

**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.

ADORATION

(In Historic Church)

Tuesday 9:30-6 p.m.

RECONCILIATION

(In Main Church)

Friday 8-8:45 a.m.

Saturday 3:30-4:45 p.m.

Any time by appointment.

7th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**FEBRUARY 19, 2017****REFLECTIONS FROM OUR MUSIC DIRECTOR**

It would not be breaking any news to state that tensions are at, perhaps, an all-time high in our country. Opinions are sharply divided on all sides, and fruitful dialogue seems a rare animal indeed, one which has gone into hibernation for this political wintertime. It would seem few are willing -- perhaps few are able -- to compromise on their appraisal of the best course. The fact that it wasn't a decade ago that an "open mind" was a chief virtue illustrates how unstable our culture has become.

Regardless of one's political preference, none of these circumstances excuse us from the necessity of authentic Christian fraternity and genuine care for neighbor. Divided opinions must not be allowed to overcome common goals.

Today, the Gospel closes a curriculum that has carried us through these five weeks on how we are to respond to our neighbor. We receive no uncertain condemnation of pride in all its forms. This denial of self is the first truly daunting task of becoming a disciple.

We have likely heard these words dozens of times, and though the words of Christ should always ring clear, strong, and true in our hearts, now perhaps more than any time in our country's history, people of every political leaning must heed them: "Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you," and especially the next part, "that you may be children of your heavenly Father."

One family is what God sees in us collectively. While the earth is the proving ground of his love at work in us, ultimately, who "wins" and who "loses" is irrelevant. A human estimation of victory is ultimately hollow. We waste our efforts on outrage, vitriol and rhetoric of every flavor, while we ignore the invitation of God to communion and peace that comes through unity in Him.

What my heart ought to say in times like these is, as the psalm says today, "the Lord is kind and merciful." This world does not look the way I believe the Kingdom of God looks, and whether I believe the direction is right or wrong, I have a greater allegiance to the Author of Life than to any author of law.

Based on this conviction, my duty is clear. I must love those who see me as the villain. I must pray for those who beset me

with difficulty. Without sarcasm, it is a solemn duty to pray for the earthly leaders we have, perhaps especially if we disagree with those leaders. It falls to us each to pray with sincerity that God's will be done on earth, as it unfailingly is in heaven -- to say to God without irony, "My God in whom I trust, may those who choose the course of government act on the wisdom that comes from you, and not from man."

The authentic Christian position in politics is less concerned with who does it than with seeing God's will done. Even if we don't believe elected leaders capable of doing God's will, maybe then, more than otherwise, our reaction must be prayer.

This does not mean we aren't entitled to our disappointments in the ever-shifting developments in human leadership, but it does demand that we examine where our trust lies. I have often quipped that politics is the biggest religion in the United States. My belief in this has been only affirmed as I observe the unfolding of deepening division across the spectrum of opinion. More and more people, even amongst Christians, have placed their trust regarding worldly affairs in their elected officials, and thus the alternating despair and gloating persist.

Why, oh why, do we trust politicians and lawyers to improve the world more than we trust God to do it?

I believe in my heart that if we, who are called by God, would humble ourselves and pray, turning from our own sin, to seek the face of God, we would be heard, and we would see healing and reconciliation (2 Chronicles 7:14). If we rent our hearts open before him, not our garments in outrage or frustration, returning to the Lord, he would leave a blessing in our midst (Joel 2:12-14).

Music Director

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YOUTH NEWS

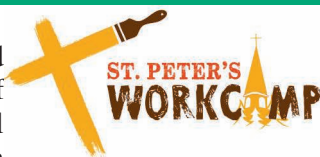
FIRST COMMUNION PARENT CHILD SESSION

We will have our Parent and Child Session on Tuesday, February 21 at 6 p.m. Children will go to their classrooms, and parents will go to Heritage Center. Grade 2 classes will not meet on Wednesday, February 22. Please contact Kathy Raible if you have any questions or if you will not be able to attend the Tuesday session.

