

**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.

Second Sunday of Advent**DECEMBER 10, 2017**

Each Advent, John the Baptist appears on the scene clad in camel's hair and eating locusts and wild honey. I can imagine that John, even in his own time, was considered a bit of an eccentric. He comes out of the desert and enters the region around the Jordan River to prepare people's hearts for the Messiah. The prophet Isaiah foretells his coming:

"Behold, I am sending my messenger ahead of you; he will prepare your way. A voice of one crying out in the desert: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths.'"

John was the messenger. He was the voice announcing the long awaited Savior. He wasn't flashy or polished; he was not likely very refined. He was a salt of the earth man of deep humility, who warned his followers to prepare the way and clean up their act.

There is something beautiful about a voice that brings good news. Perhaps it was your doctor giving you positive test results, when you expected something very serious might be wrong with your body. Or maybe it was the voice of your newborn child uttering her first sounds, as she made her way into the safety of your waiting arms. Maybe the voice bringing good news was that of a family member who struggled with addiction or mental illness and finally found their way to healing. There is something beautiful and consoling about a voice that brings good news!

John was a messenger for his time, who came to bring the good news that many had been waiting to hear. As the messenger, he fielded questions about who he was and who this Messiah would be. John answered the questions, offered a little "fire and brimstone" and baptized those who came to the river with a baptism of repentance for their sins. John took a risk in carrying the message of Christ to the people of his day. In the end, his head ended up on a silver platter. Maybe some of us have had that same experience? It is not always easy to be the messenger. It is not always easy to speak the truth.

Father Steven gave a beautiful homily a few weeks ago on the idea of speaking the truth in love. Jesus always told people the truth. It wasn't always the truth that people wanted to hear, but he spoke it in love. Many people today are confused about what is really true. They are looking for something to believe in or a rock on which to stand. As

disciples, we are called to speak the truth but to do so in love.

As I write this article, we are about to graduate our first Alpha course class. Nearly 50 people made a commitment to listen to the story of Jesus over the course of the program, which began in September. For many, it was a reawakening of a faith that had sustained them through many years. For others, it was a new discovery that God is alive and well, and wanting a personal relationship with each of his children. It was indeed a great blessing to watch the groups become more cohesive as the program went on from week to week. I suspect there will be a lot of fruit for our entire parish community as a result of the Alpha course. This is truly a message that everyone needs to hear.

We have two candles burning on our Advent wreath this week. Advent is a season of preparing again for the One who is to come, the promised Messiah. It is easy to get caught up in the festive holiday happenings all around us. This beautiful season calls us to wait with expectant hope for the coming of Christ. We are called to be silent and still, so we can hear the first cries of the only Son of God as he enters humanity. We are called to bring our gift to the manger, a heart that is cleansed of sin and ready to greet the Newborn King. We are called to shatter the darkness of this world by shining the light of Christ within our hearts. Jesus is coming and the world will be forever changed by his birth.

I want to invite each of us to spend a little time preparing our hearts for the greatest gift the world has ever known. A beautiful way to do this is to visit our adoration chapel, where we will meet Jesus, present in the Blessed Sacrament. We don't need to worry about what to say or what to do, because he wants to invite us to just spend time with him. Let us prepare our hearts for the coming of the Savior.

In Christ,

Deacon Tim



Second Sunday in Advent

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YOUTH NEWS

FAITH FORMATION



Christmas Pageant Dress Rehearsal is on Saturday, December 16, from 9:30 to 11 a.m. Please have children bring their costumes. Snacks will be served during the last 15 minutes of rehearsal.

The Christmas Pageant takes place on **Sunday, December 17, after the 9 a.m. Mass.**

Elementary Religious Education

Our first Large Group Family Event takes place on Wednesday, December 13! All students in grades 1 through 5, and at least one parent per family, will come together to celebrate Advent. We will be doing a very special activity on the Nativity. Each family is encouraged to bring a good pair of scissors and a glue gun from home. Please let Kathy know if you cannot join us that evening. There is a Family Advent Event at both 4:30 and 6:30 p.m.

