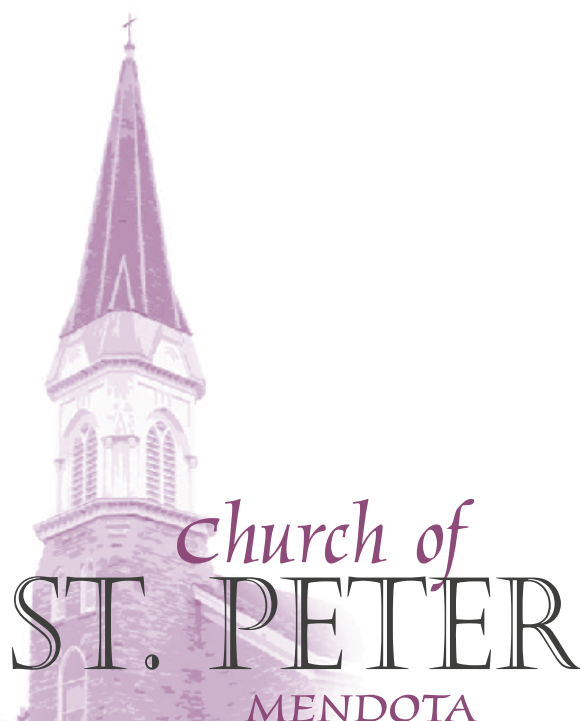
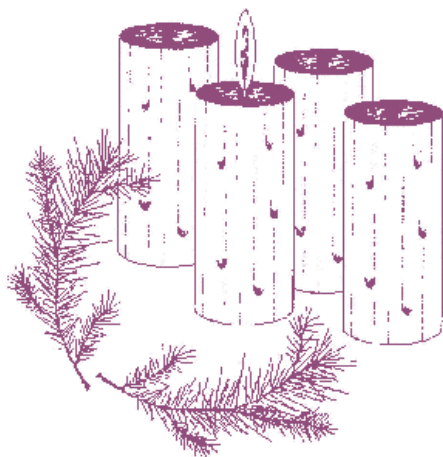




December 2, 2012
First Sunday of Advent



PASTOR:

Fr. Joseph Gallatin 651-452-4550

PASTORAL ASSOCIATE:

Lisa Amos 651-905-4304

BUSINESS MANAGER:

Mary Jubenville 651-905-4307

Heritage Center Rental Information

Mary Jubenville, staff contact..... 651-905-4307

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION/FAITH FORMATION:

Kathy Raible, Director 651-905-4311

Ed Overell, Youth Coordinator 651-905-4312

Beth Newton, Sunday School Coordinator

..... 651-905-4313

Rita Holien, Religious Education Secretary . 651-905-4318

Religious Education Information Line 651-905-4314

MUSIC:

David Dunst, Director of Music 651-905-4323

COMMUNITY LIFE COORDINATOR:

Sara Rogers 651-905-4308

OFFICE STAFF:

Geri Korman, Receptionist..... 651-452-4550

Darlene Olson, Communications Coord. 651-905-4302

MAINTENANCE:

Tom Deshler..... 651-905-4322

John Jubenville 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

3355 Columbia Drive

Eagan, MN 55121



SUNDAY MASSES

Saturday 5 pm

Sunday 9 am and 11 am (all in the Main Church)

WEEKDAY MASSES

(all in the Historic Church)

9 am Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday

HOLY DAYS As announced.

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Saturdays 4 to 4:45 pm or by appointment.

BAPTISMS, NEW PARISHIONERS, WEDDINGS

Call the parish office for more information.

PRAYER CHAIN REQUESTS

Peggy Markee 952-322-6479

E-mail: pmarkee@frontier.com

From the Pastor's Desk

Advent is my favorite season of the liturgical year. Today begins this holy time that is so hard to keep well when all around us advertising, the streetscape, and even the sounds around us are proclaiming that Christmas has arrived. Tinkling music and Christmas decorations greet shoppers, and “holiday” music emanates from radios as entire stations switch to an all-Christmas music format even before Thanksgiving. As I flipped through the newspaper the other day, I noticed that an article in the business section made a passing reference to the holiday shopping season being the entire two-month period of November and December! I suppose that is accurate when it comes to sales. Businesses find it very important to tell us it is already Christmas, so we have a challenge ahead of us if we intend to allow Advent to be Advent.

