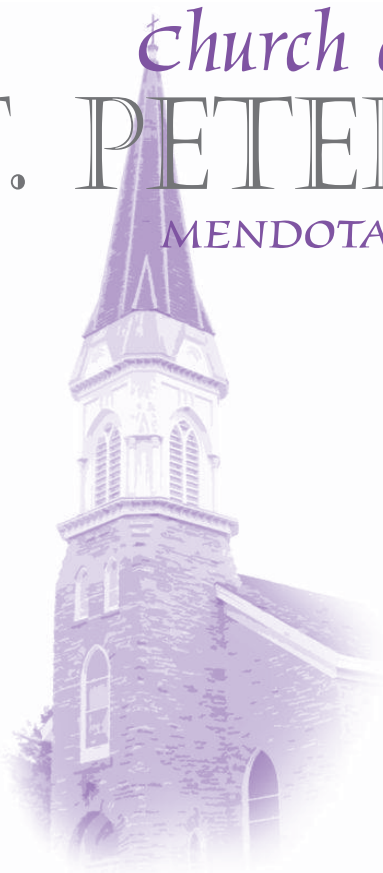


Church of ST. PETER MENDOTA



December 7, 2014
Second Sunday of Advent

OUR VISION

We envision St. Peter's to be a dynamic and growing parish through our: expressions of faith and worship, service to one another and the broader community, welcoming new members, compassion and ministry in pastoral care, and stewardship of God's gifts and blessings.

OUR MISSION

The Church of St. Peter, the first Catholic parish in Minnesota, serves as a cornerstone of faith and heritage, where we welcome all to celebrate and live as the Body of Christ. We embrace our commitment to continue this founding legacy, care for future generations, and advance the Kingdom of God.

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.

Reflections from our Pastor

My dear friends,

I will continue from where I left off in the last bulletin, sharing with you more of the journey of my life: part 6 of the song I sing to God's merciful love.

When the Lord called me to be a priest at the age of 27, I was a tradesman, fixing copy machines for a company in St. Paul. I did not have a BA degree from college, so it was suggested by my parish priest and a friend that I get a philosophy degree before entering the seminary. I was never very academic, and after a few months of college, I found it overwhelming. After taking counsel, I decided to put college on hold for the moment. This began a long period of waiting; a time of deeper growth and maturity. When I look back on this time in hindsight, I see how much I needed that extra time. In God's divine providence, delays always serve a good purpose, even though we don't like them or understand what God is doing. We have our time line, but it may not be the same as God's. I heard once that the Israelites could have made it through the desert of Sinai in six weeks, yet it took them forty years before they finally reached the Promised Land. Israel's forty years in the desert was a necessary time of testing, a time where God was forming their hearts to trust Him and faithfully obey His will.

During this time of waiting I took several jobs in the area of social service: working with the elderly, with the mentally ill, and with young adults who had special needs. Even though I needed money to pay the bills like everyone else, this work was more like a vocation, a ministry, and, in many ways, a "school of love;" stretching and forming my heart in patience, gentleness, compassion and other virtues.

I also went back to trade school and learned how to repair mechanical clocks and watches. I especially enjoyed repairing old cuckoo clocks and pocket watches. My goal was to eventually work out of my home so I could live a more simple, contemplative life in the world, and be more available to serve the spiritual needs of my Christian community and others.

But the call to be a priest would not go away, it would not let me settle into anything I tried. Based on my previous experience of college, I did not have confidence I could survive the intense study required. But with encouragement from my parish priest I decided to give it another try; I was now 34. To my surprise, the door that God had closed earlier opened wide. Just a year before

my decision, the seminary started a 6 year program for older men who did not have a BA degree, and the College of St. Thomas had launched a new degree program called "Catholic Studies," which combined philosophy and theology together, serving as a good under-graduate preparation for the seminary.

Though these years in the seminary were certainly challenging and intense, sometimes feeling like I was drinking from a fire hose, I treasure them and all that I learned. I was able to immerse myself in Scripture and the beautiful teaching of the Church, which deeply enriched my prayer life. It was also a time of forming deep and lasting friendships with many other seminarians whom I still see and serve with today.

