

January 25, 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: Marge Harms

CCW PRESIDENT: Ron LeClaire

GRAND KNIGHT of K of C: Steve Maltese

BUILDING & GROUNDS: Al Leffelman

FINANCE COUNCIL CHAIRPERSON: Paula Prium

WORSHIP COMMISSION: Mary Ann Battermann

CHRISTIAN FORMATION / EDUCATION COMMISSION: Barb Egelski

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

Thursday: 7:15pm to 7:45pm

Saturday: 3pm to 3:45pm

Any time by appointment

FIRST RECONCILIATION:

December 10, 2025

April 12, 2026 at 11am

FIRST COMMUNION:

May 9, 2026 at 11am

at St. Anthony (Frankfort)

CONFIRMATION:

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

© J. S. Paluch Co., Inc.



Sat	1/24	3:00 pm—	<u>CONFESION</u>
		4:00 pm—	<u>+Irvin Weiss</u> req by the James Kelly Family and <u>People of the Parish</u>
Sun	1/25	11:00 am—	<u>+Bill Kosky</u> req by the Braun Family
Mon	1/26	8:30 am—	<u>COMMUNION SERVICE</u>
Tue	1/27	8:30 am—	<u>COMMUNION SERVICE</u>
Wed	1/28	8:30 am—	<u>COMMUNION SERVICE</u>
Thr	1/29	8:30 am—	<u>COMMUNION SERVICE</u> 6:00 pm— <u>ADORATION</u> <u>NO CONFESION</u>
Fri	1/30	8:30 am—	<u>COMMUNION SERVICE</u>
Sat	1/31	3:00 pm—	<u>CONFESION</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 Setticasi 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 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 needed 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 903 918-9305 for details.



Catholic Ministries Annual Appeal

Diocese of Joliet

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

2025 CMAA Pledge Report

for St. Paul the Apostle as of 1/18/26:

PARISH GOAL:	\$15,600
AMOUNT PLEDGED:	\$36,342
AMOUNT PAID:	\$35,892
REMAINING BALANCE:	\$ 450
NUMBER of DONORS:	123
2025 REBATE:	\$14,204

This weekend we take up the
**Collection for the Church
in Latin America!**

Many people in Latin America and the Caribbean lack access to church programs and ministries because of a rising secular culture, rugged rural terrain, and a shortage of ministers.

Your generosity enables our brothers and sisters in Latin America and the Caribbean to share in the life of the Church and grow closer to Christ. Please be generous in the special collection!

To learn more, please visit usccb.org/latin-america.

Third Sunday in Ordinary Time
Is 8:23-9:3; 1 Cor 1:10-13, 17; Mt 4:12-23

Today's Gospel passage marks a pivotal transition in the Gospel of Matthew: the beginning of Jesus' public ministry. It moves from John the Baptist's arrest to Jesus' settling in Capernaum and the calling of his first disciples. It is a profound invitation to recognize the light of Christ and to embrace the radical change of becoming a fisher of men.

The Light in Galilee: *"He left Nazareth and went and lived in Capernaum by the sea, in the territory of Zebulun and Naphtali, that what had been said through the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled: 'Land of Zebulun, land of Naphtali... the people who sit in darkness have seen a great light.'"*

Jesus deliberately chooses Galilee of the Gentiles—a region often seen as peripheral or less devout—as the base for his ministry. Matthew immediately connects this move to the prophecy in Isaiah 9:1-2. This is the central theological point: the Christ, the Messiah, is not just for the holy city of Jerusalem, but for those who are in darkness. Darkness is always a place of doubt, fear, anxiety. Sinfulness is a state of darkness. This passage assures us that Jesus' light is directed precisely toward the overlooked, the confused, and the forgotten. His ministry begins not in a temple, but in a place of humble obscurity. Christ is our Light in the darkness of the world and our own hearts.

"He said to them, *'Come after me, and I will make you fishers of men.'* At once they left their nets and followed him... and they immediately left the boat and their father and followed him." Jesus doesn't call scribes or priests; he calls humble, working fishermen: Simon (Peter), Andrew, James, and John. Their identity is tied to their profession—their lives revolve around their nets and boats. The most striking detail is the word "at once" (or "immediately"). This is not a reluctant, "let me think about it" response. It is a radical, instantaneous

commitment. A total dedication and surrender. They leave behind their source of livelihood, their family, and their established way of life to follow a relative stranger.

