

Church of ST. PETER MENDOTA



April 17, 2016
Fourth Sunday of Easter

OUR VISION

We envision St. Peter's to be a dynamic and growing parish through our: expressions of faith and worship, service to one another and the broader community, welcoming new members, compassion and ministry in pastoral care, and stewardship of God's gifts and blessings.

OUR MISSION

The Church of St. Peter, the first Catholic parish in Minnesota, serves as a cornerstone of faith and heritage, where we welcome all to celebrate and live as the Body of Christ. We embrace our commitment to continue this founding legacy, care for future generations, and advance the Kingdom of God.

PASTOR:

Fr. Steven Hoffman 651-905-4305
Deacon Tim Hennesey 651-905-4301

PASTORAL ASSOCIATE:

Lisa Amos 651-905-4304

BUSINESS MANAGER:

Mary Jubenville 651-905-4307

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION/FAITH FORMATION:

Kathy Raible, Director 651-905-4311
Elizabeth McCanna, Youth Coordinator 651-905-4312
Beth Halbert, Sunday School Coordinator ... 651-905-4313
Religious Education Information Line 651-905-4314

MUSIC and LITURGY:

David Dunst, Director 651-905-4323

COMMUNITY LIFE COORDINATOR:

Anne O'Keefe 651-905-4308

OFFICE STAFF:

Rita Holien, Bulletin-Website Coordinator... 651-905-4302
Carolyn Rynders, Parish Assistant 651-452-4550

MAINTENANCE:

Tom Deshler 651-905-4322
John Raible 651-452-4550

Parish Office: 651-452-4550

Office Hours: 8 am-4 pm Monday through Friday

Fax: 651-456-0646

E-mail: church@stpetersmendota.org

Parish School: Faithful Shepherd

651-406-4747, www.fscsmn.org
3355 Columbia Drive
Eagan, MN 55121



SUNDAY MASSES (all in the Main Church)

Saturday 5 pm
Sunday 9 am and 11 am

WEEKDAY MASSES (all in the Historic Church)

9 am Monday-Friday

HOLY DAYS As announced.

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Fridays, 8 to 8:45 am and Saturdays 3:30 to 4:45 pm
and also any time by appointment.

BAPTISMS, NEW PARISHIONERS, WEDDINGS

Call the parish office for more information.

PRAYER CHAIN REQUESTS

Mary LeClair E-mail: maryleclair62@gmail.com
or call the parish office at 651-452-4550.

Reflections from our Pastor

My dear friends,

The Gospel today is one of many that show how Jesus was able to use the stuff of every day life to teach the people about God and the plan of salvation. This particular passage from St. John is often called the “Good Shepherd discourse,” for Jesus refers to himself as the “Good Shepherd.” One way that distinguishes John’s Gospel from the other Gospels is the use of several titles or names for Jesus, and each one reveals something about who Jesus is, especially in his relationship to us.

In the beginning, Jesus is called “the Word” who became flesh. John the Baptist calls him “the Lamb of God” and “the Bridegroom.” Throughout the rest of the Gospel, Jesus uses several “I am . . .” statements: I am the Bread of Life; I am the Light of the world; I am the Resurrection; I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life; I am the Vine. In today’s Gospel, Jesus refers to himself as “the Door” and “the Gate” of the sheepfold, and “the Good Shepherd” of the sheep.

What does it mean for Jesus to be “the Gate” and “the Good Shepherd?” To understand these, it would be helpful to understand something about shepherding back in that time. First of all, the Shepherd goes ahead of the sheep. In some areas of England and Australia the shepherd stays behind the sheep. As disciples of Jesus, we are not leaders, we are followers. In humility and child-like trust, we allow Jesus to lead us. Those who make the best servant leaders within the Church are those who have first learned how to be good followers.

Jesus highlights another trait of shepherding; the sheep know the shepherd’s voice. During the time of Jesus, in that part of the world, sheep were not raised for slaughter but for their wool, so it was not uncommon for a shepherd to bond closely with his sheep. Sheep have an amazing ability to distinguish their shepherd’s voice, even when there may be several different flocks grazing together.