I took a 6 year detour while in the seminary to explore the possibility of religious life with a community of brothers and sisters from France, called the Congregation of St. John. Most of my time with them was spent in Laredo Texas, where they had a monastery and retreat center. Though I would eventually return to the archdiocese, the grace of this stage of the journey was the discovery and growth of certain gifts from the Lord, indicating specific ways I was to serve Him and give Him glory. When I returned to the archdiocese years later to finish my formation as a priest, I was ordained by Archbishop Flynn on December 8, 2007, on the Feast of the Immaculate Conception of Mary. The message from Mary was clear: I was to be her priest, and she wanted to be, and always will be, the Mother of my priesthood.

How beautiful the mercy of God, and how diverse the paths He leads us. They say that God can write straight with crooked lines. I believe this, for it certainly is true in my case. I hope this little sharing has been helpful. Together let us praise the wonders of God's love.

God love you,



Fr. Steven



Religious Education/ Faith Formation (RE/FF)

Christmas Pageant

We have our second Christmas Pageant rehearsal **on Saturday, December 13, from 9:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.** Please have children there on time. We will be meeting in the main worship space. Please contact Kathy Raible if you have any questions. We are looking for older youth (grades 5-12) who are willing to be in the choir or have a speaking or narrating role in the pageant



Grade 1 and 2 Religious Education Classes:

On Wednesday, December 10, the lesson for children in grades 1 and 2 will be from the Netsmartz program which is in accordance with the Bishop's charter on the Protection of God's Children. Please try to have your children at class. **Grade 2 children who are in Catholic schools** do NOT need to attend this class because they receive these lessons at their schools. Parents are welcome to join us for class. Please contact Kathy Raible at 651-905-4311 if you have any questions.

Workcamp

Registration for Workcamp 2015 is open! This year we will be traveling to Hastings, Michigan from July 18-25. Interested in joining us on our annual mission trip? Check out www.stpetersworkcamp.org or contact Ed Overell at 651-905-4312 for more information.

Youth Group

Calling all high school students and 8th graders: Join us tonight, Sunday, December 7, for youth group! We'll have food, fun and some music. Come share faith and fun with your peers from 6:30-8 p.m. in the youth room.

The Youth Group Christmas Party will be next Sunday, December 14, from 6-8 p.m. (note the earlier start time).

All high school age students and 8th graders are welcome, regardless of what school you attend. We'll have pizza, games, music, and an Ugly Sweater Contest.



Confirmation

Registration for Confirmation preparation will open in January for all parishioners currently in 9th grade. Information will be mailed to all registered families with a ninth grader in their household, and information will be available online. If you have any questions, please visit the parish website at www.stpetersmendota.org or contact Ed Overell at 651-905-4312.

The Joy of Jesus Advent Series at the Church of St. Joseph

Fr. Leonard Andrie will be offering a two-part series in Advent entitled, "The Joy of Jesus," at the Church of St. Joseph, 1154 Seminole Avenue, West St. Paul. Fr. Andrie will be discussing chapters 1 and 2 in the Gospel of Luke. The sessions will be held on Monday, December 8, and Monday, December 15, at 7 p.m. in the Msgr. Foran Great Room. Be sure to bring a Bible and a friend!

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 through Sunday collections or to the parish office by Monday, December 15. All names will be listed in our Christmas bulletin.



Poinsettias for the Homebound

We will need your help to deliver poinsettia plants to our parishioners who are homebound, in nursing homes, or who have lost a spouse or child since last Easter. Please consider delivering to at least one person. Plants will be available for pick up **next weekend** on tables in the gathering space corridor.

Christmas Carols



The choir will be singing Christmas carols on Sunday, December 21, at two centers that care for the elderly nearby. Everyone is welcome to come and join in singing to lift the spirits of the residents at Lilydale

Senior Living at 2 p.m., and White Pines Assisted Living at 4 p.m. Please consider joining us in bringing the hope and light of this Christmas season through songs we all know and love.



St. Peter's Community News

Annual Giving

Weekly Contribution Summary:

Budget for period of Nov. 24-Nov. 30, 2014.....	\$13,253
Actual for period of Nov. 24-Nov. 30, 2014	\$13,847
Year to Date Budget	\$335,376
Year to Date Actual	\$299,087

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 or online.

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.

