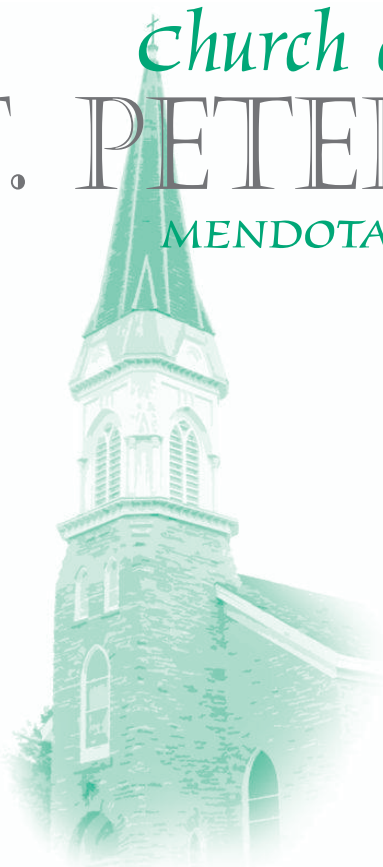


Church of ST. PETER MENDOTA



February 7, 2016
Fifth 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

Elizabeth McCanna, 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:

Anne O'Keefe 651-905-4308

OFFICE STAFF:

Rita Holien, Bulletin-Website Coordinator.... 651-905-4302

Carolyn Rynders, Parish Assistant 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

Fridays, 8 to 8:45 am and Saturdays 3:30 to 4:45 pm
and also any time 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 Pastor

My dear friends,

The Bible reveals that God is a God of mercy, that mercy is part of God's very nature. This being true, it is not surprising that the Lord calls us to be merciful, we who are made in God's own image. During this special Jubilee year, we will be talking a lot about mercy, so perhaps the best way to begin is by understanding what mercy is from a biblical perspective.

To understand the biblical roots of a word, I have often turned to William Barclay, a 20th century protestant biblical scholar. The following is what he says about mercy:

The Hebrew word for mercy is "chesedh", which means the ability to get right inside another person's skin until we can see things with their eyes, understand their thoughts, and feel as they feel. It denotes a sympathy which is not given from outside, but which comes from a deliberate identification with the other person. Sympathy is derived from two Greek words, "syn" which means *together with*, and "paschein" which means *to experience* or *to suffer*. Sympathy means experiencing things together with the other person, literally going through what they are going through.

There is always a reason why a person thinks and acts as they do, and if we knew that reason, it would be so much easier to understand, to sympathize, and to forgive.

Barclay's explanation reminds me of the expression, "You can't judge a man unless you've walked a mile in his shoes." The whole mystery of God becoming a human being, becoming like us, is a mystery of mercy, of profound compassion. In Jesus, God literally gets into our skin, he walks in our shoes. This is what the author of the letter to the Hebrews is trying to express to the first Christian communities:

"We see Jesus, who for a little while was made lower than the angels . . . that by the grace of God he might taste death for every one . . . He was made like his brethren in every respect, so that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make expiation for the sins of the people. Because he himself has suffer-

ed and been tempted, he is able to help those who are tempted. (So), we have not a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin." (Heb 2:17-18; 4:15)

Jesus' heart overflows with great mercy and compassion. Always seeking out the lost, the poor, the sick, the suffering and oppressed--he even forgives and prays for those mocking him and putting him to death. Jesus is drawn to the suffering of sinners like a magnet, eagerly longing to pour the healing balm of forgiveness and the gift of new life into their aching hearts.

Mercy can come quite naturally to spouses or to parents regarding their children, because of the deep physical and affective bond that connects them. During the passion of Jesus, though his mother Mary followed at a distance, she felt every blow and every insult against her son as though inflicted upon herself.

We are not always able to walk the same path of the people we encounter or with whom we live and work, but through mercy we can open our hearts to them, taking them and their need and suffering into ourselves--freely choosing to share their burden and do what we can to relieve and assist them.

I will never forget two 7th grade girls from St. Michael's parish in Pine Island, Minnesota. There is a nursing home about six blocks from the school, and once or twice a week these two girls went over to the nursing home after school to visit the elderly residents who were lonely. What a beautiful expression of mercy! They identified with the resident's loneliness, feeling it as if it was their own, and poured all their love into these lonely hearts.

