



St. Peter & St. Paul November, 2009 Newsletter

A Message From Father Alan

November...a serious tone is set right at the beginning of this month as we honor All Saints and All Souls. Somewhere in that blessed company stand our loved ones who have gone before us, and we honor them this month with prayerful remembrance. In this remembrance we are also led to better perspective about our own lives. Life is a pilgrimage. We journey together towards our heavenly goal. Yet all along we are called to announce, celebrate and build God's kingdom. We do that through faithful stewardship of all that God has given us, through our love and care for others, and by nurturing a personal relationship with God through prayer. I hope that Sunday Eucharist can always be an inspiring and prayer-filled moment, nourishing and strengthening us for all that life holds. Please know how important your presence is each Sunday to our community!



As we continue this twinned parish adventure, I marvel each day at the giftedness of our community: the talented and energetic parish staff members and parish leaders, the wise and prayerful people who attend daily Mass, the joyfulness of our children and youth and their teachers as they all grow together in knowledge and faith, the many families and households who are each a vital part of this faith community. I realize that for all of us there have been changes in our manner of "being Church" these past several years. Change challenges us. It often brings out our best! Believe me, I truly appreciate every positive effort, every kind and supportive word, every decision to say "yes" to where the Spirit is leading us....even as the vision for our community still unfolds.

I ask in particular for your prayer for the efforts that are continuing in the metro-area planning process for Catholic Education and Parish Faith Formation. And I thank the parishioners and staff members who have thus far given so much to this process.

I wish also to thank our combined personnel committee, the pastoral councils and finance committees as they lead us towards greater cost-effective procedures with our parish offices and business management. This is another area where we can mutually benefit through greater collaboration...and at the same time free the pastor for pastoral leadership rather than administration!
(Continued on Page 2)

Inside this issue:

A Message From Fr. Alan	1
Christ Continues to Call Us As Stewards	2
Faith Formation	3
Confirmation/ Youth Ministry St. Paul's & Bethlehem Lutheran Choirs	4
Taking Time This Advent	5
BeFriender Ministry St. Peter & St. Paul Maintenance Staff	6
SPPM News	7
Upcoming Events	8

ST. PETER'S MISSION STATEMENT

We, the Christian community of St. Peter's Parish, nourished and strengthened by the Word and Eucharist, dedicate ourselves to making the presence of God alive in our time

ST. PAUL'S STATEMENT OF MISSION

We are a believing community called together by the Word of God, proclaiming Jesus as Lord. God's Word calls us to be welcoming, serving, compassionate, and open to diversity. Our purpose as a Christian people is to facilitate the reign of God through worship, service to others, companionship and education.

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Office Fax:.....251-2648
Web site: www.churchofstpaul.org

Church of Saint Peter, 930 31st Avenue North, St. Cloud, MN 56303

Parish Office:.....252-2113
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Office Fax:.....529-0796
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SPPM Primary School:251-4737

SPPM Middle School:251-5295

(A Message From Fr. Alan—Continued from Page 1)

Our next intentional, combined celebration is planned for **Thanksgiving**. We will have one Thanksgiving Mass this year and it will be at 9:00 AM on Thanksgiving Day at St. Peter's. We hope that the church will overflow with God's thankful people, and that in a special way we can experience our unity, gathered at God's Table to give thanks and praise for our many blessings and gifts. A combined choir from both of our parishes will lead the music. I hope **YOU** will plan to attend!



CHRIST CONTINUES TO CALL US AS STEWARDS

By Terry Sakry
Parish Administrator

Autumn has felt like it may have sold us a bit short this year; but I'm trying to focus on how much more I appreciate the warm days, when we have them. Since we have been use to warm, sunny autumn days, its hard when it has been wet, cloudy and rather sullen. Sometimes, in the midst of the soggy, sullen days it's hard to hear Jesus calling us to follow. The Christian vocation represents a call to be a disciple of Christ, regardless of how our surroundings make us "feel" at any given moment. Receiving our commissioned summons in Baptism and Confirmation, we must focus on listening for Christ's personal call throughout our lifetime. We respond through our spiritual formation and stewardship expressions.

Everyday gives new opportunities to show that we choose to live as one of Christ's disciples. Our expressions can show that we have listened to the Gospel messages, have received God's gifts gratefully, and are nurturing our gifts responsibly. By sharing our gifts justly and generously and returning each with gratitude through our daily living we are responding to Christ's call.

