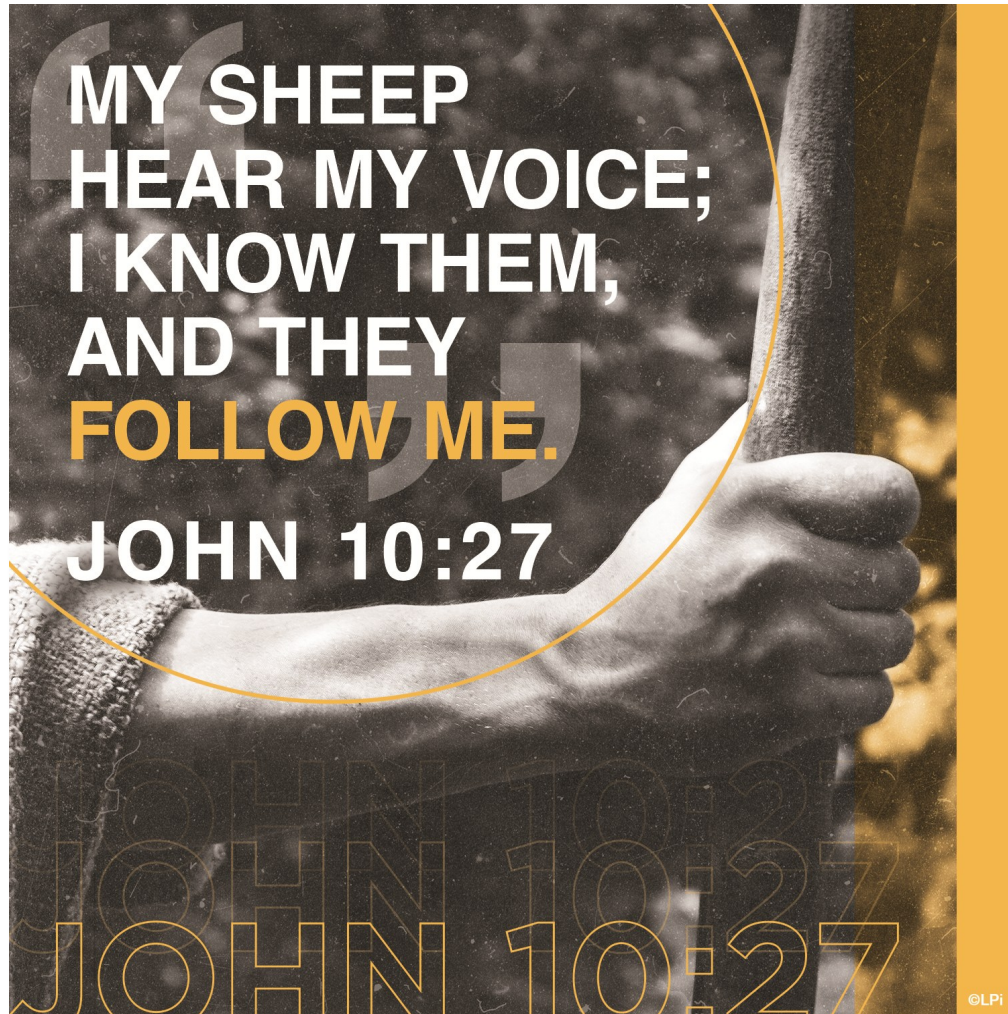




St. Peter's Church

OF SPRING GROVE, IL



Sunday, April 26, 2026 Fourth Sunday of Easter

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.



CALLED BY NAME

Honoring Faithful Young Men

This weekend is Called by Name Sunday!

Bishop Malloy is asking us to identify faithful young men (ages 15-30) who exhibit qualities of leadership and service, and who may be open to the priesthood. To submit names, please visit www.RockfordPriest.org/CALLED. Those whose you submit will receive a letter of encouragement from Bishop Malloy, invitations to discernment events, and support from our Vocation Team.

*Thank you for your participation
in this important campaign!*



Sausage Soiree/Sausage Making A FUN afternoon

Sunday, May 17th

Please join us for an afternoon of sausage making, just in time for Memorial Day and Summer grilling.



Who: Sponsored by your Knights of Columbus

What: An afternoon of sausage making where you will make sausage from start to finish and take home what you make.

