

December 10, 2023

ST. PAUL the APOSTLE CATHOLIC CHURCH
 511 N. Conrad Street
 Peotone, IL 60468-9290

CHURCH OFFICE TELEPHONE: 708 258-6917
CHURCH OFFICE FAX: 708 258-3061
CHURCH OFFICE E-MAIL: StPaulOffice@att.net

PASTOR: Rev. Roger D. Kutzner
 708 989-0565

DEACON: Mr. James Kelly
 708 373-0311

DEACON E-MAIL: jimk3163@sbcglobal.net

PARISH BUSINESS MANAGER: Paula Prium

PARISH COUNCIL CHAIRPERSON:

CCW PRESIDENT: Maura Culver

GRAND KNIGHT of K of C: Patrick Frencl

BUILDING & GROUNDS: Steve Maltese

FINANCE COUNCIL CHAIRPERSON:

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: StPaulRE@att.net
RE OFFICE PHONE: 708 258-9580

FAITH FORMATION (RELIGIOUS ED) CLASSES:
 Grades K through 8: Sunday from 8:45am-10:15am

Find us—
 Facebook: **"St. Paul the Apostle Peotone"**
 Website: **StPaulPeotone.org**

SACRAMENTS

BAPTISM: By appointment
RECONCILIATION: Thursday: 7:30pm to 8pm
 Saturday: 3pm to 3:45pm
 Any time by appointment

FIRST RECONCILIATION: t / b / a
FIRST COMMUNION: Sunday, April 28, 2024
CONFIRMATION: Saturday, May 11, 2024
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: 10:30am
Daily Mass: Mon, Wed, Thurs and Fri 7:15am
Communion Service: Tuesday 7:15am

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

A very special guest of the Knights of Columbus will be at St. Paul next Sunday, December 17 after 10:30am Mass. Come enjoy coffee, donuts, and a visit with Santa! Bring your camera—Santa is waiting to hear all of your Christmas wishes!



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

COLLECTION SUMMARY: December 2—3, 2023

Sunday Offertory*	\$3,929.00
Budgeted	\$3,365.38
Plus	\$ 563.62
Envelopes used / distributed	73 / 528

***Includes 7 Online Givers**

Advent / Christmas Environment	\$1,033.00
Christmas	\$ 25.00
Immaculate Conception	\$ 2.00
Providing for Our Future	\$ 105.00
Retirement Fund for Religious	\$ 5.00



Secure and convenient **ONLINE GIVING** is available at [GiveCentral.org](https://www.givecentral.org).

Please put in zip code 60468 to find the St. Paul portal.

Are you a Catholic man 18 or older? Do you want to volunteer for your church and community? Are you ready to put your Faith into Action? Come learn about the Knights of Columbus! You can obtain information by contacting Membership Coordinator Dan Mott at 708 277-7086 or mott@d@rushenterprises.com; contacting Grand Knight Patrick Frencl, visiting with any current member of the Knights or visiting our website at www.kofc.org.



Christmas time, do not forget a gift to the **Helping Hands Food Pantry**. The pantry does their best in providing more than food during the holidays. Your donations have a big impact on the community.

The donation box and envelopes are located in the Religious Education entrance. Every dollar in cash equals \$8 of purchasing power for the pantry.

DECEMBER 2023 RAFFLE

\$150.00	#100	Jim Lenher
\$100.00	#656	Cathy Canalo
\$ 50.00	#606	Dave Zenere
\$ 50.00	#414	Dave Press
\$ 25.00	#511	Mike Gonzalez
\$ 25.00	#393	John Turek



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Gerald Adcock, Pope Francis, Laura Valenti, Samantha Digiacomio, Julie Szudarski, Joe Ladislav, Owen Ruhbeck, Sharon Andrews, Sue Gomez, Joan Olsen, CJ Ogalla-Arebalo, Aris Tomac, Joe Rojas, Terry & Mary Urbanek, June O'Flynn, Bob Johnson, Pete Henrisey, Claudia Merrifield, Harry & Pam Carpenter, Ray Romito, Francesca Librera Biondo, Mike Wilczynski, Fran Rewers, Harry & Geri Mokry, Carole Reichert, Deacon Milt Leppert, Pastor Richard Young, Joseph Terri, John Fahs, Jeanne Vinezeano, Frances Librera, Mary Ann Librera, the Adamsick Family, Cassidy Novak, Lavergne Sigrist, Charlie Kooy, Rita Hall, Rose Bailey, Julie Hayes, Emily Klamkin, Lorianne Mihelic, Irene Manning, the Robert Polacek family, Rich Harms, TJ Stefanski, Linda Galica, all affected by COVID-19 and those that go unnamed.

