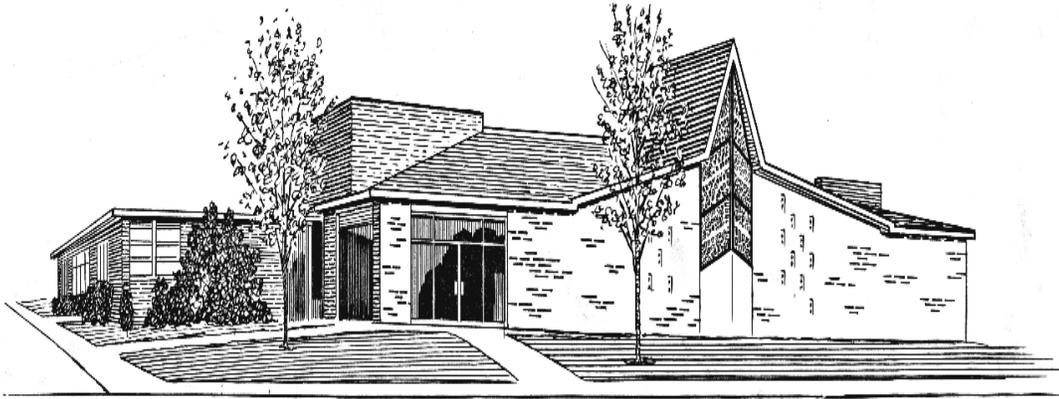




Saint Paul

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March 15, 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:

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:
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

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 at 11am**

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

at St. Anthony (Frankfort)

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 ROSARY will be prayed 30 minutes prior to weekend Masses. Leaders are needed. Please sign up in the lobby.

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	3/14	3:00 pm—	<u>CONFESSION</u>
		3:30 pm—	<u>ROSARY</u>
		4:00 pm—	+ <u>Joseph "Joe" Ladislas</u> req by Bob & Helen Lewis
Sun	3/15	10:30 am—	<u>ROSARY</u>
		11:00 am—	+ <u>Bill Kosky</u> req by the Keppler family and <u>People of the Parish</u>
Mon	3/16	8:30 am—	<u>COMMUNION SERVICE</u>
Tue	3/17	8:30 am—	+ <u>Chad Carder</u> req by Family
Wed	3/18	8:30 am—	<u>Celebrant's Intention</u>
Thr	3/19	8:30 am—	<u>COMMUNION SERVICE</u>
		6:00 pm—	<u>ADORATION</u> <u>NO CONFESSION</u>
Fri	3/20	8:30 am—	<u>Celebrant's Intention</u>
		7:00 pm—	<u>STATIONS of the CROSS</u>
Sat	3/21	3:00 pm—	<u>CONFESSION</u>
		3:30 pm—	<u>ROSARY</u>
		4:00 pm—	+ <u>John R. Tierney, Jr. & Family</u> req by Family and <u>People of the Parish</u>
Sun	3/22	10:30 am—	<u>ROSARY</u>
		11:00 am—	+ <u>Joseph Onak</u> req by Rick & Denise Starkey

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.



PALM SUNDAY, March 29

- Confession at 3pm
- Vigil Mass Saturday at 4pm
- Sunday Mass at 11am

HOLY THURSDAY, April 2

- Morning Prayer at 8am
- No 8:30am Communion Service**
- Mass of the Lord's Supper at 7:30pm followed by Adoration until 10pm

GOOD FRIDAY, April 3 Day of Fast and Abstinence

Divine Mercy Novena begins

- Morning Prayer at 8am
- No 8:30am Mass**
- Ecumenical Stations of the Cross—Noon
- The Reading of the Lord's Passion Narrative with Veneration of the Cross and Distribution of Holy Communion at 3pm
- The Pontifical collection for the Holy Land will be received.**

HOLY SATURDAY, April 4

- Morning Prayer at 8am
- Blessing of Easter Food at Noon
- No Confessions / No 4pm Vigil Mass

EASTER VIGIL MASS—8pm *(The most solemn of all vigils when we celebrate the Resurrection of the Lord and welcome our new and fully initiated Catholics into the Church)*

EASTER SUNDAY of the RESURRECTION OF THE LORD, April 5

- Mass at 11am

Thank you for your generous contributions to the **Catholic Relief Services Collection**. As a parish, we collected \$956.



The U.S. bishops' annual Catholic Relief Services Collection helps those in need in the United States and worldwide by benefiting six agencies and offices affiliated with the Catholic Church, including the U.S. bishops' flagship international relief and development agency, Catholic Relief Services.

When Life Needs a Little Wind

Botanists say that trees need the powerful March winds to flex their trunks and main branches, so that the sap is drawn up to nourish the budding leaves.

Perhaps we need the gales of life in the same way, though we dislike enduring them. A blustery period in our fortunes is often the prelude to a new spring of life and health, success and happiness, when we keep steadfast in faith and look to the good in spite of appearances.

