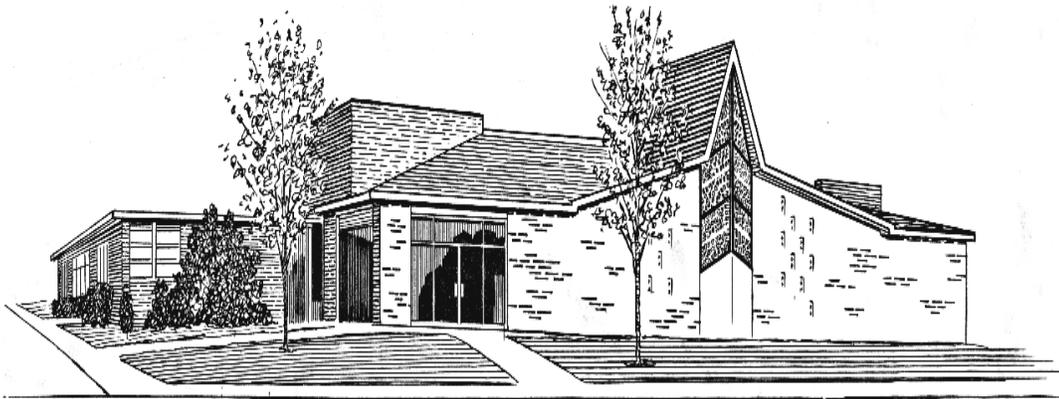




Saint Paul

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February 22, 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

Sign-up sheets for Lectors and Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist, through April 5, 2026, are in the rear of the church.

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	2/21	3:00 pm—	<u>CONFESSION</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 Setticasi Family
Mon	2/23	8:30 am—	<u>COMMUNION SERVICE</u>
Tue	2/24	8:30 am—	+ <u>Pat Motyka</u> req by Family
Wed	2/25	8:30 am—	+ <u>Janet Ditta</u> req by Peggy Schwiesow
Thr	2/26	8:30 am—	<u>COMMUNION SERVICE</u>
		6:00 pm—	<u>ADORATION</u>
		7:15pm—	<u>CONFESSION</u>
Fri	2/27	8:30 am—	+ <u>Tom Johnson</u>
		7:00 pm—	<u>STATIONS of the CROSS</u>
Sat	2/28	3:00 pm—	<u>CONFESSION</u>
		4:00 pm—	+ <u>James “Jim” Baskerville</u> req by Bob & Helen Lewis
Sun	3/1	11:00 am—	+ <u>Sr. Mary Mark Segvich, OSF</u> req by St. Paul Friends and <u>People of the Parish</u>

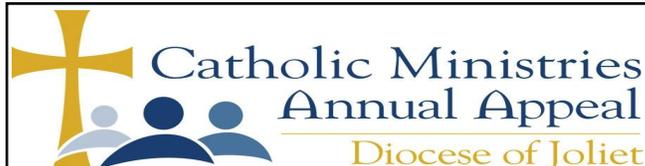
If you are attending a Mass that you requested an intention to be said for, please sign the gift bearer book in the rear of the church and let an usher know you are here if you wish to bring up the gifts.

Please keep Ken Roczniak, 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.



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Thank-you for your support at Commitment Weekend!

Envelopes are in the pews if you were not able to be with us and wish to support the Appeal. Please drop it in the collection basket.



CCW 
Council of Catholic Women

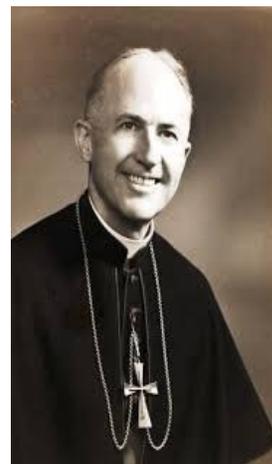
Help us find the
ST. PAUL 2026 WOMAN OF THE YEAR

The purpose of this award is to recognize an outstanding woman in our parish as one who has carried on the mission of Christ through her family, church and community. To qualify for this award, the woman must:

- be 18 years or older,
- be Catholic,
- be registered at St. Paul and,
- have not received the award in the past.

