

#### 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

# There will be a **PARISH COUNCIL MEETING** on Monday, February 26, 2024 at 6:30pm.





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 10-11, 2024		
Sunday Offertory*	\$2,730.00	
Budgeted	\$ <u>3,365.38</u>	
Minu	\$ 635.38	
Envelopes used / distributed	75 / 514	
*Includes 9 Online Givers		
First Offering	\$ 40.00	
Latin America	\$ 10.00	
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 vour 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.

#### FEBRUARY 2024 RAFFLE WINNERS

\$150.00	#660	Norm Hecht
\$100.00	#170	Suzanne Holbrook
\$ 50.00	#180	Gina Partschy
\$ 50.00	#86	Arnie and Julie
\$ 25.00	#474	Patrick Polcyn
\$ 25.00	#430	Tony Formato



Barb Egelski, Tom Skill, Scott Rosenberg, Betty Knickrehm, Arline Clark, Mary Jo Fry, Gerald Adcock, Laura Valenti, Sa-

mantha Digiacomo, 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.

#### ALL ARE WELCOME

Our Lady of Mercy Catholic Church (701 S. Eola Rd / Aurora) will hold a special disABILITIES Mass at 2pm on Sunday on March 10, 2024.

Individuals with special needs, and their friends and family, are encouraged to attend. Please call 630 / 851-3444 for details.

Help is needed in providing soup, bread and cookies on Wednesday, March 6 for the weekly Peotone Ecumenical Council of Churches Lenten Soup Suppers and Worship. Please sign-up in the rear of the church. Hosts / hostesses are also needed.



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.

WHY NOT A MASS INTENTION! If you are thinking of sending someone a get-well card, or a special occasion is coming up, a birthday or an anniversary, why not have a Mass said for them? Mass intentions are for the living as well as the deceased. There's no nicer way to offer tribute, or better prayer you can offer for those you love.

For more information, please call the office at 708 258-6917.

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.



# THANK YOU!

St. Paul the Apostle Catholic Church's 2024 Collection

raised:

\$380

Thanks to your efforts this year, more dollars have been raised, more lives have been changed, and the nation has seen the impact of people working together to help those in need. Thank you for working to transform the time around the Super Bowl into the nation's largest celebration of giving and serving.



HUNGER

February 11, 2024

Alison Reese Executive Director Tackle Hunger: Home of the Souper Bowl of Caring

Thanks to everyone who contributed to the **SOUPERBOWL of CARING**.

\$380 was received — this translates into \$3,040 worth of food purchases from the parish for Helping Hands.

We extend our thanks to our youth who collected at the doors!

**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

Last week I shared with you the news about my pastorship coming to its end, as I am about to complete my second 6-year term at St. Paul the Apostle Parish in Peotone. This term will end on June 30<sup>th</sup> and I will move to my next assignment. The diocesan office has already shared with me the information about parishes looking for new pastors and I am in process of figuring out which would best fit my needs and the needs of the people I am going to minister to this time. This is kind of difficult time for me and I believe it is somehow for you as well. Let's keep each other in our prayers as we still have four and a half months to adjust to this reality.



It's been quite a journey at St. Paul as well as St. Patrick in Wilton Center (the parish I had for the first four years) and St. Boniface (which I have already been with for almost 8 years). I intend to start a kind of evaluation of the things that I have experienced these past 12 years. Many things. It was not monotonous life smoothly sailing the waters of the Kingdom of God on earth. From trying to manage caring for my mom and everyday work at parishes through my health issues (diabetes, triple bypasses and pancreatitis) that required some time off, ending with some serious projects we have completed these years, this has not been an easy road and I just hope that I remember many good lessons I have learned while facing all the trials.

In that case, I am glad we started the season of Lent. I am looking forward to this time when I can let Jesus penetrate and transform my life anew by His truth and the power of His love. I especially want Jesus to help me be more open to the reality of His wisdom. Open and more authentic. I want Him to take away masks that I sometimes wear before others.

