



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

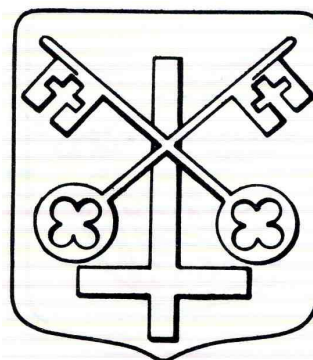
Baptisms, Weddings, etc

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!

Wednesday, December 24th	Christmas Eve Masses	4 pm, 6 pm, St Peter's Church
Thursday, December 25th	Christmas Day Masses	8 am, 10 am, St Peter's Church
Wednesday, December 31st	Mother of God vigil Mass	6pm, 11:30pm , St Peter's Church
Thursday, January 1st, 2026	Mother of God Masses	8am, 10am, St Peter's Church

December 21, 2025
Fourth Sunday of Advent

From Father Jacob

Special Masses for the Holidays

Christmas Eve: Wednesday, 12/24

4:00 pm, 6:00 pm

Christmas Day: Thursday, 12/25

8:00 am, 10:00 am

Mary, Mother of God vigil: Wednesday, 12/31

6:00 pm, **11:30pm**

Mary, Mother of God: Thursday, 1/1/26

8:00 am, 10:00 am

Note the extra Mass time on **New Year's Eve**. We will have a **special, candlelit Mass at 11:30pm** if you want to ring in the new year with the Lord! I am excited about this opportunity and hope you might consider joining us for a unique way to begin the new year and celebrate our Lord's coming as light for the world!

Thank to the Mass ministers who always give generously at our special Masses to read, usher, and give Communion. **Signups for those ministries are at the back of church this weekend.**

Thanks in advance to the **choirs** who always go all out for our Christmas Masses.

Merry Christmas!

I know I will see very many of you at Christmas, and that we already have many family and friends visiting our parish from out of town. Welcome!

I also know that many of our parishioners are traveling for the holidays. May God give you a safe journey and a happy return to us!

I hope and pray that all of our St Peter's family will have a very merry Christmas as we celebrate the birth of our Lord!

Why do we celebrate Christmas on December 25th?

Every year in December the internet fills with sophomoric posts that the reason we celebrate the birth of Christ in December is to displace the Roman celebration of Sol Invictus, or Saturnalia, or Mithras, or whatever. This is a very old charge as it used to be fashionable among Protestants to reject Christmas as too Popish and therefore pagan, and it has always been fashionable among the cynical to be too well-informed and world-weary to have fun or rejoice, and to try to prevent others from the same.

If Christmas really was a usurpation of some pagan holiday it wouldn't present us with much of a problem, since people all over the world celebrate official birthdays on days other than the actual event (think of President's Day in the US, for example). But it's not true, and the truth is worth knowing.

We celebrate Christmas on December 25th because many of the earliest Christians thought that Jesus had been *conceived* in late March or early April. Why did they think that? For two main reasons:

Many early Christian authors thought that Jesus was conceived on Passover, just as he died on Passover. They thought this because of the beautiful parallels between the lambs offered in the Temple at Passover, the one true Lamb offered on the cross, and the coming of the Lamb of God into the world.

Other early Christians thought that Jesus must have been born on the Equinox at the end of March, which was also the traditional date of the creation of the world. Thus God created the world, and recreated it in Christ, on the same day.

From a *conception* in late March comes a *birth* in late December. The earliest Christians might have been wrong or right when they dated Christmas, but they certainly didn't do it to match up with some other pagan holiday.

December 21, 2025 Fourth Sunday of Advent

	Saturday 4:00pm Mass	Sunday 8:00am Mass	Sunday 10:00am Mass	Sunday 12:00pm Mass
	Dec 27, 2025	Dec 28, 2025	Dec 28, 2025	Dec 28, 2025
Altar Servers	Bianca Cihacek Elianna Cihacek	Audrey Garst Caroline Reineke Claire Reineke	Carter Rossbund Alyssa Brockelsby Abby Lighthipe	Ben Johnsen Keegan McCaffrey
Lectors	Amy Rallis Jenny Van Soelen	Peter Finn Sean Dunphy	Eric Ely Ed Fink	Mary Bratton Chris Maher
EMHC	Dylies King Eric King Mary Hazen	Jim Havermann Norma Finn	Patty Gantt Mary Brockelsby Jeromy Brockelsby	Trevor Yanovich
Ushers	Jack Gross Linda Bonham Fred Schaben William Stosahl	Mike Ring Velda Ring Russ Goesser Andy Juranek	Nate Noon Mike Nielsen Dan Lighthipe Margine Henry	Chris Olson Trevor Yanovich Rob Peters Mason Olson

