

January 14, 2024

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 are no Religious Education / Faith Formation classes today in observance of the Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday.



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: January 6—7, 2024

Sunday Offertory*	\$3,521.00
Budgeted	\$3,365.38
Plus	\$ 155.62
Envelopes used / distributed	69 / 528

***Includes 11 Online Givers**

First Offering	\$ 276.00
Solemnity of Mary	\$ 145.00
Christmas	\$ 100.00
Providing for Our Future	\$ 10.00



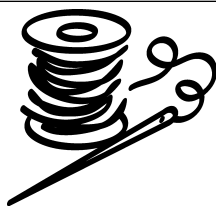
Secure and convenient **ONLINE GIVING** is available at **GiveCentral.org**.

Please put in zip code 60468 to find the St. Paul portal.

The ***Clothe God's Children Group*** would like to invite everyone to a workshop on **Wednesday, January 24** from 10am – 12pm, no skills required! We'll be measuring and cutting fabric for walker bags, shoulder wraps, clothing protectors and blankets for both men and women in Vitas Hospice. Bring scissors if you have them. Lunch will be provided. Patterns will be given to anyone wanting to knit or crochet at home.

Please contact Laure Sander

(708 258-9779 or
708 638-9779)
with questions.



Are you a Catholic man 18 or older? Do you want to volunteer for your church and community? Are you ready to put your 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**.



Start the New Year with charity. Donate to the Helping Hands Food Pantry. The donation box and envelopes are located in the Religious Education entrance. Every dollar in cash equals \$8 of purchasing power for the pantry.



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Deacon Mark Otten, Betty Knick-rehm, Arline Clark, Mary Jo Fry, Gerald Adcock, Laura Valenti, Samantha Digiacomio, Julie Szudarski, Joe Ladislas, Owen Ruhbeck, Sharon

Andrews, Sue Gomez, Joan Olsen, 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, Deacon Milt Leppert, 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, all affected by COVID-19 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.

Thanks to the generosity of the parishioners of St. Paul, we were once again able to gift the Franciscan Sisters of the Sacred Heart a wonderful Christmas party with fun, games, laughter, song and presents.



Each of the 29 nuns & Father were given a \$20 gift card along with their own personal poinsettia, a handmade quilted heart with a beautiful scripture reading (thanks Pam), lots of bingo prizes, chocolates & of course delicious homemade cookies.

Thanks to the ladies who planned the party (the church nurses – Betsy, Clem, Janice, Barb and Carol) and provided entertainment with a spoof on the twelve days of Christmas (“on the first day of Christmas, old age brought to me” etc., etc.) And special thanks to Bingo Bob and his Helper Helen.

And we are appreciative of the ladies from St. Paul who came and participated by helping those who needed assistance and just spent time visiting and sharing laughter and stories. It was wonderful to have a much larger representation from St. Paul than the last several years.

Once again, thanks for your contribution toward letting those good sisters know we appreciate them. And we appreciate you.



Mass Intentions

Sat	1/13	3:00 pm— <u>CONFESSIO</u> 4:00 pm— + <u>Clarita Caswell</u> req by Joan Olsen and <u>People of the Parish</u>
Sun	1/14	10:30 am— + <u>Jim O'Grady</u> — <u>Birthday Remembrance</u> req by Family
Mon	1/15	7:15 am— + <u>Bernard Powers</u> req by Steve & Linda Kottmeyer
Tue	1/16	7:15 am— <u>Communion Service</u>
Wed	1/17	7:15 am— <u>The priests and deacons</u> <u>in our diocese</u>
Thr	1/18	7:15 am— <u>Celebrant's Intention</u> 6:00 pm— <u>ADORATION</u> 7:30 pm— <u>CONFESSIO</u>
Fri	1/19	7:15 am— <u>Success of the 51st Annual March</u> <u>for Life</u>
Sat	1/20	3:00 pm— <u>CONFESSIO</u> 4:00 pm— + <u>Arnold Henning</u> req by Marsha Henning
Sun	1/21	10:30 am— <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.

POPE FRANCIS' INTENTIONS for JANUARY 2024: For persons with disabilities:



We pray that people living with disabilities may be at the center of attention in society, and that institutions may offer inclusive programs which value their active participation.

Would you like to remember your living or deceased loved ones at one of our Masses? Perhaps for the anniversary of their death, to celebrate their birthday, wedding anniversaries or for their health. We have Mass cards, on request. For more information, please call the office at 708 258-6917.

