

**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.

Twenty Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time**SEPTEMBER 17, 2017**

Matthew shares with us a familiar parable today. We have all heard it many times, and it's an easy tale for us to relate to and understand. It's familiar because, we too, tend to resist forgiveness.

Forgiveness, especially if you struggle with this, must be better understood if it has a chance of becoming a part of our relationships. We know it is asked of us; we know it is a good thing to do, but the truth is that we don't often stop to think about what we are doing when we forgive. We may not understand the implications of forgiveness, because we have not really understood what scripture says about forgiveness, and more importantly, we haven't truly experienced the forgiveness of God in our own lives.

To begin to understand, we could first look at what it is not. Forgiving someone does not justify their actions. If we have been harmed in the past and need to forgive someone, we don't have to find an excuse for their bad behavior, attitude or sinful nature.

Forgiveness is not counting on the passage of time to make things magically better. Forgiveness is not denying that we've been hurt. Some of the things may get better as time passes, but some may not. You will find that even though you have forgiven, there will be things such as names of people, places or events that can bring the bad memories to life and renew your pain and anger.

Forgiveness is not demanding an apology and making someone earn it. Forgiveness is not seeking revenge or getting even, then causing the other an equal share of suffering.

So what is forgiveness? First, forgiveness is something God wants for us. Our relationship with God influences (I hope!) how we relate to others. When we come together, there is always a possibility of conflict; if there is conflict, we should seek to resolve it.

But what about the things that seem overwhelmingly impossible to forgive? Here, it is helpful to remember that we are called to love and forgive people for *who they are*, not for *what they do*. Similarly, God doesn't command that we love all people because they are good, but because they are His created Beloved.

Perhaps most importantly, we forgive because God has forgiven us. That is what this parable is all about. We would never have been able to earn God's forgiveness. Once we believe that and truly appreciate God's grace in forgiving our sin, we can only live with a more forgiving spirit. In today's

Gospel, Jesus teaches us that when God forgives us, he forgives completely and unconditionally. When we take this to heart, we can accept that we are forgiven people, and forgiven people can forgive others.

Forgiveness must be intentional – it is a choice for us to make. We can't wait for it to appear in response to our emotions. If you wait until you feel forgiving toward someone, you might never forgive that person. God does not wait until we've given him cause. He forgives us while we are still sinners.

A few years ago, I had the honor of hearing writer and Rwandan genocide survivor, Immaculee Ilibagiza, speak about her own journey to forgiveness. She shares her story in her book, *Left to Tell: Discovering God Amidst the Rwandan Holocaust*. For three months, she and seven other women huddled in fear and silence in a cramped bathroom of a local pastor, while hundreds of machete-wielding killers hunted for them. It was during those endless hours of unspeakable terror that Immaculee discovered the power of prayer, eventually shedding her fear of death and forging a profound and lasting relationship with God. She emerged having discovered the meaning of truly unconditional love. With the help of God's grace, she was able to seek out and forgive her family's murderers. Her forgiveness in no way condones the horror they perpetrated, and they certainly never expressed remorse or repentance for their actions. Her decision to forgive was made for love. She first surrendered to her need for God, for her love for Him, but even more significantly, His love for her. Because of this, she could see that His love and forgiveness extends to each of His children, even including her predators.

Where might the power of God's grace bring forgiveness into your own life? What or who might you yet need to forgive? Is there anything for which you don't fully believe you have been forgiven? Seek Him for help with these questions. If you haven't visited the Sacrament of Reconciliation recently, I would encourage you to consider doing so and to allow God to reveal to you the depth of His mercy. Soon we'll have the gift of our Adoration Chapel, where we may go to open ourselves to the powerful love of Christ, made fully present in the Eucharist. We forgive, because we are forgiven. I pray that each one of us will come to understand fully the reality of God's Mercy already at work in us.