WORKCAMP

Join Us For Workcamp!

All high school youth are invited to join Elizabeth and the rest of the Workcamp Team, as we travel to Covington, Tennessee from June 24 through July 1! Spend a week being the hands and feet of Christ for the people of Covington, all while making new friends, having fun and eating lots of Dairy Queen! Fundraising starts in just a couple weeks so make sure to sign up today! For an information packet and application, please email Elizabeth McCanna at emccanna@stpetersmendota.org or call her at 651-905-4312.



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YOUNG ADULTS NEEDED FOR TEACHING THIS SUMMER

Apply to be a team member for the Totus Tuus Summer Catechetical Program. We are in need of college age men and women who feel called to share their Catholic faith with the youth from local parishes around the Archdiocese. Positions are a 2-month commitment (June 2 to July 29), which includes one week of training and one week break for the 4th of July. Each team member will receive \$2,520 for their work. Find application forms at www.archspm.org/TotusTuus.



*Come as a Guest
Leave as a Friend*

OFFICE INFORMATION

- ♦ Father Steven Hoffman: 651-452-4550
- ♦ Deacon Tim Hennessey: 651-905-4301

Parish Office Hours: Monday - Friday, 8 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Phone: 651-452-4550

Email: church@stpetersmendota.org

BAPTISMS, NEW PARISHIONERS, WEDDINGS

Call the parish office for more information.

PRAYER CHAIN REQUESTS

Submit via website, to Mary LeClair

(maryleclair62@gmail.com) or call the parish office.



CATHOLIC SERVICES APPEAL FOUNDATION

In the reading from Leviticus today, the Lord commanded that we love our neighbor as ourselves (Lv 19:18). In the Gospel, Christ commands us to love even those we dislike (Mt 5:43-48). On this weekend, we are looking forward to partnering with you to love our thousands of neighbors, who are supported through the 17 Collective Ministries of the Archdiocese.



If you have not already done so, please fill out your 2017 pledge form and drop it in the plate or mail it directly to the Catholic Services Appeal Foundation processing center, using the prepaid envelope you received in the mail from CSAF.

Thank you so much for your continued support of the Catholic Services Appeal!

CATHOLICS AT THE CAPITOL

On Thursday, March 9, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., join Minnesota's bishops, dynamic speakers and over a thousand Catholics from across the state for a day of inspiration and advocacy at our State Capitol.

Be inspired by dynamic Church leaders and the power of prayer. **Be informed** about the critical issues impacting life and human dignity in Minnesota. **Be equipped** to effectively engage your elected officials. Participation includes access to the morning program with the Minnesota bishops and guests, Bishop James Conley and Gloria Purvis, advocacy training workshops, coordinated legislative visits with fellow Catholics from your area and more. For more information visit www.catholicsatthecapitol.org.

ADMINISTRATIVE NEWS • STEWARDSHIP • COMMUNITY NEWS

MONTHLY FINANCIAL SUMMARY - JANUARY 2017

Month - January	Actual	Budget
Contribution Income	\$ 122,011	\$ 87,072
Other Income	<u>4,166</u>	<u>16,313</u>
	126,177	103,385
Expenses	<u>(95,464)</u>	<u>(97,693)</u>
Net Income (Expense)	\$ 30,713	\$ 5,692

Year To Date July - January	Actual	Budget
Contribution Income	\$ 595,756	\$ 524,554
Other Income	<u>102,471</u>	<u>81,006</u>
	698,227	605,560
Expenses	<u>(597,399)</u>	<u>(596,449)</u>
Net Income (Expense)	\$ 100,828	\$ 9,111

Parish Debt

Principal Balance Beginning of Month	\$ 5,507,787
Principal Paid	<u>19,090</u>
Principal Balance End of Month	\$ 5,488,697

MARDI GRAS PIZZA BINGO



Come join us on Friday, February 24, at 6 p.m. for a pizza feast and bingo! Feel free to dress in appropriate Mardi Gras attire, as well. We will have the regular children and adult prizes, but the “cover all” at 7:30 will be a \$50 gift card to Gerten’s. If we have multiple winners, we will draw a name for the winner.

