

**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.

Third Sunday of Lent**MARCH 19, 2017**

One of the more overlooked mysteries of the faith, is probably the mystery of faith.

Faith is not encompassed in believing something to be true. Faith doesn't come 100% from us, nor is it 100% from God. Faith is more than assent to a given truth, more than a gift from God, more than an act of the will. No, faith is the intersection of each of those components, and then some.

Faith is the vehicle in which discipleship travels and the motor that makes it go; it is the structure that protects us from trials, challenges and difficulties that seem to oppose our growing in Christ. Moreover, like the woman at the well, faith is the response of someone cornered by the reality not just that God *is*, but that God knows and loves us *in spite of* our faults, or the flawed story we weave in our own lives.

I will return to the phrase, "in spite of" later, but first, we'll spend more time on this most fascinating conversation between Jesus and the Samaritan woman.

Note that Jesus, the first and greatest evangelist of God's love, doesn't open with "truth bombs." Instead, he prepares her for faith, inviting her to know the acceptance of God by piquing her interest in a better life.

He may as well have been asking, "so how's this 'going to the well' thing working out for you?" However, Jesus reassures her that life, like a never-drying spring, is possible -- perhaps not what she came to the well to get, but she's excited at the prospect. Only then does Jesus aim directly for the truth of her life: "Jesus said to her, 'Go call your husband and come back.' The woman answered and said to him, 'I have no husband.'" (John 4:16-17a)

The Lord shows that his authority over matters of the heart is greater than his authority on aquifers and waterways, by telling her the deepest hurts of her own life. Thereafter, her tone is entirely different, and she walks step by step closer to a discipleship that inspires others to believe in Jesus, as she does — indeed just as she does — through experiencing him firsthand. (John 4:42)

Let us focus on this process of a life-changing faith, a faith that begins with grace moving to prepare us for something better, to our choice to trust God personally and authentically, to the boundless grace that flows from the heart of God into the paths of our life.

It is certain that no two of us come to the same level of faith at the same time or in the same manner. God has written in

every heart a curriculum by which our hearts are softened toward him, so as to realize just who He is and what that reality means. This first step, for many, could well take a lifetime.

The second step generally involves the realization of our sinful failings. And rather than responding with an inward-turning shame, we must respond with an appropriate shame that is self-emptying before the Lord. I won't mince words. This is supremely difficult, for we are so very prideful and fancy ourselves quite sufficient. This process is continual and it does not end. I know I will never have finished putting aside my embarrassment at my manifold sins in favor of the all-consuming love of God.

This is where the reality of God's love "in spite of" our sins becomes central. Not in the modern sense of merely overcoming an obstacle, God's love is literally in *spite* of our sins. It is love that defiantly severs us from our sins, as though God held malice for these things that keep us apart from him (and in a manner of speaking, he does).

As we grow in living relationship with the Lord, his love shapes our acts, leading us willingly to forsake the vain pursuits that are but counterfeits of his abundance, finding new glories we would never have known, even in the mundane, apart from him.

I refer to my "conversion" (or "reversion" as it is sometimes called when a cradle Catholic really comes alive in the faith) as having hinged on one moment twenty years ago, the first moment in my life that I "met God." I knew in that moment that I would not experience that comprehensive acceptance or fierceness of love anywhere else or from anyone else.

Since then, my own discipleship has given me a life I could not have fashioned for myself, and taken me places I would likely never have travelled (like Minnesota, perhaps) had the Lord not led the way. I am more excited than ever to echo the message of the Samaritan woman, "Come see (the One) who told me everything I have done," -- and rather than shrink from this reality, seek the grace that comes through forgiveness and leads the way everyday hence. This Lent, he is preparing our parish for living water such as we never knew we needed. I hope you're as thirsty as I am.

David Dunst
Music Director

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YOUTH NEWS

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION



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!

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, 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 Lent.

BUTTERBRAIDS AVAILABLE!

Thank you to everyone who ordered Butterbraids in support of our Workcamp trip to Covington, TN. They will be available for pick-up after all Masses next weekend, March 25 and 26. If you need to pick your Butterbraids up at a different time, please call Elizabeth McCanna at 651-905-4312 to arrange a time.



