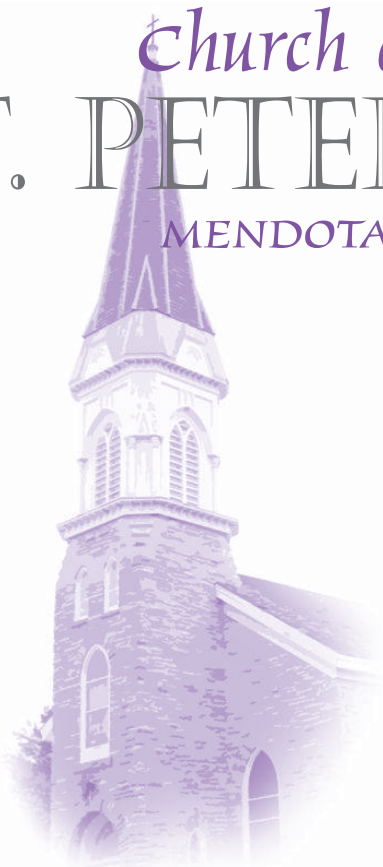


Church of ST. PETER MENDOTA



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

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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

Fridays, 8 to 8:45 am and 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.

February 22, 2015

First
Sunday
of
Lent



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Reflections from our Director of Religious Education/ Faith Formation

Tuna Fish, Chocolate and Pennies: The Meaning of Lent

I have few memories of Lent as a child, but there are a couple things I will always associate with this particular season: tuna fish hot dish, no chocolate and digging through my piggy bank. I know I didn't understand what tuna fish, chocolate and pennies had to do with Jesus or with getting ready for Easter. But, I was told that Jesus died for me and it was the least I could do to show Him I loved him and appreciated his sacrifice. I wasn't going to argue with that! So I ate my tuna fish and peas, I didn't eat chocolate and I diligently searched for pennies—all without understanding why I would do such seemingly random things.

Lent, for me, became a time of year that meant you didn't do the things you wanted to do and you did the things that you didn't want to do. As I got a little older, I came to realize that eating tuna fish and peas was "abstaining" from meat on Friday and not having chocolate was a way to "fast" the other days of Lent. I started to apply the rules or Lenten obligations to the actions, but still didn't understand what this had to do with my love for Jesus. To this day, I'm not sure if my inability to make the connection was because generally children aren't able to grasp more abstract concepts or if I just wasn't listening and only paid attention to the "rules." Either way, it took a long time before the season of Lent seemed to have any purpose other than to make life less enjoyable.

Over the years, I have studied more closely the Lenten practices of our faith and have had many more years to personally experience the season of Lent. Looking through a purely academic or historical lens, we can see that the "obligations" or rules of Lent have changed and evolved since the time of the early church communities. Although fasting has always been part of these sacred practices, the rules of "fasting" have changed with time. These changes have sometimes left confusion as to what it means to fast and to abstain. Just to be clear, the Church currently tells us that we as Catholics are to:

1. Fast and abstain on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday
2. Abstain every Friday of Lent

Fasting is obligatory from age 18 until age 59. When fasting, a person is permitted to eat one full meal. He or she may also have two smaller meals, but not to equal a full meal. Abstaining from meat is obligatory for those who are age 14 and older. Those are our "obligations."

Please don't misunderstand me. I believe it is important that we know the definition and the requirements of these obligations. However, I believe it is essential that we understand the purpose of these actions and the other actions we are called to during Lent. Without an understanding of purpose, fasting and abstaining simply become something we do that makes life less enjoyable. We risk letting our Lenten practices be something we do so we can place a check mark next to it on our list of "What A Catholic Does," all the while hoping we can find a loophole to get around the rule. We can follow the letter of the law without ever touching upon the spirit of the action.

In addition to fasting, we are also called to pray and give alms during these 40 days before Easter. Of course, this is something we should be doing year round. Again, without an understanding of what we are striving to achieve, these actions can simply become things we do because we are "supposed to" and become just one more activity to add to our very busy lives. Pray more? Sure, I can throw in an extra "Our Father" at bedtime. Give alms? Okay, I'll grab some canned goods out of my cabinet and drop them in the food box at church. Both of these actions are good and follow the requirement of what we are called to do—but is that the true purpose of Lent?

When we engage in these activities without engaging our hearts and heads to reflect on a deeper meaning, we may miss the opportunity to strengthen our relationship with Christ. We risk not growing and developing as one of His followers. These actions begin to make sense only if they bring us closer to Christ and they help us to examine our behavior and attitudes to see what we need to do or to change to become better Christians.

If on Fridays during Lent I replace meat with a wonderful lobster dinner, abstaining loses its purpose and its potential for change in my life. If, however, my meals are simple and truly sacrificial and I take the time to think about why I am doing this, it could lead me to think about those who cannot afford a filling meal. As I consider those who are hungry, it should naturally lead me to prayer and to action that will help those in need.

When I engage my heart and head, I see that tuna fish, chocolate and pennies do help me to grow as a follower of Jesus. These relatively simple actions can lead to radical change in my life as a Catholic. I encourage you to take the time to reflect and pray about the "tuna fish" and "chocolate" in your life and see the powerful impact this can have on you. May God bless you this Lenten season with the wisdom and insight needed to help you grow in faith and love.

