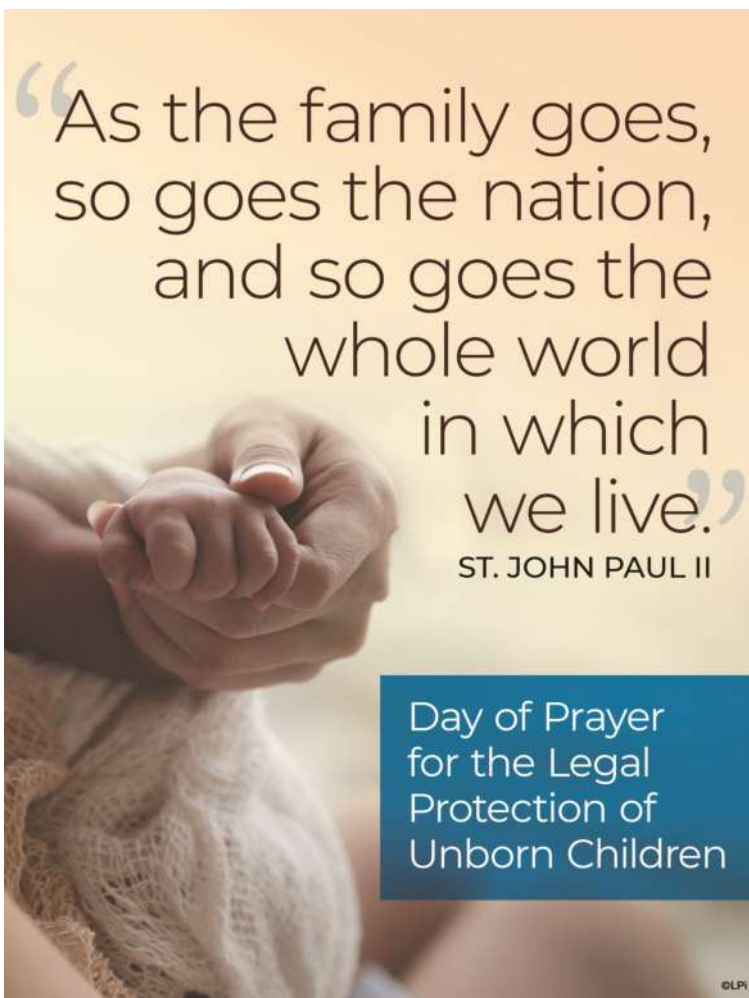


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St. Peter's Church

OF SPRING GROVE, IL



Sunday, January 18, 2026

Second 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.

Parish LiFE Note - January 2026

THE UNBORN

The U.S. Catholic Church observes January 22 (the anniversary of the original 1973 Roe v. Wade decision) as a "Day of Prayer for the Legal Protection of Unborn Children" in the liturgy. The overturning of the nation's prior pro-abortion Supreme Court decision made the legality of abortion a state decision. As we have seen, this change has neither deterred moms in crisis pregnancies from seeking abortions, nor swayed abortion providers from giving these women access. Laws do not necessarily change hearts. Yet, it's people's hearts that we must change to save lives! That begins with prayer and the charity borne from an active relationship with God.



Diocese of Rockford's
Life and Family
Evangelization (LiFE)
Office

rockforddiocese.org/life | Text LIFEDIGNITY to 84576 to receive our Flocknotes.

33 Days to Eucharistic Glory

An incredible journey awaits you this Lent—an *invitation to participate in a spiritual pilgrimage!* This journey will lead you to the essence of what it truly means to be Catholic. This journey will change your life in a most marvelous way. This Lent you may give up something, but I encourage you to step out and take this Eucharistic journey with other parishioners to find Jesus in the Most Holy Eucharist.

We are offering to the St. Peter's community, the opportunity to study Matthew Kelly's book, "33 Days to Eucharistic Glory."

To find out more about this program for Lent, join us on Sunday, Jan. 25 after each Mass for an informational meeting.

In Christ, Deacon Mark



Mark Your Calendars for the Annual Parish Spaghetti Dinner Saturday, February 7th

Two seatings (5:00 pm & 7:15 pm)

Dinner will include salad, bread, spaghetti and meatballs, wine or soda and a selection of desserts.

Adults - \$16 per person

Kids (5-12) - \$8

Kids under 5 - Free



Seating is limited, so please return the registration form you received in the mail no later than Monday, February 2nd.

To help with the event, sign-up on the bulletin boards in the vestibule before or after Masses.

This is a great opportunity to earn service hours too!

Coming this Spring

St. Peter's will be working with Universal Church Directories to create a new Parish Directory.

We are currently looking for a hobbyist photographer who would be willing to take some high resolution photographs of our renovated church, as well as photographs of our ministries.

If you are interested, please call Laura in the Parish Office at 815-675-2288.