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

Christmas Schedule...

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St. Boniface Confession

Wednesday, December 20 from 7pm—8pm

RE / Parish Penance Service

Thursday, December 21 at 6:30pm

4th Sunday of Advent, December 24, 2023

Vigil Mass at 4pm / 10:30am

Christmas Eve, December 24, 2023

Posada begins at 3:45pm

Mass begins at 4pm

RA Brass Ensemble begins at 10:30pm

Mass begins at 11pm

Christmas Day, December 25, 2023

Mass at 10:30am

Solemnity of Mary, the Mother of God**(not a holy day of obligation)**

January 1, 2024 Mass at 7:15am



Mass Intentions

Sat	12/9	3:00 pm—	<u>CONFESSION</u>
		4:00 pm—	+ <u>James F. Svatos—12th Anniversary</u> req by Fred & Paula Prium
Sun	12/10	10:30 am—	+ <u>Eternal Salvation and the Repose of the Souls of Mary & Stanley Litak and John & Mary Gulik</u> req by T.R. Litak and <u>People of the Parish</u>
Mon	12/11	7:15 am—	<u>Blessings on the Diocese of Joliet</u>
Tue	12/12	7:15 am—	<u>Communion Service</u>
Wed	12/13	7:15 am—	<u>An Increase in Vocations</u>
Thr	12/14	7:15 am—	<u>The Forgotten Souls in Purgatory</u>
		6:00 pm—	<u>EUCHARISTIC ADORATION</u>
		7:30 pm—	<u>CONFESSION</u>
Fri	12/15	7:15 am—	+ <u>Helen Stumbris</u> req by Family
Sat	12/16	3:00 pm—	<u>CONFESSION</u>
		4:00 pm—	+ <u>Ellen T. Kelly</u> req by Kim Walker and <u>People of the Parish</u>
Sun	12/17	10:30 am—	+ <u>James O'Grady</u> req by Family

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.

POPE FRANCIS' INTENTIONS for DECEMBER 2023: For persons with disabilities

We pray that people living with disabilities may be at the center of attention in society, and that institutions may offer inclusive programs which value their active participation.



Would you like to remember your living or deceased loved ones at one of our Masses? Perhaps for the anniversary of their death, to celebrate their birthday, wedding anniversaries or for their health. We have Mass cards, on request. For more information, please call the office at 708 258-6917.

Support a lifetime of service

Women and men religious have spent their lives serving others in prayer, ministry, education and care for those in need—usually for little or no pay. Today, their religious communities do not have enough retirement savings. As they age, they require essential care and medications. Please support them by giving to today's collection for the **Retirement Fund for Religious**. Your donation makes a difference for nearly 25,000 senior men and women religious.

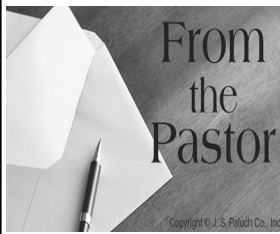
Please give generously.

The EUCHARISTIC MINISTER / LECTOR schedule through December 31, 2023 is in the rear of the church. Please sign-up where you can!

There will be a **PARISH COUNCIL** meeting on Monday, December 18 at 6:30pm. If you have an interest in serving our parish on this Council, please contact the parish office or Fr. Roger. The meeting is open to all parishioners.



St. Michael the Archangel, defend us in battle. Be our protection against the wickedness and snares of the devil; May God rebuke him, we humbly pray; And do thou, O Prince of the Heavenly Host, by the power of God, thrust into hell Satan and all evil spirits who wander through the world for the ruin of souls. Amen.



Last week, as we started season of Advent, we have reflected on the fact that God has not forgotten about us, and he never will. God is acting in time and for us it may seem as though he takes a long time to complete His work of our salvation. And yes, it takes time to change one person, how much more God needs to change all people. Many people fail to see that and also are impatient expecting God to act fast. They become pessimistic, discouraged, and cynical.

As I always pray for those who are still searching for meaning in wrong places, avoiding answers God can give them, I encourage you to focus this week of Advent on two qualities of Christian life: holiness and devotion. Holiness doesn't mean that we go around with our heads in the clouds; holiness means that we go around as Christ went around, treating other people with sincere respect, and looking for opportunities to do good to those around us. Devotion is the disposition in which we decide to be holy. It consists of joyful reverence towards God. Devotion isn't just a matter of saying a lot of prayers; it's a matter of living at all times in a personal, intimate relationship with Jesus Christ. That's what prayer is meant to foster. To make that possible is the reason Jesus came to earth in the first place. He promised his Apostles and us that He will be with us always until the end of times.

