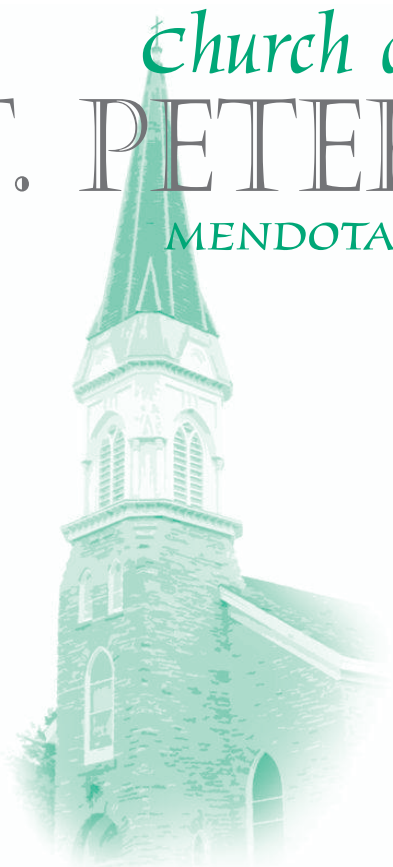


Church of ST. PETER MENDOTA



September 20, 2015
25th 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:

Darlene Olson, Communications Coord. 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 4 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 Pastoral Associate, Lisa Amos

One of the things I love most about living in Minnesota is the turning of the seasons. Unlike some other places, we are blessed with these definite, unmistakable signs of change every few months. Whatever the time of year, it always feels like a new beginning to me. Fall, especially, feels that way to me. I love brand new crayons and pencils, fresh notebooks, crisp temperatures, and autumn colors. At work, too, here at St. Peter's, fall is an exciting time to be part of this community.

Hopefully many of you were able to take advantage of our ministry fair last weekend and see all the possibilities for service within our parish and community. Our ministry leaders work hard to ensure that our members (you) have a variety of ways to answer the call to follow Jesus' example of service.

The second in a three-part series of Jesus' predictions of his passion, death, and resurrection, today's Gospel is best understood with a recognition of its placement in the text, as well as a bit of a history lesson.

First, this Gospel passage is bookended by the stories of the blind man of Bethsaida (8:22-26) and Jesus' warning to John that it's better to pluck out an eye which causes sin and enter the kingdom of God than keep it and enter Gehenna (10:46-52). It is reasonable, then, to read the Gospel passage in the context of clear sightedness and of revelation.

Jesus reveals to the disciples, who have accepted him as rabbi at this time, but are still blind to who he truly is. He shares with them another facet to himself, the recognition of himself as the Son of Man. Yet, even after this they remain unable to see and understand the truth of the person of Jesus.

The disciples don't question Jesus when they don't understand. Instead they argue amongst themselves on the way to Capernaum. Because they fail to understand the enormity of Jesus' prediction earlier in the day, they misunderstand the future which is to come immediately after. They have all left their lives behind to follow Jesus and are terrified about a future without his physical presence. Who will lead them? They don't want to ask him. Questioning Jesus about who will replace him as leader would have seemed disrespectful. In fact, when Jesus asks them about their conversation, they are embarrassed.

Jesus then warns them not to fall prey to their own hubris in the future. He instead admonishes them to take in a child and, by extension we can surmise, serve the child. Here's where the history lesson is important. To us, in modern day America, children are precious. In order to understand this passage fully, we have to recognize that children were the lowest among society. Children in the ancient world had no rights, position, or privileges of their own. They were socially at the "bottom of the rung" and at the service of their parents, much like the household staff, domestic servants, and slaves. What is the significance of Jesus' gesture? By elevating a little child by placing the child in a privileged position of honor, Jesus makes a clear statement about who will be the greatest in God's kingdom. To be the first, they (and we) must empty ourselves of pride and self-seeking glory. We must willingly put ourselves at the service of the least among us.

