

January 4, 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:** StPaulRE@att.net

**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:** To be announced

**CONFIRMATION:** May 9, 2026 at 11am

**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

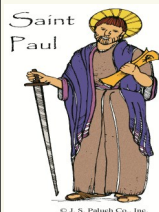
**Eucharistic Adoration:** Thursday 6pm to 8pm

**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 to RE / FF CLASSES!



**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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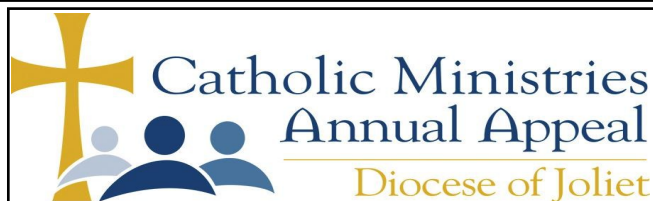


|     |      |           |   |
|-----|------|-----------|---|
| Sat | 1/3  | 3:00 pm—  | <u><b>CONFESSION</b></u>  |
|     |      | 4:00 pm—  | + <u><b>Peter Claxton</b></u><br>req by Tim & Cindy Reed  |
| Sun | 1/4  | 11:00 am— | + <u><b>David Neybert</b></u><br>req by Tim & Cindy Reed<br>and<br><u><b>People of the Parish</b></u>                       |
| Mon | 1/5  | 8:30 am—  | <u><b>COMMUNION SERVICE</b></u>   |
| Tue | 1/6  | 8:30 am—  | + <u><b>Josephine Goncher</b></u><br>req by Tim & Cindy Reed  |
| Wed | 1/7  | 8:30 am—  | + <u><b>Elizabeth Ann Meaney</b></u><br>by Tim & Cindy Reed   |
| Thr | 1/8  | 8:30 am—  | <u><b>COMMUNION SERVICE</b></u>   |
|     |      | 6:00 pm—  | <u><b>ADORATION</b></u>   |
|     |      | 7:15 pm—  | <u><b>CONFESSION</b></u>  |
| Fri | 1/9  | 8:30 am—  | + <u><b>Pat Motyka</b></u><br>req by Family   |
| Sat | 1/10 | 3:00 pm—  | <u><b>CONFESSION</b></u>  |
|     |      | 4:00 pm—  | + <u><b>Jeannie Scheiman</b></u> (from 11/29/25)<br>req by the Adamsick Family<br>and<br><u><b>People of the Parish</b></u> |
| Sun | 1/11 | 11:00 am— | + <u><b>Vic Wienckowski</b></u><br>req by 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.*

## 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.



### 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 of Joliet and prayerfully consider your gift.

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

As our beautiful Christmas season flows into the new year, the St. Paul the Apostle Council of Catholic Women gives thanks to God for the gift of His Son and the blessings of our parish family. Our Council of Catholic Women represents a community of faith-filled women rooted in prayer, fellowship and service.

The CCW is taking January off, but will start meeting in February 2026. Meetings are the first Monday of the month at 6:30pm in the Red Room. We invite all women of the parish to join us in the New Year. 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.

May the peace and hope in the New Year under the inspiration of the love and grace of Mary, our Blessed Mother, bless us all.


*St. Paul Council of Catholic Women*



*EVELYN SUSAN was baptized on December 28, 2025.  
She is the daughter of John and Rylee Panozzo Schubbe.  
Welcome to the parish family!*







**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/MISSIONS](http://CATECHESIS.DIOJOLIET.ORG/MISSIONS)    **SPACES LIMITED!**

### 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 20<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:abuldak@dioceseofjoliet.org) / 815 221-6256



Thank you for all of your hard work during practices. I thought that we added a lot to the Christmas Night Mass, especially with not much turn around time between Father's Installation Mass and Christmas!

Several of you have asked when we would be meeting next. You will find the practice schedule below. Note that we will be taking the month of January off and will start back up with rehearsals on Saturday, February 7. Please mark your calendars of the dates, and text or email me with any conflicts.