In my next bulletin article, I will talk more specifically about how Faith brings a greater breadth and depth to mercy, adding something more to merely human expressions of mercy or sympathy.

Wishing you all a week filled with mercy,



Fr. Steven

Religious Education/ Faith Formation (RE/FF)

Ash Wednesday Services for Religious Education

On Wednesday, February 10, we will have Ash Wednesday Services in the Historic Church at both the 4:30 and 6:30 p.m. sessions. 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 Elizabeth McCanna at (651) 905-4312 if you have questions.

No Sunday School or LWC

On February 14, There will be no Sunday School or Children's Liturgy of the Word.

Kid's Change for Kids-To Uganda with Love

During Lent, we are asked to give alms. To encourage our youth and children to follow this Lenten practice, St. Peter's is 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 their 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

Random Acts of Kindness Cross

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!



Pastoral Ministry

A Lenten Opportunity for The Institute for Priestly Formation (IPF) Alumni

Lent is right around the corner with Ash Wednesday on February 10th. We have a special opportunity to help you to enter more fully into your Lenten observance! This Lent, consider *The Journey to Jerusalem: A Lenten Retreat* as a way to grow closer to Christ.

Fr. Mark Touns has written a booklet with daily reflections for each of the 40 days in Lent. A simple daily devotional with scripture references will lead you on a journey with Jesus towards Jerusalem and the Triduum culminating with the Resurrection. The reflections can also be heard on the IPF website, www.priestlyformation.org/resources/fr.-mark-touns/journey-to-jerusalem

We have a small number of copies of the printed booklet available for purchase for \$5 per copy. Please contact Lisa Amos at 651-905-4304 or lamos@stpetersmendota.org to reserve a copy.

Lent Speaker Series

Sacraments in the Light of Mercy: How the sacraments help us to experience and live from God's mercy

Thursdays, February 18, 25 & March 3

6:30-7:30 p.m. in Heritage Center

Jesus is God's love incarnate, a love that comes to us as mercy. God's merciful love is communicated to us in numerous ways. The seven sacraments, instituted by Christ himself, are especially designed for this purpose: to bring the power of God's merciful love into all the areas of our life.

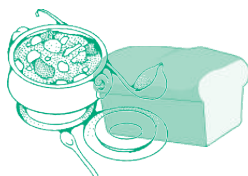
We hope you will come and join us this Lent, during the Year of Mercy, as we reflect together on how we can live more generously and concretely from these life-giving sources of mercy. All are welcome.

- ♦ **February 18:** The Sacraments of Initiation: Baptism, Confirmation, and Holy Eucharist
- ♦ **February 25:** The Sacraments of Vocation: Holy Orders and Marriage
- ♦ **March 3:** The Sacraments of Healing: Reconciliation and Anointing of the Sick

No reservations are required. Free will donations will be accepted. Fellowship and refreshments will be provided after each evening's talk. For further information, please contact Lisa Amos at 651-905-4304 or lamos@stpetersmendota.org.

St. Peter's Community News

Ash Wednesday Soup Supper



On Ash Wednesday, February 10, 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

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

Fridays, February 12, 19, 26

March 4, 11, 18

7 p.m. in the Main Church



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

Ash Wednesday Mass Times



February 10

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

Cana Dinner

Cana Dinner – A Celebration of Marriage

Our sixth annual Cana Dinner will be held on Saturday, February 13, beginning with 5 p.m. Mass. An elegant evening is planned 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 Fr. Steven Hoffman titled



“Humility and Love: Two Key Virtues of a Joyful Marriage.” Reservations and payment will be taken after Masses this weekend in the Gathering Space. Remember to invite your family and friends! We look forward to seeing you there. Please contact Al and Gail Barta at (651) 454-9552 with any questions.

Catholic Services Appeal

This is commitment weekend for the 2016 Catholic Services Appeal. If you have not already done so, please fill out your 2016 pledge form and drop it in the plate or mail it directly to the CSAF 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!

For I was hungry, and you gave me not to drink.
I was a stranger, and you took me not in.
Naked, and you covered me not.
Sick and in prison, and you did not visit me.

Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty
Or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and not
Come to your help?

When you neglected to help the least of these my brothers, you neglected help to me.

Please help the 17 collective ministries of the Archdiocese.

Welcome New Parishioners!

