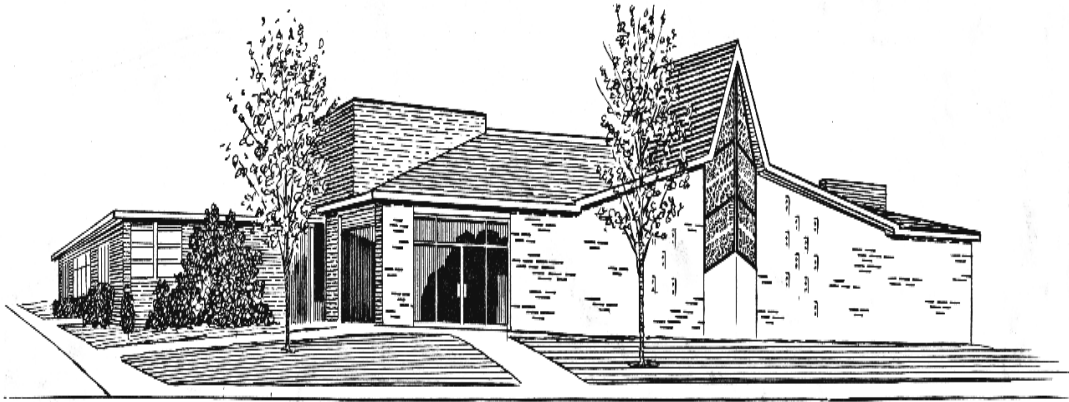




Saint Paul

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April 19, 2026

ST. PAUL the APOSTLE CATHOLIC PARISH

511 N. Conrad Street
Peotone, IL 60468-9290

CHURCH OFFICE TELEPHONE: 708 258-6917

CHURCH OFFICE E-MAIL:
ParishOffice@stpaulpeotone.org

PASTOR: Rev. Thomas Theneth, CMI
815 468-1954 / Theneth52@gmail.com

DEACON: Mr. James Kelly
815 412-0565

DEACON E-MAIL: jimk3163@sbcglobal.net

PARISH BUSINESS MANAGER: Paula Prium

PARISH COUNCIL CHAIRPERSON: Patrick Frencl

CCW PRESIDENT: Marge Harms

GRAND KNIGHT of K of C: Ron LeClaire

BUILDING & GROUNDS: Steve Maltese

FINANCE COUNCIL CHAIRPERSON: Al Leffelman

WORSHIP COMMISSION: Paula Prium

CHRISTIAN FORMATION / EDUCATION COMMISSION:

SOCIAL SERVICES COORDINATOR: Mary Ann Battermann

MINISTERS OF CARE: Barb Egelski

DIRECTOR of RELIGIOUS EDUCATION: Dcn Jim Kelly

RE OFFICE E-MAIL:
StPaulReligiousEd@stpaulpeotone.org

RE OFFICE PHONE: 708 258-9580

FAITH FORMATION (RELIGIOUS ED) CLASSES:

Grades 1 through 8: Wednesday from 6:15pm—7:30pm

Find us—

Facebook: **"St. Paul the Apostle Peotone"**

Website: **StPaulPeotone.org**

YouTube: **Saint Paul the Apostle Peotone**

SACRAMENTS

BAPTISM: Please contact the Parish Office

RECONCILIATION: Thursday: 7:15pm to 7:45pm

Saturday: 3pm to 3:45pm

Any time by appointment

FIRST RECONCILIATION: December 10, 2025

FIRST COMMUNION: April 12, 2026

CONFIRMATION: **May 9, 2026 at 11am**
at St. Anthony (Frankfort)

MARRIAGE: By appointment only
Please call at least 6 months in advance

SACRAMENT OF THE SICK: Call anytime
Please call the parish office to inform us of an illness or hospitalization of a parishioner or family member. Privacy laws prohibit hospitals from releasing information to clergy about hospitalized church members without the specific consent and request of the patient or their immediate family.