Jesus comes into the world as God’s voice, a voice that leads us to the green pastures of a joyful, fruitful life of self-giving love and service, a voice that safely leads us to heaven. Our intimate connection to Jesus by the gift of faith and love allows our hearts to become attuned to his voice. This is very important, for there are other voices, like the voice of temptation, which can lead us astray. Adam and Eve chose not to listen to the voice of God, but to the voice of the “father of lies,” and so were led astray.

At night, the shepherd would lead the sheep into “sheepfolds,” which were stone enclosures around the countryside. The opening was narrow, and the shepherd would take his rod and hold it very low across the opening, so that the sheep had to pass slowly under it. It gave the shepherd the chance to examine the sheep for wounds or anything that needed his tender care and attention.

How well this translates in our Christian life, for there are moments when we too come before the loving gaze of Jesus, the Good Shepherd, to be healed and forgiven. It could be a simple examination of the day before bed time; a quiet time before Mass or the moment of examination before Confession.

A final detail about shepherding is that the sheepfolds did not have gates or doors, so the shepherd often slept across the opening. This meant that nothing could leave or enter, unless it passed through the shepherd. Jesus is both the door and the gatekeeper. He is the only “doorway” to the Father and eternal life, and as the gatekeeper, Jesus protects us from the wolves and other enemies that try to snatch us away from God.

How blessed we are to have Jesus as our Good Shepherd. Let us recommit ourselves to his strong and tender care, knowing that He will lead us safely to the ever green pastures of eternal life.

Jesus bless you,



Fr. Steven

From the Family of Neal Black

Thank you to St. Peter’s Parish

Our family would like to thank St. Peter’s Parish for their support during Dad’s illness and passing. Thank you for all the prayers, the visit by Fr. Hoffman, the beautifully organized funeral and luncheon. Your help made it all so much easier for us. Our father loved this parish, and we will always consider it home.



Come as a Guest
Leave as a Friend

Religious Education/ Faith Formation (RE/FF)

REFF Registration

Registration for 2016- 2017

All families should have received registration information via email for the 2016-2017 religious education classes. Information is also available on the information counter in the gathering space outside the coat room. Please remember the registration deadline of May 15. If you have any questions, contact the RE office at kraible@stpetersmendota.org or 651-905-4311.

First Reconciliation and First Communion 2016-2017

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 will be in second grade next year, and you wish to have him or her in the First Reconciliation and First Communion program, please register prior to May 15. Children must receive the sacrament of Reconciliation prior to First Communion.

Sunday School Program

Last Sunday School Class

Sunday, April 24 is the final class for the Sunday School program. The preschool and kindergarten children will be putting on a very special closing program after the 9 a.m. Mass in the Ravoux Room. All are welcome!

Elementary and Middle School Religious Education Program

Last Class and Closing Program

Wednesday, April 27 is our final class for religious education for grades 1 through 8. At both the 4:30 and 6:30 sessions, we will have a closing prayer service in the main worship space followed by an ice cream social in Heritage Center.

ALL Parents are encouraged to join us for prayer and ice cream!!



Middle School and High School Youth

Chill

All middle school youth are welcome to join us for our final middle school youth group of the year, Chill, on Wednesday, April 20, from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. We will meet in the youth room for pizza, games and a look at the upcoming Sunday's Gospel. For more information, contact Elizabeth McCanna at 651-905-4312 or at emccanna@stpetersmendota.org.

Workcamp Bake Sale

Enjoy some treats and support Workcamp

Next weekend, our youth participating in our Workcamp trip to Racine, Wisconsin, will be in the gathering space selling yummy baked goods to help offset the cost of their trip. All items will be available for a free will donation. Please consider purchasing some treats next weekend, April 24. Thank you for your continued support of Workcamp!

Pastoral Ministry

Growing Through Loss

An Interdenominational Coalition of South Suburban Churches Presents the third in a 5-week series:

GROWING THROUGH LOSS

With Dave and Tana Barkhymer

Dave and Tana will speak on *"From Darkness to Light: Hope, Humor and Healing in the Midst of Trauma,"* on Tuesday, April 19, in Heritage Center. Support groups will be facilitated by trained leaders.

