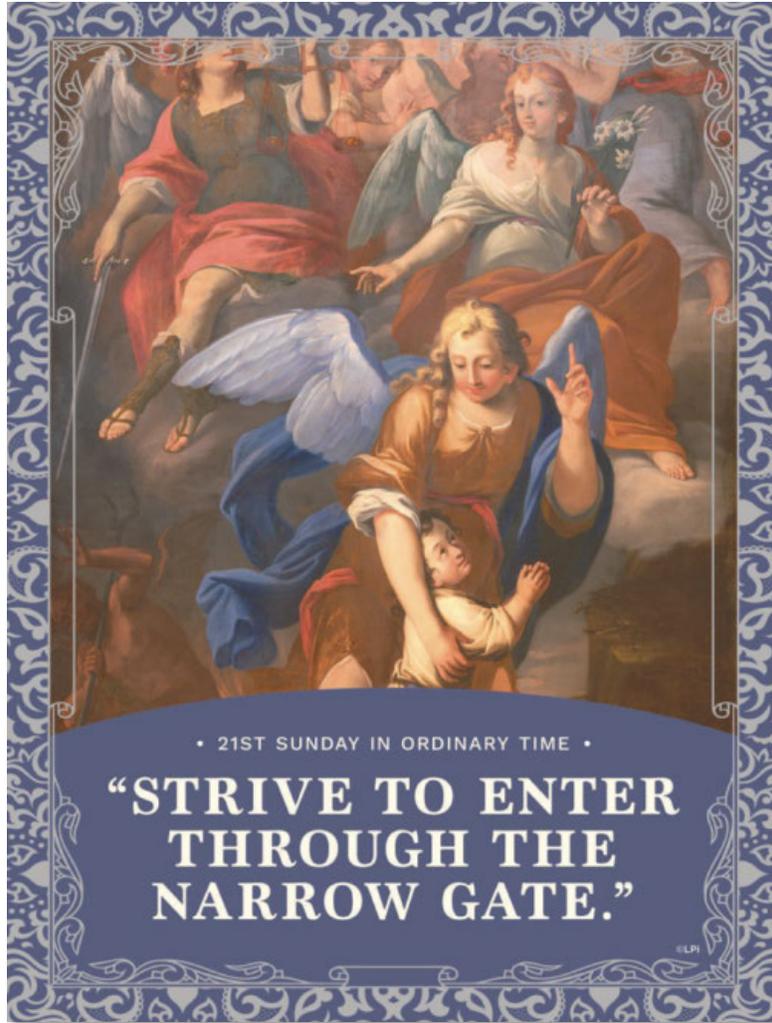




# St. Peter's Church

OF SPRING GROVE, IL



## Sunday, August 24, 2025 Twenty-First 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.



## Mark Your Calendar!

Helping Hands Food Pantry in Spiring Grove is still having difficulty obtaining basic supplies from the Northern Illinois Food Bank

***Inventory is down!  
Shelves are Bare!  
They need our Help!***

The weekend of September 6<sup>th</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup>  
St. Peter's Church will be having a "Reverse Collection" immediately following Communion

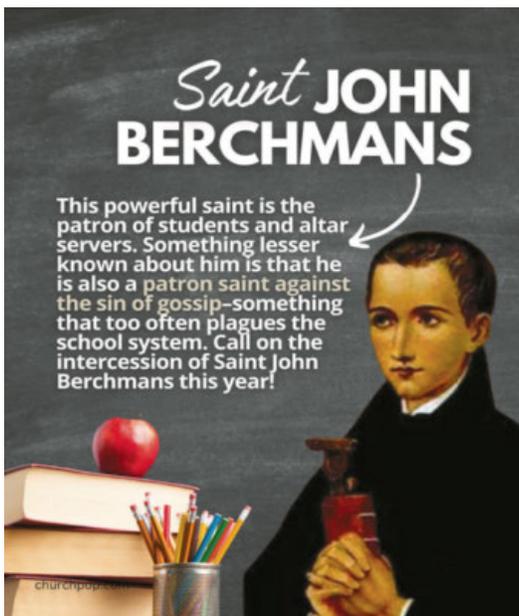
Instead of putting something into the offertory basket, will you please consider taking out one or two slips of paper? Each slip of paper lists a food item that the Food Pantry desperately needs to help feed our community.

The following weekend, September 13<sup>th</sup> & 14<sup>th</sup> the Helping Hands Food Pantry Truck will be parked in front of St. Peter's after all the Masses to receive your gracious donations.

