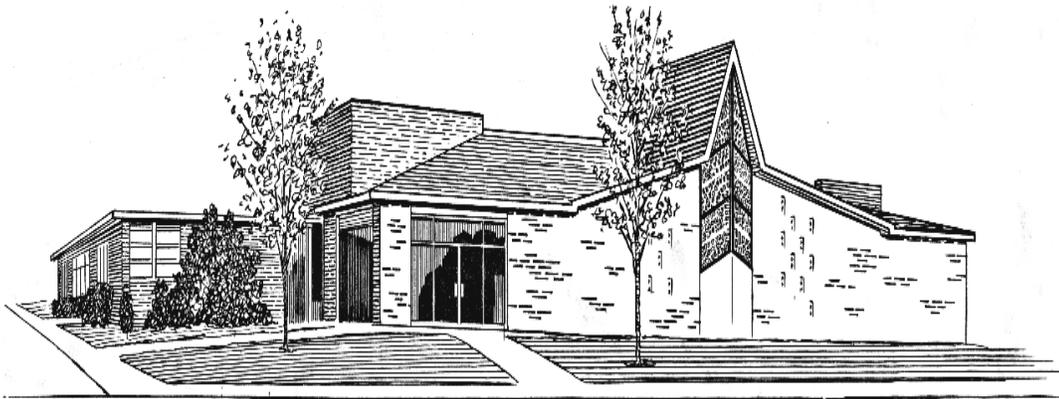




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February 15, 2026

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:
StPaulReligiousEd@stpaulpeotone.org

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: December 10, 2025

FIRST COMMUNION: **April 12, 2026 at 11am**

CONFIRMATION: May 9, 2026 at 11am
at St. Anthony (Frankfort)

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

WELCOME BACK, FATHER THOMAS!

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

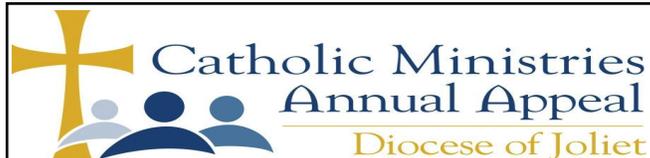


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Sat	2/14	3:00 pm—	<u>CONFESSIO</u>
		4:00 pm—	+ <u>Alice Stephens</u> req by the Parish Family
Sun	2/15	11:00 am—	+ <u>75th Wedding Anniversary</u> <u>Remembrance of Dale and Betty Knickrehm</u> req by Family and <u>People of the Parish</u>
Mon	2/16	8:30 am—	<u>COMMUNION SERVICE</u>
Tue	2/17	8:30 am—	+ <u>Elizabeth Ann Meaney</u> req by Tim & Cindy Reed
ASH WEDNESDAY			
Wed	2/18	8:30 am—	+ <u>Dave Duncan</u> req by Meals on Wheels Drivers
		4:00 pm—	<u>LITURGY of the WORD</u> <u>with ASHES</u>
		6:30 pm—	<u>LITURGY of the WORD</u> <u>with ASHES</u>
Thr	2/19	8:30 am—	<u>COMMUNION SERVICE</u>
		6:00 pm—	<u>ADORATION</u>
		7:15pm—	<u>CONFESSIO</u>
Fri	2/20	8:30 am—	+ <u>Josephine Goncher</u> req by Tim & Cindy Reed
		7:00 pm—	<u>STATIONS of the CROSS</u>
Sat	2/21	3:00 pm—	<u>CONFESSIO</u>
		4:00 pm—	+ <u>Joe Ladislas</u> req by the Parish Family and <u>People of the Parish</u>
Sun	2/22	11:00 am—	+ <u>Betty Knickrehm</u> req by the Setticasia Family

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 given in memory of Mr. Gene Richter.



PLEDGE YOUR GIFT to the CMAA

This is commitment weekend for the **2026 Catholic Ministries Annual Appeal (CMAA)**. The appeal is a powerful way to put our faith into action.

This year's theme is **Beyond all Expectations: Faith that Elevates!** When we care for those in need, we answer this call. Our parish joins with other parishes to serve the vulnerable, grow children in faith, and strengthen vocations. We cannot foster these ministries alone. This is a diocese-wide effort. We receive 70% of any amount raised over our goal to reinvest in our parish.