Lisa Amos
Pastoral Associate

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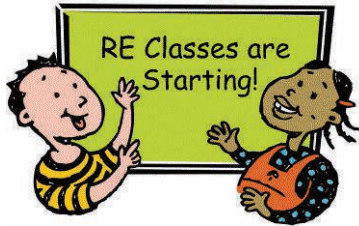
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YOUTH NEWS

FAITH FORMATION REGISTRATION

Family Packet

Beginning this year, we are emailing the "Family Packet" to you. You will not be picking it up in the Gathering Space nor receiving it in the regular mail. We emailed your child's religious education calendar, medical emergency forms, etc. around September 15. Please remember to check your email!



REFF Monthly Newsletter

If you have a child between the ages of 3 and 16, you should be receiving a copy of the monthly newsletter at your family email address. If you did not receive one, please contact Kathy Raible to give her your email address.

Start Dates for 2017 - 2018

Sunday School (Ages 3 ½ to 5 yrs.) Classes begin on Sunday, September 24, at 9 a.m.

Elementary Program: Christos (Grades 1, 3, 4, & 5) Classes begin on Wednesday, September 27, at 4:30 & 6:30 p.m.

Please bring your child to Heritage Center on the first night of class. Parents will then gather in the Main Church for an informational meeting on Christos and materials you will need to do the homeschool component of this program. Please come to the session for which you registered, either 4:30 or 6:30 p.m..

Grade 2 Program: Reconciliation & First Eucharist Preparation: Classes begin on Wednesday, September 27.

Please bring your child to Classroom 2. If you have another child in Grades 1, 3, 4 or 5, please come to the Main Church.

Middle School Program: Classes begin on Wednesday, September 27. If you have another child in Grades 1, 3, 4 or 5, please come to the Main Church.

****All children and parents will meet in the Main Church for a prayer service. The 4:30 session will begin at 5:10 and the 6:30 session will begin at 7:10.**

LITURGY OF THE WORD FOR CHILDREN

Small group and large group adult volunteers are needed at both the 9 and 11 a.m. Masses. PLEASE consider helping with this enjoyable and easy ministry. Contact Kathy Raible at 651-905-4311 for more information.

OFFICE INFORMATION

- ♦ Father Steven Hoffman: 651-452-4550
- ♦ Deacon Tim Hennessey: 651-905-4301

Parish Office Hours: Mon - Thurs, 8 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Fri, 8 a.m. - 12 p.m.

Phone: 651-452-4550

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.

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PERISSOS-CONFIRMATION

Perissos/Confirmation

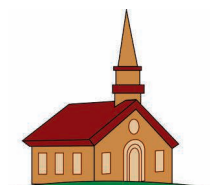
Do you have a high school teen looking to be involved in our high school youth group, Perissos? Paper registration forms are available on the information counter or can be downloaded from our website. All high school youth are welcome to participate and **active participation is required for those preparing for Confirmation in June of 2018.**

For more information, or if you have questions, please call Elizabeth McCanna at 651-905-4312 or you may email her at emccanna@stpetersmendota.org.

FIND US ON SOCIAL MEDIA



Check out St. Peter's website at www.stpetersmendota.org, our Facebook page at [facebook.com/stpetersmendota](https://www.facebook.com/stpetersmendota) and Twitter @StPetersMendota.



*Come as a Guest
Leave as a Friend*

APPALACHIA CHRISTMAS DRIVE



Appalachia

The generosity of St. Peter's parishioners has brought Christmas joy to many destitute families in Kentucky. Especially welcomed were the shoeboxes that were filled with gifts specifically designed for certain age groups of boys or girls. These children were pleased to have something especially chosen for them.

Now that summer is all but over, it is time to look at the end-of-season sales and back-to-school sales with the Appalachian Christmas Drive in mind. There are many things going on at St. Peter's now, but I hope you, with your extreme generosity, will find time to shop for our brothers and sisters in Appalachia. Again, we will be sending gifts to two parishes, so we would ask that whatever new items you purchase, you will buy two. A notice will be coming in future bulletins that will list gifts for different age groups. Shoebox items will also be listed. God bless you in advance for making Christmas brighter for the poor of Appalachia.

