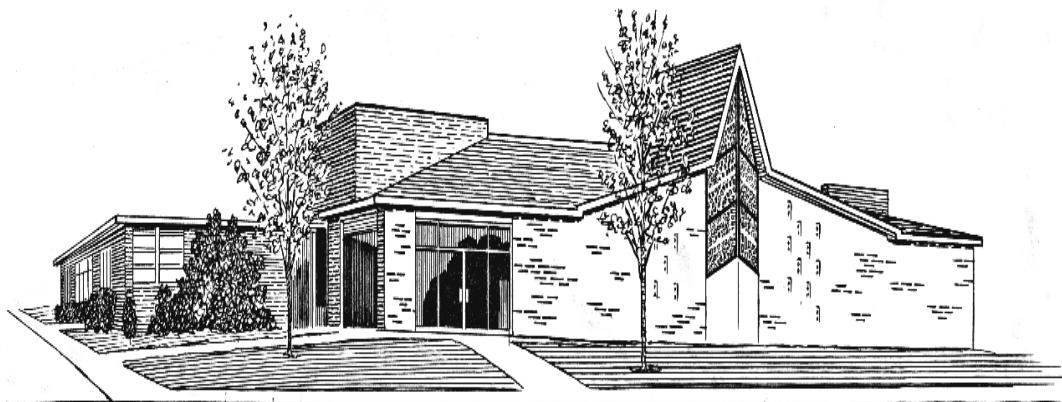




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July 5, 2026

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: December 10, 2025

FIRST COMMUNION: April 12, 2026

CONFIRMATION: May 9, 2026

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

Deacon Cooks July Breakfast

Enjoy Deacon Kelly's culinary skills and community fellowship Thursday, July 16 at 8am following 7:30am morning Mass. Scrambled eggs, sausage links, pancakes, potatoes, fruit and beverages are on Deacon's bill of faire!

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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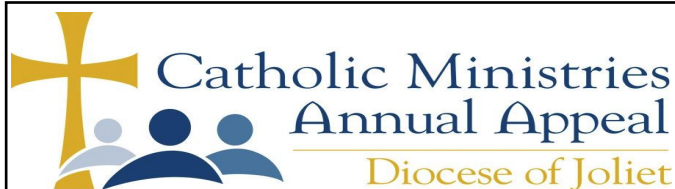
Sat	7/4	3:00 pm—	<u>CONFESSION</u>
		3:30 pm—	<u>ROSARY</u>
		4:00 pm—	+ <u>Joe Ladislas</u> req by Dawn Ladislas
Sun	7/5	10:30 am—	<u>ROSARY</u>
		11:00 am—	+ <u>Betty Knickrehm—</u> <u>95th Birthday Remembrance</u> req by Family and <u>The People of the Parish</u>
Mon	7/6	7:30 am—	<u>COMMUNION SERVICE</u>
Tue	7/7	7:30 am—	+ <u>Ken Roczniak</u> req by St. Paul Parish
Wed	7/8	7:30 am—	<u>COMMUNION SERVICE</u>
Thr	7/9	7:30 am—	<u>Celebrant's Intention</u>
		6:00 pm—	<u>ADORATION</u>
		7:15 pm—	<u>CONFESSION</u>
Fri	7/10	7:30 am—	<u>COMMUNION SERVICE</u>
Sat	7/11	3:00 pm—	<u>CONFESSION</u>
		3:30 pm—	<u>ROSARY</u>
		4:00 pm—	+ <u>Jeannie Scheiman</u> req by Don & Kathie Brooks and <u>The People of the Parish</u>
Sun	7/12	10:30 am—	<u>ROSARY</u>
		11:00 am—	+ <u>John R. Tierney, Jr. & Family</u> 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.



The Altar flowers are given in memory of Mrs. Betty Knickrehm's 95th Birthday, from her family.

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 June 28, 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:	\$33,580
AMOUNT PAID:	\$29,543
BALANCE DUE:	\$ 4,037
DONORS:	90
REBATE:	\$ 8,990



THE POPE'S INTENTIONS for JULY 2026:

For respect for human life

Let us pray for the respect and protection of human life in all its stages, recognizing it as a gift from God.

The **Servants of the Holy Heart of Mary** are offering a variety of retreats, days of reflection, spiritual enrichment programs, and other opportunities. Visit their website, www.sscm-usa.org, to learn more about upcoming opportunities.



