



THE CATHOLIC CHURCH OF SAINTS PETER AND PAUL

150 Railway St. E., P.O. Box 96, Loretto, MN 55357

Ph: (763) 479-0535 • www.sspap.org • sppoffice@saintsppta.org

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

NOVEMBER 30, 2025

Advent

PREPARING THE WAY

*Why is Mary
called the
Immaculate Conception?
(page 4)*

OUR PARISH MISSION

To form and nurture disciples of Jesus Christ in union with the Roman Catholic Church.

Weekend Masses

Saturday

4:00pm.....Ss. Peter & Paul
5:30pm.....St. Thomas

Sunday

7:30am.....St. Thomas
9:00am.....Ss. Peter & Paul
10:30am.....St. Thomas

Weekday Masses

Tuesdays.....8:00am @ Ss. Peter & Paul
Wed, Thur.....8:30am @ Ss. Peter & Paul
Fri, Sat.....8:30am @ St. Thomas

Welcome Visitors!

To join our parish, please go to our website, contact the Parish Office, or scan the QR code to the right to be taken to our online registration form.



Archdiocese Victim Assistance Hotline: (651) 291-4475

Confessions

Tuesdays.....7:15-7:45am @ Ss. Peter & Paul
3:30-4pm @ Ss. Peter & Paul
Wednesdays.....7:45-8:15am @ Ss. Peter & Paul
3:30-4pm @ Ss. Peter & Paul
6:15-7pm @ St. Thomas (w/Adoration)
Thursdays.....7:45-8:15am @ Ss. Peter & Paul
Fridays.....7:45-8:15am @ St. Thomas
3:30-4pm @ St. Thomas
Saturdays.....7:30-8:15am @ St. Thomas
3-3:45pm @ Ss. Peter & Paul

Sacrament Guidelines

Baptisms:

Make arrangements with the pastor. Copy of Birth Certificate must be submitted, at the latest, one week before the baptism.

Marriages:

Make arrangements with the pastor 6-8 months in advance. Must be a registered parishioner at least six months prior to beginning marriage prep. Cohabiting couples will normally be required to separate before scheduling a wedding.

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From
Fr. Glen's
DESK

This is the 1st Sunday of the Advent Season. This season has a particular note of readiness for the Lord's return in glory. It is focused on the theme of arousing ourselves from any spiritual backsliding and checking on our lives to see if they reflect our life goals as Christians.

You will notice that this is not directly connected on the birth of Jesus in Bethlehem at Christmas. This is not a mistake. Jesus promised that He would return in glory. That return will involve judgment for sin and reward for the living faith in those who accept Him.

Jesus' birth is the beginning of God carrying out His plan for our salvation so that we can be justified in His sight and made holy and worthy of life with Him in heaven. The celebration of Jesus birth is not a mere birthday party like any other. It is a celebration of God intervening in our world to bring about our salvation. To meaningfully celebrate this we need to be living a saving faith in Jesus Christ so as to be worthy of His promises of eternal life in glory. The readings of Advent then are a call to faith well lived so as to be ready for the coming of our savior Jesus Christ.

As part of celebrating Advent well we will have Sunday evening Vespers at St. Peter and Paul at 7:00PM on three of the Sundays in Advent. Come and check those out as we honor God to help stir the flames of faith in our heart. See the bulletin for more details.

Please note the schedule of confessions during this holy season. Confession is a powerful way to advance our spiritual growth as we take a look at ourselves and how we live out our faith in the midst of others.

Note that the Holy Day of obligation of the Immaculate Conception is on Monday, December 8th.

Happy
ST. NICHOLAS
Day

Saturday,
December 6th

COFFEE & ROLLS

All are invited to the Parish Center Dining Hall for coffee, juice and rolls following the 9 AM Mass.



BULLETIN SUBMISSIONS

Bulletin articles are due by 9:00 AM on Mondays, unless indicated elsewhere in the bulletin. All articles must be completely written before submitting.

Thank you.