The Church of St. Peter would like to extend a warm welcome to our newly registered parishioners:

- ◆ Dave and Maria Besker and Family
- ◆ Calleigh Brown
- ◆ Rose Cronin
- ◆ Shehan Perera
- ◆ Bruce and Carol Wakefield and Family
- ◆ Kate Zenker

We are excited to have you join our faith community!

Join the Choir

The choir is beginning preparation for the Holy Week celebrations, the Lenten season and beyond. Now is a great time to join! Rehearsals are weekly on Wednesday nights at 7 p.m. and end by 8:30 p.m. If you have questions, feel free to ask any choir member or contact David at ddunst@stpetersmendota.org.

The Week of February 1

Monday, February 8

- 9 am** Mass, Historic Church (8:40 rosary)
6 pm St Paul Civic Symphony, Heritage Center
6 pm Cub Scout Pack Meeting, Classroom 2, 4
7 pm Boy Scout Meeting, Ravoux Room

Tuesday, February 20

- 9 am** Mass, Historic Church (8:40 rosary)
9:30 am Adoration Before Blessed Sacrament
 Until 7 pm, Historic Church
9:45 am Women's Bible Study, Ravoux Room
7 pm Stewardship Committee, Conference Room 1

Wednesday, February 10

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

Thursday, February 11

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

Friday, February 12

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

Saturday, February 13

- 9 and 10:30 am** Alcoholics Anonymous, Rooms 2, 4
10 am Scripture Study, Community Room
3:30 pm Confessions, Main Church
4:30 pm Choir Rehearsal, Music Room
5 pm Mass, Main Church
6 pm Cana Dinner

Sunday, February 14

- 8:30 & 10:30 am** Choir Rehearsal, Music Room
9 am Mass, Main Church
11 am Mass, Main Church

Parish Pastoral Council

Lance Miller, Chair.....952-432-6957
 Joseph Towle, Vice-Chair.....651-683-9250
 Paul Hirsch, Secretary.....651-431-1832
 Mary Pat Ferraro.....651-454-1091
 Anne Hallgren.....651-702-6465
 Sarah Larsen.....612-384-1474
 Maria Schwartz.....651-452-1796
 Alice Sheeler.....651-457-8119
 Nancy Stanton.....651-686-9009
 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 7

Sunday: Is 6:1-2a, 3-8/Ps 138:1-5, 7-8/1 Cor 15:1-11 or 15:3-8, 11/Lk 5:1-11
Monday: 1 Kgs 8:1-7, 9-13/Ps 132:6-10/Mk 6:53-56
Tuesday: 1 Kgs 8:22-23, 27-30/Ps 84:3-5, 10-11/Mk 7:1-13
Wednesday: Jl 2:12-18/2 Cor 5:20--6:2/Ps 51:3-6, 12-14, 17/Mt 6:1-6, 16-18
Thursday: Dt 30:15-20/Ps 1:1-4, 6/Lk 9:22-25
Friday: Is 58:1-9a/Ps 51:3-6, 18-19/Mt 9:14-15
Saturday: Is 58:9b-14/Ps 86:1-6/Lk 5:27-32
Next Sunday: Dt 26:4-10/Ps 91:1-2, 10-15/Rom 10:8-13/Lk 4:1-13

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

Monday, February 8- †Carl Dumond

Tuesday, February 9 - †George & †Annamma Cherucheril

Wednesday, February 10

7 a.m. - Mass for the People

9 a.m. - †Antonio DeFranco

7 p.m. - †Richard Gangl

Thursday, February 11 - †Jeanne Schnell

Friday, February 12 - Mary A. Pohl

Saturday, February 13 - †Eleanor McCoy

Sunday, February 14 - 9 a.m. - Mass for the People

11 a.m. - †Leo & †Marian Redding

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Faithful Shepherd

Faithful Shepherd 2016-2017 Enrollment is Open

Faithful Shepherd Catholic School is proud to announce that we have received a \$50,000 grant from the Catholic Schools Center of Excellence. This award recognizes our commitment to academic excellence and will allow us to award grants of \$1,000 to each Kindergarten student for the 2016-17 school year. In addition, Faithful Shepherd has over \$100,000 available in financial aid for families in need of additional help. Our goal in offering these grants and additional financial aid is to allow everyone the opportunity to experience the Faithful Shepherd difference.