FALL FESTIVAL



Fall Festival

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 1

One Mass at 10 a.m.

Festival 11:15 a.m-3:00p.m.

The Marv Nissel Polka Band is booked, the raffle tickets are for sale, the pork is ordered and the Country Store is taking shape. The Festival Committee is busy getting ready for this fun-filled event.

We still need help to make this festival a success; there are several ways to participate.

We need the following items for each event:

- Pork Dinner - Homemade or store bought pies.
- Silent Auction - Gift cards, themed baskets or new items.
- Kids Games - Children's Prizes.
- Country Store - Knitted items, crafts, home-made jewelry, cookies, bars, cakes, home-made cards, etc.

Consider volunteering the day of the event, such as:

- Set up tables and tents before the festival starts.
- Volunteer for a one-hour shift during the festival, so everyone gets a chance to enjoy it.
- Help take down the tents and put away the tables and chairs when the festival is over.

Thank you in advance for making this year's Fall Festival a success!

Are you interested in volunteering or donating items?

Please contact Gail Barta at 651-454-9552 or e-mail Anne O'Keefe at aokeefe@stpetersmendota.org.

FALL FESTIVAL HIGHLIGHT



ST. PETER'S FALL FESTIVAL

This Week's Highlight
~ Country Store ~



We need donated items:

Any type of baked goods, knitted or crocheted items, homemade greeting cards, homemade jewelry, hand crafted ornaments, bookmarks, quilts, embroidered dish cloths, doilies, etc.

If you wish to share your baking talents with us, please sign up at the table in the Gathering Space, so we know that we will have baked goods to offer. All other items can be donated ahead of time. You may bring your donated items to Mass and leave them at the Fall Festival Table, or you can bring them to the parish office Monday through Friday, from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Thank you for supporting our parish!

Are you interested in volunteering or donating items?

Please contact Gail Barta at 651-454-9552 or you may email Anne O'Keefe at aokeefe@stpetersmendota.org.



WEDDING BANNERS



Third Proclamation

Sean Brennan and Katie Fink



MEN'S CLUB

Join us on Thursday, September 21, at 6 p.m., in Heritage Center for a cook-out dinner and our first meeting of the year. We will be planning the year's events, signing up for committees (Social, Hardhat and Spiritual) and seeking volunteers to assist with Hospitality Sundays. To plan for enough food, please sign up in the Gathering Space or contact the parish office at 651-452-4550. We hope to see you there for a fun and relaxing evening.



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.

Trustees:

Jim Oricchio.....651-452-3587
Helen Wilkie.....651-365-1334

READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 17

Sunday: Sir 27:30--28:7/Ps 103:1-4, 9-12/Rom 14:7-9/Mt 18:21-35
Monday: 1 Tm 2:1-8/Ps 28:2, 7-9/Lk 7:1-10
Tuesday: 1 Tm 3:1-13/Ps 101:1b-3ab, 5-6/Lk 7:11-17
Wednesday: 1 Tm 3:14-16/Ps 111:1-6/Lk 7:31-35
Thursday: Eph 4:1-7, 11-13/Ps 19:2-5/Mt 9:9-13
Friday: 1 Tm 6:2c-12/Ps 49:6-10, 17-20/Lk 8:1-3
Saturday: 1 Tm 6:13-16/Ps 100:1b-5/Lk 8:4-15
Next Sunday: Is 55:6-9/Ps 145:2-3, 8-9, 17-18/Phil 1:20c-24, 27a/Mt 20:1-16a

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MASS INTENTIONS

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

Monday, September 18	Jake & Samantha Goodwin
Tuesday, September 19	† Fr. David McCauley
Wednesday, September 20	† Bill Devitt
Thursday, September 21	† Robert Weidner
Friday, September 22	† George & Annamma Cherucheril
Saturday, September 23	† Anita Selg Friedrick
Sunday, September 17, 9 am	Mass For The People
11 am	† Kim Franson

