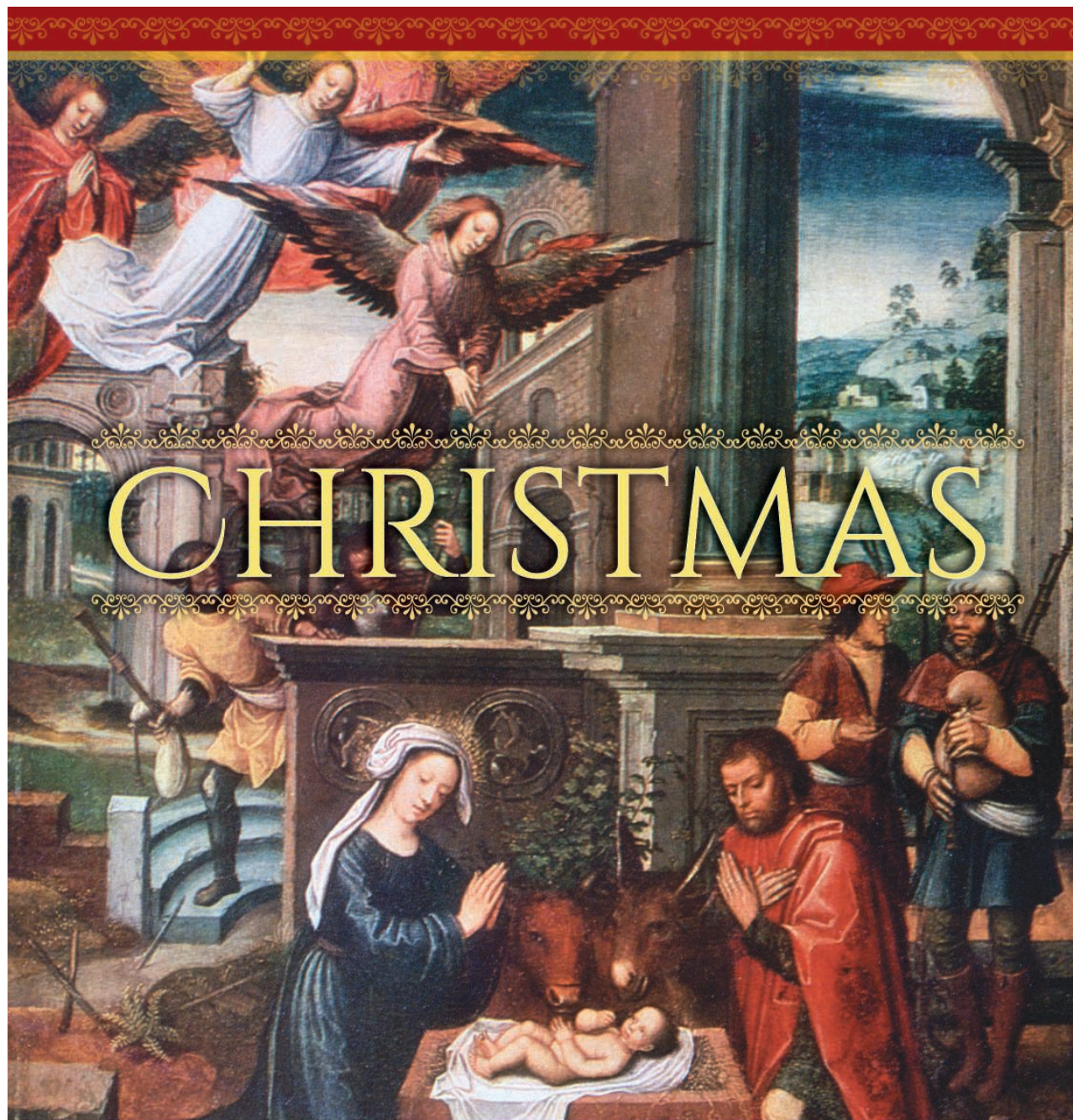


Church of St. Peter
1405 Highway 13 PO Box 50679 Mendota MN 55150-0679
December 25, 2014



“FOR TODAY IN THE CITY OF DAVID A SAVIOR HAS BEEN BORN FOR
YOU WHO IS CHRIST AND LORD. AND THIS WILL BE A SIGN FOR YOU:
YOU WILL FIND AN INFANT WRAPPED IN SWADDLING CLOTHES AND
LYING IN A MANGER.” – Lk 2:11-12

Reflections from our Pastor

My dear friends,

How wonderful it is to celebrate Christmas together with you. To you, and all your families, I wish a very blessed and peaceful Christmas, and safe travels to and from all your gatherings.

