

ST. PETER'S CATHOLIC CHURCH

1 Bluff St, Council Bluffs, IA 51503

712-318-3030

www.saintpeterscb.org



April 12, 2026 Second Sunday of Easter-Divine Mercy Sunday

Upcoming Events:

Sunday, April 12th

Easter Egg Hunt
11:30am - St Albert Schools

Sunday, April 12th

Divine Mercy Sunday Event
2-4pm - St Peter's Church

Tuesday, April 14th

Women's Group
6:30pm-7:30pm Social Hall

Thursday, April 16th

Altar Society Rummage & Bake Sale
Drop Off - 8am-5pm Social Hall

Friday, April 17th

Altar Society Rummage & Bake Sale
8am-5pm Social Hall

Saturday, April 18th

Altar Society Rummage & Bake Sale
8am-12pm Social Hall

Sunday, April 19th

Rel Ed & Youth Group Open House
5-6pm St Francis Worship Center
Open to all parishioners!

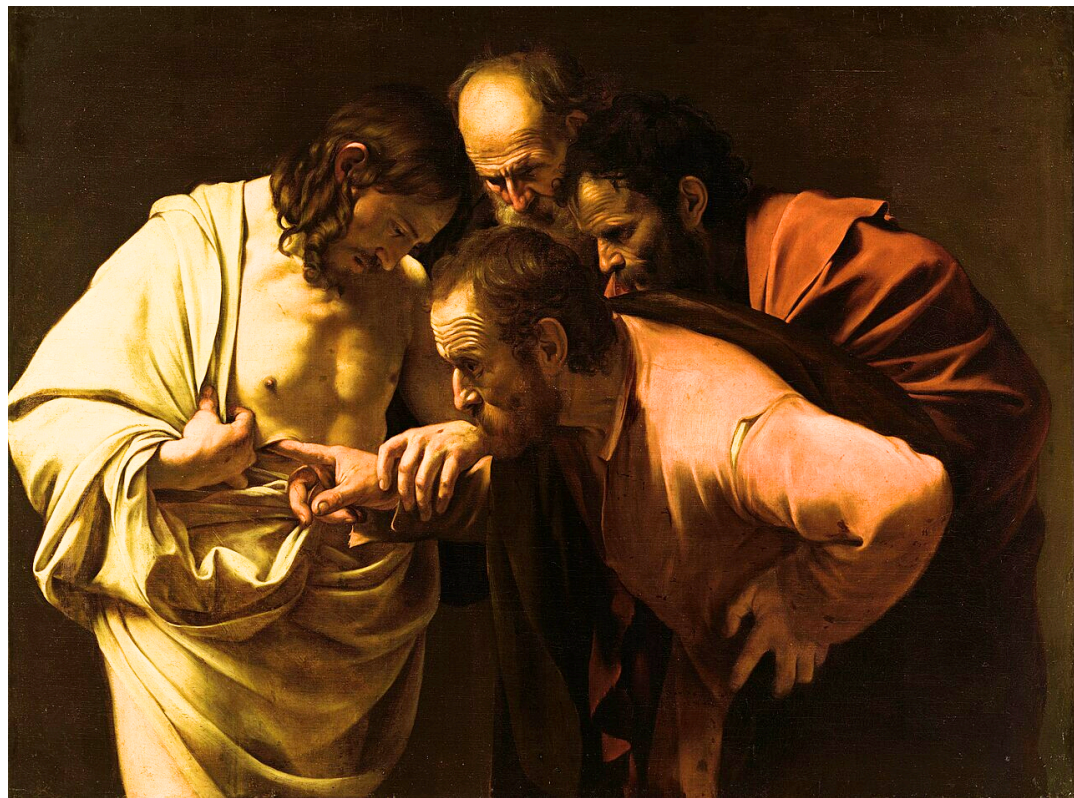
Sunday, April 19th

Fully Alive Youth Group
7-9pm St Francis Worship Center

Monday, April 20th *

Knights Of Columbus Meeting
6pm Social Hall
*Change of Date

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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venmo @saintpeterscb



Thank you for your Donation!

