

**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.

PERPETUAL ADORATION
(In Chapel of the Nativity)**RECONCILIATION**
(In Main Church)

Friday 8-8:45 a.m.

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

Any time by appointment.

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph***DECEMBER 31, 2017***

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year! 2018 marks my third year as the youth coordinator here at St. Peter's, and I wanted to take this opportunity to tell you about our youth ministry program. The Holy Spirit has been hard at work in our programs. It has been a privilege to work with our teens, parents and volunteers, as we allow the Spirit to guide us and form our programs. Read on to learn more about the opportunities being offered for our middle school and high school youth. If you would like more information on how to get your youth involved, would like to volunteer yourself or simply would like to learn more, please feel free to reach out to me. Thank you for your continued prayers and your support of youth ministry!

Christmas blessings,

Elizabeth McCanna
Youth CoordinatorMiddle School Youth Ministry

"Chill" is our middle school youth group, which meets once a month in the youth room. We meet once a month on a Wednesday evening before Religious Education. As the name implies, we chill! There is always an abundance of pizza and games, and we look at the Gospel for the upcoming Sunday. Chill has provided an opportunity for our middle school youth to connect with one another and with me. Father Steven often joins us for pizza and fun, as well!

Summer Stretch was just added this past summer and is a service program geared towards middle school youth. We meet once a week in the summer. We spend our mornings leaning about Jesus and spreading His good news through works of service. We do a wide variety of service projects including caring for our historic cemetery and packing food at Feed My Starving Children. After lunch we head out for a fun recreation activity. Our high school teens are also welcome to participate as teen leaders — giving them a chance to serve others and grow in their leadership skills, as they help guide our middle school youth.

High School Youth Ministry

Perissos is our high school youth group and a key component of our Confirmation program. All high school youth are welcome to join us on Wednesday nights, as we work to grow in our relationship with Christ. Our evenings are guided by curriculum from Lifeteen and are organized and lead by our core team and peer ministers. What does the word "Perissos" even mean? Perissos is a Greek word meaning abundant and comes from John 10:10 where Christ tells us, "I have come that they may have life and have it abundantly."

Peer Ministry is a new program that we started this year. It is an opportunity for confirmed high school teens to foster their relationship with Jesus and develop their leadership skills by helping lead Perissos. We have a group of eight committed teens who are striving to strengthen their relationship with the Lord and minister to their peers. They participated in their own retreat in November and are active in Perissos. They will help with our Confirmation Retreat this upcoming weekend!

Workcamp is in its twenty-fourth year here at St. Peter's and has been the backbone of our youth ministry program. Thank you to all who have supported our trips through the years. Workcamp is a week-long mission trip for our high school youth to deepen their relationship with Christ by being his hands and feet. This year we will travel to Vandalia, Illinois in July with twenty teens and four adults from our parish. Father Steven will also be joining us this year and is excited for our daily trips to Dairy Queen!

Steubenville St. Paul Youth Conference was another first for St. Peter's this past summer, as our small, but mighty, group of teens and adults (10 in total) spent a weekend at the University of St. Thomas hearing from dynamic speakers, participating in the sacraments and encountering Christ in a new way, through powerful adoration and praise and worship. We are excited to be heading back to the conference again this year. We now have twelve spots reserved for our group.

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YOUTH NEWS AND FAITH FORMATION

FAITH FORMATION

January 3

Grades 1, 3, 4 & 5

Christos - Meet in your homes and resume your home lessons on January 3. You should have received lesson plans via email from Kathy. Please contact her if you have not received them or if you have any questions.

Grade 6 – 8

Meet in your classrooms.

Grade 2 (First Communion Preparation)

Classes will resume on January 17. Your second grade child should have been registered in the Reconciliation program 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.

Sunday School and Liturgy of the Word for Children

These programs will resume on Sunday, January 7.

ALPHA RETURNS TO ST. PETER'S IN FEBRUARY

Alpha is returning to St. Peter's on Monday, February 19. In a recent homily, Deacon Tim asked the question, "Have you met Jesus?" Alpha is a place to meet Jesus and to explore the basics of the Christian faith. It will take place on Mondays, February 19 through May 14, from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m., in Heritage Center. Alpha consists of a meal, a video 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 and create fellowship. One recent participant commented: "Great sharing with fellow participants!" Another said, "I really entered into a relationship with the Holy Spirit." Sign-ups will begin mid-January. Watch for more information in upcoming bulletins. In the meantime, mark your calendars and plan to join us! Space is limited. If you have any questions, please contact Laurie Reding at 612-419-1709 or lreding1@aol.com.