Soon we will be moving into Advent, a time of preparation and waiting. Perhaps it's the perfect time for us to be especially attentive to what Christ is calling us to. Take time each day to focus on listening for Christ's personal call and at the end of the day share with other family members the way in which Christ has been revealed to you. Whether it was the volunteer ringing the bell at the grocery store or the homeless person in need of a meal or a kindness extended to you by a stranger, Christ was present in your day. Challenge your family members to think about how Christ was present and how they responded to his call.

Watch the bulletin for an Advent Calendar that the Stewardship Committee has been working on. We will be offering ways to reinforce that Christ calls all of us to acts of kindness and charity and also encourages us to deepen our prayer life each day. We will run our Advent calendar from the first Sunday in Advent to the Baptism of Christ on January 10th.



*"In Christ we who are many
form one body, and each member
belongs to all the others."*

Romans 12:5

Faith Formation

Geralyn Nathe-Evans



By the time you read this newsletter, we will have had our first large gathering on November 4th of our Whole Parish Faith Formation process. During the month of November we are furthering our understanding of saints, those that have been canonized as well as those we are each called to be in this world. If you were unable to join us, **please mark you calendars for December 2nd at 6:30 to meet in the Church of St. Paul's.** In December we will focus our formation on Advent and how we prepare for the coming of the Lord into our hearts and home. The first Wednesday of each month we will join our two communities of faith together for an exciting evening of prayer, song, learning, listening and growing in our Catholic faith together. Throughout this process we will continue to make the connection between sharing faith and catechesis, between the Sunday Mass and the other six days of the week, between life in our households and life in our communities. We will strive to recognize God in our midst and how we live in the midst of God. Everyone is invited to participate. Our process of this combined faith formation will flow from the rhythm of the seasons of our Church. We will have focused learning of our tradition of being Catholic as well as sharing of faith stories, successes and struggles. All are called to join together as one community of learners. We strive for this process to celebrate the sacraments which do not culminate our faith but rather more deeply engage us in our faith.

In his writings on Whole Parish Catechesis, Bill Huebsch invites us to consider how we are all called. Try to image with me as we consider how our parish community might be transformed by our intentional recognition that Christ is not only among each of us but within each of us.

Who are you? Are you married with kids, worrying for them and committed to their welfare? Are you divorced? Are you married for the second or even third time? Are you a single parent struggling to make ends meet, but also hoping to have love and companionship in your life again? Are you gay or lesbian? Well if you are, you belong to us because you belong to Christ. The Good News is that Christ welcomes us all.

Are you lonely? Are you a widow? Are you a single man or woman who would prefer to have a spouse? Are you disabled or disfigured? Have you been suffering and hurting? Does your life seem lacking? Is your faith uncertain? The Good News is that Christ is here today, as always and he welcomes you as part of his family.

Are you struggling financially? Have you been laid off? Are you out of work because of the economy? Does it seem like you cannot get it all together? You belong to Christ and Christ welcomes you as part of his body.

Have you been a victim of abuse or violence? Are you fearful? Are you a criminal or imprisoned? Do you have a past of which you feel ashamed? Are you homeless or hopeless? Well, if so, you belong to us because you belong to Christ. The Good News is that Christ welcomes you.

Are you new here? Are you an immigrant or from another tradition? Are you full of doubt like Thomas? Are you fearful like the disciples were? Do you feel as if you have it all together, are feeling grand and all is well? Has it been awhile since you came to Mass? None of that matters. You belong to the community because you belong to Christ.

All the people of God are welcome here- that is the really Good News! If you have been away, you can come back. If you have been living in darkness, you can come to the light. If you haven't been able to believe without seeing him, look around, the Body of Christ is joining together to learn and love together. We are the people of God and we come to welcome one another.

Sinners are welcome, saints too! Everyone is welcome and our Lord and God is elated you are coming!



What an exciting time for our faith formation community of St. Peter and St. Paul's. We continue the hard, exciting process of calling together all those from both parishes into one community of life-long learners. Young and old alike will be joining together on the first Wednesday of each month to explore a topic of our Catholic faith. Grounded in doctrine and flowing from our Sunday worship we are all called to recognize how "our story" connected with "THE STORY" of faith as we come to

understand God revealed to us in our lives each and every day.

We as a community, will continue to develop this process of faith formation and indeed, find a name for this new process at St. Peter and St. Paul's as one community of learners and teachers. We are the people of God and we join together to love and serve one another. Please look for announcements each week in the bulletin and plan to join in this wonderful time of formation in our Catholic faith.

