





February 1, 2026

ST. PAUL the APOSTLE CATHOLIC PARISH
511 N. Conrad Street
Peotone, IL 60468-9290

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| SUNDAY | MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY |
|--|---|--|--|---|--|--|
| FEBRUARY 2026 | COMMUNION SERVICE (or MASS) at the ILLINOIS VETERANS HOME at MANTENO on TUESDAY at 2PM | MASS (or COMMUNION SERVICE) at BEECHER MANOR on THURSDAY at 10AM | |  National Marriage Week USA MARRIAGE IS WORTH IT! • EVERY FEB 7-14 <i>Celebrate! Learn more.</i> | | |
| 1 | 2 CANDLEMAS CCW MEETING 6:30pm | 3 ST. BLAISE KNIGHTS of COLUMBUS 7pm | 4 RE / FF CLASSES 6:15—7:30pm | 5 ADORATION 6-8 | 6 | 7 CHOIR 2:30-3:30pm CONFESSION 3pm MASS 4pm |
| 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 RE / FF CLASSES 6:15—7:30pm | 12 ADORATION 6-8  | 13 K of C PASTA DINNER at ST. BONIFACE 4:30-7pm | 14 ANNIVERSARY BLESSING CHOIR 2:30-3:30pm CONFESSION 3pm  |
| 15 ANNIVERSARY BLESSING SNACK & CHAT after 11am MASS | 16  presidents' Day | 17 | 18 ASH WEDNESDAY —8:30am MASS —SERVING GOD'S FAMILY 9:45-11am —4pm ASH SERVICE —RE / FF CLASSES 6:15—7:30pm —6:30pm MASS | 19 SENIOR ASSISTANCE 10am-3pm ADORATION 6-8 CONFESSION 7:15-7:45pm | 20 ABSTINENCE SOUP SUPPER 6pm STATIONS of the CROSS 7pm | 21 CONFESSION 3pm |
| 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 ECUMENICAL SOUP 6pm SERVICE 7pm RE / FF CLASSES 6:15—7:30pm | 26 ADORATION 6-8 CONFESSION 7:15-7:45pm | 27 ABSTINENCE SOUP SUPPER 6pm STATIONS of the CROSS 7pm | 28 K of C DISTRICT MEETING 8:30am CHOIR 2:30-3:30pm CONFESSION 3pm |

Mass Intentions For The Week

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| | | | |
|-----|------|-----------|---|
| Sat | 1/31 | 3:00 pm— | <u>CONFESSION</u> |
| | | 4:00 pm— | + <u>Alice Marie Kotel</u> req by the James Kelly Family |
| Sun | 2/1 | 11:00 am— | + <u>Betty Knickrehm</u> req by the Setticasì Family and <u>People of the Parish</u> |
| Mon | 2/2 | 8:30 am— | <u>COMMUNION SERVICE</u> |
| Tue | 2/3 | 8:30 am— | <u>COMMUNION SERVICE</u> |
| Wed | 2/4 | 8:30 am— | <u>COMMUNION SERVICE</u> |
| Thr | 2/5 | 8:30 am— | <u>COMMUNION SERVICE</u> |
| | | 6:00 pm— | <u>ADORATION</u> <u>NO CONFESSION</u> |
| Fri | 2/6 | 8:30 am— | <u>COMMUNION SERVICE</u> |
| Sat | 2/7 | 3:00 pm— | <u>CONFESSION</u> |
| | | 4:00 pm— | + <u>Peter Claxton</u> req by Tim & Cindy Reed and <u>People of the Parish</u> |
| Sun | 2/8 | 11:00 am— | + <u>David Onak</u> req by Rick & Denise Starkey |

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.

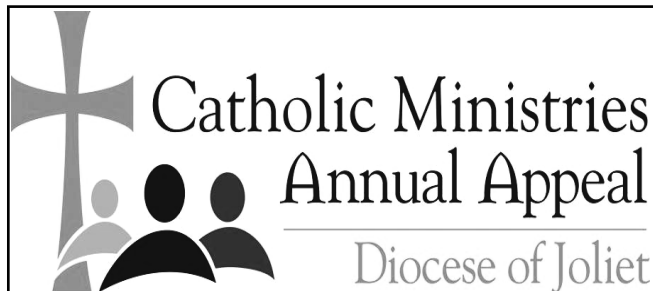
The flowers at the altar are dedicated in honor of the deceased members of the *Neybert / O'Grady Family*.

