

Church of St. Peter
1405 Highway 13 PO Box 50679 Mendota MN 55150-0679
December 25, 2015

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NATIVITY

OF THE LORD

Reflections from our Pastor

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. This will be our second Christmas together—praise God! I pray God will give us many more.

The first pulpit of our Lord was the crib—the wooden manger—from there He preached His first, and in some ways, His greatest sermon. But it's a sermon without words, a message conveyed in the silence of a sleeping, newborn child. It's amazing how God, in taking on our human nature, is first present to us as a little infant, that he wanted our first encounter with His saving Mercy to be in the defenseless weakness of a child. This little child is God revealing Himself to us, speaking to us through littleness, helplessness, through the gentle, tender bearing of an infant. What is God saying to us?

The words of the angel to the shepherds break the silence of this moment, with the message: "Do not be afraid, for I bring you good news of great joy which will come to all the people; for to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord." The awesome glory of the Lord that shines around the angel, that made the shepherds afraid, is completely hidden in that little babe.

Perhaps this is why God speaks and comes to us in this way, hiding his majestic glory in weakness and littleness, so that we would not be afraid to approach Him. And God has not changed His way with us, for something similar and just as amazing happens at every Mass. In fact, at every Mass the mystery of Christmas is renewed in a very real and concrete way.

It is no accident that Bethlehem, the city where Christ was born, means "House of Bread?" How providential, that the One who would later say "I am the Bread of Life," and who would give us His Body in the form of bread and ask us to eat it in memory of His saving passion and death, is born in the city named "House of Bread."

As God comes to us helpless, little, gently and tenderly in the infant Christ, so too in the Eucharist does He come gently and quietly, making himself helpless and small in our hands and on our tongues. The infant Christ and Christ in the Eucharist repeat the same message as the angel: "Do not be afraid." Who of us is afraid of a little baby? Maybe of dropping it, nervous like a person holding a baby for the first time. Likewise, is it possible to be afraid of that small, round, white

consecrated host that is placed in our hands and on our tongues in Holy Communion? Perhaps here, too, we may be afraid of dropping it, of treating it irreverently or disrespectfully. Yet, wonder of wonders, both the babe of Christmas and the Consecrated host are truly the God-man, Jesus Christ, fully human and fully Divine.

May our joyful and grateful adoration of Jesus Christ today, truly present in that child of the manger, express itself with equal wonder at His becoming truly present to us in the bread and wine we place on this altar—coming to us quietly, gently, and tenderly to say again to each of us: "Do not be afraid, I come to you as your Savior. Trust in my love for you; trust in my desire to save you and show you Mercy."

So on this Holy night/day, with Mary, Joseph, the angels, and shepherds, together with the whole Church, we rejoice—for given to us in the bread we eat and the cup we drink is the same Savior that was born for us, Christ the Lord.

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

Thursday, December 31, at 4 p.m.

Friday, 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 10, 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 Anne O'Keefe at 651-905-4308 or aokeefe@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

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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

Elizabeth McCanna, Youth Coordinator 651-905-4312

Beth Halbert, Sunday School Coordinator ... 651-905-4313

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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 8:50 am and Saturdays 4 to 4:50 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.



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
In Memory of Alex & Marie Becherer,
Raymond Becherer, and
Richard & Pat Hannegan
By Carl & Gretchen Becherer
In Memory of Mr. & Mrs. Arthur Becker and
Wilfrid Oster
By Maryanna Oster
In Memory of David Berndt, Julia Gonko,
and Martin LaBerge
By Mike & Teri Berndt
In Memory of Deacon Gerald Blissenbach,
Adelord Raymond, Effie Raymond, and
Angie Tuma
By Jacqueline Blissenbach
In Memory of Lois Burns,
Richard J. Weinzettel,
and Richard A. Weinzettel
By Laurita Weinzettel
In Memory of Mary A. Chapdelaine
Louis A. Chapdelaine Family,
and Frank O'Donnell Family
By Louis J. Chapdelaine Family
In Memory of Robert M. Curran and
Kathleen Curran
Anonymous Donor
In Memory of Lucinda Davis, Pamela Hirsch,
Mr. & Mrs. Richard Hirsch,
Thomas Hirsch, and Mr. & Mrs. Joe Ubl
By Jerry & Barb Hirsch
In Memory of Mel DeBlauw
By Alice DeBlauw
In Memory of Carl Dumond and Frank Huberty
By Ralph & Kathi Dumond
In Memory of the William & Kathleen
Fitzgerald Family and
John Moonan Family
By Sheila Fitzgerald
In Memory of Dr. & Mrs. M.C. Flaten and
Thomas Wartman
By Marcella Wartman
In Memory of Ray & Lois Furlong
By Thomas & Margaret Swenson
In Memory of Don Giefer
By Betty Giefer
In Memory of Doug Grainger and
Susan Grainger
By Freda Grainger

In Memory of the Gray, Heffron,
Kunzelman 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 Michael Hughes,
Walter & Helen Hughes,
Norbert & Grace Kemper, and
Norbert Kemper, Jr.
By John & Pat Kemper
In Memory of Mackenzie Judd, Heinrich
Kent, and Jennifer Schaefer
By Mary Kent
In Memory of Denis Kelly, Delores Larsen,
and James Larsen
By Kristine Larsen-Kelly
In Memory of Dick Kirch
By LouAnn Kirch
In Memory of Lloyd Kulaszewicz
By Dawn Kulaszewicz
In Memory of Ayako Lutz
Anonymous Donor
In Memory of Malerich and
Sullivan Family Members
By Tony Malerich & Marge Sullivan
In Memory of Charles & Arlean Mertensotto
By Sandra Novitzki
In Memory of John E. O'Toole
By Eileen O'Toole
In Memory of George & Scott Rabuse
By Dwight & Sandy Rabuse
In Memory of Leo & Marian Reding
By Laurie Reding
In Memory of Don Sault and
Mary Lou Williams
By Sally Sault
In Memory of Howard & Kay Sheeler
By Alice Sheeler
In Memory of Christopher Wiesner
By John, Jude & Shawn Wiesner
In Memory of Lyle & Ruth Wellner
By Jan Swenson
In Memory of Bob Wilhelmy
By Joan Wilhelmy





Blessings to you and your family
from the parish staff.

Elizabeth McManis

Lucy Hino

Dorinda Allen

Fr. Lewis

John Raible

Kathy Raible

Anne O'Keefe

Tom DeStler

Beth Halbert

Carolyn Rynden

Daniel McDermott

Mary Guberville