

**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.

First Sunday of Advent***DECEMBER 3, 2017***

My dear friends,

We have come again to the time of Advent: the Liturgical Season that highlights the joy of Christ's first coming, which blesses us now, and the joyful hope for Christ's return, which we still await. Advent helps us to understand the tension we sometimes experience between the Gift already given, and its perfect fulfillment that is yet to come.

"Since we have no lasting city here, but seek that which is to come" (Hebrews 13:14), we now "wait in joyful hope for the coming of our Savior, Jesus Christ" (prayer of the Mass). These words sum up the spirit of Advent and convey the pilgrim status of our Christian life in a passing world.

Our whole life is a kind of Advent - we are perpetually waiting for something more, which only the Lord can bring us. All our efforts to settle down cannot quell the heart's restless yearning for complete fulfillment. Earthly peace and security remain fragile and elusive. We must not allow the passing joys of this life to put us to sleep or to make us forget the true meaning of our life beyond what we see. "Eye has not seen nor has any ear heard what God has prepared for those who love him." There is so much more beyond our imagining. Praise God!

In this time of waiting, we live in preparedness, which is why Advent is also about mission. There are still many people who do not yet know or believe in Christ. They may never know Him, unless they encounter Him in us. Like Mary's Advent visit to her cousin Elizabeth, we are called to bring Jesus Christ, dwelling within us, into the encounters of the day. We bring Christ to others through our love, our joy, our forgiveness and selfless service. This is how we spread the Advent Light of Christ, and this is what it means to be spiritually awake and watchful, prepared for the Lord's second coming.

Advent Prayer for watching and staying awake:

"Dear Lord, your love urges me to stay awake and to watch for your coming. As I anticipate my joyful exodus from this life into your loving, eternal embrace, help me to keep the flame of faith alive in my heart, and the fire of love ever

burning. Help me to be faithful to prayer, to carve out times each day to speak heart to heart with you. Help me especially when life becomes busy, and I am tempted to put off this time of prayer. As I make use of the things of this world and enjoy the simple gifts of life, let them not consume me so that I forget you, or let the desire for them crowd you out of my heart. Let not the pleasures of this life make me selfish, so that I become deaf to the cry of the poor and indifferent toward the needy. Let me not become so obsessed with my own life, that I fail to recognize you in the faces of those I meet each day; help me to offer them a smile and a kind, encouraging word. May I be ever ready to apologize and forgive, so that I and those I love may never go to sleep with an angry, resentful heart; help me to be a peacemaker."

Wishing you all a blessed Advent,

Fr. Steven

**First Sunday in Advent****CONNECT
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YOUTH NEWS

FAITH FORMATION

December 6

Grade 2

Please bring all Grade 2 children to their classroom at their regularly scheduled time, 4:30 or 6:30 p.m., for the Archdiocesan mandated lesson on Personal Safety.

Grades 1, 3, 4, & 5

Christos - Meet in your homes. Continue working in the children's books. Please contact Kathy if you would like any additional help or ideas for the lesson.

Grade 6-8

Meet in your classrooms at your regular times.



Christmas Pageant Registration

Christmas pageant registrations were sent to you in the November email. Please remember to register your children. All children, ages 4 and older, are invited to participate in the pageant OR be in the pageant choir. Rehearsals are on December 9 and 16, at 9:30 a.m. for the pageant and/or choir participants. The pageant is on **December 17, after the 9 a.m. Mass**. If you did not receive a registration slip, please contact Kathy Raible at 651-905-4311. I hope to hear from you!

BREAKFAST WITH ST. NICHOLAS

The Knights of Columbus will host a Breakfast with St. Nicholas in Heritage Center today, Sunday, December 3, after both Masses. Come enjoy a wonderful breakfast of eggs, sausage and pancakes, while meeting this great saint.



OPEN HOUSE AT FAITHFUL SHEPHERD CATHOLIC SCHOOL



Faithful Shepherd Catholic School invites you to join us for an open house on Wednesday, December 6, from 8:30 to 10:30 a.m. Stop in anytime during our open house for a personal tour with current parents and students. Meet our staff and teachers. Experience our wonderful school in action during a typical day. For more information or to set up a private tour, call Jen Claude at 651-262-2898.



