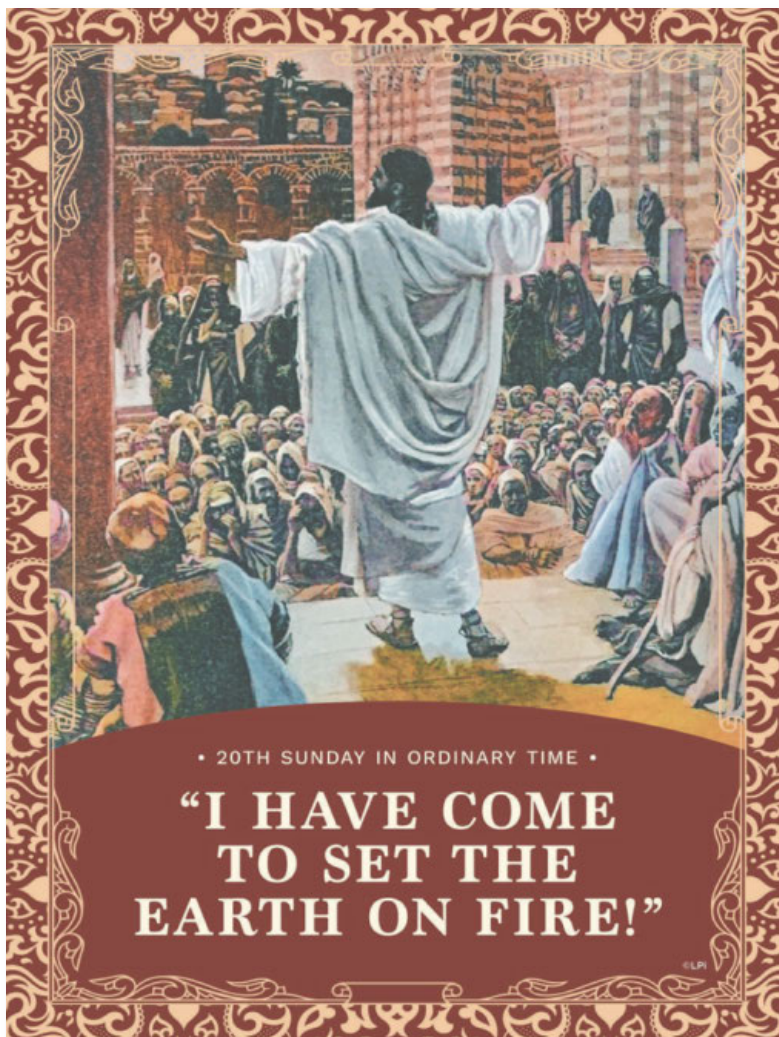


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St. Peter's Church

OF SPRING GROVE, IL



Sunday, August 17, 2025
Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time

ST. PETER'S MISSION STATEMENT

As parishioners of St. Peter's Catholic Church, we strive to imitate Jesus' example of prayer, fellowship, love and service.

Mass Schedule

Tuesday - Friday: 8:00 a.m.

Saturday: 4:00 p.m.

Sunday: 8:00 and 10:00 a.m.

(10:00 a.m. Mass livestreamed)

Reconciliation

Saturday: 3:00 - 3:45 p.m.

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

Saturday: 5:00 p.m. - Sunday 7:45 a.m.

The Saints and the Secret to True Happiness

The saints understood that real happiness is about knowing where to find peace, perspective, and joy – no matter what life brings. This month, we look at four saints who show us what it takes to live with true happiness.

Simplicity – St. Francis of Assisi

St. Francis gave up wealth and comfort to follow Christ completely. In doing so, he made space in his heart to receive everything from God with peace and joy. While most of us aren't called to material poverty, we can imitate his spiritual poverty – letting go of sin and distractions to focus more fully on our relationship with God.

Trust and Love – St. Thérèse of Lisieux

St. Thérèse “*Little Way*” was built on doing small things with great love. Her “*humble confidence*” in God's mercy gave her strength through illness, loss, and interior suffering. Her path invites us to respond to life's challenges not with fear or striving, but with trust and consistent, simple acts of love.

Holy Humor – St. Philip Neri

St. Philip Neri understood the spiritual power of joy. Known for his deep prayer life and playful spirit, he used humor to lift others out of gloom, deflate pride, and open hearts to God. He once shaved half his beard just to make people laugh. His life reminds us that holiness isn't dour – joy, laughter, and reverence can all go hand-in-hand.