*All food items will be gratefully accepted, but we kindly ask that no expired foods be donated.*

*If you're unable to get to the store, a personal monetary donation will also be accepted to help purchase meat and produce.*

***Together, we can help fill the shelves!***



## GOSPEL MEDITATION—ENCOURAGE DEEPER UNDERSTANDING OF SCRIPTURE

I've been hiking Camelback Mountain in Phoenix, Arizona most of my life. It is a vigorous forty-five minutes to the top. Near the peak, the end suddenly appears much further away, and steeper. At that moment, a descending hiker often offers encouragement: "Keep going! The peak is right there. It's not as far as it looks. You can do it!" It usually works. After another five minute push, you summit and enjoy a glorious panorama of the Sonoran Desert in the Valley of the Sun.

When Jesus is asked about how many people are saved, he says: "**Strive to enter through the narrow gate**" (Luke 13:24). How many? Strive! Focus on your journey. What does heavenly census taking have to do with you or me? How would it help a hiker on a mountain to ask the others coming down, "How many people are going to make it to the top?" A normal response would be something like: "How is that a relevant question? Carry on!"

Jesus links one virtue directly to salvation: perseverance (cf. Matt 24:13; *hypomone* in Greek). Strive! Endure! Keep going! The one absolutely necessary virtue is perseverance, to not give up on our journey. The mountain we struggle to climb is often our own weakness, failures, and sins. Persevere in prayer. Keep celebrating the sacraments. Embrace daily duties. With God's grace, you are strong enough to keep going. Perhaps the peak is not as far away as you might fear. Keep going!

— *Father John Muir*



The annual Diocesan Appeal is a very important one because our parish benefits so much from the ministries it supports!

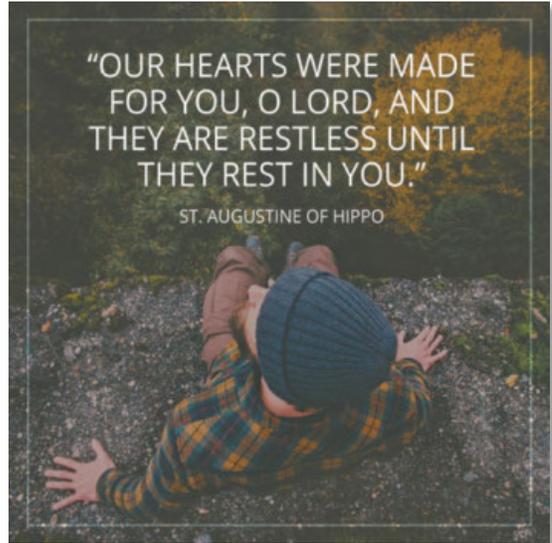
It would be tough for us without their assistance! In addition to that, 100% of all donations we receive over the target amount, comes back to St. Peter's! Thank you for helping our pastor to never ask us to dig deeper into our pockets!

*God who sees all, will surely reward you for your generosity.*

- James and Marlene Keenan
- Sonia Miller
- Richard and Dana Swanson
- Vahe and Roxanne Talatian

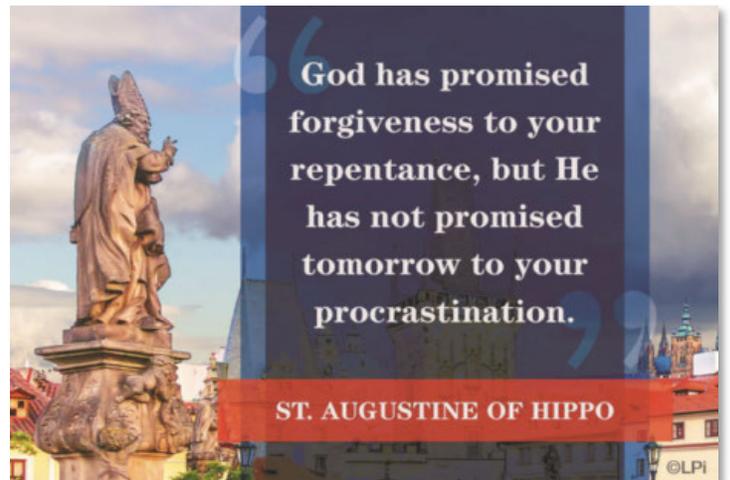
## Live the Liturgy Inspiration of the Week

*"Strive to enter through the narrow gate,"* Jesus tells us. *"Many will attempt... but will not be strong enough."* So let us never be so foolish that we rely on our own strength. Narrow does not mean unpassable – not if we ask for help.



## What is the Difference Between a Basilica and a Cathedral?

Basilicas are churches that are so titled because of their antiquity, dignity, historical importance, or significance as centers of worship. A Cathedral is the principal church of a diocese, which contains the chair of the bishop, or "cathedra" in Latin. The chair is the symbol of the bishop's teaching authority.



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 27<sup>th</sup>**

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 Heaven and Regina George

**Mini reflection:** Jesus' whole thing was that you *can* sit with us, whoever you are, wherever you're from and whatever you've done. But there are a lot of lunch tables in the world, and not everyone wants to be at one with rules like "repent" and "be good to that person you really don't like."

