



St. Peter's Catholic Church

a country church in the city

Pastor

Fr Jacob Epstein
jepstein@dmdiocese.org

Deacons

Dcn Stephen Rallis

Dcn Pat Snook

patricksnook51503@yahoo.com

Office Manager

Tracy Carlson

officemanager@saintpeterscb.org

DRE

Heather Olson

religiouseducationdirector@saintpeterscb.org

Maintenance

Rob Beck

Mass Schedule

Saturday: 4pm

Sunday: 8am, 10am, 12 noon

Tues: Noon

Wed and Fri: 8am

Thurs: Noon and 5:30pm

Reconciliation

Saturday 3:00—3:45pm

Sunday 7:00-7:45am

Baptisms, Weddings, etc

Call or email the office!

PARISH WEBSITE www.saintpeterscb.org

PARISH PHONE NUMBER 712-318-3030

PARISH ROBOCALL NUMBER 1-800-679-0847



Save the Date!

Sunday, January 25th

Catholic School Week breakfast

After Masses, Social Hall

Monday, January 26th

Knights of Columbus dinner and meeting 6pm, Fr Kottas Social Hall

Sunday, February 8th

9th grade confirmation retreat

January 18, 2026
Second Sunday In Ordinary Times

From Father Jacob

St Peter's Book Club

The Seven Pillars of Catholic Spirituality Chapter 1: Confession

This week I read chapter one of our Matthew Kelly Christmas book, *The Seven Pillars of Catholic Spirituality*, maybe you've read it too, or maybe you will this next week. Let's talk about it!

I think one of Matthew Kelly's strengths as an author is the imagery and metaphors he uses throughout his writing. I loved the image of sports and coaching that he developed throughout the chapter as an analogy for confession. I thought it nicely cut through a lot of our common anxieties about confession. Many of us played sports growing up, and many of us strongly encouraged our kids to play sports. We would never have thought to avoid a coach or avoid critique of our play. In fact many people pay big money to have their kids get special coaching on their weaknesses. Why? Because we want to get better! Do we avoid self-criticism in the "game" of life?

What was your favorite image from Chapter 1?

Kelley provided a bunch of common objections to confession from a secular, protestant, and even Catholic perspective. I was especially struck by the continuation of the coaching image when he discussed going to your own priest vs another. I thought he nicely captured a mismatch between wanting to look good, and wanting to *be* good.

Did one of the objections most speak to you?

Overall, I was struck by the theme Kelley developed throughout the first chapter of confession as a tool for self-improvement. This is markedly different than how I (Fr Jacob) would usually approach the topic, but true and a good way of looking at it. God made you for greatness, so He gave the Sacraments to make you great!

Did one of the themes of the chapter strike you?

Priest chatbots and papal deepfakes

Over the last few months I have met some people who think that they have been "chatting" with priests online through various websites, or who have seen and acted on advice they think they received from videos of Pope Leo. In all these cases these good people were actually "talking to" or listening to AI-generated content posing as Catholic spiritual advice, and in some cases these people were deeply misled by these things.

People have all sorts of reasons for setting up these cons. In the best-case scenario, they know that videos of Pope Leo get a lot of hits and so they make fake ones to get the ad money from your clicks. In worse cases, they are actively trying to scam you using the skin of an institution you might trust and respect.

All of Pope Leo's public speeches are available on the Vatican website, and any respectable news article quoting him should link you to the original and give you a time and place when he said it. No priest I know has time to wait around for you to message him on a website, and it is impossible to give any of the sacraments over the internet or a phone call.

Envelopes for 2026

Thank you to everyone who continue to give to the parish! If you give by autodraft weekly or monthly, then we have special-event envelopes for your family in the back of church. You can pick up your envelopes on your way out of Mass.

Giving by bank autodraft is an easy way to consistently support the parish, and for many people helps them to make a budgeted decision about what their family wants to give this year and build it into their plan. To set up autodraft giving you can call the office and talk to or leave a message for Tracy.

January 18, 2026
Second Sunday In Ordinary Times

	Saturday 4:00pm Mass	Sunday 8:00am Mass	Sunday 10:00am Mass	Sunday 12:00pm Mass
	Jan 24, 2026	Jan 25, 2026	Jan 25, 2026	Jan 25, 2026
Altar Servers	Catholic Schools Week	Catholic Schools Week	Catholic Schools Week	Catholic Schools Week
Lectors	Catholic Schools Week	Catholic Schools Week	Catholic Schools Week	Catholic Schools Week
EMHC	Dylies King Eric King Wayne Stangl	Jim Havermann Norma Finn	Jill Clevenger Mary Brockelsby Jeromy Brockelsby	Trevor Yanovich
Ushers	Catholic Schools Week	Catholic Schools Week	Catholic Schools Week	Catholic Schools Week

MASS INTENTIONS
Tuesday, Jan 20th 12:00pm
Wednesday, Jan 21st 8:00am Robert & Betty Burke +
Thursday, Jan 22nd Noon Craig Suden + 5:30pm Wanda Maher †
Friday, Jan 23rd 8:00am Vanessa McIntosh +
Saturday, Jan 24th 4:00pm Larry Schlautman +
Sunday, Jan 25th 8:00am Jack Barton † 10:00am Joseph Burke + 12:00pm St Peter's Parish

READINGS FOR: January 25, 2026
1ST READING: Isaiah 8:23-9:3
2ND READING: I Corinthians 1:10-13, 17
GOSPEL: Matthew 4:12-23



Lent 2026



The World According to Bob

- Chocolate comes from cocoa. Cocoa comes from a tree. That makes it a plant, so chocolate is a salad.
- If your wife says correct me if I'm wrong. Do not under any circumstance correct her.
- Two slices of bread got married. The wedding was amazing until somebody decided to toast the bride and groom.
- Researchers say crows may have suddenly lost their ability to communicate. Experts say teams across the country are scrambling to find the caws.
- Did it bother anyone else that the guy from the game operation was clearly awake?

