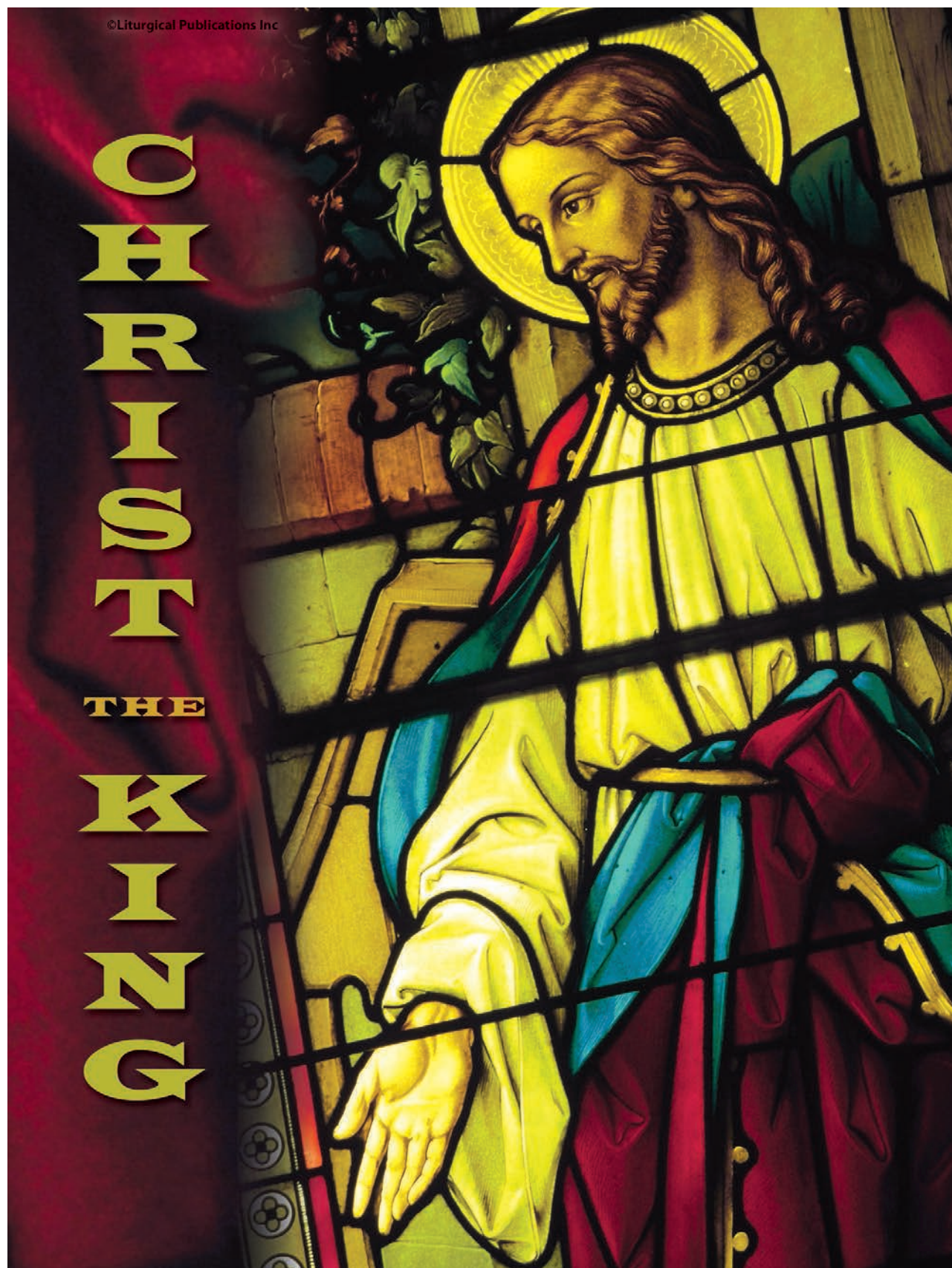


Church of St. Peter
1405 Highway 13 PO Box 50679 Mendota MN 55150-0679
November 23, 2014



Reflections from our Pastor

My dear friends,

For the sake of getting to know each other, I will continue from where I left off in last week's bulletin, sharing with you more of the journey of my life—part 4 of the song I sing to God's amazing, merciful love.

