

ST. PETER'S CATHOLIC CHURCH

1 Bluff St, Council Bluffs, IA 51503

712-318-3030

www.saintpeterscb.org



July 12, 2026 Fifteenth Sunday In Ordinary Time

Upcoming Events:

Sunday, July 12th

Hospitality Sunday - Donuts & Coffee
after 8am & 10am Mass
Wine & Cheese after 4pm & 12pm
Mass, Social Hall

Wednesday, July 15th

Catholic Daughters Salad Luncheon
11am-1pm Social Hall

Sunday, July 19th

Fully Alive Youth Group
Movie & Popcorn Night
7-9pm, St Francis Worship Center

Monday, July 20th

Knights of Columbus Meeting
6pm, Social Hall

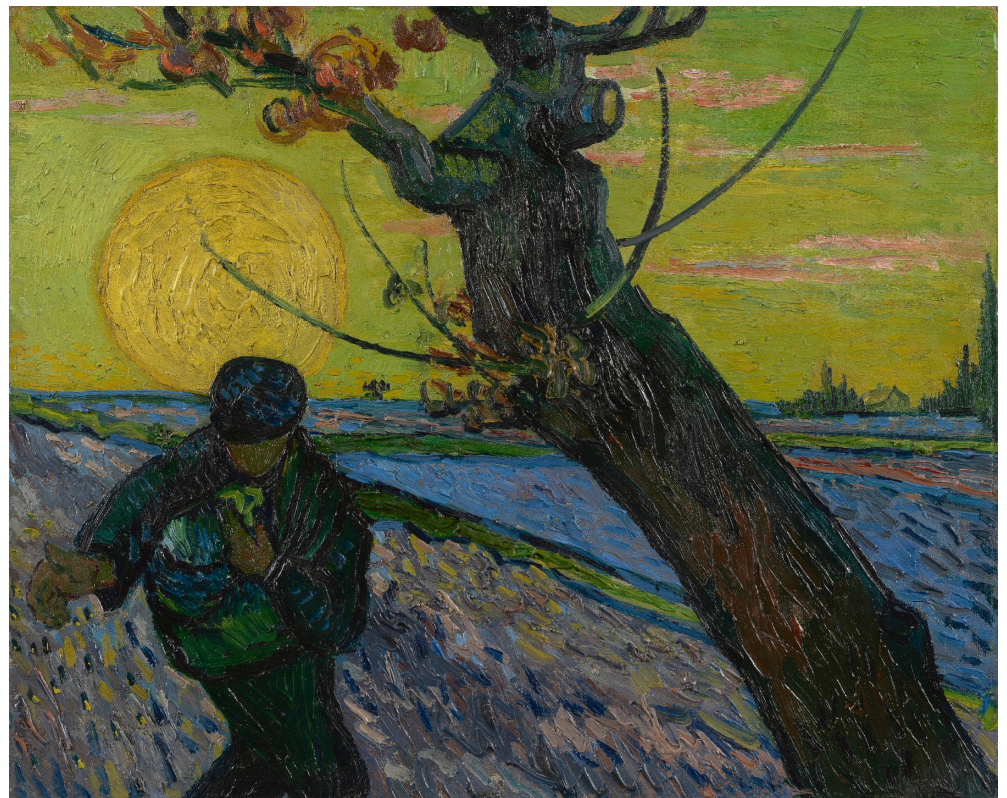
Tuesday, July 21st

Women's Group
6:30pm, Social Hall

Thursday, July 23rd

Homeschool Mass, Lunch & Activities
12pm, Church/Social Hall

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.

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.

Donate Using Venmo:

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venmo @saintpeterscb



Thank you for your Donation!

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

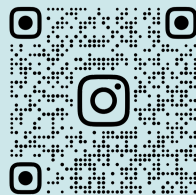
Maintenance

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

“A sower went out to sow. And as he sowed, some seed fell on the path, some fell on rocky ground, some fell among thorns. But some seed fell on rich soil, and produced fruit. Whoever has ears ought to hear.”