There will be no Grade 1 – 8 classes on Wednesday, December 20 or 27, due to the Christmas break. Grade 2 will resume classes on January 17.

Sunday School and Liturgy of the Word for Children

There will be no Sunday School or Liturgy of the Word for Children on Sunday, December 17, 24 or 31. We will resume both of these programs on Sunday, January 7.

Grade 2 - First Eucharist Program

Classes for the First Eucharist program will begin on Wednesday, January 17. Your second grade child should have been registered in the Reconciliation Program (Grade 2) 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.

WORKCAMP BAKE SALE



Our Workcamp Youth will host a bake sale the weekend of December 16/17, after all Masses. Baked items will be available for a free will donation. Please consider purchasing some treats today.

Thank you for your continued support of Workcamp!

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 Parish 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 helping us keep our database current!

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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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 rhohlen@stpetersmendota.org.

GROUP TRIP TO STATE CAPITOL



Join us on Monday, January 8, 2018, for our next St. Peter's Group Trip. We will leave from St. Peter's at 9:45 a.m. and travel to St. Paul for a tour of the Minnesota State Capitol. If you've been hoping to get an inside look at the new renovations, this is your chance. Following our tour, we will have lunch at Buca di Beppo Italian Restaurant and return to St. Peter's at approximately 2:30 p.m. Space is limited; register now by contacting Lisa Amos at 651-905-4304 or lamos@stpetersmendota.org. You may also stop by the parish office to sign up. Your \$40 trip fee includes the tour, lunch and bus. The registration deadline is Thursday, December 28. I hope you can join us!

PARENTS' NIGHT OUT



Would you like a nice dinner out? Do you need more time for Christmas shopping? Bring your kids (ages 6 months to 12 years) to St. Peter's Parents' Night Out!

On Friday, December 15, from 5 to 8 p.m., you are welcome to drop your children off in Heritage Center and have a few hours to yourself. This event is **FREE**, although we do accept free-will offerings, to help cover costs.

Supper will include pizza, carrots, apple slices and milk or water. You are welcome to bring a different dinner for your child, if they won't or are unable eat ours.

We hope you can take advantage of this event! RSVP's are **strongly encouraged**. For more information or to RSVP, contact Anne O'Keefe at aokeefe@stpetersmendota.org or 651-905-4308.

Help Support Young Families at St. Peter's!

We are looking for people to help us care for kids, during our Parents' Night Out event on Friday, December 15. **We could really use your help!** All volunteers will need to have Virtus training, as well as a background check. If you are interested, please contact Anne O'Keefe via the information above. Thank you!

PIZZA NIGHT AT SOLOS

The Knights of Columbus are hosting a Pizza Night at Solos Pizza in the Eagan Promenade, 1270 Promenade Place. Simply print the flyer from the K of C website at www.eaganknights.com and come in to Solos on Wednesday, December 13, between 4 and 9 p.m. Thirty (30%) of your purchase will be donated to the Knights to benefit the good work being done in our community. Thank you for your support.



CHRISTMAS FLOWERS



We are now accepting donations for Christmas flowers in memory or honor of a loved one. If you would like to make a donation, pick-up an envelope on the information counter or in the parish office and return it in the Sunday collections or to the parish office by Wednesday, Dec 13. All names will be listed in our Christmas bulletin.

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 will begin at 6 p.m.; dinner begins at 7 p.m. Entertainment will be Deacon Tim and his friends, Bob and Jackie Harvey, from Deacon Tim's church. All parishioners are invited to attend. Ticket sales will begin the weekend of January 27/28.



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.

 "GIVE... TO GOD" "THE THINGS THAT ARE GOD'S." MATTHEW 22:21, NRSV		Financial Recap July 1 to December 3, 2017	
YTD Actual Collections:		\$360,651	
YTD Budgeted Collections:		389,819	
Difference:		\$ (29,168)	
To donate electronically visit www.stpetersmendota.org or call Mary in the parish office at 651-905-4307.			