In just a month it will already be Lent! Mark your calendars now for our beautiful Lenten programs!

Keys dates:

Wednesday, 2/18

Ash Wednesday

Tuesdays in Lent

Mass, stations, and soup supper 5:30-7:30 pm

Thursdays in Lent

Quiet prayer time in church 3:00-9:00 pm

Fridays in Lent

Stations of the Cross 5:30 pm

Friday, 2/20 and 3/6

Knights of Columbus Shrimp Boil 5:30-7:30 pm

Thursday-Sunday 4/2-4/4

"Sacred Triduum"
Holy Thursday
Good Friday
Easter Sunday!

Father's Thought for the Week

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

John the Baptist was the greatest prophet because he not only foretold the coming of the savior but had the privilege to see and point him out as well.

As great as John the Baptist is, you have the exact same opportunity as he did! You, too, know where to find Jesus. You, too, can point him out to others. How is God asking you to prepare His way this week?



A Special Workshop: Surviving Divorce

Helping You Find Peace, Power, and Passion

Surviving Divorce

was created to bring hope and healing to those who have experienced the pain and loneliness of a broken marriage. It is for the newly separated and divorced and those still struggling with issues many years later. It will help find answers to their questions, restore hope, and begin authentic healing. It also includes personal testimonies of Catholic men and women who have experienced the breakdown of their families.

Surviving Divorce will help you:

- Work through the emotional upheaval of separation and divorce.
- Find personal healing and hope.
- Discover a deeper understanding of God's love for you.
- Gain wisdom and comfort from experts and others who share your experiences.
- Navigate new concerns like custody, court hearings, and finances.

For Men and
Women
Seeking
Healing from
Divorce

12 Session Workshop

Meeting weekly on Sundays from 6:00pm to 7:30pm at

St. Patrick Catholic Church
Hospitality Room
4 Valley View Drive
Council Bluffs, IA 51503

Cost for materials is \$30 with financial assistance available

First Session is February 22nd

Register by February 17th
by emailing patrick.tinley@yahoo.com

Have questions? Contact Pat Tinley at 402-980-9722
More Details: stpattickcb.org



Chili & Pie Contest Benefit
For Sister Parish
in Colombia



Saturday, January 24, 2026, 5:00PM– 6:30PM

Corpus Christi Great Hall, 3304 4th Ave,
Council Bluffs

Chili–Soup–Pie–Desserts–Beverages

All for a Free-Will Donation!

To enter contest, register
your homemade chili
and/or pie after Masses
on January 10/11
or January 16/17
... or call the parish office
(712-323-2916)
by January 21

Drop off your Chili and/or
Pie at the Great Hall
between 3:00 and 4:30
on Saturday, January 24

Chili Prizes*	Pie Prizes**:
1st: \$100	1st: \$50
2nd: \$50	2nd: \$25
3rd: \$25	3rd: \$15

*Judged by attendees
**Judged by selected panel

Event will also include
Silent Auction and
Raffle Items!!

Invite all your family to
come, eat and vote for
your favorite chili!




Knights Of Columbus
**SCHOLARSHIP
BREAKFAST**

Sunday, January 25th
After the 8AM & 10AM Masses
Free Will Donation

 St Peter's
Council 1045

 All Proceeds go to
Saint Albert
CATHOLIC
Scholarships

MENU

- Biscuits & Gravy
- Scrambled Eggs
- Bacon
- Sausage
- Fruit & Yougurt Parfait
- Juice, Milk & Coffee

**FULLY
ALIVE** 
YOUTH GROUP

**Attention All
High Schoolers!**

 YOUR VOICE MATTERS

It's easy to hear adults say, "You're the future of the Church," but Pope Leo and so many others remind us that you are also the present of the Church. Your questions, your struggles, your dreams – they matter right now. We're going to explore what it feels like to be heard, what keeps us silent, and why your voice is a gift that the Church needs.

**Join us on Sunday, February 1st
from 7–9pm at the
St Francis Worship Center, 238 S 6th St
Bring a Friend!**



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**Sunday, January
25th 2026**

1:00 PM - 3:00 PM

400 Gleason Ave
Council Bluffs, IA 51503

- ✓ Pre-K Roundup @ 1:00pm
- ✓ Kindergarten Roundup @ 1:30pm
- ✓ Learn about ESA's & Tuition @ 2pm
- ✓ Tour the School
- ✓ Meet Teachers and Coaches



For more info: Contact Sara Dew
dews@saintalbertschools.org



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St Anne's Altar Society

*Meets the 1st Thursday of the
month March - December at 6pm
in the social hall. All women of
the parish over the age of 18 are
automatically members.*

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St. Joseph Cemetery

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With Our Catholic Faith*



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Knights of Columbus Council 1045



Meeting 4th Monday of each month at 6pm in the social hall.

If interested in membership contact Sean Dunphy at 402-960-6215 or the parish office at 712-318-3030

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