In celebrating the birth of Christ, we celebrate His birth into a family; the family we traditionally call “the holy family.” While Christ’s birth reveals many things, by the fact that God would freely chose to live and embrace the quiet simplicity and earthy-ordinariness of family life reveals loud and clear that God loves families. He loves your family and mine. Family life is very beautiful, good, and precious in His eyes. Yes, there can also be much pain, hurt and brokenness in family life, we all experience it to some degree, because every family is made up of fallen, weak human beings, touched in various ways by sin and its affects. But this is precisely the blessing of Christmas, for we celebrate the good news of Christ’s coming into the world to redeem and heal all that threatens or harms God’s plan for marriage and family life. As we open our hearts more to Jesus’ redeeming love and mercy, we bring this grace and New Life into our family which heals, strengthens and renews.

Have you ever wondered why Jesus spent the first 30 years of his short life hidden away in a small, no-name town like Nazareth? Why did Jesus wait so long to start the all important work of saving the world? The misery of fallen humanity was everywhere to be seen, the world was groaning and yearning for a Savior. And yet, He waited, living the simple, daily rhythm of family life with Mary, Joseph and their neighbors. Though He was the Son of God, He hid His divinity so completely, that nothing extraordinary stood out among those who watched Him grow from infancy to an adult man. When His wisdom and divine power were finally disclosed during the three short years of His public ministry, His relatives and neighbors were amazed and completely surprised: “Where did this man get this wisdom and these mighty works? Is not this the carpenter’s son? Is not his mother called Mary? . . . Where then did this man get all this” (Mt 13)?

In the Church’s contemplation of this mystery there are various reasons put forth as to why Jesus Christ embraced a hidden life for thirty of his 33 years. Some have suggested that it is because God wanted to show, through His Son, that family life, and all that makes up family life, is not in any way inconsistent with godliness or holiness.

On the contrary, while also bearing God’s image, it is in and through family life that holiness for each member of the family is forged, expressed and lived out. Like Mary and Joseph, family life is for most people the primary environment where discipleship with Christ is lived out. As we look closely at the holy family, their example reveals that family life is at the very heart, a life of deep communion with God, which continually overflows into communion with one another in all the simple, daily acts of kindness, thoughtfulness, and sacrifice.

As we all renew our welcome and love for the Christ-child this Christmas, let us bring Him once again, not only into the center of our hearts, but also into the center of our home, of our family. As the infant Jesus smiles with immense love upon you and all whom you hold dear, as He renews His infant blesses upon you and your family, may you be encouraged to take up once again the call to holiness, to make holy the ordinary day-to-day stuff of family life by doing it with a love that is more generous and thoughtful, more other-centered, more patience and kind, more joyful and forgiving. And through this more Christ-like love we give to each other the greatest gift of Christmas: Jesus Christ.

God love you,



Fr. Steven

History Corner

Midnight Mass 1843.....Father Ravoux

“Christmas Day at Midnight Mass, the chapel of St. Peter, which is 20 by 40, was crowded; and (in addition) in a room from which the altar can be seen, there were about 20 persons. There

were several good singers who sang hymns for an hour and a half before Mass. For four hours the chapel was filled. During the holiday season about 30 persons received the sacraments. Le Bon Noel almost made me rich in temporal goods. The Catholic soldiers gave me about \$75 and the several families of St. Peter also made me a subscription of forty dollars, though I had not asked anyone for anything.”



~reprinted from St. Peter’s 150th Anniversary
The History of Saint Peter’s Catholic Church,
1990

Mary, Mother of God

Mass Times

Wednesday, December 31, at 4 p.m.

Thursday, January 1, at 10 a.m.

Main Church

VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT
www.stpetersmendota.org

Sacraments for the 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 declining health makes it difficult for them to participate in the sacramental life of the church, please contact our pastoral associate 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 Amos at 651-905-4304 or lamos@stpetersmendota.org.

Baptism Preparation Class

If you are interested in having your child baptized, please contact Kathy Raible at 651-905-4311. You are welcome to participate in the class either before or after your baby is born. Our next scheduled baptism class is on Sunday, January 11, at 1 p.m.

New Parishioner Registration

If you would like to register or if you have questions, new parishioner registration is held after all Masses the first weekend of each month in the Gathering Space, or by appointment with Sara Rogers at 651-905-4308 or srogers@stpetersmendota.org. You can also register online by clicking the "Join St. Peter's" button on our website at www.stpetersmendota.org. We look forward to meeting you!



