

633 S. Walnut Street, P.O. Box 47 • Rochester, IL 62563-0047 • Parish Office 217-498-9197



ST. JUDE
CATHOLIC CHURCH

"Be an Intentional Disciple"

EUCCHARISTIC CELEBRATIONS

Sunday Obligation

Saturday: Vigil: 4:30 p.m.
Sunday: 8:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.

Weekday Masses

Monday: 5:30 p.m.
Tuesday thru Friday 7:30 a.m.
Holy Days: 7:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m.

RECONCILIATION

Saturday: 3:30 p.m. - 4:15 p.m.
(Anytime by appointment)

BAPTISM

Date set after Pre-Jordan Session.

MARRIAGE

6-month preparation period.

RCIA

Contact Father Peter or Deacon Tom

PARISH OFFICE HOURS

Monday-Thursday: 9:00 a.m. - Noon, 1 p.m. - 4 p.m.
Friday: 9:00 a.m. - 12 Noon, 1 p.m. - 3 p.m.

OFFICE TELEPHONE NUMBER

Parish Office 217-498-9197

PARISH STAFF E-MAIL ADDRESSES

Fr. Peter	pchineke@dio.org
Deacon Tom	twalker@dio.org
Deacon Ray	rroth@dio.org
Alicia:	PSR@churchofstjude.com
Carolyn:	Media@churchofstjude.com
Sue:	Slutz@churchofstjude.com
Stacey:	Sharrison@churchofstjude.com
Frances:	Fyocum@churchofstjude.com

WEB SITES

Parish: www.churchofstjude.com



PARISH MISSION STATEMENT

We are children of God and members of the One, Holy, Catholic, and Apostolic Church, under the guidance of the Diocese of Springfield in Illinois. We are united in Christ, devoted to the Eucharist, prayer, and service. Guided by the Holy Spirit, we strive to proclaim the Gospel with love, uphold the dignity of every person, and nurture spiritual growth through worship, catechesis, and compassionate outreach. Inspired by our patron, St. Jude, the Apostle of Hope, we bring light to the suffering, strength to the weary, and hope to the hopeless, building God's kingdom in faith and unity here in Rochester, Illinois. Come, Let's Journey Together.

CHRISTMAS MESSAGE

Dear Parishioners and Friends of St. Jude Parish,

As we celebrate the holy and joyous season of Christmas, my heart is filled with profound gratitude for each of you. The birth of our Lord Jesus Christ reminds us that God enters our world not with power or force, but with love, humility, and hope. In the Christ Child laid in the manger, heaven touches earth, and peace is offered anew to every heart, every family, every institution and to every nation that seeks peace and willing to give peace.

This Christmas, I give thanks for the remarkable journey we have shared as the St. Jude Parish family. Together, we have achieved boundless greatness – not by worldly standards, but through faithful dedication to God, our parish and to one another. Spiritually, we have grown deeper in prayer, sacramental life, and trust in God's providence. Our worship and liturgical celebrations are more reverent, solemn, and spiritually endearing. Ministries, and personal commitments to holiness continue to bear fruit in transformed lives. Individuals are more eager and ready to participate in our liturgical and sacramental activities. What a blessing!

Physically, we have strengthened our parish through stewardship, service, and collective sacrifice – improving our facilities, supporting parish initiatives, and ensuring that our church remains a welcoming and dignified home for worship and community. Socially, we have fostered unity, compassion, and outreach, standing with other Christian communities around us especially during the Thanksgiving Ecumenical service here in our Church last month. We continue to reach out to the

vulnerable, the homeless, and the sick, while nurturing our youth, children, families, and building bonds that reflect the love of Christ alive among us.

None of this has been accomplished alone. It is the fruit of shared faith, generous hearts, and a parish united in mission. You are living witnesses that when a community places Christ at its center, extraordinary things happen. From the depths of my heart, I say THANK YOU to each one of you – parishioners and friends of St. Jude.

As we celebrate Christmas, may the peace of Christ dwell richly in your homes. May His light guide you through the coming year, fill you with hope, and strengthen you in love. Know that you and your loved ones are remembered in my personal prayers and daily sacrifices at the altar.

From my heart to yours, I wish you a blessed, joyful, and peace-filled Christmas.

In Christ's love,

Your brother, friend, father, son, and pastor,

Fr. Peter Chineke



The Christmas season at St. Jude's Parish was truly a blessing. We gathered for a lovely dinner with friends we lovingly call family, coming together in prayer and in celebration of our Lord. It was a beautiful reminder of how faith brings us closer, especially during this sacred season.



The evening was filled with joy and Christmas cheer. The Angel Choir lifted our hearts, the Advent wreath contest added creativity and fun, and the Rochester High School Madrigals delivered a concert that moved the entire room. Their music filled the space with peace and joy, and even the littlest ones couldn't resist dancing along.



Most of all, the night gave us the chance to pause and reflect on the traditions that shape the Christmas season—traditions rooted in peace, love, joy, and hope. It was a meaningful reminder of the true spirit of Christmas and the blessings of community, faith, and togetherness



-Carolyn Pemberton



Christmas Through a Parent's Eyes

As parents, Christmas can start to feel more like a race than a season of peace. There are gifts to buy, school dress up days, concerts, cookies to bake, schedules to juggle, and a hundred little things that all feel incredibly urgent. In the middle of all that hustle, it can be so easy to realize we have been preparing for Christmas without really preparing our hearts.

It helps to remember that the very first Christmas was lived by a mother, too. Mary was young, tired, far from home, and facing the unknown. There was no perfectly decorated space, no calm schedule, and no plan that went smoothly. Yet in the middle of all that uncertainty, she and Joseph welcomed Jesus with trust and love. They did not have everything figured out, but they made room for Christ anyway. Our children experience Christmas largely through us. They notice when we are rushed and overwhelmed, but they also notice when we slow down. When we pause to pray together, come to Mass or reconciliation service as a family, or talk about Baby Jesus in the manger, we show them what Christmas is really about.

This season does not have to be perfect to be holy. Praying a short prayer together before bed, reading the Nativity story together, it can be enough to calm our busy hearts at times. Mary reminds us that God does His greatest work in ordinary, imperfect moments.

When the decorations come down and the gifts are put away, what our children will remember most is how we helped them know the love of Christ. That is the true gift of Christmas!

-Alicia



Our PSR Christmas Party!

The St. Jude Youth Group wrapped up 2025 with great joy during a special outing to Dublin Pub, graciously hosted by Father Peter.

We are deeply thankful for the prayers, encouragement, food, and the unwavering support of our parish community. Your generosity and kindness truly mean so much to our youth and families.

May God continue to bless our parish with faith, fellowship, and joy. Wishing everyone a very Merry Christmas.