Jesus, himself, models this for us. Jesus, whose rightful place is at the right hand of God the Father, willingly humbles himself to become one of us, not just to live among us but to serve us even unto his own death, so that we might have a share in his Divine life in the kingdom of God. His example of self-sacrifice is elemental in our own understanding of our place in the family of God.

We are challenged, of course. We live in a society that defines success in terms of material wealth, influence, and power. It sometimes fails to recognize the exploitation of the weakest of its members in our efforts to earn more, spend more, be more than others. What Jesus is asking of us is difficult. He's asking us to alter completely our entire world view. He's showing us by his own example radical humility. And yet, throughout history, God in his great love and generosity, understands us and sends us people who point out how to live up to Jesus' example. We have Blessed Mother Teresa, Oscar Romero, Mahatma Gandhi, Martin Luther King, Dorothy Day, Dietrich Bonhoeffer, and Jean Vanier, not to mention the hundreds of Saints whose lives are models of service.

We all have ways in which we can let go of our self-seeking pride. We all fall prey to grandiose thoughts about our own importance in the world. It is, truly, part of who we have been created to be and Jesus' very life reassures us of God's understanding of our nature. It's also true, however, that we have been tasked with the mission to lower ourselves and to become the servants of the weakest and most needy of God's children. I, for one, could use the help of my parish family to accept the challenge. I suspect you can, too.

May God bless you and show you the way to be a servant.

Religious Education/ Faith Formation (RE/FF)

Family Packet Pick Up

After all Masses on **September 19 & 20**, please stop by the table in the Gathering Space to pick up your family packet if you have already registered your children. These packets contain information regarding your children's religious education classes. If you have not registered your child, please do so immediately. Thank you.

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 with your family name and email address. Unless you have specified, you will not receive the newsletter through the post office mail.

Start/Resume dates for 2015-2016

Middle School (grades 6-8) classes begin Wednesday, September 30, at 6:30 p.m. Class ends at 7:30 p.m.

Elementary (grades 1-5) classes begin Wednesday, September 30. There is a 4:30-5:30 session and a 6:30-7:30 session.

Sunday School (Ages 3 ½ to 5 yrs.) classes begin Sunday, September 27, at 9 a.m.

Liturgy of the Word for Children (LWC) Ages 6-12 begin September 27 at the 9:00 and 11:00 Masses. You do not need to register your child for LWC. All children, ages 6 through 12, are invited to join us to share God's Word in a format designed for children. This is a ministry that requires many adult volunteers.

We need more volunteers at both the 9:00 and 11:00 Masses. It is a very enjoyable, rewarding and easy ministry. Please contact Kathy Raible for more information or to volunteer your time.

Grade 2 Reconciliation Program: Parent Reconciliation Session I

On **Tuesday, October 6**, we will have our first parent session for those who have children in the Reconciliation Program. We will meet at **6 p.m. in Heritage Center**. All children that are in grade 2 (public school and Catholic school) should be registered in this program.

Please remember that the grade 2 children **do not go to class on Wednesday, October 7**, instead they will accompany you on Tuesday. Children will go to their classrooms while the parents meet in Heritage Center.

Thank you.

Kathy Raible

651-905-4311

Youth Group Starts September 27!

All high school aged students are welcome to join us as we kick off our youth ministry year with a youth group bonfire on Sunday, September 27, from 6:30-8 p.m. Bring your friends and an appetite for S'mores! For more information, contact Elizabeth at emccanna@stpetersmendota.org.

Growing Through Loss

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IN A FOUR-WEEK SERIES:**



Growing Through Loss
with

Jonathan and Amanda Markle, Bereaved parents
Jonathan and Amanda will speak on "Growing
Through Guilt and Grief: Our Family's Story."

Tuesday, September 22

Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church, 12650
Johnny Cake Ridge Road, Apple Valley

Registration, 6:30; Speaker, 7:00 Support Groups
(facilitated by trained leaders), 8:00

Freewill Offering

For additional information call 651-452-8261 or
email growingthroughloss@gmail.com

Don't Forget to Turn in Your Commitment Card

Remember to turn in your Commitment Card either through Sunday collections or the parish office. 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. Thank you to those of you who have already returned your card!

