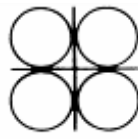


ST. PAUL'S CHURCH

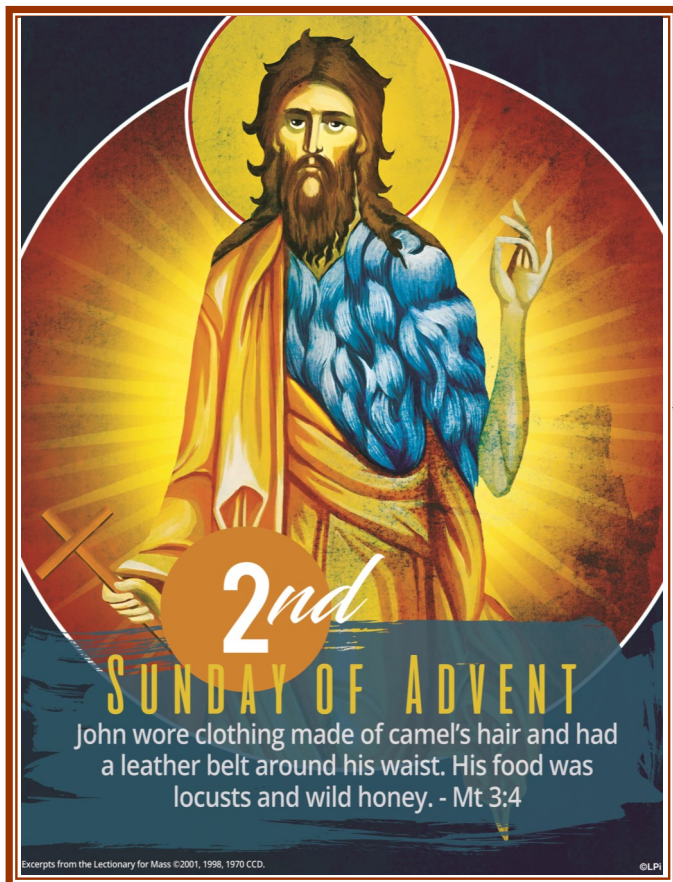


783 Hard Road, Webster, New York

December 8, 2019 Second 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.



DECEMBER 8TH SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

First Reading: Isaiah 11:1-10

Second Reading: Romans 15:4-9

Gospel: Matthew 3:1-12

DECEMBER 15TH THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

First Reading: Isaiah 35:1-6a, 10

Second Reading: James 5:7-10

Gospel: Matthew 11:2-11

Advent Penitential Service With Individual Confession

Thursday, December 12

7:00 p.m.

Masses For Christmas 2019

Christmas Eve Mass:

Tuesday, December 24

3:00 p.m. Mass

5:00 p.m. Pre-service caroling

5:30 p.m. Mass

Christmas Day Mass:

Wednesday, December 25

10:00 a.m.

Mass Times

Saturday 4:00 p.m.

Sunday 9:00 a.m., 11:00 a.m.

Weekday Masses

Monday-Thursday 8:30 a.m.

Friday-Communion Service 8:30 a.m.

Individual Confession

Saturday 3:00-3:30 p.m. or by appointment

Upcoming Events

Saturday, December 7

St. Ambrose, Bishop & Doctor of the Church

No Prayer Shawl Mtg.

9:00A First Penance Workshop
1:00P Advent Retreat
3:00P Individual Confession
4:00P Mass

Sunday, December 8

Second Sunday of Advent

9:00A Mass-CLOW
Coffee & Donuts
9:30A Confirmation Prep Yr. 1
10:00A SOAR
11:00A Mass-CLOW
Coffee & Donuts
12:10P Confirmation Prep Yr. 2
6:00P Youth Group

Monday, December 9

The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary

8:00A Rosary
8:30A Mass
4:30P SOAR

Tuesday, December 10

Advent Weekday

Parish Office Closed at Noon

No Faith Sharing

8:00A Rosary
8:30A Mass
11:00A Staff Mtg.