This program is offered to any adult experiencing a loss or major crisis, and to pastoral ministers, for example Befrienders and Stephen Ministers.

Registration starts at 6:30 p.m., the speaker starts at 7 p.m., and the support groups begin at 8 p.m. A suggested donation per session is \$3.

For additional information, call 651-452-8261 or e-mail growingthroughloss@gmail.com.

St. Peter's Community News

Mom's Group

Mom's Night Out

Join us for Trivia Night at the Hard Rock Café in the Mall of America, on Thursday, April 28, from 7 to 9 p.m. We will form one or two teams, depending on how many can come. There will be happy hour pricing all evening for trivia participants, and there are prizes for the winners! Please call Maria at 507-358-7850 if you have any questions.

CCW Plant Card Sales

Gerten's Plant Cards

It's time to start thinking of spring plants and summer gardens. St. Peter's Council of Catholic Women will again be selling Gerten plant cards during the months of April and May. Stop by the table in the gathering space to purchase your plant cards. They will be available after each of the weekend Masses.

CCW Fashion Show

Make your reservation now!

The Council of Catholic Women are taking reservations for their annual spring fashion show and luncheon, which will be held on Saturday, May 7, in Heritage Center. The cost for the luncheon and fashion show is \$20. Please call Marge Sullivan at 651-451-6690 for more information or to make reservations.

ACCL Fundraiser for Wakota Life

A Community Caring for Life

At all Masses on the weekend of April 23/24, our St. Peter's ACCL group will be handing out empty baby bottles to raise funds for Wakota Life Care Center, a local crisis pregnancy center. Please take a bottle or two home, fill it with your spare change and return the full bottles to St. Peter's either the weekend of May 1 or 8. Thank you! Also, we will once again be raising funds for pro-life causes with sales of flowers after all Masses on Mother's Day weekend, May 7/8. We will have African violets, mini rosebushes and begonia plants. Lastly, please remember to bring your baby items and place them in the portable crib in the Gathering Space the weekends of April 30/May 1 and May 7/8.

St. Peter's Red Cross Blood Drive

Make an appointment to save a life.

You can sign up for a donation appointment by going to www.redcrossblood.org, enter zip code 55120, and schedule an appointment for Thursday, May 5, between 1 and 6 p.m.. You can also call Sandra at 651-452-1844. There will also be a chance to sign up after the 9 and 11 a.m. Masses on Sunday, April 17.

CCW to Host Speaker

Dr. Wayne Thalhuber will speak at St. Peter's.

The St. Peter Council of Catholic Women will present Dr. Wayne Thalhuber on Thursday, April 21, from 7 to 8:30 p.m. in Heritage Center. Dr. Thalhuber, a retired physician, will speak about the history of hospice in St. Paul and will discuss case histories of death and dying. There will be a twenty minute presentation and ample time for audience questions. Refreshments will be available.

World Encounter Brunch

Women are invited to attend World Encounter's annual Spring ROSE Brunch on Saturday, April 30, in Heritage Center, from 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Come enjoy fabulous food and learn from ambitious and talented women here and across the globe. Funds raised at this event provide Tanzanian village women the opportunity to start a small business and support their family. Purchase your \$20 ticket at www.worldencounter.org.

Journey to Wholeness

God's Journey With Us: Retreat with Fr. Tony Kilroy

Fr. Tony Kilroy, OP, will be using themes from scripture for a retreat from April 29 to May 1, at the Villa Maria Center, 29847 County 2 Blvd, Frontenac, 11 miles south of Red Wing. This is a spirit led weekend of preaching, healing prayer, quiet and celebration. All are welcome. For more information, please call Jean MacFarland or Bill Keatts at 952-894-2033.



