

**SUNDAY MASSES**

(All in Main Church)

Saturday at 5 p.m.

Sunday at 9 & 11 a.m.

Holy Days as announced.

WEEKDAY MASSES

(All in Historic Church)

Monday-Friday at 9 a.m.

ADORATION

(In Historic Church)

Tuesday 9:30-6 p.m.

RECONCILIATION

(In Main Church)

Friday 8-8:45 a.m.

Saturday 3:30-4:45 p.m.

Any time by appointment.

Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time**AUGUST 20, 2017**

It's often true that the most difficult readings from Scripture have the most valuable lessons. Sometimes this is because of their subtlety; other times, it is because of the cultural nuances with which we no longer have experience. There are times, too, when the readings are difficult, because they challenge our own, very deeply held biases. Our Gospel reading this weekend is one of the latter.

First, I think it's important to read Matthew's account of Jesus and the Canaanite woman with Mark's account also in mind. While Matthew focuses on the woman's race, Mark focuses on her social status. In fact, he never refers to her as a Canaanite at all but as a Syrophenician (Mk 7:24-30). This is important, because together we are given a much better picture of what is really taking place.

First, when Matthew chooses to refer to her as a Canaanite, it can only be perceived as an intentional referral to her as not only an "other" to Jesus and the disciples as Jews, but specifically as one from an enemy people. The terms Canaanite and Canaan, in the Old Testament, referred to all inhabitants of what was afterwards the land of Israel. In Jesus's time, these would no longer have been used. In contrast, by referring to the woman as a Greek, Mark alludes to her as a religious outsider. Additionally, as a Syrophenician, she was of a high social rank, likely wealthy and certainly not used to begging to a Jew for help.

You will find many discussions of these readings that point to the woman's persistence as a sign of her faith. She wouldn't take no for an answer. She was steadfast in her faith in Jesus' power to heal her daughter. Despite Jesus' initial unresponsiveness to her request, she holds firm. Is this a story of tested faith? Is Jesus trying her in some way? Jesus may even be attempting to teach the disciples yet another lesson. These understandings may not be wrong. I, like many, might be made a lot more comfortable with the story, especially Matthew's account, if this were true. I'll be honest, when I first read through this Gospel, I was shocked that Jesus - loving, merciful Jesus - would react to a woman in need in this way. If it's all just a test of faith, then I can accept it much more easily.

While I don't disagree with this point, I do see that there is something more when Mark's version is also considered. The something more is that Jesus is pointing here to the importance of humility. A call to humility makes me feel challenged and a little unsettled. It makes us feel good to think only about how special we are to be followers of Jesus, most particularly when we pay attention only to the softer parts of his ministry: love,

mercy, shared intimacy. These parts all make us feel good. And they should. But Jesus reminds us here that that is not the only story. He is as divine as he is human. There's more to him than we realize, and, just as the disciples often failed to see it, so do we. The Canaanite (Syrophenician) woman needed to acknowledge her *nothingness*. When Jesus clearly confirms the elevated status of the Jews (Mt 15:24), and then again when he compares her to the dogs who seek bread from the children's table (Mt 15:26), her response is one of total and abject humility. Having already ceded his identity as "Lord, Son of David" (Mt 15:22), she accepts his words and continues to believe that he will help her. More importantly, she accepts her *need* for his help.

The question we must begin to ask ourselves is whether we are willing to accept Jesus' challenge to let go of what we believe ourselves to be, and allow him to show us who we really are. We are obviously being given the Canaanite woman as an example. I would say that for many of us, it is even more difficult for us to do today, than it was for her in Jesus' time. We are constantly bombarded by messages of our own specialness. We are increasingly polarized. We surround ourselves, whether intentionally or otherwise, with assurances that the biases and beliefs we hold are absolutely true and correct. We isolate ourselves more and more from the "other," because it is hard to have to face that we may be wrong.

No one likes to be wrong. But when we lose our humility and forget that we are all *nothing* without God, it becomes easier to elevate our own lives - our religion, our race, our nationality, our financial well-being - above other lives. Jesus reminds us that no one is anything more than our identity as God's beloved children; not *them* and, certainly, not *us*. When such great violence against "the other," as we are currently seeing, increases, it becomes more crucial that we approach it from a place of humility. We must speak out against such violations of humanity, but we must do so after first emptying ourselves of pride and self-reliance.

Like the Syrophenician (Canaanite) woman, we must first accept our own *nothingness*, especially when reaching out to "the other." This is a hard message, but Jesus never promised easy.

