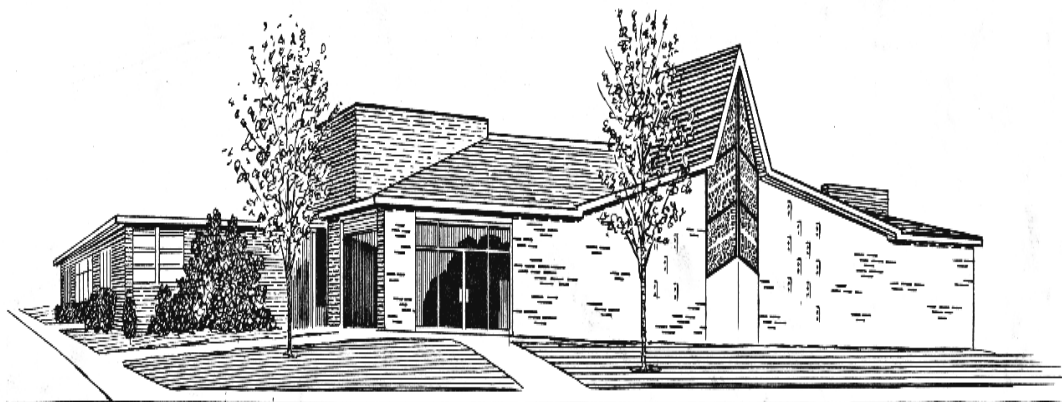




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September 13, 2026

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

K of C GRAND KNIGHT: 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:

Are held at St. Joseph in Manteno

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: t / b / a

FIRST COMMUNION: Sunday, May 2, 2027

CONFIRMATION: t / b / a

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

WELCOME to ST. PAUL!

*Most Reverend R. Daniel Conlon, Bishop Emeritus of Joliet (2011-2020),
celebrating 11am Mass.*

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	9/12	3:00 pm—	<u>CONFESSION</u>
		3:30 pm—	<u>ROSARY</u>
		4:00 pm—	+ <u>Ken Rocznia</u> req by Beecher Bunco Club and <u>The People of the Parish</u>
Sun	9/13	10:30 am—	<u>ROSARY</u>
		11:00 am—	+ <u>Louise Kotel</u> req by the James Kelly Family
Mon	9/14	7:30 am—	<u>COMMUNION SERVICE</u>
Tue	9/15	7:30 am—	+ <u>Jim Balmer</u> req by Family
Wed	9/16	7:30 am—	<u>COMMUNION SERVICE</u>
Thr	9/17	7:30 am—	+ <u>John R. Tierney, Jr. & Family</u> req by Family
		6:00 pm—	<u>ADORATION</u>
		7:15 pm—	<u>CONFESSION</u>
Fri	9/18	7:30 am—	<u>COMMUNION SERVICE</u>
Sat	9/19	3:00 pm—	<u>CONFESSION</u>
		3:30 pm—	<u>ROSARY</u>
		4:00 pm—	+ <u>Chet Furtek</u> req by Bob & Helen Lewis
Sun	9/20	10:30 am—	<u>ROSARY</u>
		11:00 am—	+ <u>Scott Starkey</u> req by Rick & Denise Starkey and <u>The 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.

**The Altar flowers from September 5--
September 18 are given in thanksgiving for
Al & Jan Leffelman's
58th Wedding Anniversary.**



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.

The Peotone Senior Assistance Center serves clients, by appointment only, this **Thursday, September 17**, 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.

The Knights of Columbus will be hosting a **PARISH PICNIC** on Sunday, October 4 following 11am **OUTDOOR MASS**.



The Knights will supply hamburgers and hot dogs and parishioners are asked to bring a dish to pass.

Sign-up sheets will be available in the back of church.

Thank-you to all those that donated to the food drive, we have reached over 250 pounds of donations so far.

If your garden has over produced, you can donate to the pantry.

The Helping Hands Food pantry has asked that you do not donate grocery bags until after January 1, 2027, there is an overabundance on hand.

The Pope's Intentions for September 2026:

—For the care of water—

Let us pray for a just and sustainable management of water, a vital resource, so that everyone may have equal access to it.



COLLECTION SUMMARY: September 5—6, 2026:

Budgeted	\$3,205.53
Sunday Offertory*	\$4,249.35
Plus	\$1,043.82
Envelopes used / distributed	82 / 468
*Includes 12 Online Givers	
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.



Peotone Financial Center
Saturday, September 26, 2026

Hours are 9-11 AM. Bring your unwanted papers to be destroyed securely by a licensed shredding company. It's the perfect opportunity to declutter your home and protect your personal information - all for free!



CCW
Council of Catholic Women

"Eucharist," the 5-week Bible study, will begin this Tuesday, September 15, and continue the next 4 Tuesdays. Each session should be approximately 90 minutes. **The sessions are open to men and women, aged 18 and up.**

There will be a morning session at 9:30am, and a repeat evening session at 6:30pm. Study guide booklet will be provided by the CCW. Please bring a Bible, if available.