When: Sunday, May 17th - 1:00 - 4:00 p.m.

Where: Our Parish Hall

Why: Because we can :-)

Cost: \$25 per person - Adults (over 18) only
Space is limited.

To reserve your place, please contact
Lee M. Jones
815-675-1264 or L.Jones@mchsi.com

Virtue of Humility Explained

"If anyone wishes to be first," Christ told the Apostles in the Gospel of Mark, ***"he must become the last of all and the servant of all."*** (Mark 9:35).

True humility does not require us to ignore, underestimate or hide our gifts—it merely demands that we use these gifts rightly, with



the knowledge that they are from our Creator and meant for His glory, not our own. *"Man is a beggar before God,"* said St. Augustine.

The Blessed Mother is the perfect model of this, and her Magnificat (*Luke 1:46-55*) is a blueprint for a life lived in joyful humility.

Humility, says the Catechism, is also the key to a fruitful prayer life: ***"Humility is the foundation of prayer. Only when we humbly acknowledge that 'we do not know how to pray as we ought,' are we ready to receive freely the gift of prayer."*** (CCC 2559)

Recognizing the Voice of Jesus

When my wireless provider introduced HD Voice, the voice I heard on my phone was unbelievably clear, and it felt at times like both the caller and I were in the same room. The best aspect of this feature is that it didn't cost the customer any additional fees, and it didn't require any changes to the phone. I could say it was free, but I suspect I was already paying for it in my monthly bill anyway. At least it felt free.

The clearer the voice calling you, the easier it is to recognize who it is on the other end of the line. In John's Gospel, Jesus speaks of the gatekeeper who opens the gate and calls for his sheep. They respond because they know his voice. Others try to lure the sheep when the gatekeeper is not there, but the sheep find their voices unclear or unfamiliar.

Jesus is our gatekeeper. But unlike receiving something for free from a wireless company, to be able to hear his voice we need to pay attention and practice listening. By developing a stewardship way of life that is mindful and prayerful, we become attuned to his voice and are able to discern when the call is from our Lord and when it is from an imposter. It is great to talk about all the things we can do and all the gifts we can share, but if we are not listening for his call to hear where our offerings are needed, we can end up like a lost sheep searching for the gatekeeper.

—Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS

God Might be Calling You!

The Eucharist is astonishing. God Himself wants to nourish us. You are a delicate composition of body and soul. God Himself wants to feed us spiritually. God wants to dwell within you. **Today God might be asking you to prayerfully consider becoming a Eucharistic Minister or Minister to the Homebound to feed His Church with His very Flesh and Blood.**

Jesus said: "I am the living bread that came down from heaven; if any one eats of this bread, he will live for ever; . . . he who eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life and . . . abides in me, and I in him" (Jn 6:51, 54, 56).

Do you hear the voice of Your Shepherd?

Is He calling you to this vitally important ministry.

Call the Parish Office to Inquire!

Being a Eucharistic Minister is a very rewarding experience which both the communicant and the minister benefit from. They both receive the healing presence of God in their life. A very special bond is formed in faith, hope and love.

GOSPEL MEDITATION

ENCOURAGE DEEPER UNDERSTANDING OF SCRIPTURE

"I am the good shepherd. A good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep." John 10:11

My most boring job was working at an insurance company as a college student. My main task? Filing. Now imagine if I had told my supervisor, "I just want you to know, I'm willing to die for these files." She would have called a psychiatrist—or at least security.

There is something absurd in Jesus' words in today's Gospel: **"I am the good shepherd... I lay down my life for the sheep."** (John 10:11) It sounds noble, until you think about it. No one dies for sheep.

Not a hired hand.
Not even a good shepherd. Sheep are important, sure, but not worth a human life.

And yet, Jesus insists: *I will die for them.* The crowd understandably responds:

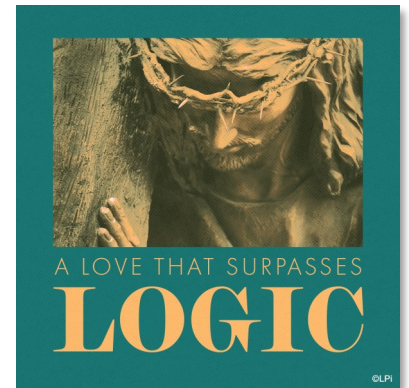
"He is out of his mind."