It might be interesting to note that Advent is a young liturgical season compared to Lent, for example. It simply came along more recently. Now, by “recent” I mean 1,500 years old; the Catholic Church has been around for a long time. The season came into being only gradually. Read on to understand what research in to the liturgical history of the prayers used during Advent has discovered:

The history of Advent in Rome begins in the sixth century, but Advent had already existed in Gaul and Spain. By the end of the fourth century and during the fifth, the people of those regions seemed to have felt the need for an ascetical preparation for the feasts of Christmas and Epiphany. This preparation, lasting three weeks, was doubtless connected originally with the preparation for baptism on Epiphany. ... Asceticism, prayer, more frequent assemblies: these are the original characteristics of the time of preparation for Christmas. ... Advent makes its appearance in Rome only in the second half of the sixth century It is important to note that at Rome Advent was from the outset a liturgical institution, whereas everywhere else ascetical considerations had served as the point of departure and provided the criteria for the evolution of the season. ...

In keeping with the original conception of it among the Gauls, the season was first of all a time of preparation for the solemnity of the coming of the Lord ... But, as the feast of Christmas became increasingly important in the High Middle Ages, Advent also came to be a time of expectation: it fostered a joyful expectation of the feast of the Nativity but with a view to directing the thoughts of Christians above all to the glorious return of the

Lord at the end of time” (A.G. Martimort, *The Church at Prayer*, volume IV: *The Liturgy and Time* [Collegeville: Liturgical Press, 1986], pp. 91-93).

In other words, the idea of Advent came from a desire to help adults who were preparing to be baptized on the Epiphany, so the time before Christmas was not so different from Lent. In the 300s in the region that became France and Spain, Advent was a time of penitence and ascetic practices such as fasting and abstaining from eating meat. When Advent was accepted in Rome in the late 500s, it didn't have much of an emphasis on those ascetical practices, but even today the origins of Advent live on in the custom of going to confession before Christmas and in the violet color of the vestments worn during Advent – the color of penitence. After the year 1000, the season we have just begun took on its present characteristics: it's a time to prepare to celebrate the birth of Jesus, and also a time to focus on Jesus' return in glory on the last day.

The interesting thing about Advent and its two emphases is that early in the season we are invited to think of the end times, and then late in Advent (from December 17 to 24) we are invited to contemplate the human origins of Jesus, ending with the wonderful celebration of his birth. This is reflected in the beautiful prayer called the Preface that is used in the part of Advent that comes before December 17. The Preface comes at the beginning of the Eucharistic Prayer and includes these words:

For he assumed at his first coming
the lowliness of human flesh,
and so fulfilled the design you formed long ago,
and opened for us the way to eternal salvation,
that, when he comes again in glory and majesty
and all is at last made manifest,
we who watch for that day
may inherit the great promise
in which now we dare to hope.

Why not spend this part of this season of preparation “daring to hope” in the promise God has made to us? We can do it by carving out a place of silence and quiet prayer in a hectic time. We can do that in the time-honored customs of using the Advent wreath and Advent calendar at home, especially in a time of family prayer with the children. I hope you have a wonderful Advent!

~Fr. Joseph Gallatin



Come as a Guest
Leave as a Friend

Religious Education/ Faith Formation (RE/FF)

Christmas Pageant

Don't Forget!! We have our first Christmas Pageant rehearsal on **Saturday, December 8, from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m.** Please have children there on time. We will be meeting in Heritage Center. If you have any questions, call Kathy Raible at 651-905-4311.

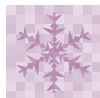
Christmas Flower Offering



There are envelopes available on the information counter to make a donation for Christmas flowers in memory/honor of a loved one. All names will be printed in the bulletin on December 30/January 6. Be sure to indicate who this is in memory/honor of and—if giving cash—please put your name on the envelope. All envelopes are due in the office by Monday, December 17, to meet our bulletin deadline.

