



CHURCH OF ST. PETER
Roman Catholic Community

Church of St. Peter
2600 N. Margaret St.
North St. Paul, MN 55109
651-777-8304



MARCH 21, 2021

5TH SUNDAY OF LENT



Jesus answered them, "The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. Amen, amen, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains just a grain of wheat; but if it dies, it produces much fruit." - Jn 12:23-24



My dear parishioner,

I recently read the “Letter for Lent 2021 of the Abbot General OCist” and I was astonished by the depth of it, and I desire to share this gift of the universal church with each and every one of you. The following is an excerpt; you can find the full letter on <https://www.ocist.org/ocist/images/pdf/EN2021.pdf>

Convert and You Will Live

Dearest brothers and sisters!

The unusual time in which we have been living for more than a year suggests us to recognize that this time is the reality that we cannot live by “skipping over it,”. If we were attentive and aware, we would realize that reality is always unusual, that reality is always more unusual than the normality we dream of.

What does reality ask of us?

The season of Lent, like the insistent reminders of the Pope and the witness of the saints, reminds us that we can express a response without being able to possess it. This response is **conversion**.

Human reality is always dramatic, is always an insistent question. We are questioned by the fragility of our communities, by the lack or short perseverance of vocations, by individualism and little fervor, by the little happiness of many among us in living out our faith and vocation. [...] When I encounter the fidelity that is heroic and, notwithstanding everything, joyous of so many monks and nuns, of so many lay people or pastors in the Church, or even of non-believers, I cannot but feel challenged, called to give a response that God also asks of me.

The grace of graces

Pope Francis ends his precious apostolic letter *Patris corde*, dedicated to St. Joseph, with a surprising phrase: “We need only ask Saint Joseph for the grace of graces: our conversion” (§7).

So much so that St. Benedict made it one of the three essential vows for living in a monastery: the vow of *conversatio morum*, which one could perhaps translate freely as “path of communal conversion of life,” that is a life that, guided by obedience in a communal stability, allows for constant conversion to the Gospel, following Christ the Lord (cf. RB 58:17).

Fear of conversion

Why fear this? Certainly one reason is the lack of awareness and of experience of the Lord’s tenderness.

Why do we fear conversion? Perhaps because we only think of ourselves and live entirely within the closed and exclusive horizon of our “I.” Conversion wants to break this closure. To be converted means in fact to return to Him to whom we belong.

Often we do not return because we fear renouncing the autonomy with which we conceive the salvation of our life. We fear entrusting ourselves, because we think that the pretense of saving ourselves on our own is for us a space of freedom and for self-realization. Thanks be to God, the dissatisfaction and emptiness that we feel living this way drive us to exit from this closure upon ourselves and to begin to entrust ourselves to an Other who we then discover is good Shepherd and Father. We start to understand, that is, that to be free we need a Redemption that we do not bring about on our own. The fear of conversion is overcome only by our profound need for Redemption.

Transformed by his gaze

This conversion of heart becomes possible only by returning to Jesus Christ.

Returning to Jesus – but in reality it is always he who comes to us and seeks us out even when we are furthest from God – allows his presence to transform our heart with a single gaze, like Peter in the courtyard of the high priest (cf. Lk 22:61–62), and above all on the shore of the sea when Jesus – with who knows what kind of gaze! – asks Peter for his love and to feed his flock with the new heart that he gives him (cf. Jn 21:15–17). In this encounter with the risen Redeemer, Peter finds himself already defined by a love that is greater than his limit, than his sin, than his betrayal, and even than his fear of not knowing how to love Christ and the brothers to the point of death.

We should think of this when we return to all that makes the Lord present in our life, as St. Benedict invites us to do when speaking of the time of Lent (RB 49). For example when we return to the fraternal life of our community, to the sacraments, to the Word of God, to the teaching of the Church, or to the brother or sister who needs us, to the poor one who stands outside our door. All these “returns” to the Lord makes us enter into the space in which He changes our heart. All these returns to the Redeemer open us to the surprise and the miracle of discovering that it is precisely where we feared to go that we meet Jesus and allow him to give us a new heart, overflowing with love and joy. It is the great Paschal surprise of the disciples of Emmaus: “Did not our hearts burn within us while he talked to us on the road?” (Lk 24:32)

Our offering in the hands of Christ

This return to Christ is the true offering of our life, and of all that we live. The Christian offering always has a Eucharistic nature, is always a placing of ourselves like bread and wine, or like the five loaves and two fish, into the hands of Christ the Redeemer, who unites us to his offering to the Father for the salvation of the world. In the hands of Christ we become seed sown to reproduce in the field of the world the Paschal mystery of the Lord’s death and resurrection. Only this makes life fruitful, fruitful for the kingdom, and enables us to pass through every trial and every experience of fragility with a peace that bears witness to the good Father who thinks of everything and takes care of everyone.

