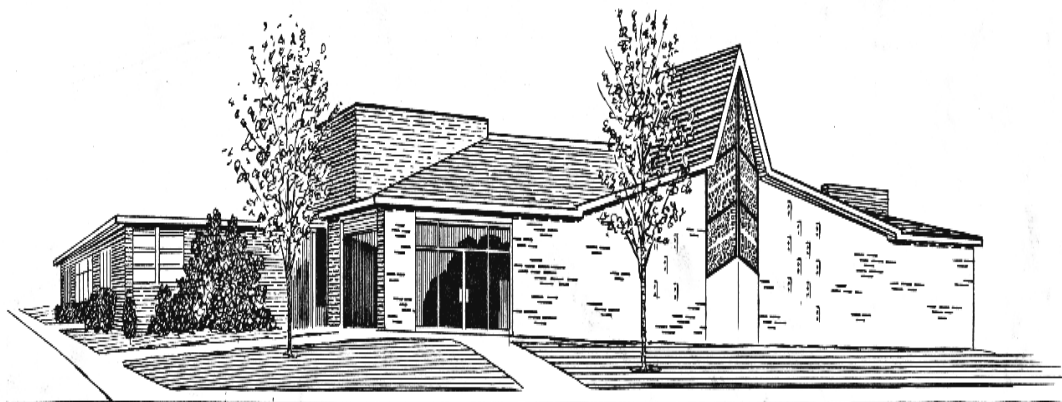




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July 19, 2026

ST. PAUL the APOSTLE CATHOLIC PARISH

511 N. Conrad Street
Peotone, IL 60468-9290

CHURCH OFFICE TELEPHONE: 708 258-6917

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: Patrick Frencl

CCW PRESIDENT: Denise Carriel

GRAND KNIGHT of K of C: Bill Sander

BUILDING & GROUNDS: Steve Maltese

FINANCE COUNCIL CHAIRPERSON: Al Leffelman

WORSHIP COMMISSION: Paula Prium

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: Will resume in the fall

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: t / b / a

FIRST COMMUNION: t / b / a

CONFIRMATION: t / b / a

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 and Thrs 7:30am

Communion Services: Mon, Weds and Fri 7:30am

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

July 19—25, 2026 is **NATURAL FAMILY PLANNING WEEK.**

Please see the insert in today's bulletin.

NATURAL FAMILY PLANNING— Designed by God / Guided by Love / Open to Life
NFP supports God's gifts of love and life in marriage!

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	7/18	3:00 pm—	<u>CONFESSION</u>
		3:30 pm—	<u>ROSARY</u>
		4:00 pm—	+ <u>Katherine Weiss</u> req by the James Kelly Family
Sun	7/19	10:30 am—	<u>ROSARY</u>
		11:00 am—	+ <u>Theodore S. Litak</u> req by T.R. Litak and <u>The People of the Parish</u>
Mon	7/20	7:30 am—	<u>COMMUNION SERVICE</u>
Tue	7/21	7:30 am—	+ <u>Candace Marevka</u> req by Suzanne Baltrusis Johnson
Wed	7/22	7:30 am—	<u>COMMUNION SERVICE</u>
Thr	7/23	7:30 am—	+ <u>Kelly & Weiss Families</u> req by the James Kelly Family
		6:00 pm—	<u>ADORATION</u>
		7:15 pm—	<u>CONFESSION</u>
Fri	7/24	7:30 am—	<u>COMMUNION SERVICE</u>
Sat	7/25	3:00 pm—	<u>CONFESSION</u>
		3:30 pm—	<u>ROSARY</u>
		4:00 pm—	+ <u>Joe Ladislas</u> req by Dolly Farmer-Gordon and <u>The People of the Parish</u>
Sun	7/26	10:30 am—	<u>ROSARY</u>
		11:00 am—	+ <u>Herbert Sr. & Marguerite Battermann</u> req by Herbert Jr. & Mary Ann Battermann

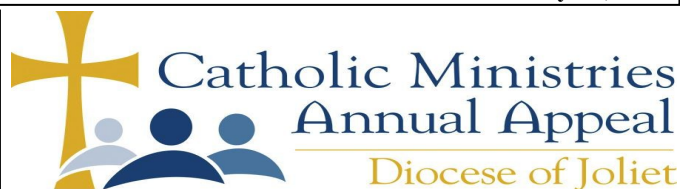
If you are attending a Mass that you requested an intention to be said for, please sign the gift bearer book in the rear of the church and let an usher know you are here if you wish to bring up the gifts.