COR JESU



Meaning "Heart of Jesus," Cor Jesu is a moving opportunity to worship Christ in community with the Church through Eucharistic adoration, reconciliation, 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 2, March 2, April 6 and May 4.

OFFICE INFORMATION

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

Parish Office Hours: Mon - Fri, 8 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Phone: 651-452-4550

BAPTISMS, NEW PARISHIONERS, WEDDINGS

Call the parish office for more information.

PRAYER CHAIN REQUESTS

Email Lisa Amos at lamos@stpetersmendota.org, call her at 651-905-4304 or call the parish office.

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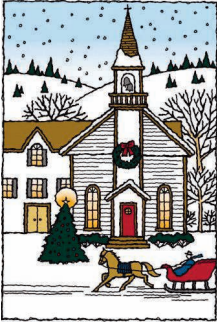
We invite families interested in learning more about St. Thomas Academy to attend an upcoming admissions open house on Sunday, January 7, at 1 p.m. St. Thomas Academy is Minnesota's only Catholic, college preparatory, military/leadership school for boys in grades 6 to 12. For the schedule and to register, visit: www.cadets.com/OpenHouse or call 651-683-1516.

RESOURCE CENTER

Anytime you are looking for resources to encourage and help you to grow in faith, consider checking out the Resource Center located in the Gathering Space. You will find books, CD's and pamphlets about a variety of subjects. In addition, you will be able to choose spiritual reading that you can trust, recommended by Fr. Steven, Lisa Amos and Elizabeth McCanna (yes - there are even books for teens and young adults!).

This center is self-funded. We ask that those who are able to do so, please donate \$5/CD, \$1/pamphlet and the list price of the books you choose (usually listed on the back cover). Because we want everyone to be able to enjoy these resources, whether they can contribute or not, we welcome any additional donations, above these suggestions. There is a slot in the center to place your donation. If you are unable to donate, please take a resource anyway!

HISTORIC CHURCH OPEN HOUSE



What would it have been like on Christmas back in 1853 at the Historic Church? One could imagine how cold it must have been coming up the steps from Mendota for Midnight Mass or riding in on horse and buggy.

Though it is 164 years later and we have heat, electricity and all the comforts of our day, the Historic Church looks as it did when it was first built. When

decorated for Christmas, our old is quite a sight, especially at night. Stop by our "open house" on Thursday, January 4, anytime between 5 and 7 p.m. to step back in time and imagine how that first Christmas must have been in the Historic Church. We will have our volunteer tour guides on hand to answer any questions, a trio of carolers singing Christmas songs and homemade cookies, mulled cider and hot cocoa for treats. We look forward to seeing you!

FEED MY STARVING CHILDREN

In this new year, we invite you to make a resolution to share Christ's love and mercy with those who desperately need it! Please join us as we hand-pack meals specifically formulated for malnourished children.

Where: Feed My Starving Children: 990 Lone Oak Road (just east of Lexington), Suite 136, in Eagan.

When: Tuesday, January 9, from 6 to 7:30 p.m.

In our four sessions of 2017, we had over 100 St Peter's volunteers helping to pack nearly 75,000 meals; that's enough to feed 200 children for a full year!

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

UPDATED PARISH RECORDS

We need your help in keeping our parish records current. If you have moved, if your adult children no longer live with you or are no longer members here at St. Peter's or if any other relevant information has changed, please let us know.

You can contact Rita Holien at rhohlen@stpetersmendota.org with this information. Thank you for your help!

WEDDING BANNS



Second Proclamation

Patrick Williams and Kristin O'Daniel



SAVE THE DATE!

St. Peter's annual Cana Dinner, in celebration of marriage, will be held on Saturday, February 10, beginning with Mass at 5 p.m. social hour at 6 p.m.; and dinner at 7 p.m. Entertainment will be Deacon Tim and his friends, Bob and Jackie Harvey from St. John the Baptist Church in Little Canada. All parishioners are invited to attend. Ticket sales will begin the weekend of January 27/28.



Cana Dinner

FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTIONS

Automatic Withdrawal—Electronic Funds Transfer

Please consider donating electronically, through our ACH program. Setting up a recurring payment directly from your checking or savings account is the **safest** and **preferred** method of receiving your donations. We also accept payment through credit and debit cards. Please visit our website to manage your electronic contributions online at www.stpetersmendota.org and click on the Donate Online box. You may also complete and remit an EFT form 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 Sunday, December 31, to be included as a 2017 contribution. 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.