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@dmdiocese.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

religionseducationdirector@saintpeterscb.org

Office Manager

Tracy Carlson

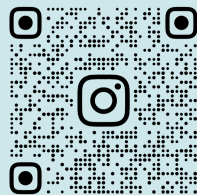
officemanager@saintpeterscb.org

Maintenance

Rob Beck

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

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From Father Jacob

For His Mercy Endures Forever

Today we celebrate the 2nd Sunday in Easter, often called Divine Mercy Sunday! I love the name of this day, because it gives us the answer to the questions we have about this great celebration:

- Why did Jesus go to the cross? Do show mercy to us who suffer and die in this world.
- Why did Jesus let them kill him even though he wasn't guilty? To show mercy on us who are guilty.
- Why did Jesus forgive the good thief? To be merciful to him and to all of us who follow him.
- Why did Jesus stay in the tomb three days? To have mercy on the souls in hell and to show us in his mercy that he was really, truly dead.
- Why did he show himself first to the women? To show mercy to them who loved him so much!
- Why did he walk with the two disciples to Emmaus? To have mercy on their unbelief and give us an example of mercy.
- Why did he tell the disciples "Peace be with you."? To have mercy on their fear and shame.

Everything Jesus does is for mercy. All that God *is* is mercy!

Parish Confession Times Survey

This summer we will be making a few changes to our confession times, and we want your input! Look for a survey next weekend asking for the best and most convenient times for you to go to confession.

Parish Easter Egg Hunt

Our Parish Easter Egg Hunt is next Sunday, April 12th after the 10am Mass (about 11:30) at the West side of St Albert.

Kids of all ages will have a great time in the hunt! Bring your kids, grandkids, nieces and nephews, and invite your neighbors to continue to celebrate Easter and hunt for eggs!

Divine Mercy Prayer Service at St Peter's

St Peter's is pleased to be hosting our city-wide Divine Mercy Service next Sunday, April 12th. The service lasts from 2pm to 4pm, but you can come for all or any part!

Come for Adoration, the Rosary, a speaker, the Divine Mercy chaplet, and opportunities for confessions.

Check out the full schedule on a following page.

26-27 Tuition Assistance for Students

For our St Albert families: the application period for **Catholic Tuition Organization (CTO) and Diocesan Tuition Assistance (DTA)** opened March 31st for all 2026-2027 students, even those on ESAs. Use CTO and DTA money and save more ESA money for high school. More than \$2.7 million in grants is available. Apply by May 5th at CTOIowa.org.

St Peter's also has a **scholarship fund** for our students! Apply to CTO and DTA *first* and then contact Fr Jacob this summer with unmet need.

Mass Intentions

Tuesday, April 14

Noon Tom Megel +

Wednesday, April 15

8am Elaine O'Grady +

Thursday, April 16

Noon Craig Suden +

5:30pm Ruth Carberry +

Friday, April 17

8am Bill Rosman +

Saturday, April 18

4pm St Peter's Parish

Sunday, April 19

8am Frank & Ruth Holzer +

10am Christine Wilson +

Noon Fred Maher +

Ministry Schedule

| | Saturday 4:00pm Mass | Sunday 8:00am Mass | Sunday 10:00am Mass | Sunday 12:00pm Mass |
|----------------------|---|---|--|---|
| | Apr 18, 2026 | Apr 19, 2026 | Apr 19, 2026 | Apr 19, 2026 |
| Altar Servers | Nicolas Moses Parker Moses Cooper Moses | Connor McGrath Elle McGrath Addie McGrath | Carter Rossbund Thomas Biederman Sarah Lighthipe | Ben Johnsen Keegan McCaffrey |
| Lectors | Cathy Assman Rod Nuss | Gennette Wirtz Joseph Snook | Jon Garrigan Maureen Garrigan | Mary Bratton Chris Maher |
| EMHC | Toni Hansen Jacque Liston Lucile Gerjevic | Patti Ford Roger Harvey | Jennifer Lighthipe Michelle Naughton Michael Naughton | Trevor Yanovich |
| Ushers | Jack Gross Linda Bonham Fred Schaben Mark Assman | Mike Skipton Velda Ring Mike Ring Oliver Juranek | Dave Bristol Jill Clevenger Peter Clevenger Margine Henry | Chris Olson Trevor Yanovich Rob Peters Mason Olson |

