

November 16, 2025

## ST. PAUL the APOSTLE CATHOLIC PARISH

511 N. Conrad Street  
Peotone, IL 60468-9290

**CHURCH OFFICE TELEPHONE:** 708 258-6917  
**CHURCH OFFICE FAX:** 708 258-3061  
**CHURCH OFFICE E-MAIL:** [StPaulPeotone@att.net](mailto:StPaulPeotone@att.net)

**PASTOR:** Rev. Thomas Theneth, CMI  
815 468-1954 / [Theneth52@gmail.com](mailto:Theneth52@gmail.com)

**DEACON:** Mr. James Kelly  
815 412-0565

**DEACON E-MAIL:** [jimk3163@sbcglobal.net](mailto: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:** [StPaulRE@att.net](mailto:StPaulRE@att.net)

**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](https://www.facebook.com/StPaulPeotone)"

Website: [StPaulPeotone.org](http://StPaulPeotone.org)

YouTube: [Saint Paul the Apostle Peotone](https://www.youtube.com/SaintPaultheApostlePeotone)

## 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:** To be announced  
**FIRST COMMUNION:** To be announced

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

During the month of November, our "*Book of Remembrance*" will be in the rear of the church near the Holy Family for anyone who would like to write the names of loved ones who have died. Those who are included in this books will be included in a general petition offered at Masses during the month of November.



**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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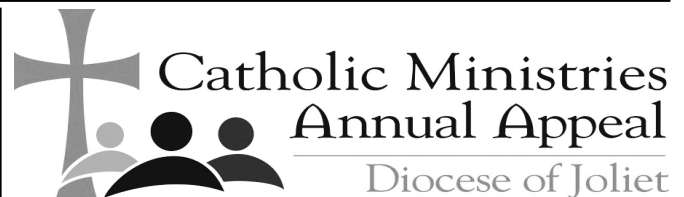
Sat	11/15	3:00 pm—	<b><u>CONFESSION</u></b>
		4:00 pm—	+ <b><u>Juliann Teasdale</u></b> req by Bob & Helen Lewis
Sun	11/16	11:00 am—	+ <b><u>David Neybert</u></b> req by Tim & Cindy Reed and <b><u>People of the Parish</u></b>
Mon	11/17	8:30 am—	<b><u>COMMUNION SERVICE</u></b>
Tue	11/18	8:30 am—	+ <b><u>Fr. John P. Frawley;</u></b> + <b><u>Elizabeth Ann Meaney</u></b> req by Tim & Cindy Reed
Wed	11/19	8:30 am—	+ <b><u>Fr. Bruno S. Szczawinski;</u></b> + <b><u>David Neybert</u></b> req by Tim & Cindy Reed
Thr	11/20	8:30 am—	<b><u>COMMUNION SERVICE</u></b>
		6:00 pm—	<b><u>ADORATION</u></b>
		7:15 pm—	<b><u>CONFESSION</u></b>
Fri	11/21	8:30 am—	+ <b><u>Bernard Powers</u></b> (rescheduled from 10/28/25) req by Family
Sat	11/22	3:00 pm—	<b><u>CONFESSION</u></b>
		4:00 pm—	+ <b><u>Rita Sheming</u></b> req by Family and <b><u>People of the Parish</u></b>
Sun	11/23	11:00 am—	<b><u>O'Grady Wedding Anniversary</u></b> <b><u>Remembrance</u></b> req by Jeanette O'Grady Neybert

***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 flowers at the altar are in memory of Mr. Harry Braun, from his family.

If you are interested in sponsoring our bi-weekly altar flower arrangement (when liturgically permitted), 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 \$76 and can be shared between one or more parishioners.