Bring your appetite and join us for a family-friendly good time. We will have a sign-up sheet in the Gathering Space on this weekend, so we can estimate how much food to buy. You can also sign up by calling Anne O’Keefe at 651-905-4308, or email her at aokeefe@stpetersmendota.org with your RSVP. Looking forward to seeing you there!

VOLUNTEERS AND TOYS NEEDED

We are working to provide childcare opportunities for families during some of our events here at St. Peter’s, and we need your help. We won’t be able to begin offering this to families, unless some parishioners come forward to watch the children. Training is required and provided.

Also, please consider donating gently used or new toys. We will gratefully accept toys, puzzles and games for all ages. Please no used stuffed animals, toys in need of repair or violence themed toys such as toy weapons.

Donations may be left in the marked bin in the coatroom. To volunteer, please contact Anne O’Keefe, Community Life Coordinator or Lisa Amos, Pastoral Associate at 651-452-4550. Thank you!

BOY SCOUT FISH FRY IS BACK

This year during Lent, the Boy Scouts will be hosting two fish fries - one on Friday, March 3, the other on Friday, March 24. The dinner will be served from 4:30 to 7 p.m. The cost is \$10 for adults, \$7 for children ages 3-12, age 2 and under eat free. Mark your calendars now. Don't miss these scrumptious events!



WINE: CATHOLIC WOMEN’S CONFERENCE



Women of all ages are invited to the **WINE: Catholic Women’s Conference**, Saturday, February 25, from 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., at Mary, Mother of the Church, in Burnsville. Our 2017 theme is *Small Things, Great Love: It's What We Do*. The day includes inspirational talks, music, lunch, prayer, shopping, confession, Mass at 4 p.m., chocolate and more. It is the perfect way to prepare for Lent.

The cost is \$65. Brought to you by WINE: Women In the New Evangelization and the Archdiocesan Office of Evangelization and Catechesis. For more details and to register, visit www.archspm.org/WINE.

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.

Parish Pastoral Council Email:

ParishPastoralCouncil@stpetersmendota.org

Trustees:

Jim Oricchio.....651-452-3587

Helen Wilkie.....651-365-1334

READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF FEBRUARY 19

Sunday: Lv 19:1-2, 17-18/Ps 103:1-4, 8, 10, 12
-13/1 Cor 3:16-23/Mt 5:38-48

Monday: Sir 1:1-10/Ps 93:1-2, 5/Mk 9:14-29

Tuesday: Sir 2:1-11/Ps 37:3-4, 18-19, 27-28, 39
-40/Mk 9:30-37

Wednesday: 1 Pt 5:1-4/Ps 23:1-3a, 4-6/Mt 16:13-19

Thursday: Sir 5:1-8/Ps 1:1-4, 6/Mk 9:41-50

Friday: Sir 6:5-17/Ps 119:12, 16, 18, 27, 34-35/Mk 10:1-12

Saturday: Sir 17:1-15/Ps 103:13-18/Mk 10:13-16

Next Sunday: Is 49:14-15/Ps 62:2-3, 6-9/1 Cor 4:1-5/Mt 6:24-34

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MASS INTENTIONS

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

Monday, February 20	† Joseph Guild
Tuesday, February 21	† Jane Squillace
Wednesday, February 22	† Rosemary Stark
Thursday, February 23	† George Zirnelt
Friday, February 24	† Marcie Wohlers
Saturday, February 25	Mass For The People
Sunday, February 26 - 9 a.m.	† Jeffrey Weiss
11 a.m.	† Tom Mulvihill

"You have heard that it was said, *You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.* But I say to you, love your enemies

and pray for those who persecute you, that you may be children of your heavenly Father, for he makes his sun rise on the bad and the good, and causes rain to fall on the just and the unjust.