ORDINARY MASS SCHEDULE:

Saturday: 4pm

Sunday: 11am

Daily Mass: Tue, Wed and Fri 8:30am

Communion Services: Mon and Thrs 8:30am

Holy Days of Obligation: Please see the bulletin

Eucharistic Adoration: Thursday 6pm to 8pm

Communion Calls: If you or someone you love is ill or homebound and would like to receive Communion, please call the parish office to make arrangements for regular visits.

Office Hours: Monday thru Friday 12:30pm to 5pm
Regular time to make appointments, registrations, etc.

Regular bulletin deadline: Wednesday by 12pm

The Parish Office will be closed from Thursday, April 23 until Tuesday, May 5, 2026.

The Mission Statement of St. Paul the Apostle Catholic Parish
As disciples of Jesus Christ, we strive to grow in relationship with Him, live the Faith, and share His Good News with others.

Mass Intentions For The Week



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Sat	4/18	3:00 pm—	<u>CONFESSION</u>
		3:30 pm—	<u>ROSARY</u>
		4:00 pm—	+ <u>William J. Gordon, Jr.</u> req by Family
Sun	4/19	10:30 am—	<u>ROSARY</u>
		11:00 am—	+ <u>Barbara Onak</u> req by Rich & Denise Starkey and <u>People of the Parish</u>
Mon	4/20	8:30 am—	<u>COMMUNION SERVICE</u>
Tue	4/21	8:30 am—	+ <u>John R. Tierney, Jr. & Family</u> req by Family
Wed	4/22	8:30 am—	+ <u>William J. Gordon, Jr.</u> req by Cathy Schwarz
Thr	4/23	8:30 am—	<u>COMMUNION SERVICE</u>
		6:00 pm—	<u>ADORATION</u>
		7:15 pm—	<u>CONFESSION</u>
Fri	4/24	8:30 am—	+ <u>Jeannie Scheiman</u> req by Renee Talkington
Sat	4/25	3:00 pm—	<u>CONFESSION</u>
		3:30 pm—	<u>ROSARY</u>
		4:00 pm—	+ <u>Tom Adamsick</u> — <u>14th Anniversary</u> req by Family
Sun	4/26	10:30 am—	<u>ROSARY</u>
		11:00 am—	<u>People of the Parish</u>

If you are attending a Mass that you requested an intention to be said for, please sign the gift bearer book in the rear of the church and let an usher know you are here if you wish to bring up the gifts.



The **flowers at the altar** are dedicated in honor of the living and deceased members of the Knickrehm and Reed Families.

If you are interested in sponsoring our bi-weekly altar flower arrangement, possibly in honor of an anniversary or birthday or in memory of a family member, **please contact the parish office for scheduling details.** The cost is \$80 and can be shared between one or more parishioners.

Our food drive continues The Knights of Columbus have a drop box for non perishable food items and cleaning supplies in the St. Paul the Apostle lobby across from the office. Food collected is distributed through local pantries. Please help us help those in need.



Ticket sales for our annual raffle are winding up. We award \$400 in prizes every month, you can win multiple times! Tickets are also good for a 10% discount on services at Dralle. Knights will be selling tickets after the Masses after Easter at St. Paul the Apostle Church. You can also purchase tickets directly from knights, or call Ron LeClaire., Grand Knight at 708-204-6277 to purchase tickets and have them personally delivered.



CCW
Council of Catholic Women

Manteno Veteran's Home Collection

The CCW will be collecting a variety of items to be donated to the 8 ladies who reside at the Illinois Veterans Home at Manteno starting next weekend—April 25 / 26 through the weekend of May 2 / 3.

New unused items they have requested are: \$10 Amazon gift cards, nail polish & remover, lipstick (reds, soft pinks, etc.), lip gloss, medium to small bottles of shampoo and conditioner, lotion, any kind of new jewelry & large hair clips for long hair.

They also requested individually packaged snack cakes (“Hostess” as an example), Twinkies, Diet Coke (12 pack) & new “humor” type short story books. Please no packaged nuts!

If you have any questions, please call Janet Hase at 708 846-1603.

This passage is commonly known as the Road to Emmaus. This is one of the most expressive narratives in the New Testament. It captures the transition from despair to hope, moving from the intellectual recognition of a "lost cause" to the spiritual recognition of a "living Lord."