The Week of April 18

Monday, April 18

- 9 am **Mass, Historic Church** (8:40 rosary)
 6 pm St Paul Civic Symphony, Heritage Center
 6 pm Catholic Watchman Vanguard Meeting
 7 pm Boy Scout Meeting, Ravoux Room

Tuesday, April 19

- 9 am **Mass, Historic Church** (8:40 rosary)
 9:30 am Adoration Before the Blessed Sacrament until 7 pm, Historic Church
 9:45 am Women's Bible Study, Ravoux Room
 6:30 pm Growing Through Loss Series, Heritage Center

Wednesday, April 20

- 9 am **Mass, Historic Church** (8:40 rosary)
 9:45 am Divine Mercy Cenacle, Ravoux Room
 4:30 pm REFF Grades 1-5, Classrooms
 5:30 pm Chill, Youth Room
 6:30 pm REFF Grades 1-8, Classrooms
 6:30 pm Choir Rehearsal, Music Room

Thursday, April 21

- 9 am **Mass, Historic Church** (8:40 rosary)
 9:45 am Small Faith Group, Ravoux Room
 5 pm CCW Hospice Directive, Heritage Center
 6:30 pm ACCL Meeting, Conference Room 1
 7 pm Alcoholics Anonymous, Classroom 5

Friday, April 22

- 8 am **Confessions, Main Church**
 9 am **Mass, Historic Church** (8:40 rosary)

Saturday, April 23

- 9 and 10:30 am
 Alcoholics Anonymous, Classrooms 2, 4
 10 am Scripture Study, Community Room
 3:30 pm **Confessions, Main Church**
 4:30 pm Choir Rehearsal, Music Room
 5 pm **Mass, Main Church**
 After Mass
 CCW Plant Card Sale, Gathering Space
 Baby bottles distributed by ACCL, Gathering Space
 Workcamp Bake Sale, Gathering Space

Sunday, April 24

- 8:30 and 10:30 am
 Choir Rehearsal, Music Room
 9 am **Mass, Main Church**
 9 am Sunday School, Classrooms
 10 am Sunday School Closing Program, Ravoux Room
 11 am **Mass, Main Church**
 12 pm Workcamp Meeting, Youth Room
 After Masses
 CCW Plant Card Sale, Gathering Space
 Workcamp Bake Sale, Gathering Space
 Red Cross Blood Drive Sign Up, Gathering Space
 Baby bottles distributed by ACCL, Gathering Space

Parish Pastoral Council

Lance Miller, Chair.....	952-432-6957
Joseph Towle, Vice-Chair.....	651-683-9250
Paul Hirsch, Secretary.....	651-431-1832
Mary Pat Ferraro.....	651-454-1091
Anne Hallgren.....	651-702-6465
Sarah Larsen.....	612-384-1474
Maria Schwartz.....	651-452-1796
Alice Sheeler.....	651-457-8119
Nancy Stanton.....	651-686-9009
Parish Pastoral Council Voice Mailbox:	
.....	651-905-4309

Parish Pastoral Council Email:

ParishPastoralCouncil@stpetersmendota.org

Trustees:

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

Readings for the Week of April 17

Sunday:	Acts 13:14, 43-52/Ps 100:1-3, 5/Rv 7:9, 14b-17/Jn 10:27-30
Monday:	Acts 11:1-18/Ps 42:2-3; 43:3-4/Jn 10:1-10
Tuesday:	Acts 11:19-26/Ps 87:1-7/Jn 10:22-30
Wednesday:	Acts 12:24--13:5a/Ps 67:2-3, 5-6, 8/Jn 12:44-50
Thursday:	Acts 13:13-25/Ps 89:2-3, 21-22, 25, 27/Jn 13:16-20
Friday:	Acts 13:26-33/Ps 2:6-11/Jn 14:1-6
Saturday:	Acts 13:44-52/Ps 98:1-4/Jn 14:7-14
Next Sunday:	Acts 14:21-27/Ps 145:8-13/Rv 21:1-5a/Jn 13:31-33a, 34-35

Liturgical Publications Inc.