### Heaven and Regina George

There are certain phrases that serve as a kind of shibboleth for millennials, a dog whistle that only ears formed between 1981 and 1996 can discern. "You can't sit with us!" is one of those phrases.

It's from the movie *Mean Girls*, (which, I hear from my younger family members, has now become cool with the kids again, so maybe my point about it being niche is incorrect). The character Regina George, merciless ruler of the cool kids, is rejected from the ultra-exclusive lunch table she herself formed when her minions, tired of her cruelty, serve her the most devastating words a teenager can hear in public: "You can't sit with us."

So passes earthly glory, as they say.

At first blush, this Gospel gives "Mean Girls" vibes. We have an image of the unlucky masses clamoring for entry into the kingdom of heaven as God locks the door against them, saying, "I do not know where you are from."

Very "you-can't-sit-with-us."

But we need to remember that the people pounding on the door of heaven in today's Gospel aren't people who wanted a seat at God's lunch table—at least, not until it was the only lunch table left, because they had Regina George'd their way out of all the other ones.

Jesus' whole thing was that you *can* sit with us, whoever you are, wherever you're from and whatever you've done. But there are a lot of lunch tables in the world, and not everyone wants to be at one with rules like "repent" and "be good to that person you really don't like." It's not always an easy table to sit at, especially when there are so many other options.

We have to choose heaven before heaven becomes our only choice.

~ Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman



WEEKENDS  
8/23/- 8/31/2025

The Mass		For	
CONFESSIONS OFFERED ON SATURDAY'S, 3:00 - 3:45 P.M. ROSARY PRAYED AT 3:30 P.M.			
<b>21ST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME</b>			
Sat	4 pm	†	Deceased Members of the Popelka Family
Sun	8 am	†	Janet Ann Harrington
	10 am	†	John & Betty Rygiel
Tuesday - Friday, Rosary Prayed at 7:30 a.m.			
Tues	8 am	†	The repose of the souls of the Bednarz Family
Wed	8 am	†	The repose of the souls of the Mueller Family
Thur	8 am	†	Pat Arendt
Fri	8 am		The Witek Family (Living & Deceased)
<b>22ND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME</b>			
Sat	4 pm	†	Kay Jarmoluk
Sun	8 am		Frank & Pat Leali
	10 am	†	June Baumann

**On August 27, we celebrate the feast of St. Monica, the patroness of mothers and widows.**

Her prayers and pleading to God brought about the conversion of her son, St. Augustine of Hippo (Bishop and Doctor of the Church), an enduring jewel of the Church who helped deepen our understanding of the Christian Faith. His mom, St. Monica, perfectly models a sincere and unwavering prayer life, interceding especially for her son when he lived a life away from Christ. Spouses are called to pray together, for each other, and for their children. St. Monica shows us the fruits of supporting a child physically and spiritually in whatever the child is going through. **Let's lift our kids up in prayer!**



	Lectors	Extraordinary Ministers	Ushers
<b>21ST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME</b>			
<b>Saturday 8/23</b> 4:00 pm	Tom Straley	Susan Straley	Denise Wahls Rich Wirch
<b>Sunday 8/24</b> 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

<b>22ND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME</b>			
<b>Saturday 8/30</b> 4:00 pm	Jerry Bodden	Deacon Mark	Chad Franckowiak Maureen Terry
<b>Sunday 8/31</b> 8:00 am	Cyndee Wehrheim	Dennis Wehrheim	Larry Hauser Vince Desecki
10:00 am	Darien Martinez	Carol Rygiel <i>Mike Rygiel</i> (Choir)	Dave Harms Kathleen Harms

## Homebound Ministers

### August 24<sup>th</sup>: 21<sup>st</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time

Mary Seil, Peggy Neuman, Maria Sullivan & Steve Besetzny

### August 31<sup>st</sup>: 22<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time

Deacon Mark, Bev Schmitt, Paul Serio & Thomas Gough

Our Sanctuary Lamp burns from August 24<sup>th</sup> – September 6<sup>th</sup> for  
 † **Richard & Marcella Marsh Family**  
 May this light which reminds us of Jesus' True Presence in the Sanctuary  
 Welcome them into eternal peace.