St. Peter's Fall Festival
Sunday, October 4
11 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Mass celebrated at 10 a.m.
No 9 or 11 a.m. Masses

St. Peter's Community News

Pastoral Ministry

Interested in becoming Catholic?

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 and have your questions answered. 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 lamos@stpetersmendota.org.

Newly Married Social Ministry

We have exciting news for couples married 5 years or less! We want to invite you to join others for evenings of fellowship and fun. The first of these events will be on Tuesday, November 10, from 6-7:30 p.m. at The Olive Grove, 720 Main Street, Mendota Heights. Cost per couple is only \$10 and we will enjoy a short lesson in the use of gourmet balsamics and oils, taste testing and even ice cream. Beverages and snacks will also be provided. Please pre-register by Thursday, November 5. Registrations are limited to 15 couples. Direct inquiries and registrations to Lisa Amos at 651-905-4304 or lamos@stpetersmendota.org.

Holy Hour and Rosary for Our Archdiocese Sunday, October 11, 1-2 p.m. 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.

Prayer Shawl/Baby Blanket Ministry

Thank you to all of our generous knitters and crocheters who have contributed many beautiful prayer shawls and baby blankets to this ministry. Many have benefited from these gifts and it can make a great difference in the lives of those who receive them. We continue to welcome your donated items. Shawls and baby blankets in all colors, shapes, and sizes are gladly accepted. You may choose

your own yarn or you may contact us to obtain some available through pastoral ministry. Free patterns are also available or you may use your own favorite. For more information or to suggest a member of our parish in need of a gift, please contact Lisa Amos at 651-905-4304 or lamos@stpetersmendota.org.

Wedding Banns

Third Proclamation

Elsa Dosh and Timothy Vezino

Second Proclamation

Ashley Hommedahl and Michael Johnson

Sincere Sympathy

St. Peter's Parish extends its sympathy to the families and friends of **Robert Weinzettel** and **Patricia Black Peyton** (daughter of Carole Black). We invite all to join us in praying that God may make them sharers in eternal salvation.



Women's Bible Study

New members welcome! St. Peter's Women's Bible Study will be meeting on Tuesdays from 9:45-11:15 a.m. in the Ravoux Room beginning September 29 running through mid-May. This year we will be studying the Gospel of Matthew (published by *Catholic Scripture Study*). It's a great opportunity to learn more about the Bible while connecting with other women. If you are interested in joining or have any questions about this study, please contact Jennifer Vogel at 651-688-7427 or jennifervogel@comcast.net



Boy Scout Pancake Breakfast



4th Annual Boy Scout Troop 264
Pancake Breakfast
Sunday, September 27
10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Breakfast includes pancakes, sausage,
coffee, milk and juice
\$25 per family
\$8 per adult
\$5 per child (10 and under)

****All proceeds will go to support our Troop****

The Week of September 21

Monday, September 21

- 9 am** Mass, Historic Church (8:40 rosary)
6 pm St. Paul Civic Symphony, Heritage Center
6:30 pm Boy Scout Meeting, Ravoux Room

Tuesday, September 22

- 9 am** Mass, Historic Church (8:40 rosary)
Adoration Before Blessed Sacrament
After the 9 am Mass Until 6 pm

Wednesday, September 23

- 9 am** Mass, Historic Church (8:40 rosary)
6 pm Capital Campaign Reception,
Heritage Center
6:30 pm Choir Rehearsal, Music Room

Thursday, September 24

- 9 am** Mass, Historic Church (8:40 rosary)
9:45 am Daily Mass Birthday Celebration,
Heritage Center
6 pm Capital Campaign Reception,
Heritage Center
7 pm Alcoholics Anonymous, Room 5
7 pm Al-Anon, Room 7
7 pm Teen Al-Anon, Room 6