MASS INTENTIONS

Tuesday, 12/23

12:00 pm - Roger Wood †

Wednesday, 12/24

4:00 pm - Robert Megel †

Christine Fink †

6:00 pm - Linda Schmitt †

Thursday, 12/25

8:00 am - Kazambu Constanin †

10:00 am - St Peter's Parish

Friday, 12/26

8:00 am - Leopold Mendoza †

Saturday, 12/27

4:00 pm - Terry O'Rorke †

Rosanne Doran †

Sunday, 12/28

8:00 am - Dorothy Snook †

Brian Rommel †

10:00 am - St Peter's Parish

12:00 pm - Joshua Stange †

The World According to Bob

- A beloved children's television host is reportedly recovering after years of addiction to doing the hokey pokey. Sources confirm the host has since turned himself around.
- Having a dog named shark at the beach was a mistake.
- You know the bible sys that we come from dust and we return to dust. See that is why I don't dust. It might be somebody we know.
- I run everyday for 15 minutes. If I miss a day I add 15 minutes to the next day. Tis is truly a game changer. Tomorrow I am suppose to run 3 months.

READINGS FOR: December 28, 2025

1ST READING: Sirach 3:2-6, 12-14
2ND READING: Colossians 3:12-21
GOSPEL: Matthew 2:13-15, 19-23

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.



Why Join A Mother's Group

- Make new friends
- Become the best mom you can be
- Discover a spiritual program
- Experience community
- Get encouragement
- Learn about your faith
- Be refreshed by prayer

Questions?

Contact Brittany Seely 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 mtstuhr4vv@yahoo.com

Christmas

"For unto us is born a savior... Christ the Lord"

Mass Times

Wednesday, Dec 24th | Thursday, Dec 25th
4:00pm & 6:00pm | 8:00am & 10:00am

A Holy Day of Obligation

MASS TIMES

Thursday, Jan 1st
8:00am & 10:00am

Wednesday, December 31st
6:00pm Vigil Mass
11:30pm Candlelight Vigil Mass

A Holy Day of Obligation



Church Office Closed

The church office will be closed for Christmas at Noon on Wednesday, December 24th and will reopen Monday, December 29th

Merry Christmas!



Sunday, December 21st
7pm-9pm

St Francis Worship Center, 238 S 6th St.

All High School Youth are invited to a Christmas Movie Night with popcorn, snacks and drinks. Festive Christmas wear is encouraged but not necessary!

Father's Thought for the Week

Christmas is a worldwide birthday bash for Jesus, but what presents do we bring for the birthday boy? What do you get for the man who has literally everything?

One way to get a gift for Jesus is to help those in need. He said that whatever we do for the least of his brothers we do for him.

Another way to give a gift to Jesus is to give him your time: we can give him time spent with the Bible, with a rosary, or with quiet prayer.

NP Dodge
SINCE 1955
REAL ESTATE

DEBBIE L. FOOTE
ASSOCIATE BROKER
REALTOR®

MOBILE: 402-669-5258
DIRECT: 712-328-5008

DFOOTE@NPDODGE.COM
1032 WOODBURY, COUNCIL BLUFFS, IA 51503



ERIN TRESMOTT
Senior Mortgage Loan Officer

Guild
mortgage

402.981.2011

etrescott@guildmortgage.net

www.erintrescott.com

NMLS 457124, Guild Mortgage Company NMLS 3274



Here for all your
lending needs

Suden
enterprises
EXPERTISE AT WORK FOR YOU

**Billing & Account
Management**
(402) 880-9065

Owned and Operated by
Mariann Hilderbrand and Ann Marsh



Dr. Brian Hansen

1920 Rue St Suite 11 Council Bluffs, IA

Phone # 712-323-6824

hansenchirocb@gmail.com

CUTLER-O'NEILL
MEYER-WOODRING
FUNERAL HOME

545 Willow Ave Council Bluffs
(712) 322-7779

www.cutleroneill.com

Senior Pictures Families Events

Rob Peters
Photography



712-310-2531 • robpetersphoto.com • Rob Peters Photography

KELLY'S
CARPET & FURNITURE
COUNCIL BLUFFS, IOWA

Lori Hughes - Sales Representative
lorihughes73@hotmail.com
Phone: 712-256-1204 Fax: 712-256-1206