First, I think, is the mask of pretending, of doing things halfheartedly, of going through the motions. Second, I believe, is the mask of pride, that makes me seek reward and praise for good things I do. Third is the mask of false humility, where I lie to myself that I do things only to benefit others and not myself. These masks definitely can result with blocking my true relationship with God, with other people, slowing down my growth to full maturity.

Lent just reminds me of how important are the changing circumstances that encourage me to repent and transform into someone better. My life is being radically changed as I get ready to move to another parish, and I hope this will help me to also make changes in my own life. Whatever you go through in life I invite you to use opportunity of Lenten disciplines to transform your lives as well.

### + Rev. Roger D. Kutzner

Thank-you to everyone who participated in the *CCW PARISH POTLUCK* last Sunday. It was truly an enjoyable event! We appreciate all who brought food, helped decorate, set-up and clean-up. A special thanks are extended to our RE/FF helpers.

Thanks to everyone who brought in a wedding picture for National Marriage Week. Please take home your photo this weekend.





Our deepest sympathy is extended to the family and friends of MRS. STELLA ZAJAKALA, 95, who passed away February 8, 2024. A Memorial Mass will be held at St. Patrick's Residence 1400 Brookdale Rd / Naper-ville) on Friday, February 23 at 10am.

# Village of Peotone Blood Drive

American Legion Post 392 109 E North St Peotone, IL 60468

Monday, February 26, 2024 1:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

You can save up to 15 minutes when you donate blood by using RapidPass! Visit RedCrossBlood.org/RapidPass for more information.

For an appointment call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767) or visit RedCrossBlood.org. Appointments preferred.



Share your heart! Come give in Feb. for a \$20 Amazon.com Gift Card by email, See rcblood.org/heart



Scan to schedu

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 6**. We will be in need of volunteers to help serve and provide 10 crock pots of soup, bread and several dozen cookies. Please sign up in the rear of the church if you can help! Hosts / hostesses are also needed.



All-knowing and loving God, we give you thanks for your blessings upon the Diocese of Joliet. For 75 years, we have been **founded in faith**, **called to witness**, and **sent forth to serve**.

In thanksgiving for your abiding presence among us, and with gratitude for the life and service of those who have gone before us, we recommit ourselves to carrying out this mission entrusted to them, to us, and to future generations. Relying on the intercession of our patron, St. Francis Xavier, may our diocese continue to be a source of hope for the Church and all peoples, now and in the years to come.

We pray this in the name of Jesus, your Son by the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

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**.

#### 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

HELPING HANDS FOOD PANTRY

COLLECTION for the CHURCH in CENTRAL / EASTERN EUROPE: February 14 OPERATION RICE BOWL throughout Lent. Contact the RE Office for a bowl.

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

**EUCHARISTIC 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)
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 28 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 / host-

esses. Please sign-up in the rear of the church.

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



## **Bishop Hicks' Column**

February 2024

#### PEACE IN THE HOLY LAND





WHAT DO WE DO WHEN WE DO NOT KNOW WHAT TO DO?

Throughout the journey of our lives, we all experience moments of uncertainty, ambiguity, or indecision. We can feel small, inadequate, and almost paralyzed as we face looming problems ranging

from our own personal issues to worldwide crises.

Grounded in faith, Saint Francis of Assisi wisely taught that when we do not know what to do, we should "pray, obey, and love." Our Catholic tradition reflects his wise counsel.

**PRAY** In the good times and bad, we turn to God in prayer. Through prayer, we realize that we are not the center of the universe, as we raise our hearts and minds to God. As Jesus taught, "For human beings this is impossible, but for God all things are possible" (Matthew 19:26).

**OBEY** While prayer is the proper first step, it should not end there. We also need to be obedient to God, always discerning: What is the best response according to God's command, law, and divine will?

**LOVE** However we respond to problems, our actions should always reflect Christ's love, specifically following the greatest commandment: "You shall love the Lord, your God, with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind... and you shall love your neighbor as yourself" (Matthew 22: 37–39).

