

**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.

Twenty Third Sunday in Ordinary Time***SEPTEMBER 10, 2017***

One part of discipleship, that is neither pleasant nor enviable, is the task of correcting another Christian brother or sister. Confrontation is always uncomfortable, and we typically choose to avoid it, especially when it comes to those for whom we care.

Even less comfortable is being the one so corrected. When a behavior, pattern, sin or attitude is serious enough to draw even the most loving of rebukes, it can be mortifying and embarrassing, putting strain on a valued relationship or causing hurt where none was intended.

Fr. Steven would probably be quick to remind us that our pride often intercepts messages delivered with the very best of intents, twisting our reception of what may well be the voice of God through a family member, friend, song on the radio, billboard slogan, bumper sticker or even (gasp!) church message marquis.

It is so disappointing to think of how many times I have either missed, ignored or rejected some wisdom from God on the basis of the medium through which it came. As embarrassed as I have been at having had to hear, especially from a friend, that some aspect of my behavior was out of alignment with the will of God - out of character with the person God is/was calling me to be - in looking back, I am dramatically more embarrassed, and even ashamed, at having failed to repent.

The moment we are approached personally and told the bad news that something must change -- and generally we're aware of the problem the moment it's brought to our attention -- we instantly turn to excuses, defensiveness or we dispute the claim. I might suggest that when the message comes from another avenue, we miss it altogether because we do not think of such avenues as having anything to do with God: what does blind coincidence have to do with my gambling, drinking, lying, violent tendencies or internet-browsing habits?

At our worst, we lash out in defiance, knowing with veracity in our hearts that the truth has come out, and, one way or another, our worst choices are laid bare, as if we were hiding them from God at any point anyhow. In our foolishness and, yes pride, we discount the message because of the source. Rather than accepting correction as from one who loves us, we scorn it as if from a detractor, or we

assume it to be spurious or merely judgmental.

I believe the voice of conscience is far stronger than we often wish it were, though perhaps some of us have grown selective in our heeding of its direction or deaf to its dictates. Furthermore, if we allowed it, we would find God's voice to be far more apparent than we thought possible. We should become dot connectors -- taking many of the dumb coincidences we throw away as possibly holding some meaning or value. Of course, not everything is meant to be an oracle direct from the Lord, but sometimes events work out in such a way, or words and phrases strike us as poignant, because there is something we ought to learn or take as instruction from God.

On the other hand, let us not fall into superstition, ascribing to divine authority every little circumstance. By praying first that we trust the Holy Spirit to guide us and then weigh those things that resonate within our hearts, we may see whether there is value or whether it might contain a means by which we can grow in holiness.

As I've mentioned in the past, I once heard it said, "if you want God to take you seriously, you have to start taking him seriously." If we want God to hear our prayers, we have to expect that he may answer us in various ways. Wherever we hear him then, we have a duty to listen, regardless of whether we like the message or the messenger.

God is truly Master of all Creation, so we would do well to be willing to hear him speak through various channels. They may include friends, enemies, authors, philosophers and (heaven, help us) even politicians or celebrities. Sometimes, the right words come from the wrong place, or at least the unexpected place. Don't despise wisdom, no matter where it reveals itself.

David Dunst
Music Director

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YOUTH NEWS

FAITH FORMATION REGISTRATION

First Reconciliation and First Communion

Please be aware that all children in second grade must prepare for their sacraments at their parish. Even if your child is in a Catholic school, he or she must be registered for the Wednesday night program. If your child is in second grade this year and you wish to enroll him or her in the First Reconciliation and First Communion program, please register them into the Grade 2 class. Children must receive the sacrament of Reconciliation prior to First Communion. Go to St. Peter's website, click on the Faith Formation tab and then click on Registration.

We Need Catechists!

Religious Education/Faith Formation classes are starting the week of September 24, and our children need you. Teachers are given training and full support by the RE/FF staff. You may find your own faith life growing and strengthening as you share your faith with others. For more information, please contact any RE/FF staff member. Thank you for sharing your time and talents.

Catechist Training

Grade 2 Teacher Training takes place on Tuesday, September 12, at 6:30 p.m. We will meet in the Religious Education Office.

Grades 1, 3-5 Teacher Training will take place on Wednesday, September 13, at 6:30 p.m. We will meet in the Conference Room.

Teacher Commissioning will take place on Sunday, September 17 at the 9 a.m. Mass.

Liturgy of the Word for Children (LWC)

LWC will resume on September 10, at the 9 and 11 a.m. Masses. You do not need to register your child for this program. All children, ages 6 through 12, are invited to join us to share God's Word in a format designed for children. This is a ministry that requires many adult volunteers. We need more volunteers at both the 9 and 11 a.m. Masses. It is a very enjoyable, rewarding and easy ministry. Please contact Kathy Raible at kraible@stpetersmendota.org or 651-905-4311, for more information or to volunteer your time.

Start/Resume dates for 2017 - 2018

Sunday School (Ages 3½ to 5 yrs.) classes begin on Sunday, September 24, at 9 a.m.