Faithful Friendship - Blessed Pier

Blessed Pier Giorgio balanced an active social life with a deep love for the poor and for Christ. He surrounded himself with friends who shared his love for the faith, frequently inviting them to Mass and Eucharistic Adoration. Whether hiking mountains or visiting the sick, he lived with joy rooted in friendship – with others, and above all, with Jesus.

“Thou dost show me the path of life; in thy presence there is fulness of joy, in thy right hand are pleasures evermore.”

— Psalm 16:11

Live the Liturgy Inspiration of the Week

Jesus tells us that He has come to set fire to the earth. **What can we give Him as kindling?** Let us look into our souls and see where the fire of Christ can be ignited, and pray that our souls may be consumed by its life-giving flames.



GOSPEL MEDITATION - ENCOURAGE DEEPER UNDERSTANDING OF SCRIPTURE

During my baseball career, my best coach often said, “*You shouldn’t be worried if I yell at you. Be worried if I don’t. If I stop pushing you, it means I don’t think you have any more potential.*” He demanded a lot, and I knew it meant he saw that I could be something special on the baseball field.

Jesus says some demanding words to us this week. “***Do you think I have come to establish peace on the earth?***” he asks, “***No, I tell you, but rather division***” (Luke 12:51). He wants you and me—in fact, all the earth—to participate in the luminous glory of God. That’s why He speaks of Himself as a divine arsonist. Divine fire is like a good coach: it demands the removal of all that obstructs the achievement of the lofty goal.

How is your life demanding right now?

That inconvenient family situation, the unfair boss at work, the kids who reject their parents’ wishes, the nagging health issue? Maybe things would be more peaceful devoid of these seemingly arbitrary difficulties. But for us who believe in the One who comes to set the earth on fire, we should be much more worried if He stops demanding so much from us. In fact, let’s thank Him for it. He sees how glorious we can become.

— Father John Muir

Parish Financial Summary: Fiscal Year 2024-2025 12 Months: July 1, 2024 - June 30, 2025	
ORDINARY INCOME	
Sunday Collections	415,271
Special Diocesan Collections	86,401
Religious Ed., Pre-School, Cemetery	172,698
All Other Income	220,129
Total Ordinary Income	894,499
ORDINARY EXPENSE	
Liturgical & Pastoral	69,674
Diocesan Collections & Observer Assessments	90,275
Buildings, Grounds, Utilities, Insurance	74,389
Catholic School Assessments	56,508
Religious Ed., Pre-School, Cemetery	132,771
All Other Expense	282,539
Total Ordinary Expense	706,155
Net Ordinary Income	188,344
OTHER INCOME	
Bequest, Memorials	13,025
Sale of Equipment	15,000
Investment Income	91,024
Total Other Income	119,049
OTHER EXPENSE	
Major Repairs & Improvements	490,934
Total Other Expense	490,934
Net Other Income	(371,885)
Net Income	(183,541)



On Sunday, August 17th Bishop Malloy will be celebrating at St. Mary's Church in Huntley the Silver & Gold Wedding Anniversary Mass for couples celebrating their milestone wedding anniversaries. We would like to recognize three couples from St. Peter's who are celebrating their milestone anniversaries this year. Please join us in congratulating them and wishing them many more years of blissful marriage and for their commitment to one another and to living as faithful witnesses to the love of Christ through the sacrament of matrimony.

Gerald & Joan Bodden - celebrating 60 years
Richard & Mary K. Yager - celebrating 55 years
Lee & Jan Zink - celebrating 50 years



THE SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION
 IS OFFERED Every Saturday
 from 3:00 until 3:45 p.m.
 Or call the Parish Office to schedule
 an appointment.



Save the Date!

2025 National Friends of the Poor Walk

Saturday, September 27th

Spring Grove Fish Hatchery

Walk begins at 10:00 a.m.

In honor of St. Vincent de Paul's Feast Day

Hosted by St. Peter's and St. Joe's SVdP Society

Be on the lookout for more details

We look forward to walking with you

in support of those in need!

If you're interested in volunteering
 or becoming a sponsor,
 please contact
 Kathy at 847-682-5620



(PRACTICING) CATHOLIC The Fire

Mini reflection: If we let Christ set fire to our lives, what would that fire burn away? What dead and festering undergrowth in our souls would be consumed by the flames? What promise of future holiness would sprout from beneath the ashes?

