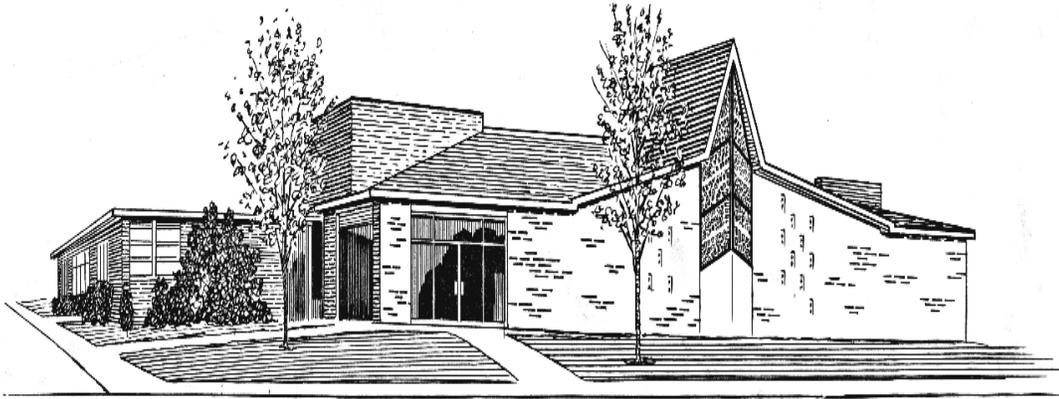




Saint Paul

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March 8, 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)

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



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	3/7	3:00 pm—	<u>CONFESSION</u>
		3:30 pm—	<u>ROSARY</u>
		4:00 pm—	+ <u>Norman Andrews</u> req by Dawn Ladislas and
			<u>People of the Parish</u>
Sun	3/8	10:30 am—	<u>ROSARY</u>
		11:00 am—	+ <u>Betty Knickrehm</u> req by the Setticasì Family
Mon	3/9	8:30 am—	<u>COMMUNION SERVICE</u>
Tue	3/10	8:30 am—	+ <u>Betty Knickrehm</u> req by Tom & Lou Hagemaster (rescheduled from 3/4/26)
Wed	3/11	8:30 am—	+ <u>Pat Motyka</u> req by Family
Thr	3/12	8:30 am—	<u>COMMUNION SERVICE</u>
		6:00 pm—	<u>ADORATION</u>
		7:15pm—	<u>CONFESSION</u>
Fri	3/13	8:30 am—	+ <u>Betty Knickrehm</u> req by the Setticasì Family
		7:00 pm—	<u>STATIONS of the CROSS</u>
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>

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.

Catholic Ministries Annual Appeal

Diocese of Joliet

If you have already pledged to the Catholic Ministries Annual Appeal (CMAA), we sincerely thank you! Let's join together to meet our parish goal of \$16,700. Every gift makes a difference.

If you still plan on making 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.

Remember, we receive 70% of any amount raised over our goal to reinvest in our own parish. This is an incredible opportunity and blessing!

POPE'S INTENTIONS for MARCH 2026:

For disarmament and peace

Let us pray that nations move toward effective disarmament, particularly nuclear disarmament, and that world leaders choose the path of dialogue and diplomacy instead of violence.



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 next weekend**, you need to register in the **registration book in the lobby**. Couples who register will also receive an anniversary card.



SOFIA SVETLANA was baptized on March 1, 2026. She is the daughter of Michael and Aida Sheykhi Barrett. Welcome to the parish family!

The encounter between Jesus and the Samaritan woman at the well is one of the most insightful stories in the New Testament. In Catholic theology, this passage is often viewed through the lens of sacramental grace, divine mercy, and the universal call to holiness.

Theologically, the scene begins with Jesus breaking three major barriers of his time: gender, ethnicity, and morality. St. Augustine famously reflected that while Jesus asked for physical water, He was actually thirsting for the woman's faith. This highlights the 'Divine Initiative' — God always seeks us out first, even in the heat of our "midday," the hour of our greatest shame or isolation. By speaking to a Samaritan, Jesus signals the end of the old divisions and that the salvation is no longer confined to a specific ethnic group.

Jesus changes the conversation from physical water to "living water." The Church Fathers saw "living water" as a clear reference to the Sacrament of Baptism. Just as water sustains physical life, the grace of Christ sustains the supernatural life of the soul. Catholic theology emphasizes that this water becomes a "spring of water welling up to eternal life." This represents the Sanctifying Grace that transforms a person from within, making him a new creation rather than merely "fixing" his external behavior.