Coordinator of Confirmation/Youth Ministry

Beth Neville



The 2009/2010 Confirmation Preparation Program is underway with 77 candidates coming together from both St. Peter's and St. Paul's twice a month under the dedicated and committed leadership of 9 adult catechists and 9 peer mentors also representing both parishes. We are working together on strengthening our blended faith community as we prepare for the sacrament by learning about our faith experiences in both large and small group settings as well as with monthly mentor meetings. Session topics for this fall include "One and Holy: A Community of Faith"; "Invited to Discipleship: A Witness to Faith in Words and Deeds"; "The Communion of Saints"; "The Birth of the Savior: the Mystery of Incarnation"; "Three in One: The Mystery of God's Love" and "The Gifts of the Holy Spirit".

At the end of October, our two parishes celebrated the 1 year anniversary of our partnership with our sister parish, St. Peter's Oyugis in Kenya Africa. In May we celebrated with an evening of traditional Kenyan food, silent auction of artifacts, and a presentation of our travels to Kenya in March. Since July 1st, we have been sharing on the first Sunday of every month, our sister parish prayer, photos from the community, petitions and any available news. We have also been posting an information board at both parishes that have pictures of life in Oyugis, a short Luo language lesson, and sister parish committee members. At this time, many parishioners and committees have expressed interest or are already pursuing

communication with "pen pals" from Kenya so that they can more personally know our brothers and sisters overseas. These relationships are about sharing commonalities and differences, joys and sorrows, education and family life, hobbies and careers. This is really only the beginning of this partnership! Next September, we will have the privilege of welcoming 2 delegates from our sister parish in Oyugis. Please continue to support this global relationship by taking the time to check websites on mission and solidarity, attending the fundraising events offered and learning on a more personal level about the lives of these wonderful people.

YOUTH MINISTRY in our parishes is alive and exciting thanks to the welcome, support and encouragement of our community of faith! I am honored, amazed and humbled to see all the youth who serve in liturgy as Eucharistic ministers, lectors, music ministers, ushers, servers, greeters; peer mentoring for sacramental prep, faith formation and various parish activities; stewardship and service opportunities; fundraising; Social Justice outreach; community building; sister-parish partnership. Our youth are attending and participating in metro area events; Diocesan events such as A Call to Service and the Senior High Rally; as well as National Events like the National Catholic Youth Conference in Kansas City, Missouri. Please take time to welcome and get to know a young person in our parish community!

St. Paul's & Bethlehem Lutheran Choirs "Make a Joyful Noise" as they Sing and Celebrate Together

Recently musicians from The Church of Saint Paul, in collaboration with The Bethlehem Lutheran Church of St. Cloud, worshiped together as part of the American Composers Forum's Faith Partners Residency Program. This ecumenical program, designed by the American Composers Forum and funded by the Otto Bremer Foundation, with no expense to participating churches, enables religious institutions to select a composer to create original musical works appropriate for use in the worship services of participating congregations. Worship leaders at St. Paul's and Bethlehem selected composer, Thomas Porter. Over the past year, Tom composed six pieces of wonderful music entitled, ***Al-la-le-lu-ia!***, ***Weave us, Lord,*** ***At This Holy Banquet, Make a Joyful Noise, Christ Has No Hands But Ours, and Ubi Caritas.*** *At This Holy Banquet, a beautiful communion song, features the following text written by Delores Dufner, OSB:*

Refrain:

At this banquet we receive life as you give yourself to us in bread and wine.

From this table may we share life, give of self for the life of the world.

When we hear the Gospel stories, how you walked the earth among us we remember Jesus, how you lived. When we pray our Creed, confessing how you won for us salvation, we remember, Jesus, how you loved and died.

When we see the hungry homeless, when we see the starving children, Jesus, may we see your face in theirs. When we hear the widow weeping, When we hear the plight of prisoners, Jesus, may we hear your cry for help in theirs.

When we lift our hearts and voices giving thanks for ev'ry blessing, we remember, Jesus, how you lived. When we eat the bread you offer, when we drink the cup of blessing, we remember, Jesus, how you loved and died.

May the circle 'round this table open out to welcome others; may our doors and hearts be opened wide. May the blessings we receive here overflow for all creation; May we share your life abundant with the world.

***"Let us rejoice and be glad now and always,
for we are united in Christ." Tom Porter***



Laurie Kremer
St. Paul

Taking Time this Advent

Liturgists



Paul Radkowski
St. Peter

Time is a precious gift this Advent Season.

- Time to welcome...
- Time to watch...
- Time to create...
- Time to contemplate...
- Time to be hopeful...
- Time to share generously...
- Time to be still...
- Time to listen...



As time marches onward, The Advent liturgies resound with the voice of John the Baptist, Jesus, and the prophets reminding us to “stay awake”, to be alert to all of the opportunities that we have to use our precious time wisely.