The Fire

This past week I have been reading a biography of St. Francis of Assisi. I admit I didn't know much about Francis going into the book, but I always had this image of him as a hippie—an easygoing nature-lover who sang about peace and let animals climb on him.

I'm not sure where that caricature of Francis came from, but since I've been reading this book I've come to see that it's not true at all. He was a lover of nature, yes. A poet who sang of God's peace, yes. And I'm sure he let a few animals climb on him from time to time (he did live in a hut in the woods).

But St. Francis of Assisi wasn't the lost fourth member of Peter, Paul and Mary. He was a man on fire. He was a man burning.

Francis walked around barefoot and slept on the ground. He abandoned a life of wealth to embrace the material poverty that Christ experienced. He embarrassed his family and they disowned him. When his father would encounter Francis in the streets of Assisi, he would curse him.

Sometimes we get this idea that Christianity is a comfortable, cozy thing. We give our lives to Christ, and we expect to feel instantly satisfied, happy, safe and warm. But the saints knew better.

The saints knew that Christ had not come to wrap us in a warm blanket. Christ has come to set us on fire. And though fire is often seen as a sign of death and destruction, it is also the precursor of new life.

Think of a field of native plants and how it benefits so richly from a controlled burn—an action that clears away detritus and releases nutrients back into the soil.

If we let Christ set fire to our lives, what would that fire burn away? What dead and festering undergrowth in our souls would be consumed by the flames? What promise of future holiness would sprout from beneath the ashes?

~ Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman



WEEKENDS
8/16/- 8/24/2025

The Mass			For
CONFESSIONS OFFERED ON SATURDAY'S, 3:00 - 3:45 P.M.			
ROSARY PRAYED AT 3:30 P.M.			
20TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME			
Sat	4 pm		David & Kathleen Harms
Sun	8 am	†	Ray Starzec
	10 am	†	John Jr. & Karen Rygiel
Tuesday - Friday, Rosary Prayed at 7:30 a.m.			
Tues	8 am	†	Billy Bolin
Wed	8 am	†	Anthony A. Puchalski
Thur	8 am	†	Virginia Mae Stenseth
Fri	8 am	†	John & Christine Wiedemann
21ST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME			
Sat	4 pm	†	Deceased Members of the Popelka Family
Sun	8 am	†	Janet Ann Harrington
	10 am	†	John & Betty Rygiel

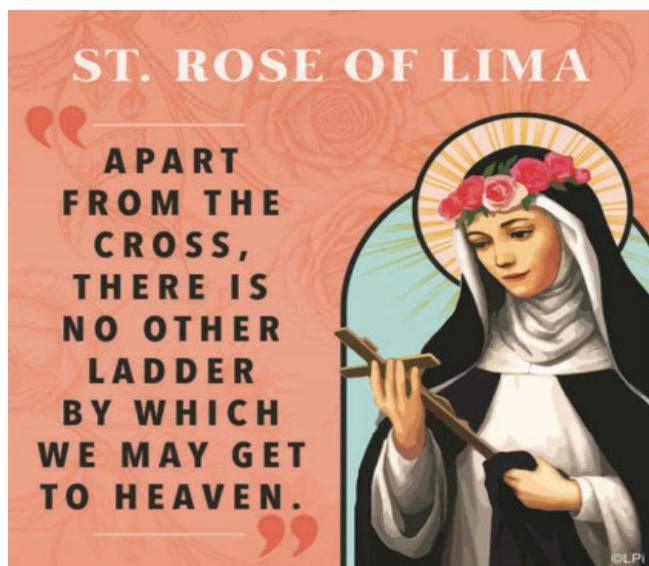
What is a "rule of life" and why should I make one?

A rule of life is simply a structured way to integrate regular prayer into your day. It's a long-standing practice among priests, monks, and nuns—but it's not just for the consecrated. Everyone needs time each day to be with the One who loves us most. Your personal rule can be as simple or as detailed as you need; what matters is remaining faithful to the time you commit.

At first, the idea of a rule of life might seem intimidating. But in reality, most of us already follow one. Maybe we always wake up at the same time or never skip a morning jog. Prayer can—and should—become part of that rhythm. It's not just a duty; it's an investment that transforms us and blesses those around us.

In the Introduction to the Devout Life, St. Francis de Sales encourages us to "begin all prayers... in the presence of God." He emphasized the value of consistency—staying faithful to a few well-chosen prayers is more effective than rushing through many. If, during prayer, you feel God inviting you simply to rest in His love, don't worry about finishing every word. The goal is not to check boxes, but to draw close to Him.