When I finally surrendered my life to Christ and committed myself to following Him I was 19 years old. In many ways it felt like a New Life, and it was. The happiness and joy I felt made all that I had, or thought I had before, seem like nothing. Like my brother with his conversion, I started to change rather quickly. With the guidance of the Holy Spirit, and through the wisdom I found in the Bible and in books like the Imitation of Christ. I learned from Jesus a new way to live. By the grace of God I started to exercise greater discipline and prudence in what I read and watched on TV. I got rid of all the music albums that promoted the sins and attitudes of the old life I left behind: like machoism, lust, rebellion against parents, and that 'party spirit' devoid of all godliness. I started to reach out to those I had formerly looked down upon in my pride, and to make amends with those I had hurt. Grace left nothing untouched; it even called me to a greater modesty in the way I dressed. Best of all, the Lord began to heal the hurts between me and members of my family. It was a very gradual process, but what a blessing! I was finally learning how to really love, how to receive love and how to give love: it was like having a new heart. How many are the miracles of Jesus that take place in the heart each day!

What also became clear with this new beginning was that I needed guidance and support, which God wonderfully provided. I started to attend meetings held by a small, predominantly Catholic, lay community that my brother was attending up in St. Paul. Even though no one in my family was Catholic, we had heard through some friends that the woman leading this community was very gifted in spiritual direction and counseling. This small group of about 40 people would meet in various homes 3 to 4 times per week, to share, discuss, and receive guidance on the Christian life. As I received much help and support from Catherine, the spiritual mother of this group, I also started to encounter the Catholic faith through the sharing and example of the other people who came. Out of curiosity I also started to attend Sunday Mass in various Catholic churches around the Twin Cities, and it was this experience of the Mass that quickly led to my decision to become Catholic.

It is never easy for me to put into words how the Mass tied the knot for me, but it was mainly this: In the lay community I was learning how, with Jesus, to clean up my way of loving, which meant dying each day to the movements of sin in my own heart and rising more with Christ in the way He thinks and loves. As I came to realize that the mystery of Christ's death and resurrection, which I was trying to live each day, was the same mystery being celebrated and made present upon the altar at Mass, it was like my heart and the altar became melded together as one. The worship at Mass and my life were not two separate, unrelated things, but one single life. I was living the Mass, and the Mass was living in me.

God also enkindled in my heart a very simple, child-like faith that made it easy for me to believe in the True Presence of Christ in the Eucharist. All I wanted then was to be close to Jesus, and if the Eucharist is Jesus, and it is, then the way forward became obvious: becoming Catholic would help me to be and remain closer to Jesus, for Jesus is present in the Holy Eucharist. Within a year I was taking instructions to be confirmed Catholic. And, Praise God, in May of 1982, at the Cathedral of St. Paul, taking the confirmation name 'Joseph,' I was received into the Catholic Church. I felt many things that day, much too deep for words, but one sentiment that stood out is that it felt like I had come home.

As a new Catholic I was certainly very happy, but God, who is a God of wonderful surprises, was going to manifest many other proofs of his mercy and love for my family. One way God showed this was by bringing my whole family, one-by-one, into the Catholic Faith. My brother entered one year after I did, and then my father followed two years later. A few years after my father joined, my sister and her family also became Catholic. And then finally, after several years of deep soul-searching, my mother too made the step. When we look back, we all marvel at what God has done, and today we are so grateful to be united in the same faith.

I remained with this Catholic lay community for 13 years. In many ways it was like a family to me: a necessary time of discipleship at the feet of Christ. But God had another surprise for me that would take me in a new direction: He placed in my heart the desire to be a priest. I'll tell you about this in the next bulletin.

God love you,



Fr. Steven

Religious Education/ Faith Formation (RE/FF)

Elementary & Middle School Religious Education Programs

Please remember there will be no elementary classes (grades 1-5) OR middle school classes (grades 6-8) on Wednesday, November 26, due to Thanksgiving weekend. Please contact Kathy Raible at 651-905-4311 if you have any questions.

