



February 11, 2024

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: Sunday, March 17, 2024
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

Baskets are in both lobbies to properly dispose of blessed palms you have in your homes. They will be burned for use on Ash Wednesday, February 14.



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: February 3—4, 2024

Sunday Offertory*	\$3,873.00
Budgeted	\$3,365.38
Plus	\$ 507.62
Envelopes used / distributed	75 / 514

**Includes 9 Online Givers*

First Offering	\$ 50.00
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.

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.



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Barb Egelski, Tom Skill, Scott Rosenberg, Betty Knickrehm, Arline Clark, Mary Jo Fry, Gerald Adcock, Laura Valenti, Samantha Digiaco, Julie Szudarski, Owen Ruhbeck, Sharon Andrews, Sue Gomez, 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, 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 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.

TODAY is **SOUPER BOWL SUNDAY**. Our RE / FF youth will be at the entries collecting your \$ bills.



Remember—for every \$1 you donate, Helping Hands can provide \$8 worth of food.

Thanks for your support!

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.



Mass Intentions

Sat	2/10	3:00 pm— <u>CONFESSIO</u> 4:00 pm— + <u>Bernard Schwertfeger</u> req by Joan Olsen and <u>People of the Parish</u>
Sun	2/11	10:30 am— + <u>David Onak</u> req by Rick & Denise Starkey
Mon	2/12	7:15 am— + <u>Bernard Powers</u> req by Cindy Reed
Tue	2/13	7:15 am— <u>Communion Service</u>
Wed	2/14	7:15 am— <u>People of the Parish</u> 4:00 pm— <u>LITURGY of the WORD with ASHES</u> 7:15 pm— + <u>Rudy Adams</u> req by Family
Thr	2/15	7:15 am— + <u>Pat Motyka</u> req by Family 6:00 pm— <u>ADORATION</u> 7:30 pm— <u>CONFESSIO</u>
Fri	2/16	7:15 am— + <u>The Souls in Purgatory</u> 7:00 pm— <u>Stations of the Cross</u>
Sat	2/17	3:00 pm— <u>CONFESSIO</u> 4:00 pm— + <u>John Mackey</u> req by Dan & Jo Mott
Sun	2/18	10:30 am— + <u>Salvation of the Soul of</u> <u>Mary B. Litak</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 FEBRUARY 2024:

For the terminally ill

We pray that those with a terminal illness, and their families, receive the necessary physical and spiritual care and accompaniment.



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.

OUR FASCINATING FAITH — Ashes

There are three major Biblical traditions concerning ashes: repentance, mourning, and mortality, and they are interrelated. Repeatedly throughout the Bible we encounter the use of ashes (often together with sackcloth) as a penitential practice. A similar practice is seen when someone is in mourning or distress. And ashes are a metaphor for human life, which is seen as brief and destined to end in death:

Ashes are the result of fire, the complete burning of something that was alive. They are ephemeral; the slightest puff of air can send them away into nothingness. It is easy to see how ashes came to symbolize fleeting human life or the humility of repentance.

Ashes can represent other things as well. For example, ashes are often used to fertilize our gardens and fields. Ash is therefore necessary to bring about and nourish life.

We can now begin to see how appropriate a symbol ashes are for the season of Lent. For Lent is not only a time of repentance, of sorrow for our sins. It is a baptismal season of preparation for the new life of our catechumens and of recalling the new life of our own baptism. We start Lent in ashes, and end it in Easter. What will the ashes mean to you this Lent?

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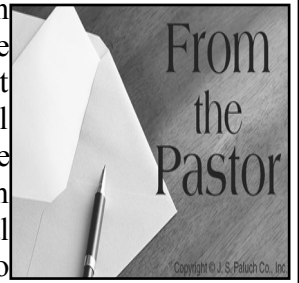


National Marriage Week USA

MARRIAGE IS WORTH IT! • EVERY FEB 7-14

Celebrate! Learn more.

What every human heart needs to know is that we are loved by God even though we are sinners and don't deserve it. That makes the difference between a meaningful life and an empty life. Let me share with you an example of this truth as I recently read about certain event that happened 16 years ago. It was fall 2008. There was a high school football game in Texas. The game was played between Gainesville State School and Grapevine Faith Christian School. Grapevine Faith is a private Christian school. Gainesville State is a high school prison, a maximum-security state correctional facility for 285 teenage criminals. Gainesville State lost to Grapevine Faith 33-14 to finish their season 0-9. But ever since that game, the Gainesville State campus hasn't been the same. Teacher Chris Styles put it concisely: after that game, he said, "The culture just switched." Why? Because of how Grapevine Faith hosted the players from the prison: they treated them like they would treat anybody and not like hopeless outcasts.