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CHILDCARE VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

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



If you would like to volunteer, please contact Anne O'Keefe, Community Life Coordinator, or Lisa Amos, Pastoral Associate at 651-452-4550. Thank you!

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.

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, pick up an envelope on the information counter or in the parish office. You can return it through the Sunday collections or in the parish office by Monday, April 10. All names will be listed on a flyer in our Easter bulletin.

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: April 7 and May 5.

YOUTH OPPORTUNITIES FOR RESPECT LIFE

Student Day at the Capital is March 23, from 9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. This event is for grades 7 through 12. To register, please visit the events section at www.mccl.org, or contact the Minnesota Citizens Concerned for Life State Office at 612-825-6831 or email them at information@mccl.org.

Life Leadership Camp (formerly Camp Joshua) will be held July 23 through 26, at Koronis Ministries near Paynesville, in central Minnesota. The camp is open to students entering grades 9 through 12 or those who have just graduated from high school. You can register at the MCCL website at www.mccl.org/camp. For more information, contact Jennifer at 612-825-6831.

ADMINISTRATIVE NEWS • STEWARDSHIP • COMMUNITY NEWS

MONTHLY FINANCIAL SUMMARY - FEBRUARY 2017

Month - February	Actual	Budget
Contribution Income	\$ 63,161	\$ 68,748
Other Income	<u>3,352</u>	<u>4,313</u>
	66,513	73,061
Expenses	<u>(85,590)</u>	<u>(72,380)</u>
Net Income (Expense)	\$ (19,077)	\$ 681

Year To Date July - February	Actual	Budget
Contribution Income	\$ 658,916	\$ 593,301
Other Income	<u>105,825</u>	<u>85,320</u>
	764,741	678,621
Expenses	<u>(682,989)</u>	<u>(668,829)</u>
Net Income (Expense)	\$ 81,752	\$ 9,792

Parish Debt

Principal Balance Beginning of Month	\$ 5,488,697
Principal Paid	<u>19,155</u>
Principal Balance End of Month	\$ 5,469,542

GRANDPARENTS PROGRAM

The Grand Adventure Ministry will meet on Wednesday, March 29, at 10:30 a.m., in Heritage Center, following the birthday breakfast. Please call Joan Pilney with questions at 651-454-1568.

ACCW 85TH CONVENTION

The 85th Archdiocesan Council of Catholic Women Convention will take place on April 21 and 22, at St. Odilia Catholic Church, 3495 Victoria Street North, in Shoreview. Scheduled speakers are Jerry Kronswoski, founder of Risen Savior Missions. Jerry will talk about the work he and his family are doing to better life in the Philippines for children. Jean Stolpestad, Director of Marriage, Family and Life for the St. Paul and Minneapolis Archdiocese, will speak on "The Feminine Mystique." Mass will be celebrated by Archbishop Hebda at 5 p.m.

There will also be a silent auction, marketplace, business meeting, Lay Women Volunteer Awards, Election of Officers and much more. Visit the website at www.accwarchspm.org. for more information. for more information.

BOY SCOUT FRIDAY FISH FRY

The Boy Scouts will be hosting a fish fry on Friday, March 24, serving from 4:30 to 7 p.m. The cost is \$10 for adults, \$7 for children ages 3-12 years old and 2 and under eat for free. Don't miss this scrumptious event.

SAVE THE DATES

Gerten's Plant Card Sale starts April 22.
The CCW Spring Style Show is Saturday, May 20.
Watch for more information, which will be coming in the bulletin and on St. Peter's website!



VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION MEDIEVAL FEAST

Hear Ye! Hear Ye! All ye kings, queens, knights and nobles who have given of their time or talent to St. Peter's, as well as your spouse or guest, thou hath been summoned to join in the festivities of our Volunteer Appreciation Dinner. Join us on Saturday, April 22, from 6 to 8 p.m. for music, merriment, food and libations. Costumes are encouraged, but are not required. Please respond by Sunday, April 16. You may call the church office at 651-452-4550 or email Anne O'Keefe at aokeefe@stpetersmendota.org. We look forward to seeing you there!