Next Sunday's Readings: April 19, 2026

1st - Acts 2:14, 22-33

2nd - I Peter 1:17-21

Gospel - Luke 24:13-35

CONNECTED

Organizations & Groups

- ALTAR & ROSARY SOCIETY**

The St Anne's Altar and Rosary Society will meet on **Thursday, May 7th** 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, April 23rd** 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. The annual LifeSaver Drive will be the weekend of April 18/19 Questions? Contact Dola Mehsling at 402-689-0188.

- KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS**

Our next meeting is **Monday, April 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 will meet on **Tuesday, April 14th** at 6:30pm in the social hall as we continue to learn and discuss the Fruits of the Holy Spirit. You can bring a snack to share if you like. Bring a friend!

- 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. Join us for our Easter Party on Divine Mercy Sunday-Sunday, April 12th at 6pm at the St Peter rectory!

SEEKERS & SAINTS

Faith Formation News



FULLY ALIVE YOUTH GROUP

Upcoming Dates:

April 19 - Faith In Action

May 3 - Saints

May 17 - Incoming Freshman Night

Got questions? Contact Heather Olson at religioueducationdirector@saintpeterscb.org



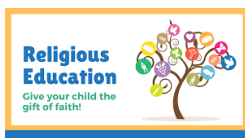
EXPLORING CATHOLICISM

For adults interested in joining the Catholic Church!

All are welcome to join us for any of the classes! at 2pm on Sundays.

Sunday, April 19th at 2 PM at St. Patrick's - Our topic is "Reflecting on the Sacraments"

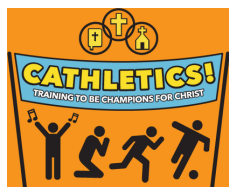
Sunday, April 26th at 2 PM at St. Peter's - Our Topic is "Next Steps on the Journey"



RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Saturday, May 2nd at 6pm - Confirmation

Sunday, May 3rd at 2pm - First Communion



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Monday, June 8th - Friday June 12th from 5:30pm-8:30pm

Join the VBS Team -To make Vacation Bible School a success we need your help! Whether you are an adult, high schooler or middle schooler, we have a position for you. Can't sign up for the whole week? That's okay! Childcare available. Questions? Heather Olson at 712-318-3030 or religioueducationdirector@saintpeterscb.org

Yes! I want to help kids learn more about the Bible!



BEYOND THE PARISH

News From Across the Diocese

• INVITATION TO IOWA KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS - PILGRIMAGE TO ITALY

There is still room to come along November 2-12, 2026, to some of the most sacred and beautiful sites in all of Europe! We'll visit great places like Venice, Padua, Florence, Assisi, Rome and so much more! Our time in Rome will include a Papal Audience with Pope Leo XIV! We'll have Mass daily in great Churches and Cathedrals along the way. This pilgrimage is for Knights of Columbus from around the State of Iowa, spouses and widows of former members. Cost for the trip is \$4,599 with departure from either Des Moines or Omaha. For a brochure and more information, contact Fr. Dan Guenther at 712-899-6870 or email frdanguenther@gmail.com

• NEW ON SPIRIT CATHOLIC RADIO NETWORK

iDeall Relationships iDeall Relationships, hosted by Deacon Tom Deall and Jeb Eischeid, explores dating, marriage, and all kinds of relationships from a faithful Catholic perspective. Tune in for practical advice, real-life stories, and guidance for building Christ-centered relationships. The first episode airs Monday, April 6th at 8 PM and will be available as a podcast afterward. Learn more at spiritcatholicradio.com/relationships.

• DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY

Divine Mercy Sunday will be Sunday, April 12, 2026. This is the 95th year Anniversary of Divine Mercy message and devotion according to the revelations of St. Faustina. St. Pope John Paul the Great started Divine Mercy Sunday in 2000!! The site for this year's city-wide Divine Mercy Sunday event will be at St. Peter Church, Council Bluffs. It will go from 2 - 4 PM. There will be Adoration, for the whole two hours, Reconciliation, for the whole two hours, the Divine Mercy Chaplet prayed at 3 PM and the Rosary will also be prayed at some point in the two hours. We are pleased to announce that the keynote speaker from the Gabriel's Corner Dinner, Alicia Kowalski, will do a small presentation and sing the Chaplet. Feel free to come and go as you wish during the two hours.



Knights Of Columbus,
St Peter's Council 1045

Mother's day BREAKFAST

SUNDAY, MAY 3RD

9AM-11AM

Free Will Offering

Menu: Scrambled Eggs with Ham,
Bacon, Berry Biscuit Strossel, Coffee,
Milk & Juice

All proceeds go to support the
Diocese of DesMoines Seminarians



St Anne's Altar Society RUMMAGE & BAKE SALE

St Peter's Social Hall

Drop Off - Thurs, April 16th, 8am-5pm

**Please make sure items are clean*

Sale - Friday, April 17th 8am-5pm

& Saturday, April 18th 8am-12pm



Items NOT Accepted:
Televisions, telephones, computers, printers, radios, any
electronics, cassette tapes, VHS tapes, infant/child car seats

Attention Ladies of the Parish!
If you're looking to have a great time and gain early access to
merchandise, we would love your assistance! You don't need to
be an active member of the Altar Society to lend a hand;
simply come by, even if it's just for a portion of the day. Thank
you in advance for your support! For more information, please
contact Sue Brownlee at susan54hudson@gmail.com

St Peter's Easter Egg Hunt



April 12th, 2026
Divine Mercy Sunday
11:30AM

Location

St Albert High School



near Sheryl K Johnson Childcare Center



If the weather does not cooperate, the Easter eggs will be
given out in the social hall after the 10am Mass.

Divine Mercy Sunday Event

Speaker/Singer

Alicia Kowalski

Here's the shedule for the
afternoon:

2:00 - Exposition

2:15 - Start the Rosary

2:45 - Alicia will give her
presentation

3:00 - The Divine Mercy
Chaplet will be prayed/sung,
after the Chaplet there will
be quiet time.