Since October 2023, the conflicts in the Holy Land have escalated into a horrible war. Most of us follow the news with broken hearts and feel helpless.

Recently, I attended a dinner in Chicagoland (*photo above*) at which His Beatitude Cardinal Pierbattista Pizzaballa, spoke about the realities in the Holy Land.

Born in Italy in 1965, Cardinal Pizzaballa entered the Franciscan Order. He serves as the Latin Patriarch and Archbishop of Jerusalem. On January 27, 2024, we gathered at a dinner hosted by the Arab American Catholic Community (AACC), which exists to unite and support Catholic Arabs within the United States. In attendance were also many Knights and Dames from the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre. Its mission includes supporting and promoting the Holy Land and protecting the Christian presence there. I am humbled to

belong to this ancient and noble order and am proud to witness the local members' dedication and commitment to this mission.

Known for his constant efforts to promote solidarity, cultural and historical preservation, interreligious dialogue, and embrace and advocate for peace, justice, and reconciliation, Cardinal Pizzaballa's 45-minute presentation literally quieted the entire banquet room, as even the waitstaff stopped to listen to his every word. He called for a ceasefire and spoke of the Catholic Church's boundless efforts to provide food, shelter, housing, healthcare, and spiritual care for those affected by the war.

He also prophetically commented that instead of striving for peace in the current war, both sides unfortunately are fighting only for victory — a victory that clearly delineates a winner and a loser. "Peace is not victory," said Cardinal Pizzaballa. "It is the willingness on both sides to give something up for the greater good."

He spent a lot of time laying the foundation for the need for true peace, a peace which is reflected only in Jesus. He reminded us that peace is not the absence of conflict. Instead, it includes the presence of justice, reconciliation, discernment of God's will, and the desire for the common good.

This Lent, as we prepare ourselves to enter this season of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving, you might consider donating to a reputable organization or charity that aids and services to those in need in the Holy Land; some suggestions are included at the bottom of this article. Also, on Good Friday, throughout the Diocese of Joliet, a collection will be taken up to support the work of the Franciscans working in the Holy Land.

The Holy Land holds a powerful place in our hearts and in salvation history. It is where Jesus was born, grew up, taught, prayed, performed miracles, suffered, died, and was resurrected. In solidarity, let us join Cardinal Pizzaballa's call for an end to the violence and for a just and lasting peace in the Holy Land as we turn to God with prayer, obedience, and love.

Jesus, Prince of Peace, pray for us.

#### **Holy Land Humanitarian Agencies**

- Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulcher Humanitarian Fund
- Catholic Relief Services (U.S. arm of Caritas International)
- Franciscan Foundation for the Holy Land Humanitarian Programs
- Catholic Near East Welfare Association Emergency Holy Land Fund



Scan the QR code for links or visit **diojoliet.org** 





## Columna del Obispo Hicks

Enero de 2024

#### VENTAJAS DE LOS CALENDARIOS DE PAPEL EN LA ERA DIGITAL





EN UNA ERA DOMINADA POR LOS TELÉFONOS INTELIGENTES Y LA TECNOLOGÍA DIGITAL, el tradicional calendario de papel puede parecer una reliquia anticuada de una época pasada. En 2011, cambié oficialmente mi calendario/planificador quinquenal, que ocupaba un lugar destacado en mi escritorio, por un calendario digital que

se sincroniza automáticamente con mi teléfono. Hay que reconocer que la agenda digital es mucho más cómoda y eficaz, y una vez que hice el cambio, no me arrepentí. Sin embargo, sigo echando de menos algunos de los matices de utilizar un calendario en papel.

Algo que echo de menos de anotar un acontecimiento es la posibilidad de impresionar a mis amigos o familiares diciéndoles que voy a escribir nuestra cita "con tinta", un guiño a la importancia y el valor de nuestro próximo encuentro. También echo de menos el acto de hojear las páginas de un calendario físico, ya que evoca tantos recuerdos y emociones. Estéticamente, un calendario en papel —especialmente los que se cuelgan en la pared— también ofrece una amplia variedad de estilos para exponer, como obras de arte, en nuestros hogares y oficinas.