Wednesday, December 11

Advent Weekday

No Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

8:00A Rosary
8:30A Communion Service
7:00P Good Sam Outreach Mtg.
7:00P Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, December 12

Our Lady of Guadalupe

8:00A Rosary
8:30A Mass
1:30P Grief Share Group
1:30P St. Paul's Euchre Club
7:00P Advent Penance Service

Friday, December 13

St. Lucy, Virgin & Martyr

8:00A Rosary
8:30A Communion Service

Saturday, December 14

St. John of the Cross, Priest & Doctor of the Church

3:00P Individual Confession
4:00P Mass

Parish Staff

Pastor: Fr. Paul Gitau x29

fr.paul.gitau@dor.org

Deacon: Mark Robbins x23

mark.robins@dor.org

Pastoral Associate: Katherine Cappuccio x24

katherine.cappuccio@dor.org

Coordinator of Music: Tom McGary x31

thomas.mcgary@dor.org

Confirmation Prep. Coordinator: Bonnie Serio x27

bonnie.serio@dor.org

Religious Ed. & Youth Coordinator: Sue Ward 671-2110

susan.ward@dor.org

Business Manager: Robin Martz x30

robin.martz@dor.org

Rectory Housekeeper: Helen Stirpe

helen.stirpe@dor.org

Maintenance Coordinator: Ben O'Brien x28

ben.obrien@dor.org

Administrative Asst.: Jodie Hickey x21

jodie.hickey@dor.org

Finance Council Chair: Tom Napoli 872-0678

tanapoli@live.com

Parish Council Chair: Paul Pumputis

Parish Trustees: Deb Urtz-Gleason & Dave Galeazzo

Multi Parish Finance Director:

Joan Sullivan: 671-1100 x21

joan.sullivan@dor.org

Office Hours

8:30-4:30 Monday-Friday (closed for the lunch hour from 12:00-1:00 p.m.)

Phone: 671- 2100

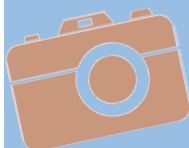
Fax Number: 787-8907

Emergency Number: 369-9687

Website: www.stpaulsrcc.org

Diocese of Rochester: www.dor.org

We warmly welcome all new parishioners and visitors to St. Paul's. To register please fill out a "request for registration" form available at all church entrances. Return it to the donations slot at the back of the church or to the parish office. A member of our pastoral staff will contact you to complete your registration.



FINANCIAL SNAPSHOT

	November-2019	July 2019- November 2019
Weekly Collections	\$61,001	\$208,995
Donations / Other Revenue	\$5,234	\$24,546
Expenses	\$(52,346)	\$(261,271)
Operating surplus (deficit)	<u>\$13,889</u>	<u>\$(27,730)</u>

Average Weekly Mass Attendance 541 479

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

Josh Bartlett

Zach Bartlett

Sean Black

Bryan Gross

Shawn Reidy

Alec Konrad

Tom Weisenreder

Mason Serrano

Andrew O'Brien

Andrew Zani

Cydney Blong

Jay Riesenberger

Michael J. Desiato

Daniel Thomas



This week the
Sanctuary Lamp burns for
Mitchel Madlen
From
Wife, Mary

Seeds for the Journey

Allowing God to Grasp Your Hand

*For I am the Lord, your God, who grasp your right hand;
It is I who say to you, do not fear, I will help you.* Isaiah 41:13

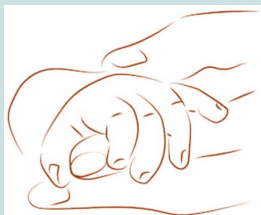
I smile recalling the times when my four grandchildren reach to grasp my hand trusting I'll lead them to the kitchen for food or help them down the stairs to the toys. Imagine what it would be like – God reaching out and holding your hand! We don't have to do it alone. Help is right here for us too. The Advent season offers us hope. Images from the prophet Isaiah originally offered hope to a people in the darkness of captivity in Babylon. The coming of Jesus into our lives is about our personal liberation from whatever captivity we are in, whatever darkness or despair challenges us. Isaiah calls us to deepen our relationship with God who sees each of us as precious, who rejoices in us, comforts, protects and fiercely loves us. I love my grandchildren that way, so I rejoice in how much more these attributes are shown by God's love for us.

Advent means "arrival" or "coming". We remember the birth of Jesus in its historical context, and await the Second Coming of Jesus. A third "coming" highlighted by Sister Joan Chittister's words is, "the coming of the presence of God among us **now** in the Scripture, in the Eucharist, in the community itself. This coming makes Jesus present in our own lives, eternally enlivening, eternally with us". That's the presence of God Isaiah's images help us perceive as well. Try to see our present day Advent not so much as waiting on God, but as God waiting on us to prepare a place for the Word to dwell in the very fabric of our lives.

Advent is the spiritual experience of Jesus' arrival in our hearts. However, have we let down our defenses enough to open our hearts? Our defenses, while guarding us from being vulnerable in a negative way, may hinder the healing, freeing, and transforming experience of "God with us". The Franciscan's view of God is that in Jesus – poor, humble and vulnerable- God is participating with us in all we experience. God walks with us into our fears, to feel them, to own them, to let them teach us.