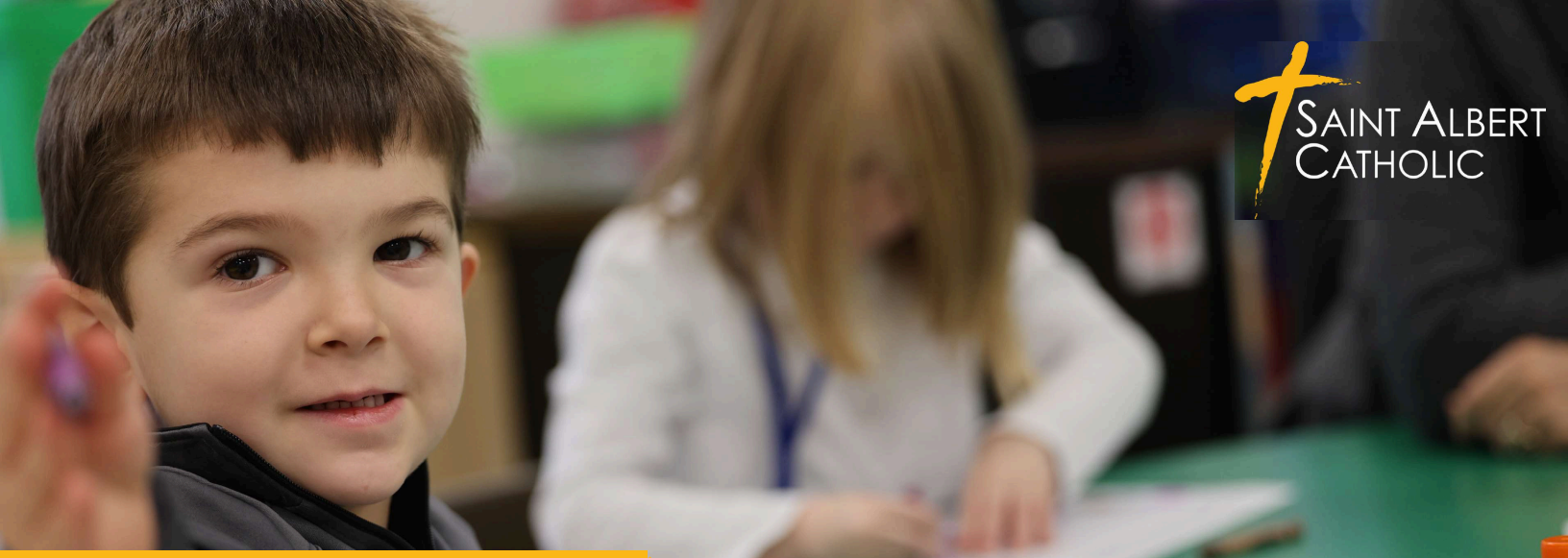
4:00 - Benediction then
reception

St. Peter's Catholic Church

1 Bluff St, Council Bluffs, IA 51503

2PM - 4PM April 12th





KINDERGARTEN ROUND-UP

APRIL 14th
5:30PM-6:30PM

If you missed our January session, come learn about Kindergarten at Saint Albert Catholic! Meet our teachers, check out our classrooms, and see all of the great opportunities our school has to offer.

5:30PM

Round-up Session begins in the Elementary Gym

6:00PM-6:30PM

Meet our teachers & view the Kindergarten classrooms!



You're Invited

Religious Education

&

FULLY
ALIVE
YOUTH GROUP



Open House

We are excited to open our doors and **WELCOME THE ENTIRE ST PETER'S COMMUNITY** to see the heart of our youth ministry. Come explore our space - including our new Fully Alive Youth Group Room - hear about our program, and see what we have been up to!

Sunday, April 19th

6pm-7pm

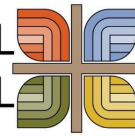
St Francis Worship Center, 238 S 6th St.

Whether you have a student or simply want to support the next generation of our church, we would love to have you come see us!

The World According To Bob

- On Easter Sunday, I like to put my tithing in tiny plastic eggs and make the ushers look for it.
- People who don't believe in autocorrect go straight to he'll.
- My dad was a conjoined twin. He used to refer to his brother as my uncle on my dad's side. They were surgically separated. He is now my uncle once removed.
- What do you call a wreath made of \$100 bills? Aretha Franklin.
- I drove by Legoland today. People were lined up for blocks.
- I got fitted for a neck brace years ago. Never look back.
- Listen, the amount of plants I buy is nothing compared to the amount that I don't buy. Lettuce keep that in perspective.

2026 ANNUAL DIOCESAN APPEAL



On that first Easter evening, the disciples were gathered behind locked doors, fearful and uncertain. Then Jesus appeared among them, saying, "Peace be with you." He showed them His hands and side, breathing the Holy Spirit upon them and giving them the gift of forgiveness: "Whose sins you forgive are forgiven them." In this encounter, fear became joy, doubt was met with patient guidance, and the disciples experienced Divine Mercy—God's love and forgiveness made tangible.

Our parish is called to be a place where Divine Mercy is alive. Here, through prayer, friendship, and shared service, people encounter Christ, experience forgiveness, and are drawn into communion with God and one another.

Through the Annual Diocesan Appeal, we extend this mercy beyond our parish—forming future priests and deacons, caring for clergy, supporting those in need, and strengthening parish life across the Diocese.

Your gift is an act of mercy in action. Please give prayerfully and generously, so together we may cultivate encounters with Christ, build lasting friendships, and share His Divine Mercy with all.



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

St. Joseph Cemetery

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Contact Adam Thomas
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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

Knights of Columbus

Donnie Kenkel, CLTC, FIC
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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.

Senior Pictures Families Events

Rob Peters Photography

712-310-2531 | robpetersphoto.com

FINNISHED CONCRETE

PETER FINN, PARISHIONER
712-310-0249

St. Peter's Parish Council Minutes
February 3, 2026

Members Present: Fr. Jacob, Debbie Foote, Dylies King, Jon Garrigan, Shelley Snook, Susan Lorkovic, Tom Liston and Mike Rosloniec. Absent: Tali Washburn and Wally Bussey. Guests in attendance were: Josslyn Keller, Rowan Jackson, Alexandra Kirlin, Maelle McGrath, Sara McGrath and Keegan McCaffrey.

