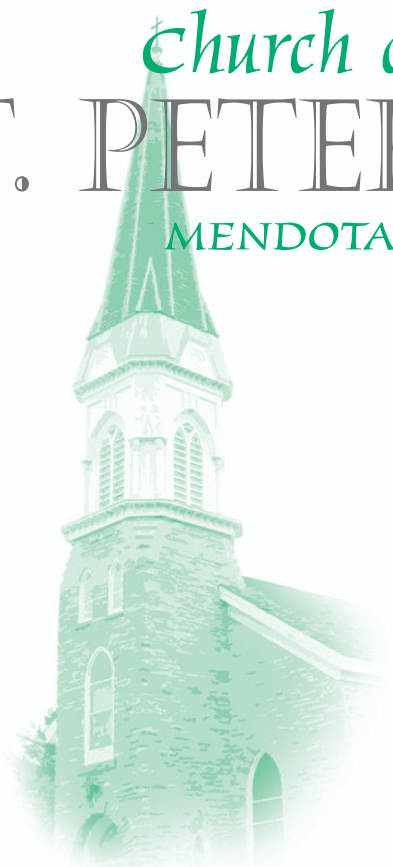


Church of ST. PETER MENDOTA



February 15, 2015
Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

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 651-905-4305

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 Director of Music and Liturgy

This week, of course, we embark on the arduous journey of Lent. It is truly the most difficult discipline that is still widely and popularly exercised among the Church.

As a point of clarity, Lenten moderations of fasting, prayer, and almsgiving are not meant to be exclusive to the liturgical season. Such acts of penance are encouraged every Friday throughout the year, but no longer observed as a law (even though each Friday is a day of penitence in the Universal Church according to Canon 1250 of the Code of Canon Law).

As far as the penitential practices we're called to observe, I'll merely say that we are to refrain from some goods of the world as a practice in learning to fill those hungers with the goods of the Spirit. If we prefer eternal life with God, we exercise this preference by denying ourselves some of the comforts of earthly life by choice, not coercion.

What I will focus on, instead of "what should I give up?" is a particular phrase I find to be strong, convicting, and instructive of the kinds of business we should be about during Lent.

In the first reading this Wednesday, we hear Christ say to us, "Even now, says the LORD, return to me with your whole heart, with fasting, and weeping, and mourning; rend your hearts, not your garments, and return to the LORD, your God." (Joel 2:12-13a) The fasting, weeping, and mourning we can simplify generally as penance -- or more properly as sorrow for sin and the reparation we should seek to make anyhow.

The words within this exhortation that strike at my heart though, is the phrase, "rend your hearts, not your garments." That word 'rend' is one we use all too seldom, I'd argue, just as a fan of linguistic expressions. I'll first approach that word specifically, then the two components about hearts as opposed to garments.

To "rend" is to rip or tear violently, as in grief, or anger, or despair (thank you, merriam-webster.com). There's probably some irony in that the past tense is "rent," but I'll leave that alone. The point is that rending is not a gentle, or moderate, or particularly rational behavior. When something is rent, little can be done to repair it, or regain its former beauty or utility.

Therefore, we should be truly shaken at the call of Christ to return in penitence, violently forsaking the ways and means of the world.

The path of true Lent in our lives should be littered with the remnants of our old, false and stony hearts. The Holy Spirit's invitation is to tear apart the lied-to, bankrupt selves we put on in the world to curry favor with our peers or to try so desperately to fit in and, leaving it behind, charge headlong with our whole, true hearts to our God who is "gracious and merciful...slow to anger, rich in kindness and relenting in punishment." (Joel 2:13b)

However, we are warned of the temptation of falsehood, even in our penitence. The rending of garments is a behavior we see from an individual most unworthy of imitation. The high priest, in his efforts to prosecute and condemn Jesus by false testimony, did exactly this when Christ told him the truth of the Son of Man's coming. Unable to accept, the high priest claims Jesus's words to be blasphemy, and in rage tears his robes.

Our rending is not to be a show, or merely superficial, or worse yet, fake. First, the disciplines that we must undertake should be done modestly, and without fanfare; there is no need to make it clear that we are abstaining from meat. Second, in the disciplines we choose, the things we "give up," we ought to do so without complaining or boasting. Finally, we must make them real sacrifices, and not something we do out of obligation. Obligation is a poor spiritual motivator when compared with real affection.