Ss. Peter & Paul Office Hours

Tuesday - Friday
9am - 4pm

Parish Staff

Rev. Glen Jensen, Pastor
frjensen@saintsppta.org

Rev. Sebastien Bakatu
Weekend Assistant

Tom Utecht, Deacon
dcntutecht@saintsppta.org

Todd Ziesmer
Parish Business Administrator
tziesmer@saintsppta.org

Sherry Elsen
Parish Office Administrator
selsen@saintsppta.org

Julianne Leighton
Dir. of Faith Formation & Youth
Ministry/Safe Envrmt Coordinator
jleighton@saintsppta.org

Joyce Rathburn
Parish Life Coordinator
jrathburn@saintsppta.org

Lynn Scholtes
Administrative Assistant
lscholtes@saintsppta.org

Gary Zitzloff
Director of Maintenance
gzitzloff@saintsppta.org

Carrie Ferdinandt
Music Coordinator
Ss. Peter & Paul Organist

Greg Elsen
Volunteer Choir Director

Trustees

Brad Jacobs, Lee Schlosser

Parish Council

Bill Maurer-Chair, Lark Ahlstrom,
Paul Gibson, Todd Johnson, Scott
Ritter, Tim Spaulding,
OPEN POSITION

Finance Council

Rachel Polson-Chair,
Dan Doboszinski, Randy Elsen,
Bernadette Grenzer,
Jovelyn Larson

SUPPORTING PARISH & COMMUNITY

FINANCIAL UPDATE (July 2025-June 2026 contributions)
Contributions toward our renovation project are not included.

Week Ending November 23, 2025

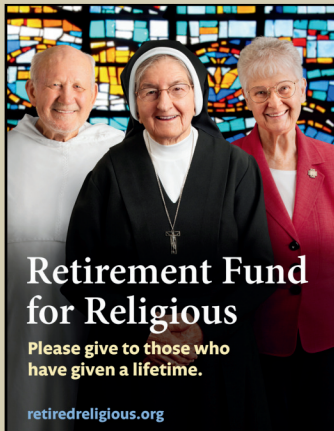
Donation Type	W/E Collection	YTD Actual	YTD Budget	Difference	Prior YTD Actual
Envelopes	\$7,780.00	\$125,708.00	\$157,500.00	\$ (31,792.00)	\$117,726.00
Electronic Giving	\$1,981.63	\$38,993.53	\$42,403.85	\$ (3,410.32)	\$42,962.30
Loose Plate	\$293.00	\$6,284.15	\$6,057.69	\$226.46	\$4,662.23
TOTALS	\$10,054.63	\$170,985.68	\$205,961.54	\$ (34,975.86)	\$165,350.53



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SUPPORT THOSE WHO WHO HAVE GIVEN A LIFETIME December 13/14

Women and men religious have dedicated their lives to service—praying, teaching, and caring for those in need—usually for little to no pay. Today, their religious communities do not have enough retirement savings. Your donation provides for the essential care, medicine, and daily needs of thousands of senior women and men religious. Please give generously.



HOLIDAY TRAIN Food Drive

Ss. Peter and Paul is collecting nonperishable food items and cash donations for the 2025 Holiday Train!

All donations will go to area food shelves. There are collection baskets located in the back of church, in the parish center, and in the chapel kitchen. For questions, please contact Joyce Rathburn at the Parish Office:

763-496-5142 | jrathburn@saintsppta.org.



END-OF-YEAR DONATIONS

To make a contribution for the 2025 tax year, the donation must be dropped off in the Parish Office by 12 noon on Wednesday, December 31st. Checks received or postmarked in January will be counted towards 2026 contributions.

Thank you for your generous support!



CHRISTMAS SPIRITUAL BOUQUET CARDS

Christmas Spiritual Bouquet Cards are out at the back of Ss. Peter & Paul Church. The 4pm and 10pm Masses on Christmas Eve and the 9am Mass on Christmas Day will be offered for your Spiritual Bouquet intentions. To have your intention included on the Mass Intention hand-out, your filled out Spiritual Bouquet envelope(s) can be dropped in the Sunday collection or brought to the Parish Office by 9am on Tuesday, December 23rd. Please note - any Spiritual Bouquet intentions not included on the handout are still included in the Mass Intentions and will be placed in the sanctuary for the Christmas Masses.

CHRISTMAS FLOWERS



It's the time of the year when we order flowers and make preparations to beautify our church during the Christmas season. In your Sunday Offering packets that you get once every two months in the mail, you will find an envelope for Christmas Flowers. On the back is a place to write, if you'd like, names of those you are making a donation in memory/honor of.