## CMAA Pledge Report for St. Paul the Apostle

Monthly pledge payments for CMAA pledges should be made in the next few days. It is very important that these pledges be paid. Since we have reached our goal in paid pledges, 70% of the amount over goal will be returned to our parish for our needs. As of 11/9/25:

<b>PARISH GOAL:</b>	\$15,600
<b>AMOUNT PLEDGED:</b>	\$35,417
<b>AMOUNT PAID:</b>	\$34,052
<b>REMAINING BALANCE:</b>	\$ 1,365
<b>NUMBER of DONORS:</b>	121
<b>2025 REBATE:</b>	\$12,916



Please be generous in this week's special collection for the Catholic Campaign for Human Development. In the United States, over 11% of the population lives in poverty. Through this collection, you support programs that address the root causes of poverty and provide a sustainable future for those struggling across the country. ***In addition, 25% of the funds we collect remain in our diocese to fund local antipoverty projects.*** Please prayerfully consider how you can support this collection and those working on the margins. More information about the Catholic Campaign for Human Development can be found at [www.usccb.org/cchd](http://www.usccb.org/cchd).

**EVELYN SUSAN** was born to John and Rylee Panozzo Schubbe on November 3, 2025. She was 6lb-14oz and 20" in length. Welcome to the parish family!



## POPE'S INTENTIONS for NOVEMBER 2025

### For the prevention of suicide

Let us pray that those who are struggling with suicidal thoughts might find the support, care, and love they need in their community, and be open to the beauty of life.

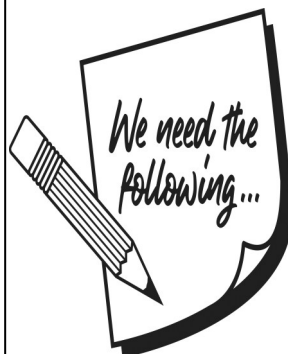


St. Paul K of C Council # 11232 invites children in grades K through 8 to participate in our *"Keep Christ in Christmas"* poster contest. Poster material and entry forms are available on the table across from the Religious Education Office in the classroom hallway. Completed posters and entry forms are due back no later than November 30. Certificates and prizes for winning entries will be presented at the "Donuts with Santa" event following 11AM Mass on Sunday December 7th.

During this holiday season, please consider donating non-perishable food items in the collection boxes in the lobbies. St. Paul Council will distribute them promptly to Helping Hands. The collection boxes are available year round, as the need is always there. Thank you for your generosity!

On Saturday, December 6 at 4pm Mass, Fr. Thomas will be installed by Bishop Ronald Hicks as Pastor of St. Paul the Apostle.

A "finger-food" / dessert reception will be held after Mass.



We are asking you to:

- RSVP if you are attending,
- Bring a dessert and / or finger food / hors d'oeuvres to share,
- Help with set-up / clean-up.

Sign-ups can be found at the back of the church. Kindly RSVP by **Monday, December 1**, so we can plan accordingly.

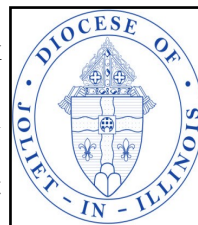
We look forward to celebrating together and officially welcoming Fr. Thomas as pastor of our parish!



Our next **BAPTISMAL CLASS** is scheduled for **Thursday, December 4 at 6pm**. Parents and godparents are required to attend a class before making arrangements for the baptism of their child. If parents and godparents have attended a baptismal class within the last two years, there is no need to attend again. We encourage you to attend the class during your pregnancy so there will be no delay in your child's baptism. If you plan to attend, please call the parish office.

