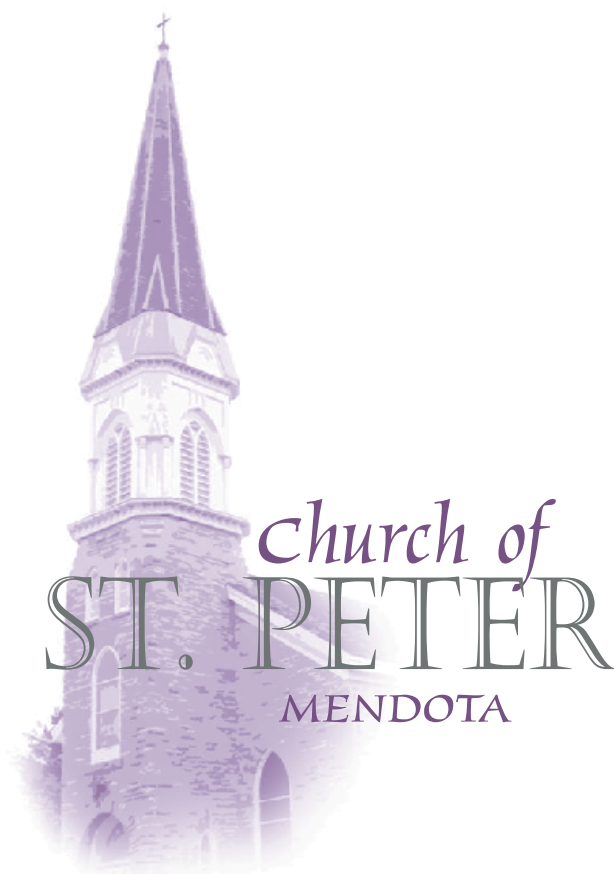




December 8, 2013
Second Sunday of Advent



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 Halbert, Sunday School Coordinator ... 651-905-4313
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 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
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, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday
6:30 pm the First Thursday of the Month

HOLY DAYS As announced.

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION
Thursdays 5:30-6:30 pm, 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

Last Monday, December 2 marked exactly ten weeks since the first story aired on the subject of the mishandling of some important matters by our archdiocesan leadership. That September 23 story, we soon found out, was the first in a steady stream of reports that has deeply affected so many of us Catholics in Minnesota. The most troubling story recounted the assignment of a priest who went on to abuse children. But the reports have also uncovered some questionable actions by Church officials in response to complaints of other immoral and illegal behavior by priests. These stories have at least discouraged many Catholics, and they have filled others with righteous anger. I am very sorry about what has been done, whether through carelessness or something worse. I hope it was only neglect, but that still does not heal those who have been hurt.

On the same day that marked ten weeks since the beginning of the crisis for our leadership, a judge granted the request of the Archdiocese for permission “to release information relating to priests who have been credibly accused of sexual abuse of minors in our archdiocese,” according to a December 2 press release. The plan was to release the information on Thursday. Since our bulletin is printed before that, I simply want to take the opportunity to apologize for the things that have been done by men who were supposed to be drawing people closer to God. I hope that our leaders, many of whom are new in their roles as officials in our local Church, will be able to do well going forward.

Now let's move to something happier. The Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary is normally December 8, except when it falls on an Advent Sunday and must be transferred to the next free day, December 9. That is the case in 2013. So this year the feast day will be Monday, with no obligation to come to Mass. Whether observed on the 8th or 9th, it is the national feast day for the United States—having been proclaimed so officially in 1847. That's why it's normally a holy day of obligation in the U.S., when it is not necessarily so in other countries. For example, the feast of St. Patrick is a holy day in Ireland and that of St. Andrew is in Scotland. The feast of St. David (who is not on our calendar at all) is a holy day in Wales, and that of St. Francis Xavier is a holy day in Kenya.