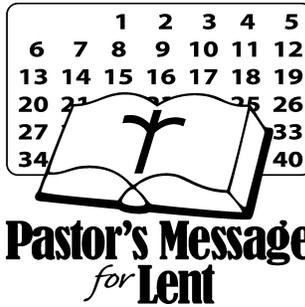
When Jesus asks the woman to "go, call your husband," he is not being cruel; he is performing a divine physician's diagnosis. He was asking her to do an examination of her heart. One cannot worship in "Spirit and Truth" while living in sin. Jesus reveals her five previous husbands not to condemn her, but to show her that He knows her completely and loves her anyway. The woman acknowledges her reality, and in that moment of honesty, the barrier between her and God is dissolved.

One of the most beautiful details in this text is that the woman "left her water jar." Theologically, the jar represents her old life, her burdens, and her previous attempts to find satisfaction in worldly things. To follow Christ, she leaves the jar behind which shows her detachment to her old self. She runs to the town and becomes the first evangelist. The Catholic perspective emphasizes that encounter always leads to mission. You cannot meet the Messiah and remain silent.

Our soul thirsts for the Divine - a yearning often mistaken as desire for worldly satisfactions, yet fulfilled only in Christ. Each of us, deep within, is thirsty and hungry, wanting to drink water that will quench the longing forever. Jesus' encounter with the Samaritan woman reminds us that temporary pleasures and fleeting joys never satisfy our deepest needs. Like her, we are called to find life-transforming fulfillment in the Lord alone, the source of eternal life. When we seek Christ sincerely, he offers us not just comfort but lasting joy fulfilling with a spring of water welling up to eternal life. Let us return to him, quenching our thirst in his endless love and divine peace. "The encounter of Jesus with their Samaritan woman reveals the depth of God's love and mercy. He breaks down barriers, showing that no one is beyond the reach of His grace, and that true worship is found in spirit and truth." - Saint John Chrysostom.

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.



This weekend our parish will take up the **CATHOLIC RELIEF SERVICES COLLECTION**. Funds from this collection provide food to the hungry, support displaced refugees, and bring Christ's love and mercy to vulnerable people here and abroad. Please give generously to the collection and reveal Christ's love to those most in need.

Learn more about the collection at www.usccb.org/catholic-relief.

COLLECTION SUMMARY:**February 28-March 1, 2026**

Budgeted	\$3,205.53
Sunday Offertory*	\$3,488.01
Plus	\$ 282.48
Envelopes used / distributed	92 / 515
<i>*Includes 6 Online Givers</i>	
Church in Central & Eastern Europe	\$ 10.00
Lent / Easter Environment	\$1,160.00
Providing for Our Future	\$ 10.00

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 Ken Rocznik, Pat Cleary, Ed Kulish, Jan Leffelman, Nancy Pilotto, Rev. Tom Ewing, Michael Doyle, Mary Ellen Hanlon, Ashley Doody, Luke Payne, Dave Castaneda, Greg Napelka, 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.

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 14, 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.

Help us find the
ST. PAUL 2026 WOMAN of the YEAR

The purpose of this award is to recognize an outstanding woman in our parish as one who has carried on the mission of Christ through her family, church and community. To qualify for this award, the woman must:

- be 18 years or older,
- be Catholic,
- registered at St. Paul and,
- have not received the award in the past.

Nomination forms are in the lobbies—
the deadline for completed forms is

NEXT SUNDAY, MARCH 15.



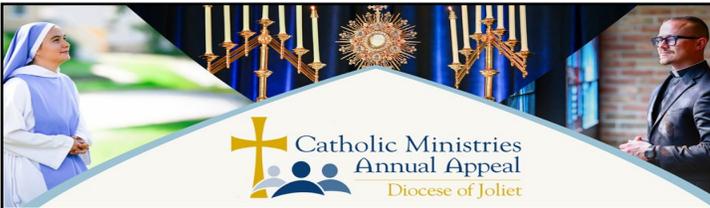
Please consider remembering
St. Paul the Apostle Catholic Parish

when preparing your will.

For more information,
contact the parish office.



Our deepest sympathy is extended to the family and friends of
MR. WILLIAM J. GORDON, 71, who passed away
February 28, 2026. He was the husband of Dolorita "Dolly"
Farmer-Gordon. Funeral information is in the lobbies.
+ May he rest in peace. +



**She drove hours just to hear Mass.
Then everything changed.**

As a member of the deaf community, Diana longed for more than a seat in the pew. She yearned for genuine spiritual connection, for a liturgy where she could truly encounter Christ. That longing led her to the Deaf Formation Ministry — and your generosity to the CMAA helped make that possible.



Watch the video and see the good your donation to the CMAA brings to our community



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

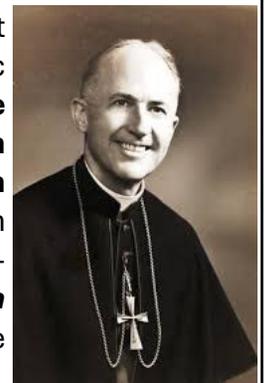
When: Mon., March 23, 6:30-8 pm



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

Applications for the Joliet Diocesan Council of Catholic Women **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 2026-2027 school year.