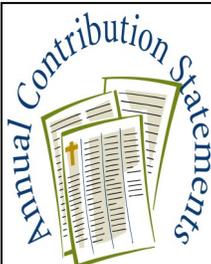
Please prayerfully consider your gift and help our parish reach \$16,700. Complete and return a pledge envelope in church today.

Thank-you for your support!

Fr. Thomas Milota (St. Liborius / St. Boniface) will be offering a rosary outside Planned Parenthood 19831 Governor's Highway Flossmoor this **Tuesday, February 17 at 3pm.**



He would be glad for some company. Please note this will be a prayerful, peaceful presence, reminding all that our Lord loves every human life.



2025 CONTRIBUTION STATEMENTS are available by request. Please use the request form in the lobby, contact the parish office at 708 258-6917 or parishoffice@stpaulpeotone.org.



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.

Sir 15:15-20; 1 Cor 2:6-10; Mt 5:17-37

Today's Gospel passage is from the Sermon on the Mount. In this passage, Jesus delivers a profound teaching on the relationship between the Old Covenant and the New. The sermon on the Mount is critically important as the core ethical and spiritual guide for Christians. But one thing we must notice is that how Jesus does not give a new set of "rules," but calls for a transformation of the human heart.

Jesus begins by stating He has not come to abolish the Law or the Prophets, but to fulfill them. In Catholic theology, "fulfillment" means that Jesus brings the Law to its intended perfection. The Mosaic Law was a pedagogue—a teacher—leading the people toward Christ. While the ceremonial laws (like animal sacrifices) are superseded by the sacrifice of the Mass, the moral law (The Ten Commandments) remains binding but is now interpreted as the love of God and of neighbor.

Here we see a shift from Action to Heart. The core of this passage contains the "Antitheses," where Jesus says, "You have heard it said... but I say to you." He tackles four specific areas.

Jesus changes the commandment from "Thou shalt not kill" to "Thou shalt not be angry." He links our relationship with God directly to our relationship with our neighbor. You cannot truly worship at the altar if you are harboring malice. The Church reflects this today in the Sign of Peace during Mass, which occurs before we receive the Eucharist.

Jesus teaches that sin begins in the "look." Adultery



isn't just a physical act; it is a breakdown of the interior purity of the heart. This aligns with Pope St. John Paul II's *Theology of the Body*. Jesus is calling us to see others as persons made in the image of God, rather than objects for self-gratification.

By tightening the restrictions on divorce, Jesus points back to the original dignity of marriage "in the beginning" (Genesis). Marriage is a sacramental sign of Christ's unbreakable union with the Church. Jesus emphasizes that the "hardness of heart" allowed under Mosaic Law is to be replaced by the grace of the New Covenant. Jesus instructs His followers to let their "Yes mean Yes" and their "No mean No." A person of integrity should not need to swear by God or heaven to be believed. This is a call to simplicity and transparency, reflecting the nature of God, who is Truth itself.

The Christian Discipleship is a call to "Greater Righteousness." Jesus warns that our righteousness must exceed that of the Scribes and Pharisees. This isn't a call to more "rule-following," but to a Righteousness of Grace. Following the rule must be an act of "Love." We cannot achieve this standard through willpower alone; we require the indwelling of the Holy Spirit. This is the "New Law" written on our hearts—a law of love that seeks to do more than the bare minimum.

"The Law of the Gospel fulfills the commandments of the Law... it does not add new external precepts, but proceeds to reform the heart, the root of human acts."
— *Catechism of the Catholic Church, 1968.*

Yours in Christ,

Fr. Thomas Theneth CMI



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.

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

Bob & Helen Lewis	February 1, 1964	62 years
Dave & Barb Castaneda	February 14, 2016	10 years
Don & Kathie Brooks	February 24, 1968	58 years
Bob & Denise Astroth	February 26, 2011	15 years



FEBRUARY ANNIVERSARIES

COLLECTION SUMMARY: February 7—8, 2026

Budgeted	\$3,205.53
Sunday Offertory*	\$2,968.00
Minus	\$ 237.53
Envelopes used / distributed	75 / 515
<i>*Includes 9 Online Givers</i>	
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.