Friday, September 25

- 8-8:45 am** Confessions, Main Church
9 am Mass, Historic Church (8:40 rosary)

Saturday, September 26

- 9 and 10:30 am**
Alcoholics Anonymous, Rooms 2, 4
10 am Scripture Study, Community Room
2 pm Dosh/Vezino Wedding, Historic Church
4 pm Confessions, Main Church
4:30 pm Choir Rehearsal, Music Room
5 pm Mass, Main Church
After Mass:
Festival Raffle Ticket Pick Up
Festival Volunteer Sign Up
Silent Auction Items

Sunday, September 27

26th Sunday in Ordinary Time

- 8:30 & 10:30 am**
Choir Rehearsal, Music Room
9 & 11 am Liturgy of the Word for Children
9&11 am Mass, Main Church
9 am Sunday School
10 am Confirmation Class
10 am Boy Scout Pancake Breakfast,
Heritage Center
After Masses:
Festival Raffle Ticket Pick Up
Festival Volunteer Sign Up
Silent Auction
6:30 pm Youth Group Bonfire

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 September 20

Sunday: Wis 2:12, 17-20/Jas 3:16--4:3/Mk 9:30-37
Monday: Eph 4:1-7, 11-13/Mt 9:9-13
Tuesday: Ezr 6:7-8, 12b, 14-20/Lk 8:19-21
Wednesday: Ezr 9:5-9/Lk 9:1-6
Thursday: Hg 1:1-8/Lk 9:7-9
Friday: Hg 2:1-9/Lk 9:18-22
Saturday: Zec 2:5-9, 14-15a/Lk 9:43b-45
Next Sunday: Nm 11:25-29/Jas 5:1-6/Mk 9:38-43, 45, 47-48

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Mass Intentions

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

Monday, September 21 - †Claire Linnell

Tuesday, Sept. 22 - Den, Cheryl, & Mark Linnell

Wednesday, September 23 - †Phyllis Thoemke

Thurs, Sept. 24 - Isabella, Angie & Brandon
 Seterling

Friday, Sept. 25 - †William and †Mary Reedy

Saturday, Sept. 26 - 5 p.m. - †Kathy Meier

Sunday, Sept. 27 - 9 a.m. - †Jeffrey Weiss

11 a.m. - Mass For the People

Thank You Ladies!

A huge thank you to the following women who helped clean the Heritage Center kitchen:

Elizabeth Baker
Lisa Brooks
Jo Cizek
Barbara Hirsch
Pat Kemper
Kathy Metzger
Mary Seefeld

God bless you!
Marge Sullivan

Lutz Railroad Garden

2960 Egan Avenue, Eagan

Stop by and visit Conductor Bud and his charming railroad garden on Sunday, September 20, for a free open house from 1-4 p.m. (The last open house for the season.) It's a fun place for families and Conductor Bud enjoys sharing his garden with kids of all ages. Cost is free. For more information call 651-454-3534 or www.lutzrailroadgarden.net, bud_lutz@yahoo.com.

Please note: if it is raining, the trains will not be running.

Neighbors Thank You

Our sincere thank you for the generous donation of 492 pounds of food you made to us during May and June.

Thanks neighbor!

Many of your neighbors will benefit from these gifts from your heart.

Sincerely,
Neighbors Inc. Staff and Volunteers

St. Michael's Fall Festival

September 26-27

337 East Hurley Street, West Saint Paul

651-457-2334, www.stmichaelwsp.org

Saturday, September 26: Mass at 5 p.m. homemade lasagna dinner 4 to 7 p.m. (adults \$10, children 6-12 \$6, children 5 and under free)

Sunday, September 27: Mass at 10:30 a.m., festival 11:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Silent auction, American foods, bingo, children's games, beer garden, bake sale, alumni display, pictures with the Pope, and more fun for the whole family! Raffle drawing at 4 p.m.