The two disciples—Cleopas and his companion—are walking away from Jerusalem, the site of their shattered hopes. The Irony is that they are discussing Jesus *with* Jesus, yet they do not recognize him. "Sometimes our own expectations of how God should act, in this case, Jesus as a political liberator, blind us to how He is acting. Grief and disappointment can create a fog that makes the Presence feel like a stranger.

Jesus does not immediately reveal his identity with them, instead, he asks questions. He allows them to vent their frustration. He then reorients their perspective by explaining the Scriptures. He shows them that the suffering they viewed as a defeat was actually the necessary path to glory. Notice that Jesus meets us even when we are walking in the "wrong" direction. Walking away from Jerusalem means walking away from God.

The climax of the story occurs not during the sermon on the road, but at the dinner table. Jesus takes the bread, blesses it, breaks it, and gives it to them. This mirrors the feeding of the five thousand and the Last Supper. It is in the "breaking of the bread" that their eyes are finally opened.

There is a profound connection between Word and Sacrament, the scriptures he shared on the road and the meal. We often need both the intellectual understanding and the physical, communal experience to fully perceive Christ.



Once Jesus vanishes, the disciples do not focus on his disappearance; they focus on the internal transformation that happened while he spoke. "Did not our hearts burn within us...?" This "burning heart" is the hallmark of the Holy Spirit illuminating truth. This describes an internal, spiritual intuition. Even before they logically knew it was Jesus, their spirits were responding to the truth of His words. This isn't just an emotional "high." In Hebrew thought, the heart is the seat of the will and intellect. A "burning" heart implies that the Word of God was melting away their cold despair and refining their understanding.

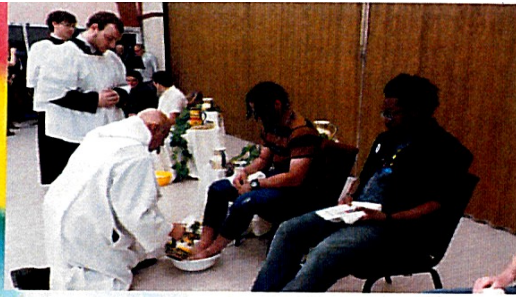
Jesus did not perform a miracle to convince them; He used the Bible. This suggests that the most consistent way to experience a "burning heart" today is through deep engagement with the Word. Reading the Scripture will enlighten our whole life.

Despite the late hour and the seven-mile journey they had just completed, they immediately ran back to Jerusalem. Encountering the Risen Christ always leads to a reversal of direction. They went from walking away in sadness to running back in mission.

There could be "Emmaus Road" experience in our own life. In our lives, there may be experiences of "walking away" in disappointment or confusion. There could be moments of defeat and confusion, but when we look through the lens of Scripture, we understand that they are part of a larger, "necessary" plan of God that you do not see.

Yours in Christ,
Fr. Thomas Theneth CMI

STRENGTHENING THE CHURCH AT HOME



In nearly 75 dioceses in the United States and its territories, funds from Catholic Home Missions are a lifeline for churches in rural areas where small Catholic populations are unable to sustain basic pastoral ministries without outside assistance.

In southern Illinois, the challenges facing the Diocese of Belleville are particularly acute. Most of the diocese's 28 counties are rural and have small Catholic populations, while the cities within the diocese are among the poorest in the entire country. Although the diocese lacks necessary material resources, it is blessed with dedicated men and women who faithfully carry out their mission to share the Gospel in ministries including catechesis, Hispanic/Latino ministry among the area's growing Spanish-speaking population, and campus ministry for the students at Southern Illinois

University (SIU) in Carbondale and other college campuses in the area.

The Newman Center campus ministry located on the SIU campus strengthens the faith of Catholic young adults with faith formation programs, fellowship, and prayer, as well as community service opportunities beyond campus. By participating at Sunday and weekday Masses and in student-led retreats, weekly dinners, and outreach to families in need, these students grow in their faith and prepare to be church leaders. Working with the diocesan vocation director, the campus ministry program helps nurture priestly vocations—a record of success made possible through support received from the Catholic Home Missions Appeal, which funds the full-time campus minister's position. For more information about Catholic Home Missions, visit www.usccb.org/home-missions.

