

**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.

PERPETUAL ADORATION

(In Chapel of the Nativity)

RECONCILIATION

(In Main Church)

Friday 8-8:45 a.m.

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

Any time by appointment.

Second Sunday of Lent***FEBRUARY 25, 2018***

It seems something of an odd time of year to observe such an auspicious event. Clearly we associate Lent with ashes, sacrifice, difficulty, maybe scarcity, lack, even darkness (as opposed to light and brightness). However, this particular Sunday we dwell on one of the “brightest” moments in the life of Christ, and, one might say, one of God the Father’s proudest moments.

Before that, though, we hear the account of another father’s worst and darkest day. We hear the story of Abraham taking his son, Isaac, for a journey from which only one of them would return, on orders to kill his own son as an offering to God. This is one of those stories that seems so strange because of what Abraham is told to do by God. Would God truly ask us to kill our own offspring?

Well, the answer is somewhat complicated. He would -- and does -- ask each and every one of us to put him first in our heart. There will be times that may feel like a death. At the last moment, God’s messenger stays the hand of Abraham, sparing Abraham tremendous anguish and sparing Isaac his life.

What would humanity have gained through Abraham’s sacrifice, had he carried it out? Isaac was only one boy, the son of a man. His death would have gained humanity nothing. Therefore, I would contend it was never the will of God that Abraham kill Isaac, but merely that Abraham would love God more than his own flesh and blood, his hard-earned and long-awaited son.

The difference, of course, is that Jesus, while of the line of Abraham, was no son of Abraham. Rather, he is the Son of Man and the Son of God; his death would mean something. Jesus’ death would not be some mere symbol of faith; it would do something for all humanity.

Because of Abraham’s faith, humanity itself gained a long-awaited Son of its own, and a hard-earned salvation, because of the sacrifice of self that that Son would carry out. In a verse omitted from this passage, recall that Abraham tells Isaac that God himself would provide a lamb for sacrifice. God would not spare even his own Son to acquit us, as we hear in the second reading.

This leads us to today’s Gospel, where Christ reveals to Peter, James and John his glory, and his standing in the

Kingdom of God. Jesus, the one whom they had followed and stayed with for just a handful of years, stands at the center of the Kingdom of God, the true aim and destination of the prophecy of Elijah and the exodus begun by Moses -- Jesus, the lamb provided by God.

I picture the Transfiguration as a church building we might see today. Jesus stands at the center, and all eyes look to him. Two of the great heroes of the faith bear witness to Jesus’ own role and importance, just as any of the saints we may cite -- or for whom we name our parishes or children. We all fill the pews, kneeling along with Peter, James and John. Some of us slack-jawed in wonder, some of us more delirious and overcome, like Peter.

Where do you find yourself in this scene? Do you take a place near the front, already near the mystery, overhearing the words of Moses and Elijah (and all the Saints), as they converse with Jesus? Are you already eager to know the meaning of rising from the dead? Perhaps you sit far in the back, struggling to not only hear the words pronounced from the cloud, but also struggling to even see the mystery as it unfolds before all.

This season stands as an invitation to come forward, to move up, to take a place closer to the heart of the unfolding mystery of Jesus’ lordship. Let us press in together, closer together, crowding around to gaze in awe upon the Lord, beloved of God and beloved of our souls.

Lent is our moment to begin to give the love of God priority over and above -- maybe at the expense of -- the earthly loves we have created or set up as of most importance. This is the time for us to just begin to learn that the words of the Father are meant not just for our hearing, but that they speak of our destiny, too. Indeed, it is good that we are here!

David Dunst
Music Director

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YOUTH NEWS AND FAITH FORMATION

FAITH FORMATION

Wednesday, February 28

First Eucharist Parent and Child Session II

Please note that we have our Parent & Child session at 4:30 and 6:30 pm. Parents will meet with Kathy in Heritage Center and children will go to their classrooms.

If you have any questions, or if you will not be able to attend this session, please contact Kathy Raible at 651-905-4311.