If you did not sign up previously, or need more information, please contact Jean Adduci at **jeanadd@aol.com**.

Please pray for the success of this new parish endeavor!



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Please keep the Adamsick Family, Arline Clark, Frances Librera Biondo, Ashley Doody, Rev. Tom Ewing, Rich Harms, Bernie Iversen, Emily Klamkin, Frances Librera, Peggy Schwiesow, Marcel Smaga, Judy Strubin, Mary Jane Szewka, Julie Szudarski, Jean Vinezeano 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.

TUESDAY after
7:30am Mass until approximately 4pm and **THURSDAY** after 7:30am Mass.

Father Thomas celebrates Mass at Beecher Manor on Thursday at 10am and will be available after that prior to Adoration / Confession.



**Pastor's
Office Hours**



**GIVE
Blood**

Center!

The PHS Student Council is excited to partner with the American Red Cross for a **FALL BLOOD DRIVE THIS WEDNESDAY**, September 16, from 1:30pm–6pm in the PHS Media

We hope you'll consider taking some time out of your day to donate blood and help make a difference in the lives of others. Every donation has the potential to save lives, and we'd love to see our Blue Devil community come together to support this important cause!

And there's a fun bonus! All donors will receive an exclusive collectible Hello Kitty + Red Cross item while supplies last! So come roll up your sleeve, donate, and grab some adorable swag while you can!

The parable tells us about 'The Infinite vs the Finite Debt'. Theologically the passage is a contrast between two vastly different debts. A single talent was roughly 6,000 denarii and was about 20 years of daily labor for a common worker. Ten thousand talents equate to tens of millions of workdays. It is a hyper-exaggerated figure intentionally representing an impossible, unpayable debt. Whereas 100 Denarii a modest, real debt equivalent to about 100 days of wages. It is significant but objectively it can be paid back. Theologically, the 10,000 talents represent humanity's moral bankruptcy before God. We are utterly incapable of paying off our debt of sin through our own merits. The 100 denarii represent the offenses others commit against us. While interpersonal offenses are real and painful, they light in comparison to our primary offense against the Creator.

The parable dismantles the idea of divine grace as a static gift you collect and hoard. Grace is an active force intended to transform the recipient into a conduit of that same grace. The king's wrath is re-ignited not because the servant couldn't pay his debt, but because he refused to extend the very grace that rescued him. God's mercy is conditional upon our willingness to mirror it toward others: *"So also my heavenly Father will do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother from your heart."*

St. Chrysostom focuses heavily on the contrast of scale and the psychology of resentment. He notes that Peter thought he was being extraordinarily generous by suggesting "seven times," as Rabbinic tradition often recommended forgiving a neighbor only three times. Jesus does not set a literal mathematical limit, but uses the figure symbolically to denote perpetual, endless forgiveness which reflects

God's endless patience toward us. Chrysostom highlights the master's words: *"You wicked servant! I forgave you all that debt..."* He points out that the master did not call the servant "wicked" when he owed 10,000 talents, but only when he proved to be unforgiving and heartless toward a fellow servant.

Lack of mercy, not human weakness, is the pinnacle of malice.

Augustine frequently uses this text to elaborate on the Lord's Prayer: *"Forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors"*. Augustine writes that to withhold forgiveness while asking God for forgiveness is to mock the prayer. God acts as a loving parent who says: *"I have forgiven you first; do thou at least forgive after that"*. Augustine grapples with the sobering reality of the previously forgiven debt is reinstated. For Augustine, un-

repentant malice and an unforgiving heart retroactively cancel a person's standing in grace. Resentment locks a person back in prison of their own sins.

Origen of Alexandria explains that the King's settling accounts prefigure the final judgment. The "tormentors" represent the spiritual consequences and self-inflicted torment of a soul consumed by bitterness and uncollected debts. The *"forgiveness from your heart,"* means true Christian forgiveness cannot be an external formality; it requires a deep inner healing where anger is uprooted, reflecting the internal work of the Holy Spirit. Today's Gospel passage reminds believers that refusing to forgive a neighbor reveals a profound spiritual forgetfulness: we have failed to remember the immeasurable debt from which we ourselves were redeemed.

Yours in Christ,
Fr. Thomas Theneth CMI



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.

Larry & Nancy Pilotto
Randy & Renee Burge
Rich & Marge Harms

September 3, 1966
September 6, 1992
September 7, 1968

60 years
34 years
58 years



OFFICE OF MISSION
DIOCESE OF JOLIET



SERVICE IN THE PARK

Join us monthly on Saturday mornings of service for the Pembroke Township community. (9AM - 12 PM)

Typical Schedule:
Second Saturday of Each Month

Log Splitting: September 26 & October 24

To Register & for more Information, contact Alex Buldak:

1-815-221-6256
abuldak@dioceseofjoliet.org

****Must be 18 years or older to attend this event****



Order of Christian Initiation for Adults

O.C.I.A. (Order of Christian Initiation for Adults)—formerly known as RCIA—classes for the 2026–2027 academic year are currently forming at St. Paul the Apostle Church in Peotone, Illinois.

