

February 8, 2026
Fifth Sunday In Ordinary Times

From Father Jacob

St Peter's Book Club

The Seven Pillars of Catholic Spirituality Chapter 4: The Bible

This week I read chapter 4 of our Christmas giveaway book by Matthew Kelley: *The Seven Pillars of Catholic Spirituality*. Let's talk about it!

In this Chapter Matthew Kelly makes a few different kinds of arguments and tells us a few different kinds of stories: fictional or likely-fictional (the kid with the check in the Bible, anyone?), historical, and personal. I think this is a good analogy for the Bible itself: a person might read the story of the \$92,000 check in the Bible and think "that's made up", and likely so-it's a sort of parable. But it would be a mistake to apply that same logic to the historical story and argument that follows. A simple book like Kelly's contains different kinds of stories and different kinds of arguments. We have to keep them straight to understand what we're reading. The same is true of the Bible!

Kelly starts with an account of the history of the Bible and its place within the Church. Did you know this story? Think of this story next time we process the Book of the Gospels from the altar to the ambo during Mass. Would it strike you differently if that book was worth more than a car and was *the only* source of the teachings of Jesus you had?

The Bible is commonly available today, does that lead us to treat it as common? What would it look like to treat it as special?

The next story in the chapter is an account of people turning to God, and the Bible as the account of God's answer. Kelly proposes a reading list for reading the Bible, and I think it is a good one!

Have you read the Gospels before? Do you think you might read one for Lent this year?

On reading the Bible, or even hearing it at Mass, we could be attentive to stories, questions, and prayers. *Is there one aspect of the Bible that you especially love? What is your favorite story? Prayer? Theme?*

Lent 2026

Ash Wednesday is February 18th this year. This week is a good time to start thinking about what Lenten Disciplines you might wish to offer to God, and which would do you the most good. During Lent we think about *Prayer, Fasting, and Almsgiving*. Check out the flyer in the bulletin for ideas or take one home with you!

Our parish has so much going on during Lent! Next week we will be distributing our Lenten devotionals. We also have special events on Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays. These are especially good events to invite a friend to come with you!

Tuesdays: Soup Suppers / Parish Night

Join us Tuesday nights for all or some of Mass at 5:30, Stations of the Cross at 6:00, and the wonderful soup supper at 6:45. Please sign up to bring soup starting next Sunday!

Thursdays: Adoration and Prayer Night

Join us on Thursdays starting February 19th for prayer and adoration from 3:00pm to 9:00 pm, with 5:30pm Mass in the middle. We need people to commit to an hour of adoration on the Thursdays of Lent so we can keep the church open and Jesus on the altar. I hope very many people will stop in to visit with Jesus, even if for just a few minutes!

Fridays: Stations of the Cross

Join us on the Fridays of Lent for solemn Stations of the Cross with adoration and benediction. A beautiful way to enter into the preparation of Lent and to pray and walk with Jesus.

Shrimp Boils

And of course, join us for the KoC shrimp boils from 5:30—7:30 on February 20th and March 6th!

February 8, 2026
Fifth Sunday In Ordinary Times

	Saturday 4:00pm Mass	Sunday 8:00am Mass	Sunday 10:00am Mass	Sunday 12:00pm Mass
	Feb 14, 2026	Feb 15, 2026	Feb 15, 2026	Feb 15, 2026
Altar Servers	Emma Rodenburg Nicolas Rodenburg	Connor McGrath Elle McGrath Addie McGrath	Thomas Biederman Cole Noon Connor Noon	Ben Johnsen Keegan McCaffrey
Lectors	Wayne Stangl Cathy Assman	Gennette Wirtz Jim Pidgeon	Jon Garrigan Maureen Garrigan	Natalie Veater Mary Ramsdell
EMHC	Toni Hansen Jacque Liston Lucile Gerjevic	Patti Ford Roger Harvey	Jill Clevenger Dan Lighthipe Laura Cornelius	Trevor Yanovich
Ushers	Jack Gross Linda Bonham Fred Schaben Mark Assman	Mike Skipton George Garst Mike Rosloniec Oliver Juranek	Dave Bristol Jill Clevenger Peter Clevenger	Chris Olson Trevor Yanovich Rob Peters Mikey Donovan