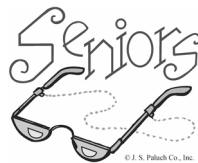
First, student fans at Grapevine Faith formed a 40-yard spirit line for the Gainesville players to run through before the start of the game. Then, half the Grapevine fans sat behind the Gainesville sideline and cheered them on - by numbers and even names - throughout the game. Grapevine Faith even loaned the Gainesville State Tornadoes their junior high cheerleaders. Gainesville lost, but they ended up scoring as many touchdowns in that one game as they had in their eight previous games combined.

Gainesville State became suddenly a different place. "It's like people's hearts have really changed," the superintendent explained. And not just the hearts of the inmates, but area residents too. They think of the correctional facility differently now; they encourage the young men there; they even come out to their games. All because a group of Christians decided to follow Christ's example and touch the leper instead of condemning him.

I understand that not everybody find that courage to really exemplify Christ's attitude in their lives. Pretty often, following Jesus's example of love and respect towards others, seems to be politically incorrect, if not just plain unreasonable (crazy) in the eyes of many. So I pray that we, proclaiming with our words to be Jesus's disciples, show it more often in our deeds.

+ Rev. Roger D. Kutzner

The **Peotone Senior Assistance Center** serves clients, by appointment only, this **Thursday, February 15**, 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, Illinois 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.

Please sign-up in the rear of the church to assist with



making meatless soup and bread for our **SOUP SUPPERS** held at 6pm, prior to Stations of the Cross at 7pm, beginning this Friday, February 16.

Parishioners, parish groups, RE / FF classes, families, etc., are invited to sign-up and serve as hosts / hostesses.



Pledge your gift to the CMAA

This is commitment weekend for the 2024 Catholic Ministries Catholic Appeal (CMAA). The appeal is a beautiful way we can put our faith into action by supporting the mission and important ministries of the Diocese of Joliet.

This year's CMAA theme is *For the Glory of God*. Caring for our brothers and sisters in need is a magnificent way to celebrate His glory. Through our annual appeal, our parish joins with other parishes in the diocese to enrich the lives of those most vulnerable among us, grow our children in deep faith, and strengthen vocations. We could not foster these and the many other ministries the CMAA supports on our own. This is a diocese-wide effort.

70% of any amount we raise over our goal will be returned to us, a wonderful re-gifting of sorts, that affords us the opportunity to invest in the needs of our own parish.

Please prayerfully reflect on how you can best support our annual appeal and help our parish reach its \$16,100.

To make a gift, complete and return one of the pledge envelopes in church today. Thank you in advance for your support!

Our next **BAPTISMAL CLASS** is scheduled for **this Thursday, February 15 at 6pm**. Parents and godparents are required to attend a class before making arrangements for the baptism of their child. If parents and godparents have attended a baptismal class within the last two years, there is no need to attend again. We encourage you to attend the class during your pregnancy so there will be no delay in your child's baptism. If you plan to attend, please call the parish office.



Peotone Ecumenical Council of Churches — Lenten Soup Suppers



The Peotone Ecumenical Council of Churches extends an invitation to gather together as the people of God on five Wednesdays in Lent.

With the great success of the past, and the fellowship we have created as a community, we will gather to share a simple dinner and inspiring worship on these nights. As in the past, soup will be served from 6—7pm and Worship will begin at 7pm.

We will be hosting at St. Paul this year on **Wednesday, March 6th**. We will be in need of volunteers to help serve and provide 14 crock pots of soup and several dozen cookies.

Please sign up in the rear of the church if you can help!

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.



February 2024

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Throughout his pontificate, our Holy Father, Pope Francis, has often spoken of the need for Christians to evangelize others through accompaniment. Through listening patiently, building trust, and being mindful of others' dignity, we can help one another encounter Christ's merciful love, especially those who suffer from emotional wounds, loneliness, and doubt. For Central and Eastern Europeans living in countries that experienced 70 years of communist oppression, the Church especially needs to accompany people to an encounter with Christ that is patient, understanding, and filled with hope instead of fear, anger, and anxiety.