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.*

BETHANY
Lutheran Health Services

7 Elliott St Council Bluffs

712-328-9500 | www.blhs.care

Assisted Living Facility

The care you need for the life you want!



LOESS HILLS
LAWN AND LEAF

712-828-2098

LOESSHILLSLAWNANDLEAF@GMAIL.COM

CALL FOR **FREE** ESTIMATE: MOWING, AERATION,
LANDSCAPING, AND MORE



Tyler Juraneck, LMT
24065 McPherson Avenue
Council Bluffs, IA 51503
UnleashedRelief@gmail.com
402-943-6414

All sessions tailored to fit your needs.

At Unleashed Relief, it's all about you! and your needs.



MYERS ELECTRICAL SERVICE

Licensed and Insured
Commercial and Residential

402-510-4594

MYERSELECTRICALSERVICE@GMAIL.COM

GLASS DOCTOR_x

Your Council Bluffs experts for all Things Glass

HOME



AUTO



BUSINESS



Glass Doctor of Council Bluffs
2104 West Broadway
712-323-3112



Shea Decorating Company

Painting • Paper hanging
Commercial • Residential
Interior • Exterior



Dan Shea CELL | 402.659.2721
Owner SHOP | 712.322.5279
Third Generation FAX | 712.323.9203
sheadec@gmail.com

DO YOU OWN RENTAL PROPERTY?

Call us Today!

712-322-5535



Kouri
MANAGEMENT

Full Service
Property
Management



**Knights of
Columbus®**

Donnie Kenkel, CLTC, FIC
Field Agent
712-579-9066



Life Insurance • Disability Insurance • Income Insurance
Long Term Care Insurance • Retirement Annuities

St. Joseph Cemetery

For peace of mind make
your arrangements early.

Contact Adam Thomas
712-318-1024

*A Sacred Place In Harmony
With Our Catholic Faith*



Pregnant?

We can help.

712-322-2100

birthright.org/councilbluffs

PREGNANCY SUPPORT | NONJUDGMENTAL | CONFIDENTIAL | FREE

KELLY'S CARPET Omaha

You'll like the way we do business!

Schedule your appointment today!

90th & L - Omaha
402-687-3828

kellyscarpetomaha.com

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

Coughlin's Cleaning

Carpet & Upholstery • Office or Home

Over 40 years of experience
Family Owned

Office 712-322-9087 | Cell 402-871-4608



HOY | KILNOSKI
FUNERAL HOME & CREMATORY

1221 N16th St, Council Bluffs
Phone: 712-256-9988

www.hoyfuneral.com

Discount Prices On Tires & Wheels Complete Automotive Service



Bob Shives

125 W Pierce St, Council Bluffs, IA
712-322-6636

M & R WELDING

119 South 28th Street, Council Bluffs
Office: 712-322-5342, Fax: 712-256-0038

Rick Rosas-Lupe Rosas



**HEARTLAND
PROPERTIES, INC.**

John H Jerkovich, Broker-Owner
402-681-4812

535 W Broadway, Ste 100, Council Bluffs
www.heartlandproperties.com



Two location in Council Bluffs

20 N. 16th St | 3464 5th Ave
712-227-5885 | 712-528-1566

www.mcginlawfirm.com



1751 Madison Ave 712-322-3300
117 Pearl St 712-322-1700



www.availa.bank



712-325-0256

Auto|Home|Life|Business|Health



3121 Macineery Dr, Council Bluffs
712-256-2741

www.heritage-communities.com

Independent Living, Assisted Living, Memory Support

FINNISHED CONCRETE

PETER FINN, PARISHIONER

712-310-0249

402-964-4400

www.narmigroup.com

Want to advertise in our bulletin? Call our Parish Office at 712-318-3030