United on a road that is always open

Readiness for conversion and offering makes us free also from the errors and false attitudes that block our path. It is like having a path always open before us, the road of hope, the road of a newness, of a change that is always possible. Conversion is the new road that Christ opens before us when he says and repeats to us with tenderness his invitation: “Follow me!”

It is important that we not forget that it is precisely this that can unite us, in humanity, among all Christians, in the Church, as also in every community. It is not perfection that unites us but conversion. We can be united only on the path, directed toward the perfection of charity and holiness that we will all find in Heaven.

Perfection in this world is in constant conversion. Perhaps we are afraid of conversion precisely because we believe that it asks us to be perfect and not to be on a path toward a perfection that is a grace of God. We fear to be called to die instead of to live with fullness. Conversion means walking with Jesus, following him, being with Him, even if we are always poor sinners. What can be more beautiful for us in this world?!

**How beautiful the community will be which does not insist on being united by perfection but by conversion!
For it will be united by the charity of faith reaching out in hope.**

For all the baptized conversion means responding to the call and mission to let ourselves be redeemed to the fullest, to live as sons and daughters of God who transmit to all, fraternally, the tenderness of the Father.

Fr. Mauro-Giuseppe Lepori Abbot General OCist

FAMILY FAITH FORMATION

Lenten Penance Service

Wednesday, March 24, 6:30-8pm



Faith Formation families and all parishioners are invited to join us for an evening of Lenten reflection. There will be a short meditation, time for prayer. And Confession. We will have visiting priests available for confession.

COMMUNION AND LIBERATION WAY OF THE CROSS

Downtown St. Paul

April 2, 2021 at 10:00am



The Way of the Cross Twin Cities is an annual procession held on Good Friday, emulating Christ's walk to Calvary. The Way of the

Cross publicly commemorates five stations of the Passion of Jesus Christ. At each station, readings from scripture will be offered, along with hymns, reflections and meditations. Be prepared to walk and dress for the weather. We gather at 9:45am at the Cathedral of St. Paul, walk throughout downtown making stops along the way and end at the Cathedral at 11:30am. All are welcome!

FELLOWSHIP OF THE KEYS

Winter Staycation



We extend our gratitude to each and all who shared our snowy staycation day together with the theme of

"Simon, do you love me?"

We are especially thankful for the reality of the beautiful rule of our companionship for everyday life:

- Jesus gives us something in every moment
- if we can't see it, we will pray about it
- if we do see it, we will share it with each other.

We would like to share with you what two children shared with us:

"I especially like the time when we were at the church because it helped me to think about the relationship between Jesus and Peter that I have not thought about before"

"St Peter was given a great friendship with Jesus. I hope I will have a friendship with someone like that one day".

All 6-7-8th graders are invited to join the Fellowship of the Keys! We meet on Fridays, from 7-9pm.

Remaining dates: 3/26, 4/16, 4/30, 5/7, 5/21;

Summer vacation June 13-17.

Questions: contact Jennifer igreger@stpetersnsp.org or 651-777-8304

SEMINARY APPLICATION

Seminary Application Launch Window is NOW OPEN for Fall 2021

If you know a parishioner who is discerning priesthood and would like help with their next steps, please encourage them to contact Father David Blume. Father Blume is currently meeting with men for consideration and acceptance to the archdiocesan seminarian formation which begins this fall.



Father Blume can be reached at frblume@stthomas.edu or 651-962-6890.

SPRING MARRIAGE PREP



If you are planning on celebrating your marriage here at Saint Peter, please advise us **at least 9 months in advance**. To assist you at the start of this vocation, you are required to attend **three** pre-marriage information sessions here at Saint Peter. There is a substantial amount of information that will be beneficial and therefore **we request both of you to be present**.