TV and DVD Player Needed

Do you have an old TV or DVD player you have been meaning to get rid of but finding a recycler seems like a hassle? If so, please call the office because we are in need of one TV and two DVD players. Thank you!



"Keep Christ in Christmas" Poster Contest

Does your child know why we celebrate Christmas? The Faithful Shepherd Knights of Columbus will be hosting a "Keep Christ in Christmas" poster contest starting this week. Please submit all entries by Friday afternoon, December 14. **Contest winners** and **all contestants** will receive a gift on December 15 and 16 in Heritage Center. To enter, please see the contest rules posted in the coat room or the classroom hallway on the lower level.

Sincere Sympathy

St. Peter's Parish extends its sympathy to the family and friends of **Connie Mueller, Dianne Taney** and **Rosemary** (Fr. Fredrick's sister). We invite all to join us in praying that God may make them sharers in eternal salvation.



Pastoral Ministry

Giving Tree



Our annual Giving Tree is now in the Gathering Space with its doll "decorations." Each doll represents a specific gift request from one of our families in need. Please take one or more dolls, purchase the gift, wrap it and return to the tree with the doll taped to the package. Please return all your gifts by Sunday, December 9, by the beginning of the 11:00 a.m. Mass.

We can always use help sorting and delivering the gifts. The more the merrier! There is something for adults and young adults to do, and the rewards are huge! Please consider spreading the Christmas spirit by helping with this very important project. Call Carol at 651-453-1345 for more information.

Evening Bible Study Information Session

Are you interested in learning about Scripture and nurturing your own personal relationship with Christ? Please join other interested parishioners on Thursday, December 13, at 7 p.m. in the Family Room to hear more about this exciting opportunity. This study group will meet regularly in the evening to make participation convenient for everyone. Attend the session and talk with Kirsten Staloch, our group leader, and then decide whether this is just the opportunity you've been looking for. For more information, contact Lisa Amos at 651-905-4304 or lamos@stpetersmendota.org

If I had a nickel....

If every person who said, "I'd join choir, but I don't want to be the only one singing," decided to join choir, they wouldn't be the only one singing, would they? If you've thought this or know someone who has, encourage them to join! The commitment is an easy three hours each week, including Mass, which you'd be attending anyhow. Rehearsals are on Wednesday nights at 7 p.m. in Conference Room I.

For more information, contact David Dunst, Director of Music, at 651-905-4323.

At The Advertisers
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St. Peter's Community News

Annual Giving

Weekly Contribution Summary

Budget for the period 11/19/12-11/25/12	\$12,765
Actual for the period 11/19/12-11/25/12	\$11,998
Year-to-Date Budget.....	\$360,605
Year-to-Date Actual.....	\$312,248

Year End Gift Opportunities

Christmas Envelopes

We hope that you will maintain your regular weekly support along with offering a special Christmas contribution.

Automatic Withdrawal—Electronic Funds Transfer

Please consider using our automatic giving program through our ACH program. Forms are available in the parish office.

Stock Contributions

Appreciated stock is a great way to make a contribution AND perhaps maximize your tax benefit. Please contact the parish office.

Employer Matching Funds

You may wish to consult with your employer to determine if a matching gift can double the value of your contribution to our parish or one of our specific ministries.

"Forward In Faith" Debt Reduction Campaign

We have created a special debt reduction campaign account separate from our regular operating fund. If you have not offered your response please complete your decision and return it this week.

Need Help Structuring A Contribution?

Please contact Mary Jubenville (651-905-4307) in our parish office. Thank you!

Eucharistic Adoration

Parishioners and friends are welcome for private prayer before the Blessed Sacrament in the Historic Church
on Tuesdays after the 9 a.m. Mass

Matthew 26:40-41—Jesus said to Peter:
**"Could you not watch with me one hour?
Watch and pray."**

For more information
please contact Jane Vasiliou at 651-454-5292 or
jvasiliou@comcast.net.

St. Peter's Reaches Out

Thank You from the Appalachia Christmas Mission

On behalf of the families from the Appalachia, Kentucky area I want to personally thank you for the wonderful gifts that you sent through the Christmas Mission Program. Thank you to the people that delivered the gifts to our farm, thanks to the people that donated and a huge thank you to the Terminal Transport & Warehouse of Roseville for the many years of donating their semi and driver. Without their donation, this mission would not be possible.

