

December 21, 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

The Parish Staff wishes all a very Merry Christmas and a Blessed New Year!



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.

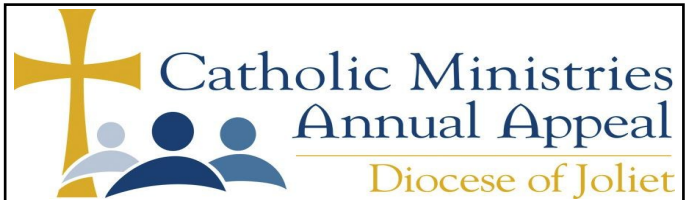
Mass Intentions For The Week



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Sat	12/20	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>
Mon	12/22	8:30 am—	<u>COMMUNION SERVICE</u>
Tue	12/23	8:30 am—	+ <u>Shirley Kulish</u> req by Family and + <u>Bruce Carstens</u> req by Tim & Cindy Reed
Wed	12/24		<u>NO COMMUNION SERVICE</u> 3:00 pm— + <u>Deceased Members of the John & Myra Thatcher Family</u> req by Gary & Janet Hase 10:00 pm— + <u>Adolph Stumbris</u> req by Family and + <u>Tom Adamsick;</u> + <u>Estelle & Wilbur Zirzow;</u> + <u>Rosemary & Rudy Adamsick</u> req by Family and + <u>Betty Knickrehm</u> req by Family
Thr	12/25	11:00 am—	<u>People of the Parish</u> <u>NO ADORATION</u> <u>NO CONFESSION</u>
Fri	12/26	8:30 am—	<u>COMMUNION SERVICE</u>
Sat	12/27	3:00 pm—	<u>CONFESSION</u> 4:00 pm— + <u>Bernard Powers</u> req by Family and <u>People of the Parish</u>
Sun	12/28	11:00 am—	<u>In Thanksgiving of</u> <u>John & Rylee Schubbe's</u> <u>First Wedding Anniversary</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.



CMAA Pledge Report for St. Paul the Apostle

Monthly pledge payments for CMAA pledges should be made in the next few days. It is very important that these pledges be paid. 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 12/14/25:

PARISH GOAL:	\$15,600
AMOUNT PLEDGED:	\$35,992
AMOUNT PAID:	\$35,047
REMAINING BALANCE:	\$ 945
NUMBER of DONORS:	122
2025 REBATE:	\$13,613

RE / FF Christmas Vacation:

December 18 through January 6.

Classes resume on Wednesday,
January 7, 2026.

*We hope to see all families at Mass
during the Christmas season and beyond.
Have a blessed Christmas and a Happy
New Year!*

POINSETTIA — This shrub, native to Mexico, is at the heart of legend about a poor girl who wanted to bring Baby Jesus a gift one Christmas Eve. As she walked to church, she gathered a bouquet of weeds — which Jesus miraculously transformed into lovely red flowers. Thus the poinsettia (named for Joel Poinsett, the US ambassador to Mexico who first brought the plant to America) is known in Mexico as la flor de la Nochebuena (flower of the Holy Night). The poinsettia is also an ideal Christmas symbol because its leaves turn red when deprived of sunlight and its flowers (the red inner buds) bloom in December.



**All 2025 contributions must be received in the church office
by Tuesday, December 30, 2025 to be included in your
2025 contribution statement.
Thank-you for your generosity!**

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 is pleased to announce winners in the Keep Christ in Christmas poster contest. Karrigan Holderfer will represent Grade 1-2, and Isabella Engwall will represent

grade 3-4 in the next round of judging at the Joliet Chapter Diocese level. Anna Tongren also participated in Grade 1-2. Certificates and gifts are on the way to these young artists.

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.

OPEN HOUSES

The work is never done. *Mother Teresa Catholic Academy* will be hosting **open houses** on January 14 and 27 from 12:15pm—6 pm. If you would like your children educated in a safe, faith-filled and loving environment or you know someone who does, please have them visit us at Mother Teresa for our open houses. Some may think they can't afford a Catholic Education; however, our Diocese, St. Liborius parish and school have increased our scholarship offerings to do all we can to make a Catholic Education at Mother Teresa accessible. Come check us out! Please call 708 672-3093 for information or visit Mtcacademy.org.

St. Paul Choir remaining 2025 dates:

—**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

I appreciate your time and talents of lending your voices with other choir members, enhancing the worship service.

May all have a blessed Christmas.