**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   | Larry & LeeAnn Lord |
| Joan Boettjer        | Caroline Madson     |
| Deb Christian        | Denise Meyers       |
| Deacon Eugene Damian | Larry Meyers        |
| Phyllis Ehlers       | Barbara Miller      |
| Robert Fenrich       | Norma Moretti       |
| Carol Flatley        | John Mueller        |
| George Keim          | Carole Nowicki      |
| Glenn Geske          | Jim Nowicki         |
| Lynn Geske           | Vinny Popelka       |
| Gina Gugala          | Debbie Schaff       |
| Anthony Hodnik       | Dorothy Scichowski  |
| Patricia Hodnik      | David Thomas        |
| Joseph Keim          | Valerie Thompson    |
| Nancy Klein          | Robert Tolomeo      |
| Ronald Klein         | Don Wehrheim, Jr.   |
| Martha Koukol        | Grace Wesinger      |
|                      | Fred Zahn           |

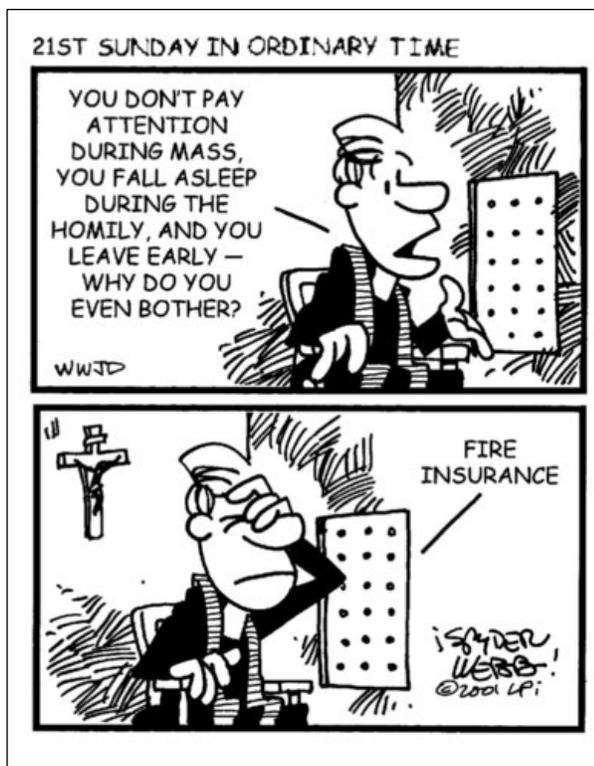
**The individuals who are on our prayers list will continue to be on our prayer list for six months.**

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](http://StPeterCatholicChurch.org) and after clicking where it reads **CONTACT US**, simply follow the directions under **PRAYER REQUEST**.

“FOR THOSE WITH FAITH, NO EVIDENCE IS NECESSARY; FOR THOSE WITHOUT IT, NO EVIDENCE WILL SUFFICE.”

— St. Thomas Aquinas





# PARISH CALENDAR

**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

## Bulletin Editors

Steve & DeAnne Besetzny

Bulletin\_Editor\_StPeter@aol.com

## Ministries

### Altar Servers

Tony Rygiel 815-482-6618

### 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.svdp@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

**Sunday, August 24<sup>th</sup> - 21<sup>st</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time**

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

**Monday, August 25<sup>th</sup> - Parish Office Closed**

**Tuesday, August 26<sup>th</sup>**

- **K of C Planning Meeting - Parish Hall - 7:00 pm**

**Wednesday, August 27<sup>th</sup>**

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

**Thursday, August 28<sup>th</sup>**

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

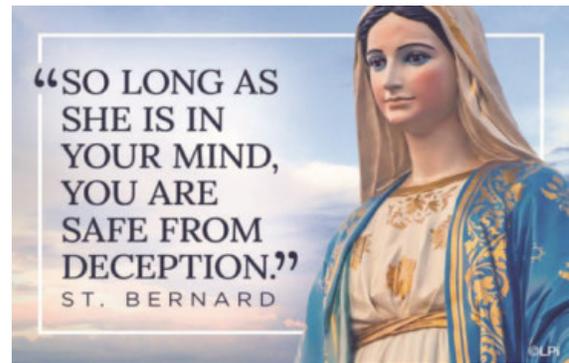
**Friday, August 29<sup>th</sup> - Parish Office Closed**

**Saturday, August 30<sup>th</sup>**

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

**Sunday, August 31<sup>st</sup> - 22<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time**

- **Benediction & Reposition of the Blessed Sacrament - 7:45 am**



*"If Christ did not want to dismiss the Jews without food in the desert for fear that they would collapse on the way, it was to teach us that it is dangerous to try to get to heaven without the Bread of Heaven."*

— St. Jerome



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**MORE INFO**

815-520-7549  
cmhm@rockforddiocese.org

**Catholic Charities**



## 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](http://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.

**ANOINTING 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, 26<sup>th</sup>  
Parish Hall - 7:00 pm

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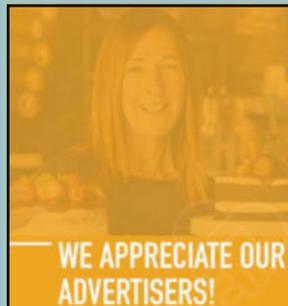
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