**The Altar flowers are given in memory of
Jerry & Rosemary Borchardt
and Bob & Margaret Schwiesow, from Family**



Altar
Flowers

If you are interested in sponsoring our bi-weekly altar flower arrangement, 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 \$80 and can be shared between one or more parishioners.



Pledge Report for St. Paul the Apostle Parish as of July 12, 2026

Monthly pledge payments are due in the next few days. Since we have reached our goal in paid pledges, 70% of the amount over goal will be returned to our parish for our needs.

If you would still like to make your gift, please prayerfully consider how you can elevate your faith beyond all expectations in support of those in need. Pledge envelopes are available in the pews, or you can use the envelope you received in the mail from the diocese. We also welcome online gifts at jolietdioceseappeal.org.

PARISH GOAL:	\$16,700
AMOUNT PLEDGED:	\$26,580
AMOUNT PAID:	\$22,605
BALANCE DUE:	\$ 3,975
DONORS:	89
REBATE:	\$ 4,134



Knights of Columbus

St. Joseph Council #11358

1st Annual Fund Raiser

Drawing Date: September 13, 2026
12 Noon Church Parking Lot

ONLY 300 TICKETS SOLD

TICKET PRICE \$50.00



First Prize - \$5,000 Cash



2nd Prize - Weber Grill
(Value \$1,500)



3rd Prize - (3) \$500 Cash



4th Prize - (4) \$250 Cash



Contact: Tim Goldrick
(815) 953-7067



Contact: Adam Dotson
(708) 705-5693

COLLECTION SUMMARY: July 11—12, 2026:

Budgeted	\$3,205.53
Sunday Offertory*	\$3,281.00
Plus	\$ 75.47
Envelopes used / distributed	79 / 468
*Includes 8 Online Givers	
Peter's Pence	\$ 20.00



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 Parish

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 Ministry Programs
 () Would like to be contacted by a priest



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Please review this list and inform the parish office if anyone may be removed from it.

Please keep Penny Lund, Marcel Smaga, Bernie Iversen, Carol Henderson, Pat Cleary, Ed Kulish, Jan Leffelman, Nancy Pilotto, Rev. Tom Ewing, Michael Doyle, Mary Ellen Hanlon, Ashley Doody, Luke Payne, Dave Castaneda, Kathleen Callahan, Charles Claxton, Mary Jane Szewka, Elaine Doyle, Arline Clark, Mary Jo Fry, Gerald Adcock, Laura Valenti, Samantha Digiacomo, Julie Szudarski, Aris Tomac, Bob Johnson, Pete Henrisey, Claudia Merrifield, Harry & Pam Carpenter, Francesca Librera Biondo, Mike Wilczynski, Fran Rewers, Geri Mokry, Pastor Richard Young, Jeanne Vinezeano, Frances Librera, the Adamsick Family, Lavergne Sigrist, Charlie Kooy, Rose Bailey, Julie Hayes, Emily Klamkin, Lorianne Mihelic, the Robert Polacek family, Rich Harms, TJ Stefanski, Linda Galica and those that go unnamed in your prayers.

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

Please contact our Religious Education Office (708) 258-9580 for registration information.

The central parable of the wheat and the weeds cuts straight to a question that believers have asked for millennia: If God is good, why is there evil in the world—and even within the Church?

Jesus explains that the field is the world, where both good seeds (children of the Kingdom) and weeds (children of the evil one) grow together. St. Augustine famously used this passage to describe the Church as a mixed body of saints and sinners. The servants immediately want to rip out the weeds. We often do the same. We want a pure, flawless Church or society right now. We judge others and wish God would just "remove" the bad people. The Master says no: "If you pull up the weeds you might uproot the wheat with them." God avoids premature judgment because He sees potential. A weed in the natural world can never become wheat, but in God's economy of grace, a sinner can become a saint. Think of St. Paul, St. Augustine, or St. Mary Magdalene. God spares the field so that the "weeds" have time to convert.

While it is easy to look outward and categorize the world into "wheat" and "weeds," Catholic tradition asks us to look inward. The line between wheat and weeds doesn't just cut through society; it cuts right through the human heart. Every day, through prayer and the Sacraments, especially Sacrament of Reconciliation and the Eucharist, we ask God to nurture the wheat of virtue within us and choke out the weeds of vice. We are a work in progress, mirroring the darnel—the real-world weed



Jesus likely referenced, which is indistinguishable from wheat until it fully matures. It forces us to practice humility; we cannot always tell who is thriving spiritually and who is struggling.