It would be well to remember that until the mid- and late 1800s, with the arrival of large numbers of Catholics from Ireland and southern and eastern Europe, this country of ours was not a very Catholic land. Only in Maryland, which had been a Catholic colony, were there people of the Catholic faith in any appreciable numbers. I think many

19th century Americans never would have dreamed that Catholics would one day make up a quarter of the population. At any rate, the bishops who were the shepherds of the small number of Catholics who lived in the United States wrote that they decided “to place ourselves and all entrusted to our charge throughout the United States under the special patronage of the holy Mother of God, whose Immaculate Conception is venerated by the piety of the faithful throughout the Catholic Church.” In 1849 they asked the Holy Father to declare the dogma of the Immaculate Conception, which he did five years later.

Thus it was that 159 years ago today, on December 8, 1854, Pope Pius IX stated the following in his decree *Ineffabilis Deus*, which raised the long-held belief in the Immaculate Conception to the level of a dogma: “The most Blessed Virgin Mary was, from the first moment of her conception, by a singular grace and privilege of almighty God and by virtue of the merits of Jesus Christ, Savior of the human race, preserved immune from all stain of original sin” (*Catechism of the Catholic Church* 491).

I would like to quote something written by John Henry Cardinal Newman, who lived from 1801 to 1890. He is one of the most celebrated writers of the 19th Century, and was beatified in 2010. A portion of one of his sermons conveys well the meaning of the Immaculate Conception:

Mary then is a specimen ... of what man was before his fall and what he would have been, had he risen to his full perfection ... Adam, you know, was created in the image and likeness of God ... Thus he was in a supernatural state; and, had he not sinned, he would have advanced in merit and grace and in God's favor year after year, till he had passed from Paradise to heaven. But he fell, and his descendants were born in his likeness; and the world grew worse instead of better ... But a remedy had been determined in heaven; a Redeemer was at hand ... It was a season of grace and prodigy, and these were to be exhibited in a special manner in the person of his Mother. The course of ages was to be reversed; the tradition of evil was to be broken; a gate of light was to be opened amid the darkness, for the coming of the Just; a Virgin conceived and bore him. It was fitting, for his honor and glory, that she who was the instrument of his bodily presence, should first be a miracle of his grace; it was fitting that she should triumph where Eve had failed, and should “bruise the serpent's head” by the spotlessness of her sanctity.

We would all have perished in our sins but for the Father's love. Mary was conceived without sin to be a fitting mother for the one who was coming to save the world. It is about this that I invite you to pray in these days of Advent: the Father's remedy for the destructive power of sin was to come to his people and die for their sins that they might live. And that is the meaning of Christmas.

~Fr. Joseph Gallatin

Religious Education/Faith Formation (RE/FF)

Christmas Pageant:

We have our second Christmas Pageant rehearsal on **Saturday, December 14**, from **9:30 to 10:30 a.m.** Please have children there on time. We will be meeting in the main worship space. Please contact Kathy Raible at 651-905-4311 if you have any questions.

Grade 1 & 2 Religious Education Classes:

On Wednesday, December 11, 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.

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 in the parish office by Monday, December 16. All names will be listed in our Christmas bulletin.

St. Paul Civic Symphony

The St. Paul Civic Symphony will be giving a concert here on Sunday, December 15, at 3 p.m. Admission is free. All ages welcome! The Civic Symphony is an ensemble that rehearses each Monday evening, preparing programs for a number of concert performances throughout the fall, winter, and spring. In addition, a number of their members also join our music ministry for the celebrations of Christmas, Easter and Pentecost. Come and enjoy an afternoon of music by great composers including Tchaikovsky, Borodin and Artunian, and featuring trumpet soloist Lynn Erickson of the St. Paul Chamber Orchestra.

www.saintpaulcivicsymphony.org

Save the Date!

February 8, 2014

Cana Dinner—A Celebration of Marriage

St. Peter's annual Cana Dinner in celebration of marriage will be held on Saturday, February 8, beginning with 5 p.m. Mass and dinner at 7 p.m. All parishioners are invited to attend. Ticket sales will begin in January.

Pastoral Ministry

St. Peter's Group Trip

Everyone always enjoys our group trips, so why not join us? On Thursday, January 9, 2014, we will leave from St. Peter's at 9:45 a.m. for a tour of the Bell Museum of Natural History, including a screening in the ExploraDome. After additional time to tour on our own, and visit their gift shop, we will have a private catered lunch at The Purple Onion. Our anticipated return to St. Peter's is 3 p.m. Registration is necessary and due by Monday, December 23. Cost is \$35 per person and includes museum and lunch. To register, please contact Lisa Amos at 651-905-4304 or lamos@stpetersmendota.org.

Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary Masses

Monday, December 9

Mass will be celebrated at 9 a.m. and 7 p.m.
Historic Church

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Confessions Each Week

In addition to the weekly opportunity for individual confessions on Saturdays from 4:00-4:50 p.m., we have added an hour on Thursdays from 5:30-6:30 p.m. The Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation is celebrated in the Main Church near the choir area.

Penance Day

Tuesday, December 17

Several priests will be available to hear individual confessions between 4:00 and 8:00.

Christmas Mass Times

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

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

Mary, Mother of God Mass Times

Tuesday, December 31 at 4 p.m.

Wednesday, January 1 at 10 a.m.



St. Peter's Community News

Annual Giving

Weekly Contribution Summary

Budget for the period 11/25/13-12/1/13	\$14,893
Actual for the period 11/25/13-12/1/13	\$12,265
Year-to-Date Budget.....	\$366,732
Year-to-Date Actual.....	\$292,394

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!

End of the Year Information

Parishioners are reminded that all donations must be received in the parish office by Tuesday, December 31, or postmarked by Tuesday, December 31, to be included as a 2013 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 at 651-905-4307.

Neighbors Food Shelf

Thanks neighbor!

The food shelves at Neighbors, Inc. have been without pancake mix and syrup for several months now and Neighbors has asked our parish to help by focusing our efforts on donating these items. Pancake mix and syrup are very popular items and a great comfort food. They are easy to make, warm, and yummy to eat! Donation boxes are located in the coat room and inside the doors to the parish office entrance. Let's work together to donate stacks and stacks of pancakes for the food shelf.

Welcome, New Parishioners!

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

Matthew and Gloria Bicanich
and family

Jerry and Marcy Casper

Steven and Kelly Henneberry

Mary Kent

Lisa Marthaler

Fr. Damien Schill

Tony and Claudia Schmitz

Jeff Skallerup and Ilyssa Ryan
and family

Shannon Smith and family

WELCOME

We are excited to have you join
our faith community!

Wedding Banns

First Proclamation

Joshua Gamiao and Maria Mangan

Help Aging Sisters, Brothers, and Religious Order Priests

"Each year the need to provide for our elderly (members) becomes more pressing, and we are ever more grateful for these providential funds," writes a religious sister about the financial assistance received from the Retirement Fund for Religious. Your donation helps provide necessities such as prescription medication and nursing care. Please give to those who have given a lifetime.



The Week of December 9

Monday, December 9

- 9 am **Mass, Historic Church** (8:40 rosary)
 6 pm St. Paul Symphony, Heritage Center
 6:30 pm Cana Dinner Committee Meeting,
 Conference Room III
 7 pm **Immaculate Conception Mass,**
Historic Church

Tuesday, December 10

- 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
 11 am Lilydale Senior Living Holy Communion
 7 pm Stewardship Committee,
 Conference Room I

Wednesday, December 11

Sharing & Caring Hands

- 9 am **Mass, Historic Church** (8:40 rosary)
 9:45 am Divine Mercy Cenacle, Conf. Room I
 1:30 pm Council of Catholic Women Board,
 Conference Room I
 4:30 pm Grades 1-5 Classes
 6:30 pm Choir Rehearsal
 6:30 pm Grades 1-8 Classes

Thursday, December 12

- 9 am **Mass, Historic Church** (8:40 rosary)
 10 am Faithfully Fit Forever, Ravoux Room
 11 am Lilydale Senior Living Mass
 5:30 pm Reconciliation, Main Church
 6:30 pm Mass, Historic Church
 7 pm Alcoholics Anonymous, Room 5
 7 pm Al-Anon, Room 7
 7 pm Finance Council, Conference Room III
 7 pm Teen Al-Anon, Room 6

Friday, December 13

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

Saturday, December 14

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

Sunday, December 15—Third Sunday of Advent

- 8:30 & 10:30 am
 Choir Rehearsal, Main Church
 9 & 11 am **Mass, Main Church**
 9 & 11 am Liturgy of the Word for Children
 9 am Sunday School
 10 am Confirmation Class
After Masses:
 Hospitality
 3 pm St. Paul Civic Symphony Concert,
 Main Church
 6:30 pm Youth Group Christmas Party

