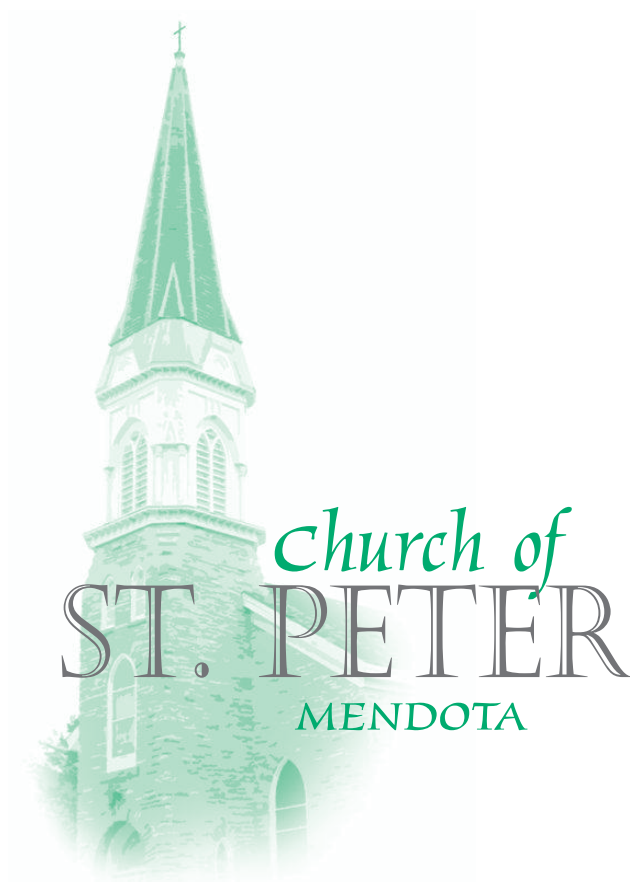




March 2, 2014
Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time

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. Joseph Gallatin 651-452-4550

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:

David Dunst, Director of Music..... 651-905-4323

COMMUNITY LIFE COORDINATOR:

Sara Rogers 651-905-4308

OFFICE STAFF:

Geri Korman, Receptionist..... 651-452-4550

Darlene Olson, Communications Coord. 651-905-4302

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

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, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday

6:30 pm the First Thursday of the Month

HOLY DAYS As announced.

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Saturdays 4 to 4:45 pm or by appointment.

BAPTISMS, NEW PARISHIONERS, WEDDINGS

Call the parish office for more information.

PRAYER CHAIN REQUESTS

Peggy Markee 952-322-6479

E-mail: pmarkee@frontier.com

Reflections from our Pastoral Associate

It's the last weekend in Ordinary Time before we enter into the season of Lent. For me, this season of the liturgical calendar is a favorite. I get excited about entering into the desert. I look forward to the massive overindulgence of Fat Tuesday, the solemn ritual of Ash Wednesday, the comforting simplicity that comes from giving up and giving in to God's presence in our lives.

Beyond my fondness for the outward signs of the season, however, lies something deeper. I am a sinner. I always have been. I likely always will be. Despite knowing this is true, it is easy to forget two very important things. First, that I need to be reminded of my own limitations and shortcomings from time to time and, two, that I am not the only one. There is no place in our calendar that it's more apparent that God's love for us is without end and without reservation. God, in infinite wisdom, knows that we all fall away from the love of Christ in the moments of our daily lives. God, in infinite love, sets aside this time so that we can begin to acknowledge our sins. We are given a great number of ways to purify ourselves of them in beautiful and special ways. Our parish bulletin and website are bursting with these opportunities. And, at the end of it all, the gift of Holy Week, and Resurrection, are waiting for us. The purpose of Lent is not punishment. Its purpose is to prepare us for Easter. We are made more ready for Resurrection.

This time is about more than "giving something up." Abstaining from something, say chocolate, without recognizing the reason for doing so is as hollow as a bargain chocolate bunny. We should ask ourselves, "Why have I given up chocolate?" Is it from a desire to show gratitude for God's mercy? Do you wish for a deeper solidarity with the poor of God's children? You may decide that chocolate is not enough. How much of ourselves would we actually relinquish if we really believed that reducing our own consumption would leave more for the rest of the world?