***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 (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   | 2:30-3:30 pm |
| Saturday, February 14  | 2:30-3:30 pm |
| Saturday, February 21  | NO REHEARSAL |
| Saturday, February 28: | 2:30-3:30 pm |
| Saturday, March 7:     | 2:30-3:30 pm |
| Saturday, March 14:    | 2:30-3:30 pm |
| Saturday, March 21:    | 2:30-3:30 pm |
| Saturday, March 28:    | 2:30-3:30 pm |

### 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.

Help is needed for a 68 year old female living in Peotone, who is wheelchair bound and has an ongoing need for a female caregiver for a couple evenings / week (5:30-7pm or other times possible).

No experience is needed. Please contact Kim at 708 981-6030.



Looking for a New Year's resolution that is positive? Join our local Knights of Columbus St. Paul the Apostle Council. You will be glad you did! Contact Grand Knight Ron LeClaire at 708-204-6277 for more information and to get started.

The Knights of Columbus continue to collect non perishable food items in boxes in the lobbies at St. Paul the Apostle Church. Please be especially generous during this holiday season. Donations support local pantries like Helping Hands and others.

#### COLLECTION SUMMARY: December 27—28, 2025

|                                  |            |
|----------------------------------|------------|
| Budgeted                         | \$3,205.53 |
| Sunday Offertory*                | \$3,750.00 |
| Plus                             | 544.47     |
| Envelopes used / distributed     | 64 / 531   |
| <i>*Includes 7 Online Givers</i> |            |
| Christmas                        | \$1,391.00 |
| Immaculate Conception            | \$ 40.00   |
| Providing for Our Future         | \$ 95.00   |
| Religious Retirement             | \$ 55.00   |

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.

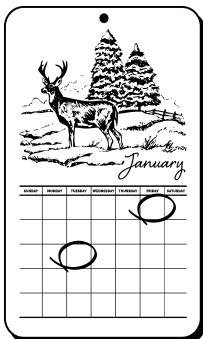


#### **FINANCE COUNCIL—**

Wednesday,  
January 7 at  
5:30pm;

#### **PARISH COUNCIL—**

Wednesday,  
January 7 at  
6:30pm



Please pick-up a  
complimentary  
**2026 WALL CALENDAR**  
(courtesy of Fedde-Helfrich-  
Cross Funeral Home) in  
either lobby!

Please keep Ed Kulish, Jan Leffelman, Laura Jacques, 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 Ladislav, Arline Clark, Mary Jo Fry, Gerald Adcock, Laura Valenti, Samantha Digiacomo, 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.**



#### **Epiphany Blessing**

The Greek word "*Epiphanias*" means "*surprise appearance*", i.e. appearance of the Lord, which was celebrated in the early Christian centuries on January 6. In the 4th century, this holiday was shifted to December 25, and January 6 obtained the name of The Three Kings (the "Wise Men," the Magi), or simply Twelfth Day. According to an old legend based on a Bible story, these three kings saw, on the night when Christ was born, a bright star, followed it to Bethlehem and found there the Christ child. They presented him with gold, frankincense, and myrrh. On this day, the doorways would be sprinkled with holy water and the initials of the Three Kings – **C+M+B (Caspar, Melchior, and Balthasar)** – **plus the year** are inscribed in chalk over doorways on the eve of January 6 to protect house and home. Although historically, the three letters are supposed to come from the Latin phrase "*Christus mansionem benedicat*" – "Christ bless this house."

**Blessed chalk is available  
in the lobby to bless your home.**

## Epiphany of the Lord Is 60:1-6; Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6; Mt 2:1-12

The very word "Epiphany" comes from the Greek *'epiphaneia'*, meaning "manifestation" or "showing forth." It marks the moment Christ's light was revealed to the Gentile world, represented by the Magi. Once the Christ is born, the God of Israel is not just for the people of Israel, but for all nations.

Today as we reflect on the Epiphany of the Lord, we need to focus on its core themes: the journey, the adoration, and the gifts. The story of the Magi is a powerful parable for every person's journey of faith. It is seeking God's Light. The Magi were "wise men from the East"—foreign scholars, possibly astronomers or astrologers—who followed a celestial sign. Their journey teaches us about the determination and cost of seeking God.