Mass Intentions

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

Monday, April 18 - †Neoma & Ken Dumond
Tuesday, April 19 - †Charles Mertensotto
Wednesday, April 20 - †Jim McBride
Thursday, April 21 - †Carl Dumond
Friday, April 22 - †Marie Schloegl
Saturday, April 23 - Mass For The People
Sunday, April 24 - 9 a.m. - †Jeffrey Weiss
11a.m. - †Dcn. Jerry Blissenbach

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Thank you from Faithful Shepherd Catholic School

The students, staff and families at Faithful Shepherd would like to thank St. Peter's parishioners for their continued support and prayers. Your support has a direct impact on the lives of our students and staff! In gratitude, Faithful Shepherd families are serving in roles of service during Mass and assisting with hospitality after Masses this weekend. Stop by the Faithful Shepherd information table in the Gathering Space after Mass to learn more about Faithful Shepherd Catholic School and the exciting events happening this Spring including a Middle School performance of Peter Pan Jr. in May!

New Preschool Program at Faithful Shepherd

We are excited to announce a new partnership with Lake Area Discovery Center to bring a NAEYC-accredited, Parent Aware preschool program (ages 3-5 years old) to Faithful Shepherd Catholic School, beginning in the Fall of 2016! Registration is now open.

Faithful Shepherd Catholic School Discovery Center is designed to meet children's individual needs and learning styles. We believe parents are the first and most important teacher, and we encourage parents to experience the center with their child. Faith is an important component of our curriculum. Lessons built on our Catholic faith are written into our curriculum and children participate in singing and worship.

For more information about the preschool program at Faithful Shepherd, visit www.fscsmn.org/discovery-center-preschool/.

Spring Rummage Sale April 22-24

Church of St. Mark, 1983 West Dayton Avenue in St. Paul, will have a Spring Rummage Sale Friday and Saturday, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Sunday, 9 a.m. to 12 noon. There will be clothing for all ages, shoes, linens, jewelry, housewares, furniture, sporting equipment, plants, toys, books, coffee shop and more!

Nativity Grandparents Apostolate of Ss. Joachim and Anne

All grandparents are invited to a time of enrichment, encouragement, prayer and fellowship on Monday, April 18, at Nativity of Our Lord Parish, 1900 Wellesley Avenue, in St. Paul. Fr. Lenny Andrie, of St. Joseph's in West St. Paul, will present "*Practical Tips for Positive Influence in the Life of Children and Grandchildren.*" Sign up at 8:45 a.m. in Nativity's lower level (located at Stanford and Prior Avenue South). There is wheel chair access on Stanford. Daily Mass is at 8:15 a.m. for those interested. Refreshments will be served. Contact Lilee Perera at 651-696-5401 for further information.

Marriage Encounter

Spring is a sign of new life! Bring new life into your marriage by registering for the Marriage Encounter held on Saturday and Sunday, April 23 and 24.

Weekends are held at Mt. Olivet Conference and Retreat Center in Farmington. Visit www.marriages.org or call 651-454-3238 to register or for more information.



Princess Tea Party benefitting Neighbors, Inc.

Calling all Princes and Princesses!

Put on your royal best (think hats, gloves and party attire) and join us for a catered brunch, themed games and crafts, and the opportunity to meet real life princesses from across the land.

What: Princess Tea Party benefitting Neighbors
Date: Saturday, April 30
Time: 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.
Location: Veterans Memorial Community Center
8055 Barbara Ave East, Inver Grove Heights
Cost: \$40 per adult/child pair and \$15 per additional person. Children two and under are free.

Space is limited, so get your tickets early! Just visit www.neighborsmn.org/events.

Appearances by Miss Minnesota United States, Ms. Minnesota United States, Miss Teen Minnesota United States and more!



Fr. Michael Gaitley to speak at University of St. Thomas

Mercy and Mary Weekend Retreats

Immerse yourself in Divine Mercy and Mary with bestselling author and speaker, Fr. Michael Gaitley, MIC, for one of ten *Mercy & Mary Weekend Retreats* across the U.S. for the Jubilee Year of Mercy. Spend a weekend in quiet prayer, in an oasis between the Twin Cities of Minneapolis and St. Paul at the University of St. Thomas on June 10, 11 and 12. Enjoy new talks by Fr. Gaitley, daily Mass, Adoration, comfortable accommodations, meals with the Marian Missionaries, and much more! For more information and to register, go to www.events.marianmissionaries.org/events/mercy-mary-weekend-retreat-saint-paul-mn.