FAITHFUL SHEPHERD CATHOLIC SCHOOL AND TRI-PARISH CENTER

St. John Neumann, St. Peter, St. Thomas Becket
 3355 Columbia Drive, Eagan, MN 55121

651-406-4747

www.fscsmn.org

PASTOR:

Fr. Steven Hoffman 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 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:

Sara Rogers 651-905-4308

OFFICE STAFF:

Darlene Olson, Communications Coord. 651-905-4302

Carolyn Rynders 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

Saturdays 4 to 4:45 pm or 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.



Come as a Guest
 Leave as a Friend

Thank you to all those who donated money towards our Christmas flowers in memory or honor of a loved one. Your generosity has helped make the church a beautiful space to worship.

Donation

Anonymous

Donation

By Dawn Kulaszewicz

In Memory of Gerard Abbott

Gus & Joann Zuccaro

In Memory of Mr. & Mrs. Andrew Becker,

Mr. & Mrs. Arthur Becker,

Mr. & Mrs. Lawrence Oster,

Wilfrid L. Oster, and

Mr. & Mrs. Frank Sullivan

By Maryanna Oster

**In Memory of David Berndt, Julia Gonko,
and Martin LaBerge**

By Mike & Teri Berndt

**In Memory of Gerald Blissenbach, Adelord
Raymond, and Effie Raymond**

By Jacqueline Blissenbach

In Memory of Lois Burns and Richard Weinzettel

By Laurita Weinzettel

In Memory of Mary Chapdelaine,

Louis A. Chapdelaine Family, and

Frank O'Donnell Family

By Louis & Kathleen Chapdelaine

In Memory of Robert & Fray Davies, Carl

Skally, Cpl. Thomas M. Skally,

Jeffrey Weiss, and Joe & Ruth Weiss

By Joseph & Joy Weiss

In Memory of Lucinda Davis, Richard &

Angeline Hirsch, and Joe & Ruth Uhl

By Jerome & Barbara Hirsch

In Memory of Mel DeBlauw

By Alice DeBlauw

In Memory of Harriet Fenton, Sr. Victorine

Fenton, OSB, Tabitha Rose Markle,

and Alice & George Spiegelberg

By Melvin & Mary Seefeld

In Memory of the William & Kathleen

Fitzgerald Family

By Sheila Fitzgerald

In Memory of Dr. & Mrs. M. C. Flaten and

Thomas Wartman

By Marcella Wartman

In Memory of Robert & Jessica Fontecha

By Lisa Amos

In Memory of Don Giblin and Carol Grayson

By Maureen Giblin

In Memory of Don Giefer

By Betty Giefer

In Memory of Bill & Dan Goetz

By Alice Goetz

In Memory of the Gray, Heffron,

Hunzelman and Peterson Families

By Dave & Pat Peterson

In Memory of David & Helen Gwost and

Andrew & Cecelia Yourczek

By Joe & Barb Yourczek

In Memory of LeRoy R. Hays and

Alfred Zimmerman

By Marilyn Hays

In Memory of the Hughes and Kemper Parents

By John & Pat Kemper

In Memory of Mackenzie Judd, Heinrich

Kent, Loren Linn, and Jennifer Schafer

By Mary Kent

In Memory of Denis Kelly, Therese Kelly,

Delores Larsen, and James Larsen

By Kristine Larsen-Kelly

In Memory of Larry & Mary Kielpinski and

Orville Nouska

By Larry & Cheryl Kielpinski

In Memory of Dick Kirch

By LouAnn Kirch

In Memory of Ayako Lutz

Anonymous Donor

In Memory of Rita Maczko

By Jeffrey & Stefanie Bolks

In Memory of Deceased Malerich and

Sullivan Family Members

By Marge Sullivan & Tony Malerich

In Memory of Allen & Florence May

By Ken & Janet Misgen

In Memory of Gerald O'Brien

By Norine O'Brien

In Memory of John O'Toole, Sr.

By Eileen O'Toole

In Memory of George & Scott Rabuse

By Dwight & Sandy Rabuse

In Memory of Don Sault and Mary Lou Williams

By Sally Sault

In Memory of Howard & Kay Sheeler

By Alice Sheeler

In Memory of Joseph Steman

By Lenora Steman

**In Memory of Phyllis Thoemke, Tyson Thoemke,
and John Webb**

By Phyllis Webb

In Memory of Beverly C. Thoreson

By Robert Thoreson

In Memory of Lyle & Ruth Wellner

By Richard Swenson

In Memory of Bob Wilhelmy

By Joan Wilhelmy





*Blessings to you and your family
from the parish staff.*

John Jeffers

Beth Halbert

Kathy Raible

Darlene Dora

Carolyn Beydew

Laura Fisher

[Signature]

John Raible

Lisa Amos

[Signature]

Mary Guberville

Sara Rogers