C.S. Lewis once said that Jesus does not leave us the option of calling him merely a good teacher. If someone speaks like him, he is either lying, crazy, or telling the truth. John's Gospel won't let us stay sentimental. Jesus means it. He reveals a love that surpasses logic—a love that measures worth not by strength or success, but by the willingness to suffer unto death.

The Good Shepherd's madness is mercy. His cross makes no earthly sense and yet it makes divine sense. He lays down his life not for kings or saints but for sheep—for the ordinary, the unworthy, for you and me.

Think of someone who may feel unworthy of love. Do something simple and generous for them, not because they deserve it, but because Jesus did the same for you.

—Father John Muir



(PRACTICING) CATHOLIC

RECOGNIZE GOD IN YOUR ORDINARY MOMENTS

THE DEVIL'S LONG CON

Mini reflection: We can recognize what is real by where it comes from. What it sounds like. This ability to discern truth is written into our souls. We can ignore it, if we want. Suppress it. We can follow the stranger. But where will he lead?

The algorithm on my streaming service has been suggesting a lot of romantic scam documentaries lately. If you're not familiar, romantic scams are a particularly cruel form of "the long con."

Some man presents himself to some woman as Prince Charming. He wines her. He dines her. He charms her mom and makes her friends jealous. Little red flags pop up here and there, but she shrugs them all off. She accepts convenient explanations.

She just wants to be happy.

And then one day, Prince Charming vanishes, along with the contents of the woman's savings account. Every victim says the same thing: "I should have known better, but I wanted it to be real."

I think the reason I'm so drawn to these shows is that I identify with these women. No, I've never been the victim of a romantic scam (if my husband married me thinking he would gain access to some kind of fortune, he's the one who got scammed). But we have all told ourselves that something *is* right because it *feels* right. We have shrugged off doubts about a choice, a relationship, a habit.

We have accepted easy answers that don't pass the sniff test—because we really, really wanted an answer, and we really, really wanted it to be easy.

The devil is a romantic scammer. A third-party retailer hawking knock-off joy and fulfillment. A wolf in sheep's clothing. A false prophet. A thief, a robber who has climbed the fence, knowing the gate will not admit him.

These are all different ways of saying the same thing: we can recognize what is real by where it comes from. What it sounds like. This ability to discern truth is written into our souls. We can ignore it, if we want. Suppress it. We can follow the stranger.

But where will he lead?

~ Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman



WEEKENDS
4/25 - 5/3/2026

The Mass		For	
FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER			
Sat	4 pm	†	Bruno & Genevieve Witek
Sun	8 am		The parishioners of St. Peter's Church
	10 am	†	Patricia Skokowski
Tues	8 am	†	Brad Mucek
Wed	8 am	†	Kattner Family
Thur	8 am	†	Tim Harms
Fri	8 am	†	Kathy Witek
FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER			
Sat	4 pm	†	Clarence & Mildred Shastal
Sun	8 am		The parishioners of St. Peter's Church
	10 am	†	Patricia Skokowski

Mark Your Calendars Knights of Columbus Breakfast Sunday, May 3rd

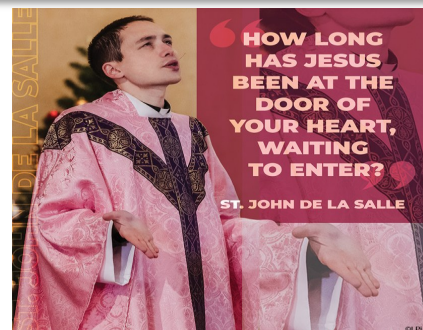


After the 8:00 and 10:00 a.m. Masses!

Gather your family, friends, neighbors for a wonderful breakfast cooked by your Knights.

(As always a free-will donation is always appreciated!)

