

ST. PETER'S CATHOLIC CHURCH

1 Bluff St, Council Bluffs, IA 51503

712-318-3030

www.saintpeterscb.org



July 26, 2026 Seventeenth Sunday In Ordinary Time

Upcoming Events:

Sunday, July 26th

Young Adult Group
7pm, Social Hall

Saturday, August 1st & Sunday, August 2nd

Hospitality Sunday
After all the Masses, Social Hall

Wednesday, August 5th

Confirmation Q&A
6pm, Social Hall

Thursday, August 6th

Altar & Rosary Society Meeting
6pm, Social Hall

Tuesday, August 11th

Women's Prayer Group
6:30pm, Social Hall

Saturday, August 22nd

Bingo Night
5:30pm, Social Hall

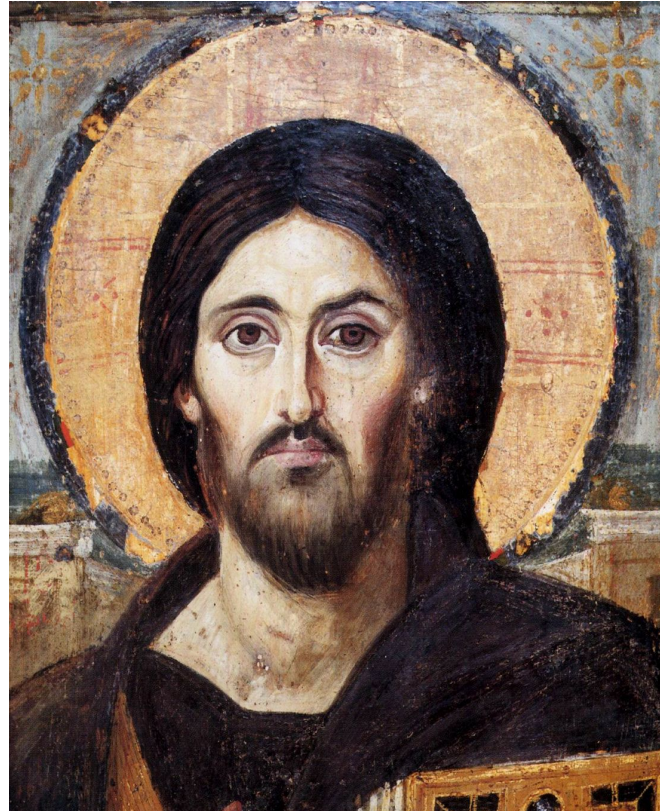
Thursday, August 27th

Homeschool Mass & Gathering
12pm, Church/Social Hall

Saturday, September 26th - Sunday September 27th

Christ Our Life Conference
Casey's Center, Des Moines or
by livestream
Visit christourlifeiowa.com for more
details and for tickets.

To see all events or flyers go to our
website www.saintpeterscb.org



Mass Schedule:

Weekend Masses

Saturday - 4PM

Sunday - 8AM, 10AM, & 12PM

Weekday Masses

Tuesday - 12PM

Wednesday - 8AM

Thursday - 12PM & 5:30PM

Friday - 8AM

Reconciliation:

Saturday 3-3:35PM

Sunday 7-7:45AM

Anytime by Appointment

Baptism or Wedding:

To schedule a baptism or
wedding, please call the
parish office.

Donate Using Venmo:

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Prayer Request?

Scan the QR code to fill
out the prayer request
form or call Debbie Foote
at 402-669-5258.



**Would you like to be part of the prayer
team?** If you feel called to serve in this
ministry, please contact Debbie Foote at
402-669-5258.

New To Our Parish?

Register by scanning the QR code
below or going to our website.



Is your information current we have
on file? If you need changes made
please contact the parish office.

Parish Office

712-318-3030

Office Hours:

Mon- Closed

Tues-Thurs 9:00AM-5:00PM

Fri 9:00AM-12:00PM

Parish Staff

Pastor

Father Jacob Epstein

jepstein@dmdioocese.org

Associate Pastor

Father Max Carson

mcarson@dmdioocese.org

Hospital & Nursing Home Chaplain

Father Emmanuel Offiong

712-406-0094

emetof@yahoo.com

Deacons

Deacon Pat Snook

patricksnook51503@yahoo.com

Director of Religious Education

Heather Olson

redirector@saintpeterscb.org

Office Manager

Tracy Carlson

officemanager@saintpeterscb.org

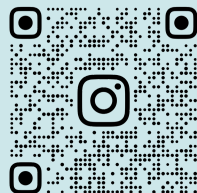
Maintenance

Rob Beck

Submissions for the bulletin must be submitted by Tuesday at 4pm. All submissions are subject to edits and approval.