Dear Parishioners of St. Peter's

I would like to take this time to say thank you. For all the good wishes and cards and gifts that were given to me and my wife this Christmas season. You have made Diane and me very welcome here at St. Peter's. It has been an honor to serve as your Deacon in the past year and I hope for many more years to come.

Thank You

In Christ, Deacon Mark

Live the Liturgy Inspiration of the Week

Do we recognize Christ when we see Him? Do we have the courage to point Him out, to show others who He is? John cried out so the whole world could hear: "He is the Son of God." Always and everywhere, let us do the same.

Don't Wait, Sign Up Today!

Sausage Soiree/Sausage Making

Come spend a FUN afternoon with us,
you can be on your "wurst" behavior.



Who: Your Knights of Columbus are pleased to offer

What: Our 15th Annual Sausage Soiree

When: February 1st after 10:00 a.m. Mass

Where: Our Parish Hall

Why: Because we can! And besides: What else do you have planned for a Sunday afternoon in February in northern Illinois?

Cost: \$25 per person

Reservations Required by Wednesday, January 28th!

To Reserve Your Space, please contact **Lee M. Jones**
L.Jones@mchsi.com (preferred) or 815-403-8122

The Helping Hands Food Pantry in
Spring Grove is always looking for
volunteers on Tuesdays and
Thursdays between 3:30 p.m.
and 6:00 p.m.



If interested, please contact Deb Christian
at christiandeb@comcast.net for more details.

Why Do Catholics Bless Themselves With Holy Water?

Blessing ourselves with holy water when entering a Catholic Church recalls the ritual washing of the Old Testament, through which the Jews purified themselves before approaching God in the Temple. St. John the Baptist built on this tradition by using water as a sign of repentance and conversion.

Today, this gesture reminds us of our baptism and renews our commitment to live the faith. As a sacramental, holy water disposes us to receive God's grace, strengthens us against temptation, and with proper repentance, helps remit venial sins.

TURNING OUR HEARTS BACK TO GOD

Converting our hearts back to God begins with an honest pause—not a dramatic moment, but a decision to look at our lives as they really are.

What shapes our days? What gets our best energy, our first thoughts, our deepest trust? Whatever holds that place is, in practice, what we put first.

Putting God first starts with intention: We make room for Him by removing what crowds Him out. A few minutes of prayer before reaching for a phone. A short passage of Scripture read slowly instead of rushed. These small choices retrain the heart. They remind us to whom we belong.

Repentance is part of the return: But it is not about shame. It is about direction. To repent means to turn. We admit where we've drifted and choose a better path. God does not demand perfection before welcoming us back. He asks for honesty and willingness.

Trust follows close behind: Many of us profess trust in God but still rely on our own control. Putting Him first means surrendering outcomes we cannot manage anyway. It means praying not only for help, but for guidance, even when the answer may change our plans.

Faith moves us to action: When we align our choices with God's teachings, our hearts follow. **Faith leads to action.** Forgiving when necessary. Serving when it is inconvenient. Giving when it feels risky. These actions reshape our priorities.

Community matters: Worship, shared prayer, and accountability keep our hearts oriented toward God when we are tempted to drift.

Turning back to God is rarely instantaneous.

It is daily, deliberate and deeply personal. Each step taken toward Him strengthens the heart's true center.

"Do not let the past disturb you.
Just leave everything in the Sacred Heart
and begin again with joy."
~ St. Teresa of Calcutta

(PRACTICING) CATHOLIC

RECOGNIZE GOD IN YOUR ORDINARY MOMENTS

BEHOLD THE LAMB

Mini reflection: John the Baptist recognizes Jesus when he sees him, though there is nothing extraordinary-looking about him. This is how Jesus comes to us today: veiled in the ordinary. He is in the people who are easiest to miss, the easiest to ignore, the easiest from whom it is to turn away.

“Behold the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world.”

Be honest. When the priest or deacon read this line from the Gospel today, did your brain finish it with: *“Blessed are those who are called to the supper of the Lamb?”* (Mine did. And then I almost blurted out: *“Lord, I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof, but only say the word and my soul will be healed.”* Because it’s Sunday morning, and I’m tired.)

We hear the words of John the Baptist every Sunday in the *Agnus Dei*. If you have been Catholic since childhood, the words of this rite are probably ingrained in your memory, like a groove worn across a wooden floor by the scratching of an often-used chair. That’s the beautiful thing about our liturgy: it gets inside of you, and it doesn’t leave. I’ve never met a Catholic, however long-fallen-away, who did not recall the responses of the Mass.

When the priest says or chants the *Agnus Dei*, he is showing us the Host—the most ordinary-looking thing you ever did see. Nothing interesting about it whatsoever. Nothing that would make a person give it a second glance.

John the Baptist recognizes Jesus when he sees him, though there is nothing extraordinary-looking about him. There is nothing that would make a person give Jesus a second glance, if that person expected redemption to come in a loud, aggressive show of power.