The next sessions are:

March 20th, 7:45am - 12pm

April 10th, 7:45am - 11am

April 24th, 7:45am - 11am

We will meet in person, in accordance with the guidelines of the CDC

*Zoom option is available

Questions e-mail: wedding@stpetersnsp.org

MARCH IS FOODSHARE MONTH



For many years, March in Minnesota has been designated as Minnesota FoodShare month. It is a time when nearly every

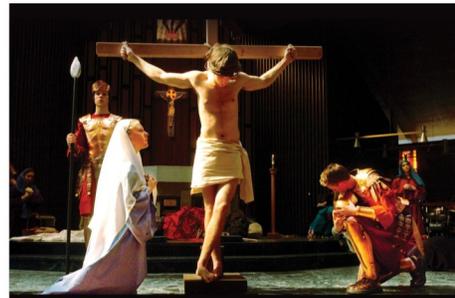
food shelf in the state makes an all-out effort to raise as much food and money as possible.

FoodShare month is very important for a couple reasons. First, our shelves are getting bare. The number of families being served in the first months of the year, and the amount of food going out the door, considerably outstrips the amount of food coming in during the same period.

Second, the financial support we will receive from the FoodShare organization and Hunger Solutions later in the year will be determined in large part by the amount of food and funds we raise in March. Please prayerfully consider a donation to the North St. Paul food shelf.

LIVING STATIONS

22nd Annual "Living Stations of the Cross"



The "Servants of the Cross" group, including many St. Peter parishioners, will re-enact the Passion of Jesus Christ on Good Friday, April 2nd at 10:00am here at the Church of St. Peter, and at 6:00pm at Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary -Maplewood (1725 Kennard Street).

Limited seating available **Reservations are required**. If unable to attend, please join us via our YouTube presentation. A free-will offering is welcomed. To sign-up go to www.churchofstpetersnsp.org



This Fall, you will have an opportunity to help Archbishop Hebda set the direction for the archdiocese by joining a Synod small group at our parish. Together, we will learn, pray, and discuss three areas of focus determined by Archbishop Hebda after gathering feedback during the prayer and listening events held in late 2019.

Here are the three focus areas – and a sampling of what will be covered.

1. Forming parishes that are at the service of evangelization:
 - Welcoming parishes
 - Collaboration in parish ministry
 - Sunday liturgies
2. Forming missionary disciples who know Jesus' love and respond to his call:
 - Resources to facilitate the personal encounter with Jesus
 - Tools to foster discipleship
 - Enhancing adult formation
3. Forming youth and young adults in and for a Church that is always young:
 - Supporting parents as primary educators
 - Helping the young encounter Jesus
 - Rethinking young adult ministry

Review this week's bulletin insert For more information.

CATHOLICS AT THE CAPITOL



Catholics at the Capitol, a day of prayer, education, and advocacy on April 15th. This event, hosted by the Minnesota Catholic Conference is now being offered both virtually and in person at the Cathedral of St. Paul.

The day begins with Mass at the Cathedral, followed by an incredible lineup of speakers, in the afternoon, Benediction at the Capitol and time to pray for our state and our elected leaders.

You'll then meet virtually with legislators the next day as an advocate for life and dignity.

Tickets for both the virtual and in-person event are available until March 31st. Go to CatholicsAtTheCapitol.org to register.



The Gala at St. Peter is our largest fundraiser, allowing us to celebrate our community, reach our financial goals, and provide an excellent faith-based education for our

students. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, our 2021 Gala will be a virtual event. The event consists of an **online auction held the week of April 12th-18th**, and culminates with a **live showcase on Saturday, April 17th at 8:00pm**.

Registration for the silent auction and live showcase is FREE and can be done by visiting <https://stpetersnsp.ejoinme.org/MyEvents/2021>.

To bring the excitement of the Gala to your home while you watch the live showcase, we are offering take home party packages for purchase. These packages will be ordered in advance and then delivered (within 10 miles of St. Peter's) or picked up from school the day of the event. Visit our website for all the information.

Looking for other ways you can support the gala?

Silent Auction Donations: Donations for our silent auction are always appreciated. Starting this weekend, there will be a board in the gathering space at church with items needed for our silent auction. As in previous years, choose a card with whatever item you wish to donate, purchase the item(s) and then drop them off in the parish or school office no later than March 21, 2021.

Raffles: Each year during the gala we have two raffles. A 50/50 payout and our famous Booze Bucket raffle. This year we will be selling tickets for these two raffles in the weeks prior to our live showcase. You'll be able to purchase raffle tickets after weekend masses on the following weekends: March 20th & 21st, March 27th & 28th, and April 13th & 14th. For more information about the raffles, check out the gala website.