They are given a new, divine purpose: "fishers of men." The tool is no longer a net for fish, but the Gospel message itself, used to draw souls toward God's Kingdom.

Are there "nets" in our life that keep us anchored and prevent us from following Jesus completely? The comfort, wealth, a grudge, a habit, or a fear of the unknown, any such thing can be a net that prevents us from following Jesus. The Lord calls us, too, to leave our nets and radically reorient our lives around His mission. Our vocation, no matter our career, is ultimately to be a fisher of men.

The Kingdom is not merely a future hope; it is present now, demonstrated through God's power to heal and transform. We are called to be witnesses to this Kingdom through our words and our actions, bringing Christ's light and compassion to the world.

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.

*Father
 Will Be
 Away...*



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.

Annual Contribution Statement
2025
CONTRIBUTION
STATEMENTS will
 be available by
 request. Please use the
 request form in the
 lobby, contact the parish office at
 708 258-6917 or email to
parishoffice@stpaulpeotone.org.

Prayer for Priests on Vacation

Loving and gracious God, We lift up to You the priests who are traveling for rest and renewal. Bless their journeys with safety, peace, and joy. Refresh their minds and hearts as they step away from their daily responsibilities, and surround them with the quiet grace that restores the spirit. May this time of renewal strengthen them for the ministry to which You have called them, and may they return refreshed, protected, and filled with Your light.

Amen.

We welcome our celebrants this weekend:
Rev. William Stenzel and Rev. Raymond Akumbilim, SVD

COLLECTION SUMMARY: January 17—18, 2026

Budgeted	\$3,205.53
Sunday Offertory*	\$3,006.00
Minus	199.53
Envelopes used / distributed	78 / 531
*Includes 7 Online Givers	
Providing for Our Future	\$ 656.00
First Offering	\$ 55.00
Solemnity of Mary	\$ 25.00

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.



Religious Education

A STUDENT / PARENT MEETING will be held TODAY at 10am. Please plan on staying to celebrate 11am Mass;

© J. S. Paluch Co., Inc.

FIRST COMMUNION is scheduled for Sunday, April 12 at 11am Mass

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

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, Joe Ladislas, Arline Clark, Mary Jo Fry, Gerald Adcock, Laura Valenti, Samantha Digiocomo, 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.

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

The Diocese of Joliet has scheduled a "Vianney Visit" for February 12-14, 2026, to provide high school juniors and seniors (ages 17-18) the opportunity to take a closer look and experience college seminary. Attend Mass, prayer and spiritual conferences with SJV priests and hear testimonies from SJV seminarians.

St. John Vianney College Seminary in St. Paul, MN, is the largest collaborative college seminary in the United States, representing 18 dioceses through the nation, including ours, with more than 100 undergraduate men in formation this year!

Questions / Concerns / Registration: vocations@dioceseofjoliet.org or call 815-221-6171. There is no cost for this trip and the Diocese of Joliet will provide all meals and transportation.

Discerning? We can help you foster your vocation to fatherhood ...

Because God Still Calls...



Join us for an upcoming

"Vianney Visit"

February 12-14, 2026

St. John Vianney College Seminary, St. Paul, MN

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



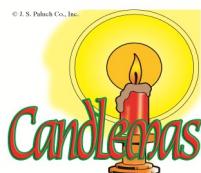
**POPE'S INTENTIONS for
JANUARY 2026: For prayer with
the Word of God**

Let us pray that praying with the Word of God be nourishment for our lives and a source of hope in our communities, helping us to build a more fraternal and missionary Church.

UPCOMING EVENTS

CANDLEMAS is a Christian holiday celebrated annually on February 2. It celebrates three occasions according to Christian belief:

- the presentation of the child Jesus;
- Jesus' first entry into the temple;
- the Virgin Mary's purification



You are invited to bring candles to Mass to be blessed for personal and family use next weekend. Examples of when blessed candles can be used at home—during prayer or spiritual reading, during severe weather, when undergoing a trial or hardship and Divine guidance is wished, during a Communion call or when death is near.