Enrollment is now open for the 2016-2017 school year. To learn more or to apply, please visit our website at www.fscsmn.org or call us at 651-406-4747. We're proud of our vibrant, faith-filled community, and we want you to become a part of it. We are committed to providing a Catholic education for all who seek one.



Be Among the First We Tell

We don't know who. We don't when. But we do know who we'll tell first...you! Follow [The Catholic Spirit](http://TheCatholicSpirit.com) for the best coverage when our new archbishop is named. Go to www.TheCatholicSpirit.com/NewAbp and sign up to choose how you want to hear the news.

Hearing and Vision Aids

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.

Holy Hour and Rosary for Our Archdiocese

The Church of St. Peter in Mendota will hold a Holy Hour and Rosary on Sunday, February 21, from 1 to 2pm, in the Main Church.



As we wait with hope for the assignment of a new archbishop for our archdiocese, coming together as a community to pray is increasingly important.

Please join others for an hour of Adoration before the Blessed Sacrament, which will begin with the rosary. We will pray together for healing for all of those who have been hurt in any way by the events of the recent past and to pray for the future of our local church, its current leadership, and its eventual new archbishop.

Marriage Encounter

Awesome marriages don't just happen—couples create them. Begin creating the marriage of your dreams by attending the February 13-14 Marriage Encounter. There are only a few spots left, so register now. Weekends are held at Mount Olivet Conference and Retreat Center in Farmington.

To register, or for additional information, visit www.marriages.org or call 651-454-3238.

Cursillo Corner

All are welcome to attend the South East Metro Ultreya (monthly meeting) on Sundays, at 7 p.m. in Shamrock Hall at the Church of St. Patrick, 3535 72nd Street East in Inver Grove Heights. Mark your calendars. Upcoming meeting dates are:

- ♦ **February 28** at 6:30 p.m., potluck and meeting
- ♦ **March 27** at 7 p.m., meeting

Weekend retreats in February include the Men's Weekend, February 4-7 and the Women's Weekend, February 11-14.

For more information about all Cursillo events and weekend retreats, see www.tc-cursillo.org or contact janemarie.rief@gmail.com or call 651-485-7089.



Come as a Guest
Leave as a Friend

Jubilee Year of Mercy

Pope Francis asks us to “live this Year in the light of the Lord’s words: ‘Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.’”(cf. Lk 6:36) Participate throughout the year by making a pilgrimage to a Holy Door at the Cathedral of St. Paul or Basilica of Saint Mary, regularly receiving the sacrament of Reconciliation, performing corporal and spiritual works of mercy, and participating in the #MercyWorks video challenge. Find additional ways to **pray, learn** and **act** at



www.archspm.org/Mercy.

Miryam Dinner

Women Ages 16 to 35

The Vocation Office invites you to the Miryam Dinner hosted by Bishop Andrew Cozzens. The event will be held on Tuesday, February 16, from 6 to 8 p.m., at the archbishop’s residence, 230 Summit Ave, St. Paul. It is for women, ages 16 to 35, who are discerning consecrated life. It is typical for women discerners to be accompanied by their pastor, consecrated religious, or youth minister.

The evening begins with prayer, followed by dinner with consecrated women sharing their vocation testimonies. Reserve your spot at the table before February 9. Call 651-962-6890 or email stpaulvocations@10000vocations.org.

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 7 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

Volunteers Needed

2016 CARONDELET GALA

Spend an hour or two with your friends at Carondelet Village and help a great cause—St. Mary’s Health Clinics. Since 1992, the clinics have provided quality health care at no cost to uninsured women, children and men in the Twin Cities. We need your help stuffing and stamping invitations for this major fundraiser on **Wednesday, March 2, from 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.** in Carondelet Village Auditorium. Please contact Mimi at 651-690-7058 or mpizzi@csjministriesfoundation.org. There will be treats and door prizes for your help!

Neighbors, Inc.

Neighbors, Inc. Food Share Drive

Neighbors, Inc. distributes food according to family size. The larger the family, the greater the quantity of food they receive. These numbers are posted on the shelves for all shoppers to see. We have to make sure there is enough for everyone, and so we consistently follow these guidelines.

