

**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.

5th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**FEBRUARY 5, 2017**

My dear friends,

As we seek to understand together the great gift and blessings of knowing Christ, of following Christ, today's Gospel offers us another reason to be so deeply grateful for being one of His disciples. Jesus states it very simply and clearly: "I am the light of the world, who ever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life." (Jn 8:12) As we open ourselves to Jesus, the source of light, our lives become enlightened, able to radiate the same light to others.

This is one of the reasons why I want to follow Jesus: I don't want to walk in darkness — I want my whole life to be lived in the Light. But what does Jesus mean by light? And in contrast, what does it mean for someone to be in darkness?

We all know how necessary light is for both our eyes and for seeing the objects that light illuminates. Without light, we would all be like those who are blind. I remember the true story of a friend of mine, Fr. Scott Carl, who was leading a group of religious sisters through the elaborate maze of underground tunnels in the catacombs of Rome. The management running this pilgrimage site did not realize they were down there and turned off the lights. It was so dark, they couldn't even see their hands in front of their faces. Providentially, one of them had a digital camera, and it was by the light of the camera screen that they slowly found their way to the entrance.

Spiritual darkness, which is a form of blindness, is so much more tragic than physical blindness. The light that Jesus brings to us can be summed up in 4 key revelations:

- ♦ Jesus reveals His heavenly Father to us and the plan of His merciful love.
- ♦ Jesus reveals himself as the Savior of the world — the only Savior who can free us from sin and death and open the way to the Eternal Life of heaven.
- ♦ Jesus reveals our calling to become the beloved sons and daughters of God, through water, the Spirit and the gift of faith.
- ♦ Jesus reveals the way to walk as children of God — free, joyful, united in love, pouring out our lives for the spread and growth of the Kingdom of God.

Biblical darkness, therefore, is not knowing God, not knowing these ultimate, life-saving, life-giving truths. The saying, "ignorance is bliss," does not apply here. The good

news is that Jesus can lead anyone out of this darkness, out of this ignorance that results in so many restless, miserable, diminished lives.

Jesus says that He is "the light of the world," because it is through Jesus that we come to know the Father and His love for us. Through Jesus, we experience the power and mercy that saves us and sets us free. Through Jesus, we discover our true identity, dignity and worth as children of God; and it is through Jesus that we know the way that leads to a joyful, rich, and fruitful life, culminating in life eternal.

Jesus wants to spread this saving light everywhere, which is why He calls us to be His light in the world. The importance of this cannot be overlooked or taken lightly, for its impact is profound. To convey this, I want to close by quoting a reflection from Bishop Robert Barron, an auxiliary bishop of Los Angeles:

"The weakness of Christian witness is what has allowed some of the worst elements of society to thrive, and some of the best elements to weaken and fail. How quickly we forget that the 20th century was the bloodiest century on record. And why? Because the Christianity of many had become so weak, so unconvincing, that dark movements like Nazism and Communism were allowed to carry out the death and extermination of millions of people. Evil triumphs, not because it is stronger than goodness—it triumphs because good people do nothing."

Where are the vibrant Christians of today to stem the tide of evil? Where are the Christians and church communities to bear witness against poverty, indecent internet and TV programming, attacks on innocent life, the secularization of Sundays, the anti Christian values being taught in some of our schools? In some areas, it appears that the Christianity of today is not strong enough; the faith of many not bright enough. A weak Christianity is a disaster for the world, as it is for families and marriages. You are the salt of the earth, if you go flat, the earth goes flat. You are a light of the world, if you cover it, the world becomes dark. You are the city on a hill to show others the way, if you lose that place, the world will lose its way."

Jesus bless you,

Fr. Steven

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YOUTH NEWS

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

ELEMENTARY AND MIDDLE SCHOOL RE CLASSES

Please remember that there will be no elementary or middle school RE classes on Wednesday, February 8. Classes will resume on February 15. Please contact Kathy Raible at 651-905-4311 or Elizabeth McCanna at 651-905-4312 if you have any questions.

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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BOY SCOUT PANCAKE BREAKFAST

The Boy Scouts are hosting a pancake breakfast today, Sunday, February 5, after the 9 and 11 a.m. Masses. Breakfast includes sausage, eggs and all the pancakes you can eat. Cost is \$8/adult, \$5/child or \$25/family.



Come join us for breakfast!



*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

Our parish is now conducting the 2017 Catholic Services Appeal for the 17 Collective Ministries of the Archdiocese, that no one parish can support on its own.