SSCM Province Center
2041 W. State Route 113 / Kankakee

There will be a **FINANCE COUNCIL** meeting on Thursday, July 16 at 5:30pm.

There will be a **PARISH COUNCIL** meeting on Thursday, July 16 at 6:30pm.

PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR TROOPS:

- CW4 John Carrillo** (Army—JBLM Washington State)
Nephew of Denise (Ed) Carriel
- HM2 Chuck Claxton** (Navy—29 Palms, CA)
Son of Dennis & Pat Claxton
- AN Chase Clyden** (Navy—Asian Seas)
Grandson of Laura (Tom) Jacques;
Great-nephew of Barbara Grantz
- SFC Nicholas Hupke** (Army)
Nephew of Paula (Fred) Prium
- MAJ Jori Ingersoll** (Air Force—Washington State)
Daughter of Mary Jo (Frank) Fry, Jr.
- SSGT Nate Kijowski** (Marines)
Son of Debbie (John) Ziolkowski Kijowski
- PVT Jake L. O'Connor** (Marines)
Grandson of Marge Brooke
- SSG Sean Rodgers** (Army—Ft. Campbell, KY)
Grandson of Barbara Grantz;
Great-nephew of Laura (Tom) Jacques
- CAPT Joseph Walan** (Air Force—Las Vegas, NV)
Son of Mary Jo (Frank, Jr.) Fry

Please pray for their safety, spiritual and physical well being and that God will give His peace to their parents and families.

PRAYER for THOSE SERVING

O Merciful Father, You desire the welfare of Your children. Stretch out Your protecting arm over our men and women in the service. Shield them from every danger to body, mind and soul. Comfort them in loneliness, sustain them in hardship, give them courage they need to fulfill their duty and do Your will in all things. Bestow on our leaders and the leaders of the world the wisdom and prudence, which will bring peace and justice to all men. This we ask through Jesus Christ, Your Son, Our Lord. Amen.



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, Greg Nalepka, Kathleen Callahan, Jeff Furtek, Charles Claxton, Mary Jane Szewka, Elaine Doyle, Arline Clark, Mary Jo Fry, Gerald Adcock, Laura Valenti, Samantha Digiaco, Julie Szudarski, Aris Tomac, Bob Johnson, Pete Henrisey, Claudia Merrifield, Harry & Pam Carpenter, Francesca Libera Biondo, Mike Wilczynski, Fran Rewers, Geri Mokry, Pastor Richard Young, Jeanne Vinezeano, Frances Libera, the Adamsick Family, Laverne 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.

COLLECTION SUMMARY: June 27—28, 2026:

Budgeted	\$3,205.53
Sunday Offertory*	\$2,778.50
Minus	\$ 427.03
Envelopes used / distributed	70 / 468

***Includes 7 Online Givers**

Peter's Pence	\$1,002.00
Providing for Our Future	\$ 110.00
Retired Priests	\$ 80.00
Mother's Day	\$ 5.00

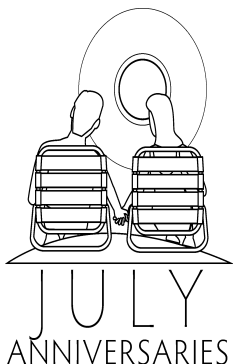
Secure and convenient **ONLINE GIVING** is available at **GiveCentral.org**.

Please put in zip code **60468** to find the St. Paul portal. A credit card or bank account can be linked.

WEDDING ANNIVERSARY RECOGNITION

On the second weekend of each month—**next weekend**—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.



Today's Gospel speaks about Jesus' intimacy with the Father which is highlighted on many occasions. This text is a short prayer of thanksgiving, and he teaches us that events of daily life are also a source of prayer. *"You have hidden these things..."* Your limitations are also our riches: proud, over-rational and self-sufficient people are not well disposed to be enlightened by Jesus' revelation. In Catholic tradition, this text is often read through the lens of divine intimacy, spiritual childhood (like the "Little Way" of St. Thérèse of Lisieux), and the merciful heart of Jesus. This is the bedrock of the "Little Way." Thérèse recognized that she was surrounded by great saints who did heroic, monumental deeds, but she knew she was too small for that. Instead of despairing, she realized that God loves smallness. She wrote: *"The elevator which must raise me to heaven is your arms, O Jesus! And for that I had no need to grow up, but rather I had to remain little and become this more and more."* For Thérèse, spiritual childhood means recognizing our total helplessness and relying entirely on the Father's love, exactly as Jesus praises in this verse.