In Slovakia, the Alexis Counseling Center has accompanied nearly 2,500 women and their loved ones with devotion. Since 2010, the center has provided counseling to women experiencing the anxieties of an unplanned pregnancy or the grief of pregnancy loss, as well as to their partners, family members, and friends. In addition to promoting psychological healing, the center also helps vulnerable women who have experienced miscarriages and abortions to find housing, material and financial assistance, and support groups.

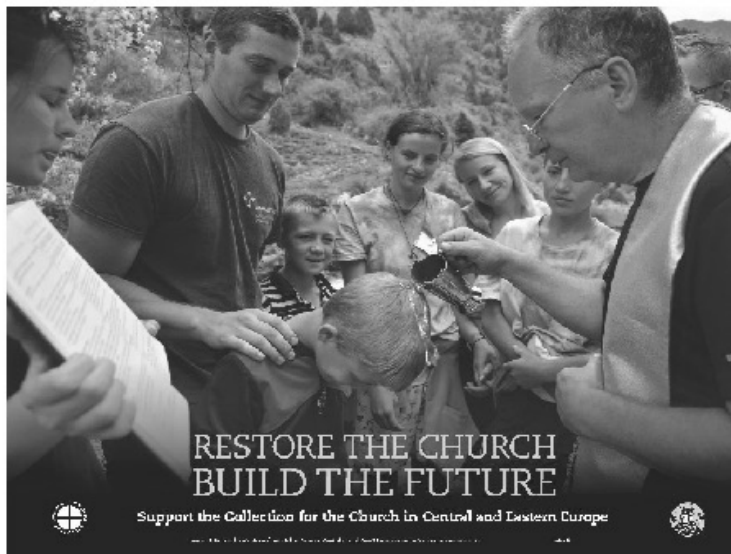
In Albania, lay people are preparing for lay ministries as catechists and extraordinary ministers of Communion through a three-year study program that provides in-depth knowledge of the Gospel, the Church, and sacraments, liturgy, and spirituality. This formation program equips participants to be active, faith-filled agents of evangelization and accompaniment to those who desire to know Christ and the Church.

Ministries of accompaniment such as these are made possible with grant monies raised through the Ash Wednesday Collection for the Church in Central and Eastern Europe. When you participate in the collection, you help the Church in Slovakia, Albania, Ukraine and more than 24 other countries accompany people who still experience the hardships and wounds caused by communism. Your support for and promotion of the Collection for the Church in Central and Eastern Europe is crucial to the success of ministries that affirm the dignity of children, youth, and other vulnerable people and show them the love and mercy of Jesus.

For more information about the collection and who it supports, visit www.usccb.org/ccee. Thank you for your help to restore the Church and build the future in Central and Eastern Europe.

Paz y bien,

Most Reverend Ronald A. Hicks
Bishop of Joliet





Febrero 2024

Queridos hermanos y hermanas en Cristo,

A lo largo de su pontificado, nuestro Santo Padre, el papa Francisco, nos habla con frecuencia de la necesidad de los cristianos de evangelizar a los demás mediante el acompañamiento. Unos a otros, podemos ayudarnos a encontrar el amor misericordioso de Cristo, escuchando pacientemente, generando confianza y siendo conscientes de la dignidad de los demás, especialmente, de los que sufren debido a heridas emocionales, la soledad y las dudas. Para las personas en Europa Central y Oriental, que viven en países que pasaron 70 años bajo la opresión comunista, la Iglesia, especialmente, necesita acompañar a las personas a un encuentro con Cristo, un encuentro paciente, comprensivo y lleno de esperanza en vez de temor, ira y ansiedad.

En Eslovaquia, el *Alexis Counseling Center* ha acompañado devotamente a cerca de 2,500 mujeres y sus seres queridos. Desde el 2010, el centro ha brindado asesoramiento a mujeres que sufren las ansiedades de un embarazo no planificado o el dolor por la pérdida de un embarazo, así como a sus parejas, familiares y amigos. Además de promover la sanación psicológica, el centro ayuda también a mujeres vulnerables que experimentaron una pérdida o un aborto, a encontrar una vivienda, ayuda material y económica y grupos de apoyo.



En Albania, personas laicas se están preparando para ministerios laicos como catequistas y ministros extraordinarios de la comunión mediante un programa de estudios de tres años, el cual les proporciona un conocimiento profundo del Evangelio, la Iglesia, los sacramentos, la liturgia y la espiritualidad. Este programa de formación equipa a los participantes para ser agentes activos y llenos de fe para la evangelización y el acompañamiento de aquellos que desean conocer a Cristo y la Iglesia.

