

Church of St. Peter

1405 Highway 13 PO Box 50679 Mendota MN 55150-0679

December 25, 2017

Come let us



adore Him

My Dear friends,

With all my heart I wish to you and your families a most blessed Christmas filled with the joy and peace of Christ.

I'd like to share with you the opening line of a prayer written for this great Feast: "Lord Jesus, as I bow in adoration before your manger, let my first Christmas words be: thank you! Thank you, Gift of the Father, for coming to save me from my sins." How well these words express the reason for our celebration of Christmas. Christmas for us is not just the hearing of a story that remains in the past, but a story that has personally touched each one of us and become our own. In celebrating the birth of our Savior, we are also celebrating our own new birth through Him, through the forgiveness of our sins.

I remember my first Christmas in 1981; I was 20 years old. The reason I say "first Christmas" is because it was then, for the first time in my life, that I understood what Christmas was really all about. And what made that Christmas different and very special for me had everything to do with that little child of Mary, that baby lying in a manger.

Only a few months before our family Christmas Eve gathering that year, that little Child, who came into the world to save it, to save me, had drawn me to His merciful heart, to cradle Himself personally in my own heart. How many times had Jesus sought a place in my heart, but, like the innkeepers of Bethlehem, I had no room for Him. I had room for everything else . . . but sadly . . . no room for Him.

I was baptized at 10 years old, but not having a faith-filled person to guide me, I became more and more taken up with all the cares and charms of the world, living a life divorced from my own heart—unaware of the gift of God hidden within me. After several years of indifference and estrangement from God, the day of my salvation finally came. All the pain and heartache caused by my selfish lifestyle and poor decisions broke down all the resistance and excuses that kept me from falling into the arms of God. Humbled and broken, I cried out to the Lord, and He heard my cry, flooding my soul with His Loving Presence. I received the gift of Christmas: Jesus Christ! In the joy of this new beginning, I could begin to imagine, at least to some degree, the joy that Mary, Joseph and the shepherds felt on that silent, cool night in Bethlehem.

I was still part of a family that had weathered many hardships, a family still broken and struggling, a family that needed much healing. There was now hope in my heart and an assurance that everything was going to be alright. Not that it would be easy—but that it was going to be alright. For a Savior had indeed been born for us, for me and my family, and this Savior, Jesus Christ, was personally with us.

That Christmas we still exchanged gifts, as we had done in previous years, but I would have been completely content

with no gifts at all. My heart was preoccupied and quietly rejoicing with the True Gift of Christmas, which overwhelmed me with deep gratitude.

We sang the same old Christmas carols that night, but it was as though I was hearing them for the first time—they came to life, for they were now telling my own story.

My dear brothers and sisters, the message proclaimed by the Angel is our reason for Joy this night: "Do not be afraid: For today in the city of David a Savior has been born for you, who is Christ the Lord."

In the Eucharist which we celebrate, our Savior renews His coming and presence among us. Like his presence in the manger, He hides His majestic glory in littleness. He comes so gently and tenderly under the humble appearance of bread and wine, so that we will not be afraid to approach him. Together, let us adore Him, let us thank Him for His saving love. Let us once again ask Him to take up all the space in our hearts and to stay with us, for in Him alone will our hearts find rest and true peace.

Jesus bless you,



Fr. Steven

**Today in the
town of David a
Savior has been
born to you;
he is Christ
the Lord.**

Luke 2:11



CHRISTMAS SEASON HISTORIC CHURCH TOUR

What would it have been like back in 1853 at the Historic Church on Christmas? One can imagine how cold it must have been coming up the steps for Midnight Mass. The Historic Church, decorated for Christmas, is quite a sight, especially at night. Come stop by our "open house" on Thursday, January 4, anytime between 5 and 7 pm to step back in time with us. We will have tour guides on hand to answer questions, a trio of carolers singing Christmas songs and homemade cookies, mulled cider and hot cocoa for treats. We look forward to you stopping in!

HOMEBOUND

Many in our community wish to be able to join us for Mass but are unable to do so. If you or a loved one has mobility limitations, or if declining health makes it difficult to participate in the sacramental life of the church, please contact our pastoral associate, Lisa Amos, to learn of the ways we can help. Often many go without, simply because we are not made aware of their needs. To add yourself or someone you love to our outreach ministry, or to hear about the many opportunities, contact Lisa at 651-905-4304 or lamos@stpetersmendota.org.