If you choose to make your donation with a list of names on the back of the envelope, please be sure to write the names clearly. A week or two after Christmas, we will have a bulletin insert listing the names of those who are being remembered through the beautiful flowers adorning our church.

OUR CATHOLIC FAITH

THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

WHAT IS THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION?

The Immaculate Conception is a Catholic dogma that states that Mary, whose conception was brought about the normal way, was conceived without original sin or its stain. That's what "immaculate" means: without stain.

It's important to understand what the doctrine of the Immaculate Conception is and what it is not. Some people mistakenly think that the term refers to Christ's conception in Mary's womb without the intervention of a human father. Others

think the Immaculate Conception means Mary was conceived "by the power of the Holy Spirit," in the way Jesus was; but that, too, is incorrect.

The essence of original sin consists in the deprivation of sanctifying grace, and its stain is a corrupt nature. Mary was preserved from these defects by God's grace; from the first instant of her existence she was in the state of sanctifying grace and was free from the corrupt nature original sin brings.

When discussing the Immaculate Conception, an implicit reference may be found in the angel's greeting to Mary. The angel Gabriel said, "Hail, full of grace, the Lord is with you" (Luke 1:28). The phrase "full of grace" is a translation of the Greek word kecharitomene. It therefore expresses a characteristic quality of Mary.

The grace given to Mary is at once permanent and of a unique kind. Kecharitomene is a perfect passive participle of charitoo, meaning "to fill or endow with grace." Since this term is in the perfect tense, it indicates that Mary was graced in the past but with

continuing effects in the present. So, the grace Mary enjoyed was not a result of the angel's visit. In fact, Catholics hold that it extended over the whole of Her life, from conception onward. She was in a state of sanctifying grace from the first moment of Her existence.

"Mary, too, required a Savior... But by a special intervention of God... she was preserved from the stain of original sin and its consequences."

OBJECTIONS

But we are told that "all have sinned" (Rom. 3:23) and Mary said Her "spirit rejoices in God my Savior" (Luke 1:47), and only a sinner needs a Savior.

Mary, too, required a Savior. Like all other descendants of Adam, she was subject to the necessity of contracting original sin. But by a special intervention of God, undertaken at the instant she was conceived, she was preserved from the stain of original sin and its consequences. She was therefore redeemed by the grace of Christ, but in a special way—by anticipation.

"Actually, doctrines are defined formally only when there is a controversy that needs to be cleared up..."

An analogy would be: A man falls into a deep pit, and someone reaches down to pull him out. The man has been "saved" from the pit. Now imagine a woman walking along, and she too is about to topple into the pit, but at the very moment that she is to fall in, someone holds her back and prevents her from falling. She too has been "saved" from the pit, but in an even better way: She was not simply taken out of the pit, She was prevented from getting stained by the mud in the first place.

Romans 3:23, "all have sinned." Have all people committed actual sins? What about a child below the age of reason. By definition he can't sin, since sinning requires the ability to reason and the ability to intend to sin.

DOGMA OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION AND POPE PIUS IX

Because the doctrine of the Immaculate Conception was officially defined by Pope Pius IX in 1854, many think the doctrine was invented by the church at that time. Actually, doctrines are defined formally only when there is a controversy that needs to be cleared up or the church thinks the faithful can be helped by particular emphasis being drawn to some already-existing belief. In the

case of the Immaculate Conception, Pope Pius IX hoped the defined doctrine would inspire others in their devotion to Mary.

APPARITIONS THAT CONFIRMED THE DOCTRINE OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

Four years after the proclamation of the dogma, the Virgin Mary appeared to Saint Bernadette in Lourdes, France, and presented herself as the "Immaculate Conception." This event not only confirmed the faith of many but also marked a pivotal moment in the history of Marian apparitions. Bernadette, a humble young girl with no theological training, initially did not understand the meaning of the words Mary had spoken to her. However, when she conveyed them to the local priest, he was deeply impressed, as he recognized in that phrase a direct confirmation of the dogma proclaimed by the Pope just a few years earlier.



O Mary, conceived without sin, pray for us who have recourse to thee.