THIS WEEK'S CALENDAR: SEPTEMBER 18

Monday, September 18

9 am Mass, Historic Church (8:30 Rosary)
6:30 pm ALPHA, Heritage Center
7 pm Cub Scout Pack Meeting, Ravoux Room

Tuesday, September 19

9 am Mass, Historic Church (8:30 Rosary)
9:30 am Adoration Before the Blessed Sacrament until 6 pm, Historic Church
9:45 am Women's Bible Study, Ravoux Room
6:30 pm Perpetual Eucharistic Adoration Team Meeting, Conference Room
6:30 pm Archdiocese Bible Study, Heritage Center

Wednesday, September 20

9 am Mass, Historic Church (8:30 Rosary)
9:45 am Divine Mercy Cenacle, Ravoux Room
6:30 pm Perissos, Heritage Center

Thursday, September 21

9 am Mass, Historic Church (8:30 Rosary)
9:45 am Small Faith Group, Conference Room
6:30 pm ACCL, Family Room
7 pm Catholic Watchmen, Heritage Center
7 pm Finance Committee Meeting, Conference Room 3
7 pm AA Meeting, Classroom 5

Friday, September 22

8 am Confession, Main Church
9 am Mass, Historic Church (8:30 Rosary)

Saturday, September 23

9 am & 10:30 am AA Meeting, Classrooms
9 am Vision Committee Meeting, Classroom 10
10 am Saturday Scripture Study, Conference Room
3:30 pm Confession, Main Church
4:30 pm Choir Rehearsal, Music Room
5 pm Mass, Main Church
6 pm Men's Club BBQ, Heritage Center
6 pm Fall Festival Raffle Ticket Sales, Gathering Space
6 pm Perpetual Adoration Sign Up, Gathering Space

Sunday, September 24 - Hospitality Sunday Hosted by Mom's Club

8:30 & 10:30 am Choir Rehearsal, Music Room
9 & 11 am Liturgy of the Word for Children, Ravoux Room
9 am Mass and Blessing of Prayer Shawls, Main Church
9 am Sunday School, Classrooms
10 am Fall Festival Raffle Ticket Sales, Gathering Space
10 am Perpetual Adoration Sign Ups, Gathering Space
10:30 am Rosary for St. Peter's Parish, Historic Church
11 am Mass, Main Church
12 pm Fall Festival Raffle Ticket Sales, Gathering Space
12 pm Perpetual Adoration Sign Ups, Gathering Space



PASTORAL MINISTRY

FOLLOWING JESUS



When a brother or sister hurts us, we can choose to be like the ungrateful servant who refused to forgive a debt. Jesus calls us to forgive, as He forgives--infinitely and lovingly. We can learn much about forgiveness by looking at how Jesus forgave even those who persecuted and killed Him. To whom do we owe the gift of forgiveness?

33 DAYS TO MORNING GLORY

Archbishop Hebda and Bishop Cozzens invite you to join in an Archdiocesan Marian Consecration. In preparation for the consecration, Fr. Michael Gaitley's book, *33 Days to Morning Glory*, is recommended and should have begun by Sunday, September 10. The fulfillment of this consecration will take place on Friday, October 13, the Feast of Our Lady of Fatima. Archbishop Hebda will conclude this Consecration by celebrating Mass at the Cathedral of St. Paul, at 5:15 p.m.

CAREGIVER WORKSHOP

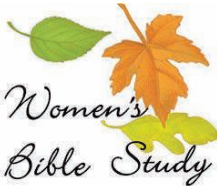
Paths to Faithful Caregiving is a workshop for caregivers, designed to strengthen the personal faith of those who are often struggling, while taking care of another's needs.

You will learn how to:

- Manage stress and difficult emotions.
- Communicate more effectively.
- Create balance in life.
- Locate helpful resources.
- Find caregiving strength through your faith partner and personal spiritual practices.

