

December 3, 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

Please sign-up in the lobby to light the
ADVENT WREATH!



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: November 18—19, 2023

Sunday Offertory*	\$2,491.00
Budgeted	\$3,365.38
Minus	\$ 874.38
Adult envelopes used / distributed	61 / 528

*Includes 6 Online Givers

Seminarians	\$ 134.50
CCHD	\$ 931.00
Providing for Our Future	\$ 603.50

COLLECTION SUMMARY: November 25—26, 2023

Sunday Offertory*	\$2,165.00
Budgeted	\$3,365.38
Minus	\$1,200.38
Adult envelopes used / distributed	59 / 528

*Includes 9 Online Givers

Advent / Christmas Environment	\$ 20.00
Providing for Our Future	\$ 40.00



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 mottd@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.



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Pope Francis, Laura Valenti, Samantha Digiaco, Julie Szudarski, Joe Ladislas, 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.

CCW Christmas Bunco Party

Ladies, it's Christmas Bunco party time! A favorite fun filled event!

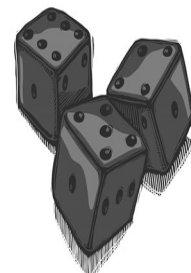
Mark your calendars for **Monday, December 11 at 6:30pm!**

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!

CCW board members will set up next Sunday, December 10, after 10:30am Mass.

**BUNCO**

The EUCHARISTIC MINISTER and LECTOR schedules until December 31, 2023 are in the rear of the church. Please sign-up where you can!



Mass Intentions

Sat	12/2	3:00 pm— <u>CONFESSION</u> 4:00 pm— + <u>Marie Hansen</u> req by Marsha Henning and <u>People of the Parish</u>
Sun	12/3	10:30 am— + <u>George & Hazel Lewis</u> req by Bob & Helen Lewis
Mon	12/4	7:15 am— <u>Health Intentions of Pope Francis</u>
Tue	12/5	7:15 am— <u>Communion Service</u>
Wed	12/6	7:15 am— <u>Health Intentions</u>
Thr	12/7	7:15 am— <u>Peace in the World</u> 6:00 pm— <u>EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION</u> 7:30 pm— <u>CONFESSION</u>
Fri	12/8	7:15 am— <u>People of the Parish</u> 6:00 pm— + <u>Eternal Salvation and the Repose of the Soul of Mrs. Mary Litak (Szersen)</u> req by T.R. Litak
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>

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.

This Friday, December 8, is the **Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary**, patronal feast day of the United States of America and a **holy day of obligation**.

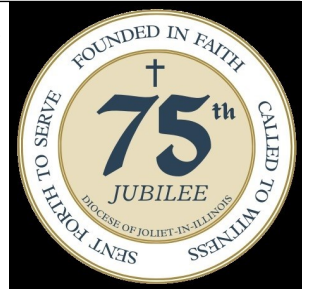


Masses will be celebrated at:

- St. Paul the Apostle at 7:15am / 6pm
- St. Boniface at 8:30am / 7:15pm
- St. Patrick (Wilton Center) at 5pm

If you would like to bring a copy of the **2023 Heritage Missal** or **Misal del Dia** home with you—boxes are in the rear of the church.

The Diocese of Joliet will celebrate an Opening Mass for the **75th Anniversary of the Establishment of the Diocese** on Monday, December 11 at 6pm at the Cathedral in Joliet. Each parish has been given 4 tickets for attendance. *If you are interested in attending, please contact the parish office.*



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.



The mystery of our salvation includes the whole Bible, the whole life of Christ, and the whole history of the Church. But we can't possibly keep all those things in mind all the time. So we focus on different aspects of them at different times of the year. In Lent we focus on the reality of sin and mercy and the need for repentance; during Easter we focus on the power of God and the Resurrection; during Ordinary Time we focus on the everyday life and teachings of Christ and the wisdom they impart for our everyday lives; and now, during Advent, we focus on God's faithfulness. In the middle of life's problems, we can sometimes forget to trust in God's promises. The example of the saints and martyrs is always there to remind us, putting our own difficulties in perspective, and giving us courage to trust God no matter what.

In 1987 Pope John Paul II beatified three nuns who were martyred during the Spanish Civil War, in 1936. When the communist soldiers took over their city of Guadalajara, the eighteen nuns in the convent of St Joseph scattered through the streets disguised in secular clothes. Sisters Maria of the Angels, Maria Pilar, and Teresa hid in the basement of the Hibernia Hotel. Two days later, they left the hotel to look for better shelter. A soldier eating lunch in a parked jeep saw them walking down the street, recognized them, and shouted to her companions: "Shoot them! They are nuns!" Sister Maria of the Angels died instantly with a bullet through her heart. Sister Maria Pilar, also hit, cried out, "Viva Cristo Rey (Long live Christ the King)!" The soldiers, furious at the pious exclamation, shot the unarmed nun repeatedly and slashed her with a knife. She died, having lost most of her blood, saying, "My God, pardon them. They don't know what they are doing." Sister Teresa was not harmed, and a soldier, pretending concern, gathered some of his companions and led Teresa to a nearby cemetery, apparently intending to rape her. As they went, she spoke out fearlessly against them, and they angrily insisted that she praise communism. To each of their commands, she cried, "Viva Cristo Rey!" Told to walk a few steps ahead, she spread her arms in the form of a cross and was shot in the back. These nuns outdid their captors in courage, mercy, and nobility, because they knew God well enough to know that he would keep his promises: "Even if you have to die, keep faithful, and I will give you the crown of life for your prize" (Revelation 2:10).