Wednesday, March 7

Reconciliation Services for Grades 2 – 8



Grades 2 – 8 will participate in the Sacrament of Reconciliation during their regular class times. Students will meet in the Gathering Space and go to the Main Church together, as a class.

Parents and family are welcome to join us and participate in the Sacrament as well.

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!



KIDS' CHANGE FOR KIDS: TO UGANDA WITH LOVE

During Lent, we are asked to give alms. In order to encourage our youth and children to follow this Lenten practice, we are sponsoring a child in Uganda. Please have children and youth bring in money that they have earned to help support this child. They may bring the money to their religion class and put it in the can located on the teacher's desk. All proceeds go to support this child. We will continue to collect money through Lenten season.

SUNDAY ROSARY

Join us for the rosary for St. Peter's at 10:30 a.m. every Sunday in the Perpetual Adoration Chapel.



“The rosary is a school of prayer. The rosary is a school of faith.”

~Pope Francis

OFFICE INFORMATION

“ Father Steven Hoffman: 651-452-4550

“ Deacon Tim Hennessey: 651-905-4301

Parish Office Hours: Mon - Fri, 8 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Phone: 651-452-4550

BAPTISMS, NEW PARISHIONERS, WEDDINGS

Call the parish office for more information.

PRAYER CHAIN REQUESTS

Email Lisa Amos at lamos@stpetersmendota.org, call her at 651-905-4304 or call the parish office.

FAITHFUL SHEPHERD CATHOLIC SCHOOL AND TRI-PARISH CENTER

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FSCS NOW ENROLLING

Academic excellence, faith-based education and a supportive community that engages the whole family are just a few reasons that our families love our school! We are currently enrolling grades K through 8 for the 2018-2019 school year! To learn more, visit www.fscsmn.org or call Jen Claude at 651-262-2898. We look forward to meeting you and sharing our school with you!



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Vacation Bible School is coming!

Save the dates: June 18 through 22.

More information will be shared as we receive it.

FAITHFUL SHEPHERD HOME AND SCHOOL ASSOCIATION FISH FRY



FSCS Home and School Association will host a Lenten fish fry at Southview Country Club, 239 Mendota Road East, West St. Paul, on Friday, March 16, from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. Dinners purchased in advance via StarPay are \$16.50 per adult, \$8 per child. Attire is casual.

CATHOLIC SPIRIT MAGAZINE

The Catholic Spirit We have a limited number of free annual subscriptions to The Catholic Spirit, the award-winning official newspaper of the Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis. Each edition is packed with Catholic news coverage of our archdiocese, nation and world, as well as issue analysis and reflections on Catholic living from family life to public policy. If you would like to receive the Catholic Spirit, contact Rita Holien in our parish office at rhlien@stpetersmendota.org.

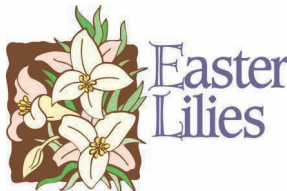
ROSARY MAKERS

Join us in the Ravoux Room on the first Tuesday of each month from 7-8:30pm for the rosary makers ministry. Our next meeting is on March 6. The cord rosaries you make will be sent to missions or used for local and national needs. There is great demand and your help is needed to keep up. Leaders will teach you how to make the rosaries and supply all materials.

Come and see if this ministry is right for you! For more information, please call Mary Ellen at 651-457-1764.

EASTER FLOWERS

We are now accepting donations for Easter flowers in memory or honor of a loved one. If you would like to make a donation, please pick up an envelope on the information counter in the Gathering Space. Fill out the information and drop it off at the parish office or return it through the Sunday collections by Monday, March 26. All names will be listed in a flyer in our Easter bulletin.



Financial Recap July 1 to February 11, 2018

YTD Actual Collections:	\$642,052
YTD Budgeted Collections:	\$615,495
Difference:	\$26,557

To donate electronically visit www.stpetersmendota.org and click on Stewardship & Community Life or call Mary in the parish office at 651-905-4307.