GOD SO LOVED THE WORLD THAT HE SENT HIS ONLY BEGOTTEN SON

"God so loved the world that he sent his only Begotten Son." (John 3:16)



If we dive deep into that Scripture passage, we truly realize what a gift God the Father gave us in His son, Jesus Christ, to become both fully human and fully Divine at the same time. The gift of salvation, the gift of encouragement, the gift of healing, the gift of consolation, the gift of direction, the gift of wisdom and the gift of absolute love are all things we need to cherish forever.

The gift of Jesus Christ, fully present in Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity in the Blessed Sacrament is available to us in our perpetual adoration chapel, The Chapel of the Nativity. Should we not come and adore him? At Christmas time, we sing, "O Come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord!"

All are welcome at adoration. To sign up for your special hour with Christ, call Lisa Amos at 651-905-4304 or email her at lamos@stpetersmendota.org.

Tom Dahl

Lisa Amos

Deann Stearnes

Peter Holman

David M. Duust

Elizabeth McLanna

John Raible



The Nativity of the Lord

*The staff wishes you all a very
happy and blessed Christmas
and a new year filled with love
and good health.*

Anne O'Keefe

F. Stearns

Kathy Raible

Mary Gabemille

Carolyn Repplier

Beth Halbert

*Thank you to all 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 Delores Larsen, James Larsen,
Denis Kelly and Donna Larsen
From Kristine and David Kelly

In Memory of Christopher Wiesner
From John and Jude Wiesner

In Memory of George Rabuse and Scott Rabuse
From Sandy and Dwight Rabuse

In Memory of Frank and Marie Huberty
From Anonymous

In Memory of Jerry Hirsch and Tom Hirsch
From Barb Hirsch

In Memory of Edward S. Woidylla, Sharon M.
Chapuran and Irene Rassier
From Anonymous

In Memory of Richard J. Weinzettel, Richard A.
Weinzettel and Lois Burns
From Laurita R. and Thomas M.
Weinzettel

In Memory of Wil Oster, Mr. and Mrs. Andrew
Becker, Mr. and Mrs. Art Becker, Mr. and Mrs.
Frank Sullivan and Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence Oster
From The Oster Family

In Memory of the Sullivan Family and the
Malerich Family
From Tony and Marge Malerich

In Memory of William and Kathleen (Moonan)
Fitzgerald and Kathleen (Fitzgerald) and Conrad
Terrier
From S. M. Fitzgerald

In Memory of Ruth and Lyle Wellner and Patricia
Swenson
From Jan and Rick Swenson

In Memory of our parents
From Keith and Nancy Stanton

In Memory of Louis John Chapdelaine
From Robert and Patricia Baber

In Memory of Jerome A. Schreiber
From Mary Schreiber

In Memory of Jerry Blissenbach, Adelord
Raymond and Effie Raymond
From Jacqueline A. Blissenbach

In Memory of Lloyd Kulaszewicz
From Dawn Kulaszewicz

In Memory of Andrew and Cecelia Yourczek and
David and Helen Gwost
From Joe and Barb Yourczek

In Honor of Dee Hazuka and In Memory of Ray
Hazuka
From Joseph and Barbara Richter

In Memory of Kay and Howard Sheeler
From Alice Sheeler

In Memory of LeRoy Hays and Alfred Zimmerman
From Jennifer A. Hays

In Memory of Carl Becherer
From Gretchen Becherer

In Memory of Dick Kirch
From Lou Ann Kirch

In Memory of Tabitha Rose Markle, Members of
the Seefeld and the Spiegelberg Families
From The Seefeld Family

In Memory of David Berndt, Martin LaBerge and
Julia Gonko
From Mike and Teri Berndt

In Memory of Don Sault and Mary Lou Williams
From Sally Sault

In Memory of Mary Sandkamp
From Rose and Dave Vierling

In Memory of Louis J. and Mary Chapdelaine and
Cody Babineau
From Kathleen Chapdelaine