Elementary & Middle School classes begin on Wednesday, September 27, at 4:30 for grades 1-5, and at 6:30 for grades 1-8.

Baptism Preparation Class

Please be aware that our next Baptism Class is scheduled for Sunday, September 17, at 12:30 p.m. in the Conference Room. Parents that are expecting the birth of their child in the next few months are encouraged to attend a class prior to the birth of the baby. Parents must attend a baptism class before their child is baptized. Contact Kathy Raible for more information at 651-905-4311.

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

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.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION FAMILY PACKETS

Beginning this year, we are emailing the "Family Packet" to you. There will be no pick up in the Gathering Space, nor will you receive it in the regular mail. We will email your child's religious education calendar, medical emergency forms, etc. around September 15. Please remember to check your email!

PERISSOS AND CONFIRMATION

Perissos/Confirmation

Do you have a high school teen looking to be involved in our high school youth group, Perissos? Paper registration forms are available on the information counter 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**. More information about preparing for Confirmation will be available at our Confirmation parent-candidate meeting on Wednesday, September 13, at 6:30 p.m. in Heritage Center.

For more information, or if you have questions, please call Elizabeth McCanna at 651-905-4312 or you may email her at emccanna@stpetersmendota.org.

FAITHFUL SHEPHERD SEPTEMBER FEST



Faithful Shepherd Catholic School will hold its 14th Annual SeptemberFest from Friday, September 15 to Sunday, September 17.

There will be a Family Fun Night/Expo and card games on Friday night and a concert on Saturday night. On Sunday, there will be an open-air Mass, under the big top at 11 a.m.

ST. PETER'S MINISTRY FAIR



This year, St. Peter's Ministry Fair will be held after all Masses, on September 16 and 17. The ministry fair kicks off our annual parish stewardship renewal. We will have representatives from several different ministries in Heritage Center showcasing ministries in which they are involved. This is a great time to see what opportunities are available and to ask questions. There will be no sign-ups at the ministry fair, just a chance to browse and talk to different volunteers.

K OF C PIZZA NIGHT AT SOLOS

The Knights of Columbus are hosting a Pizza Night at Solos Pizza, 1270 Promenade Place in Eagan. Simply print the flyer from the website at www.eaganknights.com and bring it to Solos on Wednesday, September 13, between 4 and 9 p.m. Thirty percent of your purchase will be donated to the Knights to benefit the good work being done in our community. Thank you for your support.

FALL FESTIVAL



SUNDAY, OCTOBER 1

One Mass at 10 a.m.

Festival 11:15 a.m.-3:00p.m.

The Marv Nissel Polka Band is booked, the raffle tickets are for sale, the pork is ordered and the Country Store is taking shape. The **Fall Festival** Festival Committee is busy getting ready for this fun-filled event.

We still need help to make this festival a success; there are several ways to participate.

We need the following items for each event:

- Pork Dinner - Homemade or store bought pies.
- Silent Auction - Gift cards, themed baskets or new items.
- Kids Games - Children's Prizes.
- Country Store - Knitted items, crafts, home-made jewelry, cookies, bars, cakes, home-made cards, etc.

Consider volunteering the day of the event, such as:

- Set up tables and tents before the festival starts.
- Volunteer for a one-hour shift during the festival, so everyone gets a chance to enjoy it.
- Help take down the tents and put away the tables and chairs when the festival is over.

Thank you in advance for making this year's Fall Festival a success!

Are you interested in volunteering or donating items?

Please contact Gail Barta at 651-454-9552 or e-mail Anne O'Keefe at aokeefe@stpetersmendota.org.

FALL FESTIVAL HIGHLIGHT

ST. PETER'S FALL FESTIVAL

This Week's Highlight
~Dice Game and Wine Raffle~

Dice Game

The Dice Game was introduced to the festival last year. The concept is simple. Various bottles of wine and other beverages are lined up 6 at a time. You roll the die and then get to keep the bottle of whatever number you land on. It was a huge success last year. We are looking for donations of wine, liquor, beer, etc. for this game. All donations can be dropped off at the parish office.

Wine Raffle

Our wine raffle is always a big hit. We sell 125 tickets only for a chance to win 6, 5 and 4 bottles of wine. Tickets go on sale September 22 and 23 in the Gathering Space and will also be sold during the festival. Tickets are \$20 each.



If you are interested in volunteering at our Fall Festival, you can sign up in the Gathering Space or contact Gail Barta at 651-454-9552 with questions.

VIRTUS TRAINING AT ST. PETER'S

ALL Volunteers, who have either regular or unsupervised interaction with children and youth (catechists, substitutes, hall monitors, Liturgy of the Word volunteers, etc.), are required by the Archdiocesan Safe Environment Policy to attend a VIRTUS training. We are hosting a **VIRTUS: Protecting God's Children for Adults Awareness Session** at St. Peter's, on Thursday, September 14, at 6 p.m., in Heritage Center.

If you have already attended a live training session, you do not need to attend another. If you are not sure if you need to attend, please contact Kathy Raible at kraible@stpetersmendota.org. For those who need to attend a session, please log onto www.virtus.org to register for this session at St. Peter's, or any other of the numerous sessions held throughout the Archdiocese.