BOY SCOUT FISH DINNER

Boy Scout Fish Dinner

Friday, March 2 AND Friday, March 23, 4:30-7pm

Meal includes fish, potatoes, coleslaw, vegetable, macaroni and cheese, dessert and beverages

Adults - \$10 Children 2-11 - \$7

Children under 2 (with paid adult) - Free

Stations of the Cross will be held Fridays at 6:30 p.m., February 16 through March 23

CATHOLIC SERVICES APPEAL

If you have not yet given your gift in support of the 18 Collective Ministries of this Archdiocese to the Catholic Services Appeal, please prayerfully consider God's gifts in your life and consider making a pledge. Every gift is important and helps to strengthen our Catholic family and this Archdiocese.



SINCERE SYMPATHY



St. Peter's Parish extends its sympathy to the family and friends of David O'Hanley. We invite all to join us in praying that God may make him a sharer in eternal salvation.

GLOBAL SOLIDARITY SUNDAY WEEKEND

March 10 and 11 is Global Solidarity Sunday Weekend in the Archdiocese, with the theme, "The Light came into the World" (John 3:19). This is an opportunity to reach out in solidarity to our brothers and sisters around the world and help shine Christ's light of mercy, love and healing on those who are homeless, hungry and spiritually lonely. Donations for this fund help support four global priorities of the U.S. Catholic Bishops: Africa, Latin America, Central and Eastern Europe, as well as humanitarian activities of Catholic Relief Services. Please be as generous as you are able in supporting your brothers and sisters overseas. Thank you.



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.

Trustees:

Jim Oricchio.....651-452-3587
Helen Wilkie.....651-365-1334

READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF FEBRUARY 25

Sunday: Gn 22:1-2, 9a, 10-13, 15-18/Ps 116:10, 15, 16-17, 18-19 [9]/Rom 8:31b-34/Mk 9:2-10
Monday: Dn 9:4b-10/Ps 79:8, 9, 11 and 13 [cf. 103:10a]/Lk 6:36-38
Tuesday: Is 1:10, 16-20/Ps 50:8-9, 16bc-17, 21 and 23 [23b]/Mt 23:1-12
Wednesday: Jer 18:18-20/Ps 31:5-6, 14, 15-16 [17b]/Mt 20:17-28
Thursday: Jer 17:5-10/Ps 1:1-2, 3, 4 and 6 [40:5a]/Lk 16:19-31
Friday: Gn 37:3-4, 12-13a, 17b-28a/Ps 105:16-17, 18-19, 20-21 [5a]/Mt 21:33-43, 45-46
Saturday: Mi 7:14-15, 18-20/Ps 103:1-2, 3-4, 9-10, 11-12 [8a]/Lk 15:1-3, 11-32
Next Sunday: Ex 20:1-17 or 20:1-3, 7-8, 12-17/Ps 19:8, 9, 10, 11 [Jn 6:68c]/1 Cor 1:22-25/Jn 2:13-25
Scrutiny: Ex 17:3-7/Ps 95:1-2, 6-7, 8-9 [8]/Rom 5:1-2, 5-8/Jn 4:5-42 or 4:5-15, 19b-26, 39a, 40-42

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MASS INTENTIONS

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

Monday, February 26	† Jeffrey Weiss
Tuesday, February 27	Locryn Rynders
Wed., February 28	† Jerry Hirsch
Thursday, March 1	† Louis John Chapdelaine
Friday, March 2	† Dominic Tran
Saturday, March 3	† Carl Becherer
Sunday, March 4, 9 am	† Doris Thompson
11 am	Mass For The People

THIS WEEK'S CALENDAR: FEBRUARY 26

Monday, February 26

9 am Mass, **Historic Church** (8:30 Rosary)
6:30 pm Alpha, Heritage Center
7 pm Men's Bible Study, Family Room
7 pm Boy Scout Troop Meeting, Classroom 10

Tuesday, February 27

9 am Mass, **Historic Church** (8:30 Rosary)
10 am Women's Bible Study, Ravoux Room