During times of darkness when we cannot uphold ourselves, it is then we slowly learn to let someone else sustain us, to grasp us by the hand. Then we emerge renewed and more hopeful. The title of our Advent daily reflection books pretty much says it all. Waiting in joyful hope is holding what is, offering it instead of fixing it, loving as it is without understanding it fully. Much of our spiritual journey is listening, trusting...and like an expectant mother while waiting...enjoying the expansiveness that comes from this willingness to hold.

So can we today put down our guard enough to allow God to grasp us by the hand? If even a small part of us has the childlike trust of my grandchildren or the joyful hope of expectant parents, then we are preparing a way to allow God in. Come, Lord Jesus, come!



Katherine

Honoring Those Receiving Sacraments

Sacraments are such an important part of the lives of St. Paul's parish children and youth. Did you know there are almost 20 little ones who will receive the Sacraments of Reconciliation and Eucharist for the first time and 47 teens currently preparing for Confirmation?

In order to show support and encouragement to our children and candidates, and to acknowledge their active presence in our community, they and their families have been invited to be presenters-of-Gifts at the 9 a.m. or 11 a.m. Masses on alternating Sundays. We thank George Hanley, Coordinator of Ushers, for coming up with this excellent idea.

So when you see the children and youth, their siblings and parents each Sunday, please join in prayer and thanksgiving for the life-giving presence of our families and the faith that is being nurtured by our parish. God bless our children, teens and their families and God bless you...the parishioners of St. Paul's.



The Giving Tree has been a long-standing tradition here at St. Paul's and one of our most successful projects. The recipients of our gifts are needy families of Our Lady of the Americas, a parish formed by the merger of Mt. Carmel and three other city parishes.

All you need to do is remove a tag (or tags), purchase the item, and return the gifts, unwrapped, to the Tree by no later than **Sunday, December 15th**. There are envelopes on the tree for donations for heating fuel for families in need. You can put these envelopes in the collection. Please make your check out to "St. Paul's" and mark your check with "Fuel" in the memo line.

If you and your family would like to make a delivery please call Kathy Fetes at 747-6534. The delivery will be made after the 11 a.m. Mass.

Our friends in the city have come to rely on these gifts for their children. Each year they are very appreciative and express much gratitude for your generosity. Thank you for your continued support of this annual project.

Automatic Christmas Donations

A reminder that if you are signed up for automatic donations and chose the option for an annual Christmas donation, they will be processed on December 20th. If you have any questions please contact Robin the office at robin.martz@dor.org or 671-2100 ext. 30

Children's Christmas Choir



On December 15th, all the students in the School of Religion will spend about 20 minutes of Sunday's class time learning the music for our 3:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Mass. Students in the Monday afternoon classes

are invited and encouraged to join this practice session at 10:00 a.m.

We are grateful to Morgan and Courtney Chester for practicing with our students and preparing them to be a real part of St. Paul's Christmas Eve Mass celebration!

No extra driving or preparation is required for the practices or the Mass—just arrive a little early on Christmas Eve!



Christmas Flower Memorials

Christmas Flower envelopes are available at the church entrances. We will use the parishioner info from the front of the envelope to note who the memorial is from, so if you want something different listed, please write that as well.

Please make checks payable to "St. Paul's Church". You may send it in any time, with a deadline of **December 16** to be included in the Christmas bulletin.

You can also request a Christmas flower memorial on our website! Use the "Donate" link. Please note there is a 50 character limit, if you can't fit everyone, contact Robin or Jodie by calling 671-2100 and we can adjust it for you.

St. Paul's CMA Update

As of December 2nd, 167 of St. Paul's 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!

Have You Read...

Evans, Richard Paul The Noel Diaries

Each of Richard Evans's novels has been a *New York Times* bestseller. In this novel, Jacob, a best-selling author, hasn't been home since his mentally ill mother ordered him to leave almost twenty years earlier at the age of sixteen. But he is forced to return when his mother dies shortly before Christmas. He needs to clean out the house and settle the estate, dealing with his own painful memories and sorting through the clutter left by his hoarding mother. As he digs through decades of accumulations, he finds the diary of Noel who stayed with his family while she was pregnant, although he has no recollection of this. He is also visited by a woman who is looking for the woman who put her up for adoption years ago. Hoping to make sense of his past, Jacob begins to sort through the painful puzzle of what happened those many years ago.

(Call No. FIC-EVA)



Our Advent time of waiting in joyful hope includes preparing for Christmas Masses. Thank you in advance for your patience and understanding of the logistical challenges. While recognizing that the 3 p.m. Christmas Eve Mass is the most convenient for many of you, we ask that you prayerfully consider attending at 5:30 p.m. or 10 a.m. on Christmas Day instead. Those masses are much less crowded, and you will have an easier time finding seats together with your family. As in the past, we are asking that you not send someone in advance to reserve seats. There will be ushers on hand to assist any parishioners and visitors with walkers, wheelchairs, or special needs.