Rachel's Vineyard Retreat

Be Renewed By God's Mercy on Mother's Day Weekend

Pope Francis said, "Let's not forget that God forgives and 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 is May 6 - 8 in the Twin Cities area. For more information, contact Nancy at rachels@rvineyardmn.org, call 763-250-9313, or visit www.rvineyardmn.org.

CatholicManNight

Men Meeting Jesus

All men of the parish are invited to an evening of fellowship, spiritual reflection and a really great meal! Fr. John Klockeman, Assistant Director of Spiritual Formation at the St. Paul Seminary, School of Divinity, will reflect upon The Divine Mercy of Jesus Christ on Tuesday, April 19, from 6:30 to 9 p.m. at St. Joseph's Parish in West St. Paul, in the Msgr. Foran Great Room. CatholicManNight is a Catholic men's movement dedicated to helping men meet, know, love and serve Jesus Christ. Visit www.catholicmannight.com for more information.

St Paul Deaneries CCW Meeting

The 4th Quarterly Meeting of the St Paul Deaneries Council of Catholic Women will be held at the Church of St. Patrick, 3535 - 72nd Street East in Inver Grove Heights on Thursday, April 21. The speaker is Sister Brenda Rose Szegedy, OSF. She is on staff at Christ the King's Retreat Center in Buffalo. The day begins at 8:15 a.m. with registration. Lunch will be served following noon Mass. Cost for the day is \$13. RSVP by Monday, April 18, by calling Jane at 651-261-2534. ALL women of the parish are invited to attend this meeting.

Catholic Watchmen Rally

Men are invited to the Catholic Watchmen Rally on Friday, April 22, from 6:30 to 9 p.m. at Mary, Mother of the Church, 3333 Cliff Road East, Burnsville. Bishop Andrew Cozzens will present on "Overcoming Sin in Our Lives." This Catholic Watchmen Rally is an opportunity for men to draw closer to Jesus Christ and invest in fellowship with other men. There will be time for Adoration and confession. Dinner will be provided (free will offering). Contact Susanna Bolle at bolles@archspm.org or 651-291-4411.

Home Missions Appeal

Collection on April 24, 2016

The Church has great needs around the world, and the United States is no exception. Over 40% of dioceses in the U.S, including New Ulm, Crookston and Duluth in Minnesota, face challenges due to priest shortages, lack of funds, remote geography, or impoverished parishes. The Catholic Home Missions Appeal provides for these needs through grants for projects that strengthen the faith of the people through evangelization, catechesis, ministry formation, and other areas of faith development. In addition, a portion of this appeal will help the African American and Native American communities with similar spiritual and material challenges through the Black and Indian Mission Office. And you can help! Your support of this collection on April 24, will strengthen the Church and help your neighbors here in Minnesota and the United States. Thank you.



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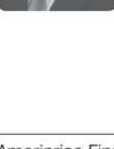
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*St. Peter's Council of Catholic Women
will present guest speaker*

Dr. Wayne Thalhuber
"Hospice—40 Years of Experience"

**Thursday, April 21
In Heritage Center
From 7:00—8:30 p.m.**



*Dr. Thalhuber, a retired physician, will
speak about the history of hospice in
St. Paul and will discuss case histories of
death and dying. There will be a twenty
minute presentation and ample time for
audience questions.*

Refreshments will be available.



You are Our Stars!

Join us for delicious food, wonderful people,
and entertainment!

All parishioners who have given of their time or talent to
St. Peter's, as well as a spouse or guest, are invited to the annual



Volunteer Appreciation Dinner

Saturday, May 14, 2016

6:00 – 8:00 p.m.

Heritage Center

Dinner, dessert and beverages will be provided by the parish staff.

If you will be attending, please respond by Sunday, May 8, 2016

Drop this form in the collection basket or mail to
Appreciation Dinner, Church of St. Peter, PO Box 50679, Mendota, MN 55150-0679.

Number Attending _____

Name(s) _____

Phone # (with area code) _____ Email _____

You can also respond with the above information by leaving a message at 651-452-4550
or aokeefe@stpetersmendota.org.