In case you missed it—prayer and blessed chalk is be available in the lobby.

Fr. Roger is available for private *home blessings*, by appointment. Please sign up in the lobby.

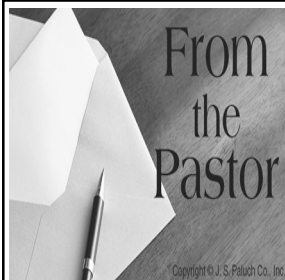
The **Coldest Night of the Year** is a winter-rific family-friendly walk to support local charities serving people experiencing hurt, hunger, and homelessness. Join us on **February 24 at 5PM** in downtown Joliet as we raise funds for Catholic Charities' Daybreak Center.

Daybreak Center provides programs and services to those who are experiencing poverty. The facility includes an emergency homeless shelter, a daily soup kitchen, and many supportive services to help individuals and families who are working toward self-sufficiency.

To learn more, visit: <https://cnoy.com/location/joliet> or call 815 724-1140. It's FREE to participate, so team up, fundraise, walk, and take a moment to look closer... because it's cold out there.



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 through the world for the ruin of souls. Amen.



We are back in liturgical Ordinary Time, still wanting to keep our Christmas spirit going for some couple of weeks. But as we came back to our everyday routine (after holiday's break), let's come back to our quest for the Lord. Let us continue reflecting on the value of our intimate, personal relationship with Him. This time I wanted to mention the example of St Marcellus the Righteous.

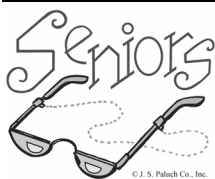
He came from a good family in Syria and lived in the 400s. He received a good education, and reached adulthood with a bright future. Then his parents died, and he inherited their considerable fortune. He had to decide what to do with it. Most people wouldn't think twice, they would simply enjoy it. But Marcellus was a man of reflection, and he detected something unsatisfying about an existence dedicated unthinkingly to the affairs and enjoyments of the world. He thought: If everything in this world is going to pass away, myself included, what's the point?

As he prayed and studied the faith in order to work through this dilemma, the following analogy came to him. Little kids make a big deal out of their toys, but adults recognize the paltriness of toys. They, instead, make a big deal out of money, success, and pleasure. But, reasoned Marcellus, what do such things look like from God's perspective if not foolish toys? And so, in pursuit of lasting values, he moved to Ephesus (in modern day Turkey) and put himself under the direction of some well known Christians. He grew in holiness and wisdom, and eventually became the revered abbot of a gigantic monastery near Constantinople and an influential adviser to emperors, bishops, and Church councils.

In his monastery, the monks were divided into many different small choirs, so that at every hour of the day and night, at least one choir could be singing God's praise. For this reason, the monastery was called "Akimetes", which meant "sleepless." It was a living testimony to the source of life's true meaning: an ongoing, personal relationship with Jesus Christ.

We are all aware that many don't see life as a journey inwards, to get to know themselves and grow spiritually. They claim that our commitment to morality, self-mastery, and faithfulness goes against what's natural, takes the fun out of life. Why not just enjoy life, they say, and stop being so uptight? The truth is that God himself designed and created every aspect of human life, including our bodies, so he knows better than anyone else how to live it to the fullest. May we always be ready to stand against any temptation to join those who just want it easy and without much thinking about meaning of life. Let's start our new year 2024 with a new commitment to our faith.

+ Rev. Roger D. Kutzner



The **Peotone Senior Assistance Center** serves clients by appointment only this **Thursday, January 18**, from 10am—3pm. This is part of our Respect Life Ministry, whose mission is to protect the vulnerable and provide seniors, low income and disabled persons with assistance from county, state and federal programs, including Medicare, Social Security, IL License Plate Discounts, and services offered through Catholic Charities. We are also a certified SHIP site (Senior Health Insurance Program). The center is staffed by volunteers who serve the community without cost. For information on specific services, please leave your name and phone number at 708-258-6917 then press 5. **Please make an appointment.**

Our team of Medicare Counselors completed the annual Open Enrollment October 15—December 7, 2023. We assisted 125+ clients with selection of prescription drug and advantage plans, resulting in \$100,000+ savings! This free service is offered by the IL Department of Aging.