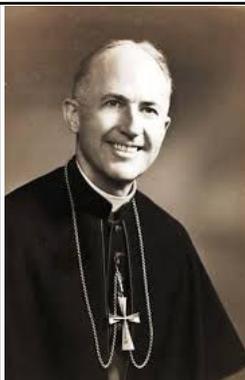


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Please keep Ken Rocznik, Kathy Short, Pat Cleary, Ed Kulish, Jan Leffelman, Nancy Pilotto, Rev. Tom Ewing, Michael Doyle, Mary Ellen Hanlon, Ashley Doody, Luke Payne, Dave Castaneda, Greg Nalepka, Kathleen Callahan,

Jeff Furtek, Charles Claxton, Mary Jane Szewka, Elaine Doyle, Dorothy Simikowski, Arline Clark, Mary Jo Fry, Gerald Adcock, Laura Valenti, Samantha Digiacomio, 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.



Applications for the Joliet Diocesan Council of Catholic Women **Bishop Blanchette Scholarship** will be soon be available to those students in grades 8-11 planning on attending a **Joliet Diocesan Catholic High School** for the 2026-2027 school year.

Please contact Mrs. Marge Harms, St. Paul the Apostle CCW President, for more information!

OUR CHOIR HAS BEGUN REHEARSALS

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 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.

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 are in need of volunteers to help serve, provide 15 crock pots of soup, bread and “finger-food” desserts.

A sign-up poster is in the rear of the church!



CCW
Council of Catholic Women

Our CCW concludes observing **NATIONAL**

MARRIAGE WEEK. A blessing for couples will be offered by Fr. Thomas at Masses this weekend. On Sunday after 11am Mass we will celebrate with wedding cake for Snack & Chat!

Prayer for the election of a new Bishop
O God, eternal shepherd, who governs your flock with unfailing care, grant in your boundless fatherly love a pastor for your Church of Joliet who will please you by his holiness and to us show watchful care. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.
Amen.



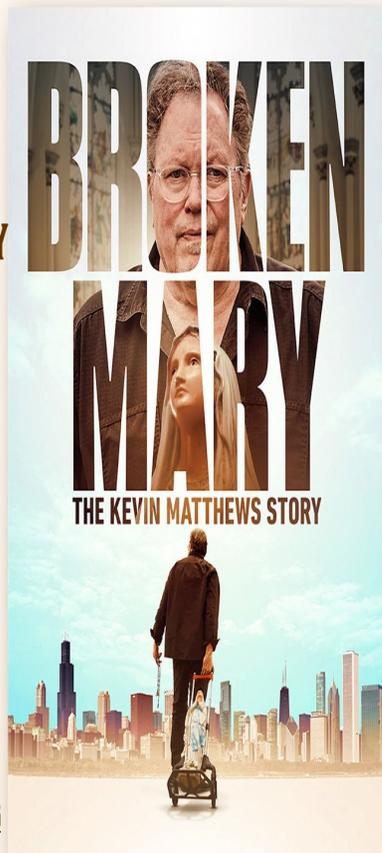
ST. JOSEPH PARISH/MANHATTAN

LENTEN MISSION 2026

FORMER RADIO PERSONALITY

KEVIN MATTHEWS

SHARES HIS STORY OF HOPE & HEALING



**WEDNESDAY
MARCH 11
@ 7:00PM
IN CHURCH**

**235 NORTH ST.
MANHATTAN,
IL 60442
815-478-3341
[WWW.SJP
MANHATTAN.ORG](http://WWW.SJP
MANHATTAN.ORG)**

**BOOKS
& DVDS
WILL BE
SOLD
AFTER
KEVIN'S
TALK**

**CASH/CREDIT
CARD ONLY**

FEATURED ON:

EWTN Radio, National Catholic Register,
Sirius XM-The Catholic Channel and more!

FILM TRAILER:

[hDps://www.youtube.com/
watch?v=TQP3GKEIYTE](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TQP3GKEIYTE)

St. Liborius (Steger) will begin offering a **Sunday evening Mass** at 5pm every Sunday of Lent beginning on Sunday, February 22.

