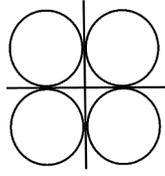


ST. PAUL'S CHURCH



783 Hard Road, Webster, New York

August 23, 2020 Twenty-First Sunday in Ordinary Time

Mission Statement

St Paul's Parish Family exists for the purpose of witnessing and proclaiming the message of Jesus Christ, that message proclaimed in word, worship, service: love God, love your neighbor as yourself.



21st SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

"I will give you the keys to the kingdom of heaven. Whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven; and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven." - Mt 16:19

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.

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Mass Times

Saturday, 4:00 p.m.
 Sunday, 10:00 a.m.

Confession

Saturday 2:00-3:00 p.m.
 or by appointment

Weekday Masses

Tuesday, Wednesday &
 Thursday at 8:30 a.m.

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

Wednesday at 9:00 a.m.

Parish Staff



Pastor: Fr. Paul Gitau
Deacon: Mark Robbins
Confirmation Prep. Coordinator: Bonnie Serio x27
Faith Formation & Youth Coordinator: Sue Ward 671-2110
Business Manager: Robin Martz x30
Facility Cleaning Coordinator: Helen Stirpe
Maintenance Coordinator: Ben O'Brien
Administrative Asst.: Jodie Hickey x21
Finance Council Chair: Tom Napoli
Parish Council Chair: Paul Pumputis
Parish Trustees: Deb Urtz-Gleason & Dave Galeazzo
Multi Parish Finance Director:
 Joan Sullivan: 671-1100 x21

fr.paul.gitau@dor.org
 mark.robbins@dor.org
 bonnie.serio@dor.org
 susan.ward@dor.org
 robin.martz@dor.org
 helen.stirpe@dor.org
 ben.obrien@dor.org
 jodie.hickey@dor.org
 joan.sullivan@dor.org

Office Contact Info

The parish office is still closed to visitors, however we are in the office to answer phone calls on Monday-Wednesday from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and Thursday & Friday from 8:30 a.m. to Noon.

Phone: 671- 2100
Emergency Number: 369-9687
Website: www.stpaulsrcc.org
Diocese of Rochester: www.dor.org

Financial Snapshot

| | June 2020 | YTD July 2020 |
|------------------------------|------------|---------------|
| Collections | \$38,412 | \$38,412 |
| Donations/ other revenue | \$3,045 | \$3,045 |
| Expenses | \$59,820 | \$59,820 |
| Operating surplus/deficit | \$(18,363) | \$(18,363) |

Expenses include quarterly invoices paid in July.
 St. Paul Church relies on the generous contributions of our parishioners to continue providing the programs and ministries of the parish.



Lots of additional information is available on **St. Paul's web site**, stpaulsrcc.org. Below are a few important items you might want to check out:

- Sign up weekly to attend week-end Mass
- Watch Sunday Mass live streaming on Facebook
- Read the weekly bulletin
- Donate online
- Contact a staff member
- Explore the Family Zone Newsletter



Let Us Pray for Those in the Military



Jason Aman
Zach Bartlett
Bryan Gross
Tom Weisenreder
Mason Serrano
Andrew Zani
Jay Riesenberger

Josh Bartlett
Sean Black
Andrew O'Brien
Cydney Blong
Michael J. Desiato
Daniel Thomas

This week the
 Sanctuary Lamp burns
 for
 Mary Alice Rieger
 From
 Betty Beerhalter

Seeds for the Journey

Gift of the Holy Spirit

A few weeks ago, a message was emailed to the churches in the diocese that Confirmations originally scheduled for last April and postponed because of the pandemic, would be celebrated during August and early September. The joyful news conveyed to the candidates and their parents was met with a wonderfully positive responses. The waiting was over... the time to complete the preparation was at hand. Thus, the candidates busied themselves with their final tasks; writing their letters to Fr. Paul, receiving the Sacrament of Reconciliation, reviewing the final lessons that focused on the Gifts and Fruits of the Spirit.

When you read this, most of our candidates will have already been confirmed. The ceremonies, adjusted to ensure the safety and health of the youth and their sponsors and families, will have been celebrated at St. Lawrence Church in Greece, a space large enough to seat participants in socially distant groupings. The sacrament will have been administrated using the shortened *Rite of Confirmation Outside Mass*. No photos with the bishop, no reception afterwards.