Send to redirector@saintpeterscb.org

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From Father Jacob

The Kingdom of Heaven is like...

This week and for the last two weeks we have heard Jesus tell us about the Kingdom of Heaven. We have heard that the seed of the Kingdom is scattered everywhere, but doesn't always grow. We have heard that the Kingdom is a mixed field, that it is like a mustard seed that grows to huge size, that it is like a woman mixing yeast into flour. This week we hear that it is like a treasure or a pearl worth trading everything for, and that it is like a mixed catch that will be sorted at the end of the age.

Jesus paints us all these vivid pictures of the Kingdom of Heaven, but still we might wonder: so what is this Kingdom then? The Kingdom of Heaven is the rule of God. In one way, of course, God rules everywhere all the time. Not one hair can fall from your head without God willing it, and even bad things can only happen by God's permission, even if He doesn't "want" them to happen.

But in a much more important way, God rules when His law is obeyed. In that way God's Kingdom was shattered by Adam and Eve's disobedience, and the whole story of humanity afterwards is of the compounding descent away from the Kingdom of Heaven. We run further and further away from the Lord, and get further and further sunk into sin.

Jesus comes to reestablish the kingdom on earth when it has been almost totally destroyed by our disobedience. Jesus reestablishes the kingdom himself because he himself is perfectly obedient to the Father, but he doesn't want to live in this kingdom alone; he wants all of us to be with him, and he makes it possible!

Because Jesus came to show us goodness and to teach us the way, we can know *how* to obey God. Because Jesus came and showed us how much he loves us, we might even *want* to obey God. Because Jesus gives us his help every step of the way by the Spirit and the Sacraments, He makes it *possible* to obey God.

And obeying God is not burdensome: to live by God's way of life is not just to follow rules blindly, God's rules are the user's manual written by the same one who made us! To obey God is to be most fully human.

Even more, the Kingdom of God where God dwell, and where Jesus makes us not only citizens, but family. To obey God is to live in his family, to live with his love, to have the fullness of life he longs to give us. May God help us live in His Kingdom, and may we rejoice to spread that Kingdom by our works, our words, and our witness!

Our Substitute this Week

This weekend we will have Fr Eze Umunnakwe at all of our weekend Masses. Please give him a warm welcome and thank him for being here at St Peter's!

I will be on a retreat in South Dakota. The Church requires a priest to go on a prayer retreat every year for at least five days. Usually I do that during the week so I don't have to miss weekend Masses, but I had a beautiful opportunity to have a directed retreat this year that fell over the weekend. I am grateful to Fr Eze for being with us and allowing me to go.

Mass Intentions

Tuesday July 28, 2026

12pm Lynn Ford +

Wednesday July 29, 2026

8am Christine Fink +

Thursday July 30, 2026

12pm Steve Rosman

5:30pm Jerry & Jackie Hansen +

Friday July 31, 2026

8am Dennis Kirlin

Saturday August 1, 2026

4pm St Peter's Parish

Sunday August 2, 2026

8am Kenneth Finnegan +

10am Roger Wood +

12pm Rosemary Winner +

	Saturday 4:00PM	Sunday 8:00AM	Sunday 10:00AM	Sunday 12:00PM
	August 1, 2026	August 2, 2026	August 2, 2026	August 2, 2026
Altar Servers	Nicholas Moses Cooper Moses Parker Moses	Caroline Reineke Claire Reineke Joseph Schmedding	Carter Rossbund Ali Hamilton	Mason Olson Emma Thompson
Lectors	Cathy Assman Wayne Stangl	Sean Dunphy Peter Finn	Eric Ely Tony Peterson	Andrea Barnes Haley Anderson
EMHC	Toni Hansen Jacque Liston Mary Hazen	Joan Vontersch Wege Norma Finn	Mary Brockelsby Jill Clevenger Laura Cornelius	Chris Olson
Ushers	Linda Bonham Fred Schaben Jack Gross William Stosahl	Russ Goesser Jim Havermann Andy Juranek Oliver Juranek	Dave Bristol Margine Henry Dan Lighthipe Mike Nielsen	Chris Olson Rob Peters Chris Maher

Next Sunday's Readings: August 2, 2026

1st - Isaiah 55:1-3

2nd - Romans 8:35, 37-39

Gospel - Matthew 14:13-21

CONNECTED

Organizations & Groups

• ALTAR & ROSARY SOCIETY

The St Anne's Altar and Rosary Society next meeting is **Thursday, August 6th** at 6:00pm in the Social Hall. The meeting begins with the reciting of the Rosary followed by a meal and a meeting. Please bring a side dish, if possible. All women of the parish 18 and older are invited.