If you are interested in sponsoring our bi-weekly altar flower arrangement (when liturgically permitted), possibly in honor of an anniversary or birthday or in memory of a family member, ***please contact the parish office for scheduling details.*** The cost is \$76 and can be shared between one or more parishioners.



Additional volunteers are need to assist in the reverent cleaning of our **ALTAR LINENS** (purificators and corporals). Laundering / ironing is done at home and instructions will be given.

Please contact the Parish Office or Mrs. Betsy Richter at 903 918-9305 for details.



The 2026 Catholic Ministries Annual Appeal has begun!

The Diocese of Joliet invites all parishioners to support the 2026 Catholic Ministries Annual Appeal (CMAA). Together, we can make a profound difference.

This year's theme is *Beyond all Expectations: Faith that Elevates!* Through the CMAA, we ensure Christ's mission and ministries reach everyone. We provide shelter for the homeless, feed the hungry, support vocations, and educate the next generation of Catholics. Our parish cannot accomplish this alone. As a diocese, we can do so much more.

Our parish goal is **\$16,700**. We receive 70% of any amount raised over goal to use within our parish. Please review your mailing from the Diocese and prayerfully consider your gift.

If you did not receive a CMAA mailing, please contact the parish office.

Thank you for your generous support for last week's ***Collection for the Church in Latin America***. As a parish, we collected \$769 to share the faith with our brothers and sisters in Latin America and the Caribbean, so they in turn can share the Good News in their communities. If you missed the collection, it's not too late to give! Visit usccb.org/latin-america.

2025 CONTRIBUTION STATEMENTS

are available by request only. Please use the request form in the lobby, contact the parish office at 708 258-6917 or parishoffice@stpaulpeotone.org.



Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time
Zep 2:3, 3:12-13; 1 Cor 1:26-31; Mt 5:1-12a.

Today's Gospel presents us *The Beatitudes*. This serves as the preamble to the Sermon on the Mount. It is not just a list of "blessings"; it is a radical redefinition of what it means to live in the Kingdom of Heaven. In these verses, Jesus turns the world's hierarchy upside down, offering a theological vision where the "losers" of society are the primary recipients of God's favor.

Theologians often note the significance of Jesus going "up on a mountainside." This mirrors Moses ascending Mount Sinai to receive the Law. However, while Moses brought stone tablets of commands, Jesus brings a living word of grace. He sits down (the traditional posture of a Jewish rabbi) to teach, signaling that these are authoritative instructions for his disciples, and not just advices.

The Greek word used for "blessed" is '*Makarios*' which Jesus used in the Beatitudes. It is often translated as "happy," and it carries a much deeper theological weight. It refers to a state of divine favor and spiritual well-being that exists independent of external circumstances. To be *Makarios* is to be right with God, even if the world sees you as broken or lacking.

The Beatitudes are generally divided into two "movements." The first four focus on our relationship with God (poverty of spirit, mourning, meekness, and spiritual hunger). They describe a state of emptiness that only God can fill. This emptiness is the result a total surrender to God. The second four focus on our relationship with others (mercy, purity of heart, peacemaking, and endurance of persecution). These describe the outward fruit of an inward transformation.

The 'Poor in Spirit' is the entry point to the Kingdom. It is the recognition of absolute spiritual bankruptcy before God. 'Those who Mourn' means those have a Godly sorrow for sin and the brokenness of the world. It promises the comfort of God's presence. The Meekness is not weakness, but "power under control." It is the mental power to refuse to use worldly force to achieve one's ends. 'Hunger for Righteousness' is a deep craving for

justice and righteousness to prevail on earth.

The 'Pure in Heart' is a singleness of vision. To be pure in heart is to want "one thing"—God Himself—without a divided loyalty. 'The Peacemakers' are not just "peace-lovers," but those who actively reconcile. They reflect God's character as the ultimate Reconciler. Reconciliation with God gives a peaceful life.