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 10

Sunday: Is 40:1-5, 9-11/Ps 85:9-10, 11-12, 13-14 [8]/2 Pt 3:8-14/Mk 1:1-8
Monday: Is 35:1-10/Ps 85:9ab and 10, 11-12, 13-14 [Is 35:4f]/Lk 5:17-26
Tuesday: Zec 2:14-17 or Rv 11:19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab/Jdt 13:18bcde, 19 [15:9d]/Lk 1:26-38 or Lk 1:39-47
Wednesday: Is 40:25-31/Ps 103:1-2, 3-4, 8 and 10 [1]/Mt 11:28-30
Thursday: Is 41:13-20/Ps 145:1 and 9, 10-11, 12-13ab [8]/Mt 11:11-15
Friday: Is 48:17-19/Ps 1:1-2, 3, 4 and 6 [cf. Jn 8:12]/Mt 11:16-19
Saturday: Sir 48:1-4, 9-11/Ps 80:2ac and 3b, 15-16, 18-19 [4]/Mt 17:9a, 10-13
Next Sunday: Is 61:1-2a, 10-11/Lk 1:46-48, 49-50, 53-54 [Is 61:10b]/1 Thes 5:16-24/Jn 1:6-8, 19-28

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MASS INTENTIONS

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

Monday, December 11	† Alice Struwas
Tuesday, December 12	Athena Rynders
Wednesday, December 13	† Jack McCauley
Thursday, December 14	† Louis J. Chapdelaine
Friday, December 15	† Richard Gangl
Saturday, December 16	Mass For The People
Sunday, December 17, 9 am	Louis A Chapdelaine Family
11 am	† Tom Paul

THIS WEEK'S CALENDAR: DECEMBER 11

Monday, December 11

9 am Mass, **Historic Church** (8:30 Rosary)
9:30 am Giving Tree Pick-up, Ravoux Room
6:30 pm Alpha, Heritage Center
7 pm Cub Scout Pack Committee Meeting, Conference Room 1

Tuesday, December 12

9 am Mass, **Historic Church** (8:30 Rosary)
9:45 am Women's Bible Study, Ravoux Room
6:30 pm RCIA, Conference Room
7 pm Endow, Family Room

Wednesday, December 13

9 am Mass, **Historic Church** (8:30 Rosary)
9:45 am Divine Mercy Cenacle, Ravoux Room
4:30 pm Grades 1-5 meet in classrooms for Large Group Event.
5:30 pm Chill, Youth Room
6:30 pm Grades 1-5 meet in classrooms for Large Group Event, and 6-8 meet in their classrooms.
6:30 pm Perissos, Heritage Center

Thursday, December 14

9 am Mass, **Main Church** (8:30 Rosary)
9:45 am Small Faith Group, Conference Room 1
6:30 pm Advent Penance Service, **Main Church**
7 pm AA Meeting, Classroom 5

Friday, December 15

8 am Confession (Main Church)
9 am Mass, **Main Church** (8:30 Rosary)
5 pm Parents' Night Out, Heritage Center

Saturday, December 16

9 am & 10:30 am AA Meeting, Classrooms
9:30 am Christmas Pageant Rehearsal, Main Church
10 am Saturday Scripture Study, Conference Room
3:30 pm Confession, **Main Church**
4:30 pm Choir Rehearsal, Music Room
5 pm Mass, **Main Church**
6 pm Table for Poinsettias for the Homebound, Gathering Space
6 pm Workcamp Bake Sale, Gathering Space

Sunday, December 17 - *Hospitality Sunday* *Hosted By The Men's Club*

8:30 am Choir Rehearsal, Music Room
9 am Mass, **Main Church**
10 am Table for Poinsettias for the Homebound, Gathering Space
10 am Workcamp Bake Sale, Gathering Space
10 am Christmas Pageant, Main Church
10:30 am Choir Rehearsal, Music Room
10:30 am Rosary for St. Peter's Parish, Chapel of the Nativity (our new adoration chapel)
11 am Mass with Baptism, **Main Church**
12 pm Table for Poinsettias for the Homebound, Gathering Space
12 pm Workcamp Bake Sale, Gathering Space

PASTORAL MINISTRY

FOLLOWING JESUS



The Gospel today reminds us that God wants a clear path into our hearts. In order to keep this path clear this Advent season, let us take to heart the spirit of penance that marks this time, by making a good confession and seeking the grace from God to grow in the love of Christ.

