

OUR MISSION STATEMENT: Growing In Faith Together (G.I.F.T.)

Dear Parishioners,

Our sympathy to the family of Rose Marie Nickel. May her soul, and the souls of all the faithful departed, rest in peace.

We begin our last week (though only half) of Advent. Hopefully, we have prepared our hearts and souls for the coming of Christ more than we have even prepared our homes for the celebration of His birth. He comes as Savior and Lord, and that causes rejoicing! So let the song begin to swell! He is coming to take us to the Father.

Some have asked about our financial situation. As you might recall, after the tornado, this beautiful new complex was built. At the time, there were not funds enough to pay for the building, and we were given a Small Business Administration Loan. These past years, we have been paying for this loan (which is about \$4500 monthly) through a generous bequest which is now almost depleted. We are in need of repairing our parking lot, and there are a number of other needs that we have. All of this is in addition to the normal operating costs of salaries, supplies, and necessary services, such as telephone and water and technology services. In addition, winter's heating and lighting bills are large, in addition to the upkeep of the boilers (which have had a number of issues already this Fall). We have not been meeting our average 'needed' budget to cover these normal costs, much less the surprise costs of boiler repairs. This season is one of great financial burdens for many – I am aware of this – but I wish to encourage all of us to follow the generous example of Jesus Christ who emptied Himself of His right to divinity, being born in the poverty of human life, and giving every drop of blood for the salvation of mankind. We should ask for the grace of generosity of time, talent, and treasure as a loving response to Christ who so loved us.

In Christ,

Fr. Todd J. Pøtzrøsn

WEEKLY SCHEDULE

December 22 - 29, 2013



4th Sunday of Advent, December 22

- 8 AM Mass at Nicollet
- 10 AM Mass (+Kathy Schaus), St. Peter
- 10 AM FF Preschool – Gr. 1, Social Hall, Fam Rm
- 11 AM Coffee & Rolls, Social Hall
- No LifeTeen

Monday

- 8 AM (+Nancy Schaus), Chapel

Tuesday, Christmas Eve

- Offices Closed
- 4 PM Mass (+Larry Skramstad), St. Peter
- 6 PM Mass, Nicollet
- 9 PM Mass (+Jackie Johnson), St. Peter

Wednesday, Christmas Day

- Offices Closed
- 8 AM Mass, Nicollet
- 10 AM (+Terry Walter), St. Peter

Thursday

- 8 AM Mass (+Peggy Willaert), Chapel
- 1 – 10 PM Eucharistic Adoration, Chapel
- 3:30 PM Confessions, Chapel

Friday

- 8 AM Mass (+Henry & +Michael Kirchner), St. Peter

Saturday

- 4 PM Mass (Parish Family), St. Peter
- 5 PM Mass, Nicollet

Holy Family Sunday, December 29

- 8 AM Mass, Nicollet
- 10 AM Mass (+Chris Kienlen), St. Peter
- No Faith Formation
- 11 AM Coffee & Rolls, Social Hall

Attn Electronic Givers at the Church of St. Peter:

Christmas greetings from the Church of St. Peter! We wish for you a Merry Christmas and Blessed 2014. The Church of St. Peter would also like to thank you for choosing a Direct Payment Plan (Electronic Bank Debit) or (Credit Card Contribution) for your offertory giving. A Direct Payment Plan provides the Church of St. Peter with consistent cash flow each month, eases budget preparation and saves money on postage, envelopes and processing. Your chosen method of giving is truly helping the Church of St. Peter.

For yourself, we hope you are enjoying the convenience, flexibility and ease of giving. Laminated "I Give Electronically" credit-card size forms are in the narthex on a table. If you wish, you can pick one up as you enter our Church and place this in the Collection basket as it is passed.

If you would like to make any changes in your plan for 2014 or at any time, please contact the Church office and we can help you. If you have no changes, there is nothing more you would need to do. Your contributions will continue in 2014 as they were in 2013. If you have any questions, please contact Barb Hansen at (507)931-1628x101. Thank you again for choosing a Direct Payment Plan with the Church of St. Peter.

*In addition, if you would like to begin giving electronically or have any questions regarding this, please contact Barb Hansen (507) 931-1628 x101 at the Church office. Thank you for considering this option!

"His master replied, 'Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness!'" Matthew 25:21

THANK YOU!! THANK YOU!! THANK YOU!! THANK YOU!!

END OF THE YEAR DONATIONS



December 31, 2013 is quickly approaching. The Church of St. Peter is very grateful for your charitable donations these past 11 months. The works of the Church are dependent on your support. We would at this time like to thank you in advance for your continued gifts. As we take time to reflect during this Advent season, may we always remember what is truly important.