Most of us may not be ready to give such life-giving witness to our Lord but we can do a lot. As we begin this sacred season, let's make an at least an act of faith in letting God **clean up** our dark corners, so that we can **enjoy his presence** as we prepare for the great commemoration of Christmas Day.

+Rev. Roger D. Kutzner

St. Boniface Confessions

Wednesday, December 20, 2023 from 7pm—8pm

RE / Parish Penance Service

Thursday, December 21, 2023 at 6:30pm

4th Sunday of Advent, December 24, 2023

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

The 2nd collection

today is for Advent / Christmas Environment, which is used for decorating materials, poinsettias, etc. We appreciate



all donations, as your generosity will help make the church truly beautiful during the upcoming Christmas season which lasts from December 24 to the Baptism of the Lord on Monday, January 8, 2024!



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 November 26, 2023:

PARISH GOAL:	\$16,700
AMOUNT PLEDGED:	\$31,555
AMOUNT PAID:	\$30,265
REMAINING BALANCE:	\$ 1,290
# of DONORS:	115
2023 REBATE:	\$ 9,496

Thank-you for your generosity!

Our deepest sympathy is extended to the family and friends of **MRS. DOROTHY ANN OTTEN**, née Temenak, 85, who passed away suddenly on November.

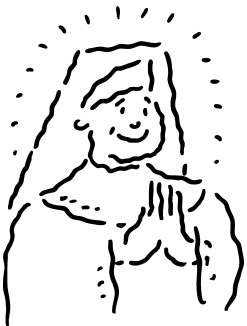
23, 2023. She was the mother of Deacon Mark (Anita) Otten of St. Boniface.

+ May she rest in peace. +



Please consider remembering **St. Paul the Apostle Catholic Church** when preparing your will. For more information, contact the parish office.

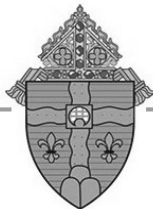
The CCW would like to share prayers during Advent with the parish. We have been blessed by your support and are giving each family a book—**Beautiful Eucharist** by Matthew Kelly—to share for Advent!



For over 40 years, the parishioners of St. Paul's have provided a wonderful Christmas party for the Franciscan Sisters of the Sacred Heart sisters at St. Francis Woods in Frankfort. There are less than two weeks before the Tuesday, December 12th 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 lobby. Suggestion sheets for bingo donations are in the lobby. 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.



Retirement Fund for Religious

**Please give to
those who have
given a lifetime.**



December 2023

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Our diocese will soon take up the national collection for the Retirement Fund for Religious. Your support for this collection December 9/10 provides financial assistance for retirement needs for 297 U.S. religious communities.

Catholic sisters, brothers and religious order priests—collectively known as women and men religious—have selflessly served for decades without significant financial compensation. However, due to escalating health-care costs, numerous U.S. religious communities face a substantial gap between their elderly members' needs and the financial resources available for their care. Many religious orders currently experience insufficient retirement savings.

The 2022 appeal demonstrated Catholics' tremendous generosity by raising \$27.6 million. Diocese of Joliet parishioners contributed \$286,788.25 to the collection.

The senior religious in our diocese never retire from their vows, and they play a crucial role in conveying the faith from one generation to the next. In their younger years, they laid the foundation for Catholic schools, hospitals, and works of mercy. Today, many serve in volunteer ministry as ongoing witnesses to the Gospel. Others are frail and need assistance, yet all remain wholly committed to their vocations by embracing the opportunity to spend more time praying for our Church and world.

Please support the retirement needs of our senior religious. And please join me in praying for God's continued blessing on our nation's elderly sisters, brothers, and religious order priests.

As I remain –

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Most Reverend Ronald A. Hicks
Bishop of Joliet

The Need is Great

- Religious communities are financially responsible for the support and care of all members.
- There are 24,005 religious past age 70 living in the United States. In 2022, the average annual cost for their care was roughly \$55,500 per person; skilled nursing care averaged \$82,700 per person.
- Since 2009, the annual cost to support senior women and men religious has exceeded \$1 billion.
- In 2022, 71 percent of the religious communities providing data to the National Religious Retirement Office had a median age of 70 or higher.
- The average annual Social Security benefit for a religious is \$7,679, whereas the average lay US beneficiary receives \$21,902.