Sue Williams

815 370-6287



PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR TROOPS:

-**HM2 Chuck Claxton** (Navy—29 Palms, CA)

Son of Dennis & Pat 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

-**MAJ Jori Ingersoll** (Air Force—Washington State)

Daughter of Mary Jo (Frank) Fry, Jr.

-**SSGT Nate Kijowski** (Marines)

Son of Debbie (John) Ziolkowski Kijowski

-**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

-**CAPT 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.



CLOSING MASS OF THE JUBILEE YEAR 2025

On Sunday, December 28 throughout the world Catholics will gather at their Cathedral Churches to celebrate the closing of the *Jubilee Year of Hope 2025*.

The Diocese of Joliet will celebrate the closing of this Jubilee Year at the 10:30am Mass on Sunday, December 28 at the Cathedral of St. Raymond Nonnatus (Joliet). Everyone is invited to this very special Mass as a worldwide celebration of the Jubilee Year of Hope 2025 ends. This has been a very special time for the Church and we now gather to give thanks for all the blessings received during this Jubilee Year of Hope throughout the Diocese.

Mark your calendar to be present at the 10:30am Mass at the Cathedral on Sunday December 28 and join all Catholics throughout the world celebrating the closing of the Jubilee Year of Hope 2025.

Diocese of Joliet
Office of the Bishopwww.dioceseofjoliet.orgBlanchette Catholic Center
16555 Weber Rd.
Crest Hill, Illinois 60403

December 18, 2025

Dear Friends,
Peace be with you.

Today, December 18, 2025, it was officially announced that I will be installed as the 11th Archbishop of the Archdiocese of New York on Friday, February 6, 2026.

I want to begin by expressing my heartfelt gratitude to Pope Leo XIV for this appointment. Growing up in the south suburbs of Chicago, just a stone's throw from where he grew up, and having spent part of my priesthood in missionary work in Latin America, I feel a deep connection to him. His leadership is a guiding light for me, and I accept this new role with humility and an open heart.

I am also grateful to Cardinal Christophe Pierre, our apostolic nuncio, for his trust. When he called to share this news, I told him I simply wish to do God's will. Receiving his phone call on the feast of Saint Juan Diego is a reminder that sometimes God calls us to things that feel beyond us, but with grace and faith, we can answer yes.

I also want to offer a heartfelt thank you to Cardinal Timothy Dolan for his more than 17 years of leadership in New York. I have been touched by his gracious support and encouragement.

These past five years in Joliet have been a true blessing for me. I have felt grateful, happy, and deeply blessed to serve as your bishop. Together we have catechized, evangelized, and put our faith into action. The relationships we have built, the faith we have shared, and the journey we have walked together are treasures I will carry with me to New York.

As you continue to read, share, and embrace my pastoral letter, "MAKE," I ask you to let it keep guiding you. Please do not let it sit on a shelf, gathering dust. Instead, continue to implement it as a living, breathing call to be disciples who MAKE disciples.

I have much to learn in New York, and I will serve there as I have served here, with all my heart. I trust in God's will and count on your prayers. Know that as you pray for me, I am praying for you, with immense gratitude and love.

With good wishes, may God bless you this Advent season as we prepare for the celebration of the birth of Jesus.

As I remain --
Sincerely Yours in Christ,
Most Reverend Ronald A. Hicks

Bishop of the Diocese of Joliet and Archbishop designate of the Archdiocese of New York

Office of the Bishop815.221.6100 | 815.722.6632 (f) | officeofthebishop@dioceseofjoliet.org

Fourth Sunday of Advent
Is 35:1-6a, 10; Rom 1:1-7; Mt 1:18-24

Today's is often called the Annunciation to Joseph and provides the foundational Catholic understanding of the Incarnation from his perspective. It is a profound meditation on faith, obedience, and the silent, essential role of St. Joseph in salvation history. The passage begins by establishing the startling situation: Mary is found to be with child "through the Holy Spirit" even before she and Joseph lived together. Joseph's response reveals his extraordinary virtue: "Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, resolved to send her away quietly".

