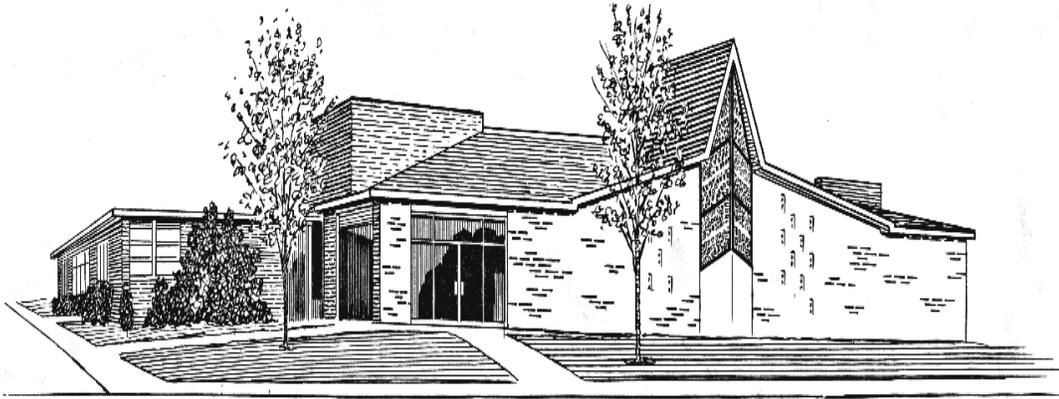




Saint Paul

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# February 8, 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](http://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)

By appointment only

**MARRIAGE:** 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



## 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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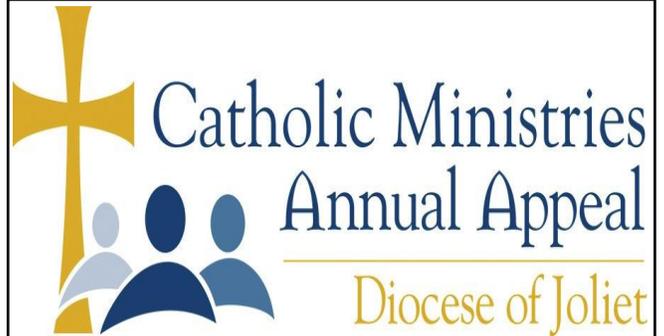
Sat	2/7	3:00 pm—	<u>CONFESSION</u>
		4:00 pm—	+ <u>Peter Claxton</u> req by Tim & Cindy Reed and <u>People of the Parish</u>
Sun	2/8	11:00 am—	+ <u>David Onak</u> req by Rick & Denise Starkey
Mon	2/9	8:30 am—	<u>COMMUNION SERVICE</u>
Tue	2/10	8:30 am—	<u>COMMUNION SERVICE</u>
Wed	2/11	8:30 am—	<u>COMMUNION SERVICE</u>
Thr	2/12	8:30 am—	<u>COMMUNION SERVICE</u>
		6:00 pm—	<u>ADORATION</u> <u>NO CONFESSION</u>
Fri	2/13	8:30 am—	<u>COMMUNION SERVICE</u>
Sat	2/14	3:00 pm—	<u>CONFESSION</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</u> <u>Betty Knickrehm</u> req by Family 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.*

The flowers at the altar  
are given in memory  
of Mr. Gene Richter.

*Annual Contribution Statements*

**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](mailto:parishoffice@stpaulpeotone.org).



The 2026 *Catholic Ministries Annual Appeal (CMAA)* Opening Report is in today's bulletin. As Christians, we are called to elevate our faith beyond all expectations in service to our brothers and sisters in need.

Through the CMAA, we serve the most vulnerable in our community, and our parish benefits from many CMAA supported ministries including vocations, Catholic education, and faith formation.

Our parish goal is \$16,700. The diocese returns 70% of any amount raised over goal to our parish. Please review your mailing from the Diocese of Joliet and prayerfully consider your gift.

Thank you!

*If you are able, scan the QR code in the inserted report to view Alex's story of the 2025 Diocese Colombian Mission that our parishioners Fred & Paula Prium participated in.*



**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.

We welcome our celebrants this weekend: Rev. Frank Pusateri (St. Liborius) and Rev. Steve Schuler, SVD.

Is 58:7-10; 1 Cor 2:1-5; Mt 5:13-16

Today's gospel passage gives us two metaphors of Salt and Light. Jesus is inviting us to become the salt and light. This is a fundamental call to "missionary discipleship." Coming immediately after the Beatitudes, these verses explain a transition from the *internal character* of a Christian to their *external impact* on the world.

