

**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 Epiphany of the Lord******JANUARY 7, 2018***

One of my favorite Christmas songs is “Do You Hear What I Hear?” The song is often sung by children around Christmas time and features the night wind asking the little lamb the question, “Do you see what I see?” The song rises to a beautiful crescendo as we hear the words, “A star, a star, dancing in the night, with a tail as big as a kite.” There is nothing quite like the voices of a choir of young children singing this beautiful song.

This weekend, we celebrate the Epiphany. The magi, bearing gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh, were led to Bethlehem by a star. This, of course, was not just any star but the star of Bethlehem. The magi identified the star and determined that it would lead them to the Newborn King. They made the mistake of stopping at Herod’s palace to make some inquiries. Herod was greatly troubled by the visit and tried to engage the magi in his own evil plot to make sure this new king would never cause him any problems. The magi were astute enough to recognize that something was wrong, so they headed home by another route to avoid Herod.

The star that led the magi to Jesus was not just any star. In our day, many people follow stars that will never lead them to Christ. There are shining stars promising riches and worldly goods. I have met many people in my life that followed such stars, only to end up unhappy and broken, still searching for the star that would bring them true happiness. I have known people who followed the star of success such as athletics, academia or career. If Christ is not part of the plan, that success, once attained, is often a road leading to unhappiness and disappointment.

The prophet Isaiah poetically describes the glory of the star that leads to Christ:

“Then you shall be radiant at what you see, your heart shall throb and overflow, for the riches of the sea shall be emptied out before you, the wealth of the nations shall be brought to you.”

We must be discerning of shiny objects. It is easy in our lives to become distracted by shiny objects such as wealth, power or passion. These “apparent goods” promise happiness, but there is always a price! The Evil One is lurking in the shadows, when we start looking over the fence toward greener pastures instead of being grateful for what we have in our own lives.

A dear friend of mine achieved tremendous success in sales, as a very young man. He was so successful that he regularly received huge financial bonuses. He married a beautiful woman, and they had several children together. My friend loves his children very much, but the demands of his job require him to be “plugged in” almost 24/7 in order to respond to any crisis. At one point in his successful sales career, his boss brought my friend and another successful salesman into the office. The boss informed the two men that they could no longer travel on the same plane together in case the plane would crash, and he would lose his two best sales people. How sad.

God sends people and situations into our lives at various times and for various reasons. God also permits evil to exist along with good. It is so important for us to discern carefully the star that we are following, to make sure it is in line with God’s plan. I know many fine Christian people who hold prominent positions, and yet they still manage to remain humble and dedicated to faith and family.

The star that leads us to Jesus will always shine much brighter than other stars in our lives. In times of darkness and difficulty, we may lose sight of that star. We may feel as though God has left us hanging, especially in times that challenge us the most. We are told that the magi were overjoyed at seeing the star and fell prostrate in worship of the Christ child. They sought the Lord diligently, and they found him just as the prophets had foretold. Jesus Christ is the shining star of our lives. He will never leave us or fail us. Let us search for Him and follow wherever he leads.

In the Light of Christ,

Deacon Tim

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YOUTH NEWS AND FAITH FORMATION

FAITH FORMATION

January 10

Grades 1, 3, 4 & 5

Christos - Meet in your homes. 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)

Children in the First Communion Program will begin classes on January 17. If your child was in the Reconciliation Program for the first half of the year, you do not need to register. Simply bring your child to his/her regular class and time. If your child was not in the Reconciliation Program, please contact Kathy Raible at 651-905-4311 to discuss options. Thank you.

Sunday School and Liturgy of the Word for Children

There is no Sunday School or Children's Liturgy of the Word on Sunday, January 14.

PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR CONFIRMATION STUDENTS



Please pray for our Confirmation candidates this weekend, while they are away on their Confirmation Retreat. The annual retreat, which takes place at Camp Courage in Maple Lake, is an opportunity for our candidates to step outside their comfort zone and experience Christ's love in a new and powerful way. Thank you for your prayers and support, as they journey towards their Confirmation which takes place on June 3!

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!