Los ministerios de acompañamiento, tales como estos, son posible con subvenciones del dinero recaudado a través de la Colecta del Miércoles de ceniza para la Iglesia en Europa Central y Oriental. Cuando ustedes participan en la colecta, están ayudando a la Iglesia en Eslovaquia, Albania, Ucrania y más de 24 otros países a acompañar a personas que aún están experimentando las penurias y las heridas causadas por el comunismo. El apoyo de ustedes y la promoción que le den a la Colecta para la Iglesia en Europa Central y Oriental es crucial para el éxito de los ministerios que afirman la dignidad de los niños, de la juventud y de otras personas vulnerables y les demuestran el amor y la misericordia de Jesús.

Para más información acerca de la colecta y a quiénes ésta les brinda apoyo, visiten www.usccb.org/ccee. Muchas gracias por su ayuda para restaurar la Iglesia y construir el futuro en Europa Central y Oriental.

Paz y bien,

Most Reverend Ronald A. Hicks
Bishop of Joliet

LENTEN REGULATIONS

1. Everyone 14 years of age or over is bound to **abstain** from meat on **Ash Wednesday** and all the **Fridays of Lent**.
2. All from the age of 18 years up to the beginning of their 60th year are bound to **fast on Ash Wednesday & Good Friday**.
3. On these two days of fast and abstinence, only one full meatless meal is allowed. Two other meatless meals, sufficient to maintain strength, may be taken according to each one's needs, but together they should not equal another full meal. Eating between meals is not permitted on these two days, but liquids, including milk and fruit juices are allowed. When health or ability to work would be seriously affected, the law does not oblige.
4. To disregard completely the law of fast and abstinence is sinful.
5. Lent is the principal season of penance in the Church year. Therefore, all of the faithful are strongly urged to develop and follow a program of voluntary self-denial. All Catholics are encouraged to support generously the charitable works of the whole Church, pray and perform works of charity and mercy.
6. Those who are sick, pregnant, or nursing, or whose health would adversely be affected by fasting or abstinence, should not consider themselves bound by these norms.

ALMSGIVING OPPORTUNITIES

COLLECTION for the CHURCH in CENTRAL / EASTERN EUROPE: February 14
OPERATION RICE BOWL throughout Lent. Contact the RE Office for a bowl.
HELPING HANDS FOOD PANTRY
CATHOLIC RELIEF SERVICES APPEAL: March 9—10
PONTIFICAL COLLECTION for the HOLY LAND: Good Friday, March 29



PRAYER OPPORTUNITIES:

Weekday Mass: Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday at 7:15am
 Communion Service: Tuesday at 7:15am

SACRAMENT OF PENANCE:

Saturday 3-3:45pm; Thursday 7:30-8pm; or by appointment
 Parish / RE Penance Service: March 18 at 6:30pm

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION Thursday 6-8pm

STATIONS of the CROSS Friday beginning February 16

Stations of the Cross begin at 7pm in the church all Fridays of Lent.

LITTLE BLACK BOOKS containing 6-minute meditations on the Passion according to Luke are in the lobby

CLERGY ASSOCIATION of GREATER PEOTONE WEDNESDAY LENTEN SOUP SUPPER and PRAYER SERVICE *Soup Supper begins at 6pm / Prayer Service begins at 7pm*

DATE	HOST CHURCH
February 21	Faith Connection (Wilton Center)
February 28	Immanuel UCC (Peotone)
March 6	St. Paul the Apostle
March 13	United Methodist Church (Peotone & Green Garden)
March 20	St. John at Faith Connection (Wilton Center)

HELP from our parishioners is needed on **Wednesday, MARCH 6** to provide soup and cookies when we host. **HOST(ES)** are also needed!

GOOD FRIDAY: March 29 at 3pm
 Ecumenical Stations of the Cross hosted by
 St. Paul the Apostle Catholic Church



SOUP SUPPER / STATIONS of the CROSS on Fridays in Lent (February 16, February 23, March 1, March 8, March 15 and March 22)

A light supper of meatless soup and bread will be served at 6pm in the Red Room;

Stations of the Cross begin at 7pm in the church.

Parishioners, parish groups, RE / FF classes, families, etc. are invited to sign-up to provide **meatless soup and bread** and serve as hosts / hostesses. **Please sign-up in the rear of the church.**

Paper products, butter and cutlery will be provided. **Please join us in Lenten fellowship.**