Lisa Amos
Pastoral Associate

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YOUTH NEWS

BACK TO SCHOOL 2017-2018

Sunday School and Grades 1-8

As your child(ren) get ready to head back to school, please remember to register for Religious Education! Sunday School and Religious Education for Grades 1-8 registration is available online by going to St. Peter's website and clicking on the Faith Formation tab. In the drop down box, click on RE/FF Registration for 2017 - 2018 and follow the directions located there. **The registration deadline was May 15. Registrations will now be charged a late fee.**



Perissos/Confirmation

Do you have a high school teen looking to be involved in our high school youth group called Perissos? Paper registration forms are available on the info table or can be downloaded from our website. All high school youth are welcome to participate and **active participation is required for those preparing for Confirmation in June of 2018.**

Have questions on registration? Call the religious education office today at 651-905-4312.

ST. PETER'S NEW OUTDOOR CHAPEL



For his Eagle Scout project, parishioner Alex Gillard designed and built a new outdoor chapel space near our bonfire pit!

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OFFICE INFORMATION

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

Parish Office Hours: Mon - Thurs, 8 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Fri, 8 a.m. - 12 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, to Mary LeClair
(maryleclair62@gmail.com) or call the parish office.

"THANK YOU" FROM THE CENTER FOR MISSION

I am writing to thank the people of St. Peter's Parish for welcoming and supporting The Center for Mission with your gift of \$5,071.03. Each year, we participate in this face-to-face encounter with the efforts of one mission organization, so that we might personally share in the story of the Good News of Christ being proclaimed in one part of the world. Your effort continues the tradition going back to St. Paul, who gathered assistance for the Church in Jerusalem, as an act of communion and encouragement within the Body of Christ.

May our Missionary God continue to strengthen you in living out your own call to proclaim the Good News of Jesus Christ.

Peace,

Deacon Micky Friesen, D. Min.

HISTORIC CHURCH TOURS



Have you ever wanted to learn more about the history of our parish? Our Historic Church will be open for FREE tours every Sunday through Labor Day, from 12 noon to 2 p.m. Feel free to stop in and learn about your community's very own historic site!

FIND US ON SOCIAL MEDIA

Check out St. Peter's website at www.stpetersmendota.org, our Facebook page at facebook.com/stpetersmendota and Twitter @StPetersMendota.



ALPHA SIGN UPS BEGIN AUGUST 19



Alpha is coming to St. Peter's in September. Alpha is a series of sessions exploring the basics of the Christian faith. It will run from September 18 through December 11, from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m., in Heritage Center.

Alpha consists of a meal, a talk and small group discussion. It is an open, informal and honest space to explore and discuss life's big questions together. It is designed to create and/or deepen a personal relationship with Jesus.

Sign ups will begin August 19, on St. Peter's website. You may also sign up after all Masses on August 19 and 20, and on August 26 and 27.

Mark your calendars and join us! Space is limited to 50 participants. If you have any questions, please contact Laurie Reding at 612-419-1709 or at lreding1@aol.com.

ST. PAUL DEANERY COUNCIL OF CATHOLIC WOMEN

The first quarterly meeting of the St. Paul Deanery will be held on Thursday, September 21, at St. John the Baptist Church, 835 - 2nd Avenue Northeast, in New Brighton. The cost is \$13. Registration begins at 8:15, with coffee and refreshments. The meeting begins at 9 a.m.

The program is entitled A Morning of "I didn't know that." Those who attended our National Convention in Dallas will give us inside information. Our commission chairs will share their "Hopes." Debbie Keller, President of our ACCW, will share what it means to her to serve as president. Lucy Johnson will explore with us, "Critical Conversations."

We will hold a "white elephant" sale to benefit the Kitui Dormitory Project. Bring what you would like to sell and come to buy that "one of a kind" treasure.

Reservations must be received no later than Monday, September 18. Please call Cathy Evans at 651-481-1012 or Jane Rosner at 651-261-2534 to register.

ST. PETER'S BLOOD DRIVE

St. Peter's is sponsoring a Red Cross blood drive on Thursday, September 14, from 1 to 6 p.m. The need for blood donations is great! Please sign up early to secure your most convenient time. To register, call Sandy at 651-452-1844. You may also go to www.redcrossblood.org and enter sponsor code: st peters. Thank you.