In Jewish tradition, a "just" or "righteous" man is one who adheres strictly and compassionately to God's Law. Joseph was faced with an apparent conflict: the Law required him to deal with a perceived act of infidelity, but his profound love and concern for Mary prevented him from doing so in a way that would lead to public shame or punishment. His decision to send her away quietly was the most merciful and compassionate choice possible under the Law. This highlights the Catholic understanding of Joseph as a man whose justice was tempered by love and mercy, making him the perfect guardian for the Son of God. Knowing Mary's sanctity and that the child was conceived miraculously, he felt unworthy to live with such a mystery, and thus sought to quietly withdraw, fearing to intrude upon God's work. Just as Joseph had resolved his plan, an angel of the Lord appears to him in a dream, shattering his human wisdom and revealing God's supernatural

plan. "Do not be afraid": This phrase, often spoken by angels in Scripture, addresses Joseph's internal conflict and confirms that God has a specific role for him. He is commanded to "take Mary as your wife" and to "name him Jesus".

Matthew explicitly cites Isaiah 7:14, declaring that all this took place "to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: 'Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel'". It means "God is with us." This name brings out the great mystery of the Incarnation. God the Son has literally taken on human flesh and made his dwelling among us.

Jesus is God Himself made man.

This passage brings out Joseph's ultimate obedience: "When Joseph awoke, he did as the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took his wife into his home." He immediately puts aside his own well-intentioned, lawful, and merciful plan to embrace the difficult and mysterious plan of God. St. Joseph becomes the silent protector and foster father, the legal head of the Holy Family, ensuring that Jesus is born into the line of David. This model of silent faithfulness and profound trust makes him a powerful patron for the Church and for all who struggle to discern and follow God's will when it challenges their own understanding.

This passage calls us to imitate St. Joseph, trusting in God's plan even when it seems confusing or impossible, and to respond to God's command with immediate, obedient action.

Yours in Christ,

Fr. Thomas Theneth CMI



This Christmas give something that means something. give the gift of life.

St. Joseph Knights of Columbus Council 11358 in conjunction with the American Red Cross will be hosting a blood drive on

Friday, December 26, 2024 • 2 - 6 pm

St. Joseph Catholic Church Basement 175 S. Main St. • Manteno, IL 60950

Come give blood and get an exclusive long-sleeved Red Cross T-shirt.

To schedule an appointment, call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767) or visit

RedCrossBlood.org, Sponsor code Manteno.

Contact Ed Leeson (815) 468-7419 for more information.

COLLECTION SUMMARY: December 13—14, 2025

Budgeted	\$3,205.53
Sunday Offertory*	\$2,651.00
Minus	(554.53)
Envelopes used / distributed	67 / 531
*Includes 7 Online Givers	
Retired Religious	\$1,106.00
Christmas	\$ 100.00
Immaculate Conception	\$ 242.00
Advent / Christmas Environment	\$ 275.00

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.



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. Patrick (Wilton Center)	4:30pm	December 24, 2025	
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

Thursday, January 1, 2026 is the
SOLEMNITY of MARY, MOTHER of GOD
—a Holy Day of Obligation

VIGIL MASSES WILL BE CELEBRATED AT:

St. Joseph (Manteno)	4pm	December 31, 2025	
St. Patrick (Wilton Center)	4pm	December 31, 2025	
St. Liborius (Steger)	4:30pm	December 31, 2025	
St. Boniface (Monee)	8:30am	January 1, 2026	
St. Paul (Peotone)	9:00am	January 1, 2026	
St. Boniface (Monee)	12:30pm	January 1, 2026	Spanish

Please keep Ed Kulish, Jan Leffelman, Laura Jacques, Nancy Pilotto, Rev. Tom Ewing, Michael Doyle, Mary Ellen Hanlon, Ashley Doody, Luke Payne, Dave Castaneda, Greg Nalepka, Kathleen Callahan, Deacon Mark Otten, Jeff Furtek, Charles Claxton, Mary Jane Szewka, Elaine Doyle, Dorothy Simikowski, Joe Ladislav, 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.

Heartfelt gratitude for your generosity!
“Thank you very much for your donations, always,” says Sister Olivia Bellegante, 93, a member of the Franciscan Sisters of Our Lady of Perpetual Help in St. Louis, Missouri. **Our parish gift of \$1,556** directly impacts thousands of senior religious, providing the support they need in their later years. Learn more at retiredreligious.org.

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



2026 CALENDARS, courtesy of Fedde-Helfrich-Cross Funeral Home, are available in the lobbies. We thank them for their continued generosity!

SCHEDULE CHANGES:

Thursday, December 25 & Thursday, January 1: No Eucharistic Adoration or Confession

Wednesday, December 24: No Morning Mass or Communion Service

Friday, December 26 & Friday, January 2: No Morning Mass at 8:30am—
There will be a Communion Service

There will be no regular office hours from December 24 through January 2.