On the Day of Christmas we want to receive Jesus with renewed Spirit. This is a time to prepare ourselves for that. Jesus wants to come with fresh blessings. Poetically the Scriptures call it "filling every valley and making low every mountain". For example, if we aren't spending quality time with our family, we need to fill in that valley. If we aren't spending at least a few minutes each day in prayer with God, we need to fill in that valley. If we aren't going regularly to confession to rejuvenate our souls with God's mercy, grace, and forgiveness, we need to fill in that valley. Our mountains that need to be lowered are the selfish and sinful habits that we have built up. The sins of commission. If we like to gossip and spread criticism, we need to tear down that mountain. If we are leading a double life, indulging in hidden sins or lies that are poisoning our souls, we need to lay low that mountain. If we are arrogantly treating our colleagues, teammates, or family members like lower class people, we need to topple that mountain.

May we not let the mountains and valleys in our souls prevent God's grace from traveling into our hearts. They are roadblocks that keep out God's mercy, peace, and wisdom.

Advent is the season to smooth out and clear up the roads to our hearts.

+Rev. Roger D. Kutzner



Navajo Nation

Information Meeting
January 17, 2024

Mission Trip
June 1 to 14, 2024



The Diocese of Joliet will return to Navajo Nation for a two-week mission focused on construction and outreach from June 1 to 14, 2024.

The Diocese of Joliet has been putting faith into action—through intentional service and solidarity with the poor—in Chinle, Arizona, for 20 years.

The Office of Mission is seeking parishioners (18+) willing to help local area families with light construction work. No experience is necessary, but a heart willing to serve is required! Missionaries stay on the campus of Our Lady of Fatima, and the trip will include a pilgrimage to New Mexico's Loretto Chapel and it's "miraculous staircase."

An informational meeting on the mission trip will be held at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, January 17, 2024, at the Blanchette Catholic Center in Crest Hill (16555 Weber Road).

Questions?

Alex Buldak
Mission Lead
abuldak@dioceseofjoliet.org
(815) 221-6256



CMAA Pledge Report for St. Paul the Apostle

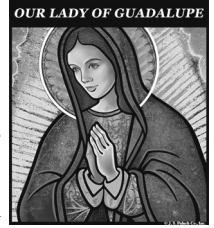
Monthly pledge payments for CMAA pledges should continue to be made. It is very important that these pledges be paid so that our parish will fulfill our pledges. Since we have reached our goal in paid pledges, 70% of the amount over goal will be returned to our parish for our needs.

As of December 3, 2023:

PARISH GOAL:	\$16,700
AMOUNT PLEDGED:	\$31,645
AMOUNT PAID:	\$30,355
REMAINING BALANCE:	\$ 1,290
# of DONORS:	117
2023 REBATE:	\$ 9,559

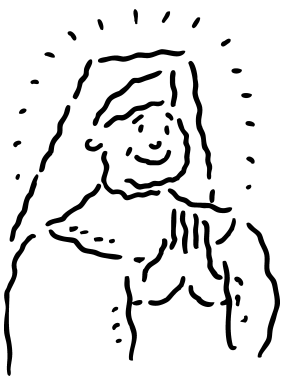
Thank-you for your generosity!

OUR FASCINATING FAITH— Our Lady of Guadalupe (December 12)



Our Lady of Guadalupe, Patroness of the Americas, first appeared to Cuauhtlazin (Juan Diego) on December 9, 1531 while he was on his way to a Eucharistic celebration in Tlatelolco, Mexico. The Virgin addressed him by his indigenous name, asking him to go to the palace of Archbishop Zumárraga to request that a shrine be erected there at the site of the apparition, in Tepeyac, so as to share her love and compassion for all believers. Juan Diego did so, but the archbishop did not believe him, demanding proof of his story and of the Lady's identity. He returned to Our Lady daily, and on December 12, he conveyed to her the archbishop's request for proof. She showed him Castilian roses blooming there through the stony ground despite the winter's cold. He picked the flowers and carried them in his *tilma* (mantle) to the archbishop. When he unfolded his *tilma* to present the roses, Mary's image was imprinted on the mantle! Her blue sash and the flower over her womb were traditional Aztec symbols of pregnancy and new life. But her features were those of a *mestiza*, indicating mixed Aztec-European heritage. Thus Our Lady of Guadalupe remains the enduring icon of unity-in-diversity, the fruit of our one baptism into Jesus, her Son.

