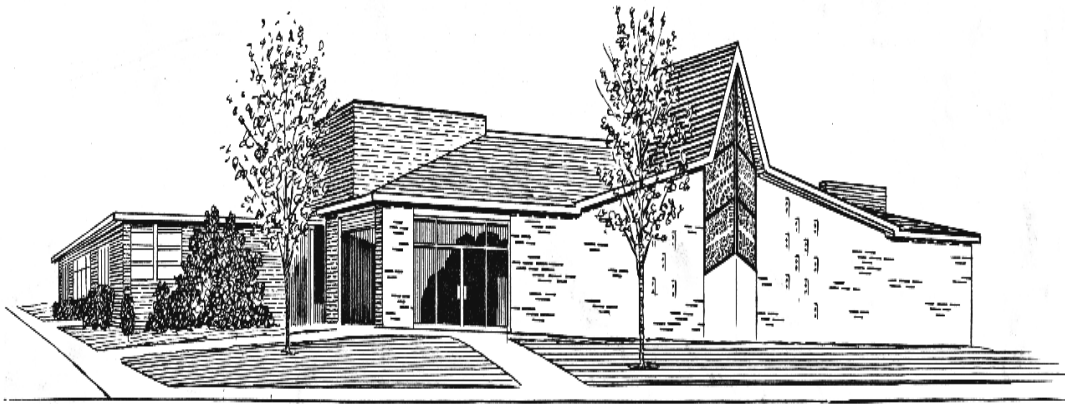




Saint Paul

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March 22, 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

Next weekend is Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord—
please wear red!

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	3/21	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
Mon	3/23	8:30 am—	<u>COMMUNION SERVICE</u>
Tue	3/24	8:30 am—	+ <u>Tom Donohue</u> req by St. Paul Parish Family
Wed	3/25	8:30 am—	+ <u>Betty Knickrehm</u> req by the Setticasia Family
		6:30 pm—	<u>PARISH CONFESSIONS</u>
Thr	3/26	8:30 am—	<u>COMMUNION SERVICE</u>
		6:00 pm—	<u>ADORATION</u>
		7:15 pm—	<u>CONFESSION</u>
Fri	3/27	8:30 am—	+ <u>Betty Knickrehm</u> req by Tom & Lou Hagemaster
		7:00 pm—	<u>STATIONS of the CROSS</u>
Sat	3/28	3:00 pm—	<u>CONFESSION</u>
		3:30 pm—	<u>ROSARY</u>
		4:00 pm—	<u>People of the Parish</u>
Sun	3/29	10:30 am—	<u>ROSARY</u>
		11:00 am—	+ <u>Robert Kobel</u> req by Denise Fitzgerald

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.

PARISH CONFESSIONS—this Wednesday, March 25 at 6:30pm. There will be three priests available. **Confession in Spanish** will be available.

Please join us for our **final** meatless Lenten **SOUP and BREAD SUPPER** this Friday, March 27 (hosted by the Knights of Columbus) at 6pm, followed by **STATIONS of the CROSS** at 7pm in the church.



PALM SUNDAY, March 29

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

HOLY THURSDAY, April 2

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

GOOD FRIDAY, April 3

Day of Fast and Abstinence
Divine Mercy Novena begins

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

The Pontifical collection for the Holy Land will be received.

HOLY SATURDAY, April 4

- Morning Prayer at 8am
- Blessing of Easter Food—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 11am



Volunteers of any age are encouraged to sign-up in the rear of the church to participate in the **7:30pm HOLY THURSDAY MASS WASHING of the FEET** ceremony.

The account of the raising of Lazarus is the "Seventh Sign" in John's Gospel, acting as the narrative hinge between Jesus' public ministry and his Passion. It is a profound meditation on the intersection of human grief and divine power.

One of the most striking elements of this passage is the raw display of Jesus' emotions. Even though he knows he is about to perform a miracle, he is deeply moved by the sorrow of Mary and the crowd. This confirms the 'Hypostatic Union'—the truth that Jesus is fully God and fully man. He does not stoop to help us from a distance; he enters into the "tomb" of human suffering. His tears sanctify our own grief. The Church teaches that mourning is not a lack of faith, but a testament to the love we bear for one another.

When Jesus speaks to Martha, he shifts the focus from a "future event" to a "present person." Martha believes in the resurrection on the last day, but Jesus challenges her to believe in Him. "I am the resurrection and the life; whoever believes in me, even if he dies, will live." By claiming the title "I AM," Jesus uses the divine name of God revealed to Moses. He is not just someone who *brings* life; he *is* Life itself. This moment defines the Christian hope: eternal life is not just a destination, but a relationship with Christ that begins now.