"Already" and the "Not Yet": The Beatitudes introduce a core tension in Christian theology that is the '*Inaugurated Eschatology*'. Jesus uses both present and future tenses: "for theirs **is** the kingdom of heaven" (Present) "for they **will be** comforted" (Future). This suggests that while the blessing begins the moment we follow Christ, the full realization of that blessing—the end of mourning, the inheritance of the earth, the full sight of God—awaits the final consummation of His Kingdom.

The Beatitudes are not a "ladder" to climb to reach God. Rather, they are a description of the character of those who have already been found by Him. They describe the "counter-cultural" citizen of a Kingdom that values what the world ignores.

Yours in Christ,

Fr. Thomas Theneth CMI

Fr. Thomas will return for
 Confession / Mass on Saturday,
 February 14.

There will be no 8:30am week-
 day Masses celebrated at St. Paul
 during this time—Communion
 services will be held Monday
 through Friday at 8:30am.

Confession will be offered on Saturday from
 3pm-3:45pm and weekend Masses will be celebrated
 as usual at 4pm and 11am.

There will be no Confession offered on Thursdays;
 Adoration will be held as usual from 6-8pm.

*Father
 Will Be
 Away...*



"The desire to work together for a common purpose reflects an essential reality: no one is Christian alone! We are part of a people, a body established by the Lord.... The Christian life is not lived in isolation.... It is lived with others, in a group and in community, because the risen Christ is present wherever disciples gather in his name."

—POPE LEO XIV—ROME, JUNE 6, 2025

We welcome our celebrants this weekend:

**Rev. William Stenzel (retired—Archdiocese of Chicago) and
 Very Rev. Matt Pratscher, Pastor—
 St. John Paul II Parish (Kankakee)**

COLLECTION SUMMARY: January 24—25, 2026

| | |
|----------------------------------|------------|
| Budgeted | \$3,205.53 |
| Sunday Offertory* | \$2,719.00 |
| Minus | 486.53 |
| Envelopes used / distributed | 80 / 515 |
| <i>*Includes 4 Online Givers</i> | |
| Lent / Easter Environment | \$ 5.00 |
| Providing for Our Future | \$ 65.00 |
| Latin America | \$ 769.00 |
| Initial Offering | \$ 50.00 |

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.




KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

IN SERVICE TO ONE. IN SERVICE TO ALL.

Council 11232 Pasta Dinner @ Saint Boniface
Friday, February 13, 2026 4:30 - 7:00pm
Donation: \$12 per person
Proceeds benefit Knights supported charities.

On Sale After All Masses

The last chance to purchase tickets at the Church will be after Masses this weekend. After that tickets will be available at the door.

Join the Knights of Columbus for free!

Use the URL

<https://www.kofc.org/get-involved/join-kofc/> from your PC or phone to join. Select 11232 as your council. For assistance or questions, contact Ron LeClaire, Grand Knight 708-204-6277.

Please keep Ed Kulish, Jan Leffelman, 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, 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.

SOUPER BOWL of CARING:

Our parish will once again participate and collect \$1 (or larger!) bills at our exits after Masses next weekend—February 7 / 8 — to benefit the Helping Hands Food Pantry.



Remember—every \$1 donated translates into \$8 of purchasing power for the Pantry!

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.



Our deepest sympathy is extended to the family and friends of **MR. JOE LADISLAS**, 79, who passed away January 28, 2026. He was the father of Dawn Ladislas. Funeral information is in the lobbies.

+ May he rest in peace. +



**POPE'S INTENTIONS for
FEBRUARY 2026: For children
with incurable diseases.**

Let us pray that children suffering from incurable diseases and their families receive the necessary medical care and support, never losing strength and hope.



**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, February 25**. We will be in need of volunteers to help serve and provide 14 crock pots of soup and several dozen cookies.

Watch for sign-ups in the rear of the church next weekend!

**THE ST. PAUL CHOIR WILL BE
MEETING IN CHURCH BEGINNING
SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 7 FROM
2:30-3:30PM**

Please check your availability by marking your calendars of the dates, and text or email me with any conflicts. Thank you!