The high priest of our faith now is Jesus, the trustworthy one, and at his words, we can "behold, now is a very acceptable time; behold, now is the day of salvation." (2 Cor 6:2) Instead, as Jesus instructs his disciples (hint: these days, that's us!) this tearing open of our calloused hearts takes place on the inside.

As we enter the observance of Lenten, outward self-denial, let me be just one voice encouraging you to look to the interior. Do not let this Lent, truly a holy season, be one wherein others "observe" your disciplines. Tear open your hardened heart before God; bleed your sin, your hurt, your pain, your sorrow, and your loss before him. Shed the false dignity that keeps you from being truly, really yourself before God's tender, unrelenting love.



David Dunst
Director of Music and Liturgy

Religious Education/ Faith Formation (RE/FF)

Ash Wednesday Services for Religious Education

On Wednesday, February 18, we will have Ash Wednesday services in the Historic Church at both the 4:30 and 6:30 class session. Families are invited to join us and attend the parish soup supper being held in Heritage Center from 5 to 7 p.m. Call Kathy Raible at 651-905-4311 or Ed Overell at 651-905-4312 if you have any questions.

Kids' Change For Kids To Uganda, With Love

We encourage all children and youth of St. Peter's to give to those in need especially during Lent.

Please bring your "change" to your religion class and put it in the can located on the teacher's desk. All proceeds go to support the child we sponsor in Uganda. We will continue to collect money through Lent.

Confirmation

Registration for Confirmation is open for all parishioners currently in 9th grade. You can register by logging on to our parish website, or go to www.spyministry.org. If you have any questions, please contact Ed Overell at 651-905-4312. Orientation for new confirmation candidates and their parents is Sunday, February 22, from 10:15-11:45 in the Ravoux Room.

Random Acts of Kindness

The **Random Acts of Kindness cross** is in the Gathering Space by the elevator. Each time you perform a random act of kindness—an act you perform because of a "desire to connect, to lend a helping hand and/or to extend ourselves out into the world"—please put a tissue paper flower into the cross. By Easter we will have a blooming cross of kindness!

Hearing and Vision Aids Available for Mass

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.

Pastoral Ministry

St. Peter's Group Trip

Our next group outing will be on Thursday, March 19, 9:30 a.m.-1 p.m. We will be traveling to St. Paul for a tour of the Landmark Center, where we will be given a tour by a costumed guide and learn about the history of the former Federal Courthouse, prohibition, and the gangsters of St. Paul in the 1930s. Following our tour, we'll have lunch together at St. Paul Grille before returning to St. Peter's. These trips are a great time of fellowship, but spaces fill more quickly each time we go! The cost of the trip is \$38/person, which includes lunch. Reservations are required in advance. To make yours, please contact Lisa Amos at 651-905-4304 or lamos@stpetersmendota, or stop by the parish office. Reservations must be made by Tuesday, March 10, but space is limited so don't wait. Details are available in the Gathering Space.

Enrich and Deepen Lent Experience: A Series by Fr. Steven

This Lent, you are invited to enter more fully into the spiritual experience of Lent by attending a three-part series presented by our own Fr. Steven: "Entering More Deeply into the Heart of the Father with Jesus." Childcare will be available upon advance registration.

Sundays, March 8, 15, and 22
2-4 p.m., Heritage Center

By His life and teaching, Jesus not only reveals the Father's merciful heart, but more wonderfully still, through the gift of the sacrament of confession and our Lenten observances of prayer, fasting and almsgiving, Jesus takes us more deeply into the Father's heart, that inexhaustible source of His life and strength, of His love, joy, and peace.

Session 1, March 8: Confession

Session 2, March 15: Prayer

Session 3, March 22: Fasting
and Almsgiving

Sessions may be enjoyed as a three-part series or individually. There is no need to preregister for the talks, but it is required by Tuesday, March 3, to ensure adequate care is available. Questions and childcare registrations may be directed to Lisa Amos at 651-905-4304 or lamos@stpetersmendota.org.



St. Peter's Community News

Annual Giving

Weekly Contribution Summary:

Budget for period of Feb. 2-Feb. 8, 2015	\$19,053
Actual for period of Feb. 2-Feb. 8, 2015	\$18,157
Year to Date Budget	\$529,906
Year to Date Actual	\$542,325

Volunteers Needed for Mobile Meals

Once a month, St. Peter's delivers hot prepared meals to the elderly and disabled. We are in great need of drivers for this ministry. If you can be available during the week once a month, please contact Barb Yourczek at 651-454-3622. This is a terrific opportunity for teams or a parent paired with an older child. Thank you for your help!