Sunday, November 30, there will be no Sunday School or Children's Liturgy of the Word.

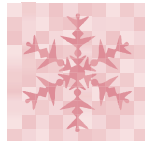
Christmas Pageant Sign Ups



It's not too late to sign up to be in the Christmas Pageant!! All children ages 4-12 are invited to participate in the pageant OR be in the pageant choir. Rehearsals are Saturdays, December 6, 13, and 20 at 9:30 a.m. for the pageant and/or choir participants. The pageant is on **December 22 after the 9:00 Mass.**

If you did not receive a registration slip, please contact Kathy Raible at 651-905-4311. I hope to hear from you!

**First Rehearsal: Saturday, December 6
at 9:30 a.m.
in the Ravoux Room**



Sincere Sympathy

St. Peter's Parish extends its sympathy to the family and friends of **Peg Eilers**. We invite all to join us in praying that God may make her a sharer in eternal salvation.



Appalachian Thank You

Once again the parishioners of St. Peter's have generously come forward to send "Christmas" to the poor of Appalachia. On Monday, November 10, several men and women gathered in the Ravoux Room to pack the new and unused gifts donated by our parishioners. We sent 24 boxes of gifts, six tubs of candy, and nine "Papal Footprints" shoeboxes to two parishes in Appalachia.

THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU!

Kathi Dumond and Paula Ehrich
Appalachia Committee Co-Chairs

Pastoral Ministry

Giving Tree

The Giving Tree is up! Please consider choosing an ornament and purchasing the gift indicated.



****Please note change: this year gifts should be placed under the tree unwrapped!!*****
UNWRAPPED gifts should be returned to the tree with the doll tag clearly visible. All gifts need to be in Sunday, December 7, by 12:00 noon. Please make every effort to have them here by the deadline. Late gifts often mean a disappointed child. Thank you for your generosity in advance. Questions about specific gift requests can be directed to Lisa Amos at 651-905-4304 or lamos@stpetersmendota.org.

Other helpers are also needed. The more the merrier. There are small tasks with limited time commitments for adults and young adults, and the rewards are huge. Please consider spreading some Christmas cheer by helping with this very important project! Call Carol 651-453-1345 to help or for more information.

Parents' Night Out

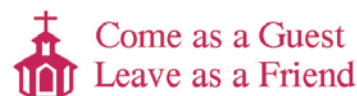
Need to do some Christmas shopping without little hands and eyes around? Want a nice dinner out, or some time to work on a few house projects? Bring your kids (ages 6 weeks to 11 years) to St. Peter's first Parents' Night Out!

On Friday, December 5, from 5 to 8 p.m., you are welcome to drop off your children in Heritage Center and have a few hours to yourself. Cost is \$10 for one child, with a \$20 maximum per family, and the profit (above the cost of the supper) goes directly to St. Peter's. Supper will include pizza, carrots, apple slices, and milk or water. (You are welcome to bring a different dinner for your child if they won't or can't eat ours!)

We hope you can take advantage of this event! RSVPs are **strongly encouraged**. For more information or to RSVP, contact Sara Rogers at srogers@stpetersmendota.org or 651-905-4308.

Help Support Young Families at St. Peter's!

We are looking for people to help us care for kids during our Parents' Night Out event on Friday, December 5. **We could really use your help!** All volunteers will need to have Virtus training as well as a background check. Please contact Sara Rogers at the information above if you are interested, and thank you!



St. Peter's Community News

Annual Giving

Weekly Contribution Summary:

Budget for period of Nov. 10-Nov. 16, 2014.....	\$13,253
Actual for period of Nov. 10-Nov. 16, 2014.....	\$8,843
Year to Date Budget	\$301,570
Year to Date Actual	\$268,187

Stewardship Update

Thank you to everyone who returned their stewardship renewal cards. If you have not yet returned your card, please do so as soon as possible as we will begin our follow-up phase next week.

We are currently in the midst of changing the computer program that holds our parish database. Once our conversion to the new program is completed, those who have submitted their stewardship renewal card, will be contacted by ministry leaders. Thank you for your patience!