Share the event with others: The greatest support for St. Peter Catholic School comes from our families, neighbors, and our wonderful parish community. We invite you to share the links with them.

MASS INTENTIONS

Week of March 21 - March 28, 2021

Sunday:	8:00 AM	†Rodney Raschke
	10:30 AM	†Joseph Rauh Sr.
	6:00 PM	Parishioners
Monday:	8:00 AM	†Margaret Fleming
Tuesday:	8:00 AM	†Pearl Schmidt
Wednesday:	8:00 AM	†Tom Leavitt Jr.
	6:00 PM	†Martin Fustgaard
Thursday:	8:00 AM	†Reparation for Offenses Against the Holy Eucharist
Friday:	8:00 AM	†Glenn O'Kane
	9:30 AM	†End of the Pandemic
Saturday:	8:00 AM	†Charles Frederick Ambelang
	4:00 PM	†Willard Parenteau
Sunday:	8:00 AM	†Arbena Kyle
	10:30 AM	†Dan Leko
	6:00 PM	Parishioners

HOLY WEEK & EASTER MASS



Registration Required

Sign Up available
online or call the
parish office at
651-777-8304

- Palm Sunday Vigil Saturday, March 27:
Mass 4:00pm
- Palm Sunday, March 28: Mass 8:00am,
10:30am, and 6:00pm
- Holy Thursday, April 1: Mass of the Lord's
Supper 7:00pm*
- Good Friday, April 2: Veneration of the
Cross 3:00pm
- Holy Saturday, April 3: Easter Vigil
8:00pm*
- Easter Sunday, April 4: Mass 7:00am,
9:00am*, and 11:00am*

* incense will be used

SACRIFICIAL GIVING

As of March 14th for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2021

Collected for Week: Envelopes & Plate	\$13,606.
Collected for Week: Electronic Giving	\$5,669.
Total Amount Collected for Week	\$19,275.
Amount Budgeted for Week	\$17,604.
Collected to Date: Stocks & Special Gifts	\$870,133
Budgeted to Date: Stocks & Special Gifts	\$870,382.
Percentage Above (or Below) Budget	-0.03%
Amount Above (or Below) Budget	(\$249.)

EMAIL OR TEXT SCAM AFFECTING PARISHES

With the coronavirus there are new attempts!

The Archdiocese has been notified that several local parishes have been affected by an email and text scam. Using Priest, Principal or a staff member's name the scammer will create a new email address or text, contact the staff members, parishioners, or volunteers via email or text and then ask for a favor, money or gift cards.

PLEASE DO NOT RESPOND TO THESE EMAILS.

If you receive such a fraudulent email or text from the parish or any staff member, please contact Jeff Peterson, jpeterson@stpetersnsp.org and notify the North St. Paul Police. **DO NOT RESPOND TO THE EMAIL OR TEXT.** In the case of any email or text asking for funds or appearing to be suspicious, **IT IS A GOOD IDEA TO CONTACT THE PERSON DIRECTLY BY PHONE OR IN PERSON TO MAKE SURE IT IS AUTHENTIC.**

Forward original phishing email messages to spam@uce.gov and file a complaint with the **Federal Trade Commission (FTC).**

UPCOMING EVENTS

Mark Your Calendar!

- **Each Wednesday in Lent:** Mass (6pm)
Confession (5:30 - 5:50pm)
- **Each Friday in Lent:** Stations of the Cross (7pm)
- **Good Friday:** Living Stations of the Cross (10am)



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<p>NORTH ST. PAUL AUTOMOTIVE For all your service needs. 2617 Division St. N. 651-777-1701 nspautomotive@live.com</p>	<p>Marathon Realty lmarazoc@home.com 651-300-0130 Ext 751 * We can also help you list your home or assist you as a buyer on your next real estate home!</p>	<p>Furlong's Liquor Terry Furlong - Dan Furlong Parishioners 4777 Geneva Avenue N. Way 36 & Century • 779-7157 FurlongsLiquor.com</p> <p>Worst Best Liquor Store Best Wine Selection Best Service Past 21 Years Party Planning and Delivery Open Late Night 8-10pm Monday - Saturday</p>	<p>Bush Realty Full Service for LENS! Gale Bush Broker/Owner Realtor® Since 1961 651-777-4622 rebush@lln.com</p> <p>Rachel Mastreller Realtor® Since 2005 651-283-8230 rmastreller@lln.com</p>	
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