The CSA recognizes each parish itself as a ministry integral to the daily life of the Archdiocese. Our parish really is our second home; we see our brothers and sisters in Christ every week, as together we celebrate the Mass. It is also where we are prepared and supported as disciples to go forth to preach the Gospel. Thus, our parish is a benefited ministry of the CSA; we receive 25% of the dollars we collect in our parish, if we reach our parish goal. Please prayerfully consider making a pledge to help us reach our goal!



ST PAUL DEANERY CCW QUARTERLY MEETING

On Thursday, February 16, the St. Paul Deanery Council of Catholic Women will hold their 3rd Quarterly Meeting at the Church of Maternity of Mary, 1414 Dale Street North, in St. Paul, beginning at 8:15 a.m. Learn about the Breaking Free Ministry that helps hundreds of women escape prostitution and sexual exploitation.

We will be collecting personal items, grocery gift cards and canned goods to donate to Breaking Free.

Lunch will be served following the noon Mass. The cost for the day is \$13. Please RSVP by February 13, by calling Jane at 651-261-2534 or Cathy at 651-481-1012. All women of the parish are invited and encouraged to attend.

INTEREST RATE REDUCTION

Last weekend, Fr. Steven presented the wonderful news about our reduction in interest rate, from 5.5% to 4%. This reduction in interest and re-amortization of the loan results in a lower monthly payment for the parish. The current plan is to take this monthly savings and apply it to the principal balance, thus paying down the loans at a quicker rate. Following are the numbers, both before and after the reduction.

School loan monthly payment at 5.5%	\$11,302
School loan monthly payment at 4%	\$ 7,968
Monthly savings	\$ 3,334
Building loan monthly payment at 5.5%	\$26,148
Building loan monthly payment at 4%	\$18,328
Monthly savings	\$ 7,820
Total annual savings applied to principal	\$133,848

CANA DINNER, FEBRUARY 11

Cana Dinner tickets will be on sale this weekend in the Gathering Space, after each Mass. An elegant evening is planned for February 11, beginning with the 5 p.m. Mass, to celebrate the sacrament of marriage, and all married couples, widowed and single people are invited to attend. The cost is \$25 per attendee, which includes dinner, two drink tickets and a presentation by Dr. John R. Buri. We look forward to seeing you there!

TOYS NEEDED



Toy Collection

We are working to provide childcare opportunities for families during some of our events here at St. Peter's, and we need your help. 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.

In addition, we would like to organize a list of adults willing to care for children when childcare is offered. Training is required and provided. Donations may be left in the marked bin in the coatroom. To volunteer, please contact Anne O'Keefe, Community Life Coordinator, at 651-905-4308, or Lisa Amos, Pastoral Associate, at 651-905-4304. Thank you!

HOSPITALITY SUNDAY HOSTED BY PARISH VISION COMMITTEE AND FINANCE COMMITTEE ON FEBRUARY 12

THE PARISH VISION COMMITTEE (formally known as the Pastoral Council), is a body of parishioners and staff who gather every other month with the pastor to pray, grow in faith and discern a vision for the parish and its application in parish life. The committee also discusses any blessings and concerns in education of both children and adults, worship, prayer, spiritual life, social justice and outreach, pastoral care, stewardship, evangelization and community building.

FINANCE COUNCIL

The Finance Council (which is required by Canon Law) and whose members are appointed by the pastor also meets every other month. This council helps the Church of St. Peter to plan and insure sound, prudent and transparent financial management practices in order that the mission of the parish may be realized. The council provide consultation to the pastor and staff by reviewing financial statements and agreements, discussing policies and procedures and offering professional financial knowledge.

SAVE THE DATE - MARDI GRAS!

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 the weekends of February 4/5, 11/12 and 18/19, so we can estimate how much food to buy. Or call Anne O'Keefe at 651-905-4308, or email her at aokeefe@stpetersmendota.org with your RSVP. Looking forward to seeing you there!

HAITI COLLECTION

Thank you for your generous donations of white sheets and empty pill bottles for the needs in Haiti. We collected more than we anticipated and appreciate your kindness. We are putting this on hold due to the lack of storage space. We will resume the collection on May 1. 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.