In order to claim a charitable donation for 2013, your check(s) must be delivered, or mailed AND postmarked by December 31, 2013. Checks and offering envelopes placed in the Church offering during the first worship service of 2014 will not qualify for a charitable contribution in 2013.

THANK YOU.

HOLIDAY MASS SCHEDULES:

Christmas Eve, (Tues.) December 24:

- 4:00 PM - Church of St. Peter, St. Peter
- 6:00 PM - St. Paul's, Nicollet
- 9:00 PM - Church of St. Peter, St. Peter

Christmas Day, (Wed.) December 25:

- 8:00 AM - St. Paul's, Nicollet
- 10 AM - Church of St. Peter, St. Peter

Mary, Mother of God, January 1, 2014:

Tuesday, Dec. 31:

- 5:00 PM - St. Paul's, Nicollet

Wednesday, January 1:

- 9:00 AM - Church of St. Peter, St. Peter

Christmas Eve and Christmas Day at Saint Peter's Catholic Church

4:00 p.m. Mass: (Prelude @ 3:40 p.m.)

Traditional Christmas music with Organ, Brass Quartet, Children's Choir and Sanctuary Choir.

9:00 p.m. Mass: (Prelude @ 8:45 p.m.)

Contemporary and Traditional Christmas music with Pianist, Kim Braunger and Guitarist and Song Leader, Michael Huber.

10:00 a.m. Christmas Day: (Prelude @ 9:45 a.m.)

Traditional Christmas music with Organ, Brass Quartet, and Vocal Ensemble.

Please join us for these festive Christmas Masses.

DAILY READINGS

Monday: Malachi 3:1-4,23-24 / Luke 1:57-66

Tuesday: 2 Samuel 7:1-5,8-12,14,16 / Luke 1:67-79

Wednesday: Isaiah 52:7-10 / Hebrews 1:1-6 / John 1:1-18

Thursday: Acts 6:8-10;7:54-59 / Matthew 10:17-22 (696)

Friday: 1 John 1:1-4 / John 20:1-8

Saturday: 1 John 1:5—2:2 / Matthew 2:13-18

Sunday: Sirach 3:2-6,12-14 / Colossians 3:12-21 / Matthew 2:13-15,19-23

Coffee and Rolls



Join your friends and family Sunday mornings after 10 am Mass in the Social Hall!

Volunteers for December 29:

Emily Rezmerski and family

CHURCH OF ST. PETER THRIFT and CONSIGNMENT STORE

(507) 931-9150

May you have the spirit of Christmas which is **PEACE**;
the gladness of Christmas,
which is **HOPE**;
the heart of Christmas, which is **LOVE**.

Wishing you and your families a Merry Christmas
and a Happy New Year!

Susie, Jo, and Barb

The Thrift Store will be closed on Tuesday and Wednesday, December 24 – 25.

St. Peter Public Access TV - Channel 7

◆ Church of St. Peter Sunday Mass

Mondays – 7 pm

Tuesdays – 9 am

◆ “Discernment of Spirit”

Join Fr. Timothy Gallagher as he examines St. Ignatius of Loyola's 14 rules for discernment of spirits. Using real-life examples, Fr. Gallagher shows how the 500-year-old rules can be applied to one's daily life. A member of the Oblates of the Virgin Mary, Fr. Gallagher is a sought-after retreat director who has written several books on St. Ignatius' spirituality, including *“The Discernment of Spirit”* and *“An Ignatian Introduction to Prayer.”*

Episode 13:

Wednesday, December 25, 9:00 pm

Thursday, December 26, 10:00 am

Thanks to Katie Schilling and Shelby Connor (JI Alumni and current 9th grade students) for the informative talk at our recent CDA meeting on iPads and how they work in the classroom. Many questions were asked of the girls and they were very knowledgeable in answering them. As you may know, our John Ireland students now have one in each classroom, thanks to donations from KCs, CDA and many parishioners.

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How can one say just a simple “thank you” to the generous, wonderful people who bought gifts from the Giving Tree for those in need and who gave so generously through the Red Stocking project. We’ll just have to let our Loving God, the Greatest Giver of all Gifts, thank you for us as we pray that all of you have a very Merry and Blessed Christmas.

The Social Concerns Committee

SAINT PETER MEALS-ON-WHEELS

is in need of volunteer drivers.

This is a very rewarding volunteer activity for the people of this area as well as a great activity to help people in St. Peter. Contact Tracy Bishop at 507-317-5514 or email her at x2remwom@yahoo.com for more details.

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

The Diocese of New Ulm is hosting a prayer service for The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity on Sunday, January 19 at 2:30 pm at the Church of the Holy Redeemer, 503 W. Lyon St., Marshall. Please come and join Bishop John LeVoir, Bishop Jon Anderson of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, and representatives from several other denominations in praying for Christian unity. Bishop LeVoir will be the homilist, and there will be time for fellowship and refreshments afterwards.