Estoy encantado de que la Diócesis de Joliet se haya asociado con Catholic Extension para publicar un Calendario del Aniversario 2024 para nuestro 75.º Jubileo. Desde 1905, Catholic Extension forma y fortalece eficazmente comunidades religiosas católicas en Estados Unidos, especialmente en zonas económicamente desfavorecidas o geográficamente aisladas.

Con motivo de nuestro aniversario número 75, este calendario expresa en forma maravillosa una narración tejida como un tapiz de una vibrante comunidad católica. Destaca de manera magnífica los principales hitos con fotografías históricas y anécdotas que relatan nuestra extraordinaria historia y evolución. Cada mes se desarrolla con una invitación a revisar momentos significativos: desde la fundación de la diócesis hasta el desarrollo de las parroquias, pasando por las contribuciones de los clérigos, los religiosos y los laicos.

Este calendario también tiende puentes entre distintas generaciones. Pone en contacto a quienes han sido testigos del camino transformador de la diócesis con los católicos más

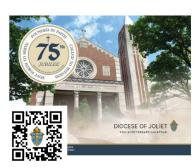
jóvenes, a quienes puede fascinar conocer sus raíces. Al mismo tiempo, encierra la memoria colectiva de nuestra diócesis, promoviendo un espíritu de comunidad y tradición compartida. En materia gráfica, el calendario nos permite ver que la diócesis es mucho más grande que solo nuestra propia experiencia parroquial.

Además, el calendario es una guía práctica que ofrece información sobre los tiempos litúrgicos, las festividades y los días de observancia religiosa, y nos recuerda liturgias, ordenaciones y acontecimientos especiales. También nos brinda la oportunidad de recordar a antiguos obispos y reserva una fecha concreta para rezar por cada una de nuestras parroquias. Al integrar completamente lo sagrado y lo secular, nuestro calendario se vuelve una compañía diaria y mensual que refuerza nuestra conexión con nuestra fe, tradición y sentido de pertenencia a Dios y a los demás.

Nuestro calendario destaca además las contribuciones de personas, movimientos y organizaciones que han dado y siguen dando forma a nuestra diócesis. A través de perfiles, relatos y breves lecciones de historia, celebra a todos aquellos héroes, tanto populares como anónimos, cuya dedicación, fe y servicio encarnan el espíritu de la Iglesia Católica en la Diócesis de Joliet.

La inclusión en el calendario de acontecimientos importantes, Misas, oportunidades de servicio e hitos para el próximo año no solo nos mantiene informados, sino que también invita a la participación activa. Es de esperar que el calendario nos inspire y motive para unirnos y contribuir con nuestro tiempo, talento y dones a garantizar que nuestra diócesis siga siendo fuerte y se mantenga activa para las generaciones futuras.

Estos calendarios son tan bonitos e informativos que servirán de recuerdo durante muchos años. Quiero expresar mi más sincero agradecimiento a todas las tiendas, las empresas y los prestadores de servicios que patrocinaron el Calendario del Aniversario 2024 en sus parroquias locales. Si no ha



podido conseguir un calendario para usted, escanee el código QR o acceda al siguiente enlace para verlo por Internet: <a href="bit.ly/3tE94m0">bit.ly/3tE94m0</a>

Como muchos de ustedes, seguiré utilizando mi agenda digital que se sincroniza con mi computadora y mi teléfono inteligente. Sin embargo, también consultaré con orgullo y a diario nuestro calendario en papel como compañero para navegar por los pliegues del tiempo en la era digital. Honrando el pasado, abrazando el presente y esperando el futuro, sigamos rezando unos por otros.

¡Feliz año nuevo! Y con cada día que transcurre y cada paso de un mes a la siguiente página del calendario, que Dios te bendiga a ti y a los tuyos.