At Thanksgiving, we spend extra time with our families. Our loved ones receive tremendous attention from us on their birthdays. Lent is the season to pay special attention to God. Our lives become so overloaded with responsibilities. We become obsessively task oriented. One of the gifts of Lent is that we have a wonderful excuse for making time for Jesus.

I was blessed to be able to spend last weekend on a retreat. With the responsibilities of work, especially busy

during this challenging time in our parish, my three children, and various other family obligations, the need for retreat does seem particularly necessary. Ironically, that is also why it is so hard for me to set everything aside and "go off the grid" for three days. During Lent, there's a sense that that's exactly what I should do so I was able to with- relatively- little guilt. It's not surprising that during the retreat I found greater closeness to God. Periods of silent reflection, prayer both alone and in community, and going to confession all allowed me to sink more fully into Jesus Christ. What was surprising to me was the humility I walked away with. God lovingly reminds that the world functions without me. The parish was just fine when I returned on Monday morning, my children were well taken care of and happy, my husband did not weep and wail in my absence. God is often subtle, but always clever.

Whether you are able to attend a retreat or not, it's vital that we hold the retreat experience in our lives. We can make a very conscious effort to create small holy moments in our daily lives. This is something each of us can, and should, do regardless of what our obligations may be. Can you extend your own daily prayer time by including daily reflection specific to Lent? Will you try to learn more about your faith? I recommend very highly the reading of Pope Francis's letter, "The Joy of the Gospel." It's bright, funny, deeply holy, and accessibly written. Can you meditate on the mysteries of the rosary? Might you attend weekday Mass? Will you consider seeking out spiritual and theological development opportunities? Could you choose to grow in apostolic mission by volunteering in various ways to change the lives of those less fortunate than you? Can you forgive someone, or something, who has failed you in some way?

I won't be giving up chocolate, but I will make an effort to reduce my excess consumption of the world's resources, including food. I will give more of my time to God. Christ will receive more of my attention. And I'll try very, very hard to remember that the world will continue on remarkably well with or without me. At least for the next 40 days.

May God bless your Lent with prayerful experiences, deeper relationship with Christ, and renewed humility.



Lisa Amos
Pastoral Associate



Religious Education/ Faith Formation (RE/FF)

Kids' Change for Kids

The children of St. Peter's have adopted a child from Uganda. All children are asked to bring in money that they have earned and place it in one of the cans marked KIDS' CHANGE FOR KIDS. The cans are in every classroom. Please talk to your child about the importance of helping those less fortunate—it will make a difference in their lives. Thank you!

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!

Pastoral Ministry

Grief Group Facilitators Needed

Growing Through Loss, a grief coalition St. Peter's is part of, is in need of small group facilitators. Training is provided and the commitment is once weekly for five weeks twice a year. The next series is March 13-April 10, 6:30-9 p.m. at Augustana Lutheran Church in West St. Paul. To learn more about this opportunity to provide support to those suffering deep loss, please contact Lisa Amos at 651-905-4304 or lamos@stpetersmendota.org.

The Labyrinth For Catholics: Its History and Use

Although it is an ancient meditation tool, the use of labyrinths for Catholic contemplation can be traced to cathedrals of the Middle Ages. In the European cathedrals they were used traditionally as a site of pilgrimage. Labyrinths can be found today in churches, parks, retreat centers, hospitals, schools, homes and prisons. Join us on Tuesday, March 25, from 6:30-8:30 p.m. in Heritage Center and explore this ancient prayer tradition. Marilyn Larson will share its history as a Christian meditation tool and guide us in a walk through an indoor labyrinth in the Chartres style. Come in comfortable clothing and bring slippers or socks, as shoes will not be allowed on the labyrinth. Registration and fee of \$25/person is required and space is limited to the first 40 people. With further questions or to register please contact Lisa Amos at 651-905-4304 or lamos@stpetersmendota.org.



