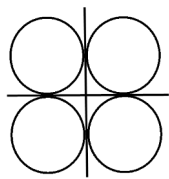


ST. PAUL'S CHURCH

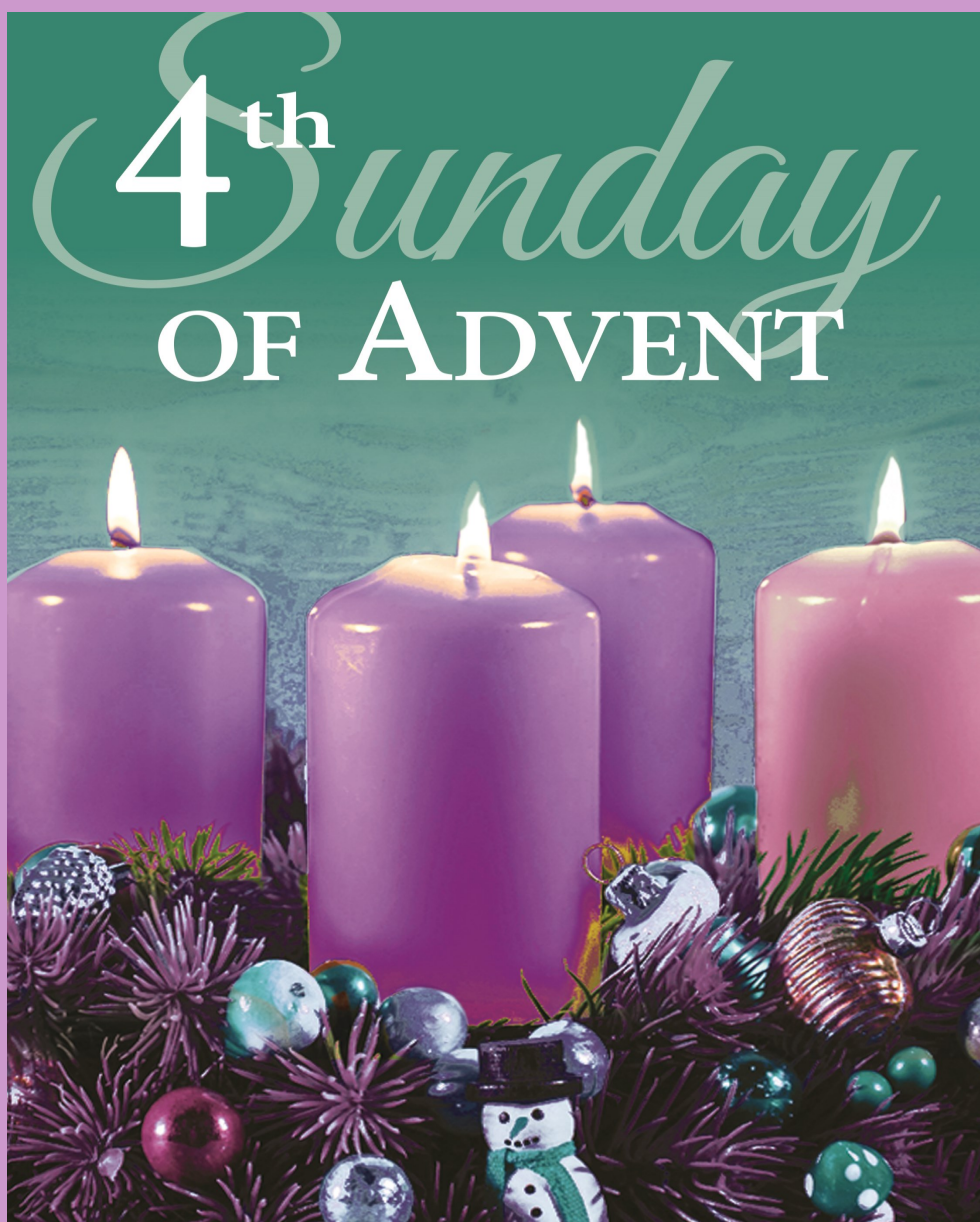


783 Hard Road, Webster, New York

December 20, 2020 Fourth Sunday of Advent

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.