There's plenty of room for more choir members. If you are available the dates below, and think that you'd like to be part of the St Paul Choir, we'd love to have you. Please contact Sue Williams (815-370-6287) if you have any questions, or would like to join.

2026 Winter / Spring Choir Rehearsals

| | |
|--------------------------------|--------------|
| Saturday, February 7, 14: | 2:30-3:30pm |
| Saturday, February 21: | NO REHEARSAL |
| Saturday, February 28: | 2:30-3:30pm |
| Saturday, March 7, 14, 21, 28: | 2:30-3:30pm |

Wednesday, February 25:
7pm Peotone Ecumenical Service

Easter Liturgies

| | |
|-------------------|---------------|
| Thursday, April 2 | Holy Thursday |
| Friday, April 3 | Good Friday |
| Saturday, April 4 | Easter Vigil |
| Sunday, April 5 | Easter Sunday |

Thank you for giving freely of your time to enhance the church liturgy through music.

**Please keep Archbishop-designate
Ronald Hicks** in your prayers as he becomes the Archbishop of the Archdiocese of New York on Friday, February 6, 2026.

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 list your name in the **registration book in the lobby**.

Couples who register will also receive an anniversary card.



FEBRUARY ANNIVERSARIES



Baskets are in both lobbies to properly dispose of blessed palms you may have in your homes. They will be burned for use on Ash Wednesday, February 18.



CCW
Council of Catholic Women

Our Council of Catholic Women represents a community of faith-filled women rooted in prayer, fellowship and service.

The CCW will meet on **Monday, February 2, 2026 at 6:30pm** in the Red Room. We invite

all women of the parish to join us in the New Year. All women of the parish (no dues required), whether new to the parish or a part of the parish for many years, are always welcome and there is a place for you.

Our CCW will be celebrating all married couples during **Love Beyond Words National Marriage Week** from February 7 to February 14.



Because love never ends, our CCW is asking all married couples and those that have lost their beloved husband or wife to bring a **framed wedding day photo**.

Please put your names and the day of your wedding on the back of the frame. Bring your frame and place it on the marriage display in the lobby beginning the weekend of January 31 / February 1 when you come to Mass.

A blessing for couples will be offered by Father Thomas at Masses February 14 / 15. On Sunday, February 15 after 11am Mass we will celebrate with wedding cake for Snack & Chat!

Thanks to the generosity of the parishioners of St. Paul, we were able to provide the **Franciscan Sisters of the Sacred Heart at St. Francis Woods** in Frankfort, for the 50th year, a wonderful Christmas party. All enjoyed an afternoon of bingo, participation entertainment, delicious desserts (cookies and cake) and many gifts. Each of the 29 nuns and one priest received a \$20 gift card, a handmade bag filled with "goodies," and a poinsettia.

Thanks to Pam Schmal who again made all the bags that were given out. Pam stated that the material for the bags was donated by Molly. Molly has been fighting cancer for two years and donated the material asking that it be used for "something good." Please keep Molly in your prayers.

Many thanks to the parishioners who came and helped the sisters who needed some help with playing the games, collecting their prizes and getting their dessert. Having so many people show up to help made the event more enjoyable for all.

Ed and Denise Carriel brought water from Lourdes and each person was able to bless themselves with the holy water.

Thanks "*Bingo Bob Lewis*" and "*Helper Helen Lewis*" for calling the bingo.

Ann Stubblefield told how the Christmas parties began 50 years ago with her mother, Marlys Murray, and the pastor who was here at the time, Father James Murray. No relation.

If you have never attended, you should put it on your calendar. We have a lot of fun, a lot of laughs and a lot of very appreciative people who have spent their lives serving others. It is a privilege to be able to serve them in some small way.



St. Paul is on Facebook: Stay connected and be involved. Find us at "**St. Paul the Apostle Peotone**" and sign up to have parish events and updates from other Catholic interests sent right to your home computer or mobile device. It's a great way to know what is going on and maybe even get to know your fellow parishioners better.



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, Jr.) Fry

Please pray for their safety, spiritual and physical well being and that God will give His peace to their parents and families.