Right before this passage, Jesus was facing intense rejection from the towns of Galilee (Chorazin, Bethsaida, and Capernaum) despite performing incredible miracles there. Instead of falling into frustration or despair, Jesus turns immediately to the Father in prayerful praise. When the world rejects us or our efforts fail, our immediate response should be to ground ourselves in praise and relationship with God.



Jesus is the unique mediator between the Father and us. *"No one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son wishes to reveal him."* This is a rare moment where Jesus explicitly reveals the inner life of the Holy Trinity. The relationship between the Father and the Son is one of total, mutual knowledge and love. We cannot purely reason our way into the heart of God. It is through Jesus that we begin dealing with the Father in Spirit and in truth and share his very life. Divine intimacy is a gift. Jesus is the only bridge, and through our Baptism, He chooses to share His intimate knowledge of the Father with us.

'The Yoke That Gives Rest' is a paradoxical statement. *"Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am meek and humble of heart; and you will find rest for yourselves. For my yoke is easy, and my burden light."* To a Jewish audience, a "yoke" meant the Torah—the complex network of 613 legal commandments, which the religious leaders had made incredibly heavy and burdensome. When Jesus asks you to take His yoke, He is inviting you to be hitched to Him in love. He is doing the heavy pulling. Jesus offers a new yoke. This is the only place in the entire New Testament where Jesus explicitly describes His own heart: "meek and humble." It is a foundational scriptural root for the Catholic devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus, reminding us that God is not a distant tyrant, but approachable, gentle, and deeply loving.

Yours in Christ,

Fr. Thomas Theneth CMI



A volunteer sheet to lead the rosary 30-minutes prior to weekend Masses is in the lobby.

Please sign-up if you would like to lead us in prayer.

Thank you for your generous support in last week's **Peter's Pence Collection!** As a parish, we collected \$1,022. Our contributions join those from our brothers and sisters worldwide to help Pope Leo XIV in his ministry to the Universal Church, including relief to people in need and support for the Holy See. If you missed the collection, it is not too late to give — **please visit www.usccb.org/peters-pence.**



Our deepest sympathy is extended to the family and friends of **MR. CHESTER (Chet) FURTEK**, 84, who passed away June 27, 2026. He was the husband of Josephine (Jo) Furtek.

+ May he rest in peace. +

On the occasion of the 250th anniversary of the founding of the United States of America, Pope Leo XIV has addressed a letter to the American people.

I extend my heartfelt congratulations to all Americans on the occasion of the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence. This semiquincentennial marks that defining moment in the history of the United States of America, July 4, 1776, that gave enduring voice to the ideals of liberty, equality, the pursuit of happiness, justice and democratic self-government.

For two and a half centuries, generations of Americans have worked together to carry these principles forward — through sacrifice, service, innovation and civic participation. This anniversary stands as an invitation not only to celebrate the nation's remarkable journey, but also to reflect upon the responsibilities that the sons and daughters of this country bear to one another, and to the generations who will inherit the nation that is being shaped today.

Among the most cherished of these principles is religious freedom — the right of every person to worship according to conscience and to practice their faith openly, without coercion or fear. In marking this anniversary, it is important to recognize that freedom of religion has long been central to the American promise, protecting both individual dignity and the peaceful coexistence of a diverse people.

This same freedom has permitted the Catholic Church to take root and flourish within the United States, to the advantage not only of her own members, but of the entire nation. As faithful sons and daughters of the Church, Catholics are called to imbue every dimension of their existence with the charity of Christ (cf. 2 Cor 5:14), living out the Gospel in the circumstances of daily life. Such a way of living has given rise to the many benefits that the Church has provided over the years to the development of this nation. In particular, I bring to mind her service in areas of education, the preferential care of the poor, healthcare and basic social services, to name a few.

In the Encyclical *Sapientiae Christianae*, my predecessor Pope Leo XIII wrote that "no better citizen is there... than the Christian who is mindful of his duty" (no. 7). In fact, faith — far from standing in opposition to the responsibilities of citizenship — lends new vigor to the pursuit of justice, peace and the common good, bringing to perfection every natural gift bestowed by the Creator. Saint Paul himself encouraged the early Christians to pray for those in positions of authority in order to live a peaceful life in accord with the will of God (cf. 1 Tim 2:2). In this regard, it is in the faithful fulfilment of duty — to God and country —

that Catholics are called to continue to serve the nation, as leaven for the growth of a civilization of love (cf. Mt 13:33).

