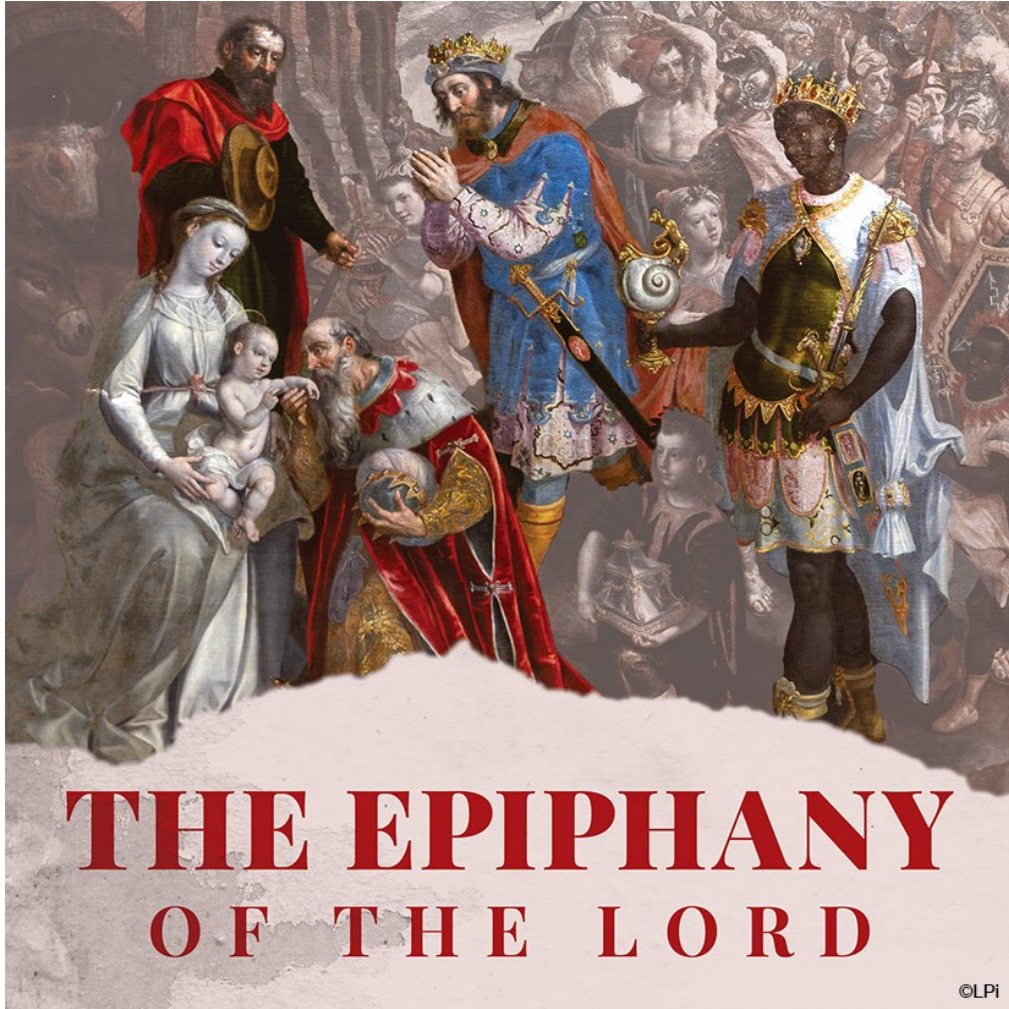


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St. Peter's Church

OF SPRING GROVE, IL



Sunday, January 4, 2026
The Epiphany of the Lord

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.

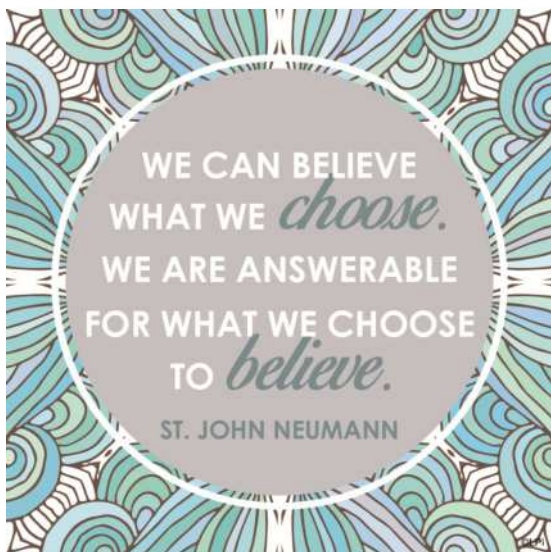
Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