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 6 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

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. Thank you.

Liturgical Ministry Postcards

A postcard and/or email has been sent out to all liturgical ministers requesting availability dates and preferred ministries. Please return to the parish office, email, or call in your requests by Sunday, November 23. If you have not received a postcard but would like to be scheduled, please contact David Dunst at 651-905-4323 or ddunst@stpetersmendota.org.

The January through April schedules will be available and distributed in mid-December. If you have not yet indicated your availability for these months, or are no longer interested in serving in your ministry, please contact David Dunst at the phone number or email address above and indicate the dates you are **NOT** available during this time period. **The deadline for indicating unavailable dates is Sunday, November 23.** Thank you!

Archdiocesan Council of Catholic Women (ACCW) Advent Retreat

Everyone is invited to attend the **ACCW Advent Retreat** that will be hosted by St. Peter's Council of Catholic Women in Heritage Center on Saturday morning, December 6. Refreshments will be served starting at 8:30. At 9 a.m. KELLY WAHLQUIST will begin the program—Greeting Advent as Women of Joy! A morning of prayer, praise and presentation.

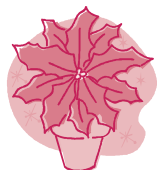
Vendors will be on site for Christmas shopping during the breaks.

The Archbishop will close the retreat with Mass at noon.

To register send a check for \$15 (made out to ACCW) to the ACCW Office, 328 West Kellogg Blvd, St. Paul 55102. To pay by credit card, visit the ACCW website at www.accwarchspm.org/. After **November 26**, the fee will be \$20. A few scholarships are available.

Christmas Flowers

We are now accepting donations for Christmas 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 and return it through Sunday collections or to the parish office by Monday, December 15. All names will be listed in our Christmas bulletin.



The Week of November 24

Monday, November 24

- 9 am** Mass, Historic Church (8:40 rosary)
6 pm St. Paul Civic Symphony,
Heritage Center
7 pm Boy Scouts, Ravoux Room

Tuesday, November 25

- 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,
Conference Room I, Ravoux Room

Wednesday, November 26

- 9 am** Mass, Historic Church (8:40 rosary)
9:45 am Divine Mercy Cenacle, Ravoux Room

Thursday, November 27

Thanksgiving Day

Parish Office Closed

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

Friday, November 28

Parish Office Closed

- 9 am** Mass, Historic Church (8:40 rosary)

Saturday, November 29

- 9 and 10:30 am** Alcoholics Anonymous, Rooms 2, 4
10 am Scripture Study, Conference Room I
4 pm Reconciliation, Main Church
4:30 pm Choir Rehearsal, Music Room
5 pm Mass, Main Church
5:30 pm Alcoholics Anonymous Potluck,
Ravoux Room

Sunday, November 30—First Sunday of Advent

- 8:30 & 10:30 am** Choir Rehearsal, Music Room
9 am Mass
10 am The Joy of the Gospel Book Group
Conference Room I
11 am Mass/Rite of Acceptance, Main Church



Parish Pastoral Council

Sarah Larsen, Chair..... 612-384-1474
 Lance Miller, Vice-Chair..... 952-432-6957
 Alice Sheeler, Secretary..... 651-457-8119
 Mary Pat Ferraro..... 651-454-1091
 Anne Hallgren..... 651-702-6465
 Paul Hirsch..... 651-431-1832
 Maria Schwartz..... 651-452-1796
 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 November 16

Sunday: Ez 34:11-12, 15-17/1 Cor 15:20-26,
28/Mt 25:31-46
Monday: Rv 14:1-3, 4b-5/Lk 21:1-4
Tuesday: Rv 14:14-19/Lk 21:5-11
Wednesday: Rv 15:1-4/Lk 21:12-19
Thursday: Rv 18:1-2, 21-23; 19:1-3, 9a/Lk
21:20-28
Friday: Rv 20:1-4, 11--21:2/Lk 21:29-33
Saturday: Rv 22:1-7/Lk 21:34-36
Next Sunday: Is 63:16b-17, 19b; 64:2-7/1 Cor 1:3-
9/Mk 13:33-37