Are you a Seamstress?

The Council of Catholic Women is looking for people to sew (not tie) simple fleece blankets. If you want to help finish some of the 200+ blankets destined for Sharing & Caring Hands, please contact Mary O'Neill at 651-454-5128 or Pat Kemper at 651-340-2052.



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



February 18

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

Soup Supper

On Ash Wednesday, the Council of Catholic Women and the Men's Club will be hosting a soup supper from 5 to 7 p.m. in Heritage Center.



Stations of the Cross and Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament with Benediction

Fridays, February 20, 27,
 March 6, 13, 20, 27
 7 p.m. in the Main Church

Great Neighbors' Food Fight



neighbors, inc.

What is a Food Fight you ask? This year it is a "best burger" competition between five local restaurants with proceeds going to benefit Neighbors, Inc. Here's how it works: purchase a Food Fight card for \$25 and redeem it for a burger at each participating restaurant between February 15 and April 4, 2015. Choose your favorite and vote for it on line! Participating restaurants include: 5-8 Club, BLVD Bar & Grille, and Cherokee Tavern in West St. Paul, B-52 Burgers and Brew, and Jersey's Bar & Grill in Inver Grove Heights.

Cards can be purchased at Neighbors, Inc. or on line at:
www.neighborsmn.org/events

The parish office will be closed on
 Monday,
 February 16
 in observance of the
 Presidents' Day holiday.



The Week of February 16

Monday, February 16

Presidents Day—Parish Office Closed

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

Tuesday, February 17

- 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
- 11 am-1 pm**
Mobile Meals
- 6:30 pm** Parish Pastoral Council Meeting,
Conference Room I

Wednesday, February 18—Ash Wednesday

- 7 am** Mass, **Historic Church**
- 9 am** Mass, **Main Church** (8:40 rosary)
- 9:45 am** Divine Mercy Cenacle, Ravoux Room
- 4:30 pm** Grades 1-5 Ash Wednesday Service, HC
- 5-7 pm** Soup Supper, Heritage Center
- 6:30 pm** Grades 1-8 Ash Wednesday Service, HC
- 7 pm** Mass, **Main Church**

Thursday, February 19

- 9 am** Mass, **Historic Church** (8:40 rosary)
- 6:30 pm** A Community Caring for Life Meeting,
Conference Room I
- 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, February 20

- 9 am** Mass, **Historic Church** (8:40 rosary)
- 7 pm** Stations of the Cross, **Main Church**

Saturday, February 21

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

Sunday, February 22—First Sunday of Lent

- 8:30 & 10:30 am**
Choir Rehearsal, Music Room
- 9 & 11 am** Liturgy of the Word for Children
- 9 & 11 am** Mass, **Main Church**
- 11 am** Rite of Sending at Mass
- 9 am** Sunday School
- 10 am** Confirmation Class
- 6:30 pm** Youth Group

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 February 15

Sunday: Lv 13:1-2, 44-46/1 Cor 10:31--11:1/
Mk 1:40-45
Monday: Gn 4:1-15, 25/Mk 8:11-13
Tuesday: Gn 6:5-8; 7:1-5, 10/Mk 8:14-21
Wednesday: Jl 2:12-18/2 Cor 5:20--6:2/Mt 6:1-6,
16-18
Thursday: Dt 30:15-20/Lk 9:22-25
Friday: Is 58:1-9a/Mt 9:14-15
Saturday: Is 58:9b-14/Lk 5:27-32
Next Sunday: Gn 9:8-15/1 Pt 3:18-22/Mk 1:12-15

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Mass Intentions

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

Monday, February 16 - Greg Barbeau

Tuesday, Feb. 17 - †Clem & †Annette Schmitz

Wednesday, February 18

7 a.m. - Mass for the People

9 a.m. - †Don Lentsch, Sr.

7 p.m. - †Jack Conway

Thursday, February 19 - †Blanche Fling

Friday, February 20 - †Susan Merten

Saturday, February 21 - †Bob LeMay

Sunday, February 22 - **9 a.m.** - †Jeffrey Weiss

11 a.m. - Mass For the People

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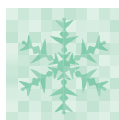
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Fat Tuesday Night Out at Granite City in Eagan

The Knights of Columbus are hosting a "Fat Tuesday Night Out" at Granite City in Eagan (3330 Pilot Knob Road). Simply print the flyer from the Knight's website (www.eaganknights.com) and 20% of your meal purchase will be donated to the Knights to continue their good work in our community. See you there!