	Lectors	Extraordinary Ministers	Ushers
20TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME			
Saturday 8/16 4:00 pm	Jacqui Wold	Heather Justen <i>Marge Ladner</i> (Choir)	Chad Franckowiak Phil Webb
Sunday 8/17 8:00 am	Eleanor Murphy	Nancy Piggot	Larry Hauser Jeff Miller
10:00 am	Darien Martinez	Deacon Mark <i>Sharon Ellicson</i> (Choir)	Rich Yager John Ellicson
21ST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME			
Saturday 8/23 4:00 pm	Tom Straley	Susan Straley	Denise Wahls Rich Wirsch
Sunday 8/24 8:00 am	Carol Magnine	Mary Seil	Tom Fanella Paul Leali
10:00 am	Mary Yager	Deacon Mark <i>Jean Hlavin</i> (Choir)	Mike Gordon Stan Tinsley
Homebound Ministers August 17th: 20th Sunday in Ordinary Time Deacon Mark, Nancy Piggot, Don Piggot & Paul Serio August 24th: 21st Sunday in Ordinary Time Mary Seil, Peggy Neuman, Maria Sullivan & Steve Besetzny			



“God dwells in midst, in the Blessed Sacrament of the altar.” “He remains among us until the end of the world. He dwells on so many altars, though so often offended and profaned.”

— St. Maximilian Kolbe

Our Sanctuary Lamp burns from
August 10th – August 23rd for

† **Kornacki Family**

May this light which reminds us of
Jesus' True Presence in the Sanctuary
Welcome them into eternal peace.



We would love to Pray for you!

PRAYER REQUESTS

**Most Sacred Heart of Jesus, we place into
your hands, all fellow parishioners
we know and love, who are ill or injured
and in need of Your healing touch.
Jesus, be with them all, especially:**

Marguerite Baranov
Joan Boettjer
Deb Christian
Deacon Eugene Damian
Phyllis Ehlers
Robert Fenrich
Carol Flatley
George Keim
Glenn Geske
Lynn Geske
Gina Gugala
Anthony Hodnik
Patricia Hodnik
Joseph Keim
Nancy Klein
Ronald Klein
Martha Koukol

Larry & LeeAnn Lord
Caroline Madson
Denise Meyers
Larry Meyers
Barbara Miller
Norma Moretti
John Mueller
Carole Nowicki
Jim Nowicki
Vinny Popelka
Debbie Schaff
Dorothy Scichowski
David Thomas
Robert Tolomeo
Don Wehrheim, Jr.
Grace Wesinger
Fred Zahn

**The individuals who are on our prayers list will
continue to be on our prayer list for six months.**

If you or a loved one wish to continue to be on
the prayer list, please contact the
Parish Office during regular business hours.
815-675-2288

If you know someone who is sick and asking for
prayer, but they are not registered members of our
parish family, please allow us to solicit support for
them by adding their names to our Prayer Chain
Ministry. Just visit **StPeterCatholicChurch.org** and
after clicking where it reads **CONTACT US**, simply
follow the directions under **PRAYER REQUEST**.

“THERE IS NO PROBLEM, I TELL YOU, NO MATTER
HOW DIFFICULT IT IS, THAT WE CANNOT SOLVE BY
THE PRAYER OF THE HOLY ROSARY.”

— Sister Lucia of Fatima

Website: StPeterCatholicChurch.org

Email: SaintPetersChurch@gmail.com

Office Hours: Tue. - Thu. 8:30 a.m. - noon,
1:00 - 5:00 p.m.

Confessions: Sat. 3:00 - 3:45 p.m. (or by appointment)

Pastor: Rev. Burt H. Absalon

Deacon: Mr. Mark Raz

PARISH STAFF

Parish Office 815-675-2288

Office Administration

Mary K. Yager x205

Laura Hamill x203

Music Director

Brian Wrightson 630-440-7261

music.stpeter@gmail.com

Property Maintenance

Mark Krakowski

Marka.stpeter@gmail.com



Parish Hall 815-675-6208

Preschool 815-342-6318

Aimee Thomas

Religious Education 815-342-6318

Aimee Thomas

FaithFormationStPeters@gmail.com

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Steve & DeAnne Besetzny

Bulletin_Editor_StPeter@aol.com

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Eucharistic Ministers & Liturgical Scheduler