In reflecting on these challenging last few months, I have been heartened by an awareness that the Holy Spirit has been involved throughout the entire process. The candidates, although seemingly a bit disappointed that the "Confirmation ceremony isn't the way it used to be", were enthusiastic in their desire to receive the sacrament. Perhaps this time of suffering and isolation has a heavenly purpose - to draw us closer to God.

The Spirit of God works in strange mysterious ways. A personal story told to me recently by one of our Confirmant's parents beautifully illustrates this. It's with her permission that I share her story.

She was Lutheran and her husband was Catholic when they were married in a civil ceremony. When their children were born, she struggled with the question, "In what religion will we raise them?" When they moved from Florida to Rochester to be closer to family, she continued to attend various church services, hoping to find a spiritual home.

The answer to her prayers came the day she and her husband attended the funeral of her sister-in-law's mother at St. Lawrence Catholic Church in Greece. "Our entire family was there and during the funeral for 'Nana', I received my answer: I needed to convert to Catholicism and raise our kids as Catholics. I believe the Holy Spirit delivered the news to me during that funeral. I remember being filled with relief and I was so excited! I told my husband and we both were thrilled."

She continues, "The very next day I called St. Paul's, we attended Sunday Mass and I entered the RCIA program." At the Easter Vigil she received the Sacrament of Confirmation, with her sister-in-law as her sponsor. Shortly afterwards, her children, then 2 and 3 were baptized by Father Stan in a private ceremony with their entire family present. As an added surprise, Fr. Stan announced, "And now we have just one more thing to take care of..." and right then and there he married them with everyone looking on.

That beautiful example of the Spirit's presence in that woman's life has now come full circle...her daughter was confirmed last week with her son as sponsor... at St. Lawrence Catholic Church, the same church in which she had experienced her conversion. The Spirit had worked quietly until the "God moment" in which she responded to His loving invitation.

The Gifts of the Spirit given to us at our Baptism and strengthened at our Confirmation are our lifeline. Once we build a day-to-day awareness of his work in our lives, we can begin to rely on the Spirit to always lead, guide and provide. In the words of St. Augustine, let us pray;

*Breathe in me, O Holy Spirit, that my thoughts may all be holy...
Act in me, O Holy Spirit, that my work, too, may all be holy...
Draw my heart, O Holy Spirit, that I love but what is holy...
Strengthen me, O Holy Spirit, to defend all that is holy...
Guard me, then, O Holy Spirit, that I always may be holy.*

Bonnie

Diocesan Mission Sunday Second Collection

Today is Diocesan Missions Sunday, a day to honor the missionary efforts of the Sisters of St. Joseph and the Sisters of Mercy working and serving the needs of our brothers and sisters in Brazil and Chile.

We are called to take part in the missionary work of the Church. We may not all have to move to another town or city to do so but impelled by the Holy Spirit, each one of us is to move beyond our daily concerns, important as they are, to help others live in the faith that sustains us.

We are reminded that our missionary activity is a living sign of our faith. The support by the church of Rochester is a great piece of our history.

If you wish to support the Sisters of St. Joseph & Sister of Mercy this weekend, please make your check payable to St. Paul's, adding Diocesan Mission Collection in the memo. Please drop your check in the collection box or slot with your regular offertory donation. Thank you for your support.

God is Close



As our lives seem distant and disjointed, we remember that God is always close and in this divine closeness we are one no matter where we sit.

Let us pray....

God of silence and stillness, we trust You are with us in this time of noise and chaos. We pray for an end to this pandemic. Whisper Your words of comfort, encouragement, and hope to all who need them in these days of fear. Draw close to those who are sick and all those who risk illness caring for them, protect, and uplift them. In Your name, we pray.

Amen.

Giving Options

Go to our website (stpaulsrcc.org) and click on the DONATE link.

Or give through your bank's online bill pay feature.



Try the

GIVEPLUST⁺ MOBILE APP



To donate by text, send your contribution amount to 833-931-1892



Mail your check:
St. Paul Church
783 Hard Road
Webster, NY 14580

We Need Ushers!