THIS WEEK'S CALENDAR: FEBRUARY 20

Monday, February 20 — St. Peter's Office Closed

9 am Mass, Historic Church (8:30 Rosary)
6 pm St. Paul Civic Symphony, Heritage Center
7 pm Boy Scout Meeting, Ravoux Room

Tuesday, February 21

9 am Mass, Historic Church (8:30 Rosary)
9:30 am Adoration Before the Blessed Sacrament until 6 pm, Historic Church
9:30 am Women's Bible Study, Classroom 10
6 pm First Communion Parent-Child Session, Heritage Center

Wednesday, February 22

9 am Mass, Historic Church (8:30 Rosary)
9:45 am Divine Mercy Cenacle, Conference Room 1
4:30 pm RE Grades 1,3-4, Classrooms
5:30 pm Middle School Chill, Youth Room
6:30 pm RE Grades 1, 3-8, Classrooms
6:30 pm Perissos, Youth Room
7 pm Choir Rehearsal, Music Room

Thursday, February 23

9 am Mass, Historic Church (8:30 Rosary)
9:30 am Potluck Birthday Breakfast, Heritage Center
10:30 am Grandparents Meeting, Classroom 10
6:30 pm RCIA, Conference Room 1
7 pm AA Meeting, Classroom 5

Friday, February 24

8 am Confessions, Main Church
9 am Mass, Historic Church (8:30 Rosary)
6 pm Mardi Gras Pizza Bingo, Heritage Center

Saturday, February 25

9 and 10:30 am AA Meeting, Classrooms 2, 4
10 am Saturday Scripture Study, Conference Room 1
10:30 am Altar Server Training, Main Church
3:30 pm Confession, Main Church
4:30 pm Choir Rehearsal, Music Room
5 pm Mass, Main Church
6 pm Baptism, Main Church

Sunday, February 26 - Hospitality Sunday hosted by the Uganda Team

8:30 & 10:30 am Choir Rehearsal, Music Room
9 am Mass and Baptism, Main Church
9 am Sunday School, Classrooms
9 am Liturgy of the Word for Children, Classroom 10
10:20 am Rosary for St. Peter's Parish, Historic Church
11 am Mass, Main Church
11 am Liturgy of the Word for Children, Classroom 10
12 pm Chill, Too!, Youth Room
12 pm Baptism, Main Church

PASTORAL MINISTRY

FOLLOWING JESUS

Jesus calls us to a radical kind of love that includes loving our enemies and praying for those who persecute us. Through our baptism and in our encounter with the sacraments, we receive the grace needed to do exactly what Jesus is calling us to do. We can consecrate the ordinary moments of our day and offer our little acts of love to God, as we recognize the face of Christ in those we encounter in our daily life. St. Teresa of Calcutta reminded us that not all of us can do great things, but we can do small things with great love. Let us pray this week for the spiritual vision to see the face of Christ in all those we meet.



LENT SPEAKER SERIES 2017

Living by the Power of the Holy Spirit Through Faith, Hope and Love

St. Peter's will hold a Lenten Speaker Series on Tuesday, March 7, 14, and 28, in Heritage Center, from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m., beginning with the speaker and ending with refreshments and fellowship.

Among the gifts given to us in our baptism by the Holy Spirit are three powerful virtues: Faith, Hope and Love. Come and join us as we set out to deepen our understanding of how to live by these virtues and lean on them in moments of doubt and fear, weakness and discouragement. Everyone is welcome. We invite you to bring a friend! Following the speaker, refreshments will be served.