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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COLLEGE AGED YOUNG ADULTS ARE NEEDED FOR TEACHING

Apply to be a team member for the Totus Tuus Summer Catechetical Program! We are in need of college age men and women who feel called to share their Catholic faith with the youth from local parishes around the Archdiocese. Positions are a two-month commitment (June 1 through July 28), which includes one week of training and one week break for the Fourth of July. Each team member will receive \$2,520 for their work. For more information, visit www.archspm.org/TotusTuus.

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.



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!

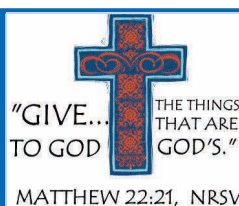
To sign up or to learn more, please contact Paul or Peggy Hirsch at 651-431-1832 or at phirsch651@aol.com.

NEW PARISHIONER DINNER

There will be a dinner for all new parishioners on **Saturday, January 27**, following the 5 p.m. Mass. This time together gives us a chance 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. To RSVP, please contact Anne O'Keefe at 651-905-4308 or aokeefe@stpetersmendota.org.

Volunteers Needed!

Are you interested in helping at the New Parishioner dinner? We need people to help make and serve a homemade lasagna dinner to our new parishioners! Please call Anne O'Keefe at 651-905-4308 or email her at aokeefe@stpetersmendota.org, if you would like to help.



Financial Recap

July 1 to December 31, 2017

YTD Actual Collections:	\$487,669
YTD Budgeted Collections:	484,023
Difference:	\$3,646

To donate electronically visit www.stpetersmendota.org and click on Stewardship & Community Life or call Mary in the parish office at 651-905-4307.



*Come as a Guest
Leave as a Friend*

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.



THANK YOU TO ST. PETER'S FROM THE CSA FOUNDATION

Dear Father,

On behalf of the Catholic Services Appeal Foundation, I want to thank you and your parishioners for your support of the needed work of the Catholic Services Appeal. This year, a portion of all donations from your parishioners are being returned to your parish for your own ministries. Enclosed is a check for \$18,876.85. May it help to build up the Body of Christ in your parish community.

Gratefully,
John Norris
President of the Catholic Services Appeal Foundation

WEDDING BANNERS

Third Proclamation
Patrick Williams and Kristin O'Daniel



CATHOLIC SPIRIT MAGAZINE

We have a limited number of free annual subscriptions to The Catholic Spirit, the award-winning official newspaper of the Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis. Each edition is packed with Catholic news coverage of our archdiocese, nation and world, as well as issue analysis and reflections on Catholic living from family life to public policy. If you would like to receive the Catholic Spirit, contact Rita Holien in our parish office at rhlien@stpetersmendota.org.

The Catholic Spirit
thecatholicspirit.com

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 JANUARY 7

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
Monday: Is 42:1-4, 6-7 or Is 55:1-11 or Acts 10:34-38 or 1 Jn 5:1-9/Is 12:2-3, 4bcd, 5-6 [3]/Mk 1:7-11
Tuesday: 1 Sm 1:9-20/1 Sm 2:1, 4-5, 6-7, 8abcd [cf. 1]/Mk 1:21-28 or 1 Sm 1:1-8 and 1:9-20/1 Sm 2:1, 4-5, 6-7, 8abcd [cf. 1]/Mk 1:14-20 and 1:21-28
Wednesday: 1 Sm 3:1-10, 19-20/Ps 40:2 and 5, 7-8a, 8b-9, 10 [8a and 9a]/Mk 1:29-39
Thursday: 1 Sm 4:1-11/Ps 44:10-11, 14-15, 24-25 [27b]/Mk 1:40-45
Friday: 1 Sm 8:4-7, 10-22a/Ps 89:16-17, 18-19 [2]/Mk 2:1-12
Saturday: 1 Sm 9:1-4, 17-19; 10:1a/Ps 21:2-3, 4-5, 6-7 [2a]/Mk 2:13-17
Next Sunday: 1 Sm 3:3b-10, 19/Ps 40:2, 4, 7-8, 8-9, 10 [8a, 9a]/1 Cor 6:13c-15a, 17-20/Jn 1:35-42

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MASS INTENTIONS

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

Monday, January 8 † Annamma & George Cherucheril
Tuesday, January 9 Nora Rose McDonald
Wednesday, January 10 Donald Taylor
Thursday, January 11 † Anna Fuhrmann
Friday, January 12 † Bill Olson
Saturday, January 13 † Louis & Elizabeth Unger
Sunday, January 14, 9 am Mass For The People
11 am † Louis John Chapdelaine