MASS INTENTIONS	
Tuesday, February 10	12pm Abby Sullivan
Wednesday, February 11	8am Bill & Iona Spitznagle +
Thursday, February 12	12pm Vanessa McIntosh+ 5:30 pm Richard Heun +
Friday, February 13	8am Linda Schmitt +
Saturday, February 14	4 pm Jon Narmi +
Sunday, February 15	8am Frank & Ruth Holzer + 10am St Peter's Parish 12pm Vanessa McIntosh +

READINGS FOR: February 15, 2026
1ST READING: Sirach 15:15-20
2ND READING: I Corinthians 2:6-10
GOSPEL: Matthew 5:17-37

The World According to Bob

- Not everyone thinks that Cleopatra is beautiful, but that's how Julius Caesar.
- I've heard there's some bad lettuce going around. Everyone just needs to romaine calm.
- Never make snow angels in a dog park.
- The more you weigh the harder you are to kidnap. Stay safe, eat cake!
- Warning: Due to the current work load, the light at the end of the tunnel has been switched off.
(Fr Jacob reminds you that Jesus is the light at the ultimate end of the tunnel, and He does not get overworked.)

Father's Thought for the Week

Thus says the Lord

The Lord calls us very strongly to do good to those we meet, those who are in need, and those in our families and circles. Do we listen?

How will I do good this week? Is there a small step (or maybe a big step) I could take to help another person this week? What would that look like?



FULLY ALIVE
YOUTH GROUP

UPCOMING DATES AND TOPICS

DATE	TOPIC
FEBRUARY 15	RELIGIONS OF THE WORLD(+ADORATION)
MARCH 1	LISTENING LIKE CHRIST(+ADORATION)
*MARCH 15	PIRATE PUTT/DINNER
APRIL 5	NO MEETING: CHRIST HAS RISEN
APRIL 19	FAITH IN ACTION THROUGH DIALOGUE (+ADORATION)
MAY 3	GOT SAINTS? (+ADORATION)
MAY 17	THE GREAT OUTDOORS

*3/15 EARLIER TIME FROM 6-8PM: MEET AT PIRATE PUTT

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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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Calling

ALL MOMS Of Young Children!
YOU ARE INVITED TO A WEEKLY GATHERING!

DID YOU KNOW there is a group for mothers' with young children that started in September? This group of mom's from St Patrick and St Peter's meets every Tuesday from 9:30am-11:00am at the St Francis Worship Center (238th S 6th St.). Join us for fellowship, support, and connection during this season of motherhood. Come for the whole time or just drop in. Childcare is available and provided by the "seasoned" mothers of our parishes.

Questions?
Contact Brittany Seeley at
520-373-9748



Childcare Volunteers Needed

Volunteers interested in helping with the supervision of young children during these gathering are needed. You do not have to commit to every week to volunteer! If interested contact Mary Stuhr at 402-740-3423 or mtstuhr4vv@yahoo.com



Knights of Columbus Shrimp Boil



St Peter's
Council 1045

Adults
\$20
extra shrimp boat
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Kids
12 and under
\$10



Friday, February 20th & Friday March 6th
From 5:30pm-7:30pm

Fr Kottas Social Hall, 1 Bluff St. Council Bluffs

Menu:

**Boiled Shrimp, Cajun Roasted Potatoes, Mac & Cheese,
Dirty Rice, Bread, and Cookie**

Beer and wine available for purchase.

Take out available. Credit cards accepted.



St Peter's Catholic Church

Lent 2026 Parish Schedule

Tuesday Parish Night

Join us for any or all of our Tuesday night events!
 This year we will enjoy delicious soups and Fr Jacob will present on *What happened on the cross?* How did Jesus's suffering and death on the cross save us? Find out!
 February 24th and March 3rd, 10th, 17th, and 24th
 5:30-Mass
 6:00-Stations of the Cross
 6:45—Soup Supper
 7:00—Presentation



Thursday Prayer Night

Join us for quiet prayer in the church. Stay for as long or as short as you like! Jesus in the Eucharist is exposed on the altar 3—9 pm every Thursday night of Lent.
 February 19th, 26th, and March 5th, 12th, 19th, and 26th
 3:00 pm—Adoration begins
 5:30—6:00 pm—Mass
 8:45 pm—Benediction
 9:00 pm—Adoration ends
 Come for as long or as short as you like or are able!