NEWS & EVENTS



SUNDAY EVENING VESPERS

Is life crazy this time of year? Come enter into the peace of the Advent season with Sunday evening vespers: 7:15-8pm, Sunday December 7th, 14th, and 21st at Ss. Peter and Paul."

Middle School and High School students are invited, too!

"Children are a heritage from the Lord." Psalm 127:3

INTERCESSORY PRAYER FOR OUR CHILDREN & GRANDCHILDREN

First Fridays @ St. Thomas
9 AM beginning in lower level of church

First Saturday Devotion

Our Lady's promise:
For those who fulfill five consecutive First Saturdays, Our Lady promises personal salvation. (December 10, 1925)

Confessions... 7:30-8:15 AM
Rosary..... 7:50 AM
Mass..... 8:30 AM

St. Thomas the Apostle Church
20000 Co. Rd. 10, Corcoran

WELL-READ MOM (WRM) BOOK CLUB

~ DECEMBER READ

Tuesday, December 9

6:30 p.m. – 7:45 p.m.



In December the WRM book club will be discussing the book "Christmas Around the Fire" by Ryan N. S. Topping.

While we encourage you to read every story in this book slowly throughout the season, the ones we will be focusing on for our Discussion in December will be the following:

- "Advent Calls Us to Silence" an essay by Pope Benedict XVI
- "Papa Panov's Special Christmas" by Leo Tolstoy
- "The Burglar's Christmas" by Willa Cather
- "The Selfish Giant" by Oscar Wilde
- "A Canadian Christmas" by Ryan N. S. Topping
- "What Christmas Is as We Grow Older" by Charles Dickens

The WRM book club will meet on December 9 in the Ss. Peter & Paul Dining Room from 6:30 p.m. – 7:45 p.m. hosted by Meg Clemens.

Highschool Night?

At Ss. Peter and Paul, Loretto



ST. JOHN PAUL THE GREAT'S THEOLOGY OF THE BODY

Schedule:

- Domino's Pizza
- Dodgeball
- Large group talk, "What Does it Mean to be Human?"
- Men's and Women's Breakout Sessions
- Adoration & Confession

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 22ND
5:30-8:30PM

Speakers:

Ben & Jenna Montedonico

Ben and Jenna have been married for four years. They both have a passion for teaching. Ben teaches history and theology at Chesterton Academy and Jenna served in youth ministry for eight years before becoming a stay-at-home mom.



www.churchofstthomas.org / www.sspap.org

CHAPEL CLOSING GUIDELINES FOR INCLEMENT WEATHER

During the winter season, we will close the chapel during severe inclement weather (i.e., sleet, heavy snow, low wind chill temps, icy roads). If any of these conditions exist, please call our main office number - 763-479-0535, select option 3 for our Announcement line, and then option 1 to check our Chapel announcement message before heading to the Chapel.

Although our Lord will not be in the monstrance, He is still in the chapel tabernacle; so if you would still like to visit Him in the chapel, you are welcome.



HOLY DAY MASS

The Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary is a week from this Monday (December 8th) and is a holy day of obligation. St. Thomas will have Mass at 8:30am, and Ss. Peter & Paul will have Mass at 7pm. Note: There are no confessions before holy day Masses.

THIS WEEK

LITURGICAL MINISTERS

December 6, 2025

Priest.....Fr. Steve Ulrick
 Sacristan.....Lynn Scholtes (*Sub Req.*)
 Rosary.....Diane Oberg
 Ushers.....Lee Schlosser, Butch Peitz
 Lector.....Diane Oberg
 Comm Assist.....Diane Oberg

December 7, 2025

Priest.....Fr. Bakatu
 Sacristan.....JoAnn Schlosser
 Rosary.....Marlis Doboszinski
 Ushers.....Ruth Lehn, Todd Johnson
 Lector.....Christian Young
 EMHC.....Marlis Doboszinski
 Cup Minister.....Christian Young
 Hospitality.....Catholic United Financial
 - Randy & Joyce Hatcher

December 8, 2025 - Immac. Concept.