What is OCIA? It is a spiritual formation and instruction process for adults and children (age seven or older) who want to learn more about the Catholic faith, receive un-received sacraments, or enter into full communion with the Church.

WHO IS IT FOR?

- o Unbaptized individuals.
- o Christians baptized in another faith tradition.
- o Baptized Catholics who still need to complete their Sacraments of Initiation (First Communion or Confirmation).
- o Individuals who want to deepen their understanding of the Catholic Church

WHEN DO CLASSES START? The program will begin their inquiry sessions and weekly classes after Labor Day, running through the Easter Vigil when sacraments are traditionally received. Classes continue after Easter until Pentecost Sunday.

COMMITMENT: Attending initial inquiry sessions carries no immediate obligation to join the Church. Actual meeting days/times (such as weekly meetings mornings, or nights on Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays or Thursdays) will be determined once the registrations are complete.

To **REGISTER** or have **QUESTIONS**, to **RECEIVE** registration forms, **PLEASE** contact the parish by:

-contacting Deacon Jim Kelly at:
StPaulReligiousEd@stpaulpeotone.org,
or calling 708 258-9580;

-contacting the parish office at
ParishOffice@stpaulpeotone.org;

-checking the weekly bulletin and website at
StPaulPeotone.org.

OPERATION ANDREW DINNER



Young men and their fathers are invited to join Bishop Dennis Spies and several area priests for dinner, conversation, and testimonials about their own vocation stories.

There will be opportunity for a question-and-answer session and meeting other young men open to the priesthood.

Queen of Apostles Parish
18 Woodlawn Ave
Joliet, IL 60435

OCT 1 | 6 PM

Open to high school and young adult age men and their fathers

SCAN ME



MEN OF CHRIST | JOLIET
LIVE YOUR FAITH BOLDLY

OCT 28 2026

CATHOLIC MAN NIGHT

TOPIC: Making room for your faith through a busy life

 **Keynote**
Mike Blackburn
Knights of Columbus
State Secretary

 **Featuring**
Dr. Ryan Hendrickson
President
University of St Francis
Joliet

Cathedral of St. Raymond | Joliet

Wednesday, October 28, 2026
5:30–8:30 pm
Dinner provided
Scan QR code to register or visit
MenOfChrist.net/Joliet



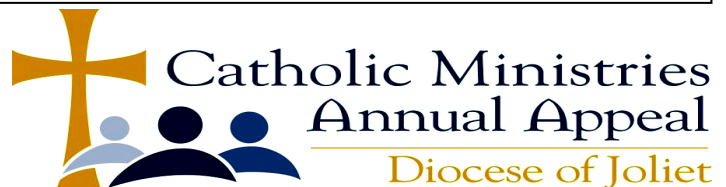
Please remember these men and women in your daily prayers—Priests, Deacons, Seminarians and women & men Religious in the Diocese of Joliet:



SEPTEMBER 2026

- 12 Fr. Grzegorz Podwysocki
13 Sr. Judith A. Davies OSF,
Sr. Nancy Roberta Schramm OSF,
Sr. Mary Paul Shisler OSF
14 Sr. Kathleen Anne Copp OSF,
Sr. Kathleen Hook OSF, Sr. M. Alexine Knotek OSF
15 Sr. Kathleen Moseley OSF, Sr. Geneive Raupp OSF,
Sr. Leticia Lapid OSF
16 Fr. Michael Powell, Fr. Matthew Pratscher
17 Frs. Thomas Schrader O.Carm.,
Jeffery Smialek O.Carm.,
Michael O'Keefe O.Carm.
18 Seminarians Jared Beltz
19 Fr. Mario Quejadas, Fr. James Radek,
Fr. John Regan
20 Scott Pointner, Francisco Prado, David Rudofski,
Gustavo Santana (Deacon Candidates)

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



Pledge Report for St. Paul the Apostle Parish as of September 6, 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:	\$26,725
AMOUNT PAID:	\$24,664
BALANCE DUE:	\$ 2,061
DONORS:	90
REBATE:	\$ 5,575

Faith Grows Here!
RELIGIOUS EDUCATION
PRESCHOOL THROUGH 8TH GRADE

St. Joseph, Manteno
RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Still Time to Register!
Grow in Faith. Make Friends. Experience God's Love!

CLASSES BEGIN
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 2026
6:30 PM – 7:45 PM
St. Joseph Classroom Building

PARENTS/GUARDIANS ARE REQUIRED TO ATTEND
THE FIRST CLASS ON WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 23.

OPEN HOUSE
1ST – 8TH GRADE
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 2026
6:30 PM
St. Joseph Classroom Building

REGISTER ONLINE!
StJosephManteno.com
Questions? Call the Faith Formation Office
815-468-8116

Let the little children come to me...
Mark 10:14

St. Joseph MANTENO
Faith Today Brighter Tomorrows

PRAY LEARN GROW BELONG