We are reminded to take time to “be with” people – to really be present. To stop and visit and stay awhile. Of course there are letters and cards, e-mail, phone calls, face book and other electronic communication forms, but nothing compares to the gift of “presence”. As we still have time, let us remember to share it with our family, neighbors and friends and others who may need the gift of our time. This is the work of all of us – to take time to love this Advent.

Could you take time to share a little or a “latte”?

Pumpkin Latte

- 1-2 Tbs canned pumpkin
- 1 tsp vanilla extract
- ¼ tsp cinnamon
- 1 cup milk
- ½ cup brewed fresh hot coffee
- sugar to taste

In a saucepan heat milk and pumpkin until steaming. Add vanilla and cinnamon. Put mixture in a blender until thick and foamy. Pour into a mug and add hot coffee. Add sugar if you like and a sprinkle of nutmeg.

Giving Thanks Together

There will be one joint Thanksgiving Liturgy for St. Peter’s and St. Paul’s. This year we will celebrate together at 9:00 AM on Thursday, November 26th, at St. Peter’s. Our combined musicians and singers will lead us in song as we praise God together. *Please remember to bring your donation for the Food Shelf.*

Reconciliation

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|-----------------|-------------|-------------------------|
| Dec. 9, 6:30 pm | St. Paul’s | Communal Reconciliation |
| Dec. 19 1:00 pm | St. Peter’s | Communal Reconciliation |

Christmas Joint Mass Schedule

- | | | |
|-------------------|-------------|--|
| Dec. 24, 6:00 pm | St. Peter’s | Adult Mixed Choir— <i>prelude begins at 5:30 pm</i> |
| Dec. 24, 10:00 pm | St. Paul’s | Adult Choir— <i>prelude music begins at 9:30 pm</i> |
| Dec. 25, 8:00 am | St. Peter’s | Contemporary Choir— <i>prelude music begins at 7:45 am</i> |
| Dec. 25, 9:30 am | St. Paul’s | Children’s Choir—Christmas Story proclaimed by children |
| Dec. 25, 10:30 am | St. Peter’s | Children’s Choir— <i>prelude music begins at 10:20</i> |

BEFRIENDER MINISTRY

The BeFriender Ministry is a lay pastoral care program. Trained lay persons enter into a caring relationship with others at times of special need by visiting with them, being with them - bringing emotional and spiritual support.

Anyone who is experiencing a challenge in life might benefit from having a BeFriender. And who are the BeFrienders? They are men and women dedicated to a nonjudgmental, confidential, listening presence to a person in need of a listening ear. They are people who allow others to express their own feelings without telling the other how they should or shouldn't feel. They are people who will give others time and opportunity to make their own decisions without feeling a need to decide for them. And they are people who understand and value the faith community as necessary to spiritual growth.

New BeFrienders receive 20 hours of initial training and serves a short internship before being commissioned. After commissioning, there is on-going formation to facilitate spiritual and personal growth to enhance the BeFriender's ministry.

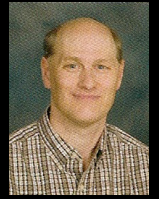
We have many capable and well trained BeFrienders at St. Peter's and St. Paul's Parishes. We are deeply grateful to each of them. Their ministry is to be a FRIEND with another who needs a listening ear. Sometimes, it is very healthy to have someone sit with us, to vent, to share pain and sorrows, broken dreams or grief. Many times, this can begin the healing process. Most of us, sometime in our lives, can benefit greatly from a BeFriender. Please allow us to minister to you. All arrangements are confidential.

If you or someone you know needs a BeFriender or if you are interested in knowing more about this ministry, you may call Bill and Linda Ritchie from St. Peter's at 252-0211 or from St. Paul's Dorothy Randall at 654-8485 or Mary Spoden at 252-3921.



Carl

St. Peter's Maintenance Staff



Dan

With school in session for two and a half months; fall is here and winter is on the doorstep, the Maintenance Department at St. Peter's is moving full speed ahead! We are putting a new roof on the south wing of the school and church. As many of you have seen, the insulation from that job is still in a dumpster in the south parking lot!

There is a new Grounds & Maintenance Committee being formed here at St. Peter's. We have invited folks

who have a background or experience in areas of maintenance we work with here. The function of this committee is to assist the maintenance staff with ideas, concerns and possible solutions to many difficult questions and problems that arise.

On behalf of the Maintenance Staff here at St. Peter's Dan Wierens and I would like to thank everyone for their help and support.