**Come as a Guest
Leave as a Friend**

Keeping a Spirit of Sabbath— Half Day Retreat

Dr. Jackie Witter is back! Are you ready for God to be in your life more often than one hour on Sundays? Would you like to learn how to make room in your daily life for Christ? It's easier than you think! Join us on Saturday, March 8, from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. to explore how your life can incorporate a sense of the Sabbath more consistently. Dr. Witter never disappoints and you will leave with a renewed insight into the importance of Sabbath and practical ways to make it a larger, more meaningful part of your life. We will end the retreat by sharing a light lunch together. Registration is requested in advance by Thursday, March 6. Please contact Lisa Amos at lamos@stpetersmendota.org or 651-905-4304. Cost of \$35/person will be accepted on the day of the retreat.



March 5

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

Soup Supper

On Ash Wednesday, 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

Fridays

March 7, 14, 21, 28
April 4 and 11

7-7:35 p.m. in the Main Church

Lenten Alms

This year alms collected at St. Peter's throughout Lent will be donated



to Loaves and Fishes. 46 million Americans live in poverty. For over 32 years Loaves and Fishes has worked to end hunger in Minnesota by providing free meals for those facing hunger. If you have questions regarding the hunger ministry they provide, please contact Lisa Amos at 651-905-4304 or lamos@stpetersmendota.org.

St. Peter's Community News

Annual Giving

Weekly Contribution Summary

Budget for the period 2/17/14-2/23/14	\$22,473
Actual for the period 2/17/14-2/23/14	\$15,917
Year-to-Date Budget.....	\$620,738
Year-to-Date Actual.....	\$550,632

Don't Forget to Turn in Your Commitment Card

We're still in the midst of our annual Stewardship Renewal. If you haven't returned your Commitment Card, you still can mail it to the parish. Returning your card is an important part of being an active member of St. Peter's. Please take this opportunity to express your support for our parish with your time, talent, and treasure!



**An Interdenominational Coalition
of South Suburban Churches
presents the first
in a five-week series:**

Growing Through Loss
with

Marian Eisenmann, M.Div.
Retired Lutheran Pastor and Former Nurse
Marian will speak on

"Finding God in the Midst of Grief and Loss."

Thursday, March 13

Augustana Lutheran Church
1400 South Robert Street, West St. Paul
Registration, 6:30 p.m.; Speaker, 7:00 p.m.;
Support Groups (facilitated by trained leaders),
8 p.m. Freewill offering.

For additional information call 952-890-0045 or
email growingthroughloss@gmail.com

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

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

Minnesota FoodShare is an annual campaign to help replenish supplies for Minnesota's food shelves. During the month of March, the food shelves record and report their receipts by weighing the pounds of food donated and counting the dollars contributed. (One dollar counts as one pound.) Minnesota FoodShare uses these totals to allocate proportional funds to each food shelf. This means 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 March 8 and 9 and again on March 15 and 16, 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 March 30. Monetary donations are also encouraged. Each dollar donated is equivalent to one pound of food. You may place your monetary donation in the collection basket at Mass. Address the envelope to Neighbors, Inc.

Thank you for your generosity!

Rediscover: Prayer Events

Make plans to deepen your prayer life this Lent...and invite a friend or family member to join you!

The Rediscover: prayer evenings are a unique opportunity to experience *Cor Jesu*, meaning "Heart of Jesus," as we worship Christ in community with the church through Eucharistic adoration, confession, praise, benediction and fellowship. Attendees are invited to participate in whatever manner is most comfortable for them.

March 11 – Cathedral of Saint Paul, Saint Paul
March 25 – St. Hubert, Chanhassen
April 8 – All Saints, Lakeville

All Rediscover: prayer evenings begin at 7 p.m. and end around 9 p.m.