## 2026 Youth Formation Summer Internship – Diocese of Joliet, Crest Hill, IL

The Department of Catechesis & Evangelization in the Diocese of Joliet is offering an 8-week summer internship for four (4) adults aged 21 and up. The purpose is to support youth formation programming across the diocese, while helping the interns learn more about diocesan and parish structures to better discern where God may be calling them in the life of the church. Responsibilities will include participating in trainings, department meetings, and other relevant events. Will help to lead formation events, one overnight retreat for high school youth, and one youth conference for high school youth. Interns will research a project on a ministry area of interest, will perform clerical work as needed and other duties as assigned. **The internship will begin on Monday, June 1, 2026, and conclude on Friday, July 24, 2026.** The interns will report to the Department of Catechesis and Evangelization and be expected to work during office hours at the Blanchette Catholic Center: 8am to 4:30pm Monday through Thursday, and 8am to 1pm on Fridays. Some weekends and evenings will be needed, as well. To view a full job description visit <https://www.diojoliet.org/offices/careers/diocesan-opportunities>. Interested candidates should submit a cover letter and resume to [abuldak@dioceseofjoliet.org](mailto:abuldak@dioceseofjoliet.org). Applications will be accepted until April 15, 2026, and the four (4) openings will be filled on a rolling basis, first-come, first-served for qualified candidates.





Pope Francis had asked that the Jubilee of 2025 be a "great symphony of prayer" throughout the world. Just as we prayed our beautiful 75th anniversary prayer for the Diocese of Joliet throughout 2024, let us now join in praying the *Jubilee Year of Hope* prayer:

Father in heaven,  
may the *faith* you have gifted us in  
your son Jesus Christ, our brother,  
and the flame of *charity*  
kindled in our hearts by the Holy Spirit,  
reawaken in us, the blessed *hope*  
for the coming of your Kingdom.

May your grace transform us  
into diligent cultivators of the evangelical seeds  
that make humanity and the cosmos rise  
unto the confident expectation  
of the new heavens and the new earth,  
when with the powers of Evil overcome,  
your glory shall be manifested eternally.

May the grace of the Jubilee  
reawaken in us, *Pilgrims of Hope*,  
the yearning for heavenly treasures  
and pour over all the earth  
the joy and peace  
of our Redeemer.

To you God blessed in eternity,  
be praise and glory for ever and ever.  
Amen.



The ***Jubilee Year of Hope*** continues with a closing Mass at the Cathedral of St. Raymond Nonnatus on the Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph on Sunday, December 28, 2025 at 10:30am.

You may visit specially designated parishes during the Jubilee Year of Hope for a plenary indulgence. Details on how to obtain a plenary indulgence are on the table in the rear of the church.



"A Mass well attended in life will be more useful for your salvation than many others celebrated for you after your death!"

—St. Padre Pio

**Thirty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time**  
**Mal 3:19-20a; 2Thes 3:7-12; Lk 21:5-19**

The First Reading from Malachi is a powerful, climactic passage that concludes the prophetic message with a vivid image of ultimate separation and final justice. It addresses the ancient struggle of faith: the confusion and discouragement felt when the wicked seem to prosper and serving God feels pointless.

"The Day is Coming" refers to the Day of the LORD and is a recurring prophetic theme signifying God's direct intervention in history to execute justice. It is a day of reckoning. The phrase 'Burning Like a Furnace' is an image of purifying and destructive heat. This is not a gentle correction; it is a final, comprehensive judgment that separates the worthy from the worthless. This is a sobering reminder that God will not ignore unrepentant injustice and arrogance forever. It compels us to examine our own life: do our actions align with the fleeting prosperity of the proud, or are we striving for the lasting righteousness that honors God? It validates the suffering of the faithful, assuring them that the apparent temporary victory of the wicked is a mirage soon to vanish in the light of God's justice.

"The Sun of Righteousness" is the beautiful, central image of hope. It is widely interpreted as a direct messianic prophecy referring to Jesus Christ. Just as the physical sun brings light, warmth, and life, the Messiah brings perfect divine justice and salvation.

Today's Gospel passage gives the prediction of the end of world. It explains a framework for faithful endurance in the midst of real-world trials, both personal and global. The splendor of the Temple is a symbol of Jewish identity, worship, and God's presence. Jesus' prediction that "not one stone will be left on another" is a radical statement asserting that no earthly institution or structure is permanent.