MEMORIAL THANK YOUS

Thank you to Myrt Kienlen for the memorial given to the Church of St. Peter in Chris, her husband’s memory.
THANK YOU for remembering the Church at this time.

Thank you to Mary Lou Thieman for the memorial given to the Church of St. Peter Building Fund in Robert, her husband’s memory. THANK YOU for remembering the Church at this time.

Memorial Gifts are greatly appreciated by the Church of St. Peter.

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Youth Faith Formation

Thank You: A huge thank you to Becca Kennedy, Cathy Leonard & Krista McCarthy for organizing the Faith Formation Christmas Cookie Walk & Bake Sale this weekend. We also thank all the bake sale & walk workers, Faith Formation families & parishioners who donated the delicious baked goods and everyone who bought items or made signs. We appreciate your support.

No Youth Faith Formation Classes:

- PreSchool, K & Grade 1: Sunday, December 29
- Grades 2-6 and EDGE: Wednesdays, December 25 and January 1 & 8
- LifeTeen: Sundays, December 22 & 29 and January 5

Sacramental Preparation:

First Reconciliation: January 22, 2014 at 6:30 pm.

LifeTeen Mass:

The next LifeTeen Mass will be Sunday, January 12th at 5:30 pm. Everyone is welcome!

Aluminum Can Recycling:

Thank you for supporting aluminum recycling and Cans for Christ. Please place your cans into the barrels in front of the trailer. Also, please do not put glass, plastic, or garbage in the barrels. Thank you again for your wonderful cooperation and support of this project to support the youth Faith Formation program!

Questions about Faith Formation:

- Preschool – Grade 6: contact Connie Bollum @ connie.bollum@churchofstpeter.org or call 931-3662.
- EDGE (Grs. 7 & 8) & LifeTeen (Grs. 9-12) & Confirmation Preparation (Gr. 11): contact Heather Gilbertson @ heather.gilbertson@churchofstpeter.org or call 931-1628, ext. 143.
- Other Faith Formation Questions: contact Connie Bollum @ connie.bollum@churchofstpeter.org.

Church of St. Paul

December 22, 2013

**Pastor - Fr. Todd Petersen
Priest in Residence - Fr. Ed Ardolf
Parish Administrative Assistant -
Deacon Steven Spilman**

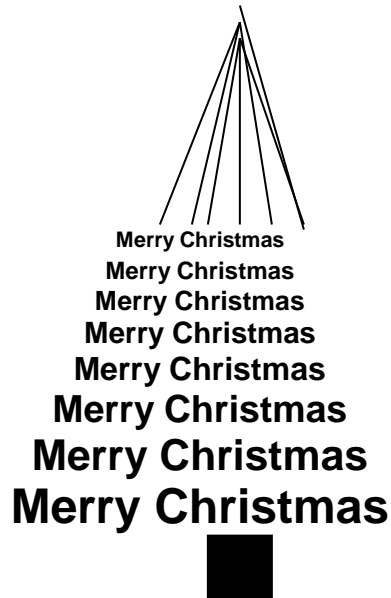
**Parish Office - 507-232-3857
Rectory / Parish Hall - 507-232-3897
Office Hours: Tuesday - Thursday
9:00 am to 12:00 pm**

CHURCH OF ST. PAUL SUNDAY COLLECTION

12/15/13 - Adult - \$1,194.00 / Youth - \$2.00 / Plate - \$45.00

5th Street Assessment - \$1,250.00 / Christmas - \$75.00 / 1st Choice Pregnancy Services - \$148.00

The first payment on the 5th Street Assessment was made Dec. 18, 2013 in the amount of \$10,750.00.



The Catholic Church is rich in traditions. Many of our liturgies draw from traditions that go back to Jesus Christ and even from the time of the Old Testament. Many of our Easter traditions are drawn from the Exodus when Moses led the Hebrew people out of slavery in Egypt. In the history of our Church, traditions that were handed down verbally were eventually documented and became part of Holy Scripture. Tradition often predates writings. We have honored the Christmas traditions of the Nativity for the past 2000 years as we commemorate the birth of Jesus in a manger in Bethlehem. This tradition has been passed down through our families, our churches, and our communities. We received them from our parents and grandparents and pass them on to our children and grandchildren. At least we've tried to. When I was in grade school, the local public playground in my neighborhood had a well-rehearsed pageant play that was performed to standing room only. It was done in a public facility. Many children participated and all parents enjoyed the performance immensely. Somehow those things that were cherished traditions just one generation ago are now being criticized, limited, and severely restricted by secular forces, people holding public power, organizations who are opposed to any public religious expression, a culture of political correctness, and even factions of our own government: a government that was established for many reasons, including the protection of our religious liberty. This week I spoke with someone who said it was a stated policy in portions of school district 77 that they were not to use the greeting, "Merry Christmas". Have we gotten so far off the rail of free religious expression that using the traditional greeting, "Merry Christmas" is no longer acceptable in public? I think not! Let's hold onto that one. It is a greeting that wishes life, happiness, joy, love, and eternal communion with God. There is not one bad component of this greeting. As traditional Catholics, we should be using it everywhere we go with everyone we meet. If it offends anyone, that's their problem. They are reading something into it that isn't there. I plan to use it every chance I get in every forum, public and private. I hope all of you will hold onto this tradition as well. *Merry Christmas from D.S.*