Do you enjoy helping people? And could you use a little exercise? If so, do we have a job for you!

We are in great need of ushers, at both masses but particularly at the 10:00 AM. The duties consist of directing folks where to sit when they enter, keeping an eye of everyone during mass for anyone needing assistance, directing communion traffic, and assisting with dismissal. (OK, it's not a lot of exercise but you are getting up and down a lot.)

The only other consideration is we request you arrive 30 minutes prior to the beginning of mass to assist with the seating. (But this means you are guaranteed a parking spot!)

Clearly there are many benefits to this volunteer job so if you are interested please call Jodie or Robin in the office at 671-2100. George Hanley is the Head Usher and he can also give you more information. The first five new ushers each get a Peppermint Pattie! Thank you!

Staff Listing Update

The staff listing has Helen Stirpe as the Rectory House-keeper but if you have been here in the past month you know she is so much more.

When the coronavirus arrived and we needed someone we could depend on to keep the facility safe, Helen stepped up. As we opened the doors to welcome back parishioners for Mass, the required cleaning and disinfecting increased and so has Helen's involvement. She is here for every mass, making sure everyone sanitizes and wears a mask. She checks in the volunteers and makes sure they complete the Health Certification Forms. She assists the ushers and communion helpers during mass and often steps in herself. And after mass is done and everyone goes home, Helen cleans and disinfects the church, bathrooms, and Narthex, and replaces all the chair covers. She rearranges the chairs if necessary between masses. In her spare time, she arranges the altar flowers, frequently with flowers from our gardens that she also weeds. She helps Sue and Bonnie with their respective programs. And she cleans the rectory too.

Fr Paul thinks we should change Helen's job description to "Jack of All Trades Minister". It is very fitting but probably not Diocesan approved so we are going with Facility Cleaning Coordinator.

We are so grateful for Helen and all the work she does to keep us safe!

First Holy Communion

We would like to congratulate **Alexandra Black, Luca Bleier & Zachary Nuwer** who celebrated the Sacrament of First Holy Communion. May Christ's life and love fill you every time you receive Him in Holy Communion.

AV Project

When the pandemic hit and we closed, there was a scramble to offer Mass online. We considered the different streaming options and the simplest one for us to get working was via Facebook with Fr Paul's cell phone and a tripod. The quality of the video was not outstanding but we thought it was a short-term solution.

Unfortunately, this has lasted longer than anyone imagined, so we have developed an audio-visual plan to improve our streaming. Please know we are very cost conscious. The Diocesan IT Department is assisting us with the wiring as well as with the hardware plan. To save money we hope to repurpose the camera that we have used for broadcasting downstairs (at Easter and Christmas). We also purchased large screen tvs (on sale at BJ's) to display the Mass readings and songs (for when we can sing again). It makes sense to do this now as we can run the wiring for the camera and the screens at the same time. The screens will permit us to offer presentations and programs via video in the church. This week the TVs were hung in the church as the start of this project.

We hope to complete this project soon so watch the bulletin and website for updates!

Roman Catholic Diocese of Rochester

Victims of sexual abuse should always report to the civil authorities. To receive help and guidance from the Roman Catholic Diocese of Rochester, contact our Victim Assistance Coordinator:

Deborah Housel

585-328-3228 x1555

Toll-free: 1-800-388-7177 x 1555

Or by email, victimassistance@dor.org

Roman Catholic Diocese of Rochester

Any concerns related to financial fraud can be reported anonymously:

Financial Fraud Hotline

1-800-388-7177 x1266

Reports may also be made in writing to:
Internal Audit Department—Diocese of Rochester
1150 Buffalo Road—Rochester, NY 14624

SUNDAY'S READINGS

FIRST READING:

"I will place the key of the House of David on Eliakim's shoulder; when he opens, no one shall shut when he shuts, no one shall open." (Is 22:22)

PSALM:

Lord, your love is eternal; do not forsake the work of your hands. (Ps 138)

SECOND READING:

Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God! How inscrutable are his judgments and how unsearchable his ways! (Rom 11:33)