PRAY FOR MORE
VOCATIONS 



	Lectors	Extraordinary Ministers	Ushers
4TH SUNDAY OF EASTER			
Saturday 4/25 4:00 pm	Jerry Bodden	Darien Martinez <i>Nettie Toms</i> <i>Kathie Toms</i> <i>(Precious Blood)</i>	Deb Christian Tom Stall
Sunday 4/26 8:00 am	Ardie Arnold	Mary Seil <i>DeAnne Besetzny</i> <i>(Choir)</i> <i>Marge Ladner</i> <i>Chris Chinni</i> <i>(Precious Blood)</i>	Larry Hauser Paul Leali
10:00 am	Peggy Mack	Cyndee Wehrheim <i>Sharon Ellicson</i> <i>(Choir)</i> <i>Deacon Mark</i> <i>Dennis Wehrheim</i> <i>(Precious Blood)</i>	Stan Tinsley Tom Straley
5TH SUNDAY OF EASTER			
Saturday 5/2 4:00 pm	Jean Rygiel	Katie Toms <i>Deacon Mark</i> <i>Nettie Toms</i> <i>(Precious Blood)</i>	Sean Gosselin Deb Christian
Sunday 5/3 8:00 am	Cyndee Wehrheim	Marge Ladner <i>DeAnne Besetzny</i> <i>(Choir)</i> <i>Eddie Wells</i> <i>Mary Seil</i> <i>(Precious Blood)</i>	Tom Fanella Larry Hauser
10:00 am	Stan Tinsley	Jacqui Wold <i>Jean Hlavin</i> <i>(Choir)</i> <i>Nancy Piggot</i> <i>Heather Justen</i> <i>(Precious Blood)</i>	Dave Harms Kathleen Harms

Homebound Ministers

April 26th: Fourth Sunday of Easter

Mary Seil, Kathleen Van Ella, Julia Francis, Eddie Wells & Steve Besetzny

May 3rd: Fifth Sunday of Easter

Deacon Mark, Peggy Neuman, Theresa Frer, Maria Sullivan & Stan Tinsley

Attention parishioners

We may be allowed a page or two in our New Parish Directory for candid pictures of parish events. If you have taken any photographs from parish events since Fr. Burt's arrival in August of 2025, please email them to SaintPetersChurch@gmail.com



Our Sanctuary Lamp burns from
April 19th – May 2nd for
† *Kathy Witek*
May this light which reminds us of
Jesus' True Presence in the Sanctuary
Welcome her 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	Trudy Krieger
Christel Beyerlein	Larry Lord
Patty Brown	Caroline Madson
Deb Cooke	Denise Meyers
Deacon Eugene Damian	Larry Meyers
Phyllis Ehlers	Barbara Miller
Kathleen Van Ella	Norma Moretti
Robert Fenrich	John Mueller
Carol Flatley	Kevin Murray
Gail Gagnon	Carole Nowicki
Glenn Geske	Jim Nowicki
Lynn Geske	John & Sandra Paleka
Gina Gugala	Carol Sasse
Anthony Hodnik	Debbie Schaff
Patricia Hodnik	Dorothy Scichowski
Christopher Hautala	Bev Schmitt
John Jindra	David Thomas
Joseph Keim	Valerie Thompson
Nancy Klein	Robert Tolomeo
Ronald Klein	Mark Vallango
Martha Koukol	Grace Wesinger
Mark & Kim Krakowski	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.



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

Property Maintenance

Mark Krakowski

Marka.stpeter@gmail.com

Dave Hiller

Cemetery Sexton

Kevin Murray x216

Preschool 815-342-6318

Aimee Thomas

Religious Education 815-342-6318

Aimee Thomas

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.svd@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, April 26th - Fourth Sunday of Easter

- Faith Formation Classes - 1st, 3rd, 4th, 5th, 6th & 7th - 5:30 pm
- Bingo Night Faith Formation - Parish Hall

Monday, April 27th - Parish Office Closed

Tuesday, April 28th

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

Wednesday, April 29th

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

Thursday, April 30th

- Choir Rehearsal - 6:00 pm

Friday, May 1st - Parish Office Closed

Saturday, May 2nd

Sunday, May 3rd - Fifth Sunday of Easter

- K of C - Breakfast - Parish Hall - After All Masses
- Faith Formation Classes - 2nd & 8th - 5:30 pm





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

Planning Meeting - Tuesday, April 28th

Parish Hall - 7:00 pm

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