Paths to Faithful Caregiving meets weekly on Saturdays, from September 30 through October 28, from 9 to 10:30 a.m., in the Good Shepherd Room, at St. John Neumann Church, in Eagan. To register, you may email Rozannrey@gmail.com or call 651-334-3207, by September 26. A fee of \$15, payable to St. John Neumann, includes class materials.

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY



St. Peter's Women's Bible Study meets on Tuesdays, from 9:45 to 11:30 a.m., in the Ravoux Room, with our first meeting on September 19. In our first study, we'll open ourselves to Mary's special grace with "Queen of Heaven: Mary's Battle for You." It's a great opportunity to connect with other women and grow spiritually, through God's Word. If you are interested in joining, or have any questions about this study, please contact Jennifer Vogel at 612-709-1835 or jennifervogel@comcast.net, or contact Sandy Rabuse at 651-681-9258.

ST. PETER'S PERPETUAL ADORATION CHAPEL



Every day, we are bombarded by noise. Even in "quiet" moments, our awareness is half-turned toward expectation of text tones, Facebook notifications, and pop up ads. Our schedules are not only busy but overlapping and overwhelming. There's always one more chore, one more email, one last item to check off of our to-do list. In a world increasingly troubled, embattled and stressed, we need to be able to hear the voice of God more than ever, and yet the noise threatens ever more loudly to drown Him out. St. John Paul II spoke of this in an address in Italy, in May of 1998. "Our age," he said, "needs to rediscover the fruitfulness of silence, in order to overcome the dissipation of sounds, images and chatter that too often prevent the voice of God from being heard." Soon, you will have the opportunity to tune out the noise and tune in to God's loving voice here in the St. Peter's Perpetual Adoration Chapel!

This weekend, please look over the flyer included with this bulletin and prayerfully consider helping us to fill the hours for which we still need adorers.

All are welcome and encouraged to participate. To schedule your hour at adoration, please contact Lisa Amos at 651-905-4304 or Mark Mischke at 651-481-6900 or complete a registration card found in the Gathering Space.

SINCERE SYMPATHY

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



RCIA

If you, or someone you know, has been thinking about becoming Catholic, we would very much like to hear from you! To begin, we'd like to get to know you and help you to learn more about the process. We will answer any questions you may have. We look forward to helping those baptized in other Christian traditions, the unbaptized and anyone who may already have made their First Communion as a child, but has not received the sacrament of Confirmation. For more information or to schedule a private inquiry meeting to discuss your own faith journey, please contact Lisa Amos at 651-905-4304 or email her at lamos@stpetersmendota.org.

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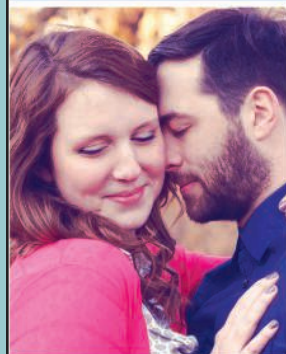
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St. Peter's Perpetual Adoration Chapel

Closeness to Christ in silence and contemplation does not distance us from our contemporaries but, on the contrary, makes us attentive and open to human joy and distress and broadens our heart on a global scale. It unites us with our brothers and sisters in humanity and particularly with children, who are the Lord's dearly beloved."

~ St. John Paul II



We are still seeking adorers for many hours. Please prayerfully consider committing to one of the hours listed here that is still empty. **Blank spaces indicate where we have the most urgent need.**

	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Midnight							
1 am							
2am							
3 am							
4 am							
5 am							
6 am							
7 am							
8 am							
9 am							
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5 pm							
6 pm							
7 pm							
8 pm							
9 pm							
10 pm							
11 pm							

All are welcome and encouraged to participate. To schedule your hour at adoration please contact Lisa Amos, 651-905-4304 or Mark Mischke, 651-481-6900, or complete a registration card found in the Gathering Space.

*Could you not watch one hour with me?
Matthew 26:40*