Jesus warns his disciples about false messiahs, wars, natural disasters, and pandemics events that cause fear and instability. He clarifies that these events are part of the world's reality but do not immediately signify "the end." Jesus' command "Do not be terrified" is an invitation to spiritual calm. Jesus warns that following him will bring persecution, betrayal even by family members, and hatred. Persecution isn't just a trial to be survived; it is an opportunity for you to bear witness. Our suffering for Christ's sake becomes a powerful platform for sharing the Gospel.

Jesus promises to give his followers the strength to endure sufferings and persecution. Our preparation should be spiritual faithfulness. The passage culminates in the powerful assurance: "By your endurance you will gain your souls." This is the heart of the message, it is not to avoid suffering, but to remain faithful through it. Endurance is not passive waiting; it is active, persistent trust in God's ultimate victory. Our focus should shift from when the end will come to how I will live now. I am called to turn away from dependence on temporary things. Reject fear and deception when the world seems to be falling apart. View suffering not as a curse, but as a crucible for testimony and a chance to experience the Holy Spirit's immediate help. The ultimate promise is not a life without trouble, but a life secured forever through steadfast endurance in Christ.

Yours in Christ,

*Fr. Thomas Theneth CMI*

Father Thomas will have **OFFICE HOURS** on Tuesday after 8:30am Mass until 10:30am / Wednesday after 8:30am Mass until 10:30am / Thursday from 5—6pm / Friday after 8:30am Mass until 10:30am or by appointment.



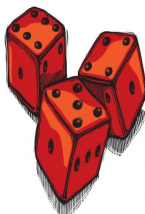
**CCW Christmas Bunco Party—**  
**Tuesday, December 2 at 6:30pm**

All women of the parish and their friends are invited to this night of Fun, Friendship and Laughter, plus refreshments!

Please feel free to bring an appetizer or dessert to share.

P.S.: We will teach you how to play!

A sign-up is in the lobby.



**BUNCO**

Thank you for supporting the formation of our future shepherds!

Last weekend, our parish took up a second collection for the formation of our future priests. Our contributions of \$664.50 will be invested by the Diocese in an endowed fund, the **Diocese of Joliet Seminarian Education Endowment Trust**, which is restricted for the purpose of educating seminarians.

If you have already made a gift to the second collection, please know how much our seminarians appreciate your generosity.

You can make a gift online by scanning this QR code with your smart phone or taking and returning an envelope from the pew.



**COLLECTION SUMMARY: November 8—9, 2025**

Budgeted	\$3,205.53
Sunday Offertory*	\$2,240.35
Minus	(\$ 965.18)
Envelopes used / distributed	64 / 531
<b>*Includes 9 Online Givers</b>	
All Saints Day	\$ 33.00
Providing for Our Future	\$ 30.00
Seminarians	\$ 664.50

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.



Tuesday, November 25

***Ecumenical Thanksgiving Service at Immanuel UCC at 7pm (pg 4)***

Thursday, November 27 at 9am

***Thanksgiving Day Mass***

There will be no Adoration  
 or Confession

Tuesday, December 2

***CCW Christmas Party Bunco (pg 5)***

Saturday, December 6

***Fr. Thomas' Installation Mass and Reception (pg 3)***

Sunday, December 7

***K of C Donuts with Santa after 11am Mass (pg 3)***

Monday, December 8

***Immaculate Conception Mass at 8:30am***

Tuesday, December 9

***50th Annual CCW Christmas Party for the Sisters at St. Francis Woods (Frankfort) (pg 7)***

Wednesday, December 10

***RE / Parish Penance Service***

Laura Jacques, Nancy Pilotto, Rev. Tom Ewing, Michael Doyle, Mary Ellen Hanlon, Ashley Doody, Luke Payne, Dave Castaneda, Greg Nalepka, Kathleen Callahan, Deacon Mark Otten, Jeff Furtek, Charles Claxton, Mary Jane Szewka, Elaine Doyle, Karen Haave, Dorothy Simikowski, Joe Ladislas, Arline Clark, Mary Jo Fry, Gerald Adcock, Laura Valenti, Samantha Digiacomo, Julie Szudarski, Sharon Andrews, Sue Gomez, Aris Tomac, Bob Johnson, Pete Henrisey, Claudia Merri-field, Harry & Pam Carpenter, Ray Romito, Francesca Libreria Biondo, Mike Wilczynski, Fran Rewers, Geri Mokry, Pastor Richard Young, Jeanne Vinezeano, Frances Libreria, the Adamsick Family, Cassidy Novak, 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.***