Downstairs Seating

In order to accommodate the larger-than-usual crowds, we will broadcast the 3 p.m. and if needed the 5:30 p.m. Christmas Eve masses on the large screen televisions downstairs in the Parish Hall and in Rooms 7 and 8. Eucharist will be carried to those seated downstairs, and there will be bulletins and worship aids provided so everyone can participate fully in the prayers, responses, and songs. Thank you for your cooperation as we celebrate the birth of our Savior.

For the Children

Beard, Darlene The Babbs Switch Story

It is 1924, in the tiny town of Babbs Switch, Oklahoma. Twelve-year-old Ruthie has two people causing problems in her life – her mentally ill sister, Daphne, who is 4 years older than she but still carries around a one-armed, bald-headed doll and Elden Larrs, the most disgusting boy in her school. It is time once again for the town's annual Christmas Tree Celebration and Ruthie is thrilled when she is chosen to be the soloist. But then her sister's habit of stroking soft things like newborn kittens causes big trouble for her family. And Ruthie is in for her biggest disappointment ever: her parents refuse to let her sing the solo. This book is based on a true story which made national headlines. J FIC BEA Grades 5-8.

St. Pauly Box Update:

Thank you for your continued donations to our St. Pauly box. We have come to depend on the revenue that we receive as they pay us .04 per pound. We receive an average of \$300 per month which really helps in these difficult times.

What to donate: used clothing, shoes, sneakers, belts, purses, linens, pillowcases, blankets, curtains, and stuffed animals

What NOT to drop off: furniture, electronics, books, toys, pillows, household items, fabric scraps, and rags.

In addition to benefiting St. Paul's, the donations directly benefit the needy in the US as well as around the world. St. Pauly Textile distributes throughout 44 countries. Receipts are available. Thank you!

Advent

I live my Advent in the womb of Mary.
And on one night when a great star swings free
from its high mooring and walks down the sky
to be the dot above the Christus I,
I shall be born of her by blessed grace.
I wait in Mary-darkness, faith's walled place,
with hope's expectance of nativity.

I knew for long she carried and fed me,
guarded and loved me, though I could not see.
But only now, with inward jubilee,
I come upon earth's most amazing knowledge:
Someone is hidden in this dark with me.

Jessica Powers

Ministry Schedule for December 14 & 15, 2019

	4:00 PM	9:00 AM	11:00 AM
Acolytes	Hannah Brodt Catherine Rogers	Margaret Milner Emmett Ernst	Bella Pumputis Evan Pumputis
Ushers	Alice Bower Kevin Nuwer	Dan Milner Katie Milner Paul Fetter	Bill Green Tim Runyan
Sacristans	Olbrich Family	D.A. Hutnick	Don & Rose Marie Schaeffer
Lectors Commentators	Anya Swinson Claudia Swinson	Kim Benzoni Crissy Picca	Larry McNamara Gina McNamara
Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion	Liz Kmiecinski Kevin Nuwer Nancy Dillon Karen Napoli Christine Grant Sue Dettman	Marianne Ferrara Allan Schichtel Sandy Doehler Bill Galbraith Beth Koopman Christine Lyons	Fred Compertore Joanne Mattiucci Jim Mattiucci Janet Slusar Bill Green Michele Cheeseman
Greeters	Linda Pratt Kathryn Strait Volunteer Needed	Anne LaClair Jerry Healey & Linda D'Antonio	Anne Hauber Volunteers Needed
Linens	Jeri Reidy		

Music for December 8th 2nd Sunday of Advent



On Jordan's Bank (*Winchester New*).....No. 418
 Lo How A Rose E'er Blooming (*Es Ist Ein Ros'
 Entsprungen*).....No. 451
 Creator Of The Stars Of Night (*Conditor Alme Siderum*)
No. 420
 People, Look East (*Besancon*).....No. 409
 Readings: No. 994
 Psalm 72: Justice Will Flourish.....No. 994

Wanted

Problem Pregnancy Help Center is looking for a secure oversized garage in Monroe County to park a Mobile Ultrasound Van (**9ft. High; 24ft. Long; and 8 ft. wide**) when the van is not in use on evenings and weekends.

Problem Pregnancy Help Center is also in need of pro-life technicians who are trained in the use of an ultrasound.

For more information contact, Fr. Jim Hewes at fr.jim.hewes@dor.org.

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