Kathy Raible

Religious Education/ Faith Formation (RE/FF)

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.

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!

Congratulations!

Congratulations to Levi and Beth Halbert who welcomed Lucas Thomas to their family on Monday, February 16. Beth is the Sunday School Coordinator at St. Peter's.



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.

We Need Your Help!

We are in need of volunteers to staff childcare for our Lenten talk series on March 8, 15, and 22. If you have attended VIRTUS training and are willing to help on one or more evenings, please contact Lisa Amos at 651-905-4304 or lamos@stpetersmendota.org. If enough generously give of their time, then all of our families will have an opportunity to attend, and no one would miss more than one evening. Thank you in advance for your help.

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.org, 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. 9-Feb. 15, 2015	\$13,253
Actual for period of Feb. 9-Feb. 15, 2015	\$7,561
Year to Date Budget	\$543,159
Year to Date Actual	\$549,886

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

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

There will be Confessions
before Stations each Friday
6-6:45 p.m..

Sincere Sympathy

St. Peter's Parish extends its sympathy to the families and friends of **Joan Fee** and **Marlene LeMay Sullivan**. We invite all to join us in praying that God may make them sharers in eternal salvation.



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

March is Minnesota FoodShare Month

For more than 30 years, Minnesota FoodShare has partnered with local food shelves to bring food to those in need in communities throughout the state. The Minnesota FoodShare March Campaign brings together hundreds of companies, civic groups, schools and congregations to help keep the 300 food shelves statewide stocked throughout the year.



Corporate funds donated to Minnesota FoodShare are awarded to food shelves according to a complicated formula that includes number of families served, weight of food collected, and other variables. This is why the food drives during the month of March are so important for all of Minnesota's food shelves. The more a food shelf collects, the more money they receive from the fund. All donations from St. Peter's will be given to Neighbor's, Inc.

After each Mass on February 28/March 1 and again on March 14/15, 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 Sunday, March 29. 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.

The King will say to those on his right, "Come, you who are blessed by me. Inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink . . ."

Matthew 25:34-35

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 until 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 Week of February 23

Monday, February 23

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

Tuesday, February 24

- 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

Wednesday, February 25

- 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, Music Room
6:30 pm Grades 1-8

Thursday, February 26

- 9 am** Mass, Historic Church (8:40 rosary)
9:30 am Daily Mass Birthday Celebration,
 Heritage Center
7 pm Alcoholics Anonymous, Room 5
7 pm Al-Anon, Room 7
7 pm Teen Al-Anon, Room 6

Friday, February 27

- 8-8:45 am** Confessions, Main Church
9 am Mass, Historic Church (8:40 rosary)
6-6:45 pm Confessions, Main Church
7 pm Stations of the Cross, Main Church

Saturday, February 28

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

Sunday, March 1—Second 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
9 am Sunday School
10 am Confirmation Parent/Sponsor/
 Candidate Day
 After Masses:
 Hospitality
 Neighbors Food Drive
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 22

Sunday: Gn 9:8-15/1 Pt 3:18-22/Mk 1:12-15
Monday: Lv 19:1-2, 11-18/Mt 25:31-46
Tuesday: Is 55:10-11/Mt 6:7-15
Wednesday: Jon 3:1-10/Lk 11:29-32
Thursday: Est C:12, 14-16, 23-25/Mt 7:7-12
Friday: Ez 18:21-28/Mt 5:20-26
Saturday: Dt 26:16-19/Mt 5:43-48
Next Sunday: Gn 22:1-2, 9a, 10-13, 15-18/Rom
 8:31b-34/Mk 9:2-10

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Mass Intentions

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

Monday, February 23 - †Annamma &

†George Cherucheril

Tuesday, February 24 - †Bob Magnuson

Wednesday, February 25 - †Ann Johnson

Thursday, February 26 - Alice Mayers

Friday, February 27 - †Jack McCauley

Saturday, February 28 - Mass For the People

Sunday, February 29 - 9 a.m. - †Dan Chapdelaine

11 a.m. - †Charles Shrader

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Enrollment Now Open for Fall 2015 at Faithful Shepherd!

St. Peter's parish school, Faithful Shepherd Catholic School in Eagan, is now accepting student applications for fall of 2015. Tuition rates and enrollment forms can be found on the Faithful Shepherd website at www.fscsmn.org

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- Experience how Faithful Shepherd embraces technology and innovation to foster advanced learning opportunities.
- And be introduced to a community that welcomes you and keeps you coming back for more.

Tours can be arranged by contacting enrollment coordinator, Shawnessy Schwartz, at 651-262-2898 or sschwartz@fscsmn.org.

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.

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.

2015 Catholic Services Appeal

If you have not made your contribution to the 2015 Catholic Services Appeal, please consider doing so next weekend.



One pledge can make a difference, especially when combined with all of the other pledges made throughout our local Church. And, when our parish reaches its goal, 25% of *all* funds received will be returned for use to support ministries in our parish. Please prayerfully consider providing your financial support to the Catholic Services Appeal. You can and will make a difference.

It is important to know that contributions to the Catholic Services Appeal will be used for the benefit of designated ministries of the Appeal. Please visit the new Catholic Services Appeal Foundation website at csafspm.org for more information.



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