



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!

Tuesday, February 3rd	Parish Committee Meetings	6:30pm, Social Hall
Tuesday, February 3rd	Parish Council Meeting	7:15pm, Conference Room
Sunday, February 8th	9th grade confirmation retreat	
Wednesday, February 18th	Ash Wednesday, beginning of Lent	

February 1, 2026
Fourth Sunday In Ordinary Times

From Father Jacob

St Peter's Book Club

The Seven Pillars of Catholic Spirituality Chapter 3: Mass

This week I read chapter 3 of our Christmas giveaway book by Matthew Kelley: *The Seven Pillars of Catholic Spirituality*. Let's talk about it!

Kelley proposes that changing the way we approach Mass will yield great fruit. I was very struck by the little phrase "we prepare for everything we consider important in life". I wholeheartedly endorse the author's recommendation for preparing for Mass. Before I was a priest, I can honestly say that reading and praying with the first and second readings and the gospel reading before Mass was the greatest change I ever made to better engage with Mass. It made the whole liturgy of the word come alive and be more of a "conversation" between me and the Father. Now, as a priest, I often wish I could read the opening prayer or one of the other "proper" (ie: changing) prayers two or three times so people could actually understand them before saying "amen". They are very beautiful and rich!

How do you prepare for Mass? How might you prepare for Mass going forward? Do you feel you receive a message from Mass every week? What might you change to better hear and receive that message?

The second recommendation of this chapter is to understand what we are doing at Mass. We walk through the different parts of the Mass and receive an "action item" to better engage with each. I often think it is helpful to reflect on the Mass with the question "who is talking to whom at this part? When we ask this question we start to see Mass as a conversation where God speaks to us, then we to God, etc.

Do you have a favorite part of the Mass currently? What do you love about it? Did one of Kelley's descriptions of the Mass parts surprise you? Excite you? Challenge you? Why?

Mass intentions

Have you ever heard the announcements before Mass and wondered who gets remembered as a "special intention" at our Masses? The answer is: whoever is requested! We schedule intentions for the calendar year for our Sunday and weekday Masses. Masses can be offered for the living, for the dead, or for some other good intention (eg: vocations, St Albert school, Pope Leo's trip to ___).

It is customary (but *not* required) to make an offering when you request a Mass. The current common practice is \$10 but a person may give as much or as little as they wish. We regularly schedule Masses for people for free, so don't be shy!

To ask for a Mass to be celebrated for your intention, call the office and speak with Tracy or leave a message!

Your personal Mass intention

The Mass intention announced at the beginning of Sunday Masses is Father's special intention for the Mass, but did you know that you can offer Mass personally for whatever intention you want at every Mass you attend? We should always come to Mass with some intention. Perhaps you want to ask the Lord to bless your family, or to help you with some problem or to grow in some virtue. Maybe you want to offer this Mass for a loved one who has died.

One of the reasons we kneel quietly and pray before Mass is so that we have time to think about the intention that we want to offer for this Mass!

Shrimp Boil

The Knights invite you to our Lenten Shrimp Boils, this year on February 20th and March 6th, 5:30-7:30. Check out the flyer in this bulletin for more information and get the whole Lenten schedule starting next week! Remember:

Fish is fine, but shrimp is divine!

February 1, 2026
Fourth Sunday In Ordinary Times

	Saturday 4:00pm Mass	Sunday 8:00am Mass	Sunday 10:00am Mass	Sunday 12:00pm Mass
	Feb 7, 2026	Feb 8, 2026	Feb 8, 2026	Feb 8, 2026
Altar Servers	Bianca Cihacek Ellianna Cihacek	Joseph Schmedding Caroline Reineke Claire Reineke	Sarah Lighthipe Carter Rossbund Aiden Gaul	Evelyn Duitsman John Duitsman
Lectors	Jenny Van Soelen Amy Rallis	Peter Finn Sean Dunphy	Tony Peterson Mike Noon	Aubree Brandau Casey Peters
EMHC	Debbie Ryan Wayne Stangl Mary Hazen	Sheryl Garst Nicole Juranek	Ed Fink Sandy Fritzsche Patty Gantt	Cindy Bussey
Ushers	Jack Gross Linda Bonham Fred Schaben William Stoshal	Jeff Veit Eric Ledger Keith Wirtz Jim Havermann	Nate Noon Mike Nielsen Dan Lighthipe	Chris Olson Trevor Yanovich Rob Peters Mason Olson

MASS INTENTIONS

Tuesday, February 3
12pm Leopoldo Mendoza †
Wednesday, February 4
8am Tom Burke †
Thursday, February 5
12pm Craig Suden †
5:30pm Vanessa Mc Intosh †
Friday, February 6
8am Vic & Irene Schlautman †
Saturday, February 7
4pm Dave Schnitker †
Sunday, February 8
8am Dorothy Snook †
10am St Peter's Parish
12pm Deceased Members of
Altar Society

READINGS FOR: February 8, 2026

1ST READING: Isaiah 58:7-10
2ND READING: I Corinthians 2:1-5
GOSPEL: Matthew 5:13-16



Pray for all of our first year confirmation students who will be attending a retreat next Sunday. May God bless their time with friends of faith and strengthen their understanding of who they are as children of God.

The World According to Bob

- Today a local man with a stutter was convicted and sent to prison for life. He victims are worried he won't finish his sentence
- Nine out of ten people who are afraid of hurdles never get over it.
- Just bought my coworker a "get better soon" card. They are not sick. I just think they can do better.
- The global warming people have been pretty quiet this week.
- Every morning I announce I am going jogging to my family. I never go. It's a running joke.

Father's Thought for the Week

Blessed. Fortunate. Happy.

These are all ways to translate the Greek the Gospel uses here. The Beatitudes are a real challenge to us because they require of us faith in God's promises, a faith that transforms us to see as God sees things. Everyone can accept that "thou shall not kill" and "thou shall not commit adultery." Can we accept that there is good fortune in poverty? Blessedness in grief? Happiness in persecution? The more we learn to see as God sees, the more we will see that it is so!



Reminder

Tuesday, Feb 3rd
Parish Life, Social Concerns,
Religious Education, Liturgy, &
Building and Grounds Committees
will meet at 6:30pm in the Social
Hall. Parish Council will meet at
7:15pm in the Conference Room.

Okay

Wait



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: stpatrickcb.org

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Gabriel's Corner Pregnancy Center

Serve Families • Support Life • Share Hope

Location

131 S. 16th Street
Council Bluffs, IA 51501

Volunteer Hours

- Mondays: 12:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.
- Tuesdays: 12:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.
(Most needed: 2:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.)
- Wednesdays: 3:00 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.
- Thursdays: 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
Shifts are typically 2-3 hours.

What You Can Help With

- Meet, greet, and assist mothers with love
- Distribute baby supplies (diapers, formula, clothes, baby equipment)
- Package diapers and wipes
- Sort, size, and organize baby clothing
- Answer phones
- Data entry
- Pregnancy testing and counseling (training provided – women only)

Contact

Catherine Schroeder
Executive Director
(712) 790-9384

Who's Welcome

- Confirmation students
- Teenagers
- Senior citizens
- Stay-at-home moms
- Homeschoolers (children welcome with supervision)

Why Join Us

- Very rewarding service
- On-the-job training
- You choose the role you like

Let us pray for an end to abortion.



Attention All High Schoolers!



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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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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Contact Adam Thomas
712-318-1024

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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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