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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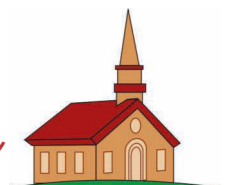
RESOURCE CENTER

Anytime you are looking for resources to encourage you and help you grow in faith, consider checking out the Resource Center, located in the Gathering Space. You will find books, CD's and pamphlets about a variety of subjects. In addition, you will be able to choose spiritual reading that you can trust, recommended by Fr. Steven, Lisa Amos and Elizabeth McCanna (yes - there are even books for teens and young people!).

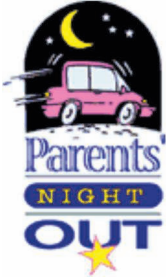
This center is self-funded. We would ask that those who are able to do so, please donate \$5/CD, \$1/pamphlet and the list price of the books you choose (usually listed on the back cover). Because we want everyone to be able to enjoy these resources, whether they can contribute or not, we welcome any additional donations, above these suggestions. There is a slot in the center to place your donation. If you are unable to donate, please take a resource anyway!

Thank you and may God bless your every effort to grow in faith and love.

*Come as a Guest
Leave as a Friend*



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!

COUNCIL OF CATHOLIC WOMEN

GERTEN GIFT CARDS

It's time to start thinking about Christmas! The CCW will be selling Gerten Plant Cards after all Masses this weekend. The CCW will **NOT** be taking orders for poinsettia plants this year. Instead, stop at the CCW table in the Gathering Space and buy your Gerten Plant Card. You may purchase Christmas trees, greenery and/or poinsettias with this card. Have a blessed Christmas Season!

HAITI COLLECTION

The CCW is collecting these much needed items for Haiti:

- Empty pill bottles (with labels removed—fill bottle with HOT water to loosen the label).
- All sizes of WHITE ONLY sheets and pillow cases.
- All sizes of WHITE ONLY tablecloths.

Please drop off your items in the marked boxes in the coat room.

We would like to thank John Kemper for transporting our past collection of bottles and sheets to Rochester.

Thank you all for your participation.



GIVING TREE



Don't forget to bring in your gifts! If you have chosen to purchase a gift on one of the Giving Tree doll tags, please note that the **UNWRAPPED** gifts must be here at St. Peter's by today at noon. It is very important to return the gifts by the deadline, or we may not get the gifts to the recipients in time for pickup. Thank you for your generosity. Questions about specific gift requests can be directed to Lisa Amos at lamos@stpetersmendota.org or 651-905-4304.

Other helpers are also needed. The more the merrier! There are small tasks with limited time commitments for adults and young adults, and the rewards are huge. On December 10, we will gather, following the 11am Mass, to sort and package the gifts for pickup. If you would like to help this year, please call Carol at 651-356-2970. Thank you!

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.

FIND US ON SOCIAL MEDIA



Check out St. Peter's website at www.stpetersmendota.org, our Facebook page at facebook.com/stpetersmendota and Twitter @StPetersMendota.

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 3

Sunday: Is 63:16b-17, 19b; 64:2-7/Ps 80:2-3, 15-16, 18-19 [4]/1 Cor 1:3-9/Mk 13:33-37
Monday: Is 2:1-5/Ps 122:1-2, 3-4b, 4cd-5, 6-7, 8-9/Mt 8:5-11
Tuesday: Is 11:1-10/Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 17 [cf. 7]/Lk 10:21-24
Wednesday: Is 25:6-10a/Ps 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6 [6cd]/Mt 15:29-37
Thursday: Is 26:1-6/Ps 118:1 and 8-9, 19-21, 25-27a [26a]/Mt 7:21, 24-27
Friday: Gn 3:9-15, 20/Ps 98:1, 2-3, 3-4 [1a]/Eph 1:3-6, 11-12/Lk 1:26-38
Saturday: Is 30:19-21, 23-26/Ps 147:1-2, 3-4, 5-6 [cf. Is 30:18d]/Mt 9:35-10:1, 5a, 6-8
Next 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

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MASS INTENTIONS

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

Monday, December 4	† Eugene & Catherine Jubenville
Tuesday, December 5	† Edward Boland
Wednesday, December 6	† Robert & Fray Davies
Thursday, December 7	† Robert LeMay
Friday, December 8, 7 am	Mass For The People
9 am	Dee Hazuka
6:30 pm	Kellie Uhrich
Saturday, December 9	† Jerry Hirsch
Sunday, December 10, 9 am	† William Quirk
11 am	Mass For The People