A **Communion Service** will be offered at St. Patrick (Wilton Center) on Wednesday evenings at 5:30pm during Lent beginning on February 25.



Like what the Knights of Columbus are doing locally? Join us for free! Use the URL 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

Lenten Food Drive - Let's remember to think of those in need. The Knights of Columbus have drop boxes for non perishable food items in the St. Paul the Apostle lobbies. Food collected is distributed through local pantries.



February 18, 2026

Mass: 8:30am with distribution of ashes

Liturgy of the Word with Ashes: 4pm and 6:30pm

PRAYER OPPORTUNITIES:

Weekday Mass: Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday at 8:30am

Communion Services: Monday and Thursday at 8:30am

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Saturday 3-3:45pm

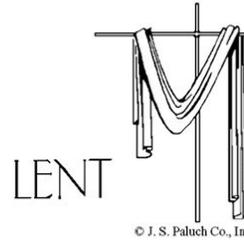
Thursday 7:15-7:45pm or by appointment

EUCHARISTIC ADORATION Thursday 6-7:45pm

STATIONS of the CROSS Friday evenings beginning February 20 at 7pm

PARISH PENANCE SERVICE: Wednesday, March 25 at 6:30pm

LITTLE BLACK BOOKS with meditations on the Passion according to Mark, are available in the lobbies



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CLERGY ASSOCIATION of GREATER PEOTONE SOUP SUPPER and LENTEN PRAYER SERVICES

Wednesday Soup Suppers begins at 6pm / Wednesday Prayer Services begin at 7pm / collection taken for Peotone Clergy Association which benefits Helping Hands Food Pantry; Summer Bible Camp; other needs by request

DATE	HOST CHURCH
February 25	St. Paul the Apostle
March 4	Immanuel United Church of Christ (311 W. Coming / Peotone)
March 11	St. John Community Church (hosted at 14101 W. Joliet Road / Wilton Center)
March 18	Faith Connection (14101 W. Joliet Road / Wilton Center)
March 25	United Methodist Church Green Garden (26256 S. Rt. 45 / Manhattan)

GOOD FRIDAY:
April 3 at Noon
 Ecumenical Stations of the Cross hosted by St. Paul the Apostle Catholic Church



ALMSGIVING OPPORTUNITIES

COLLECTION for the CHURCH in CENTRAL and EASTERN EUROPE: February 18
OPERATION RICE BOWL throughout Lent. Contact the RE Office for a bowl.

HELPING HANDS FOOD PANTRY / PO Box 508 / Peotone, IL 60468

CATHOLIC RELIEF SERVICES APPEAL: March 7 / 8, 2026

PONTIFICAL COLLECTION for the HOLY LAND: Good Friday, April 3

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 and 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 seriously sinful.
5. Lent is the principal season of penance in the Church year. In addition to following the Lenten regulations, 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.

On Ash Wednesday we will take up the **Collection for the Church in Central and Eastern Europe.**

This collection supports the Church in more than 25 countries that are still struggling to recover from former communist rule.

It also aids communities throughout the region that are affected by the war in Ukraine.

Funds support pastoral care, catechesis, renovations of church properties, and seminary formation.

Your contribution restores the Church and builds the future in this region.

Please prayerfully consider how you can support the collection.

You can find more information at uscbb.org/ccee

Your envelope can be deposited the following weekend as well.

ASH WEDNESDAY WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

6:30am	MASS: St. Liborius (Steger)	4pm	MASS: St. Patrick (Wilton Center)
7am	MASS: St. Joseph (Manteno)	4pm	St. Paul Liturgy of the Word with Ashes
8am	MASS: St. Liborius (Steger)	4pm	St. Joseph (Manteno)
8:30am	MASS: St. Paul		Prayer & Communion Service
8:30am	MASS: St. Boniface (Monee)	6:30pm	St. Boniface (service)
Noon	MASS: St. Liborius (Steger)	6:30pm	St. Paul Liturgy of the Word with Ashes
Noon	St. Joseph (Manteno)	6:45pm	MASS: St. Joseph (Manteno)
	Prayer & Communion Service	7pm	MASS: St. Liborius (Steger)
		7:30pm	MASS: St. Boniface (Spanish)