2015 Archdiocesan Men's Conference

Saturday, March 21, 8 a.m. - 12 noon

Doors open at 7 a.m.

for Adoration and Confession

AARC Fieldhouse at the

University of St. Thomas

Join men of all ages and walks of life from around the Archdiocese of Saint Paul and Minneapolis for a morning filled with faith and fellowship. Learn how, with the help of Jesus Christ, you can *conquer sin*! The conference includes: Mass, breakfast, dynamic speakers, and more! \$20 per adult; \$10 per student (up to high school senior).

Register online at www.archspm.org Keywords: Men's Conference. Questions? Call 651-291-4411



**Come as a Guest
Leave as a Friend**

2015 Lenten Regulations

The Christian faithful are to do penance through prayer, fasting, abstinence, and by exercising works of piety and charity. All Fridays through the year, and especially during Lent, are penitential days.



ABSTINENCE

All who have reached their 14th birthday are to abstain from eating meat on Ash Wednesday and on all Fridays during Lent.

FASTING

All those 18 and older, until their 59th birthday, are to fast on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday. Only one full meal is allowed on days of fast. Two other meals, sufficient to maintain strength, may be taken according to one's needs, but together, they should not equal another full meal. Eating between meals is not permitted, but liquids are allowed. The obligation does not apply to those whose health or ability to work would be affected seriously. People in doubt about fast or abstinence should consult a parish priest or confessor.



Be the Voice of Catholic Women

Tell your story!

Are you Martha or Mary?

Hospitality 101

Saturday, February 28, 8:30 a.m.

St. Raphael Catholic Church

7301 Bass Lake Road, Crystal

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Ten dollars (\$10) for the day before February 23 ~ \$15 after February 23. To register call 651-291-4545 or visit:

www.accwarchspm.org

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Church of St. Peter
Parish Pastoral Council Meeting
Tuesday, January 20, 2015
6:30pm Conference Room 1

Members present: Mary Pat Ferraro, Paul Hirsch, Sarah Larsen, Lance Miller, Maria Schwartz, Alice Sheeler, Joe Towle and Anne Hallgren (on the phone)

Members not present: Nancy Stanton

Ex officio members present: Fr. Steven Hoffman, Helen Wilkie

- I. Opening Prayer: Lance Miller provided hospitality and led members in a prayer.
- II. Approval of December minutes & January agenda: After a brief discussion, the December minutes were approved and January agenda approved as presented.
- III. Forming Intentional Disciples: Fr. Steven & members continued the discussion of book with a focus on Chapter 2. This chapter will also be discussed next month.
- IV. New business
 - a. Prayerful Reflection and Discussion of Parish Vision, Focus: Going Forward in Christ to the Father in the Holy Spirit.
 - i. Spiritual needs: prayer, interior life of intimacy with God, healing
 - ii. Faith needs: Any gaps or weak areas of faith that need to be strengthened
 - iii. Sacramental life of the Parish
 - iv. Readiness for Evangelization and Further OutreachDiscussion: Fr. Steven presented and told members the importance of their discussion about where parish currently is and how to move forward. Fr. Steven will focus on more time options for the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Options may be Friday mornings from 8-9am, Saturday mornings, and Wednesday evenings around RE/FF. Fr. Steven would like to restore the beauty of the sacrament and how it fits into discipleship. He will address issues including bad experiences in the past, having been away too long, and how to make a good confessions in a Lenten talk for the parish. Fr. Steven would also like to focus on a gradual reevaluation of the RE/FF programs for all ages.
 - b. Current Events
 - i. Archdiocese bankruptcy: Fr. Steven suggested that the best way to handle the bankruptcy issue is to refer people to the handout of January 17-18 (available on the parish website) while encouraging them to pray for the archdiocese and the victims. If there are further questions, contact him or another staff member.
 - ii. Recent news about Fr. Gallatin: Members were asked to encourage parishioners to continue to pray for Fr. Gallatin and the parish as we move forward. If anyone has more concerns, they should contact Fr. Steven or a staff member.
- V. Old Business: a leadership retreat. Members still are interested in having a retreat in spring. Fr. Steven will look at some possible dates and get info to members for consideration.
- VI. Closing Prayer: Lance Miller led members in closing prayer and the meeting adjourned.

The next meeting will be Tuesday, February 17.