Check out St. Peter's website at www.stpetersmendota.org, our Facebook page at facebook.com/stpetersmendota and Twitter @StPetersMendota.

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 MARCH 19

Sunday:	Ex 17:3-7/Ps 95:1-2, 6-9/Rom 5:1-2, 5-8/Jn 4:5-42 or 4:5-15, 19b-26, 39a, 40-42
Monday:	2 Sm 7:4-5a, 12-14a, 16/Ps 89:2-5, 27, 29/Rom 4:13, 16-18, 22/Mt 1:16, 18-21, 24a or Lk 2:41-51a
Tuesday:	Dn 3:25, 34-43/Ps 25:4-5ab, 6, 7bc, 8-9/Mt 18:21-35
Wednesday:	Dt 4:1, 5-9/Ps 147:12-13, 15-16, 19-20/Mt 5:17-19
Thursday:	Jer 7:23-28/Ps 95:1-2, 6-9/Lk 11:14-23
Friday:	Hos 14:2-10/Ps 81:6c-11ab, 14, 17/Mk 12:28-34
Saturday:	Is 7:10-14; 8:10/Ps 40:3-4, 18-21ab/Heb 10:4-10/Lk 1:26-38
Next Sunday:	1 Sm 16:1b, 6-7, 10-13a/Ps 23:1-6/Eph 5:8-14/Jn 9:1-41 or 9:1, 6-9, 13-17, 34-38

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MASS INTENTIONS

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

Monday, March 20	† Bill Miranda
Tuesday, March 21	† Robert & Jessica Fontecha
Wednesday, March 22	Lisa Chavez
Thursday, March 23	† Kim Linnell
Friday, March 24	Carlene Nelson
Saturday, March 25	Mass For The People
Sunday, March 26, 9 a.m.	† Jeffrey Weiss
11 a.m.	† Mary Loizzo



"Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again; but whoever drinks the water I shall give will never thirst; the water I shall give will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life."



THIS WEEK'S CALENDAR: MARCH 20

Monday, March 20

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

Tuesday, March 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

Wednesday, March 22

- 9 am Mass, Historic Church (8:30 Rosary)
- 9:30 am Lent Morning Retreat, Heritage Center
- 9:45 am Divine Mercy Cenacle, Conference Rm 1
- 4:30 pm RE Grades 1-4, Classrooms
- 6:30 pm RE Grades 1-8, Classrooms
- 6:30 pm Perissos, Heritage Center
- 7 pm Choir Rehearsal, Music Room

Thursday, March 23

- 9 am Mass, Historic Church (8:30 Rosary)
- 9:45 am Small Faith Group, Conference Room 1
- 6:30 pm RCIA, Conference Room 1
- 7 pm AA Meeting, Classroom 5

Friday, March 24

- 8 am Confessions, Main Church
- 9 am Mass, Historic Church (8:30 Rosary)
- 4:30 pm Boy Scout Fish Dinner, Heritage Center
- 6 pm Confessions, Main Church
- 6:30 pm Stations of the Cross with Benediction and Adoration, Main Church

Saturday, March 25

- 9 am AA Meeting, Classrooms
- 9:30 am Lent Morning Retreat, Heritage Center
- 10 am Saturday Scripture Study, Conf. Rm1
- 10:30 am AA Meeting, Classrooms
- 3:30 pm Confession, Main Church
- 4:30 pm Choir Rehearsal, Music Room
- 5 pm Mass, Main Church
- 6 pm Baptism, Main Church

Sunday, March 26 - Hospitality Sunday hosted by Women's Bible Study

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

PASTORAL MINISTRY

FOLLOWING JESUS

In our gospel this weekend, Jesus encounters the Samaritan woman at the well and offers her "Living Water." Sometimes in our lives, we are willing to settle for the latest consolation that the world has to offer. The Samaritan woman's shame keeps her from seeking what only Jesus can give her. She is ready to accept the gift of Living Water, as she recognizes who Jesus truly is and the gift that He is offering to her. In what areas of our lives do we live in the shadows of shame and guilt? Let us open our hearts to the One who knows everything we have done and still loves us! Lord Jesus, give me Living Water, that I may never thirst again.