THIS WEEK'S CALENDAR: NOVEMBER 27

Monday, December 4

9 am Mass, Historic Church (8:30 Rosary)
6:30 pm Alpha, Heritage Center

Tuesday, December 5

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 6

9 am Mass, Historic Church (8:30 Rosary)
9:45 am Divine Mercy Cenacle, Ravoux Room
10 am CCW Board Meeting, Conference Room
4:30 pm Grade 2 meet in their classrooms, Grades 1, 3, 4 & 5 meet in their homes.
6:30 pm Grade 2 and 6-8 meet in their classrooms, Grades 1, 3, 4 & 5 meet in their homes.
6:30 pm Perissos, Heritage Center

Thursday, December 7

9 am Mass, Main Church (8:30 Rosary)
6 pm First Reconciliation Service, Main Church
6:30 pm ACCL Meeting, Family Room
7 pm AA Meeting, Classroom 5

Friday, December 8

7 am Immaculate Conception Mass, Historic Church
8 am Confession, Main Church
8:30 am Rosary, Historic Church
9 am Immaculate Conception Mass, Main Church
6:30 pm Immaculate Conception Mass, Main Church

Saturday, December 9

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

Sunday, December 10 - Hospitality Sunday Hosted By The CCW

8:30 am Choir Rehearsal, Music Room
9 am Mass, Teaching Parish Sunday, Main Church
9 am Liturgy of the Word for Children, Ravoux Rm
9 am Sunday School, Classrooms
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, Teaching Parish Sunday, Main Church
11 am Liturgy of the Word for Children, Ravoux Rm
12 pm Giving Tree Sorting and Lunch, Heritage Center

PASTORAL MINISTRY

FOLLOWING JESUS

"Readiness" describes the Lord's lesson of the Gospel today, being ready for His coming. One way to train ourselves to be ready for that day is to watch for His daily coming, the ways He touches our life now.

Where did you see the hand of God today? As disciples of Jesus, let us take time this week to thank Him for the ways He is present to us each day.

SINCERE SYMPATHY

St. Peter's Parish extends its sympathy to the family and friends of Ruthe Perron. We invite all to join us in praying that God may make her a sharer in eternal salvation.



COMMUNITY CARING FOR LIFE

Our next meeting is Thursday, December 7, at 6:30 p.m., in the Family Room. This will also be our annual Christmas party. All are welcome! At the meeting, we will be planning upcoming activities.

On Friday, December 8, on the Feast of the Immaculate Conception, the 8:30 a.m. rosary will be said for the respect of all human life.

Did you know our mission is to cultivate a culture of life through prayer, education and participation? We hope you will join us.

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.

ST. PETER'S PERPETUAL ADORATION CHAPEL

It's the First Sunday of Advent, and we begin our preparations for the birth of Our Savior. It is often difficult to deeply experience the true meaning of this season amid the clamor of the details of the holidays. If you feel anxious, overwhelmed and exhausted, you can find respite and peace with Christ. Consider giving yourself the gift of an hour of Adoration. Give that hour away to the Creator of time, and He will give it back to you tenfold. Jump back into the fray with renewed focus, energy and joy!



Our new Perpetual Adoration Chapel is now open, and the Lord is waiting for you!

The chapel is closed during Masses. Open hours are posted outside the chapel.

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 to 3 pm	Sunday	5 to 6 pm
Saturday	3-4 am	Monday	2 to 3 pm	Friday	7 to 8pm
Saturday	4-5 am	Friday	11am-Noon	Friday	8 to 9pm
		Friday	Noon to 1 pm		
		Friday	4 to 5 pm		

SUNDAY ROSARY

Join us for a rosary for St. Peter's Parish at 10:30 a.m. every Sunday in the Perpetual Adoration Chapel.

"In the spiritual journey of the Rosary, based on the constant contemplation – in Mary's company – of the face of Christ, this demanding ideal of being conformed to him is pursued through an association which could be described in terms of friendship. We are thereby enabled to enter naturally into Christ's life and as it were to share his deepest feelings," says St. John Paul II."

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 in the parish office by Wednesday, Dec 13. All names will be listed in our Christmas bulletin.



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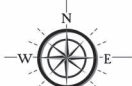


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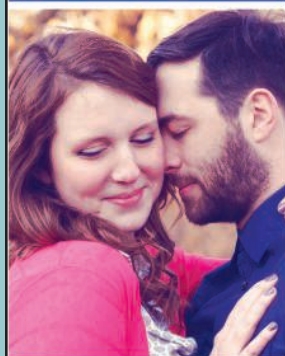
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more across the United States—Sister Mary Ann benefits from the annual Retirement Fund for Religious collection. Your gift helps provide medications, nursing care, and other necessities. Please be generous.

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