Nomination forms will be in lobbies next weekend— forms are due **SUNDAY, MARCH 15.**

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



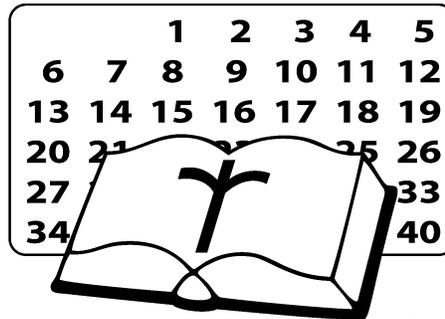
**Genesis 2:7-9, 3:1-7; Romans 5:12-19;
Matthew 4:1-11**

In Catholic tradition, the account of Jesus' temptation in the desert (Matthew 4:1-11) is far more than a moral lesson on will-power. It is a profound "re-capitulation" of human history. Where Adam fell in a lush garden and Israel failed in the desert, Jesus—the "New Adam" and the "True Israel"—stands firm.

The very first verse is startling: *"Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the desert to be tempted by the devil."* This happens immediately after his Baptism. Often in our spiritual lives, a "mountain-top experience" of grace is followed by a "desert" of trial. God allows this not to break us, but to forge our character. It is the *Holy Spirit* who leads him there. The desert is not a place of abandonment; it is a place of preparation. When we go through desert experience, we almost always, do not understand that it is a preparation and God is with us.

St. Thomas Aquinas and other Church Fathers often categorize these three temptations as the "triple concupiscence" mentioned in 1 John 2:16. Stones to Bread: bread was the immediate physical need, because he was hungry after fasting for forty days. It is prioritizing material comfort over God's Word. Jesus responded: *"Man does not live by bread alone."* The Temple parapet is a testing of God's love. When we are at the top of victory, pride takes over and presumption becomes normal. Demanding that God "prove" Himself on our terms. *"You shall not put the Lord, your God, to test."* The High Mountain: Power and Kingdoms are other ways of

expressing avarice and idolatry. It is seeking success, status, or control apart from God; *"The Lord, your God, shall you worship."*



Pastor's Message for Lent

Notice how the devil begins: *"If you are the Son of God..."* He is striking at the core of human identity. Man always wanted to establish his identity. The enemy does not just want Jesus to eat bread; he wants Jesus to doubt his Father's provision. Satan's primary tactic is always to make us forget our identity as "Beloved" children of God.

The 40 Days in the wilderness mirrors the 40 years Israel spent wandering. Every Scripture Jesus uses to defeat the devil comes from the Book

of Deuteronomy—specifically from the sections where Moses rebukes Israel for their failures in the desert. Where Israel grumbled about food, tested God at Massah, and worshipped the golden calf, Jesus remains faithful. He is the one who "gets it right" on our behalf, he is the "New Israel."

How does this Gospel apply to us today? Jesus doesn't argue with the devil using his own logic; he uses Sacred Scripture. In moments of temptation, we must counteract the lies of the enemy with the powerful Word of God. Jesus was hungry, yet he was spiritually "full." Fasting clears the "noise" of our physical desires so we can hear the promptings of the Spirit. The passage ends with the devil leaving and angels ministering to Jesus. It reminds us that temptation is 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.

Yours in Christ,
Fr. Thomas Theneth CMI

St. Liborius (Steger) will begin offering a ***Sunday evening Mass*** at 5pm every Sunday of Lent beginning on 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 "<https://www.kofc.org/get-involved/join-kofc/>" from your PC or smartphone browser to join. Select 11232 as your council., and SARODRIGUEZ in the promo code for your free membership. For assistance or questions, contact Ron LeClaire, Grand Knight 708-204-6277

Lenten Food Drive is underway - 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.

Coming Soon! Watch for the annual raffle ticket sales offer \$4,800 in prizes, with \$400 drawn monthly, 6 draws per month.



COLLECTION SUMMARY: February 14—15, 2026

Budgeted	\$3,205.53
Sunday Offertory*	\$3,082.00
Minus	\$ 123.53
Envelopes used / distributed	78 / 515
<i>*Includes 6 Online Givers</i>	
Church in Central & Eastern Europe	\$ 8.00
Providing for Our Future	\$ 618.00

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.



Welcome to St. Paul the Apostle Catholic Church

Our warmest wishes to all who celebrate with us. If you are not registered at St. Paul or need to make changes, please fill out this form and place it in the collection basket or mail to the parish office (511 N. Conrad Street / Peotone, IL 60468).

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip Code _____
 ()

Phone _____

Email Address _____

- () New Parishioner, please contact me
- () New Address or New Phone Number
- () Moving—
 Please remove from membership list
- () Email—
 Please add email address to your records
- () Interested in becoming Catholic
- () Please send envelopes
- () Interested in Religious Education
- () **Interested in volunteering in Ministry Programs**
- () Would like to be contacted by a priest

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 28:	2:30-3:30pm
Saturday, March 7, 14, 21, 28:	2:30-3:30pm

Easter Liturgies

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

We will be singing this Wednesday at the Peotone Ecumenical Service — see below.

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 THIS 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!