Also among the principles that have guided the development of this country is the God-given dignity of every human life, each person being endowed with an inherent worth that calls for reverence, protection and care. In this spirit, a full understanding of this dignity leads to recognizing the importance of safeguarding human life from its beginning at conception until natural death, and of building a society in which the vulnerable, the suffering and the forgotten are always met with compassion, solidarity and love.

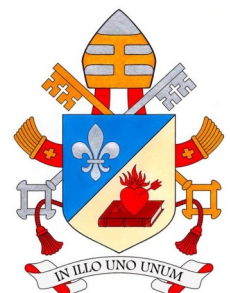
Defending human life also includes welcoming, protecting and assisting immigrants, whose hopes, sacrifices and contribution have formed part of the history of this country from its very beginning. In every generation, those who have arrived seeking freedom, opportunity and a place to belong have helped to shape the nation's character. To receive them with compassion and generosity is not only an act of charity, but also a recognition of the dignity that belongs to every human person.

In my recent Encyclical Letter, *Magnifica Humanitas*, I wrote about working together for the common good. "Building a world in which everyone can flourish requires shared responsibility and courage. No one can single-handedly bear the weight of the challenges the world is facing" (no. 13). We need one another, and we need to work together in unity to confront the challenges that the world is facing today.

May this milestone renew the shared commitment to the promise of freedom, justice, opportunity and democracy. May Americans honor the courage and vision of those who came before them by strengthening their communities, respecting their differences and working together toward a more perfect union.

Congratulations on this extraordinary national anniversary. May the spirit of 1776 continue to inspire hope and unity as the United States of America moves into the future. In assuring all of you of my prayers in your renewed efforts to strengthen the nation in the principles that guided its Founding Fathers, I entrust you to the intercession of the Immaculate Conception, patroness of this country, that she will continue to watch over America and protect all who dwell therein.

Leo P.P. XIV



From Maternity BVM Parish in Bourbonnais...

JOIN THE MBVM CHURCH GROUP

ON A TRIP TO BEAUTIFUL
VERMONT IN THE FALL

\$1,225*

*per person,
double
occupancy

7 Days 6 Nights

October 3 - October 9, 2026 (Sat. - Fri.)

Enjoy motorcoach transportation and 6 nights of lodging, including 4 in Vermont, along with 10 meals. Highlights include visits to Goodrich's Maple Farm, Ben & Jerry's Ice Cream Factory (with free samples), Cold Hollow Cider Mill, the Vermont Granite Museum and Hope Cemetery, and charming Stowe Village. You'll also experience a dinner cruise on Lake Champlain with entertainment and admission to the Shelburne Museum —plus more along the way.

for more details visit mbvmchurch.org/bustrips
or scan the QR code with your phone camera



For reservations contact Frances Hebert at: (815) 932-4251

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

**JULY**

- 4 Sr. Alice Drewek OSF
- 5 Seminarian Daniel Obendorf
- 6 Dcns. Patrick Lombardo, Jose L. Lopez,
Marco Lovero, Ronald Madsen,
David Mahoney
- 7 Sr. Colette Murawski PCC
- 8 Fr. Josh White
- 9 Fr. Robert Basler
- 10 Sr. Maria Murphy PCC
- 11 Fr. John McGeean
- 12 Dcn. Frederick Maier

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

DIOCESE OF JOLIET
Office of MissionLUNCH
IN THE PARK

Join us for an afternoon filled with
hot food and delightful community at
Sacred Heart Catholic Church!

Sat. July 25th 2026 | 11:30 AM - 1:30 PM

Use the QR code
to register!

Sacred Heart Catholic Church
4375 S Walnut St, Pembroke Township, IL
60958

For More Information, contact Alex Buldak:

1-815-221-6256

abuldak@dioceseofjoliet.org



Must be 18 years or older to attend this event

CCW
Council of Catholic Women

Our St. Paul Council of Catholic Women will once again be supporting the “*Catholic Charities Back to School Fair*” by having a monetary collection after all the Masses **next weekend —July 11-12, 2026**. It is our privilege to help those less fortunate. If you are writing a check, please make it out to *Catholic Charities, Diocese of Joliet* and write *Back to School Fair* on the memo line.

Thank you for your continued support!