ADVENT SPEAKER: LESSONS OF DISCIPLESHIP FROM NAZARETH WITH FATHER STEVEN

Join us on Tuesday, December 19, from 6:30 to 8 p.m. in Heritage Center for an enlightening and inspiring evening. Advent is a time for preparation and reflection. We invite you to open yourself to the lessons of the season.

The time from Jesus' birth to the beginning of His public ministry spans 30 years. During this time, Mary and Joseph are learning how to parent this special child. But as Jesus comes of age, growing in wisdom and grace, Mary and Joseph also become His first disciples. We hope you can come and join us, as we ponder together the lessons Mary and Joseph teach us about discipleship—lessons that can profoundly impact our ordinary daily lives.

We look forward to spending this evening of spiritual growth with you! Questions may be directed to Lisa Amos, at 651-905-4304 or lamos@stpetersmendota.org.

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 takes 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.

ST. PETER'S PERPETUAL ADORATION CHAPEL



As we celebrate the season of Advent, many of us are craving some "down time," when we can focus on the real reason for our celebrations. It's true that the holiday celebrations, the lights on our homes, Christmas trees and all of the events of Christmas are wonderful. It is easy, however, to get so caught up in the demands of shopping and planning, that we miss out on the peace and joy Jesus's first coming offers us.

Even as we give and receive wonderful gifts and share in Christmas cheer with our families and friends, we often feel as if something is missing. Maybe you are feeling that in a particular way this year. If we aim our focus in His direction, Jesus will fill that emptiness within us with His love. He is the source of our joy, happiness and contentment. This holiday season, we invite you to come to the adoration chapel, where the real star of the season is fully present in the Blessed Sacrament, Body and Blood, Soul and Divinity. In the chapel, you can step away from the business and focus on the one thing that can bring us true peace and lasting joy - Jesus Christ.

The chapel is closed during Masses. Christmas hours are now posted outside the chapel. 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	2-3 am	Sunday	2 - 3 pm	Sunday	5 - 6 pm
Friday	5-6 am	Monday	2 - 3 pm	Friday	7 - 8 pm
Saturday	3-4 am	Friday	Noon - 1 pm	Friday	8 - 9 pm
Saturday	4-5 am	Friday	4 - 5 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.jpilhealingcenter.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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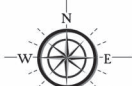


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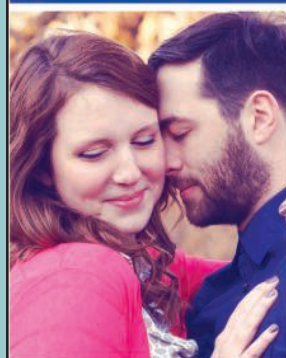
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Lessons of Discipleship from Nazareth

with Fr. Steven Hoffman



Advent is a time for preparation and reflection. We invite you to open yourself to the lessons of the season.

We look forward to spending this evening of spiritual growth with you! Questions may be directed to Lisa Amos, at 651-905-4304 or lamos@stpetersmendota.org.

Tuesday, December 19

6:30-8 pm

Heritage Center

The time from Jesus' birth to the beginning of His public ministry spans 30 years. During this time Mary and Joseph are learning how to parent this special child. But as Jesus comes of age, growing in wisdom and grace, Mary and Joseph also become His first disciples. We hope you can come and join us as we ponder together the lessons Mary and Joseph teach us about discipleship—lessons that can profoundly impact our ordinary daily lives.

Light refreshments will be served.