Wednesday, February 28

9 am Mass, **Main Church** (8:30 Rosary)
9:45 am Divine Mercy Cenacle, Ravoux Room
4:30 pm Grade 2 Parent/Child Meeting. Grades 1, 3-5 meet in their homes.
6:30 pm Grade 2 Parent/Child Meeting. Grades 1, 3-5 meet in their homes. Grades 6-8 meet in their classrooms.
6:30 pm Perissos, Youth Room

Thursday, March 1

9 am Mass, **Historic Church** (8:30 Rosary)
6:30 pm Women's Bible Study, Ravoux Room
7 pm AA Meeting, Classroom 5

Friday, March 2

8 am Reconciliation (**Main Church**)
9 am Mass, **Historic Church** (8:30 Rosary)
9:30 am Anointings, Historic Church
4:30 pm Boy Scout Lenten Fish Dinner, Heritage Center
6:30 pm Stations of the Cross with Benediction, Main Church

Saturday, March 3

9 am & 10:30 am AA Meeting, Classrooms
3:30 pm Reconciliation, **Main Church**
4:30 pm Choir Rehearsal, Music Room
5 pm Mass, **Main Church**

Sunday, March 4 - *Hospitality Sunday* *Hosted by the CCW*

8:30 am Choir Rehearsal, Music Room
9 am Mass, **Main Church**
9 am Sunday School, Classrooms
9 am Liturgy of the Word for Children, Ravoux Room
10:30 am Rosary for St. Peter's, Chapel of the Nativity
10:30 am Choir Rehearsal, Music Room
11 am Mass, **Main Church**
11 am Liturgy of the Word for Children, Ravoux Room
11:30 am RCIA, Conference Room

PASTORAL MINISTRY

FOLLOWING JESUS



The Gospel this Sunday takes us to the mystery of the Transfiguration, where Peter, James and John get a glimpse of the glory that following Jesus will realize in them. The purpose of the penances that we do during Lent are to bring about this transfiguration of our hearts, which even now, begin to radiate the glory of Christ in the way that we live. Let's pray for the grace this week to take up these penances with greater joy and loving surrender to the grace of God, who wants nothing less than that we become saints.

MINNESOTA FOOD SHARE MARCH CAMPAIGN

The face of hunger is not what some people might expect. Many people seeking food assistance have jobs, raise families, work toward education and are active in their communities. Unfortunately, they also have to make difficult trade-offs to get enough food for their families.



John is a single father of three. This is a new circumstance for him, and it's not easy to provide for three kids with one limited income. John believes that if you have a positive attitude and stay motivated, you become a stronger person. Sometimes being strong means getting help to make ends meet. "When rent's due, sometimes you've got to make a tough decision," John shared. "Sometimes you've got to talk to your landlord and see if you can pay your rent late, so you can pay other bills." That's not always an option and even with a little flexibility, he is still spread very thin.

John says the food shelf helps when he really needs it. "Mealtimes are the center of our family life," says John, "and I am so grateful the food shelf gives me quality food, so I can provide healthy choices for my children." It is difficult for parents who have to choose between putting a roof over the heads of their children or filling their plates.

Find out how much God has given you and from it take what you need. The remainder is needed by others.

~ Saint Augustine

Special grocery bags will be distributed for you to take home after Mass today and again on March 10 and 11. Please consider filling these bags with your food donations and returning them to St. Peter's by April 8. 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 write "Church of St. Peter" on the check's memo line.

ADORATION CHAPEL

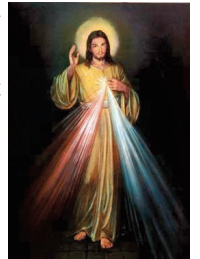
The chapel is closed for Masses. If you need a sub for your hour, please refer to our substitute roster to cover your hour in advance. Contact Lisa Amos at 651-905-4304 or at lamos@stpetersmendota.org to sign up for an hour of adoration. We still need adorers at the following hours:



Early Morning		Daytime		Evening	
Monday	2 to 3 am	Sunday	2 to 3 pm	Sunday	5 to 6 pm
Wednesday	1 to 2 am	Sunday	4 to 5 pm	Friday	7 to 8 pm
Saturday	3 to 4 am	Monday	2 to 3 pm		
Saturday	4 to 5 am	Wednesday	2 to 3 pm		
Saturday	5 to 6 am	Friday	4 to 5 pm		

DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY

This year, our collaborative Divine Mercy Sunday devotions will be hosted by St. John Neumann Catholic Church, 4030 Pilot Knob Road, in Eagan, on Sunday, April 8. Devotions will be held from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. and will include the Chaplet of Divine Mercy and Reconciliation. All are welcome.