Nestled inside this discourse are two shorter parables that shift our gaze from the battle against evil to the quiet power of grace. The two parables can also be interpreted today in terms of the Church. They make two points about the Church as the embodiment of the kingdom. The first is that the Church must be a visible organization serving the world, like a tree giving shade to the birds. The second is that it must be immersed in human reality like leaven in the dough. The Church is not to be just a spiritual communion of all those who believe in Jesus, it must be a highly visible structure like a tree or like a city built on a hill so that people can see it and recognize the merit of the seed which is the message of Christ from which it grew. We must be organized Christian communities to show forth the spirit of Jesus to the rest of the world. Christians must be people who are in the world inducing positive change like leaven that changes the dough silently. This is the Catholic call to be in the world but not of it. We are called to permeate our workplaces, families, and cultures with the gospel, quietly elevating them through our joy and integrity.

Yours in Christ,
Fr. Thomas Theneth CMI

The Catholic Church celebrates the **World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly**, each year on the Sunday closest to the feast of Sts. Joachim and Anne (July 26), Jesus' grandparents. This year it is Sunday, July 26. The theme for the celebration is: **"I will never forget you"**, (Isaiah 49:15).

A blessing will be offered at Masses next weekend for grandparents and the elderly.

We invite and encourage you to attend Mass with your parents / grandparents!



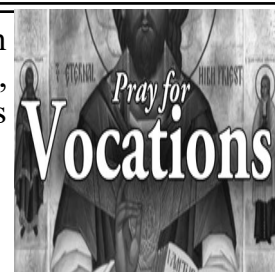
Please remember these men and women in your daily prayers—priests, Deacons, Seminarians and Women & Men Religious in the Diocese of Joliet:

JULY

- 18 Fr. Michael McMahon
- 19 Dcn. Anthony Martini
- 20 Seminarian Joseph Min
- 21 Dcns. Artemio Martinez, David Marlowe, Ricardo Marquez
- 22 Fr. Timothy Andres O.Carm.
- 23 Sr. Alice Reckamp OSF, Sr. Audrey Marie Rothweil OSF
- 24 Fr. Marcin Michalak, Fr. Joshua Miller
- 25 Dcns. Todd Bly, Stephen Contreras, Michael Doerries
- 26 Fr. Thomas Milota, Fr. David Mowry

Vocations are born in prayer and from prayer; and only through prayer can they persevere and bear fruit.

—Pope Francis





Designed by God Guided by Love Open to Life

Rev. Msgr. Robert R. Cannon

NATURAL FAMILY PLANNING

The natural beauty of creation has the power to draw us into the mystery of God. We can see, feel, smell, and sense God's creative handiwork in so many ways. Consider when we pause to savor the burst of colors in a sunset or the rhythmic sound of waves rolling upon a beach. It might be in the playful antics of a kitten or a child's first step. Everything reflects and proclaims God's glory and love. The Church teaches that through natural revelation, "even before revealing Himself to man in words of truth, God reveals Himself ... in the universal language of creation, the work of His word, of His wisdom" (CCC, 2500).

The Church teaches that through "natural reason, man can know God...on the basis of His works" (CCC, 50). When we allow ourselves to be attentive to the wonder of creation, we begin to see that creation is not random or accidental, but ordered and purposeful. God has established laws within creation on which humanity can rely with confidence, laws that are to be respected by the stewardship of men and women (see CCC, 346).

Designed by God

In creating man and woman in His image and likeness, God enables us to share in His own life (see CCC, 225). Human dignity flows from this divine design. And, because God is love, divine love is inscribed in the human body itself. St. John Paul II taught that the body has a "spousal meaning" (see General Audience, April 14, 1982), as God has written into human nature the vocation and responsibility of love and communion (see FC, 14). It is found in every man and woman, expressed in sexuality and fertility, marriage, and procreation. And here is where the modern methods of Natural Family Planning (NFP) stand ready to help. NFP supports the

Creator's sublime design for marriage, guided by love, and open to life.

God's creation of male and female is not incidental but intentional. Sexuality, therefore, is purposeful. It draws people out of isolation and toward communion. It affects "every aspect of the human person" and it allows man and woman to unite in the unique communion of persons called marriage (see CCC, 371–372; 2332–2335). Flowing from this reality of community, marriage reflects God's own inner life—a communion of love that is both life-giving and faithful.