MEN'S CLUB

Join us on Thursday, September 21, at 6 p.m., in Heritage Center for a cook-out dinner and our first meeting of the year. We will be planning the year's events, signing up for committees (Social, Hardhat and Spiritual) and seeking volunteers to assist with Hospitality Sunday, the first one this year being Sunday, September 17, after the 9 and 11 a.m. Masses. To plan for enough food, please sign up in the Gathering Space or contact the parish office at 651-452-4550. We hope to see you there for a fun and relaxing evening. Also, watch your mailbox for the upcoming CCW-Men's Club Newsletter!

PASTORAL MINISTRY

FOLLOWING JESUS



In the Gospel today, Jesus talks about helping each other grow, by always seeking reconciliation when we are hurt by another. Jesus encourages us to talk to them. However, given our experience of

how difficult this can be, the first step we may need to take is to pray for them and for ourselves. This prayer can prepare our heart and theirs for the grace of reconciliation that we are seeking.

APPALACHIA CHRISTMAS DRIVE



The generosity of St. Peter's parishioners has brought Christmas joy to many destitute families in Kentucky. Especially welcomed were the shoeboxes that were filled with gifts specifically designed for certain age groups of boys or girls. These children were pleased to have something especially chosen for them.

Now that summer is all but over, it is time to look at the end-of-season sales and back-to-school sales with the Appalachian Christmas Drive in mind. There are many things going on at St. Peter's now, but I hope you, with your extreme generosity, will find time to shop for our brothers and sisters in Appalachia. Again, we will be sending gifts to two parishes, so we would ask that whatever new items you purchase, you will buy two. A notice will be coming in future bulletins that will list gifts for different age groups. Shoebox items will also be listed. God bless you in advance for making Christmas brighter for the poor of Appalachia.

DIVINE MERCY CENACLE

St. Peter's Divine Mercy Cenacle will begin meeting on Wednesday, September 13, at 9:45 a.m. in the Ravoux Room. This first meeting is the kick-off for existing members but also a great time for you to check out our group. We study the writings of St. Faustina, Scripture and the Catechism of the Catholic Church. If you would like further information, please contact Carol Mulvihill at 651-356-2970.

ST. PETER'S BLOOD DRIVE



Every two seconds someone in the U.S. needs blood. Approximately 36,000 units of red blood cells are needed every day in the U.S. You can help! The Red Cross will be

holding a blood drive at St. Peter's on Thursday, September 14, from 1 to 6 p.m., in the Ravoux Room. Please sign up online at www.redcrossblood.org or call Sandra or Lynn at 651-452-1844 for an appointment. Thank you. .

ST. PETER'S PERPETUAL ADORATION CHAPEL



On December 8, 1982, Perpetual Adoration began at the Vatican. During his sermon at its opening, St. John Paul II said, "Your faith will help you realize that it is Jesus Himself Who is present in the Blessed Sacrament, waiting for you and calling you to spend one special specific hour with Him each week."

As staff and volunteers continue to work hard to make ready the chapel. With hopes and prayers, we will open on October 22, which is fittingly, the feast day of St. John Paul II. Please prayerfully consider making this special hour with Jesus a priority. This holy man, who loved Jesus in the Eucharist above all things, wrote on the Feast of Corpus Christi in 1989, "**Closeness to Christ in silence and contemplation does not distance us from our contemporaries but, on the contrary, makes us attentive and open to human joy and distress and broadens our heart on a global scale.**" It unites us with our brothers and sisters in humanity and particularly with children, who are the Lord's dearly beloved."

All are welcome and encouraged to participate. To schedule your hour at adoration, please contact Lisa Amos at 651-905-4304 or Mark Mischke at 651-481-6900, or complete a registration card, which can be found in the Gathering Space.

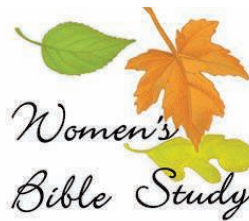
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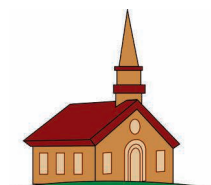
Second Proclamation
Sean Brennan and Katie Fink



WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY



St. Peter's Women's Bible Study meets on Tuesdays, from 9:45 to 11:30 a.m., in the Ravoux Room, with our first meeting on September 19. In our first study, we'll open ourselves to Mary's special grace with "Queen of Heaven: Mary's Battle for You." It's a great opportunity to connect with other women and grow spiritually, through God's Word. If you are interested in joining, or have any questions about this study, please contact Jennifer Vogel at 612-709-1835 or jennifervogel@comcast.net, or contact Sandy Rabuse at 651-681-9258.



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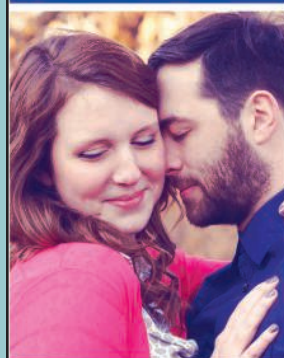
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