The star was not a local phenomenon; it was a 'Sign for the World.' It spoke to those outside the Jewish nation, fulfilling the prophecy that all nations would walk by God's light (Is 60:3). It shows that God calls people from every culture, background, and path of knowledge. The Magi left comfort and certainty to follow a celestial sign into the unknown. They faced a difficult journey, risked the political intrigue of King Herod, and were guided only by faith. This requires great courage and determination. When the star seemed to disappear, they sought guidance from the Scriptures in Jerusalem. This shows the importance of using reason and revelation (the Star and the Scriptures) in our search for God. We need to leave our comfort zone and face the challenges and difficulties in our journey to find a deeper encounter with Christ.

When the Magi finally arrived, they did not find a palace or a powerful king, but a child in a humble house. Their knowledge and the guidance of internal senses told them that this is the king they are searching for. Their reaction provides the ultimate model of worship. Despite the humble setting, they recognized the Child's divine royalty. True faith allows us to see God's glory even when it is wrapped in poverty and vulnerability. *"They prostrated themselves and did him homage."* (Matthew 2:11). They fell down in total, humble surrender. Their act of worship was complete—they offered their minds, their bodies, and their treasures to the Christ Child. In other words, they surrendered themselves totally to this king, who is the Lord of all. When we encounter Christ—in prayer, in the Eucharist, in the poor—we too must have the same profound reverence and total submission. Adoration is not just kneeling; it is the humble acknowledgment that Jesus is King of our entire life.

The three gifts Gold, Frankincense, and Myrrh are not just treasures, but profound symbols of Jesus' identity and our personal offering. It is not enough to simply worship; we are called to give Him our entire lives: our King (gold), our God (frankincense), and our Redeemer (myrrh). The Epiphany invites us to be like the Magi: constantly seeking Christ, humbly worshipping Him when we find Him, and offering Him the entirety of our lives.

Yours in Christ,  
*Fr. Thomas Theneth CMI*

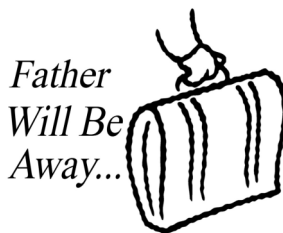


### WEDDING ANNIVERSARY RECOGNITION

On the second weekend of each month (NEXT WEEK-

END), 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 register in the **registration book in the lobby**. Couples who register will also receive an anniversary card.



Father  
Will Be  
Away...

Fr. Thomas will be away from Monday, January 12 until Saturday, February 14, 2026.

There will be no 8:30am weekday Masses celebrated at St. Paul during this time—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 Thursdays; Adoration will be held as usual from 6-8pm.



| SUNDAY  | MONDAY | TUESDAY                         | WEDNESDAY  | THURSDAY   | FRIDAY | SATURDAY   |
|---|--------|---------------------------------|--|--|--------|--|
|          |        |                                 |  | 1<br>SOLEMNITY of MARY—<br>a holy day of obligation<br>MASS AT 9am                       | 2      | 3<br>CONFESSION 3pm  |
| 4<br>EPIPHANY   | 5      | 6<br>KNIGHTS of COLUMBUS<br>7pm | 7<br>RE / FF CLASSES<br>6:15—7:30pm  | 8<br>ADORATION 6-8pm<br>CONFESSION 7:15-8pm  | 9      | 10<br>CONFESSION 3pm<br>ANNIVERSARY<br>BLESSING<br>K of C ORANGE SHIRT<br>MASS 4pm |
| 11 BAPTISM of the LORD<br>ANNIVERSARY<br>BLESSING   | 12     | 13                              | 14<br>RE / FF CLASSES<br>6:15—7:30pm   | 15<br>SENIOR ASSISTANCE<br>10-3pm<br>ADORATION 6-8pm                                     | 16     | 17<br>CONFESSION 3pm   |
| 18  | 19     | 20                              | 21<br>RE / FF CLASSES<br>6:15—7:30pm<br> | 22 DAY OF PRAYER<br>for the legal<br>protection of<br>unborn children<br>ADORATION 6-8pm | 23     | 24<br>CONFESSION 3pm   |
| 25<br> | 26     | 27                              | 28<br>RE / FF CLASSES<br>6:15—7:30pm<br> | 29<br>ADORATION 6-8pm  | 30     | 31<br>CONFESSION 3pm   |