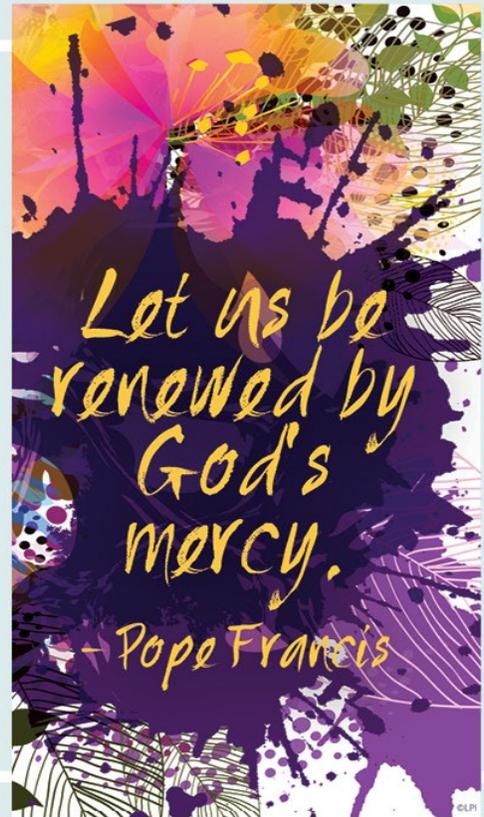
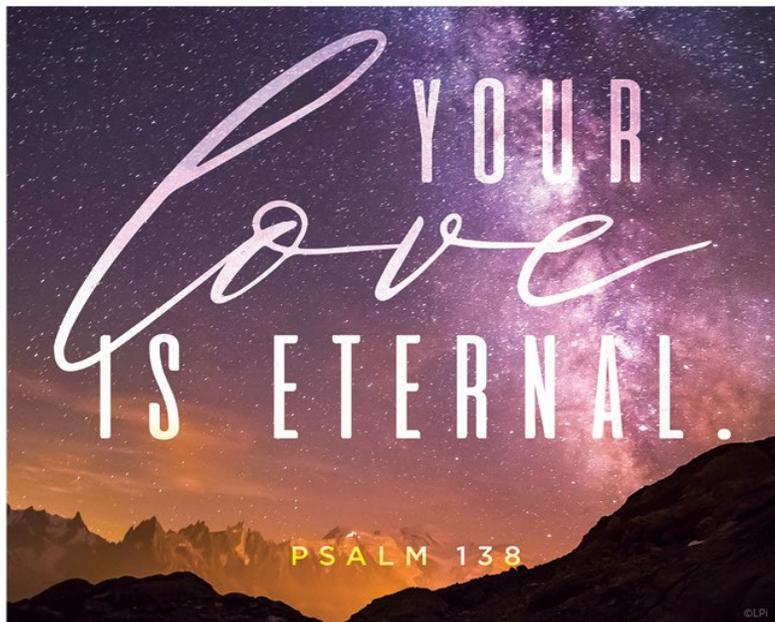
GOSPEL:

"And so I say to you, you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church, and the gates of the netherworld shall not prevail against it." (Mt 16:18)

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OBSERVANCES FOR THE WEEK OF AUGUST 23, 2020

| | |
|--------------|--|
| Sunday: | 21st Sunday in Ordinary Time |
| Monday: | St. Bartholomew, Apostle |
| Tuesday: | St. Louis; St. Joseph Calasanz, Priest |
| Thursday: | St. Monica |
| Friday: | St. Augustine, Bishop and Doctor of the Church |
| Saturday: | The Passion of St. John the Baptist |
| Next Sunday: | 22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time |



REFLECT

FIRST READING

The Lord condemns Shebna (a scribe under King Hezekiah) for ignoring Isaiah's prophetic warning and elevates Eliakim with "a seat of honor." How well do you listen to prophetic voices?

SECOND READING

We hear today Paul's concluding remarks from Romans 9:11 (reflections on God's plan of salvation for Jews and Gentiles). Paul contends that God's ways are beyond our understanding. Do you find this comforting or unsettling?

GOSPEL READING

Jesus informs Peter that his confession of him as "the Messiah, the Son of the living God" is divinely inspired. How do you imagine Peter personally reacted to the news of this revelation?