Parish Pastoral Council

Kelly Garrett, Chair 651-340-8963
 Sarah Larsen, Vice Chair 612-384-1474
 Alice Sheeler, Secretary 651-457-8119
 Mary Pat Ferraro 651-454-1091
 Ann Hoey 651-994-7870
 Yvonne Houle-Gillard 651-452-5316
 Lance Miller 952-432-6957
 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 8

Sunday: Is 11:1-10/Rom 15:4-9/Mt 3:1-12
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: Zec 2:14-17 or Rv 11:19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab/Lk 1:26-38 or Lk 1:39-47
Friday: Is 48:17-19/Mt 11:16-19
Saturday: Sir 48:1-4, 9-11/Mt 17:9a, 10-13
Next Sunday: Is 35:1-6a, 10/Jas 5:7-10/Mt 11:2-11

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Mass Intentions

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

Monday, December 9 - †William & †Teresa Quirk

Tuesday, December 10 - †Terry Hare Gothmann

Wednesday, December 11 - †Susan Henry

Thursday, December 12 - †Bob Wilhelmy

Friday, December 13 - †Bob O'Neill

Saturday, December 14 - †Orville Nouska

Sunday, December 15

9 a.m. - †Bob O'Neill

11 a.m. - Mass For the People

Council of Catholic Women (CCW) Board Meeting

St. Peter's Council of Catholic Women Board will meet on Wednesday, December 11, 1:30 p.m. in Conference Room I. All women of the parish are invited to attend.

Men and Women Help Wanted

We are going to clean the kitchen on Saturday, December 14, at 9 AM. Please bring a bucket and some cloths. If you have any questions, call Marge at 651-451-6690.

Risen Savior Missions Thank You

A heartfelt thanks to all who supported the collection of Beanie Babies and flip flops for Risen Savior Missions. The members of St. Peter's collected 238 Beanie Babies and 58 pairs of flip flops. The overall count for the deanery was about 1,350 Beanie Babies. Thanks again so much.

~St. Peter's Council of Catholic Women

Knights of Columbus Culver's Night

Bring the family out to eat at Culver's in Eagan—3445 O'Leary Lane—on Wednesday, December 18, from 5-7 p.m. and help support the Faithful Shepherd Knights of Columbus. Santa will be there to greet the kids so bring your cameras. Remember the Knights get 10% of all sales at that time (including the drive thru) and mom won't have to cook. Hope to see you there!

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.

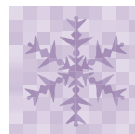


Christmas Concerts at Faithful Shepherd Catholic School

We invite parishioners to come celebrate the Christmas season by attending one of our many Christmas concerts during the month of December. There are many performances to choose from. A kindergarten concert on Tuesday, December 10, at 6:15 p.m., a 1st and 2nd grade concert on Tuesday, December 10, at 7 p.m. a choir and band concert on Thursday, December 12, at 6:30 p.m., a 3rd and 4th grade concert on Tuesday, December 17, at 6:15 p.m. and a 5th grade concert on Tuesday, December 17, at 7:15 p.m. All concerts are held in the Faithful Shepherd School Gymnasium. Contact the school at 651-406-4747 for more information.

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 651-406-4747, www.fscsmn.org



Worldwide Marriage Encounter

What am I most thankful for in my marriage for this past year? Make the blessing of your spouse come alive in your life by enriching your marriage. The next **Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekends** are February 7-9, 2014, in Buffalo and May 2-4, 2014, in Buffalo. Early registration is highly recommended. For more information visit our website at: twincitieswwme.org or contact Brian & Becky Tarbox at applications@twincitieswwme.org or 763-434-4332.

Catholic Single Adults 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 4, 2014, for their annual Christmas dinner and dance. A social hour and dinner will begin at 5:30 p.m., dancing at 8 p.m. The cost for dinner and dancing is \$20, dance only is \$10. Dinner reservations for a delicious family-style meal at David Fong's Restaurant are required by Monday, December 23. No reservation is required for dance-only participants. For dinner reservation information, please call Carl at 651-603-1412.