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



EPIPHANY

Each year, we celebrate the Epiphany of the Lord in early January. The feast of the Epiphany commemorates the Magi seeking and finding the Christ Child and bestowing on Him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. In some countries and cultures, children receive gifts on this day instead of Christmas. This year, we celebrate the Epiphany on January 4, though the traditional date is January 6. Like the Wise Men who traveled from distant lands to see Christ the King, we have gifts that we can put at the disposal of God and His Kingdom. ***What are some gifts God might be calling us to use for His purpose?***



The Three Wise Men

Question:

Magi, Three Kings, Three Wise Men... who were they?

Answer:

We sing songs, give gifts, and move three mysterious men into our manger scenes. There's a rich heritage in the Catholic Church of celebrating the magi, but their origins are steeped in mystery. The original Greek calls these men *magoi*. The word is translated elsewhere in Scripture to mean "*magician*," but a similar word was used in ancient history to describe an entirely different set of people altogether. In what is now modern-day Iran, the ruling empire had a wealthy priestly caste known as the Magi. At the time of Christ, the Magi formed one of the ruling councils of the Parthian Empire. These priests interpreted dreams and read the stars to anticipate major events that could affect the fortunes of the empire.

We're not exactly sure where the magi of the Gospels traveled from. Matthew simply says "*the east*." History tells us that the ancient regions of Persia, Assyria, and Babylon all had a magi priesthood at the time of Christ. Whichever region they hailed from, they likely traveled over one thousand miles over the course of several months to arrive at the Holy Family. Unfortunately for the classic song, there is no concrete evidence these men were themselves kings, though they did bear gifts "*from afar*" at the prompting of their astronomical calculations.

Mark Your Calendars
for the
Annual Parish
**Spaghetti
Dinner**



Saturday, February 7th
Two seatings (5:00 pm & 7:15 pm)
More Information to Come!

Live the Liturgy Inspiration of the Week

The journey of the Magi reflects how treacherous our Christian life on earth can be. Always, evil works against us—Satan lays traps. He sows confusion. May we, like the Magi, recognize the will of God as our guiding star.



Devotions, Explained! Epiphany Blessing, Explained

The Epiphany household blessing is a centuries-old tradition that invokes God's blessing on all who enter one's home.

All you need for an Epiphany blessing is chalk, which is usually made available by parishes either on the feast of the Epiphany or in the weeks leading up to it. There are a few different formulas for blessings out there, but the essence of the ritual is always the same: a priest or the head of the household calls down God's blessing on the house and everyone who comes into it, and an inscription is made above the door in chalk.

The inscription reads: the first two digits of the year + C + M + B + the last two digits of the year. **The initials C, M and B represent the names of the magi—Caspar, Melchior and Balthasar—and also signify the Latin phrase *Christus mansionem benedicat*: “May Christ bless the house.”**

Temporary Maintenance Person Needed

Part-Time Temporary (3-4 months) Maintenance Person. Hours M-F 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. (and “on call” in emergencies). Candidates must complete all required diocesan Safe Environment documentation.

Skills needed

- shoveling and salting sidewalks
- moving heavy banquet tables and chairs
- making minor plumbing, heating, carpentry repairs
- Vacuuming and mopping
- emptying trash and recycling bins
- cleaning, polishing and sanitizing surfaces
- Maintenance experience is a plus.
- The job pays \$15 per hour.

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<https://www.rockforddiocese.org/pdfs/accounting/Summary-of-Benefits.pdf?1718048277>

Interested parties may call 815-675-2288 x 205 for more information.

GO EVANGELIZE

PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

God chose Bethlehem—a seemingly insignificant town—to be the birthplace of His Son. Like Bethlehem, we too, have been chosen by God. As we continue our celebration of Christmas, our hearts are filled to overflowing when we recall that by taking on our flesh, God has chosen to make His home with us for all eternity.