***Spring Ahead
Sunday, March 9, 2 AM***

The Week of March 3

Monday, March 3

- 9 am Mass, Historic Church (8:40 rosary)
6 pm St. Paul Civic Symphony, Heritage Center

Tuesday, March 4

Loaves & Fishes

- 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, Ravoux Room

Wednesday, March 5—Ash Wednesday

- 7 am Mass, Historic Church
8:40 am Rosary, Main Church
9 am & 7 pm Mass, Main Church
9:45 am Divine Mercy Cenacle, Conference Room I
4:30 pm Grades 1-5 Ash Service
5-7 pm Soup Supper, Heritage Center
6:30 pm Grades 1-8 Ash Service

Thursday, March 6

- 9 am Mass, Historic Church (8:40 rosary)
10 am Faithfully Fit Forever, Ravoux Room
7 pm Alcoholics Anonymous, Room 5
7 pm Al-Anon, Room 7
7 pm Teen Al-Anon, Room 6
7 pm Rediscover Book Club II, Conference Room I

Friday, March 7

- 9 am Mass, Historic Church (8:40 rosary)
6 pm Youth Group, Youth Room
7 pm Stations of the Cross, Main Church

Saturday, March 8

- 9 and 10:30 am Alcoholics Anonymous, Rooms 2, 4
9 am Keeping the Sabbath Retreat, Heritage Center
10 am Scripture Study, Community Room
4 pm Reconciliation, Main Church
4:30 pm Choir Rehearsal
5 pm Mass, Main Church
After Mass:
CCW Retreat Reservations,
Neighbors, Inc. Food Drive

Sunday, March 9—First Sunday in Lent

- 8:30 & 10:30 am Choir Rehearsal, Main Church
9 & 11 am Mass, Main Church
9 & 11 am Liturgy of the Word for Children
9 am Sunday School
After Masses:
CCW Retreat Reservations,
Neighbors, Inc. Food Drive

Parish Pastoral Council

Kelly Garrett, Chair 651-340-8963
 Sarah Larsen, Vice Chair 612-384-1474
 Alice Sheeler, Secretary 651-457-8119
 Mary Pat Ferraro 651-454-1091
 Ann Hoey 651-994-7870
 Yvonne Houle-Gillard 651-452-5316
 Lance Miller 952-432-6957
 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 March 2

Monday: 1 Pt 1:3-9/Mk 10:17-27
Tuesday: 1 Pt 1:10-16/Mk 10:28-31
Wednesday: Jl 2:12-18/2 Cor 5:20--6:2/Mt 6:1-6,
 16-18
Thursday: Dt 30:15-20/Lk 9:22-25
Friday: Is 58:1-9a/Mt 9:14-15
Saturday: Is 58:9b-14/Lk 5:27-32
Next Sunday: Gn 2:7-9; 3:1-7/Rom 5:12-19/Mt 4:1-
 11

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Mass Intentions

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

Monday, March 3 - †William O'Neill

Tuesday, March 4 - †Lloyd Walker

Wednesday, March 5 - 7 a.m. - †Dan Goetz

9 a.m. - †Robert LeMay

7 p.m. - Mass For the People

Thursday, March 6 - †Marie Brinckmann

Friday, March 7 - †Albert Trettel

Saturday, March 8 - Mass For the People

Sunday, March 9

9 a.m. - †Barbara Thill Anderson

11 a.m. - Choice of the Priest

2014 Catholic Services Appeal Begins

"Seek first the Kingdom of God." Matthew 6:24-34



The 2014 Catholic Services Appeal (CSA) is underway. At Mass this weekend, we will distribute pledge envelopes to give everyone an opportunity to participate. If you have not made your contribution to the 2014 Catholic Services Appeal, please consider doing so today.

The Appeal funds services that no one parish or individual can support alone. These services must go on despite these troubled times in our archdiocese. It is important to know that contributions to the Catholic Services Appeal will be used for the benefit of designated ministries of the Appeal and for *no other purposes*. Please visit the new Catholic Services Appeal Foundation website at csafspm.org for more information.

When you give to the Catholic Services Appeal you provide food and shelter, education, spiritual support, and sacraments to individuals who are in need, disabled, imprisoned, hospitalized, or in nursing homes. You help give nearly 2,500 students access to a life-changing Catholic school education their families could not otherwise afford. You support seminarians preparing for the priesthood, make the annual Archdiocesan Youth Day happen, and help fund the Rediscover: evangelization and catechesis initiative. You help our 65,000 brothers and sisters at the mission parish of Jesucristo Resucitado in Venezuela. You help support Latino ministry for our Spanish speaking brothers and sisters at 23 local parishes. And, when our parish reaches its goal, 25% of *all* funds received will be returned for use to support ministries in our parish.