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For over 40 years, the parishioners of St. Paul have provided a wonderful Christmas party for the Franciscan Sisters of the Sacred Heart sisters at St. Francis Woods in Frankfort. **This Tuesday, December 12th**, is the party date and we are still in need of **BINGO PRIZES**. And we need volunteers to **BAKE COOKIES**. And we would love to have you **JOIN US**. The past few years there have been only a small number of ladies who attend the party. It would be wonderful if you could join us. The good sisters love to see us and enjoy the visits. Several of them need assistance to play bingo, select their prizes and get refreshments. We play bingo, we visit, we laugh, we sing and we eat. Please join us for a good time. ***If you need a ride, one can be arranged.***

Donation boxes and sign up sheets (attendance and cookie contributors) are in the lobbies. Suggestion sheets for bingo donations are in the lobbies. Checks should be made out to the Council of Catholic Women (CCW) with a note in the memo "for the nuns Christmas party."

If you have any questions, please call or text Clem at 708 710-1831.

Welcome to St. Paul the Apostle Catholic Church

Our warmest wishes to all who celebrate with us. If you are not registered at St. Paul or need to make changes, please fill out this form and place it in the collection basket or mail to the parish office (511 N. Conrad Street / Peotone, IL 60468).

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip Code _____

(____) _____

Phone _____

Email Address _____

- New Parishioner, please contact me
 New Address or New Phone Number
 Moving—Please remove from membership list
 Email—Please add email address to your records
 Interested in becoming Catholic
 Send Envelopes
 Interested in Religious Education
 Interested in volunteering in Ministry Programs
 Would like to be contacted by a priest

You are invited to sign-up on the poster in the lobby to light the **ADVENT WREATH**;

LITTLE BLUE BOOKS—Daily 6-minute reflections on the Infancy Narrative of Luke are available in the lobby;

OPLATKI is available for a \$3 donation/packet in the lobby or from the church office. Supplies are limited;

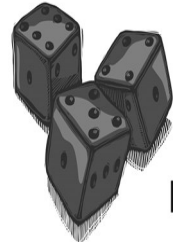
KEEP CHRIST in CHRISTMAS car magnets are available in the lobby for a \$3 donation.

Birthday**Wishes**

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MRS. CAROLE REICHERT
will celebrate her **104th**
birthday on **December 20!**
Greetings can be sent to
30915 S. Egyptian Trail
Peotone, IL 60468

Ladies, it's Christmas
Bunco party time! A favorite
fun-filled event from the
CCW!

**BUNCO**

This **Monday**,
December 11th at 6:30pm

we will play bunco, have a lot
of laughs and enjoy each others company!

Please feel free to bring a friend **and an
appetizer or dessert to share!**

A sign-up is posted in the entryway!
We look forward to seeing you and having a fun
filled evening!

The ***Sacrament of Reconciliation*** is
offered on Saturday from 3—3:45pm,
on Thursday from 7:30—8pm **or** by other
arrangements with Father. Please call the
parish office at 708 258-6917 or e-mail

StPaulOffice@att.net.

PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR TROOPS:

- HM2 Chuck Claxton** (Navy—Camp Le Juene, NC)
Son of Dennis & Pat Claxton;
Brother of Peter Claxton
- AN Chase Clyden** (Navy—Asian Seas)
Grandson of Laura (Tom) Jacques
Great-nephew of Barbara Grantz
- SFC Nicholas Hupke** (Army)
Nephew of Paula (Fred) Prium
- CAPT Jori Ingersoll** (Air Force—Washington State)
Daughter of Mary Jo (Frank) Fry, Jr.
- SGT Nate Kijowski** (Marines—Okinawa)
Grandson of Ron & Ann Ziolkowski
- PVT Jake L. O'Connor** (Marines)
Grandson of Marge Brooke
- SSG Sean Rodgers** (Army—Ft. Campbell, KY)
Grandson of Barbara Grantz;
Great-nephew of Laura (Tom) Jacques
- 2LT Joseph Walan** (Air Force—Las Vegas, NV)
Son of Mary Jo (Frank) Fry, Jr.

**Please pray for their safety, spiritual and
physical well being and that God will give
His peace to their parents and families.**