THIS WEEK'S CALENDAR: JANUARY 8

Monday, January 8

9 am Mass, **Historic Church** (8:30 Rosary)
10 am Group Trip to State Capitol and Central Library
7 pm Cub Scout Pack Committee Meeting, Conference Room

Tuesday, January 9

9 am Mass, **Historic Church** (8:30 Rosary)
10 am Women's Bible Study, Ravoux Room
7 pm Endow, Family Room

Wednesday, January 10

9 am Mass, **Historic Church** (8:30 Rosary)
9:45 am Divine Mercy Cenacle, Ravoux 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 11

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

Friday, January 12

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

Saturday, January 13

9 am & 10:30 am AA Meeting, Classrooms
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
6 pm Sign ups for March For Life, Gathering Space

Sunday, January 14

8:30 am Choir Rehearsal, Music Room
9 am Mass, Main Church
10:30 am Rosary for St. Peter's Parish, Chapel of the Nativity
10:30 am Choir Rehearsal, Music Room
11 am Mass, Main Church
11:30 am RCIA, Conference Room
12 pm Sign ups for March For Life, Gathering Space



PASTORAL MINISTRY

FOLLOWING JESUS



In the Gospel today, we encounter the wise men who bring gifts to Jesus: gold, frankincense and myrrh. Our relationship with Jesus is always a two-way street. It is important that we receive the gift of Jesus' love for us, but there is also our response to give love for love. This love can be shown in many ways. As disciples of Jesus, let's pray about a concrete way to show our love for Christ this week: extra time in prayer, visiting the sick, etc.

ALPHA IS RETURNING TO ST. PETER'S

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.



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.

CHAPEL OF THE NATIVITY ADORATION CHAPEL

What are our best relationships? They are usually the ones on which we have spent time working. Often it is with a family member like a spouse, a child, a parent or even a good friend. We make an effort to get to know one another, share our feelings, thoughts, needs and, most importantly, our love.



Have we done this in prayer to Jesus? Are we cultivating our relationship with Jesus in this manner? Sunday Mass is a wonderful start to the week, but it's not enough. We need to develop and deepen our relationship with Jesus throughout the week. There are many ways to do this. We can read the Scriptures, pray, ask and listen. All of these things can be done at adoration, where you'll experience Jesus in a special way. He will be fully present in Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity.

In most circumstances, the best relationships are built face-to-face. Here is your chance to be face-to-face with Jesus in the Chapel of the Nativity, our adoration chapel here at St. Peter's. All relationships require commitment from both parties. Jesus has made His commitment to us, by saying he will never leave or abandon us. He is faithful. He is loving. He is forgiving. He is merciful. During this Christmas season and the New Year, let's make that commitment to develop our relationship with Christ in a deeper and more loving way. All are welcome in the adoration chapel! God bless you all!

The chapel is closed for Masses. If you will need a sub for your hour, please refer to our substitute roster to cover your hour in advance.

Please contact Lisa Amos to sign up at 651-905-4304 or lamos@stpetersmendota.org. We still especially need adorers at the following hours:

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	Thursday	6 to 7 pm
Friday	5 to 6 am	Friday	Noon to 1 pm	Friday	7 to 8 pm
Saturday	3 to 4 am	Friday	4 to 5 pm	Friday	8 to 9 pm
Saturday	4 to 5 am				

SINCERE SYMPATHY



St. Peter's Parish extends its sympathy to the family and friends of Doris Thompson. We invite all to join us in praying that God may make her a sharer in eternal salvation.



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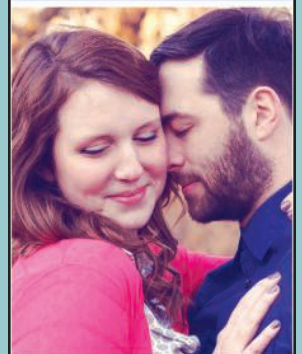
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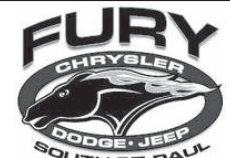
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