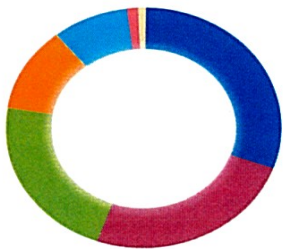
If you prefer to donate online, see QR code.



What Is a "Home Mission" Diocese?

Home mission dioceses are those Catholic dioceses in the United States, its territories, and its former territories that cannot provide basic pastoral services without outside help. Basic pastoral services include Mass, the sacraments, religious education, and ministry training for priests, deacons, religious sisters, and lay people. Nearly 40% of dioceses in the United States and its current and former territories are considered home mission dioceses.

CHMA FINANCIALS 2024



Totals by Program Area

• Diocesan and Parish Assistance	\$2,485,000
• Faith Formation	\$2,045,000
• Vocations and Formation of Deacons, Priests, and Religious	\$1,810,000
• Special Grants*	\$938,475
• Cultural Ministries**	\$725,000
• Strengthening Marriage and Family Life	\$125,000
• Life and Dignity of the Human Person†	\$50,000

Total: \$8,178,475

*Special Grants include the following:

• Support for the Installation of a New Home Mission Bishop	\$90,000
• Support for USCCB Initiatives (Eucharistic Revival, Synodal Journey)	\$740,000
• Diocesan Professional Development Opportunities	\$108,475
	\$938,475

** Including Hispanic/Latino, Black, Asian, and Native American ministries.

† Including ministries for persons with disabilities.

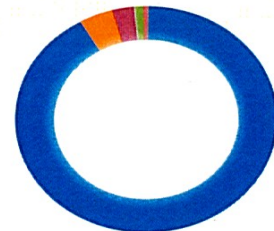


United States Conference of Catholic Bishops

Catholic Home Missions Appeal

Office of National Collections
3211 Fourth Street NE • Washington, DC 20017-1194
202-541-3400 • fax 202-541-3460 • www.usccb.org/nationalcollections

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• Grants and Donations	\$8,076,036
• Program Costs	\$478,207
• Promotions and Fundraising Expenses	\$389,274
• Administrative Expenses	\$98,290
• Allocations – Internal Grants	\$29,825

Total Expenses: \$9,071,632



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Next weekend we will take up the *Catholic Home Missions Appeal*. Today, nearly 40% of dioceses in the United States and its current and former territories are unable to fund the essential pastoral work their communities need. Your support for this appeal helps them meet these faith formation and sacramental needs. Please prayerfully consider how you can support this appeal.

Find more information at www.usccb.org/home-missions.

COLLECTION SUMMARY: April 11-12, 2026:

Budgeted	\$3,205.53
Sunday Offertory*	\$3,259.00
Plus	\$ 53.47
Envelopes used / distributed	75 / 484
<i>*Includes 6 Online Givers</i>	
Easter	\$1,270.00
Holy Land	\$ 12.00

Secure and convenient
ONLINE GIVING is
available at

GiveCentral.org.

Please put in zip code

60468 to find the St. Paul portal. A credit card or bank account can be linked.



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Please keep Carol Henderson, Ken Rocznik, Pat Cleary, Ed Kulish, Jan Leffelman, Nancy Pilotto, Rev. Tom Ewing, Michael Doyle, Mary Ellen Hanlon, Ashley Doody, Luke

Payne, Dave Castaneda, Greg Nalepka, Kathleen Callahan, Jeff Furtek, Charles Claxton, Mary Jane Szewka, Elaine Doyle, Dorothy Simikowski, Arline Clark, Mary Jo Fry, Gerald Adcock, Laura Valenti, Samantha Digiacomo, Julie Szudarski, Aris Tomac, Bob Johnson, Pete Henrisey, Claudia Merrifield, Harry & Pam Carpenter, Ray Romito, Francesca Librera Biondo, Mike Wilczynski, Fran Rewers, Geri Mokry, Pastor Richard Young, Jeanne Vinezeano, Frances Librera, the Adamsick Family, Lavergne Sigrist, Charlie Kooy, Rita Hall, Rose Bailey, Julie Hayes, Emily Klamkin, Lorianne Mihelic, the Robert Polacek family, Rich Harms, TJ Stefanski, Linda Galica and those that go unnamed.