Topics and speakers are:

March 7: The Gift of Faith with Fr. Steven Hoffman

March 14: The Gift of Love with Fr. Andrew Jaspers

March 28: The Gift of Hope with Elizabeth Kelly

Childcare will be provided for children ages 6 months to 11 years. **Registration for the childcare is REQUIRED in advance one week prior to attendance.**

I AM BELOVED: A LENT MORNING RETREAT

You are invited to spend a morning of retreat reflecting on what it means to believe that you are a beloved daughter or son of God. It is important to embrace wholeheartedly the truth of your beloved-ness. One of the first and most important steps to discipleship is acceptance of the Divine love that is unconditionally ours. Only then can we begin to explore how Christ invites us to respond to His love.

Choose from 2 dates: Wednesday, March 22 OR Saturday, March 25, from 9:30 a.m. to 1p.m.

Please register by Friday, March 17.

Childcare is available for ages 6 months to 11 years for the SATURDAY session ONLY with advance registration.

We will begin our retreat in the Main Church for Adoration together. A free will donation will be gratefully accepted. A light soup lunch will be served.

2017 MARCH MINNESOTA FOOD SHELF DRIVE

Next week begins the 2017 March Minnesota FoodShare Drive for the over 300 food shelves in the state of Minnesota. The designated food shelf for our parish is Neighbors, Inc., in South St. Paul. Their goal is to "help lift people out of poverty by promoting self-sufficiency and building a sense of community for those in need." Neighbor's, Inc. plays a large part in the growth of self-sufficiency in those in our community who need a little help.

Here, a volunteer shares a story. "For me, the day Nate, a shy man in his late twenties, came in with his advocate, Bill, is especially memorable. As Nate moved through the aisles selecting his food, Bill stood behind him making gentle suggestions when Nate seemed uncertain about making food choices. The two men were an impressive team. When they reached the potato section, Nate chose a box of Betty Crocker Au Gratin Potatoes. Bill encouraged, "Take the five pound bag of fresh potatoes instead. I'm going to show you at least 6 different things you can make with those." Nate rolled his eyes, but there was a sparkle in them when he asked, "Does that mean you'll be coming over tomorrow to help me?" In addition to making the food available, Neighbor's, Inc. provided an opportunity for Nate to gain skills and confidence.

After each Mass on February 25 and 26, and again on March 11 and 12, special grocery bags will be distributed for you to take home. Please consider filling these bags with your food donations and returning them to St. Peter's by April 2. Monetary donations are also encouraged. Each dollar donated is the equivalent to one pound of food. You may place your monetary donation in the collection basket at Mass. Address the envelope to Neighbors, Inc. and note St. Peter's on the memo line. Our goal this year is to collect 4,500 pounds!

Poverty shows in the faces of God's children victimized by hunger.

Hunger stunts their growth and makes them more vulnerable to disease.

Hunger robs people of their productivity and creativity.

Poverty can be most easily seen in the desperation of vulnerable people who cannot feed themselves.

~Pope Francis~

COR JESU

Meaning "Heart of Jesus," Cor Jesu is a moving opportunity to worship Christ in community with the Church through Eucharistic adoration, confession, praise and worship, benediction and fellowship.

Join college age and young adults for these evenings at St. Mary's Chapel at the Saint Paul Seminary School of Divinity, 2260 Summit Avenue, in St. Paul, at 8 p.m. on the following first Fridays: March 3, April 7 and May 5.



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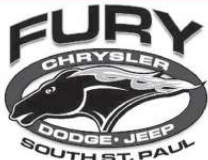
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JOIN US ON ASH WEDNESDAY, MARCH 1 FOR A SOUP SUPPER



Sponsored by St. Peter's Council of Catholic Women
and the St. Peter's Men's Club

Supper will be served before the Mass from 5 to 7 p.m.
in Heritage Center.

The cost is a donation to Sharing and Caring Hands.
Takeouts are available after 5 p.m.

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

- over -

JOIN US FOR



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

Fridays in Lent:

March 3, 10, 17, 24, 31, and April 7
at 6:30 p.m. in the Main Church.

All are welcome and encouraged to experience this service of prayer
and reflection on our Lenten journey.

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