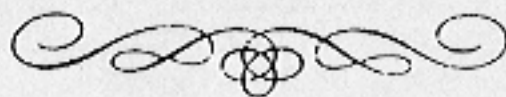


MEMORIAL AND PRESERVATION FUND
HISTORIC CHURCH OF SAINT PETER
BUILT 1853 **RESTORED 1978**

MENDOTA, MINNESOTA
55150



For Historic Church Information
Call 651.452.4550

Welcome

The Historic Church of Saint Peter welcomes all of you who enter here to share the heritage of years gone by. In 1840, Father Lucien Galtier became the resident priest of the new parish, Saint Peter's. This first church was actually a room, used as a chapel, at the home of Scott Campbell, a government interpreter at Fort Snelling. Father Galtier began work on a new chapel which was dedicated on October 2, 1842, as the first church of Saint Peter. This small log building, measuring only twenty by forty feet, had only a few small windows, but it did have a bell which was blessed a few weeks later on October 29. This small structure served as both church and dwelling. Father Galtier's work at Saint Peter's was continued in 1844 by Father Augustine Ravoux. In 1853, five years before Minnesota became a state, the Historic Church of Saint Peter, as we see it today, was built on these rocky cliffs overlooking the joining of the Mississippi and Minnesota Rivers. Father Ravoux and his parishioners built this present structure of stone from a nearby quarry, and split shingles by hand to cover the roof.

In the years following, many changes were made, mainly to the interior of the church. In 1877, Father Payette added side galleries resembling opera seats in the rear of the church with stairs leading to each side. In 1887, Father Duane took the two story adjunct, previously used as a dwelling, and formed it into a sacristy/sanctuary. A new steeple and belfry were built as the originals had been destroyed in a storm. In 1902, Father Martin Mahoney removed the center aisle and installed two side aisles. He also elevated the floor four feet at the entrance and built a choir loft. In 1904, Monsignor Oster installed stain glass windows. In 1909 Father Patrick O'Connor installed side altars and statues.

In 1973 the Maintenance and Development Committee realized that the church needed a complete restoration. A new committee was appointed, known as the Restoration Committee. After a year of extensive research by our archivist, plans were drawn up, and work was begun on the exterior of the church in 1977. On May 27, 1978, work was begun on the interior of

the church. As the enormity of this restoration became a reality, it was decided to forego the steeple restoration, but a dedicated preservationist, upon hearing of this, singly contributed the sum needed for this final stage of restoration.

On September 24, 1978, to celebrate the completion of the restoration, a dedication ceremony was held. Archbishop John Roach presided at the Dedication, assisted by Father Michael Arms, Pastor of the Historic Church of Saint Peter at the time. The Restoration Committee and a large group of members of the congregation dressed in period costumes, and took the voyage from Fort Snelling to Saint Peter's on the Jonathan Padelford. It was a memorable and happy day for the entire parish.

In December 1978, twelve parishioners were appointed to the Guardianship Board. This Board now is entrusted with the responsibility to oversee all facets of the building, grounds and functions for the Historic Church, and to administer the Memorial and Preservation Fund.

WE INVITE YOU TO ASSIST US IN A SPECIAL KIND OF PERMANENCE. PLEASE JOIN US IN PRESERVING THE HISTORIC CHURCH OF SAINT PETER BY GIVING . . .

- Memorial offerings at the time of the death of a friend or relative, or in memory of some deceased friend or relative on the anniversary of a significant event.
- A donation at Christmas time.
- Bequests (Wills and Testaments) can be made to Historic Saint Peter's Church, with the direction that the bequest be used for the Memorial Fund.

NAMES OF ALL DONORS AND MEMORIALS WILL BECOME PART OF THE PERMANENT RECORD OF THE HISTORIC CHURCH OF SAINT PETER.



*Historic Church of St. Peter
Memorial and Preservation Fund*

*Enclosed is a contribution in the amount of \$ _____
for _____*

*(This contribution may be dedicated towards a memorial of a deceased,
wedding or birthday anniversary, birth, gift, etc. Please indicate.)*

Send Acknowledgment To

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Address _____