Debbie Foote called the meeting to order.

Father Jacob led the opening prayer.

Members recited the St. Peter's Parish Mission Statement.

The minutes from December 4, 2025 meeting were reviewed. There were no additions or corrections. Motion to approve was made and seconded. Motion carried.

Area School Board by Mike Rosloniec:

- Mike Murtagh has been hired as the Chief Advancement Officer and Todd Bennett has been hired as the Middle School/High School Principal.

Parish Life report by Shelley Snook:

- Deacon Pat and Shelley Snook will be hosting the Hospitality Social on February 28 and March 1. There will be a sign-up for the May and June socials. There will not be a social on April 4 and 5 as that is Easter.
- The soup suppers will be starting February 24 and the committees have been reminded of their dates. Fr. Jacob sent a mailer to a small portion of the neighborhood around the church inviting them to the suppers. We will have extra soup on hand if needed.
- The Easter Egg Hunt will be on April 12, 2026, Divine Mercy Sunday. We will fill 600 eggs this year.
- The Landing has been reserved for the Parish Picnic on June 28, 2026. Will try to meeting with committees sometime in March to touch base.

Religious Education by Fr. Jacob:

- There will be a Lenten Family night in lieu of classes one week.
- 9th grade confirmation retreat will be held February 8. 10th grade confirmation retreat is being held with St. Pat's
- Vacation bible school will be June 8-12.

Social Concerns by Dee King and Debbie Foote:

- Will be hosting soup supper on March 10.
- Are working on activity for the next month.
- Will be hosting the Hospitality Social on May 3 and 4th.
- Will be providing the adult games for the Parish Picnic in June.
- The committee is participating in a quarterly Social Justice Committee with other parishes in the diocese. The goal is to form connections, share information and coordinate across parishes.

Worship and Spirituality by Fr. Jacob:

- Have received the Lenten materials.
- Looking to start a Baptism follow-up program. We would follow-up with the parents at different stages of the child's life with a small gift.

Altar Society by Susan Lorkovic:

- No meetings in January or February.
- Hosting the reception for the OCIA Rite of Election on February 21 at St. Peter's.
- They have been asked to help with adoration on Thursdays during Lent.

Knights of Columbus by Jon Garrigan:

- They have purchased a trailer to store the shrimp boil equipment.
- The “Knights before Christmas” dinner and dance were well received.
- Shrimp boils will be held February 20 and March 6 and they will be advertised on Spirit Radio.
- There will be an exemplification ceremony on March 1 after the noon Mass.
- They have been asked to help with adoration on Thursdays during Lent,

Report on Buildings and Grounds by Tom Liston:

- The retaining wall will be finished up this week. Need to install hand rail.
- The insurance company will give us \$10,000 to replace our roof. That work will begin in spring or early summer.
- Hosting the soup supper on February 24.
- Looking at St. Francis Worship Center to rework rooms and possibly remodel to make it more functional.

Fr. Jacob Report:

- St. Peter’s will be hosting the Rite of Election for OCIA for Southwest Iowa on February 21 at 10:00 a.m.
- We have invited neighbors to the soup suppers.
- We are starting a homebound ministry that Deacon Pat will lead. There will be a training session for the people who have volunteered to help.
- Young Adult Christmas Party was held and well received. They will be meeting again on February 22 for board games and a talk by Fr. Jacob or Fr. Max.
- We will begin celebrating birthdays and anniversaries on the third weekend of the month.
- We are starting an email prayer chain. Debbie Foote volunteered to be the point person for the chain. Fr. Jacob will set up a separate email account for this.
- We are going to set up a visitation program for widows/widowers. Shelley Snook will work on setting up this project.
- An audit review has been completed. We are in good shape.

New Business:

- No new business was discussed.

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, April 7, 2026.

Father Jacob closed the meeting with prayer.

Submitted by Shelley Snook, Secretary