Gredo



Pat



Neil

St. Paul's Maintenance Staff

Fall is here and winter seems to be quickly approaching. The Maintenance Staff at St. Paul's has been preparing for winter and getting projects completed before the serious snow begins to fall. Recently, we had three more of our maple trees removed from the front lawn of the school. Unfortunately the trees were victims of the maple disease that has claimed many trees in the area. Also, the McDowall Company was here to do their fall roof inspection. A couple of very small repairs were necessary and now our roofs should be in good shape through another winter.

Inside the facility, we will be installing new panic bars on the six doors surrounding the baptismal font. Our insurance carrier, Catholic Mutual, has been concerned about the safety around the baptismal font. The installation of panic bars will allow us to secure the Church when events are happening in other areas of the facility. We have carefully chosen door hardware that is the closest match to what is currently on the doors. This completion of this project will help keep our facility safe and secure for many years to come.

Saints Peter, Paul and Michael School “Dividends for Life”



Last Spring, after our Sts. Peter, Paul and Michael School (SPPM) 8th grade graduation liturgy, I was visiting with the parents of one of our graduates. They were so moved by the mass celebrating their son's 9 years at SPPM and commented, "This is why we send our kids to SPPM!"

What makes us different from other schools is our mission: "The Sts. Peter, Paul and Michael School System works in a spirit of partnership with parents and the parish communities to provide a high quality Catholic education which enables our preschool through eighth grade students to live their lives according to the Gospel of Jesus Christ."

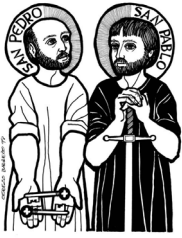


Sts. Peter, Paul and Michael School extends their sincere appreciation to all who donated so generously to their recent Marathon at Whitney Park. For the first time ever, we had a snowy morning for our walk! Donations are still trickling in and much appreciated at any time; we have raised over \$36,000!! Every penny of this money goes right into our school. This is possible because of the many generous businesses and individuals, along with our own Home and School and the Area Knights of Columbus Councils who donate the incentives and cover any costs for the actual event. Thanks for your investment in SPPM.

According to the National Catholic Education Association (NCEA), "...there are 2.2 million students attending Catholic School in the United States. At a time when the automobile industry and banks are seeking billions in federal bailouts, the NCEA estimates that Catholic schools provide \$19.8 billion in savings for the nation's taxpayers."



Give us a call today! 251-5295



**The Churches of
St. Peter and St. Paul
1125 11th Avenue North
St. Cloud, MN 56303**

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Newsletter

Upcoming Events

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|---------------|---|---------------------|---|
| Nov 22 | SPA Coffee & Rolls | Dec 24 | Christmas Eve Liturgies
6 PM St. Peter's
10 PM St. Paul's |
| Nov 24 | SPE/SPA Baptism Prep Night @ St. Peter's | Dec 25 | Christmas Day Liturgies
8 AM St. Peter's
9:30 AM St. Paul's
10:30 AM St. Peter's |
| Nov 26 | Thanksgiving Liturgy, 9 AM @ St. Peter's | Dec 28-Jan-3 | St. Paul's Church of the Week |
| Dec 2 | All Parish Faith Formation @ St. Paul's 6:30 PM | Dec 27 | Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph |
| Dec 6 | SPA Coffee & Rolls with Special Guest ST. NICK | Dec 31 | New Year's Eve Liturgy—4:30 PM St. Paul's |
| Dec 7 | Immaculate Conception Liturgy 6:30 PM at St. Paul | Jan 1 | New Year's Day Liturgy—9:30 AM St. Peter's |
| Dec 8 | Immaculate Conception Liturgy 8:15 AM St. Peter
Immaculate Conception Liturgy 10 AM St. Paul | Jan 3 | Epiphany |
| Dec 9 | Reconciliation St. Paul 6:30 PM | Jan 6 | All Parish Faith Formation at St. Paul's 6:30 PM |
| Dec 13 | SPE Breakfast | Jan 10 | Baptism of the Lord |
| Dec 14 | SPPM Christmas Program @ St. Peter's 6:30 PM | Jan 18-24 | St. Peter's Church of the Week |
| Dec 15 | SPPM Choir Concert @ St. Paul's 7 PM | Jan 31-Feb 6 | Catholic Schools' Week |
| Dec 17 | SPPM Christmas Program @ St. Peter 6:30 PM | Feb 3 | All Parish Faith Formation @ St. Paul's 6:30 PM |
| Dec 19 | Reconciliation St. Peter 1:00 PM | | |
| Dec 20 | SPA Men's Breakfast | | |