• CATHOLIC DAUGHTERS OF THE AMERICAS, COURT ST ANTHONY #330

The next Catholic Daughters Meeting is on **Thursday, August 20th** at St. Peter's Church. Mass starts at 5:30pm, followed by a potluck meal and the meeting. Women, 18 years and older from all Council Bluffs parishes are always welcome to join us. Visit our website at www.cda330.org.

Thank you to everyone who supported our Annual Salad Luncheon. Your generous donations helped offset many of the event expenses, allowing more of the proceeds to directly support our charitable works throughout the coming year. Because of your kindness and generosity, we are better able to fulfill our mission of faith, service, and charity to our parishes, our community, and those in need. May God bless each of you for helping make this year's luncheon a wonderful success!

• KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

Our next meeting is **Monday, August 31st** at 6:00 PM in the Social Hall. Any interested men of the parish 18 years or older are welcome to join, and are invited to simply attend any of our monthly meetings. Please reach out to Sean Dunphy at 402-960-6215 for information or with any questions.

• WOMEN'S PRAYER GROUP

Women's Prayer Group meets on the second Tuesday of the month at 6:30pm. Our next meeting is **Tuesday, August 11th** at 6:30pm in the social hall. All women of the parish 18+ are invited to join us. Bring a friend and if you want a snack to share.

• MOM'S OF YOUNG CHILDREN GROUP

Our Young Mom's Group invites mothers of young children to their faith sharing and social group at St. Francis Worship Center 238 S 6th St. on **Tuesdays from 9:30-11 AM**. Childcare is provided. For more details, please call/text Brittany at 520-373-9748. *Volunteers to help supervise the children during these gatherings are needed. You do not need to commit to every week. If interested in providing childcare, please contact Mary Stuhr at mtstuhr4vv@yahoo.com or 402-740-3423.

• YOUNG ADULT GROUP

The Young Adult Group welcomes all adults ages 20-35, in all stages of life: college students or professionals, singles, married couples, or young families. Our next meeting is a movie night on **Sunday, July 26th at 7pm!** Scan the QR code to join our Groupme and stay up to date.



• HOMESCHOOL MASS & LUNCH

Attention all homeschool families – Join us for our next Homeschool Gathering on **Thursday, August 27th**. We will have Mass at 12pm followed by lunch and activities. Stay tuned for more details on lunch. To be added to our list email redirector@saintpeterscb.org

SEEKERS & SAINTS

Faith Formation News



FULLY ALIVE YOUTH GROUP

All teens in 7th-12th grade are invited to join us!

Upcoming Dates:

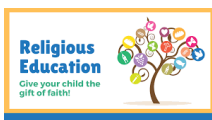
- Saturday, August 1st, 6:00pm - Night at the Ballpark for a StormChasers game. This is a rsvp event. See flyer for more details and to signup!
- Sunday, August 16th, 7-9pm at the St Francis Worship Center. Bring a Friend!



EXPLORING CATHOLICISM

For adults interested in joining the Catholic Church!

All are welcome to join us for any of the classes! Classes will start again in the Fall.



RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Volunteers Needed - Catechists, Assistant Catechist, Confirmation Teacher, Discussion Group Leaders, and Helpers. For more details and job descriptions see the flyer in the bulletin. If interested or need more information contact Heather Olson at 712-318-3030/redirector@saintpeterscb.org

Confirmation News & Meeting - Beginning in 2027-2028, the Diocese of Des Moines is moving the celebration of the sacrament of Confirmation from 10th grade to 6th grade. We're making the shift because young people are more receptive to a personal, life-changing encounter with Jesus that seals their identity as disciples and members of the Body of Christ. Families will learn more about changes in their parishes later this summer. Hear directly from Bishop William Joensen about the change and why it's being made at https://youtu.be/fg_tkgUEDcE or for more info go to dmdiocese.org/ministries-and-faith-formation/youth-ministry/confirmation.

Join us at St Peter's Wednesday, August 5th at 6pm for an informational meeting along with question and answer.