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The Diocese of Joliet is returning to the **Navajo Nation in Chinle, Arizona** for a two week mission focused on construction and outreach from June 1-14, 2024. If you are 18 years of age or older and willing to help local area families with light construction work. No experience necessary! Mission leaders will train any inexperienced workers. Trip includes a pilgrimage to New Mexico's Loretto Chapel and its "miraculous staircase". For more information, attend an informational meeting at the Blanchette Center, 16555 Weber Road, Crest Hill this Wednesday, January 17 at 7pm, or contact Alex Buldak at 815-221-6256 or abuldak@dioceseofjoliet.org.



The 2024 Catholic Ministries Annual Appeal has begun!

As the Diocese of Joliet launches the 2024 Catholic Ministries Annual Appeal (CMAA), we are humbly asking all parishioners to pledge their support for this important effort, as together we can make a profound difference.

This year's CMAA theme is *For the Glory of God*. Through our support, we ensure that the mission and ministries of Christ's Church are available to everyone. Together, we can help provide safe shelter for the homeless, feed the physical and social needs of those who are hungry, inspire those discerning a life of vocation, and aid in the education of our next generation of Catholics. Our parish could not accomplish all of this on its own, but together through the appeal we can do so much more.

Our parish's goal for the 2024 CMAA is \$16,100, and 70% of any amount we raise over our goal will be returned to us and used fruitfully within our own parish. Please review the materials you receive in the mail from the Diocese of Joliet this month and prayerfully reflect on your gift to this year's annual appeal.

If you do not receive a CMAA mailing, please contact the parish office. Thank you!

Kitchen Coordinator Wanted

Catholic Charities, Diocese of Joliet is hiring a Kitchen Coordinator at their Day-break Center shelter in Joliet. This full-time position includes preparing menus, supervising kitchen volunteers, and ensuring that the facility is stocked and organized.

To learn more and to apply, visit catholiccharitiesjoliet.org and click on "employment."

Catholic Charities is a faith-based organization providing service to people in need and calling others of good will to do the same.

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.

The EUCHARISTIC MINISTER / LECTOR schedule up to February 24-25, 2024 is in the rear of the church. Please sign-up where you can!



75th Anniversary Prayer

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.

COUNCIL of CATHOLIC WOMEN NEWS

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all!

The ladies of CCW have had an eventful Christmas Season. Our parish is very blessed with many wonderful women who give of their time and talents!

We kicked off the holiday season with a **Christmas Bunco party** hosted by Barb Hodgett and Jeanette O'Grady Neybert. The evening was fun filled with laughter, treats and prizes! A great time was had by all who attended!



Many thanks to Clem Carder and her elves for hosting the annual **Christmas Party for the retired sisters at Saint Francis Woods**. The sisters shared their thanks for this event and look forward to seeing our parish members each year! Thank you for donations of cookies, funds and gifts for supporting this annual beloved event!

Thank-you, Peggy Schwiesow and Barb Hodgett and friends who delivered poinsettias, books and a well-received visit to our homebound parishioners. This is truly a gift of love for those who cannot attend Mass with us.

Thank you to Janet Hase for organizing the **Bundle-Up Collection** on behalf of the parish. The collected winter items were well received and much appreciated!

We hope you had a chance to enjoy the CCW gift to you! Two books were gifted to families of the parish from CCW. We have heard many praises of the books and hope you can share your thoughts, too! Thank you to Penny Lund for the lovely hand crafted book marks!

Now, onto upcoming events!

BEEF DINNER NEWS: The CCW would like to extend our gratitude, thanks and appreciation for all of you who have volunteered, organized, hosted and attended our past Shrove Tuesday Beef Dinners. It had been a true blessing to have had this event for the last 50 years! This has been a wonderful tribute to our parish and community for five decades!

After much thought, prayers and consideration, we have decided to take a break for this year and try a smaller parish centered event.

To start the Lenten season, a parish pot luck will be held on Sunday, February 11 following 10:30am Mass. The CCW will provide baked and fried chicken, rolls and salads. All will be asked to bring a dish to share. Sign-up forms and more details will be upcoming!

NATIONAL MARRIAGE WEEK February 7-14, 2024:

We will be celebrating all married couples during **Love Beyond Words National Marriage Week** from February 3/4 to February 11/12. Because love never ends, 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 church foyer the weekend of February 3/4 when you come to Mass. There will also be valentines available for you to include with your frame.

Thank you for your support of the CCW.

We look forward to celebrating the upcoming events with all of you!

God Bless you as we begin this new year!