Save the Date!

The Bachmeier family will again be hosting their annual benefit supper for the Peruvian Nuns of the Sacred Heart of Jesus on Saturday, October 24, from 6-10 p.m. in Heritage Center.

Please save the date and join in on Peruvian food, culture, silent auction, and items to buy.

All for a great cause!

If you already know you want to come, please RSVP to vojanidale@juno.com or call 651-757-0757

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

Great Neighbors' Duck Races

The 8th annual Great Neighbors' Duck Races will be held on Saturday, October 3, during South St Paul's On The Road Again event. This family-fun event will feature duck races, children's games/crafts and, of course, photo opportunities with Delbert the Duck mascot. New in 2015: mini duck race course for kids! Free admission. Ducks can be adopted (in advance or day of) for \$5 each or a family of five ducks for \$25. Proceeds benefit the emergency and supportive service programs at Neighbors, Inc. For more information, visit: www.neighborsmn.org

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Games for all
ages, including:

Cake Walk
Plinko
Fishing Pond
Ring Toss
Balloon Artistry
Duggan's Dash
Gaga Ball
and more!

\$1500 Raffle
Winner to be drawn at
2 pm!

Wine Lottery
Buy a "lottery ticket" for a chance to
win up to 6 bottles of wine!

Silent
Auction

BINGO

Concessions

"Closest to the Pin" golf contest

More details at
www.stpetersmendota.org!

...and MORE!

Feasibility Study Executive Summary

Below are the statistical findings from Phase I and Phase II of the Feasibility Study for the
“Forward in Praise of God’s Goodness” Capital Campaign:

The following are our conclusions from the first phase of the feasibility study:

- The enthusiasm expressed for St. Peter’s itself during the interview process was strong with **82%** indicating an either Good or Excellent rating in regard to the reputation of the Parish.
- Regarding the leadership and operations of the parish under Fr. Steven Hoffman, **95%** of study respondents felt he was doing an either Good or Excellent job.
- These prospects indicated strong support that debt reduction was necessary. **81%** of the interviewees indicated that the case statement proposal was an Excellent or Good idea. Participants felt that debt reduction was necessary.
- When invited to speculate on the ability of the parish to raise significant funds through a capital campaign, **85%** of those who answered the question believed that their fellow parishioners would support the campaign.
- Each interviewee was asked to provide a range of a potential gift should the proposed campaign move forward. These ranges offered the donor the opportunity to make their pledge commitment over a three year period. **30 study participants** indicated gifts in the range of **\$272,000-\$407,000** to a potential campaign effort. Additionally, 4 families indicated they would pledge but did not indicate a range. Therefore, counsel estimates the first **\$800,000 - \$1,000,000** for the campaign effort will come from the top 100 donors. Counsel offers these ranges in an effort to challenge the potential donor as well as to represent the actual potential major gifts available to the Church of St. Peter.
- **19** interviewees strongly indicated that they would be willing to volunteer to help make a campaign effort successful. **8** of these interviewees were willing to take a leadership role within the campaign.

The following are our conclusions from the second phase of the Feasibility study:

- The enthusiasm expressed for the Church of St. Peter itself was strong with **83%** of study respondents indicating an either Good or Excellent rating in regard to the reputation of the Parish.
- Regarding the leadership and operations of the parish under Fr. Hoffman, **95%** of respondents to this question felt he was doing an either Good or Excellent job.
- There was strong support for the repayment of the debt with **82%** indicating that the case statement proposal was an Excellent or Good idea.
- When invited to speculate on the ability of the parish to raise significant funds through a capital campaign, **87%** of those who answered the question believed that their fellow parishioners would support the campaign.
- When asked to consider a sacrifice over three years in order to accomplish the raising of the funds, **69%** indicated a yes response.
- **44** interviewees strongly indicated that they would be willing to volunteer to help make a campaign effort successful. **6** of these interviewees were willing to take a leadership role within the campaign.

Thank you to all who participated!