The Salt is the symbol of Preservation and Sacrifice. "You are the salt of the earth. But if salt loses its taste, with what can it be seasoned?" In the ancient world, salt was not just a condiment; it was a necessity for survival. Catholic tradition highlights three primary dimensions: (i) Preservation from Corruption: Just as salt prevents meat from decaying, the Christian is called to preserve the moral and spiritual integrity of society. Through the "leaven" of the Gospel, the Church holds back the "corruption of sin" in the world. (ii) The Flavor of Grace: Grace gives life its true meaning. A world without the witness of Christ is bland and hopeless. The disciple "seasons" the world with the joy of the Resurrection. (iii) The Warning of "Tastelessness": To lose one's "saltiness" is to become lukewarm or to compromise with the world to the point of invisibility. St. Augustine noted that if the "salt" (the teacher or disciple) fails, there is no other source to restore that specific witness.

The significance of Light is Visibility and Truth in the life of a Christian Disciple: "You are the light of the world... your light must shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your heavenly Father." Light represents the transcendental properties of God: Truth, Beauty, and Goodness. When Jesus invites his disciple to become the light of the world, there are two dimensions included in it. (i) Participation in Christ: We are not the source of the light, but reflectors of it. In the Gospel of John, Jesus says, "I am the light of the world." By

calling his disciples the light, Jesus invites us into his own divine identity. (ii) The Church as "Lumen Gentium": The Second Vatican Council's document on the Church is titled *Lumen Gentium* (Light of the Nations) emphasizes that the Church exists to reflect Christ's light to every corner of the earth. Every member of the Church partakes in it as he participates in Christ.

The "City on a Hill" refers to the Church as a visible, structured community. Faith is never meant to be a "private affair" hidden under a bushel basket; it is inherently public and social. This provides the crucial "why" of the Christian life. The goal of our "good deeds" is not to win personal praise or moral superiority. Our lives should be like a window: the more transparent and clean the window (the soul) is, the more people see the sun (God) rather than the glass. This passage challenges the "privatization" of faith. It suggests that a disciple who does not impact their environment is a contradiction in terms—like salt that is not salty or a lamp that does not glow.

Yours in Christ,  
*Fr. Thomas Theneth CMI*

Fr. Thomas will return from vacation next Saturday, February 14.

There will be no 8:30am weekday Masses celebrated this week— 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 Thursday; Adoration will be held as usual from 6-8pm.

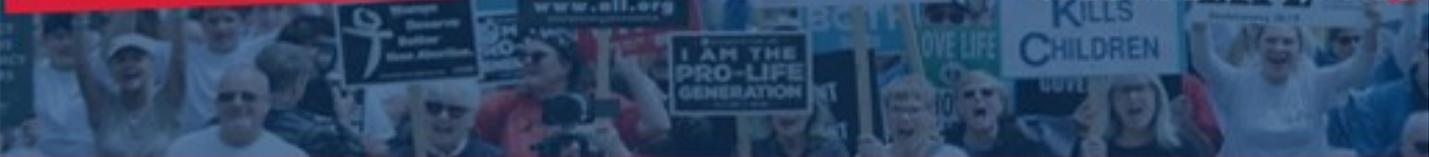


| SPRINGFIELD, IL | SAVE THE DATE | MARCH 19, 2026 | SPRINGFIELD, IL | SAVE THE DATE | MARCH 19, 2026 | SPRINGFIELD, IL | SAVE THE DATE | MAR

INTRODUCING THE

# ILLINOIS PRO-LIFE MARCH

FORMERLY THE ILLINOIS MARCH FOR LIFE



## March 19, 2026 | Springfield, IL

**COLLECTION SUMMARY: January 31—February 1, 2026**

Budgeted	\$3,205.53
Sunday Offertory*	\$3,724.00
Plus	\$ 518.47
<i>Envelopes used / distributed</i>	85 / 515
<i>*Includes 7 Online Givers</i>	
Solemnity of Mary	\$ 5.00
Providing for Our Future	\$ 20.00
Latin America	\$ 45.00
First Offering	\$ 25.00

Secure and convenient  
**ONLINE GIVING** is available at [GiveCentral.org](http://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

Final chance to purchase tickets at the Church will be after Masses on February 7th and February 8th. 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

Food Drive - as Lent approaches, let's remember to think of those in need. The Knights of Columbus have drop boxes for non perishable food items in the lobbies. Food collected is distributed through local pantries.