POINSETTIAS IN MEMORY OF LOVED ONES

Thank you to these additional parishioners who donated money towards our Christmas flowers in memory or in honor of a loved one. Your generosity has helped make the church a beautiful space to worship.

In Memory of Elizabeth Garry and Mark Kincaid

From Joseph Garry

In Memory of Doug and Sue Grainger

From Freda Grainer

In Memory of the Flaherty Family

From the Flaherty Family



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.

Trustees:

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

READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF DECEMBER 31

Sunday: Gn 15:1-6; 21:1-3 or Sir 3:2-6, 12-14/Ps 105:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 8-9, [7a, 8a] or Ps 128:1-2, 3, 4-5 [cf. 1]/Heb 11:8, 11-12, 17-19 or Col 3:12-21 or 3:12-17/Lk 2:22-40 or 2:22, 39-40
Monday: Nm 6:22-27/Ps 67:2-3, 5, 6, 8 [2a]/Gal 4:4-7/Lk 2:16-21
Tuesday: 1 Jn 2:22-28/Ps 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4 [3cd]/Jn 1:19-28
Wednesday: 1 Jn 2:29--3:6/Ps 98:1, 3cd-4, 5-6 [3cd]/Jn 1:29-34
Thursday: 1 Jn 3:7-10/Ps 98:1, 7-8, 9 [3cd]/Jn 1:35-42
Friday: 1 Jn 3:11-21/Ps 100:1b-2, 3, 4, 5 [2a]/Jn 1:43-51
Saturday: 1 Jn 5:5-13/Ps 147:12-13, 14-15, 19-20 [12a]/Mk 1:7-11 or Lk 3:23-38 or 3:23, 31-34, 36, 38
Next Sunday: Is 60:1-6/Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-11, 12-13 [cf. 11]/Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6/Mt 2:1-12

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MASS INTENTIONS

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

Monday, January 1	† Reginald Perera
Tuesday, January 2	† Alice Struwas
Wednesday, January 3	† Ruthe Perron
Thursday, January 4	† Mary A. Chapdelaine
Friday, January 5	† Ann Connelly
Saturday, January 6	Mass For The People
Sunday, January 7, 9 am	† Marjorie Ramstad
11 am	† Robert LeMay

THIS WEEK'S CALENDAR: JANUARY 1

Monday, January 1 - Parish Office Closed

9:30 am Rosary, Main Church
10 am Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God Mass, Main Church

Tuesday, January 2

9 am Mass, Historic Church (8:30 Rosary)
7 pm Endow, Family Room
7 pm Rosary Makers, Ravoux Room

Wednesday, January 3

9 am Mass, Historic Church (8:30 Rosary)
9:45 am Divine Mercy Cenacle, Ravoux Room
10 am CCW Board Meeting, Conference Room
4:30 pm Grades 1, 3, 4 & 5 meet in their homes.
6:30 pm Grades 6-8 meet in their classrooms, Grades 1, 3, 4 & 5 meet in their homes.
6:30 pm Perissos, Heritage Center

Thursday, January 4

9 am Mass, Historic Church (8:30 Rosary)
5 pm Historic Church Open House
7 pm AA Meeting, Classroom 5

Friday, January 5

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

Saturday, January 6

9 am & 10:30 am AA Meeting, Classrooms
9 am Confirmation Retreat Drop Off, Camp Courage
10 am Saturday Scripture Study, Conference Room
3:30 pm Reconciliation, Main Church
4:30 pm Choir Rehearsal, Music Room
5 pm Mass, Main Church

Sunday, January 7 - Hospitality Sunday Hosted by the CCW

8:30 am Choir Rehearsal, Music Room
9 am Mass with Liturgy of the Word for Children, Main Church
9 am Sunday School, Classrooms
10:30 am Rosary for St. Peter's Parish, Chapel of the Nativity
10:30 am Choir Rehearsal, Music Room
11 am Mass with Liturgy of the Word for Children, Main Church
12:30 pm Baptism Class, REFF Office
2:00 pm Confirmation Retreat Pick-Up, Gathering Space



PASTORAL MINISTRY

FOLLOWING JESUS



Today we celebrate the Feast of the Holy Family. What makes it a holy family is that everything is centered around and related to Christ. As a way to foster this relationship with Jesus in our families, how about reading a passage from one of the Gospels before or after the meal time prayer and then discuss it.