One of the things that most strikes me about the parable today is the profligacy of the sower. Any reasonable farmer who wants to make a profit is careful with his seed, being sure to plant it where it is most likely to make high yields. The sower in the gospel today is different: he scatters the seed everywhere without distinction. There are two reasons for this.

The first reason is that God is the sower of the word who goes out into the world to sow when he comes as man to save us. He himself is the word, so he doesn't have just a limited amount. God never runs out of good news to share! We who have been sent out to sow that word in our fields can likewise afford to spread it around liberally: we won't run out of good news by sharing it!

The second reason is that, unlike in ancient agriculture, the different soils in this parable can change. Though the soil may be hardpacked now, by prayer and meditation it can become soft. Though it may be rocky now, by fasting, penance and change of life it can become fit for deep roots. Though it may be weed-choked now, by love of God and neighbor it can be cleared. God casts his seed widely because by his grace he also intends us to make it fruitful!

A great American “saint” who I think is a model for us of scattering the seed widely is Venerable (soon to be Blessed) Fulton Sheen. Sheen will soon be beatified in a Mass in St Louis in September.

Many of us who are a little older might know Bishop Fulton Sheen from his hit tv shows, which originally aired in the 50s and 60s. Sheen was also a great book-writer, preacher, speaker, retreat leader, and organizer. Archbishop Sheen visited Council Bluffs in 1974 to speak at St Albert Catholic School.

Bishop Sheen spoke and acted as though the Gospel message and the life of faith was really, actually intended for everyone. He shared the gospel message with those who listened to his programs, including by applying it to the questions of the day.

We aren't all going to have the reach or charisma of a Fulton Sheen, but we can all imitate Sheen in the most important ways:

1. **Pray:** Sheen himself said the one hour he spent with the Blessed Sacrament each day was “the secret of my power.”
2. **Study:** Sheen himself had a doctorate, but he highly recommended Bible study to all Christians. You might start with the weekly readings, or the gospel of Matthew.
3. **Joy:** Sheen showed in his conversation and preaching the joy and peace that the gospel brings. Do we do the same?
4. **Christ at the center:** Sheen didn't shy away from opining on the issues of the day or practical moral topics, but he always did so with Christ, not a party or a preconceived conclusion, at the center of his thought.

Mass Intentions

Tuesday July 14, 2026

12pm Dcn. Elpides Stephen Rallis +

Wednesday July 15, 2026

8am Steve Rosman

Thursday July 16, 2026

12pm Leopoldo Mendoza +

5:30pm Harvey Family

Friday July 17, 2026

8am Walter Schmitts Sr. +

Saturday, July 18, 2026

4pm St Peter's Parish

Sunday July 19, 2026

8am Frank & Ruth Holzer +

10am Bill Suden +

12pm Terry O'Rourke +

	Saturday 4:00PM	Sunday 8:00AM	Sunday 10:00AM	Sunday 12:00PM
	July 18, 2026	July 19, 2026	July 19, 2026	July 19, 2026
Altar Servers	Emma Rodenburg Elizabeth Branson	Evan Veit Jack Veit Noah Smith	Connor Noon Cole Noon Charlotte Noon	Mason Olson Emma Thompson
Lectors	Amber Svajgl Jackson Rowan Jackson	Joan Goeser Nicole Juranek	Jon Garrigan Maureen Garrigan	Mary Ramsdell Natalie Veater
EMHC	Toni Hansen Jacque Liston Debbie Ryan	Jim Havermann Debbie Foote	Jon Garrigan Maureen Garrigan Patty Gantt	Andrea Barnes
Ushers	Linda Bonham Fred Schaben Jack Gross William Stosahl	Mike Rosloneic Keith Wirtz Mike Skipton Jeff Veit	Dave Bristol Margine Henry Dan Lighthipe Mike Nielsen	Chris Olson Rob Peters

Next Sunday's Readings: July 19, 2026

1st - Wisdom 12:13, 16-19

2nd - Romans 8:26-27

Gospel - Matthew 13:24-43

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.