Holy Day of Obligation

Priest.....Fr. Jenson
 Sacristan.....JoAnn Schlosser
 Rosary.....Sandey Jordan
 Ushers.....Randy & Joyce Hatcher,
 Ray Polson
 Lector.....Rachel Polson
 EMHC.....Amy Gallus
 Cup Minister.....Rachel Polson

MASS INTENTIONS

December 2-7, 2025

Tues.....Steve & Judy Parmenter
 Wed.....+Marie Jacobs
 Thur.....+Eleanore Florek
 Fri.....+Linda Reinhardt
 Sat.....8:30am...+Ed Harter
 4:00pm...Parish Cluster
 Sun.....9:00am...+Marion Merz

OBSERVANCES FOR THE WEEK OF NOVEMBER 30, 2025

Sunday: First Sunday of Advent
 Wednesday: St. Francis Xavier, Priest
 Thursday: St. John Damascene, Priest and Doctor of the Church
 Saturday: St. Nicholas, Bishop
 Next Sunday: Second Sunday of Advent



JOIN A SMALL GROUP
and learn more about...

OUR CATHOLIC FAITH

Foster personal relationships, build community, and grow as a joyful missionary disciple of Christ. Learn more about the beauty of our Catholic Faith.

You do not need to be a church member to join a small group, so invite friends and family, or consider leading your own small group. Scan the QR to the right to see all groups, as more may be added.



CALENDAR

November

SPP = *Ss. Peter & Paul*
 ST = *St. Thomas*

Sun, Nov 30 **CKMT - Sale of Leftover Food/Items from Festival (after 9am Mass in Dining Hall)**

December

Mon, Dec 1 Small Group Leadership mtg | 4:15-5:45pm, Ss. Peter & Paul
 Tue, Dec 2 VIA | 8:30am-4:30pm, SPP Parish Center
 OCIA | 7-9:00pm, SPP Library
 Wed, Dec 3 Tentative: Ave Maria Retreat | 7:30am-3:30pm, SPP Parish Ctr
 Parish Cluster Dinner | 5:30-6pm, St. Thomas Dining Hall
 Faith Formation | 6:15-7:30pm, St. Thomas
 Young Adult Group Study | 6:30-8:30pm, SPP Conference Rm
 Thu, Dec 4 Pastoral Council mtg | SPP Conference Rm
 Fri, Dec 5 Intercessory Prayer for our Kids | 9am, St. Thomas Church
 Sun, Dec 7 COR Team mtg | 5-6:30pm, Ss. Peter & Paul Parish Ctr
 Holy Apostles Youth Group | 6:30-8pm, SPP Parish Ctr
 Mon, Dec 8 Feast of the Immaculate Conception (*Holy Day of Obligation*)
 Holy Day Mass @ St. Thomas: 8:30am
 Holy Day Mass @ Ss. Peter & Paul: 7pm
 Tue, Dec 9 VIA | 8:30-4:30pm, SPP Parish Center
 Men's Small Group | 6-7:30pm, SPP Conference Rm

JOIN US WEEKLY:

Wednesdays: Young Adult Study | 6:30-8:30pm
 (SPP Conference Room)
 Thursdays: Men's Social Group | 9:00am
 (SPP Dining Hall)
 Sundays: Coffee & Rolls after 9:00am Mass
 (SPP Dining Hall)



Readings for the week of November 30, 2025

Sunday:

Is 2:1-5/Ps 122:1-2, 3-4, 4-5, 6-7, 8-9/
 Rom 13:11-14/Mt 24:37-44

Monday:

Is 4:2-6/Ps 122:1-2, 3-4b, 4cd-5, 6-7, 8-9/
 Mt 8:5-11

Tuesday:

Is 11:1-10/Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 17/
 Lk 10:21-24

Wednesday:

Is 25:6-10a/Ps 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6/
 Mt 15:29-37

Thursday:

Is 26:1-6/Ps 118:1 and 8-9, 19-21, 25-27a/
 Mt 7:21, 24-27

Friday:

Is 29:17-24/Ps 27:1, 4, 13-14/Mt 9:27-31

Saturday:

Is 30:19-21, 23-26/Ps 147:1-2, 3-4, 5-6/
 Mt 9:35-10:1, 5a, 6-8

Next Sunday:

Is 11:1-10/Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 17 (see 7)/
 Rom 15:4-9/Mt 3:1-12

CATHOLIC UNITED FINANCIAL

Ss. Peter and Paul Parish Volunteer Team #056

Our Catholic United Financial Parish Volunteer Team promotes our faith and strengthens our community through various activities. We are committed to the social, service, and religious needs of our parish community.