Guided by Love

Guided by love means to be directed toward the good of the other. Love, by its nature, is relational. St. John Paul II powerfully expressed this truth when he wrote that man cannot live without love; without it, life becomes senseless and incomprehensible (see RH, 10).

Of all creatures, only human beings can know and love God and consciously participate in His life. St. Paul teaches, "we are created in Christ Jesus for the good works that God has prepared in advance" (Ephesians 2:11). To be guided by love is to participate in God's creative plan and to help build a culture of life and love (see EV, 77).

Marriage is neither a social invention nor a product of chance. "It is ... the wise...institution of God the Creator, whose purpose was to effect in man His loving design" (HV, 8). Because of this divine origin, the Church teaches that married love is freely given, faithful, permanent, and fruitful (see HV, 9). Marital love reflects God's own love!

When a man and a woman freely exchange consent, they establish a covenant for "the whole of life" that is

“ordered by its very nature to the good of the spouses and to the procreation and education” of children (see Canon 1055). God Himself is present within this union. When the spouses are baptized Christians, marriage becomes a sacrament, receiving its strength and permanence from Christ Himself.

Open to Life

A unique gift and responsibility contained in the marital vocation is stewardship over the powers of life. God calls husband and wife to embrace their shared fertility as a gift. The Lord God created marriage to be the home of the family. Spouses give “themselves to one another” and at the same time give beyond themselves to the reality of “children, who are a living reflection of their love, a permanent sign of conjugal unity” (see FC, 14).

As stewards of the gift of fertility, married couples are invited to seek God’s will together in a spirit of trust and humility. It is in this spirit that God helps them make prudent decisions about welcoming children. It is within this discernment that NFP finds its proper place.

NFP methods are evidence-based approaches to fertility education that can assist couples in identifying when fertility is at its peak so that couples can attempt to achieve or postpone pregnancy. When avoiding pregnancy, no drugs or devices are used that can harm God’s gifts. NFP differs fundamentally from contraception. Rather than interfering with God’s design for married couples, NFP respects the integrity of married love and the gift of life.

When pregnancy has been attempted and a child is conceived, parents speak of the great joy and gratitude that they have. They also say that the time of childbirth is one of the most meaningful moments in their lives. Mothers will speak of God’s presence when first holding their newborn baby. Fathers proudly admit they finally understand the meaning of fatherhood when looking into their newborn’s eyes. This self-realization is due to the natural and “the fundamental task of family,” which is “to serve life, to actualize...the original blessing of the Creator ...of transmitting by procreation the divine image from person to person” (see FC, 28).

The fruitfulness of spousal love is not limited to the gift of children. Some couples, despite their desires, are unable to conceive. In this case, a married couple’s openness to life can be expressed in other ways through adoption, foster

care, or generous service to the Church and community. The vocation of marriage is wide—it calls all married couples to create homes where love is shared and others are nurtured. They are all called to mirror God’s love.

All of creation proclaims the glory of God and the handiwork of His love! Whether single or married, every person is created in God’s image and likeness, given the capacity to love, and invited to share in His life. Within the arms of God’s love, marriage stands as a unique gift to humanity—a sacred communion in which husband and wife live the fullness of human sexuality and become stewards of life. Marriage is not merely for the good of husband and wife, but for the good of the world. Truly, marriage is designed by God, guided by love, and open to life!

Reference guide with links

CCC: Catechism of the Catholic Church (see <https://usccb.cld.bz/Catechism-of-the-Catholic-Church2>)

EV: Evangelium vitae, St. John Paul II, 1995 (see https://www.vatican.va/content/john-paul-ii/en/encyclicals/documents/hf_jp-ii_enc_25031995_evangelium-vitae.html)

FC: Familiaris consortio, St. John Paul II, 1980 (see https://www.vatican.va/content/john-paul-ii/en/apost_exhortations/documents/hf_jp-ii_exh_19811122_familiaris-consortio.html)

HV: Humanae vitae, St. Pope Paul VI, 1968 (see https://www.vatican.va/content/paul-vi/en/encyclicals/documents/hf_p-vi_enc_25071968_humanae-vitae.html)

RH: Redemptio hominis, St. John Paul II, 1979 (see https://www.vatican.va/content/john-paul-ii/en/encyclicals/documents/hf_jp-ii_enc_04031979_redemptor-hominis.html)

To learn about the Church’s teaching about married love and the gift of life and the ethical methods of NFP, see www.usccb.org/nfp

Questions? Contact nfp@usccb.org



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