### Welcome to St. Paul the Apostle Catholic Church

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



The St. Paul Council of Catholic Women invites you to join them in the **50th ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PARTY** for the FRANCISCAN SISTERS of the SACRED HEART living at St. Francis Woods (Frankfort) on Tuesday, December 9 from 1–3PM.

If you have any questions, please call or text Clem at 708 710-1831.

*Please try to join us--  
the good sisters love company!*

### **Bingo Prize Suggestions:**

- \*Candy all kinds – especially chocolate  
(there are three sisters who are diabetic)
- \*Snacks--individually packaged
- \*Small plants--Christmas ones are very popular:  
Christmas cactus, pine tree, holly
- \*Stamps
- \*Lotion
- \*Hot chocolate--individual packages
- \*Starbucks bottled coffee
- \*Christmas decorations (not religious),  
wall hangings, wreaths, ornaments
- \*Many of the sisters wear street clothes,  
holiday socks, jewelry (no earrings)

*Some bingo prizes are “re-gifted” by the sisters  
to their friends / family.*

### **Each sister has her own room and bathroom**

- \*Decorative towels
- \*Decorative pillows
- \*Holiday soaps
- \*Decorative soft soap dispensers
- \*Adult coloring books

We would like to give each of the 29 sisters and 1 priest a \$20 gift card from any of the following stores:  
**Walgreens, Walmart, Dollar Tree**

Gift cards can be placed in the boxes at each of the entrances to the church. Checks should be made out to the CCW with a note in the subject line “*sister’s Christmas party.*”

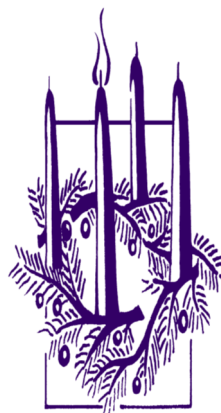


Bingo prizes can be placed in the boxes near the two church entrances.

There are sign-up sheets for **cookie donations** and for those **who would join us** for this much appreciated and fun afternoon.



The sign-up poster for **ADVENT WREATH CANDLE LIGHTING** is in the lobby. Everyone—families, singles, seniors, RE / FF classes, etc.—is invited to participate in this beloved tradition!



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**Santamental Christmas**  
Free Community Event  
Hosted by  
The Franciscan Sisters of the Sacred Heart

**Saturday, December 13, 2025 9am-12pm**

- Pictures with Santa & the Christmas Pups
- Hot Cocoa and Snacks
- Holiday Crafts
- Around the World Nativities
- Christmas Stories and Carols

  
9201 W. St. Francis Rd.  
Frankfort, IL 60423

**Register your group at FSSH.net**

## U.S. Bishops Issue a "Special Message" on Immigration

BALTIMORE, NOVEMBER 12, 2025—As the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) gathered for their Fall Plenary Assembly in Baltimore, the bishops issued a Special Message addressing their concern for the evolving situation impacting immigrants in the United States. It marked the first time in twelve years the USCCB invoked this particularly urgent way of speaking as a body of bishops. The last one issued in 2013 was in response to the federal government's contraceptive mandate.

Under the regulations pertaining to statements and publications of the Conference, a "Special Message" may only be issued at plenary assemblies, and they are statements which the President of the Conference, the Administrative Committee, or the general membership consider to be appropriate in view of the circumstances at the time. To show the consensus of the body, a Special Message must receive two-thirds of the Conference members present and voting at the plenary in order to pass. In a vote of **216 votes in favor, 5 votes against, and 3 abstentions**, the bishops overwhelmingly approved the Special Message, with sustained applause of the body following the vote. The full text of the bishops' Special Pastoral Message follows:

As pastors, we the bishops of the United States are bound to our people by ties of communion and compassion in Our Lord Jesus Christ. We are disturbed when we see among our people a climate of fear and anxiety around questions of profiling and immigration enforcement. We are saddened by the state of contemporary debate and the vilification of immigrants. We are concerned about the conditions in detention centers and the lack of access to pastoral care.