Please note that only names given with permission of the person or by a family member will be added to the list.

Religious Education

May Crowning at Masses

The weekend of May 2—3, 2026

The Sacrament of Confirmation will be conferred on Friday, May 9, 2026 at St. Anthony (Frankfort)

Final RE / FF classes

Wednesday, May 13

Stay tuned for information on ecumenical
VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

If you receive bi-monthly offering envelopes in the mail from the parish, you will be included in the upcoming parish directory listing with the personal information we have on file for you—name, address, phone(s), email.

We'd like the directory to be as accurate as possible. To do this, your help is needed.

If you'd like to verify the accuracy of the information we have on file, please contact the parish office.

*If you DO NOT want certain items or all of your information listed in the directory, **YOU MUST** contact the parish office.*



708 258-6917

ParishOffice@StPaulPeotone.org



The **Altar Linen Ministry** is a sacred, behind-the-scenes service in Catholic parishes responsible for cleaning and caring for the sacred linens (corporals and purificators) used during the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass. This ministry involves at-home reverent laundering, ironing, and maintaining the linens used on the altar, ensuring they are prepared with dignity and respect. We are in need of additional volunteers to be placed on the bi-weekly schedule. You will be given training.

Please contact the Parish Office or Mrs. Betsy Richter at 903 918-9305 for details.



Announcing the 48th Annual

Wedding Anniversary

Mass

AUGUST

SUN **30** 1:00 PM

2026

604 N Raynor Ave., Joliet, IL 60435

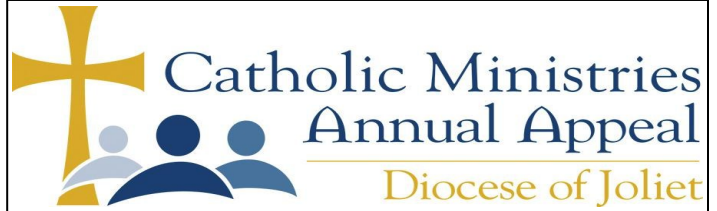
Couples celebrating anniversaries of 25 years, 50 years, and more than 50 years are welcome to attend. Bishop Dennis Spies will celebrate the Mass at St. Raymond's Cathedral and will lead all couples in a special renewal of wedding commitment.

Deadline to register: August 10, 2026

Questions? Contact Deacon Doug McIlvaine:

815-221-6136

dmcilvaine@dioceseofjoliet.org



Pledge Report for St. Paul the Apostle Parish as of April 12, 2026

Monthly pledge payments are due in the next few days. These payments are essential to reaching our parish goal. Once we reach our goal in paid pledges, 70% of the amount over goal will be returned to our parish for our needs.

If you still plan on making your gift, please prayerfully consider how you can elevate your faith beyond all expectations in support of those in need. Pledge envelopes are available in the pews, or you can use the envelope you received in the mail from the diocese. We also welcome online gifts at jolietdioceseappeal.org.

PARISH GOAL:	\$16,700
AMOUNT PLEDGED:	\$25,405
AMOUNT PAID:	\$15,579
BALANCE DUE:	\$ 9,826
DONORS:	82



Do you enjoy gardening outdoors?
Are you interested in tidying up and
beautifying the outdoor areas
of the parish?

If you have a green thumb or
enjoy working outside, please contact
Cindy Reed at 708 280-7787
for more information
on opportunities.



Fr. Tom Donaldson, Congregation of the Most Holy Redeemer (Redemptorists), representing Food for the Poor, will be celebrating Masses next weekend.

Information on how you can personally support Food for the Poor will be available from Fr. Donaldson. We will not be taking up a parish collection.

Next weekend's second collection, taken up after Communion, is for the Catholic Home Missions Appeal (see page 4).