TUESDAY: 6:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Mass

WEDNESDAY: 8:00 a.m. Christmas Day Mass

***Christ's joy in your hearts, His peace in your soul, His love in your life - always!
Merry Christmas!***

MASS SCHEDULE / INTENTIONS

During the winter season, if there is no school or a late start, there will be no Mass.

Monday, 12/23 - NO Mass

Friday, 12/27 - NO Mass

Tuesday, 12/24 - 6:00 pm - † Bob and Annabel Weber

Saturday, 12/28 - 5:00 pm - † Adelle Hinckley

Wednesday, 12/25 - 8:00 am - † Lydia Bauer

Sunday, 12/29 - 8:00 am - For the Parish and

Thursday, 12/26 - NO Mass

† Thomas Streett

MINISTRY OF LITURGY

Saturday, Dec. 28

USHERS: Ruth Brandel, Mike Mans, Dana Potter

LECTOR/COMMENTATOR: Chuck Gappa

EME: Dana Potter

SACRISTAN: Phyllis Wenner

SERVERS: John Hiniker

GIFTS: Ruth Brandel, Brenda Thompson

GREETERS: Ruth Brandel

Sunday, Dec. 29

USHERS: Randy Dorn, Ron & Rick Grommersch

LECTOR/COMMENTATOR: Ann Schwartz

EME: Jay Dorn, Ann Schwartz, Colette T., Cyndi Zins

SACRISTAN: Dcn. Steve

SERVERS: Jenni and Stephen Schwartz

GIFTS: Gerry Leonard, Clarice Rosin

GREETERS: Rhonda Ganger

Tuesday, Dec. 31, Mary, Mother of God, 5:00 pm (Fr. Todd) (A Holy Day of Obligation)

USHERS: Mike Holmin, Mark Zins, Pat Zins

LECTOR/COMMENTATOR: Barb Holmin

SACRISTAN: Dcn. Steve

GIFTS: Kevin and Barb Christenson

EME: Dana Potter

SERVERS: Jon and Riley Mans

GREETER: Marlene Wilking

The sick and/or homebound: *God is taking care of you.* Fr. Ed Ardolf, Sister Miriam Ardolf, Pam Bernal, LeAnna Brown, Harvey Dorn, Charlie Epper, Mary Exoo, Lisa Hackett Family, Darwin Havemeier, Sarah Iverson, Helyna Mack, Gerald Mans, Whitey Mayer, Herman Mettler, Shirley Michels, Larry Miller, Wally Molitor, Rob Renne, Stacy Schultz, Tyler Thompson, Angie and Valerie Weber, Gene Wenner, Rob. We pray for all who are ill or hospitalized.

Nursing Home Residents: Rose Marie Zins, Oak Hills Living Center, New Ulm.

Group Homes: Nadine Brown, James Weber, Mary Jo Weber.

Assisted Living: Eddie Bauer, The Wilds of Sand Prairie, St. Peter. Lucy Kozitza, Monarch Meadows, North Mankato.

PARISH NOTES:

1. **COMING UP:** (Mary, Mother of God is a Holy Day of Obligation)

Tuesday, December 31, 5:00 pm - Mary, Mother of God Mass (Fr. Todd)

Thursday, January 9, 6:30 pm - Joint Administrative Council and Cemetery Committee Meeting

2. **Coffee and rolls** will be served after 8:00 am Mass on Sunday, January 5. Please remember to bring something for the St. Peter Area Foodshelf. **Hostesses will be:** Chris Havemeier, Chmn., Patty Gappa, Bonnie Giefer, Donna Giefer, Pam Grommersch. We will have a 10 minute expert speaker on gardening and composting after 8:00 Mass. More next week. Think "Spring" and put Jan 5 Mass on your calendar.

3. **You may pick up the following in the main entry: 2014 Church Calendars and Living Faith daily devotion booklets for January / February / March.** Please feel free to take one for your personal meditation.