Join Catholic United Financial by contact-ing Team Director, Joyce H. at 763-498-7187, or Administrative Coordinator, Joanne at 763-479-2928.



PRAYER

PRAYER CHAIN MINISTRY

The Prayer Chain Ministry is made up of parishioners dedicated to praying for others. To place someone on a Prayer Chain, please contact Lynn Scholtes at 612-801-1588 / lynnscholtes@gmail.com. Thank you.

WE PRAY FOR THOSE IN THE MILITARY

Eric Alger—Army; Patrick Eikmeier—Army National Guard; Nick Elsen—Air Force; Dalton Pouliot—Army National Guard; Nickolas Sieg—Army; Peter Weber—Air Force.

If you would like a member of our U.S. Military listed or removed, please contact Sherry at the Ss. Peter & Paul Parish Office—763-479-0535 or selsen@saintsppta.org.

WE PRAY FOR THE SICK

Because of our need to respect the privacy of individuals/families, we must have a member of the family call us to have a name included here. Unless we hear from the family, we will take a name off after 3 months. Thank you!

- Judy Parmenter (2/1)
- John Grenzer (12/25)
- Special Intention (3/26)

PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR MEN DISCERNING THE DIACONATE

- Cory Plotts.....Diaconate Formation
- Todd Ziesmer.....Diaconate Formation

Blessed Virgin's Rosary Ministry

Prayer Intention for December 2025

For the participants of the Blessed Virgin's Rosary Ministry and their families; and that the Holy Family's example of love will open our hearts to the true meaning of Christmas.

Each member is assigned a mystery of the Rosary to pray each day. New members are always welcome. To join, contact Sherry in the Ss. Peter & Paul Parish Office or Joanne Schumacher at jnschu@live.com.

DEVOTIONS, EXPLAINED!

St. Andrew Christmas Novena, Explained!



The St. Andrew Christmas novena is a prayer said from November 30, the Feast of St. Andrew, through Christmas Eve. Traditionally, it is recited 15 times each day.

The Gospel of John tells us that St. Andrew was a disciple of John the Baptist who heard John call Jesus "the Lamb of God." Andrew followed Jesus, curious about him, and realized that he was the Messiah, so he quickly found his brother, Peter, and the two became the first disciples.

In praying this novena, Christians follow the example of Andrew's prescient faithfulness throughout the season of Advent. The prayer of the novena reads:

"Hail and blessed be the hour and moment in which the Son of God was born of the most pure Virgin Mary, at midnight, in Bethlehem, in the piercing cold. In that hour vouchsafe, I beseech Thee, O my God, to hear my prayer and grant my desires through the merits of Our Savior Jesus Christ, and of His blessed Mother. Amen."

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Area Perpetual Eucharistic Adoration

Area Perpetual Adoration is in Our Lady of Loretto Chapel, which is located in the old Convent building on the Ss. Peter & Paul Church grounds. To sign up for an hour, please contact Sherry in the Parish Office (763-479-0535) or one of the members of our Adoration Core Team listed below.

ADORATION CHAPEL CORE TEAM

Head Coordinator	Joanne	763.360.2639
Assistant Coordinator	Diane	612.730.9386
Night Division Leader:.....	Brenda	763.656.7910
Morning Division Leader:	Judy	763.331.5703
Afternoon Division Leaders:.....	Lill	612.600.2050
Evening Division Leader:	Connie	763.228.8330

"I urge priests, religious and lay people. To teach younger generations the meaning and value of Eucharistic adoration and devotion. How will young people be able to know the Lord if they are not introduced to the mystery of His presence? All interior life needs silence and intimacy with Christ in order to develop."



(Saint John Paul II, May 28, 1996)



Adoration Open Hours

NIGHT TIME HOURS:

Sunday.....	3:00 AM
Tuesday	12 Midnight
Wednesday.....	3:00 AM
Thursday.....	1:00 AM
Saturday.....	1:00 AM, 3:00 AM

AFTERNOON HOURS:

Friday	1:00 PM
Saturday	5:00 PM

EVENING HOURS:

Saturday.....	8:00 PM
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For questions, or to inquire about taking an hour, go to the website by scanning this QR code, or call the Ss. Peter & Paul Parish Office Administrator at 763-479-0535.