However, sometimes you just have to break the rules. A client who had survived brain cancer two years earlier came to the food shelf. She said the cancer was back. This time it was in her stomach and lungs. She had just lost her job a few days prior. She was going to have surgery in a few days. It took longer than usual for her to shop, because so many volunteers and Neighbors, Inc. employees came to share old memories and stories with her. It was more like a party than a shopping trip. Laughter and hugs were abundant.



How could you not give her extra cans of cranberry juice or tuna when she asked for it? Sometimes human needs can’t be measured by numbers. Your donations to Neighbors, Inc. do make a difference. Neighbors, Inc. thanks you for your generosity.

We are in front of a global scandal of around one billion ~ one billion people who still suffer from hunger today. We cannot look the other way and pretend this does not exist. The food available in this world is enough to feed everyone.

~Pope Francis

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Sacraments in the Light of Mercy : How the sacraments help us to experience and live from God's mercy

How is the infinite mercy of God the Father revealed in the sacramental life of the Church?

A Three-Part Series of Talks for Lent

Jesus is God's love incarnate, a love that comes to us as mercy. God's merciful love is communicated to us in numerous ways. The 7 sacraments, instituted by Christ himself, are especially designed for this purpose: to bring the power of God's merciful love into all the areas of our life.

Join us this Lent, during the Year of Mercy, as we reflect together on how we can live more generously and concretely from these life-giving sources of mercy.

Session I: **The Sacraments of Initiation:** Baptism, Confirmation, and Holy Eucharist **with Lisa Amos**

Session II: **The Sacraments of Vocation:** Marriage and Holy Orders **with Fr. Leonard Andrie**

Session III: **The Sacraments of Healing:** Reconciliation and Anointing of the Sick **with Fr. Steven Hoffman**

Thursdays,
February 18, 25;
March 3
6:30-7:30pm
Followed by light
refreshments

Church of St. Peter

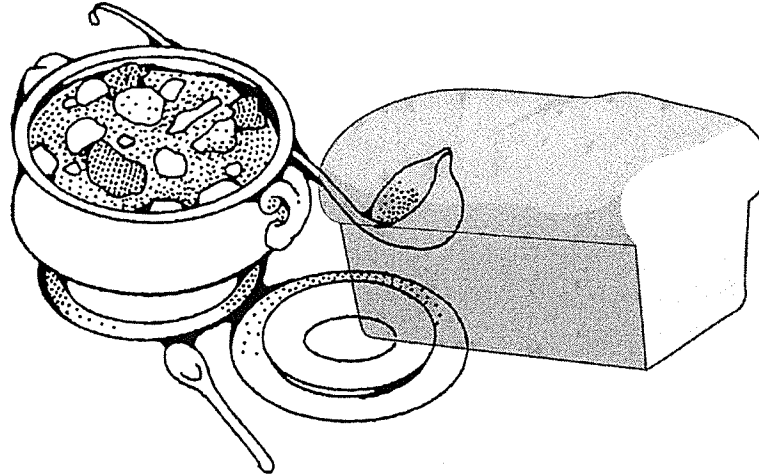
Heritage Center
1405 Hwy 13, Mendota, MN 55150

For information,
please contact
Lisa Amos,
651-905-4304,
lamos@stpetersmendota.org

Free Will
Donations
will be accepted

Join us on Ash Wednesday, February 10th for a

SOUP SUPPER



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

Serving will be from 5 to 7 pm In Heritage Center

The cost for supper is a donation to Sharing and Caring Hands

Takeouts are available after 5 pm

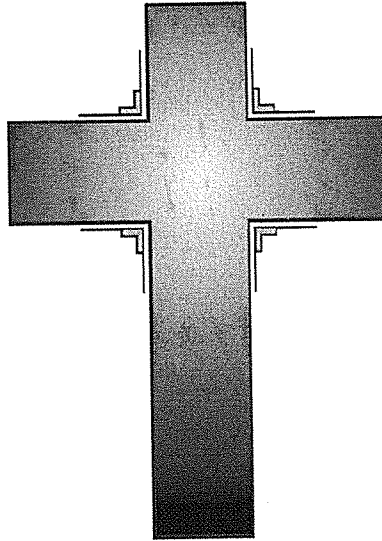
Other Ash Wednesday Masses will be celebrated at:

7 am in the Historic Church

9 am in the Main Church

-over-

Join us for



Stations of the Cross

And Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

With Benediction

Fridays in Lent:

February 12, 19, 26

March 4, 11, 18

At 7 pm in the Main Church

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