The semi arrived in Kentucky on November 14 and the three different parishes and their surrounding areas are getting the Free Stores set up for the families to pick out their gifts.

May you have the Joy of Christmas in your heart knowing that you made it possible for someone to have a Merry Christmas.

God bless all of you,

Olive Hupf
Archdiocesan Council of Catholic Women
Vice Chair Domestic Missions

Catholic Campaign for Human Development (CCHD)

Thank you for your contributions to the collection for the CCHD! Your generous gifts will help CCHD end poverty in America through better education, improved housing, and economic development. Through CCHD and its beneficiaries, we manifest Catholic social teaching and carry out Jesus' mission to "bring glad tidings to the poor...to proclaim liberty to captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free." (cf. Lk 4:18).

Listening House (Homeless Day Shelter)

Thank you to St. Peter's parishioners for the many white socks that you have donated. Our guests appreciate your thoughtfulness.

When their feet are wet and cold, they request new socks and the used socks are laundered. There is an urgent need for slightly used men and women's coats/jackets and new underwear. There will be a box in the coat room in Heritage Center marked LISTENING HOUSE.

Many thanks for your generosity!
The Staff at Listening House.

The Next Week

Monday, December 3

- 9 am Mass, Historic Church (8:40 rosary)
6 pm St. Paul Civic Symphony Practice,
Heritage Center

Tuesday, December 4

- 9 am Mass, Historic Church (8:40 rosary)
Adoration Before Blessed Sacrament
After the 9 am Mass Until 5 pm
9:45 am Women's Bible Study, Ravoux Room
1 pm Faithfully Fit forever, Ravoux Room

Wednesday, December 5

- 9 am Mass, Historic Church (8:40 rosary)
9:45 am Divine Mercy Cenacle, Conference Room I
4:30 pm Grades 1-5
6:30 pm Grades 1-8
7 pm Choir Rehearsal, Main Church

Thursday, December 6

- 9 am Mass, Historic Church (8:40 rosary)
7 pm Alcoholics Anonymous, Room 5
7 pm Al-Anon Meeting, Room 7
7 pm Teen Al-Anon Meeting, Room 6

Friday, December 7

- 9 am Mass, Historic Church (8:40 rosary)
5 pm Immaculate Conception Mass,
Main Church

Saturday, December 8

Immaculate Conception

- 9 am Mass, Main Church
9 and 10:30 am Alcoholics Anonymous, Rooms 2, 4
9:30 am Pageant Rehearsal, Heritage Center
10 am Scripture Study, Community Room
4 pm Reconciliation, Main Church
4:30 pm Choir Rehearsal
5 pm Mass, Main Church

Sunday, December 9—Second Sunday of Advent

- 8:30 & 10:30 am Choir Rehearsal, Main Church
9 & 11 am Liturgy of the Word for Children
9 & 11 am Mass, Main Church
9 am Sunday School
10 am Confirmation Class
11 am Giving Tree Gifts Due

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 Alice Sheeler, Secretary..... 651-457-8119
 Joanne Rocco Carter, Vice Chair..... 651-454-7853
 David Doty..... 651-330-2129
 Mary Pat Ferraro..... 651-454-1091
 Kelly Garrett 651-340-8963
 Ann Hoey..... 651-994-7870
 Yvonne Houle-Gillard 651-452-5316
 Sarah Larsen 612-384-1474

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 December 2

Sunday: Jer 33:14-16/1 Thes 3:12--4:2/Lk
 21:25-28, 34-36
Monday: Is 2:1-5/Mt 8:5-11
Tuesday: Is 11:1-10/Lk 10:21-24
Wednesday: Is 25:6-10a/Mt 15:29-37
Thursday: Is 26:1-6/Mt 7:21, 24-27
Friday: Is 29:17-24/Mt 9:27-31
Saturday: Gn 3:9-15, 20/Eph 1:3-6, 11-12/Lk
 1:26-38
Next Sunday: Bar 5:1-9/Phil 1:4-6, 8-11/Lk 3:1-6