CHILDREN'S LITURGY

Our 10AM Children's Liturgy program will resume next Sunday, August 1st at the 10am Mass. We look forward to seeing your children next Sunday!



BEYOND THE PARISH

News From Across the Diocese

• CHRIST OUR LIFE - SAVE THE DATE

The Christ Our Life Conference will be held September 26-27 at Casey's Center in Des Moines. Go to ChristOurLifelowa.com to purchase tickets and for the list of speakers. In person or Livestream. The cost is \$30 for the entire weekend and 23 and under are FREE. To hear world class speakers, learn more about your faith, be inspired, worship and praise God in community and experience the joy of His presence! Come for all or stay for some. Let's Believe...Live...and Celebrate Our Faith!

• PILGRIMAGE TO GROTTA OF THE REDEMPTION

The three parishes in Council Bluffs are working together to offer a day-long pilgrimage to The Shrine of the Grotto of Redemption in West Bend, IA, on August 12th. The cost is \$110 per person, with payment due at the time of registration, and includes a light breakfast, lunch at the Wagon Wheel in West Bend, and a light dinner. . We have filled all spots but do have a waitlist. **If you would like to join the waitlist please call Ward at 402-630-3640 or Kathy at 402-740-2746.**

The World According To Bob

- I didn't survive Y2K, swine flu, bird flu, West Nile, anthrax, and COVID just to be taken out by 2026 parasite lettuce.
- My wife has been begging me to stop doing police-related puns. I told her I would give it a-rrest.
- I told my wife, "I'm so tired from the CrossFit this morning." She replied, "It's pronounced croissants!"
- Teenagers, are you tired of being harassed by your parents? Act now! Move out, get a job, pay your own bills. Do it while you still know everything!
- To the person who stole my glasses: I will find you. I have contacts.
- The I-80 sign says "You are now entering Nebraska." Ask yourself, what poor decision led to this?
- Be nice to me! I probably lost an argument with a toddler today.

SAVE THE DATE



BINGO NIGHT

Saturday, August 22nd
Doors Open at 5:30pm and
BINGO begin at 6:30pm

Would you like to volunteer to help with our BINGO nights?
Contact Heather at 402-250-7073.

2026 ANNUAL
DIOCESAN APPEAL



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or visit DMDiocese.org/giving

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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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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.

M WEEKLY ELECTRIC
EST. 2012

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Industrial Commercial Residential

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Trey nor Iowa

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Night at the Ballpark



Join us for Faith and Family Night at Werner Park for an Omaha Storm Chasers game! All youth in 7th-12th Grade are invited!

01 August 2026 | Werner Park | Game time 6:05PM

***We will meet at 4:15PM at the St. Francis Worship to carpool to the game**

RSVP using the QR code by July 27th



More Info/Questions:

**Corpus Christi - Kendall McGrath - faithformation@corpuschristiia.org
St Patrick - Amy Peterson, youthministry@stpatrickcb.org
St Peter - Heather Olson, redirector@saintpeterscb.org**

Volunteers Needed For Our Religious Education Program

Do you.....

Love your Catholic faith and want to share that love with others?

Want to make a difference in the life of our parish?

Enjoy working with children/youth?

No prior teaching experience is necessary. We provide the training and materials. All you need is a heart willing to serve and spend time with our children. A willingness to share the love of God with them and to share our common faith together.

If interested or for more information contact:

Heather Olson, DRE at 712-318-3030/redirector@saintpeterscb.org

- **Catechist (K-8)** - Prepare and teach weekly lessons during Wednesday night faith formation. This is a weekly commitment every Wednesday from 6:00-7:00pm.
- **Catechist Assistant (K-8)** - Assistants are responsible for helping catechist manage classroom, helping with activities, etc. This is a weekly commitment every Wednesday from 6:00-7:00pm.
- **Confirmation Teacher** - Prepare and teach weekly sessions on Wednesday nights for Confirmation. This is a weekly commitment every Wednesday from 7:15pm-8:15pm
- **Confirmation Discussion Group Leader** - Assist with leading small group discussion on Wednesday nights for Confirmation students. This is a weekly commitment every Wednesday from 7:15pm-8:15pm
 - **Wednesday Night Support/Help** - Hall Monitor, Front Door Monitor, and check in. Does not have to be every Wednesday.
 - **Substitute Catechist (All Grades)** - Teach a prepared lesson when the teacher is not available on a Wednesday night Faith Formation.