FALL FESTIVAL

ST. PETER'S FALL FESTIVAL



Sunday, October 1
ONE MASS AT 10 A.M.
Festival—11:15 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Fall Festival

Raffle - The grand prize is \$5,000, 1st place is \$2,000 and 2nd place is \$1,000. We will sell only 1,000 tickets, so act fast! Tickets are \$25 each. They go on sale the weekend of August 26/27.

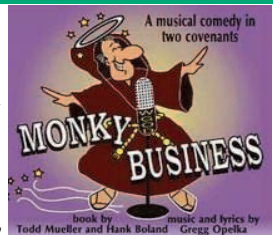
Events - Pork dinner, silent auction, kids' games, concessions, Country Store, inflatable obstacle course, bingo, wine raffle, face painting, four square tug-o-war, Duggan's Dash and Historic Church tours.

We are now accepting donations for the Country Store and silent auction.

If you are interested in volunteering or in making a donation, please call Gail Barta at 651-454-9552 or email Anne O'Keefe at aokeefe@stpetersmendota.org.

ST. PETER'S GROUP TRIP

Our next group trip is scheduled! Join us on Friday, September 15, from 11:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. We will spend the afternoon at Day Trippers Theater in Bloomington, where we will enjoy a beautiful lunch and take in the matinee showing of "*Monky Business: A Musical Comedy in Two Covenants*."



The fun-loving monks of Saint Bernard's Monastery are in a jam. Abbot Costello and his four beleaguered brethren have just learned that a real-estate developer is about to turn their monastery into a gambling hall called Bernie's Casino Royale. Unless the merry Men in Brown can raise \$250,000 dollars by midnight, they are done for. Luckily, the Brothers have a divine plan. Good and evil race to beat a midnight deadline in this hilarious hit musical.

Cost per person is \$55; space is limited. To register, please stop by the office or contact Lisa Amos, Pastoral Associate, at 651-905-4304 or lamos@stpetersmendota.org.



OUR MISSION STATEMENT

St. Peter's is here to bring the good news of the Gospel to all, so that every person can have a personal, life changing, life giving relationship with Jesus Christ.

Parish Pastoral Council Email:

ParishPastoralCouncil@stpetersmendota.org

Trustees:

Jim Oricchio.....651-452-3587

Helen Wilkie.....651-365-1334

READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF AUGUST 20

Sunday:	Is 56:1, 6-7/Ps 67:2-3, 5-6, 8/Rom 11:13-15, 29-32/Mt 15:21-28
Monday:	Jgs 2:11-19/Ps 106:34-37, 39-40, 43ab, 44/Mt 19:16-22
Tuesday:	Jgs 6:11-24a/Ps 85:9, 11-14/Mt 19:23-30
Wednesday:	Jgs 9:6-15/Ps 21:2-7/Mt 20:1-16
Thursday:	Rv 21:9b-14/Ps 145:10-13, 17-18/Jn 1:45-51
Friday:	Ru 1:1, 3-6, 14b-16, 22/Ps 146:5-10/Mt 22:34-40
Saturday:	Ru 2:1-3, 8-11; 4:13-17/Ps 128:1b-5/Mt 23:1-12
Next Sunday:	Is 22:19-23/Ps 138:1-3, 6, 8/Rom 11:33-36/Mt 16:13-20

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MASS INTENTIONS

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

Monday, August 21	Mark Mischke Family
Tuesday, August 22	† William Bordenave
Wednesday, August 23	† Marian & Leo Reding
Thursday, August 24	† Robert Thorenson
Friday, August 25	† William Hermes
Saturday, August 26	† Jeffrey Weiss
Sunday, August 27, 9 a.m.	† Tom Mulvihill
11 a.m.	Mass For The People