To observe the feast day of **ST. BLAISE**, Bishop and Martyr (February 3), patron saint of throat ailments, a throat blessing will be offered at Masses next weekend.

*Through the intercession of Saint Blaise, bishop and martyr, may God deliver you from every disease of the throat and from every other illness.
+In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.+*



SOUPER BOWL of CARING: Our parish will once again participate and collect \$1 (or larger!) bills at our exits after Masses on February 7 / 8 to benefit the Helping Hands Food Pantry.

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

The Conversion
of St. Paul

January 25—
Paul is converted and becomes the apostle sent to proclaim to all the nations the saving gospel.

There's plenty of room for more choir members. If you have 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.



**St. Paul the Apostle
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

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.



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

We will meet on Monday, February 2 at 6:30pm in the Red Room. We invite all women of the parish to join us.. 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.

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.





National Marriage Week USA
MARRIAGE IS WORTH IT! • EVERY FEB 7-14
Celebrate! Learn more.

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 beginning next weekend.***

Please put your names and the date of your wedding on the back of the frame. Bring your frame and place it on the marriage display in the lobby when you come to Mass.

A blessing for couples will be offered by Father Thomas at Masses on February 14 / 15.

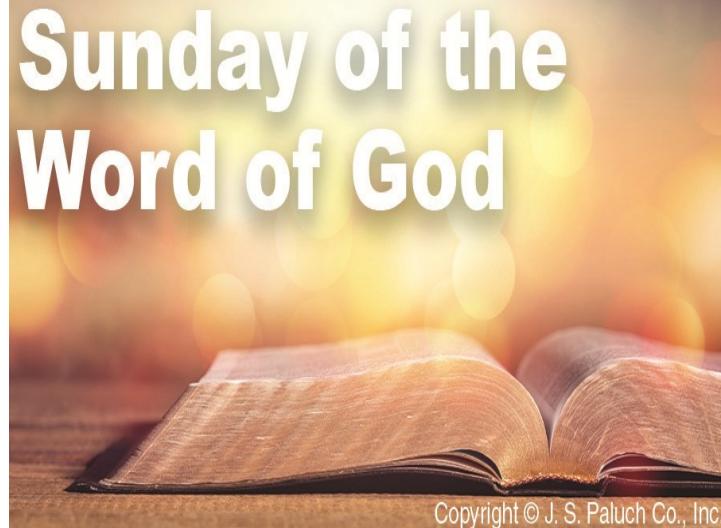
On Sunday, February 15 after 11am Mass we will celebrate with wedding cake for Snack & Chat!



**YOUNG ADULT MISSION
NAVAJO NATION**
SERVE IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF ST. KATHERINE DREXEL

\$1100 JUNE 7-14, 2026 APPLICATION OPEN JANUARY 2026 @ CATECHESIS.DIOJOLIET.ORG/MISONS SPACES LIMITED!

Sunday of the Word of God



Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co., Inc.

Today is the **Sunday of the Word of God** (Third Sunday in Ordinary Time).

The theme is "***The Word of Christ Dwells Among You***" (Colossians 3:16).

This special day, established by Pope Francis in 2019 through his Apostolic Letter *Aperuit illis*, encourages the study and celebration of Scripture.

Walk in the Footsteps of St. Katharine Drexel

St. Katharine Drexel gave the whole of her wealth to serve those most underprivileged in the United States in the early 20th Century.

This is a call to Young Adults (ages 20-39) to venture to the Navajo Nation to serve others, grow in your relationship with Christ, and share the Gospel!

This team will make St. Michael's Indian School their home for one week. Days will include service to the community, intentional time for prayer and the sacraments, community time with the mission team, and fun!

St. Michael's Indian School is a testament to the work of this great American saint. Our hope is that this community will help you realize your call to follow in St. Katharine's footsteps and be a saint!

Applications will open in January 2026.

For more information, contact the Office of Mission Lead, Alex Buldak / abuldak@dioceseofjoliet.org / 815 221-6256