End of the Year Information

Parishioners are reminded that all donations must be received in the parish office by Wednesday, December 31, or postmarked by Wednesday, December 31, to be included as a 2014 contribution. No exceptions can be made. 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.

Parish Office Hours

The parish office will close at 12 noon on Wednesday, December 24. We will be closed all day on Thursday, December 25, Friday, December 26, and Thursday, January 1.

Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Monday, December 8, is the great Solemn Feast of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary—a holy festive day of obligation for all Catholics. By receiving the special grace to be conceived without sin, Mary becomes like a bright morning star announcing the coming dawn of salvation in Christ. Let us gather together with glad and joyful hearts to celebrate these wonderful beginnings of our salvation.

There will be two Masses on the holy day itself (Monday, December 8) at 9 a.m. and 7 p.m.

All Masses will be celebrated in the Main Church.

Confessions Each Week

All are invited this Advent to come and experience the healing love of Jesus through the Sacrament of Reconciliation. In addition to the weekly opportunity for individual confessions on Saturdays from 4:00-4:50 p.m., we will also have an **All Parish Reconciliation Service** on Thursday, December 18, starting at 6:30 p.m. in the Main Church. Fr. Steven is also happy to set up confessions during the week by appointment—please call 651-905-4305.

Parish Reconciliation Service

Thursday, December 18

6:30 p.m.

Main Church

Christmas Mass Times

Wednesday, December 24, at 4 and 10 p.m.

Thursday, December 25, at 9 and 11 a.m.

Mary, Mother of God Mass Times

Wednesday, December 31, at 4 p.m.

Thursday, January 1, at 10 a.m.



The Week of December 8

Monday, December 8

Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary

- 9 am Mass, Historic Church (8:40 rosary)
- 6 pm St. Paul Civic Symphony,
Heritage Center
- 7 pm Boy Scouts, Ravoux Room
- 7 pm Mass, Main Church

Tuesday, December 9

- 9 am Mass, Historic Church (8:40 rosary)
Adoration Before Blessed Sacrament
After the 9 am Mass Until 6 pm
- 9:45 am Women's Bible Study,
Conference Room I, Ravoux Room
- 7 pm Stewardship Committee,
Conference Room I

Wednesday, December 10

Sharing & Caring Hands

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

Thursday, December 11

- 9 am Mass, Historic Church (8:40 rosary)
- 6:30 pm Fr. Adrian's Bible Study, Heritage Center
- 7 pm Alcoholics Anonymous, Room 5
- 7 pm Al-Anon, Room 7
- 7 pm Teen Al-Anon, Room 6

Friday, December 12

- 9 am Mass, Historic Church (8:40 rosary)

Saturday, December 13

- 9 and 10:30 am Alcoholics Anonymous, Rooms 2, 4
- 9 am Christmas Pageant Rehearsal,
Main Church
- 10 am Scripture Study, Conference Room I
- 4 pm Reconciliation, Main Church
- 4:30 pm Choir Rehearsal, Music Room
- 5 pm Mass, Main Church
- After Mass:
Poinsettia Pick Up

Sunday, December 14—Third Sunday of Advent

- 8:30 & 10:30 am Choir Rehearsal, Music Room
- 9 am Mass, Main Church
- 9 am Sunday School
- 9 & 11 am Liturgy of the Word for Children
- 9 am Giving Tree Sorting
- 10 am Confirmation Class
- 10 am The Joy of the Gospel Book Group,
Conference Room I
- 11 am Mass, Main Church
- After Masses:
Poinsettia Pick Up
- 12 pm Baptism, Main Church
- 6 pm Youth Group Christmas Party

Parish Pastoral Council

Sarah Larsen, Chair 612-384-1474
 Lance Miller, Vice-Chair..... 952-432-6957
 Alice Sheeler, Secretary..... 651-457-8119
 Mary Pat Ferraro..... 651-454-1091
 Anne Hallgren..... 651-702-6465
 Paul Hirsch..... 651-431-1832
 Maria Schwartz..... 651-452-1796
 Nancy Stanton..... 651-686-9009
 Joseph Towle 651-683-9250
 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 7