This year, the theme of the Appeal is: "Seek first the Kingdom of God." Funds given to the Catholic Services Appeal help to share the message of salvation not only in our parish but throughout our local Church and beyond. Commit to helping the CSA supported ministries. Then, please contemplate God's gifts to you and reflect on your gratitude for these gifts. Your financial support for the work of our parish and vital ministries throughout this local Church is one way to express this gratitude. Thank you.



Stewardship Spotlight

Women's Bible Study

Have you ever wanted to learn more about the Bible? One way to start would be to join St. Peter's Women's Bible Study. It meets every Tuesday morning during the school year at 9:45 a.m. at St. Peter's.

Since beginning in 2005, the Women's Bible Study found that there are many benefits to joining their group: you can meet other women in the parish, study books of the Bible, and learn how the Old and New Testaments relate to each other. One member remarked, "It is a great group of women, very welcoming, and you learn a lot. The treats shared are nice, too!"

This year the group is using the Catholic Scripture Study and studying Hebrews and Joshua. There is a reading assignment every week and a few questions to answer. The group starts with a prayer and announcements, then breaks into small groups for discussion on the related questions. After about 40 minutes, the groups reconnect to watch a DVD presentation, and end with prayer intentions and a closing prayer.

For more information about the Women's Bible Study, contact Jennifer Vogel at 651-688-7427 or jennifervogel@comcast.net. If Tuesday mornings do not work for you, there are always opportunities to start another Bible study on another day or evening!



Lenten Parenting Discussion at Faithful Shepherd

Please join us on Thursday, March 6, from 6:30-7:30 p.m. at Faithful Shepherd for Deacon Mickey Friesen's discussion—**The Spiritual Life of Children**. Deacon Mickey Friesen of St. Thomas Becket will draw on the resources of Scripture, Catholic Tradition and child development to help us gain insights into how children mature spiritually. No registration is required. All are welcome—bring a friend! If you have any questions, contact Linda Kautzky: kautzkym@comcast.net.

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St. Peter Council of Catholic Women

Invite all women and men of the parish to a

Lenten presentation by

Fr. James Wolnik

Spiritual Advisor for the CCW Deanery

Saturday, March 22, 2014

In Heritage Center

- 8:30 a.m. Gathering, Registration, Refreshments
- 9:00 a.m. Program
- Break
- 10:45 a.m. Program
- Closing



Finding Jesus in Prayer

"Anyone can know God, if they really want to, simply by praying, by honestly telling Him that they want to know Him. He always responds to honest seekers. Jesus promised, All who seek, find."

Peter Kreeft, Prayers for Beginners

Professor of Philosophy, Boston College

Cost for the morning is \$5.00.

Sign up after all weekend masses on

March 8-9, and 15-16

"I will not hurry through the day, I will take time to listen and pray. Ralph Cushman, 1879"

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Even God Rested:

Cultivating a Heart for God in the Midst of Life's Demands



During Lent, Christians take stock of their lives. We think about God's gift of Himself in Jesus and we ask ourselves what it means to faithfully follow Jesus Christ. We consider what kind of lives we want to have and what we might need to do to experience a rich life in Christ.

It's difficult to know Jesus and to follow Him when we are so busy that we hardly have time for the essentials of human life.

This Lent, we invite you to consider what it means to practice Sabbath rest. What would that look like in your life? In your family's life?

What is 'Sabbath rest'?

How might the regular practice of Sabbath—which is much more than going to Mass on Sunday—change your life?

We invite you to come explore some simple practices that will help bring peace and serenity into your life, bring you closer to Christ and help create in you a 'heart for God' that will sustain you long after Lent ends.



Presenter: Dr. Jackie Witter

Church of St. Peter, Mendota
1405 Sibley Memorial Highway, Mendota, MN 55120

Saturday, March 8

9:00 A.M.— Noon

Light lunch at noon

Fee: \$35.00, includes materials, morning refreshments and lunch.

To register or for more information: contact Lisa Amos, lamos@stpetersmendota.org or 651-905-4304