—Jane Truax



The story of the Man Born Blind in today's gospel is more than a miracle; it is a profound "theological drama" about the transition from physical darkness to spiritual light. In the Catholic tradition, this passage is central to the Lenten season, specifically the Fourth Sunday of Lent (Laetare Sunday), as it serves as a primary text for those preparing for Baptism.

The passage begins with a common human question: *Why do people suffer?* The disciples assume suffering is a direct result of sin—either the man's or his parents'. Jesus rejects this "transactional" view of suffering. Instead, he shifts the focus from the cause to the purpose: "...it is so that the works of God might be made visible through him." This gives us the meaning of our suffering that leads to the glory of God. In Catholic thought, suffering is not always a punishment. Instead, it can become a "thin place" where God's grace is revealed. Jesus doesn't explain away the man's years of blindness; He transforms them into a canvas for a divine encounter.

Notice the "messiness" of the miracle. Jesus spits on the ground, makes clay with the saliva, and smears it on the man's eyes. Jesus uses the physical elements of the earth (clay/dust) to heal. This mirrors the creation of Adam in Genesis, suggesting a "new creation." Jesus commands him to "Go wash in the Pool of Siloam." This explains the Sacramental Nature of Healing. The man is not healed until he obeys and bathes. In the early Church, Baptism was often called *photismos* (enlightenment). The man's journey from the mud to the pool reflects our own journey through the waters of Baptism.

This event illustrates two contrasting movements: the upward journey of faith and trust of the healed man, and the downward descent into skepti-

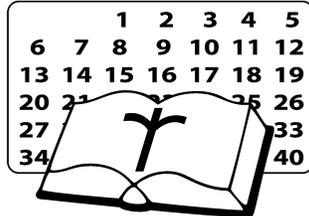
cism and unbelief of those who resist the truth. The Man Born Blind begins in physical darkness, but as he is questioned, his spiritual "vision" improves. He moves from calling Jesus "the man" "a prophet" "from God" "Lord." He gradually recognizes Jesus as the Son of God, culminating in his act of worship. While the Pharisees possess physical sight, they entrench themselves in prejudice and hostility, ultimately descending into a deeper spiritual blindness. Their rigid adherence to a specific interpretation of the Sabbath prevents them from seeing the Author of the Sabbath standing right in front of them.

For the man, seeing Jesus costs him his social standing. He is "expelled from the synagogue"—a devastating fate in first-century Jewish life. Authentic faith often requires us to "see" things differently than the world does, which can lead to isolation or being misunderstood. However, the story ends with Jesus seeking the man out after he is expelled. Jesus does not leave those who suffer for the sake of the truth alone.

The miracle concludes with a warning about spiritual pride. The Pharisees ask, "Surely we are not also blind, are we?" Jesus suggests that the most dangerous form of blindness is the one where we *claim* to see perfectly, for it leaves no room for the Light of the World to enter.

Yours in Christ,
Fr. Thomas Theneth CMI

Fr. Thomas will have **OFFICE HOURS** on Tuesdays after 8:30am Mass until 10am / Wednesdays after 8:30am Mass until 10am / Thursdays from 5—6pm / Fridays after 8:30am Mass until 10am or by appointment.



**Pastor's Message
for Lent**

WEDDING ANNIVERSARY RECOGNITION

On the second weekend of each month—this 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.



MARCH ANNIVERSARIES

Ed & Denise Carriel	March 12, 2006	20 years
Luke & Susannah Schubbe	March 20, 2021	5 years

COLLECTION SUMMARY March 7—8, 2026:

Budgeted	\$3,205.53
Sunday Offertory*	\$3,731.00
Plus	\$ 525.47
Envelopes used / distributed	89 / 515
<i>*Includes 10 Online Givers</i>	
Catholic Relief Services	\$ 946.00
Lent / Easter Environment	\$ 160.00
Providing for Our Future	\$ 30.00

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.



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Please keep **Betsy Richter**, Ken Roczniak, 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, Dorothy Simikowski, Arline Clark, Mary Jo Fry, Gerald Adcock, Laura Valenti, Samantha Digiacommo, 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.



St. Patrick Church
(Wilton Center) will
hold a Mass on
St. Patrick's Day,
this Tuesday, March 17, at 5pm.

The St. Paul Choir has begun rehearsing for Holy Week!

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



2026 Winter / Spring Choir Rehearsals

Saturday, March 21 and 28 from 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

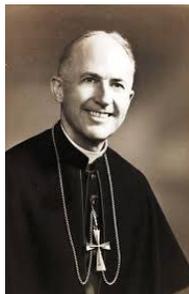
Thank you for giving freely of your time to enhance the church liturgy through music.