Sunday: Is 40:1-5, 9-11/2 Pt 3:8-14/Mk 1:1-8
Monday: Gn 3:9-15, 20/Eph 1:3-6, 11-12/Lk 1:26-38
Tuesday: Is 40:1-11/Mt 18:12-14
Wednesday: Is 40:25-31/Mt 11:28-30
Thursday: Is 41:13-20/Mt 11:11-15
Friday: Zec 2:14-17 or Rv 11:19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab/Lk 1:26-38 or Lk 1:39-47
Saturday: Sir 48:1-4, 9-11/Mt 17:9a, 10-13
Next Sunday: Is 61:1-2a, 10-11/1 Thes 5:16-24/Jn 1:6-8, 19-28

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Mass Intentions

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

Monday, December 8 - 9 a.m. - †Bob Ehr

7 p.m. - Mass For the People

Tuesday, December 9 - †Angie Deary

Wednesday, Dec. 10 - †Fred Luebstorff, Jr.

Thursday, December 11 - †Carol Grayson

Friday, December 12 - †Bob O'Neill

Saturday, December 13 - Mass For the People

Sunday, Dec. 14 - 9 a.m. - †Mary Chapdelaine

11 a.m. - †Ben Mueller



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Leave as a Friend

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“Keep Christ in Christmas”

The Faithful Shepherd Knights of Columbus are again hosting a “Keep Christ in Christmas” contest. To enter, draw a Christmas scene on the coloring sheet which is available on the Information Counter in the Gathering Space or by visiting www.eaganknights.com. Return the sheet to the marked box in the Gathering Space. Prizes will be awarded to the best drawings by age group.

Christmas Pies



Perkins holiday pie orders may be taken until Thursday, December 18. St. Peter’s will receive \$3 for every pie ordered. To place your order call Pat Peterson at 651-452-2833.

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 until 6 p.m.

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

Welcome, New Parishioners!

The Church of St. Peter would like to extend a warm welcome to our newly registered parishioners:

Stephanie Bye

Kevin Daly

Kelli Ferber

Adam Follner and Victoria Menzie
and family

Richard and Lois Gangl

Jerome and Barbara Hirsch

Mary Lou Johnson

Kyle Konkler

Christopher and Holly Palkowitsch
and family

Patricia Weber



We are excited to have you join our faith community!

New Parishioner Dinner: Save the Date!

There will be a dinner for all new parishioners on **Saturday, January 31**, following the 5 p.m. Mass, to welcome you and give you a chance to meet other new members and some long-time parishioners. Watch the bulletin and your mail for more information to come in January!

Hearing and Vision Aids

If you find it hard to hear at Mass or your ability to participate is inhibited by difficulty reading the hymnal or worship aids, we can help with that. Please see one of our friendly ushers and let them know of your need. We have hearing devices and magnifiers available for you to use while you’re here. Thank you.

Catholic Single Adults Club Christmas Dinner/Dance

The Catholic Single Adults Club of the Twin Cities invites all single Catholics, 21 and older, to join them on Saturday, January 10, at the Richfield American Legion. A social hour and dinner will begin at 5:30 p.m., dancing at 8 p.m. The cost for dinner and dancing is \$25; dance only is \$10. Dinner reservations for a delicious buffet meal are required by Monday, December 29. No reservation is required for dance-only participants. For dinner reservation information, please call Carl at 651-603-1412 or Greg at 651-636-3508.



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Born during the First World War, Sister Carolyn (*center*), 99, and Sister Bridget (*right*), 96, have each served for more than 70 years as members of the Apostles of the Sacred Heart of Jesus. Sister Elizabeth Mary (*left*), 79, is not far behind at 60 years of service. Together, they have spent over 200 years in religious life, sharing their time, their faith, their love—sharing all they have.

Please give to those who have given a lifetime.

Retirement Fund for Religious

Never counting the cost, Sisters Elizabeth Mary, Carolyn, and Bridget—and some 35,000 senior sisters, brothers, and religious order priests like them—have offered their lives in service to others. Many worked for years for small stipends, leaving their religious communities without adequate savings for retirement and eldercare.

Your gift to the Retirement Fund for Religious provides funding for prescription medications, nursing care, and more. Please be generous.

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To donate by mail: Make your check payable to Retirement Fund for Religious. Please do not mail cash.

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