HOLY COMMUNION TO THE HOMEBOUND

Visiting those who are sick or infirm is one of the means God gloriously uses to grant us a heavenly focus in our lives. There are many in our parish family who will be cheered and nourished when you visit them, bearing with you the very Presence of Christ. As we work to identify those in our community, our dependence on your generosity increases.

St. Peter's is seeking commissioned Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion to bring the Eucharist to the sick and the homebound, as well as to serve in nursing homes in our community. Candidates for this ministry are those who have a compassion for those who may be suffering, a friendly and warm disposition, a deep love of Jesus Christ and a desire to bring the incredible gift of Christ in the Eucharist to our sisters and brothers. Training is provided; times and days are flexible. Long and short-term assignments are needed. For more information, please call Lisa Amos, Pastoral Associate, at 651-905-4304 or email her at lamos@stpetersmendota.org.



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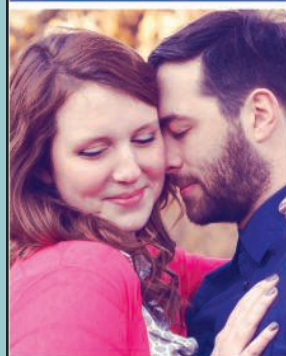
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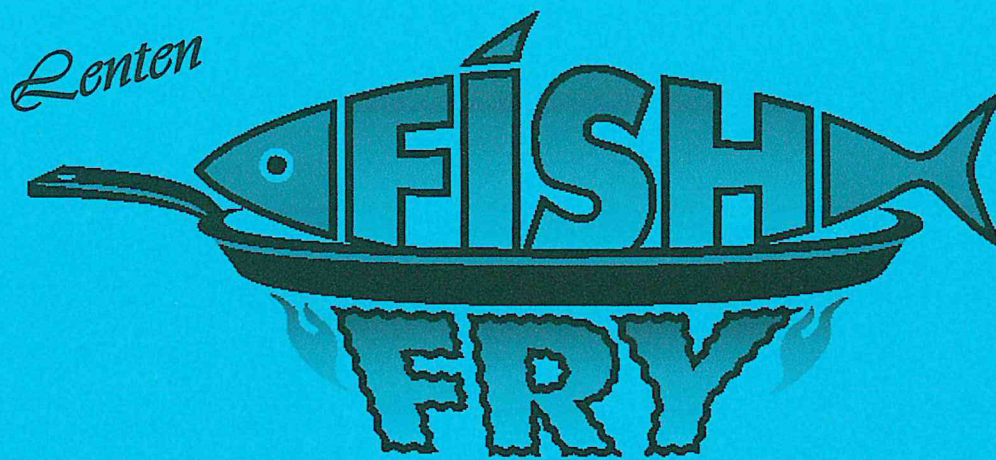
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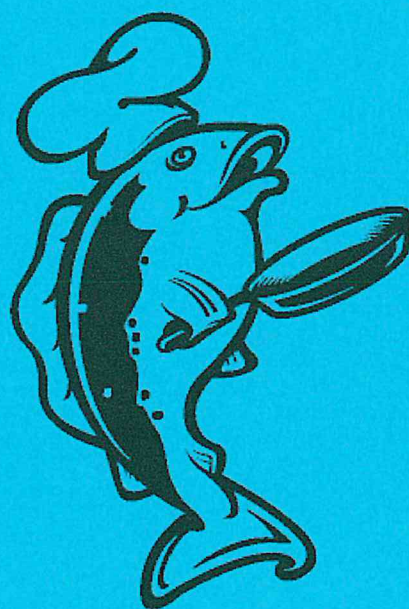


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