THIS WEEK'S CALENDAR: AUGUST 21

Monday, August 21

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

Tuesday, August 22

8:30 am Rosary, Historic Church

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

Wednesday, August 23

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

1:30 pm Cemetery Committee Meeting, Conference Room 1

Thursday, August 24

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

7 pm AA Meeting, Classroom 5

7 pm Prayer Shawl Ministry Meeting, Family Room

Friday, August 25

8 am Confession, Main Church

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

Saturday, August 26

9 am & 10:30 am

AA Meeting, Classrooms

10 am Saturday Scripture Study, Conference Room 1

3:30 pm Confession, Main Church

4:30 pm Choir Rehearsal, Music Room

5 pm Mass, Main Church

6 pm ALPHA Sign-Ups, Gathering Space

Sunday, August 27

8:30 am Choir Rehearsal, Music Room

9 am Mass, Main Church

10 am ALPHA Sign-Ups, Gathering Space

10 am New Parishioner Meet and Greet, Conference Room 1

10:30 am Rosary for St. Peter's Parish, Historic Church

10:30 am Choir Rehearsal, Music Room

11 am Mass, Main Church

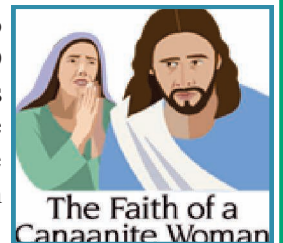
12 pm ALPHA Sign-Ups, Gathering Space

12 pm New Parishioner Meet and Greet, Conference Room 1

12 pm Historic Church Tours, Historic Church



Then Jesus said to her in reply, "O woman, great is your faith! Let it be done for you as you wish." And the woman's daughter was healed from that hour.



The Faith of a Canaanite Woman



PASTORAL MINISTRY

FOLLOWING JESUS



We learn the virtue of humility when we recognize that God is the source of everything in our lives. From that place of deep humility, we, like the Canaanite woman in our gospel, can boldly approach the Lord with our needs, knowing that our loving God will hear and answer us according to His holy will.

WOMEN'S SCRIPTURE STUDY: JESUS APPROACHES

Join local author and speaker, Elizabeth M. Kelly, in an eight-week women's Bible study based on her new book, *Jesus Approaches: What Contemporary Women Can Learn About Healing, Freedom and Joy From the Women of the New Testament*.

The sessions are on Tuesdays, from September 19 through November 14, and include a lecture and small group discussion. This study is offered at two locations: a morning study with limited childcare available at St. Bartholomew's in Wayzata, from 10:30 a.m. to 12 p.m., and an evening Bible study at St. Peter's in Mendota, from 6:30 to 8 p.m. There is no session at either location on October 31. The cost is \$60 per person. Visit www.rediscover-faith.org for more information. Register soon, as space is limited.

HELP NEEDED WITH LOAVES AND FISHES: FEEDING THE HOMELESS

Every other month, parishioners prepare and serve a hot meal to those who most need it.



We are looking for at least three new cooking team members. Please consider becoming part of our ministry team!

If you are looking for new ways to be involved in caring for God's beloved poor, contact Lisa Amos at 651-905-4304. You will have plenty of training and guidance!

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY



St. Peter's Prayer Shawl Ministry meets the fourth Thursday of each month, from 7 to 8:30 p.m., in the Family Room. Our next meeting is August 24. Those who knit or crochet are always welcome to join us for fellowship, prayer and shared work. For more information about this meeting, please contact Laura Elm at lblynam@yahoo.com or 612-578-0377.

ST. PETER'S PERPETUAL ADORATION CHAPEL

"One thing have I asked of the Lord, this I seek: To dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, That I may gaze on the loveliness of the Lord and contemplate His temple." Psalm 27:4



Prayer before the Blessed Sacrament is nothing less than a close, private conversation with a living person who is the risen Jesus Christ in the Eucharist. It is about as close as we can come in this life to talking with God face to face. You are very important to the Lord.

Are you looking for new ways to draw closer to someone in your life? Married couples who commit to prayer together often report feeling closer to one another, more patient with each other and having an increased overall sense of intimacy and friendship. If you are unsure about committing to a weekly hour with your spouse, or you have young children, consider pairing up with another couple to alternate weeks and take turns caring for each other's children.

To spend your special hour with Him here at St. Peter's, please contact Lisa Amos at 651-905-4304 or Mark Mischke at 651-481-6900 or you may complete the registration card found in the Gathering Space. All are welcome and encouraged to participate.

RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION FOR ADULTS (RCIA)

If you, or someone you know, has been thinking about becoming Catholic, we would very much like to hear from you! To begin, we'd like to get to know you and help you to learn more about the process. We will answer any questions you may have. We look forward to helping those baptized in other Christian traditions, the unbaptized and anyone who may already have made their First Communion as a child, but has not received the sacrament of Confirmation. For more information or to schedule a private inquiry meeting to discuss your own faith journey, please contact Lisa Amos at 651-905-4304 or email her at lamos@stpetersmendota.org.



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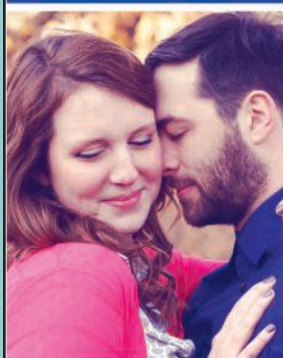
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