISHIONERS, WEDDINGS

Call the parish office for more information.

PRAYER CHAIN REQUESTS

Submit via website, Mary LeClair

(maryleclair62@gmail.com) or call the parish office

WEDDING BANNS

Third Proclamation

Shehan Perera and Rose Cronin



CATHOLIC SERVICES APPEAL FOUNDATION

The 2017 Catholic Services Appeal is about to kick-off! Through the recent example of St. Theresa of Calcutta, better known as Mother Theresa, we have seen how captivating heroic charity is. The 17 Collective Ministries of the Archdiocese, serving the poor, the marginalized and the needy participate in and are supported by this same heroic charity, lived out in the individual vocations of all the members of this Archdiocese.



Please begin to prayerfully consider your upcoming gift to the Catholic Services Appeal. Visit the CSAF's website at www.csafspm.org to learn more.

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. On Saturday, January 21, at 7 p.m., Archbishop Hebda will celebrate Mass. Find more details, including the full evening schedule, at www.archspm.org/archspm_events/.

If you have questions or for more information, contact Sonya Flomo at 651-291-4515.

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.

MINISTRY FAIR TODAY

Everyone is invited to join us today for our Ministry Fair 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 Feed My Starving Children in Eagan, 990 Lone Oak Road (just east of Lexington), in Suite 136. This event will take place 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.

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 Knight's website, www.eaganknights.com, and come in to Solos on Wednesday, January 11, between 4 and 9 p.m. Thirty percent (30%) of your purchase will be donated to the Knights of Columbus to benefit the good work being done in our community. Thank you for your support!



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!



Matthew 2:10-11 They were overjoyed at seeing the star, and on entering the house they saw the child with

Mary his mother. They prostrated themselves and did him homage. Then they opened their treasures and offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.



PARISH VISIONING COMMITTEE

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 8

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

Monday: Is 42:1-4, 6-7 or Acts 10:34-38/Ps 29/Mt 3:13-17

Tuesday: Heb 2:5-12/Ps 8/Mk 1:21-28 or Heb 1:1-6 and 2:5-12/Ps 8/Mk 1:14-20 and 1:21-28

Wednesday: Heb 2:14-18/Ps 105/Mk 1:29-39

Thursday: Heb 3:7-14/Ps 95/Mk 1:40-45

Friday: Heb 4:1-5, 11/Ps 78/Mk 2:1-12

Saturday: Heb 4:12-16/Ps 19/Mk 2:13-17

Next Sunday: Is 49:3, 5-6/Ps 40/1 Cor 1:1-3/Jn 1:29-34

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MASS INTENTIONS

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

Monday, January 9	† Eileen Thalhuber
Tuesday, January 10	† Joseph Guild
Wednesday, January 11	† Kelly Humpal
Thursday, January 12	† Bill Olson
Friday, January 13	† James Hauer
Saturday, January 14	† Marlene Ferguson
Sunday, January 15 - 9 a.m.	† Mary Chapdelaine
11 a.m.	Mass For The People

THIS WEEK'S CALENDAR: AUGUST 15

Monday, January 9

9 am Mass, Historic Church (8:30 rosary)
6 pm St. Paul Civic Symphony, Heritage Center
6:30 pm Boy Scout Committee Meeting, Conference Room 1
7 pm Boy Scout Meeting, Ravoux Room

Tuesday, January 10

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 11

9 am Mass, Historic Church (8:30 rosary)
9:45 am Divine Mercy Cenacle, Ravoux Room
1 pm Communications Meeting, Conference Room 1
4:30 pm RE Grades 1, 3-4, Classrooms
6:30 pm RE Grades 1, 3-8, Classrooms
6:30 pm Perissos, Youth Room
7 pm Choir Rehearsal, Music Room

Thursday, January 12

9 am Mass, Historic Church (8:30 rosary)
9:45 am Small Faith Group, Ravoux Room
6:30 pm RCIA, Conference Room 1
7 pm AA Meeting, Classroom 5

Friday, January 13

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

Saturday, January 14

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

Sunday, January 15 - *Men's Club Hospitality*

8:30 & 10:30 am Choir Rehearsal, Music Room
9 am Mass with Rite of Welcome, Main Church
11 am Mass, Main Church
12 pm Baptism, Main Church

PASTORAL MINISTRY

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. You may also contact Brent and Tracy by email at applications@twincitieswwme.org or 612-756-8720.



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 TO ST. PETER'S PARISH FOR "WORLD MISSION SUNDAY" GIFT

Thank you for your gift of \$1,024 for *The Society for the Propagation of the Faith* for World Mission Sunday. Thank you, and may God bless you for your participation in World Mission Sunday.

RACHAEL'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, Rachel's Vineyard Retreat in Buffalo. For more information contact Nancy at rachels@rvineyardmn.org, call 763-250-9313 or see www.rvineyardmn.org.

GRIEF COALITION

St. Peter's is searching for a compassionate person to serve as one of our grief coalition representatives. If you feel a call to help others through the difficult experience of loss, this could be your ministry. You will have an opportunity to meet and work with wonderful, Christ-loving people from many area churches, as well as make a lasting difference in both the lives of the grieving among us and in the continuing development of this exciting coalition.

Currently, St. Peter's has one wonderful representative. You would join her in representing St. Peter's on the board. All meetings and support sessions are in the evening, so there are no weekday commitments.

To express interest or for further information, please contact Lisa Amos, Pastoral Associate, at 651-905-4304 or at lamos@stpetersmendota.org.

Growing Through Loss and St. Peter's are always in need of small group facilitators, as well. Training is provided. Please contact Lisa Amos for either one of these ministries.

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.

CURSILLO CORNER

The next Cursillo event is 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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