CCW
Council of Catholic Women

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

Help us find the **ST. PAUL 2026 WOMAN of the YEAR!** Nomination forms are in the lobbies—the deadline for completed forms is **TODAY, SUNDAY, MARCH 15.**



Applications for the **JDCCW Bishop Blanchette Scholarship** are available in the **Religious Education Office** to those students in grades 8-11 planning on attending a **Joliet Diocesan Catholic High School** for the 2026-27 school year and are due back by **Saturday, March 28, 2026.**

Please consider remembering **St. Paul the Apostle Catholic Parish** when preparing your will.

For more information, contact the parish office.





The **Peotone Senior Assistance Center** serves clients, **by appointment only**, this **Thursday, March 19**, 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, Illinois 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.

Volunteers of any age are encouraged to sign-up in the rear of the church to participate in the **HOLY THURSDAY**

7:30pm MASS

WASHING of the FEET ceremony.



Prayer for the election of a new Bishop

O God, eternal shepherd, who governs your flock with unfailing care, grant in your boundless fatherly love a pastor for your Church of Joliet who will please you by his holiness and to us show watchful care.

Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

Amen.



How Do We MAKE Disciples for Jesus?

What: Join us for a conversation with Auxiliary Bishop Dennis Spies on how to make disciples for Jesus in the Diocese of Joliet. Continuing the legacy of Archbishop Ron Hicks of New York, the event will focus on common questions about putting our faith into action and making disciples in our parish communities.

Where: St. John Paul II Catholic Church, 907 S. 9th St., Kankakee

When: Mon., March 23, 6:30-8 pm



Scan the QR Code to RSVP

MAKE is a call to action—rooted in Catechesis, Evangelization, and Faith into Action—to follow Jesus' Great Commission to go and make disciples (Matthew 28:19-20).

make.diojoliet.org

Lenten Food Drive is underway. The Knights of Columbus have drop boxes for non perishable food items in the St. Paul the Apostle lobbies. Food collected is distributed through local pantries. Our goal is 400 pounds of food in Lent. Please help us help those in need.



Ticket sales for our annual raffle are underway. We award \$400 in prizes every month, you can win multiple times! Tickets are also good for a 10% discount on services at Dralle. Knights will be selling tickets at the Masses at St. Paul the Apostle Church. You can also purchase tickets directly from knights, or call Ron LeClaire,, Grand Knight at 708-204-6277 to purchase tickets and have them personally delivered.

Exciting event open to all! St. Paul the Apostle Knights of Columbus is hosting a "hobby night" on Tuesday March 24th at 7:00 PM at St. Paul the Apostle Church. Come and bring some items from your favorite hobby. Bring your own favorite beverage, food will be provided.

Like what the Knights of Columbus are doing locally? Join us for free! Use the URL "<https://www.kofc.org/get-involved/join-kofc/>" from your PC or smartphone browser to join. Select 11232 as your council., and SARODRIGUEZ in the promo code for your free membership. For assistance or questions, contact Ron LeClaire, Grand Knight 708-204-6277

CLERGY ASSOCIATION of GREATER PEOTONE SOUP SUPPER and LENTEN PRAYER SERVICES

Wednesday Soup Suppers begins at 6pm / Wednesday Prayer Services begin at 7pm / collection taken for Peotone Clergy Association which benefits Helping Hands Food Pantry; Summer Bible Camp; other needs by request.

Table with 2 columns: DATE, HOST CHURCH. Rows for March 18 and March 25.



PENANCE SERVICE Wednesday, March 25 at 6:30pm. There will be three priests available. The Sacrament of Reconciliation is offered on Saturday from 3—3:45pm, on Thursday from 7:15—7:45pm or by other arrangements with Father. Please call the parish office at 708 258-6917 or e-mail StPaulOffice@att.net.

- ALMSGIVING OPPORTUNITIES
CATHOLIC MINISTRIES ANNUAL APPEAL (CMAA)
OPERATION RICE BOWL throughout Lent.
HELPING HANDS FOOD PANTRY / PO Box 508 / Peotone, IL 60468
PONTIFICAL COLLECTION for the HOLY LAND: Good Friday, April 3

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

Please join us for our meatless Lenten SOUP and BREAD SUPPERS on Friday evenings March 20 and March 27 (Knights of Columbus) at 6pm, followed by STATIONS of the CROSS at 7pm in the church. If you can bring a soup or bread, please sign-up in the rear of the church.

Prayers
Prayer in the Aftermath of Tuesday's Tornado
O God of strength and courage, we come to you as we have witnessed the tragedies of the tornado that brought much heartache to the people of Illinois and Indiana. You are always at our side for you are all-giving and all-loving. We ask you to send your spirit of compassionate comfort to all those who are heart-broken in the deaths of family members, the loss and damage of their homes, businesses, and schools. Be for them a healing presence as seen in those who are coming to their aid. We ask all of this in the name of your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.