LENT SPEAKER SERIES 2017

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

Our final evening for the Lenten Series will take place on Tuesday, March 28, from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m., in Heritage Center. We will end the evening 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!

March 28: The Gift of Hope: Elizabeth Kelly

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

I AM BELOVED



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.

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

Please call the parish office at 651-452-4550 or Lisa Amos at 651-905-4303. You may also email Lisa at lamos@stpetersmendota.org to register. We will begin our retreat in the Main Church for Adoration together. Free will donations will be gratefully accepted. A light soup lunch will be served.

PERPETUAL ADORATION IS COMING TO ST. PETER'S

St. Peter's continues the work of establishing Perpetual Adoration. People are moved to come to Adoration Chapels at any time of day or night, depending on their circumstances and their need to spend time in Christ's presence.



For Perpetual Adoration to run smoothly, we would like to have at least two people committed to each hour of the day. The spiritual benefits are substantial for those who consistently participate. Often, peace is brought out of chaos, love is brought out of anger, healing comes to the wounded, wisdom comes to the doubtful, and more. In our busy lives, coming to Adoration brings focus to what is most important — our relationship with Christ!

Periodic informational meetings will be hosted. Everyone is welcome! **Our next meeting is Monday, March 20, at 7 p.m. in the Historic Church.** Please consider requesting a time to come to adoration on a weekly basis. You may call Lisa Amos at 651-905-4304 or Mark Mischke at 651-481-6900 for more information.

2017 MARCH FOOD DRIVE

In Minnesota, 1 in 8 children lives at risk of hunger. Children who suffer from poor nutrition during the brain's most formative years score much lower on tests of vocabulary, reading comprehension, mathematics and general knowledge. Hungry Minnesota families miss more than 100 million meals each year. Nine point five percent (9.5%) of households in Minnesota are food insecure and will struggle to find enough food for the week. This equates to 1 in 10 households. Since 2008, visits by seniors to suburban emergency food programs have increased by more than 70%.

Our parish's goal for this year's campaign is to collect 4,500 pounds/dollars for Neighbors, Inc. Please return bags with your food donations to St. Peter's by April 2. Each dollar donated is the equivalent to one pound of food. You may place your monetary donation in the collection basket at Mass. Please mark envelopes clearly and make checks payable to Neighbors, Inc. Note "Church of St. Peter" on the check's memo line. You may also donate at www.neighborsmn.org/donate-neighbors.

Total to date (food and cash): 2,561 pounds

"Poverty calls us to sow hope . . . Poverty is the flesh of the poor Jesus, in that child who is hungry, in the one who is sick, in those unjust social structures"

-Pope Francis-

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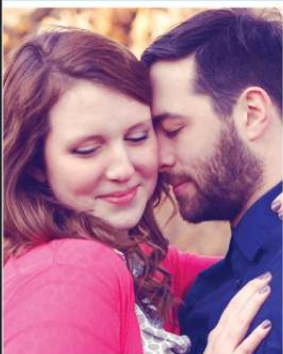
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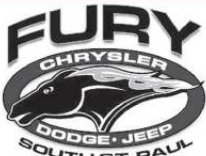
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Hear ye! Hear ye!

All ye Kings, Queens,

Knights and Nobles

*Who have given of their time or talent to St. Peter's, as
well as your spouse or guest,*

Thou has been summoned to join in the festivities of our

Volunteer Appreciation Dinner

Saturday, April 22, 2017

6:00-8:00 pm

Join us for music, merriment, food, and libations

If you will be attending the festivities, kindly respond by

Sunday, April 16, 2017

Drop this form in the collection basket or mail to

Appreciation Dinner, Church of St. Peter, PO Box 50679, Mendota, MN 55150

Numbers attending _____

Name(s) _____

Phone # (with area code) _____

email _____

*You can also respond with the above information by leaving a message at
651-452-4550 or email aokeefe@stpetersmendota.org*