Catholic Daughters Donation Request: To assist us in purchasing much needed supplies for our Summer Salad Luncheon, our local citywide CDA Court is seeking your help through monetary donations. Donations of any amount will be appreciated and can be handed directly to any Catholic Daughter after Mass next weekend (7/11-7/12), or you can put it in the collection basket in an envelope marked "CDA Salad Luncheon Donation". you may also drop off donations to the parish office. Thank you for your support!

• KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

Our next meeting is **Monday, July 20th** 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. Due to a conflict for July, we will meet instead on **Tuesday, July 21st** 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. Scan the QR code to join the groupme to find out when we are meeting.



• HOMESCHOOL MASS & LUNCH

Attention all homeschool families – Join us for our next Homeschool Gathering on **Thursday, July 23rd**. We will have Mass at 12pm followed by lunch and activities. Stay tune 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! [Check out all of our Summer Events on Facebook or the church website!!](#)

Upcoming Dates:

Sunday, July 19th from 7-9pm - St Francis Worship Center 238 S 6th St. - **Movie Night**

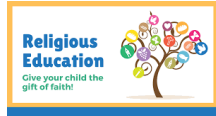
Join us for a movie and popcorn! Bring a friend!



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 - CONFIRMATION NEWS

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 is on break for July and will resume the first Sunday in August. We look forward to seeing all of our children in August and hope to see some new faces! If you are interested in volunteering to help with this program please contact Heather Olson at redirector@saintpeterscb.org.



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 ChristOurLifeIowa.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!

• ST. JOSEPH CEMETERY - HOLY FAMILY BELL PLAZA FUNDRAISER

With the help of the Holy Family Preservation Society and of several generous donors the old Holy Family Church bell was installed on the cemetery grounds. We are pleased to host this beautiful piece of Council Bluffs history, and to use it to honor our beloved dead into the future. This year we want to beautify the area around the bell and raise funds to continue to care for our beloved dead by installing a memorial plaza around our lovely bell. You can purchase a brick to honor a loved one, mentor, good cause, or institution close to your heart on the fundraiser website: www.bricksrus.com/donorsite/stjoseph or if you would like a form you can pick up one at your Parish.

• 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 Heather

Bob has gone on vacation, so Heather has taken over (who has much better taste in jokes).

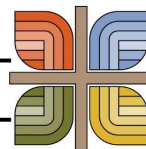
- How did Moses make his coffee? Hebrew-ed it.
- How did God cure Moses' headache? He gave him two tablets.
- Why couldn't they play cards in the Ark? Because Noah was always sitting on the deck.
- Who was the smartest man in the Bible? Abraham, because he knew a Lot.
- Little Johnny learned how Eve was created from Adam's rib. Later in the week, his mother found him lying down, looking ill. She asked, "Johnny, what is the matter?" He responded, "I have a pain in my side. I think I'm going to have a wife."
- Some people are Kind, polite, and sweet spirited until you try to sit in their pew.
- How do we know that Peter was a rich fisherman? By his net income.

Hospitality Weekend



**Join us this weekend July 11th & 12th
for fellowship after all the Masses!**

2026 ANNUAL
DIOCESAN APPEAL



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or visit DMDiocese.org/giving

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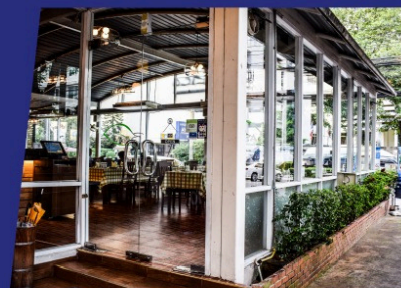
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Meeting 4th Monday of each month at 6pm in the social hall.

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.

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