Sharon Ellicson 815-258-5033

Lectors

Peggy Mack 815-403-2225

Women's Ministry

Crystal Pace StPetersWM@gmail.com

Communion Ministers to the Homebound

Steve Besetzny steve.besetzny@gmail.com

Ushers

Chad Franckowiak chadfranko@gmail.com

Knights of Columbus, Grand Knight

Stan Logan Tinsley 847-507-2096

superstinsley92@gmail.com

St. Vincent de Paul

Ardie Arnold StPeters.svdv@gmail.com

Prayer Chain

Mark Vallango & Carol Flatley

StPetersPrayerChain@hotmail.com

Adoration & Our Visiting Madonna

Carrie Shannon 815-687-6734

Grief Support Group

Marie Arnold (Call the Parish Office)

Prayers & Squares

Connie Otsuka 224-392-1940



PARISH CALENDAR

Sunday, August 17th - 20th Sunday in Ordinary Time

- **Benediction & Reposition of the Blessed Sacrament - 7:45 am**
- **Kid's Choir - 10:00 am - Mass**
- **SVdP Meeting - Parish Hall - 11:00 am**
- **Faith Formation Teacher Meeting - Parish Hall - 5:30 pm**

Monday, August 18th - Parish Office Closed

Tuesday, August 19th

Wednesday, August 20th

- **Spiritual Warfare Rosary - Church - 6:00 pm**

Thursday, August 21st

- **Choir Rehearsal - 6:00 pm**

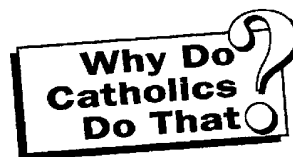
Friday, August 22nd - Parish Office Closed

Saturday, August 23rd

- **Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament all night until 7:45 am**

Sunday, August 24th - 21st Sunday in Ordinary Time

- **Benediction & Reposition of the Blessed Sacrament - 7:45 am**
- **Faith Formation Teacher Meeting - Parish Hall - 9:00 am**



Why do Catholics Believe in Miracles?

The Gospels contain many well-attested accounts of miracles, often witnessed by large crowds. It makes sense that the Creator of the natural order would occasionally suspend it to reveal His power. At the heart of our faith stands the greatest miracle of all—the Resurrection of Jesus Christ.

St. Paul wrote, *"If Christ has not been raised, then our proclamation has been in vain, and your faith has been in vain"* (1 Corinthians 15:14). God continues to work miracles today to bless those who experience them directly and to strengthen our trust in His providence, love, and divine presence.



SPEAKER

 **MaryBeth Fuller**
Catholic Charities

 **Kailee Kuropas**
Testimony

LIVE PRESENTATION

Aug. 26, Tuesday
6PM-7:30PM

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PARISH INFORMATION

BAPTISMS - Fr. Burt is eager and happy to baptize children whose parent(s) are practicing the Catholic faith and registered members of St. Peter's Parish. Please call the Parish Office for additional requirements and information.

MARRIAGES - Please contact Fr. Burt before you set a date, at least six months in advance.

HOLY COMMUNION - Parishioners confined to their homes, for an indefinite length of time due to illness or advanced age, may call the Office and request that the Holy Eucharist be brought to them on Sunday mornings.

REGISTRATION - New members should register by either calling the Parish Office or visiting us online at StPeterCatholicChurch.org

HOSPITAL VISITS - If you wish Fr. Burt to visit during your stay in the hospital, please call him at the Parish Office and he will be happy to do so. Likewise, if you wish to be added to our Prayer Chain, let us know by calling 815-675-2288

FUNERALS ARRANGEMENTS - are to be made in consultation with Fr. Burt.

ANOIDTING OF THE SICK - If you or someone you know is sick, injured or being admitted to a hospital and would like to receive the Anointing of the Sick, call the Parish Office without delay.

Should there be an emergency after normal business hours, please call 815-675-2339

KNIGHTS' CORNER

WE ARE ALL CALLED TO SERVE

Knights of Columbus
Planning Meeting - August, 26th
Parish Hall - 7:00 pm

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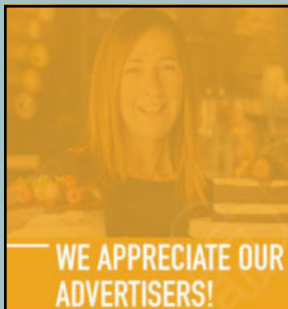
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