The climax of the passage is the command "Lazarus, come out!" which is followed by a specific instruction to the disciples: "Untie him and let him go." Jesus alone can provide the "life" (justification), he involves the Church in the process of unbinding" (sanctification). Many Fathers of the Church saw this as a precursor to the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Christ calls us out of the death of sin, but the Church helps us shed the burial cloths of our old habits and attachments.

In the Catholic tradition, this passage is preparing us to enter Holy Week. It serves as a reminder that the stone is never too heavy for God to roll away, and no "stench" of sin is too great for his mercy.

The commentaries of St. Augustine and St. Thomas Aquinas on the raising of Lazarus offer a masterclass in how the Church transitions from the literal sense of Scripture to the allegorical sense. He is particularly struck by the "stench" of the four-day-old corpse. Augustine argues that when a person becomes habituated to sin, they are "pressed down by a weight of custom" like a heavy stone. Augustine asks why he told the disciples to "untie him." He concludes that while God alone justifies the soul, He uses the Church to loose the "burial bands" of our sins through the power of the keys.

St. Thomas Aquinas explores how the physical voice of Jesus worked with His divine power. The Call symbolizes the great power of the Word of God that will wake all the dead at the end of time. Lazarus coming out while still bound by bandages was, to Aquinas, a "miracle within a miracle." It proved that the same power that could give life could also move a body through physical obstacles. Both Fathers agree that the most important takeaway is that no one is too far gone. Whether a sin is a hidden thought or a 'four-day-old habit' that "stinks" to the world, the voice of Christ is capable of reaching into that tomb.

Yours in Christ,

Fr. Thomas Theneth CMI

Fr. Thomas will have **OFFICE HOURS** on

Tuesday after 8:30am Mass until 10am /

Wednesday after 8:30am Mass until 10am /

Thursday from 5—6pm /

Friday after 8:30am Mass until 10am or by appointment.



WHY DO WE VEIL IMAGES?

The practice of veiling images alerts us that something is different, it can be startling at first, but the last two weeks of Lent are a time of immediate preparation for the celebration of the Sacred Triduum. The veils are hard to miss and they serve as a reminder to get ready!

The veiled images build within us a longing for Easter Sunday. The veils seem out of place, and even counterintuitive. It can seem strange that images are covered up during Passiontide. Through this absence of images, our senses are heightened and we become more aware of what is missing. Similarly, the suppression of the Alleluia during Lent effectively demonstrates that we are in exile from our true Home, where the angels sing Alleluia without ceasing.

When images are unveiled before the Easter Vigil, we are reminded that we, in a sense, live in a veiled world. It is through our own death that we are able to see our true home, and the veil is lifted. Christ lifts the veil through His Resurrection.

ALMSGIVING OPPORTUNITIES

-OPERATION RICE BOWL

Folded cardboard bowls are in lobbies. Please return at your earliest convenience.

-HELPING HANDS FOOD PANTRY
PO Box 508 / Peotone, IL 60468

-PONTIFICAL COLLECTION for the HOLY LAND:
Good Friday, April 3



COLLECTION SUMMARY: March 14—15, 2026

Budgeted	\$3,205.53
Sunday Offertory*	\$2,778.00
Minus	\$ 427.53
Envelopes used / distributed	77 / 515
<i>*Includes 7 Online Givers</i>	
Catholic Relief Services	\$ 60.00
Providing for Our Future	\$ 899.00

Secure and convenient **ONLINE GIVING** is available at

GiveCentral.org.

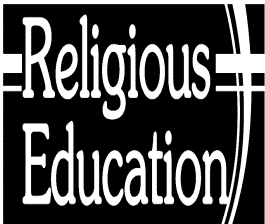
Please put in zip code **60468** to find the St. Paul portal. A credit card or bank account can be linked.



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Please keep Betsy Richter, Ken Rocznia, 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 Digiaco, 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.



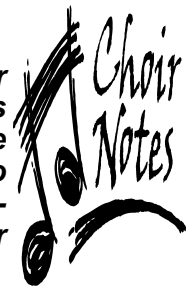
There are no **RELIGIOUS EDUCATION / FAITH FORMATION** classes this

Wednesday, March 25.

We hope to see students and parents at parish confessions on Wednesday, March 25 at 6:30pm and at 4pm / 11am Mass on Palm Sunday, March 28 / 29.

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

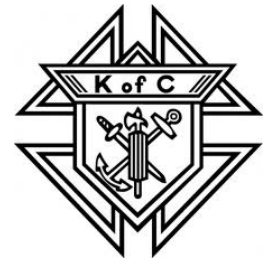
Saturday, March 28 from 2:30-3:30pm

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.

Lenten Food Drive is underway. The Knights of Columbus have a drop box for non perishable food items and cleaning supplies in the St. Paul the Apostle lobby across from the office. 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 after 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.