Friday Stations

Join us on Fridays to walk the way of the cross.
 February 20th and 27th, and
 March 6th, 13th, 20st, 27th
 5:30—Stations of the Cross
 Immediately followed by
 Adoration and Benediction



Knights of Columbus Shrimp Boil

Join the Knights of Columbus for a delicious shrimp feast!
 February 20th and March 6th
 5:30—7:30 pm
 St Peter's Social Hall
 Proceeds support the good works of the Knights.



Holy Week

Holy Thursday: April 2nd
 Mass of the Lord's Supper, 6 pm
 Pray with the Lord in the "garden" until 10 pm
Good Friday: April 3rd
 Solemn stations of the cross, 12 noon
 Commemoration of the Lord's Passion, 6 pm
Easter Vigil: April 4th, 8 pm
Easter Sunday: April 5th, 8 am, 10 am, noon



Special Events

Ash Wednesday: Wednesday, February 18th, 7 am, noon, and 6 pm at St Peter's Church
Rite of Election: Saturday, February 21st at 10 am.
 Bishop Joensen receives the Catechumens and Candidates from all Southwest Iowa parishes. Open to the public, at St Peter's Church.
Live Stations: Friday, April 3rd 1—3 pm. Walk and pray with a live-acted stations of the cross. A powerful prayer experience. At Corpus Christi Parish, Council Bluffs.



St Peter's Catholic Church

Don't just give up chocolate this year

Prayer

We commit ourselves to more intense prayer during the Lenten season to draw near to the Lord and keep him at the center of our lives. This practice combats the "pride of life" that would have us make *ourselves* the center of our lives.

I might:

Pray the rosary daily. Attend daily Mass once per week. Make ten minutes for quiet prayer daily. Make a morning offering. Thank God for three blessings every night. Do an examination of conscience every night. Come to Sunday Mass 30 minutes early to pray. Make a prayer list of intentions and pray for them daily. Make a pilgrimage. Read the Gospel of Matthew during Lent. Use the parish daily devotion book. Use iBreviary to pray Evening Prayer. Come to Thursday adoration weekly. Do the Stations of the Cross weekly. Pray the Angelus. Read the daily readings.

Fasting / Abstinence

We abstain from good things we could licitly have to remember our dependence on God and to make a sacrifice in union with the cross. This practice combats the "lust of the flesh" that leads me to focus on the goods of this world.

I might:

Give up a TV program. Give up TV on weekdays. Give up an app. Commit to no phone after 8 pm. Commit to not using the snooze button. Set my alarm on the weekend. Turn off the radio in the morning commute. Skip desserts except on Sundays and special days. Make my coffee at home. Cut out creamer. Skip lunch on Wednesdays and Fridays (if health allows). Go vegetarian on Wednesdays (*and* Fridays of course). Kneel without the kneeler (if health allows). Take cold showers. Skip my shopping trip. Buy the cheaper brand. Give up or reduce alcohol.

Almsgiving

We give alms to remember that the riches of this world pass away, to prioritize God over what the world offers, and to serve Christ in the poor. This practice combats the "lust of the eyes" that would lead me to greed and envy.

I might:

Volunteer at a community charity. Help a neighbor. Give a parishioner a ride. Clean out my closet and give it to St Vincent de Paul. Add up the money I saved through fasting and abstinence and give it to a good cause. Give to Rice Bowl. Make a donation in memory of a loved one. Review my budget and see what I could / should give to charity. Buy the next cheaper option and give the difference away. Pick up litter. Make small care bags to give to people who are begging. Give to a good cause. Call a lonely relative. Sit with the person who is alone. Donate to the parish.

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Knights of Columbus Council 1045



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