**FEBRUARY 2026 RAFFLE WINNERS**

\$150.00	#49	Ron LeClaire
\$100.00	#145	Joe Celebucki
\$ 50.00	#57	Larry Pilotto
\$ 50.00	#453	Council 745
\$ 25.00	#679	Jacob Press' Sons
\$ 25.00	#138	Joe Celebucki

Please keep **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 Michelic, the Robert Polacek family, Rich Harms, TJ Stefanski, Linda Galica and those that go unnamed.**

*Prayer*  
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**Please note that only names given with permission of the person or by a family member will be added to the list.**

This weekend is **SOUPER BOWL SUNDAY**. We will again be at our entry ways collecting your \$1 (or larger) bills for the **Helping Hands Food Pantry**. Remember—for every \$1 you donate, Helping Hands can provide \$8 worth of food.

**Thanks for your support!**



**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.**



**FEBRUARY ANNIVERSARIES**



**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!**

**THE ST. PAUL CHOIR BEGINS  
REHEARSALS SATURDAY,  
FEBRUARY 7**

Please check your availability 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.

**FROM YOUR VALENTINE**

**St. Valentine** was a priest who was executed around 270 A.D.

There are many things we don't know about this martyr, but there are numerous, sometimes conflicting, stories about his life and death. One says that he was slain for performing weddings in secret after the Roman Emperor, Claudius II, had outlawed them. Another legend says it was because he helped Christians escape from brutal Roman prisons.

In 498 A.D., just over 200 years after Valentine's execution, Pope Gelasius declared February 14 as St. Valentine's Day. Valentine's love for God and humanity has made him "the patron of love" in the Roman Catholic Church and for people around the world.

By the mid-1700s it was common practice for friends and sweethearts to exchange trinkets made in the shape of hearts or to send handwritten notes of affection on February 14. It's believed that Valentine himself sent the first "valentine" while imprisoned. He is said to have written a letter to a young girl who visited him in prison just before his death. He signed the letter, "From your Valentine," a sentiment still used today.



*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

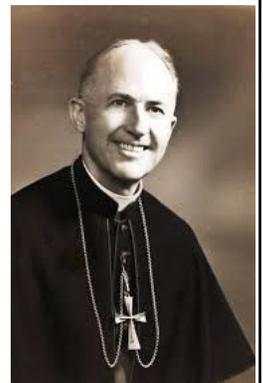
Our CCW is again observing **NATIONAL MARRIAGE**

**WEEK** and has a wedding picture display in the lobby until February 15. 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** with your names and wedding date on the back and place it on the marriage display in the lobby when you come to Mass.

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

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 Lady of Lourdes



**Memorial of Our Lady of Lourdes — February 11**

The Memorial of Our Lady of Lourdes celebrates the Blessed Virgin Mary’s apparitions to St. Bernadette Soubirous in Lourdes, France, in 1858. Mary called people to prayer, penance, and trust in God, and a spring of water began flowing at the grotto,

becoming a sign of hope and healing for pilgrims around the world. Today, Lourdes remains one of the most visited pilgrimage sites, especially for those seeking spiritual and physical healing.

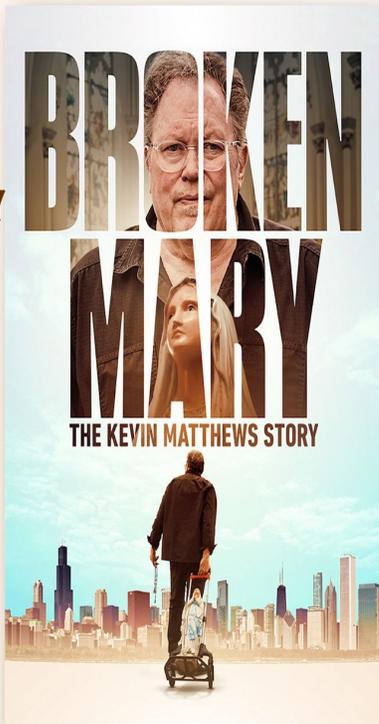


**ST. JOSEPH PARISH/MANHATTAN**  
**LENTEN MISSION 2026**



**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**

**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)

On Ash Wednesday, February 18, 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



*The Collection for the Church in Central and Eastern Europe serves essential pastoral needs in more than 25 countries.*

**SUPPORT THE CHURCH IN CENTRAL AND EASTERN EUROPE**

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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 next week. You can find more information at [www.usccb.org/ceee](http://www.usccb.org/ceee). Envelopes can be dropped in the collection next weekend as well.