Paul reminds us that God has chosen us, not only for ourselves, but for the sake of others: *“You have heard of the stewardship of God’s grace that was given to me for your benefit.”* God gives Paul a special revelation to know the mystery of God so he could preach the Gospel to the Gentiles and to all peoples. We who know the joy of having been chosen to be God’s beloved sons and daughters have the beautiful task of helping others to know that they, too, are chosen by God. Because of this, evangelization is not simply an item on our spiritual to-do list; it is a work of joy—the joy of helping others to discover their own “belovedness” as children of God. And of course, this message is for *everyone*!



INVITATION

One of the best presents we can offer to someone is our presence. Make an effort this week to intentionally spend time with someone who may feel lonely or forgotten, setting aside other tasks to focus entirely on them. The goal is to help them feel special and *chosen* as a way of giving a glimpse of God’s love that chooses each of us out of the many. May the gift of your presence help them to remember how very loved they are.

“Do something beautiful for God. Do it with your life. Do it every day. Do it in your own way. But do it.” ~ St. Mother Teresa ~

(PRACTICING) CATHOLIC

THE STARS WE FOLLOW

Mini reflection: Of all the stars you could follow, which one does the voice—that one deep within you—tell you to chase? Point to it. And go forth.

Everyone follows a star.

It is human nature to seek. If we are rich, we want to be richer. If we are smart, we want to be smarter. If we are powerful, we want to be more powerful.

We cannot stay in one place, so to speak—to say, “I am what I am, I have what I have, and it is enough.” Even the very act of maintaining a status quo, be it health or wealth or spiritual goodness, requires action. It requires effort. It requires movement. This is human nature. There is nothing wrong with it. When we stop seeking, we die.

But what are we looking for? Where are we going? I often wonder if the Magi knew what they were seeking—really, truly knew. They were seeking “the newborn king of the Jews,” yes, but did they understand who he was? *What* he was? I don’t see how they could have. They were wise men, but they were not prophets. They simply knew this was an endeavor they had to undertake. They knew it in their souls.

There really is very little that we know for certain about the Magi. We don’t know how many of them there were. We don’t know their religion. We don’t know where they came from. All we know for certain is that they listened to a voice they heard deep within themselves. And, heeding that voice, they went forth.

And what did they find? They found what we all seek, even if, foolishly, we seek it in riches or power.

They found the face of the Child.

So tell me this. Of all the stars you could follow, which one does the voice—that one deep within you—tell you to chase?

Point to it. And go forth.

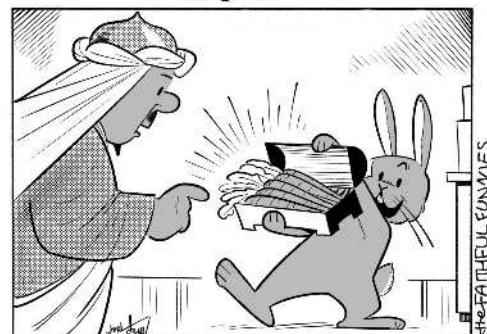
~ Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman



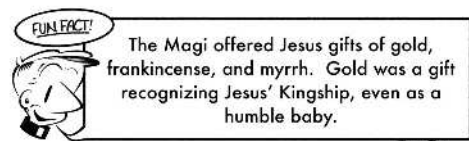
WEEKENDS
1/3/ - 1/11/2026

| The Mass | | | For |
|---|-------|---|--|
| | | | |
| CONFESSIONS OFFERED ON SATURDAY'S, 3:00 - 3:45 P.M. ROSARY PRAYED AT 3:30 P.M. | | | |
| | | | |
| THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD | | | |
| Sat | 4 pm | † | Kristin Popelka |
| Sun | 8 am | † | Jack Schmitt |
| | 10 am | † | Diana Kula The parishioners of St. Peter's Church |
| | | | |
| Tues | 8 am | † | Gerry Fasett |
| Wed | 8 am | † | Richard Seil |
| Thur | 8 am | † | Patrick Mulcahey |
| Fri | 8 am | † | Sandra Tinsley |
| | | | |
| THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD | | | |
| Sat | 4 pm | † | Eugene Jakubowski |
| Sun | 8 am | † | Gerri Stack The parishioners of St. Peter's Church |
| | 10 am | † | Deceased Members of the Kathrein Family |

"I thought you said this was a chest of gold?"



"Yes! It's 14 carrots!"