Parish Pastoral Council Email:

ParishPastoralCouncil@stpetersmendota.org

Trustees:

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

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

READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF FEBRUARY 5

Sunday:	Is 58:7-10/Ps 112:4-9/1 Cor 2:1-5/Mt 5:13-16
Monday:	Gn 1:1-19/Ps 104:1-2a, 5-6, 10, 12, 24, 35c/Mk 6:53-56
Tuesday:	Gn 1:20--2:4a/Ps 8:4-9/Mk 7:1-13
Wednesday:	Gn 2:4b-9, 15-17/Ps 104:1-2a, 27-28, 29bc-30/Mk 7:14-23
Thursday:	Gn 2:18-25/Ps 128:1-5/Mk 7:24-30
Friday:	Gn 3:1-8/Ps 32:1-2, 5-7/Mk 7:31-37
Saturday:	Gn 3:9-24/Ps 90:2-4abc, 5-6, 12-13/Mk 8:1-10
Next Sunday:	Sir 15:15-20/Ps 119:1-2, 4-5, 17-18, 33-34/1 Cor 2:6-10/Mt 5:17-37 or 5:20-22a, 27-28, 33-34a, 37

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MASS INTENTIONS

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

Monday, February 6	† Joseph Guild
Tuesday, February 7	† Gilbert Gelley
Wednesday, February 8	† Joe Schuster
Thursday, February 9	† James Brown, Sr.
Friday, February 10	Tom & Mary O'Neill
Saturday, February 11	Mass For The People
Sunday, February 12 - 9 a.m.	† George Zirnhelt
11 a.m.	† Tom Mulvihill

“**Matt 5:15-16** Nor do they light a lamp and then put it under a bushel basket; it is set on a lampstand, where it gives light to all in the house. Just so, your light must shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your heavenly Father.



THIS WEEK'S CALENDAR: FEBRUARY 6

Monday, February 6

9 am	Mass, Historic Church (8:30 rosary)
6 pm	Cub Scout Den Meeting, Classroom 4
6 pm	St. Paul Civic Symphony, Heritage Center
6:30 pm	Boy Scout Committee Meeting, Conference Room 1
7 pm	Boy Scout Meeting, Ravoux Room

Tuesday, February 7

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, Ravoux Room

Wednesday, February 8

9 am	Mass, Historic Church (8:30 rosary)
9:30 am	Caring and Sharing Hands, Off Campus
9:45 am	Divine Mercy Cenacle, Ravoux Room
6 pm	ALPHA Core Team Meeting, Conference Room 1
7 pm	Choir Rehearsal, Music Room

Thursday, February 9

9 am	Mass, Historic Church (8:30 rosary)
7 pm	AA Meeting, Classroom 5

Friday, February 10

8 am	Confessions, Main Church
9 am	Mass, Historic Church (8:30 rosary)

Saturday, February 11

9 and 10:30 am	AA Meeting, Classrooms 2, 4
10 am	Saturday Scripture Study, Conference Room 1
3:30 pm	Confession, Main Church
4:30 pm	Choir Rehearsal, Music Room
5 pm	Mass, Main Church
6 pm	Cana Dinner, Heritage Center

Sunday, February 12 - *Hospitality Sunday* *hosted by Vision Committee & Finance Committee*

8:30 & 10:30 am	Choir Rehearsal, Music Room
9 am	Mass, Main Church
9 am	Liturgy of the Word for Children, Ravoux Room
9 am	Sunday School, Classrooms
10:20 am	Rosary for St. Peter's Parish, Historic Church
11 am	Mass, Main Church
11 am	Liturgy of the Word for Children, Ravoux Room



PASTORAL MINISTRY

FOLLOWING JESUS

The CSA video reminds us of something very dear to the heart of Jesus, and therefore an important trait of being a disciple: Love of neighbor. Jesus teaches us that whatever we do to others, is done unto Him. To foster this way of seeing and loving others, try this simple exercise: thinking of the people closest to you and those outside your family and friends, say slowly and prayerfully as you think of each one "you did it to me . . . you did it to me."



WORLDWIDE MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER



Enjoy the blessings of your spouse by enriching your marriage. The next **Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekends** are February 10-12, and May 5-7, in Buffalo. Early registration is highly recommended. For more information, visit our website at: www.twincitieswwme.org. You may also contact Brent and Tracy by email at applications@twincitieswwme.org or call 612-756-8720.

ROSARY FOR ST. PETER'S

The rosary will be prayed for St. Peter's Parish every Sunday from 10:20 to 10:40 a.m. in the Historic Church. Please join us. All are welcome.