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Mass Intentions

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

Monday, November 24 - †Mary Pat Lentsch

Tuesday, November 25 - †Carol Grayson

Wednesday, November 26 - †Bob O'Neill

Thursday, November 27 - Mass For the People

Friday, November 28 - †Raymond Perron

Saturday, November 29 - Mass For the People

Sunday, Nov. 30 - 9 a.m. - †Raymond LeClaire

11 a.m. - †Deacon Gerald Blissenbach

Thanksgiving Day Mass

Thanksgiving Day Mass will be celebrated at St. Peter's on **Thursday, November 27**, 9 a.m. in the Main Church.



We will be collecting donations of nonperishable food for Neighbors, Inc. Please consider bringing items with you when you come to Mass. Thank you!

Parish office hours

Please note the parish office will be **closed** on **Thursday, November 27**, and **Friday, November 28**, in observance of the holiday.

Faithful Shepherd Catholic School Open House Friday, December 5

Families are invited to an open house on Friday, December 5, from 8:30 to 10:30 a.m. Open house attendees will have an opportunity to take a tour of the school, have questions answered by Faithful Shepherd staff, current parents and students and receive more information about the school.

The open house is held on an active school day so families can get a sense of a typical school day at Faithful Shepherd. If you are unable to make this date, there will be one more open house on Sunday, January 25, from 1-3 p.m. You may also contact Shawnessy Schwartz at 651-262-2898 or at sschwartz@fscsmn.org to arrange a private tour of the school.

Faithful Shepherd Catholic School is part of the educational ministry of St. Peter's of Mendota, St. John Neumann of Eagan and St. Thomas Becket of Eagan.

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www.stpetersmendota.org

PASTOR:

Fr. Steven Hoffman 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/LITURGY:

David Dunst, Director 651-905-4323

COMMUNITY LIFE COORDINATOR:

Sara Rogers 651-905-4308

OFFICE STAFF:

Darlene Olson, Communications Coord. 651-905-4302

Carolyn Rynders, Receptionist..... 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

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

Saturdays 4 to 4:45 pm or 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.

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Church of St. Peter
Parish Pastoral Council Meeting
Minutes

Tuesday, October 21, 2014

6:30 PM – Ravoux Room

Members present: Anne Hallgren, Paul Hirsch, Sarah Larsen, Maria Schwartz, Alice Sheeler, Nancy Stanton, Joe Towle

Members not present: Mary Pat Ferraro, Lance Miller

Ex officio members present: Helen Wilkie, Jim Orrichio

I. Opening Prayer: Sarah provided an anecdote and opening prayer. Joe Towle provided hospitality.

II. Approval of Agenda: Agenda approved as presented

III. New Business:

- A. New Pastor Assignment: Fr. Steven Hoffman will begin as the new pastor on Thursday, October 23, 2014!!! He can be reached at frsteven@stpetersmendota.org and we all look forward to meeting him and welcoming him to our parish.
- B. Finance Report: Mary Jubenville reported that the parish is still under budget because of the lack of pastor, but this will change when the new pastor starts. Capital Campaign contributions are still coming in consistently. The parish is currently only paying interest on the mortgage. Work will be done this spring to resurface the parking lots.

IV. Old Business

- A. Fall Festival: The festival was considered a great success, raising \$27,000.00. There were generous donations from businesses & private parties which covered all expenses. The one Mass format was a great introduction to the day's activities. The announcement of new pastor plus the energy of the planning committee added to the success. Mary Jubenville did a great job on assistance and follow-up. Areas to address for next year include: locations for bingo and cake walk, and distribution of ticket sales/money stations.
- B. Stewardship: Commitment cards are coming in fairly well with the return of this activity to fall.

V. Meeting with Fr. Charles Lachowitzer: At 7pm the council and trustees were joined by the parish staff, other councils and Fr. Charles Lachowitzer. A general discussion was had regarding our new priest assignment and moving forward together as a parish.

VI. Closing Prayer: Sarah Larsen led committee in a prayer and the meeting was adjourned. Next council meeting will be Tuesday, November 18, 2014.