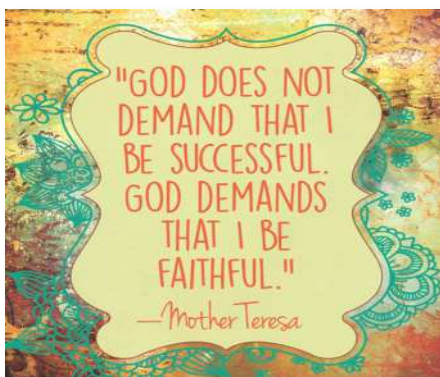


The Magi offered Jesus gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. Gold was a gift recognizing Jesus' Kingship, even as a humble baby.

**Faith As Small As A Mustard
Seed Can Move Mountains.**

Matthew 17:20

| | Lectors | Extraordinary Ministers | Ushers |
|---|----------------|---|----------------------------------|
| THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD | | | |
| Saturday 1/3 4:00 pm | Jerry Bodden | Deacon Mark | Denise Wahls Deb Christian |
| Sunday 1/4 8:00 am | Eleanor Murphy | Mary Seil | Paul Leali Vince Desecki |
| 10:00 am | Tom Straley | Susan Straley <i>Darien Martinez (Choir)</i> | Dave Harms Kathleen Harms |
| THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD | | | |
| Saturday 1/10 4:00 pm | Aimee Thomas | Heather Justen | Maureen Terry Rich Wirsch |
| Sunday 1/11 8:00 am | Ardie Arnold | Deacon Mark | Sean Gosselin Dennis Wehrheim |
| 10:00 am | Joanne Prato | Nettie Toms <i>Kathie Toms (Choir)</i> | Stan Tinsley John Ellicson |
| Homebound Ministers January 4th: The Epiphany of the Lord Deacon Mark, Maria Sullivan, Eddie Wells, Stan Tinsley & Paul Serio January 11th: The Baptism of the Lord Theresa Frer, Julia Francis, Maria Sullivan, Mary Seil & Kathleen Van Ella | | | |



When we are separated from God, we lose sight of what is good and important to us. When we disobey God and begin to serve ourselves, we become spiritually blind. Left to our own devices, humans are spiritually blinded and without hope. But Jesus, the Light of the World, can open our eyes to see.
Through Christ we receive spiritual sight!

Our Sanctuary Lamp burns from December 28th – January 10th for

† John & Kristin Popelka

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
Christel Beyerlein
Joan Boettjer
Patty Brown
Deb Christian
Deb Cooke
Deacon Eugene Damian
Phyllis Ehlers
Robert Fenrich
Carol Flatley
Glenn Geske
Lynn Geske
Gina Gugala
Anthony Hodnik
Patricia Hodnik
Christopher Hautala
Joseph Keim
Nancy Klein
Ronald Klein

Martha Koukol
Mark & Kim Krakowski
Larry & LeeAnn Lord
Caroline Madson
Denise Meyers
Larry Meyers
Barbara Miller
Norma Moretti
John Mueller
Carole Nowicki
Jim Nowicki
John & Sandra Paleka
Debbie Schaff
Dorothy Scichowski
David Thomas
Valerie Thompson
Robert Tolomeo
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.**

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.



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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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.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, January 4th - The Epiphany of the Lord

- **Benediction & Reposition of the Blessed Sacrament - 7:45 am**
- **OCIA - Parish Office Upstairs Class Room - 9:00 am**
- **Faith Formation Classes - 3rd, 4th & 5th - 5:30 pm**

Monday, January 5th - Parish Office Closed

Tuesday, January 6th

Wednesday, January 7th

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

Thursday, January 8th

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

Friday, January 9th - Parish Office Closed

Saturday, January 10th

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

Sunday, January 11th - The Baptism of the Lord

- **Benediction & Reposition of the Blessed Sacrament - 7:45 am**
- **OCIA - Parish Office Upstairs Class Room - 9:00 am**
- **Faith Formation Classes - 1st, 2nd, 7th & 8th - 5:30 pm**

January Lecture Series: *Encounter Jesus: Silent Retreat*

at St. Benedict Abbey Retreat Center, Benet Lake, WI

Thursday evenings, Jan. 8, 15, 22, and 29
7:00pm - 8:00pm

presenter:



Br. Matthew

Participants must register.

Call 262-396-4311, ext. 105 to register.

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"When you know how much
God is in love
With You

Then you can only live your
Life radiating that love."

ST. Teresa of Calcutta



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.

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

Business Meeting - January 13th

Parish Hall - 7:00 pm

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