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6:30—7:30pm

Heritage Center



This event is free(!) and presented by St. Peter's Religious Education\Faith Formation department.

All parents, grandparents, and anyone else who cares about kids are invited to attend.

Teenagers are bombarded every day with a flurry of negative influences from the media, the culture, and their peers. What's a parent to do? How can parents compete with TV, movies, the internet, and pop culture? The Church teaches that in order to carry out the task of leading people (including our kids) to Christ, we must "scrutinize the signs of the times and interpret them in light of the Gospel." That's precisely what David Rinaldi will do in this presentation. After examining the current trends in teen spirituality, David will give some time-tested tips on raising your kids to be faithful Catholics.

David Rinaldi's powerful presentations have been life-changing moments for thousands of teens and parents across the country. With 20 years of experience working with youth, David communicates the love of God and the truths of the Catholic faith with a boldness and humor that teens and adults alike can appreciate.

David has spoken annually to St. Peter's confirmation students and families for years, and we are excited to bring him in to speak to all our families!

Learn more about David at www.catholiccpeaker.org

Church of St. Peter
Parish Pastoral Council Meeting
Minutes of Thursday, November 21, 2013

Members present Mary Pat Ferraro, Kelly Garrett, Ann Hoey, Yvonne Houle-Gillard, Sarah Larsen, Alice Sheeler, Nancy Stanton, and Joe Towle

Members Not Present: Lance Miller

Ex-officio members present: Fr. Gallatin

Ex-officio members not present: Helen Wilkie

I. Opening Prayer/Hospitality: Kelly Garrett

II. Approval of Agenda
Approved as presented.

III. New Business

A. Recruit New Parish Pastoral Council Members:

After some discussion the following points were agreed to:

1. Talk with parishioners we know and try to have suggested names by March meeting, then list will be finalized by April meeting so that bio of potential candidates could appear in the bulletin one week prior to Pentecost Sunday, June 8, when discernment process will take place.
2. For the ministry fair, January 19, it was suggested that a board be done with pictures of current Pastoral Council members. Yvonne Houle-Gillard agreed to put this together and members will send or email their photos to her.
3. Possible bulletin notice prior to ministry fair.

B. The Four Signs of a Dynamic Catholic:

A couple from the parish has stepped forward and donated the money so that 700 copies of the Matthew Kelly book can again be distributed at the Christmas Masses. A bulletin notice will be placed so that those traveling can reserve a copy. Distribution of books will be coordinated by the Stewardship Committee with help from the Parish Pastoral Council if necessary. This information will be given to Joanne Rocco Carter so the book club bulletin notices can appear in the bulletin.

C. Combined Mass for Fall Festival 2014:

Committee agreed to try this format which will unite the parish community and be a great start for the activities of the day. Suggested time of 10 AM for Sunday only.

D. Review of October 2013 Financial Report:

Fr. Gallatin pointed out that the increase normally seen in the fall has not come through to this point so contributions are running far behind.

IV. Old Business

A. GROW (Parish Pastoral Planning):

Yvonne Houle-Gillard presented an overview of the meeting for this process which was attended in October by Fr. Gallatin, herself, and other parish leadership and Parish Pastoral Council members. The one part that needs to be done in parish is a survey. GROW has provided suggested questions but needs to be formatted for our parish. Survey needs to be completed prior to the next GROW meeting which is Tuesday, February 4. Kelly Garrett and the Tech Committee can assist in getting this online for electronic completion but since there are parishioners without computers, the Kiosk from the basement will be moved up to the Gathering Space. Fr. Gallatin will be asked to do follow up explanation through the bulletin and pulpit announcements prior to survey.

B. Fraternus:

This is an organization that fosters virtue in boys. It was first presented to Parish Pastoral Council in the fall of 2011, but ran into financial problems and suspended activities in 2011. Fr. Gallatin reported that it has been brought back and had added a program for girls called Fidelis.

V. Closing prayer

Kelly Garrett led closing prayer and meeting adjourned.

Next Meeting: Due to Advent reconciliation day on December 17, there will be no Parish Pastoral Council meeting in December. The next meeting will be Tuesday, January 21, 2014.