ROSARY MAKER MINISTRY COMING TO ST. PETER

Thanks to a dedicated parishioner, we are starting a rosary makers ministry. Members will gather in the Ravoux Room on the first Tuesday of each month from 6:30 to 8 p.m., beginning January 2. The cord rosaries made will be sent to missions or used for local and national needs.



The core group we will join recently sent 400 rosaries to shelters in Houston, Texas after the flooding, 500 hundred were sent to Mexico and Fr. Lawrence was able to take 600 back to Uganda after his visit this past fall.

There is great demand, and your Leaders will teach you how to make the rosaries and supply all materials.

Come and see if this ministry is right for you! For more information, please call Mary Ellen at 651-457-1764.

GROWING THROUGH LOSS

St. Peter's is an active member of a coalition of local churches that presents Growing Through Loss, a program of support and information for persons who are experiencing grief due to the death of a loved one, broken relationship, job loss, loss of health, etc. Small group facilitators are needed for this coming year.

Growing Through Loss Series take place twice a year. Each series runs once a week for four weeks in the fall; and four weeks, with a fifth for a remembrance service, in the spring. Each session offers a presentation, followed by small groups lead by facilitators. Training is provided. If you are a good listener and wish to minister to those experiencing grief, this ministry may be for you. St. Peter's has always been very well represented, and many parishioners serve as facilitators. If you are interested in learning more or applying for this ministry, please contact Lisa Amos at 651-905-4304 or at lamos@stpetersmendota.org.

SUNDAY ROSARY

Join us for a rosary for the needs of the Church of St. Peter and all parishioners at 10:30 a.m. every Sunday in the Chapel of the Nativity, our perpetual adoration chapel.

"No one can live continually in sin and continue to say the Rosary: either they will give up sin or they will give up the Rosary." - Bishop Hugh Doyle

CHAPEL OF THE NATIVITY ADORATION CHAPEL

The New Year is here! A time to start over and a time to start fresh. A new beginning to pursue our new (or old) resolutions, and this year, by golly, we are going to attain them!?!?



Actually, Jesus gives us a chance to start over every day and begin anew. We are so fortunate to have a loving and forgiving God, who is merciful and wants what is best for us each and every day! We are way tougher on ourselves, typically, then Jesus is on us. So this year, for 2018, love yourself and your neighbor a little more (maybe a lot more) than in 2017. Give yourself and your neighbor a break and the benefit of the doubt once in a while. Jesus does!

By the way, the Wise Men gave Jesus three gifts. We all have received many gifts from Jesus over our lifetimes. What gifts will you give Jesus each day in 2018? He still likes to receive gifts from us, you know!

God bless you and have a wonderful 2018. Enjoy the Adoration Chapel. Come in; worship and adore Jesus OFTEN in 2018!

The chapel is closed during Masses. Please contact Lisa Amos at 651-905-4304 or at lamos@stpetersmendota.org to sign up. We still especially need adorers at the following times:

Early Morning		Daytime		Evening	
Monday	2 to 3 am	Sunday	2 to 3 pm	Sunday	5 to 6 pm
Wednesday	1 to 2 am	Monday	2 to 3 pm	Monday	5 to 6 pm
Friday	5 to 6 am	Friday	Noon to 1 pm	Thursday	6 to 7 pm
Saturday	3 to 4 am	Friday	4 to 5 pm	Friday	7 to 8 pm
Saturday	4 to 5 am			Friday	8 to 9 pm

HEALING THE WHOLE PERSON

Church of the Epiphany, in Coon Rapids is hosting a Healing the Whole Person Retreat, led by the John Paul II Healing Center, on January 18 - 20. Learn more and register for this amazing retreat at www.jp2ihealingcenter.org. Online registration closes on January 8.

Jesus responds today to brokenness, disease and pain with transformative love and restoration. Through three days of teaching, worship, prayer and testimony, you'll encounter God in a powerful way, and experience deeper freedom as the Father speaks to you in the depths of your heart and through the supernatural graces of the sacraments. Whether you're struggling with life, or you just want "more" in your walk with God, this conference will empower you with tools, revelation and a greater desire to live your life passionately on fire for God. Grounded in Church teaching, you'll engage the topics of "Facing our Brokenness," "Encountering the Father's Love" and "Living in Freedom."

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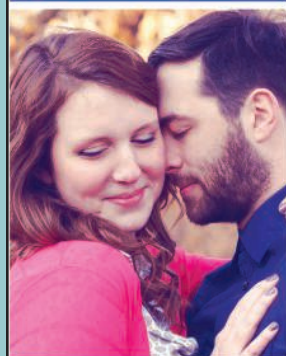
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