

December 14, 2025

ST. PAUL the APOSTLE CATHOLIC PARISH

511 N. Conrad Street
Peotone, IL 60468-9290

CHURCH OFFICE TELEPHONE: 708 258-6917
CHURCH OFFICE FAX: 708 258-3061
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:

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: StPaulRE@att.net

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: To be announced

FIRST COMMUNION: To be announced

CONFIRMATION: May 9, 2026 at 11am

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

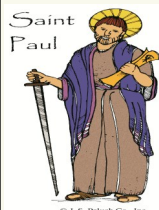
Eucharistic Adoration: Thursday 6pm to 8pm

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

LAST CALL!—If you would like to bring a copy of the *2025 Heritage Missal* or *Misal del Dia* home with you, please take a copy from the box in the rear of the church.



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	12/13	3:00 pm—	<u>CONFESSION</u>
		4:00 pm—	+ <u>Tess Claxton</u> req by Marge Brooks and <u>People of the Parish</u>
Sun	12/14	11:00 am—	+ <u>Timothy Julian</u> req by Marsha Henning
Mon	12/15	8:30 am—	<u>COMMUNION SERVICE</u>
Tue	12/16	8:30 am—	+ <u>Helen Stumbris</u> req by Family
Wed	12/17	8:30 am—	<u>COMMUNION SERVICE</u>
Thr	12/18	8:30 am—	<u>COMMUNION SERVICE</u>
		6:00 pm—	<u>ADORATION</u> <u>NO CONFESSION</u>
Fri	12/19	8:30 am—	+ <u>Elizabeth Ann Meaney</u> req by Tim & Cindy Reed
Sat	12/20	3:00 pm—	<u>CONFESSION</u>
		4:00 pm—	+ <u>Jim & Mary Lou Kelly</u> req by Elaine Doyle
Sun	12/21	11:00 am—	+ <u>Robert Schwiesow</u> req by Family 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.

Today is **Gaudete (Rejoice) Sunday** (also known as “**Rose Sunday**”) — the third Sunday of Advent in the liturgical calendar of Western Christianity, including the Roman Catholic Church, the Anglican Communion, Lutheran Churches, and other mainline Protestant churches. It can fall on any date from December 11 to December 17. On this Sunday, we recognize the joyful anticipation of the season that will culminate in the birth of Christ on Christmas by changing the liturgical color to rose. Rose-colored vestments may be worn because rose is a liturgical color; a “brightening” of the ordinary violet and thus symbolizes joy.

COLLECTION SUMMARY: December 6—7, 2025

Budgeted	\$3,205.53
Sunday Offertory*	\$4,282.00
Plus	\$1,076.47
Envelopes used / distributed	75 / 531
*Includes 11 Online Givers	
Retired Religious	\$ 500.00
Christmas	\$ 270.00
Immaculate Conception	\$ 395.00
Advent / Christmas Environment	\$1,071.00
Providing for Our Future	\$ 10.00

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.

A limited supply of **OPLATKI** is in the lobby.
A \$3 donation per packet is requested.

2026 **WALL CALENDARS**, Courtesy of Fedde-Helfrich-Cross Funeral Home, “*are expected to ship anytime this month.*”



WEDDING ANNIVERSARY RECOGNITION

On the second weekend of each month, Fr. Thomas will offer a **special blessing** to couples celebrating an anniversary in that month. Couples who want to participate will be asked to stand at the end of Mass for the blessing

If you would like your names and anniversary date **printed in the bulletin**, you need to register in the **registration book in the lobby**. Couples who register will also receive an anniversary card.



DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

Rod & Sue Williams
John & Rylee Schubbe
Frank, Jr. & Mary Jo Fry

December 26, 1982
December 28, 2024
December 31, 2013

43 years
1 year
12 years

POPE'S INTENTIONS for DECEMBER 2025

For Christians in areas of conflict

Let us pray that Christians living in areas of war or conflict, especially in the Middle East, might be seeds of peace, reconciliation, and hope.



Knights of Columbus St. Paul the Apostle Council 11232 invite all to attend a **Silver Rose Ceremony** following the Saturday, December 13 4PM Mass, and following the Sunday, December 14 11AM Mass at St. Paul the Apostle Church. The Silver Rose is associated with the Culture of Life initiative, and Our Lady of Guadalupe.

The Knights of Columbus continue to collect non perishable food items in boxes in the lobbies at St. Paul the Apostle Church. Please be especially generous during this holiday season. Donations support local pantries like Helping Hands and others.

Words cannot fully express my gratitude for the incredible warmth and support shown during my Installation Ceremony. Thank each one of you for your prayers, your presence, and your enthusiastic welcome during my installation as your Pastor. The ceremony was not just a formal event; it was a powerful reminder of the faith we share in Christ.



Your hard work, planning, hospitality, generosity, the beautiful music, and the collective spirit of joy were truly a blessing to me. I felt deeply welcomed and affirmed by your gracious efforts.

I am humbled and honored to officially stand before you as your Pastor, and I am filled with great excitement for the journey ahead. I look forward to serving alongside each of you as we seek to grow together in faith and holiness. Let us now turn our hearts toward the future and the calling God has placed on us.

May God bless and keep you all,
Fr. Thomas Theneth CMI

Thank you to all choir members for singing at the Installation Mass of Father Thomas last Saturday. From listening to the video you did a wonderful job. All of our hard work at those practices sure paid off!



Sometimes the best laid plans goes awry. A big shout out to Kristen Jester for covering for me and my ill-timed sickness last weekend. All of your efforts are greatly appreciated!