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

Coordinator of Music: Tom McGary x31

Faith Formation & Sacramental Prep Coordinator:

fr.paul.gitau@dor.org

mark.robbins@dor.org

thomas.mcgary@dor.org

Sue Ward 671-2110

susan.ward@dor.org

robin.martz@dor.org

helen.stirpe@dor.org

ben.obrien@dor.org

jodie.hickey@dor.org

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: Scott Rutan

Parish Trustees: Deb Urtz-Gleason & Dave Galeazzo

Multi Parish Finance Director: Joan Sullivan: 671-1100 x21 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

Upcoming Events

Tuesday, December 22

Late Advent Weekday

8:30 a.m. Mass

Wednesday, December 23

Late Advent Weekday

8:30 a.m. Mass

9:00 a.m. Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

Thursday, December 24

Late Advent Weekday

Christmas Eve

Parish office closed

3:00 p.m. Mass

5:30 p.m. Mass

Friday, December 25

The Nativity of the Lord

Christmas Day

Parish office closed

10:00 a.m. Mass

Saturday, December 26

St. Stephen, The First Martyr

2:00-3:00 p.m. Individual confession

4:00 p.m. Mass

Sunday, December 27

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph

10:00 a.m. Mass

Financial Snapshot

	November 2020	July 2020-November 2020
Collections	\$35,473	\$176,870
Donations/ other revenue	\$3,838	\$20,144
Expenses	\$25,648	\$231,073
Operating surplus/deficit	\$13,663	\$(34,059)

Expenses include quarterly invoices paid in July & October.

St. Paul Church relies on the generous contributions of our parishioners to continue providing the programs and ministries of the parish.

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
William Hogue
From
Anne Marie &
Dan O'Hara & Family

Seeds for the Journey

How Brightly Shines the Morning Star

We are now deep into the Advent Season. It seems strange since we cannot sing any of the wonderful hymns and songs written for the Advent and Christmas seasons. Since we cannot sing them this year we will do the usual American thing and talk about them.

Let's start with one that you know very well, *Silent Night*". We must travel back in time and across the ocean to the country of Austria. It is the Christmas Eve of 1818 in the village of Oberndorf in the Austrian Alps. The organ in the Church of St. Nicholas was broken almost beyond repair. The organist Franz Gruber informed Fr. Joseph Mohr that it nearly beyond repair and they could not use it for Christmas Eve Midnight Mass. Gruber who was frustrated by the situation paced the floor trying to come up with a solution to the problem.

In the meantime Fr. Mohr was called to a cottage to bless a newborn baby. On his way back to his Parish Fr. Mohr thought of what he has just done. He contrasted and compared the scene he had recently witnessed with the birth of Christ in the crowded inn at Bethlehem. A light came on! To his great surprise he found himself creating a poem that was descriptive of the night on which both infants had been born. Many ideas ran through his mind and soon overcame any thoughts of fatigue and tiredness. From his own home he began writing his thoughts in poetic form. He wrote the poem in several stanzas and in a meter (6/8) and mood that reflected a simple creative genius. Of course the carol was *Stille Nacht* – known to us as *Silent Night*.

The organist Gruber arrived at the Parish home. Fr. Mohr, after refusing to discuss the organ's condition, went to retrieve his guitar and told Gruber to write music for the new poem. So that it could be sung at the midnight Mass by the priest and the organist and accompanied by the guitar. "Write it as simple as possible." What emerged was this Christmas carol (song) sung by the Pastor and the Organist for the first time and received acclaim from the parishioners.

That may have been the end of the story but in the early spring of the following year, 1819, Karl Mauracher, (an organ builder and repairman) was summoned to Oberndorf to repair the organ. Mauracher asked Gruber to try the repair and pass judgement on the work. Ah, but Fr. Mohr happened to be in the Church, and he insisted that Gruber play the new Christmas carol. Mauracher immediately fell in love with the tune and wanted a copy of the music. Of course he received a copy. Ten years passed and nothing had happened with the music. Ah Ha! Mauracher found an answer to whom the music should be given when he heard four children, all from a family by the name of Strasser, singing. Their singing was magnificent. So Mauracher arranged the carol for four Strasser children's voices and they sang like "nightingales". People said when they sang *Stille Nacht* it was most heavenly – they named it "the Song from Heaven".

The parents of the Strasser children took them to Saxony where they sang the carol for the Director-General of Music for the Kingdom of Saxony, Mr. Pohlenz. He was so impressed that he invited the children to sing "The Song from Heaven" (*Silent Night*) for the King and Queen of the Royal Saxon Court on Christmas Eve. The King of Prussia, some twenty-two years later proclaims the first hymn in Christmas concerts should be "*Stille Nacht*." Some years later in 1867 John Freeman Young was identified as the person who translated this carol into English. It has remained one of the most popular Christmas carols.

Tom

Time is running out!

There are just a few days left in 2020 to make a year end contribution to St. Paul's.

As another year comes to a close and we thank God for the many blessings we have received throughout the year, please remember St. Paul's in your Christmas generosity. It's through your donations that we are able to carry on our work.