NEIGHBORS FOOD SHELF



This month's Neighbor Spotlight is on Greg. Greg was shopping for himself and his two boys. He was careful to not grab too much junk food, and multiple times he said he wanted to leave some food for others. Since he already had tuna at home, he would leave the tuna for someone else. Same with the crackers, peanut butter and even the jelly. I really admire Greg's generosity and thoughtfulness. Sometimes when you're struggling, it's hard to think of others, but Greg is very aware that others are in need too. Thank you all very much for the kindness and generosity you spread to those around you.

This month's food shelf needs:

- ◆ Toilet Paper
- ◆ Shampoo
- ◆ Conditioner
- ◆ Feminine Products
- ◆ Shaving Supplies
- ◆ Canned Corn
- ◆ Baking/Cake Mixes

GOD'S PLAN FOR A JOY-FILLED MARRIAGE

God's Plan for a Joy-Filled Marriage: A Refreshing, Liberating Vision of Marriage and Sexuality offers a view of marriage that helps you fully embrace, and even celebrate, God's glorious plan for your life.

Join us on Sunday, February 19, from 10:30 a.m. to 2 p.m., in the Ravoux Room. This half-day workshop will provide you with a rich understanding of the teachings of the Church, offer you the tools to live married life as God intended and give you ample opportunity to discover your relationship in a wholly and holy new way.

A requirement for engaged couples, but relevant for ALL couples, this workshop might be just what you're looking for and what God is calling you to in your relationship.

Register with Lisa Amos, Pastoral Associate, by email at lamos@stpetersmendota.org or call her at 651-905-4304 no later than February 15. A light lunch will be provided for couples who register in advance. *A suggested donation of \$20 per couple will be gladly accepted.*

All couples, whether engaged, newly married or looking for ways to deepen your relationship through Christ-centered intimacy are welcome.

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.

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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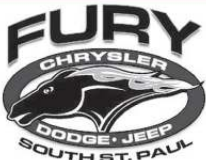
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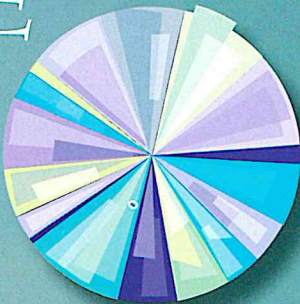
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Mikayla

University of St. Thomas



"I encountered Saint Paul's Outreach when I was a freshman at the University of St. Thomas. After becoming more involved, I truly realized the importance of a personal relationship with our Lord Jesus Christ. I am so thankful for my experience—because of this ministry, my Catholic faith life has grown and I am on fire for the Lord."

"Without this scholarship, I believe I would not have had the opportunities of coming to Cretin-Derham Hall High School and moving on to college. I will be going to North Park University in Chicago, Illinois."



Ben Bailey

Cretin-Derham Hall,
Class of 2016



Michael Rogers

President,
Risen Christ Catholic School

"I have the unique opportunity to see the impact that our school has on children and their families. In a school where 96% of the student population qualifies for free/reduced price lunch, tuition makes up just 7% of our income each year. We rely heavily on the generosity of our donors and foundation partners, including the Catholic Services Appeal Foundation (CSAF)."

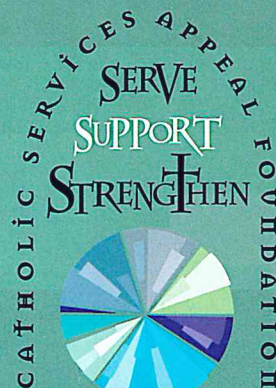


Father Michael Daly

formerly Deacon Daly
at Saint Paul Seminary

"The priesthood is not some idea we choose but an encounter with a person, Jesus Christ, who invites us to be transformed into Himself! I knew Jesus wanted me to be a priest, but it took time for me to surrender and give God permission to do with me as He wills."

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I

American Indian Ministry
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II

Archdiocesan Council of
Catholic Women (ACCW)
\$25,585

III

Campus Ministry -
Newman Center
\$264,000

IV

Campus Ministry -
Saint Paul's Outreach
\$11,000

V

Catholic Charities
\$1,100,000

VI

Deaf Ministry
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VII

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Total Ministries
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2017 Expenses
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2017 Total CSAF Goal
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IX

High School Scholarships
\$800,000

X

Hospital Chaplains
\$600,000

XI

Latino Ministry
\$350,000

XII

Marriage, Family and Life
\$385,174

XIII

Parishes
\$1,800,000

XIV

Prison Chaplains
\$45,345

XV

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XVI

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XVII

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