We lament that some immigrants in the United States have arbitrarily lost their legal status. We are troubled by threats against the sanctity of houses of worship and the special nature of hospitals and schools. We are grieved when we meet parents who fear being detained when taking their children to school and when we try to console family members who have already been separated from their loved ones.

Despite obstacles and prejudices, generations of immigrants have made enormous contributions to the well-being of our nation. We as Catholic bishops love our country and pray for its peace and prosperity. For this very reason, we feel compelled now in this environment to raise our voices in defense of God-given human dignity.

Catholic teaching exhorts nations to recognize the fundamental dignity of all persons, including immigrants. We bishops advocate for a meaningful reform of our nation's immigration laws and procedures. Human dignity and national security are not in conflict. Both are possible if people of good will work together.

We recognize that nations have a responsibility to regulate their borders and establish a just and orderly immigration system for the sake of the common good. Without such processes, immigrants face the risk of trafficking and other forms of exploitation. Safe and legal pathways serve as an antidote to such risks.

The Church's teaching rests on the foundational concern for the human person, as created in the image and likeness of God (Genesis 1:27). As pastors, we look to Sacred Scripture and the example of the Lord Himself, where we find the wisdom of God's compassion. The priority of the Lord, as the Prophets remind us, is for those

who are most vulnerable: the widow, the orphan, the poor, and the stranger (Zechariah 7:10). In the Lord Jesus, we see the One who became poor for our sake (2 Corinthians 8:9), we see the Good Samaritan who lifts us from the dust (Luke 10:30-37), and we see the One who is found in the least of these (Matthew 25). The Church's concern for neighbor and our concern here for immigrants is a response to the Lord's command to love as He has loved us (John 13:34).

To our immigrant brothers and sisters, we stand with you in your suffering, since, when one member suffers, all suffer (cf. 1 Corinthians 12:26). You are not alone!

We note with gratitude that so many of our clergy, consecrated religious, and lay faithful already accompany and assist immigrants in meeting their basic human needs. We urge all people of good will to continue and expand such efforts.

We oppose the indiscriminate mass deportation of people. We pray for an end to dehumanizing rhetoric and violence, whether directed at immigrants or at law enforcement. We pray that the Lord may guide the leaders of our nation, and we are grateful for past and present opportunities to dialogue with public and elected officials. In this dialogue, we will continue to advocate for meaningful immigration reform.

*As disciples of the Lord, we remain  
men and women of hope,  
and hope does not disappoint! (cf.  
Romans 5:5)*

*May the mantle of Our Lady of Guadalupe enfold us all in her maternal and loving care and draw us ever closer to the heart of Christ*

November 12, 2025

Dear Friends,  
Today the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) issued a powerful and unified "Special Message" on immigration. Deeply rooted in our Gospel tradition of loving our neighbor, this letter affirms our solidarity with all our brothers and sisters as it expresses our concerns, opposition, and hopes with clarity and conviction. It is grounded in the Church's enduring commitment to the Catholic social teaching of human dignity and a call for meaningful immigration reform.

I encourage each of you to take the time to read it, pray with it, and share it with others. Let it be a source of reflection in your homes, parishes, and communities. I hope its message of compassion and justice will influence our thoughts, words, and actions. May it also inspire the work we do together as a Church.

Through the intercession of **Mary, Help of Christians**, may God's light bring peace, justice, and healing to all who need it most.

And may God bless you always.

As I remain—

Sincerely Yours in Christ,

Most Reverend Ronald A. Hicks, Bishop of Joliet