Please drop your donation in the offering box or in the slot at the back of the church, or mail it in, or you can also make your donation online. Click on the "Donate" link on our web site at www.stpaulsrcc.org. Statements will be mailed to all donors by the end of January.

We are deeply grateful for your support. Have a Blessed Christmas and a Happy New Year!

First Communion

We would like to congratulate **Madisyn McDonnell** who celebrated the Sacrament of First Holy Communion. May Christ's life and love fill her every time she receives Him in Holy Communion.

2021 calendars are available as you leave church! Please hand sanitize before taking a calendar!

Many thanks to our sponsor:

Falvo Funeral Home

1295 Nine Mile Pt.
Webster
872-1010

1395 N. Goodman St.
Rochester
266-1320

These calendars are very useful as they note the holy days as well as the liturgical seasons.

Subscribe to our

You Tube Channel

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 broadcast was not outstanding but it was a temporary solution.

We have now moved to YouTube for our streaming. The audio is directly through the microphone so it is much clearer. And the camera video is better than through a cellphone.

The St. Paul's Mass YouTube links are on our web site. There is one for the live streaming which will be active for Sunday 10:00 AM Mass. There is also a link to recordings of previous Masses. This is St. Paul's You Tube page. If you subscribe to our page you will receive notifications of upcoming broadcasts.

We hope the links and stream are all set but as we have discovered, things don't always work as planned. If you have any problems accessing the stream please call the office and leave us a message. Thank you for your patience and understanding!

Bethany House Wish List for December

Food for Christmas Baskets:

Canned green beans, canned corn, mac & cheese, boxed mashed potatoes & rice

Stocking Stuffers:

Small bottles of hand sanitizer, hand lotions, chapstick, candy/mints & fuzzy socks

Please place your donations (in a paper bag) in the collection box in the Narthex during Mass. **(Enter the narthex via the door on the left and remember to wear your mask and to social distance!!!)** The Good Sam Outreach Committee will deliver our donations to Bethany House at the end of the month. Thank you!

CMA Update As of December 11, 2020

Your CMA gift supports ministries that affect every Catholic in our Diocese. Thank you for supporting St. Paul's in this year's campaign.

**46.03%
of our goal**



St. Paul's CMA Update

As December 11th, 219 families have contributed to the CMA. We thank those who have given generously and ask all who have not yet given to prayerfully consider doing so. The CMA helps our Church and our parish in so many ways. Please consider all the ways that God has blessed you and your family and think how the Church has brought goodness into your lives. Join our appeal and give back what you can so that we remain strong and able to do God's great work!

Christ, Our Light

Brrr! It's Getting Cold Out There! Winter Clothing Appeal

We are still collecting adult and children's coats, sweaters, hats, mittens, boots, etc. for those in need.

Items may be placed in the large grey tote (outside) to the left of the church's front doors.

Giving Options

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

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



Try the
GIVEPLUS⁺
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

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:

"When your times comes and you rest with your ancestors, I will raise up your heir after you, sprung from your loins, and I will establish his kingdom firm." (2 Sm 12)

PSALM:

For ever I will sing the goodness of the Lord. (Ps 89)

SECOND READING:

According to the revelation of the mystery kept secret for long ages but now manifested through the prophetic writings and, according to the command of the eternal God. (Rom 16:25b-26a)

GOSPEL:

"Behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall name him Jesus. He will be great and will be called Son of the Most High." (Lk 1:31-32a)

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

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OBSERVANCES FOR THE WEEK OF DECEMBER 20, 2020

Sunday:	4th Sunday of Advent
Monday:	St. Peter Canisius, Priest and Doctor of the Church
Wednesday:	St. John of Kanty, Priest
Thursday:	Christmas Eve
Friday:	The Nativity of the Lord (holy day of obligation)
Saturday:	St. Stephen, the First Martyr
Next Sunday:	The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph



REFLECT

FIRST READING

Today's reading from Second Samuel narrates the context in which God establishes his covenantal promise to King David around the year 1000 B.C. In the birth of Jesus, God fulfills his covenant with David. What does this teach us about the idea of "salvation history?"

SECOND READING

Paul concludes his letter to the Romans with a hymn of praise to God for the long-awaited revelation that all are saved and justified through faith in Christ. In what ways are you praising God during this season of Advent?

GOSPEL READING

Today's Gospel reading records the angel Gabriel's announcement to Mary of the upcoming birth of Christ. Mary's acceptance of God's will for her life ("May it be done to me according to your word.") models for all of us unconditional faith. How can we encourage others to embrace such faith?