Completed applications are due in the St. Paul office by Saturday, March 28, 2026.

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.

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

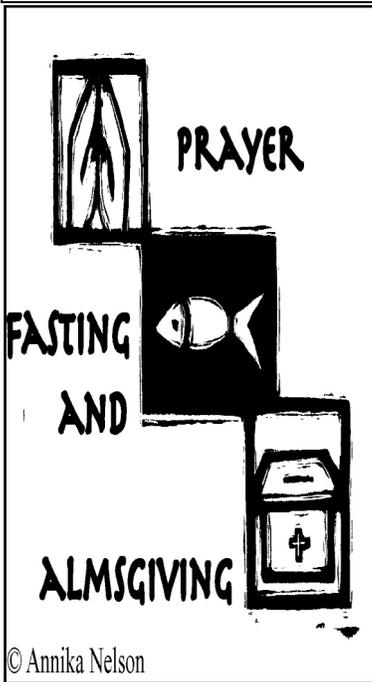
Lenten Food Drive is underway - Let's remember to think of those in need. The Knights of Columbus have drop boxes for non perishable food items in the St. Paul the Apostle lobbies. Food collected is distributed through local pantries. Our goal is 400 pounds of food in Lent. Please help us help those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

Ticket sales for our annual raffle begin this weekend. 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.

MARCH 2026 RAFFLE WINNERS

- \$150.00 #12 Paula Prium
- \$100.00 #726 Patrick Polcyn
- \$ 50.00 #682 Don Mueller
- \$ 50.00 #780 Tony Formato
- \$ 25.00 #279 Beth Yaeger
- \$ 25.00 #255 Collette Barajas





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.

DATE	HOST CHURCH
March 11	St. John Community Church (hosted at 14101 W. Joliet Road / Wilton Center)
March 18	Faith Connection (14101 W. Joliet Road / Wilton Center)
March 25	United Methodist Church Green Garden (26256 S. Rt. 45 / Manhattan)

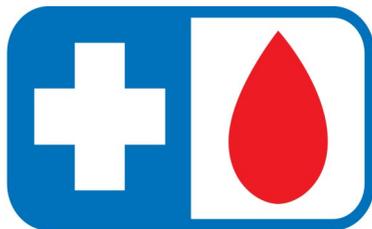
ALMSGIVING OPPORTUNITIES

- CATHOLIC MINISTRIES ANNUAL APPEAL (CMAA)** (see page 2)
- OPERATION RICE BOWL** throughout Lent. Folded cardboard bowls are in lobbies.
- HELPING HANDS FOOD PANTRY** / PO Box 508 / Peotone, IL 60468
- CATHOLIC RELIEF SERVICES APPEAL:** This weekend (see page 3)
- PONTIFICAL COLLECTION for the HOLY LAND:** Good Friday, April 3

Please join us for our meatless Lenten **SOUP and BREAD SUPPERS** on Friday evenings 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.

PENANCE SERVICE

Wednesday, March 25 at 6:30pm for Religious Education students and at 7pm for the parish. There will be 3 priests available.



GIVE Blood

One simple act can help save up to three lives.

The Peotone High School Student Council is hosting a **BLOOD DRIVE** at the Peotone High School – Media Center — door #16 next Sunday, March 15 from 9am – 2pm.

When you donate, you're not just giving blood, you're giving hope to patients in need and supporting your community.

All donors will receive a \$15 eGift Card! Successful donations receive **FREE** A1C testing.



DIocese of Joliet DEPARTMENT of VOCATIONS

Jeremiah Day

SATURDAY, APRIL 18, 2026
Open to grades 7-10

The Diocese of Joliet Vocations Department of Vocations is thrilled to invite young men (grades 7-10) for our annual Jeremiah Day. Join us for a day for a day of exploring, prayer, and games with our Joliet Seminarians currently studying at Mundelein Seminary. Learn more about what being in Seminary is like at Jeremiah Day!

Scan here to register

Cost to attend **\$10**
Includes lunch



<https://tinyurl.com/sacbyeZj>

Location: University of St. Mary of the Lake
1000 E Maple Ave, Mundelein, IL 60060

Please email vocations@dioceseofjoliet.org or call (815) 221-6171 for questions



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.

"Lord Jesus, you are the source of Living Water. This week, I admit my soul is thirsty for your grace. Help me to turn away from the distractions that do not satisfy and fix my eyes solely on you. Grant me the strength to fast from selfishness and the heart to feast on your mercy. Amen."