Moving on to **Christmas**... we have 3 dates left:

-Saturday, December 13 rehearsal 2:30-3:30pm

-Saturday, December 20 rehearsal 2:30-3:30pm

-Wednesday, December 24 -

Christmas Eve- rehearsal with brass @ 9pm

Sing Along Carols / RA Brass @ 9:30pm

Mass begins. @ 10pm

NEW MEMBERS are always welcome. Anyone able to attend the rehearsals and 10pm Mass are welcome to join us. It would be a good way for you to find out if this is something that you'd like to be a part of for the future.

Any questions? Contact Sue Williams (815) 370-6287.



UPCOMING RECONCILIATION OPPORTUNITIES:

—St. Joseph (Manhattan):

Monday 12/15 from 6—7:30pm;

Tuesday 12/16 from 6—7:30pm;

—St. Boniface (Monee): Tuesday 12/16 at 9am;

—St. Joseph (Bradley): Wednesday 12/17 at 6pm;

—St. Joseph (Manteno): Thursday 12/18 at 7pm;

—St. Boniface (Monee): Sunday 12/21 at 8am;

—St. Boniface (Monee): Tuesday 12/23 at 9am

They gave their lives in service—now they need your help.

For decades, women and men religious have cared for others, teaching, praying, and serving those in need. Many now face retirement without sufficient savings. Your support ensures they receive the care and dignity they deserve. Let us now offer them the dignity they have so selflessly granted to others. Your generosity today is not just a donation—it's a way of thanking them for their lifelong service. Please give to the **Retirement Fund for Religious**.

Third Sunday of Advent
Is 35:1-6a,10; Jam 5:7-10; Mt 11:2-11

Today's Gospel presents a powerful encounter between John the Baptist and Jesus, offering rich themes for our reflection, particularly on the nature of God's Kingdom, the signs of the Messiah, and the virtue of faithfulness amidst doubt.

Imprisoned and facing a dire future, John the Baptist, who was Christ's precursor, sends his disciples to Jesus with a profound question of doubt: "Are you the one who is to come, or should we look for another?" (Mt 11:3). John's preaching had focused on a Messiah of judgment—one who would "clear his threshing floor" with "unquenchable fire" (Mt 3:11-12). John's expectation was very strict and punishing Messiah. But the Messiah he saw, however, was one of mercy and healing. John's imprisonment and this perceived delay in judgment led to his understandable questioning. He was looking for a forceful judge but found a compassionate healer.

Jesus does not simply answer "Yes." Instead, he points to his actions, quoting the messianic prophecies of Isaiah (Is 35:5-6 and 61:1): "Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind regain their sight, the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have the good news preached to them" (Mt 11:4-5). This is Jesus' confirmation of his identity. The signs of the Kingdom are not immediately fire and brimstone, but healing, restoration, and good news for the marginalized. This challenges us to recognize Christ's presence not only in moments of triumph but also in works of mercy and compassion. Jesus concludes this reply with a gentle caution: "And blessed is the

one who takes no offense at me." This is a call to be open to God's unexpected ways, especially when they challenge our preconceived notions of how God should act.



After John's disciples depart, Jesus turns to the crowds and offers a powerful testimony about John the Baptist. Jesus elevates John, stating he is not a "reed swayed by the wind" (a symbol of weakness or fickleness), but "more than a prophet," identifying him as the messenger sent to prepare the way for the Messiah. Jesus declares, "Amen, I say to you, among those born of women there has been none greater than John the Baptist." This is the highest praise, confirming John's extraordinary faithfulness, prophetic ministry, and unique role as the bridge between the Old Covenant and the New.

John stood at the very threshold of the Kingdom, but his mission ended before the definitive inauguration of the New Covenant through Jesus' Passion, Death, and Resurrection. The "least in the kingdom"—the humblest disciple who benefits from the fullness of grace made available through Christ's sacrifice—has a greater intimacy with God and a deeper understanding of the Gospel than even John, who merely pointed the way. This speaks to the immense gift of Baptism and the Sacraments we receive in the Church. Our greatness is not earned but received through God's grace.

We now come to Christ in the Eucharist, remembering how He has already brought forth spiritual life where there was barrenness, given us the gift of understanding the scriptures, and enabled us to offer Him songs of thanks.

Yours in Christ,

Fr. Thomas Theneth CMI

The **Peotone Senior Assistance Center** serves clients **by appointment only** this **Thursday, December 17** from **10am—3pm**. This is part of our **Respect Life Ministry**, whose mission is to protect the vulnerable and provide seniors, low income and disabled persons with assistance from county, state and federal programs, including Medicare, Social Security, IL License Plate Discounts, and services offered through Catholic Charities. We are also a certified SHIP site (Senior Health Insurance Program). The center is staffed by volunteers who serve the community without cost. For information on specific services, please leave your name and phone number at 708 258-6917 then press 5. **Please make an appointment.**



Thursday, December 25, 2025 is
THE NATIVITY of the LORD—a Holy Day of Obligation

VIGIL MASSES WILL BE CELEBRATED AT:

St. Paul (Peotone)	3pm	December 24, 2025	
St. Boniface (Monee)	4pm	December 24, 2025	Spanish
St. Joseph (Manteno)	5pm	December 24, 2025	
St. Boniface (Monee)	6pm	December 24, 2025	
St. Paul (Peotone)	10pm	December 24, 2025	Carols at 9:30pm
St. Joseph (Manteno)	10pm	December 24, 2025	
St. Boniface (Monee)	8:30am	December 25, 2025	
St. Joseph (Manteno)	9am	December 25, 2025	
St. Paul (Peotone)	11am	December 25, 2025	
St. Boniface (Monee)	12:30pm	December 25, 2025	Spanish