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Mass Intentions

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

Monday, December 3 - †Marjorie Ramstad

Tuesday, Dec. 4 - For the Respect of Human Life

Wednesday, Dec. 5 - †Elizabeth & †Louis Unger

Thursday, December 6 - †Robert Weidner

Friday, December 7 - †Alfred Zimmerman

Saturday, December 8 - Mass For the People

Sunday, December 9 - 9 a.m. - Choice of the Priest

11 a.m. - †Sally Herbst

FORWARD IN FAITH

2013-2015 DEBT REDUCTION CAMPAIGN

CHURCH OF ST. PETER

Gentle Reminder

Your financial support will have an important impact on our ability to reach the \$2,202,625 goal. If you have not returned your decision, commitment packets can be found in the back of the Historic Church, the Gathering Space and the parish office. Please take a few moments to complete the commitment card, seal it in the confidential envelope, return it by mail, deliver it to the parish office, or place it in the collection basket next weekend. Thank you!

Fr. Joseph Gallatin
Pastor

Jim Oricchio
Parish
Trustee

Helen Wilkie
Parish
Trustee



St. Nicholas Party at St. Helena

Come celebrate the 'Season of Expectation' at the 7th Annual St. Nicholas Party and Fundraising event for *The Catholic Servant*, Sunday, December 9, from 3 to 5 p.m., at Rowan Hall, St. Helena Church, 3204 East 43rd Street, Minneapolis. Festivities include a visit from St. Nicholas bearing treats for the kids, musical entertainment, gourmet desserts and refreshments. A fun event for the whole family! Cost is \$25/single, \$35/couple, \$5/child; \$45 max/family. Register by Saturday, December 8. Call 763-502-0792 or email barbernster@comcast.net.

Retirement Fund for Religious Next Weekend

Support elderly religious. A parishioner writes, "As a Catholic school student from grades K-12, I was formed to be the person I am by many religious brothers and sisters, and I am forever grateful." Show your thanks for the senior Catholic sisters, brothers, and religious order priests who made a positive difference in so many lives. Please give generously to next week's collection for the Retirement Fund for Religious.

About the Holy Day this Week



Immaculate Conception

All parishes have received a notice from our Archdiocesan Office of Worship saying it has received "many inquiries regarding the Feast of the Immaculate Conception (also the Patronal Feast of the United States) on December 8. This year, December 8 falls on a Saturday. It is a holy day of obligation.

Parishes may have a Vigil Mass on Friday, December 7 and the Holy Day Mass may be celebrated through 4:00 p.m. on December 8. The Vigil Mass for the Second Sunday of Advent begins on December 8 at 4:00 pm..." Our Office of Worship here contacted the USCCB Office of Divine Worship in Washington, which affirmed that "attendance at the Vigil Mass for the Second Sunday of Advent does not fulfill the obligation for the Feast of the Immaculate Conception."

Here at St. Peter's, the holy day Masses will be Friday at 5:00 p.m. and Saturday at 9:00 a.m. We hope you will come worship on this great feast of Our Lady's Conception without stain of sin, nine months before her birth.

We are aware that this feast day is often a source of confusion. December 8 and December 25 are the only two holy days of obligation which remain obligatory even when they fall on a Saturday or a Monday. It would be easy to say that the Immaculate Conception is a holy day of obligation every year, but that would not be accurate. When December 8 falls on a Sunday, as it will in 2013, the Second Sunday of Advent is celebrated and the feast day is transferred to Monday, December 9, losing its obligatory character in the process. But for now, let's concentrate on this year's opportunity to grow closer to God by celebrating a wonderful Marian feast at Mass on Friday or Saturday!

Bounty Fund

Because of St. Peter's Bounty Fund, many people have benefited from your anonymous financial gifts. The Bounty Fund gives us the opportunity to direct anonymous financial gifts to those in need in our parish or surrounding community. If you wish to contribute to the Bounty Fund, please make a check to St. Peter's and direct it to my attention. God bless you for your generosity and the sharing of your bounty with our sisters and brothers.

Fr. Gallatin



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