And this is how Jesus comes to us today: veiled in the ordinary. He is in the people who are easiest to miss, the easiest to ignore, the easiest from whom it is to turn away.

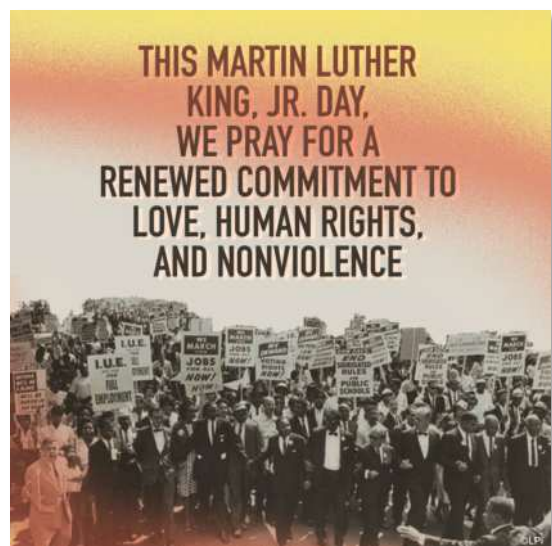
Consider what the world could look like, if an instinct to love and reverence those people were as deeply ingrained in us as the beautiful words so easily on our lips: *“Lord, I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof, but only say the word and my soul will be healed.”*

~ Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman



WEEKENDS
1/17/ - 1/25/2026

The Mass			For
CONFESSIONS OFFERED ON SATURDAY'S, 3:00 - 3:45 P.M. ROSARY PRAYED AT 3:30 P.M.			
SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME			
Sat	4 pm		Msgr. Joseph Jarmoluk
Sun	8 am	†	LeRoy & Shirley Harms
	10 am	†	Diana Kula <hr/> The parishioners of St. Peter's Church
Tuesday - Friday, Rosary Prayed at 7:30 a.m.			
Tues	8 am	†	Patrick Mulcahey & Jinny Lee Waters
Wed	8 am	†	Stan & Helen Igielski
Thur	8 am		Jeff & Kerri Harris
Fri	8 am	†	Deceased Members of the Green & Walsh Families
THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME			
Sat	4 pm	†	John Popelka
Sun	8 am		The parishioners of St. Peter's Church
	10 am	†	Deceased Members of the Rygiel - Kula Families



	Lectors	Extraordinary Ministers	Ushers
SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME			
Saturday 1/17 4:00 pm	Jacqui Wold	Cyndee Wehrheim <i>Joanne Prato</i> (Choir)	Stan Tinsley Denise Wahls
Sunday 1/18 8:00 am	Carol Magnine	Nancy Piggot	Tom Fanella Larry Hauser
10:00 am	Darien Martinez	Deacon Mark <i>Sharon Ellicson</i> (Choir)	Mike Wyatt Mike Gordon
THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME			
Saturday 1/24 4:00 pm	Peggy Mack	Deacon Mark	Deb Christian Rich Wirch Mike Wyatt
Sunday 1/25 8:00 am	Kathy Rietschel	Eddie Wells	Paul Leali Vince Desecki
10:00 am	Aimee Thomas	Mike Rygiel <i>Carol Rygiel</i> (Choir)	Dave Harms Kathleen Harms

Homebound Ministers

January 18th: 2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

Peggy Neuman, Deanna Grandt, Nancy Piggot, Don Piggot & Eddie Wells

January 25th: 3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

Deacon Mark, Maria Sullivan, Theresa Frer, Eddie Wells & Steve Besetzny

Our Sanctuary Lamp burns from
January 11th – January 24th for

† **Danny Michelotti**

May this light which reminds us of
Jesus' True Presence in the Sanctuary
Welcome him 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

Bulletin Editors

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 18th - 2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

- **Benediction & Reposition of the Blessed Sacrament - 7:45 am**
- **SVdP Meeting - Parish Hall - 11:00 am**
- **NO Faith Formation Classes**

Monday, January 19th - Parish Office Closed

- **Faith Formation Classes - 3rd, 4th, 5th & 6th - 5:30 pm**

Tuesday, January 20th

Wednesday, January 21st

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

Thursday, January 22nd

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

Friday, January 23rd - Parish Office Closed

Saturday, January 24th

- **Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament all night until 7:45 am**
- **Faith Formation Family Fellowship - After 4:00 Mass**

Sunday, January 25th - 3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

- **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**



Prospective Family Visit

January 25th, 10am - 12:30pm

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A thriving school community that feels like family

Who Should Attend?

This event is intended for prospective families only who are considering enrollment at St. John the Baptist Catholic Academy. Whether you are exploring options for next year or planning ahead, we would love to welcome you.

St. John the Baptist Catholic Academy 2304 W Church Street Join us for Mass at 9am!



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 - Tuesday, January 27

Parish Hall - 7:00 pm

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