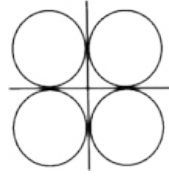


ST. PAUL'S CHURCH

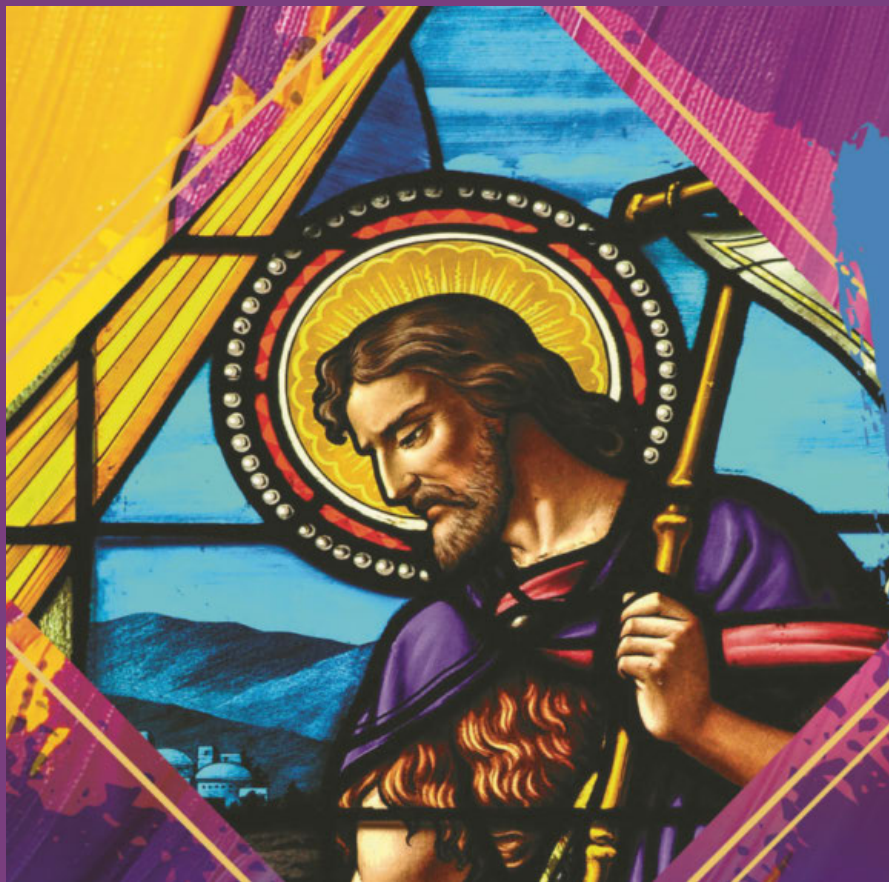


783 Hard Road, Webster, New York 14580

December 8, 2024 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.



2ND SUNDAY
OF ADVENT

*"Prepare the way of the Lord,
make straight his paths."
- Lk 3:4*

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

Mass Times

Saturday at 4:00 p.m.
Sunday at 9:00 a.m. & 11:00 a.m.

Daily Masses

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

Confession

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

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

Wednesday at 9:00 a.m.

Live Stream Mass via YouTube

Saturday at 4:00 p.m.
Sunday at 9:00 a.m. & 11:00 a.m.



Monday, December 9
Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary (Holy Day)

8:30A Mass
 6:30P Mass

Tuesday, December 10
Advent Weekday

8:30A Mass-with Anointing
 11:00A Staff mtg.
 12:00P Rosary Group

Wednesday, December 11
Advent Weekday

8:30A Mass
 9:00A Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament
 7:00P Choir Rehearsal
 7:00P Good Sam Outreach mtg.

Thursday, December 12
Our Lady of Guadalupe

8:30A Mass
 6:30P Advent Penance Service with Individual Confession

Friday, December 13
St. Lucy, Virgin & Martyr

No Mass

Saturday, December 14
St. John of the Cross, Priest & Doctor of the Church

9:45A Advent Retreat
 2:00P Confession
 4:00P Mass

Sunday, December 15
3rd Sunday of Advent

9:00A Mass
 10:00A SOR classes
 10:00A Confirmation Prep class yrs. 1 & 2
 11:00A Mass-Choir sings

Parish Staff

Pastor: Fr. Paul Gitau	fr.paul.gitau@dor.org
Deacon: Mark Robbins	mark.robbins@dor.org
Administrative Asst.: Jodie Hickey x21	jodie.hickey@dor.org
Adult Faith Formation Coordinator:	TBD
Director of Faith Formation: Anselm Mesue x27	anselm.mesue@dor.org
Coordinator of Music: John Gaspar	john.gaspar@dor.org
Faith Formation & Liturgy Assistant: Helen Stirpe x26	helen.stirpe@dor.org
Funeral Planning: Bonnie Serio	bonnie.serio@dor.org
Facilities Manager: Ben O'Brien x28	ben.obrien@dor.org
Finance Office:	webironfinance@dor.org
Finance Council Chair: Jack Black	
Parish Council Chair: Patrice DeAngelis	
Parish Trustees: Forest Shick & George Hanley	

Parish Office Hours

8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. Monday-Friday

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



Financial Snapshot

	October 2024	July-October 2024
Collections	\$31,691	\$155,466
Donations/ other revenue	\$3,093	\$14,277
Expenses	\$73,265	\$194,616
Operating surplus/deficit	\$(38,481)	\$(24,873)

**Let Us Pray
 for Those in the Military**

Jason Aman	Josh Bartlett
Bryan Gross	Cydney Blong
Tom Weisenreder	Michael J. Desiato
Mason Serrano	Daniel Thomas
Andrew Zani	Robert Wright
Jay Riesenberger	



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

Seeds for the Journey

Advent, as you might recall, is known as a season of preparation. From a secular perspective we prepare for the Christmas time celebrations we hope to experience with our friends and families. It is a time of shopping, gift wrapping, baking, sending cards, and decorating; a time of anticipation for celebrations soon to come.

From a Spiritual perspective we prepare ourselves to celebrate the birth of Jesus while, at the same time, we continue to prepare for his return. *"Prepare the way of the Lord,"* we hear John the Baptist proclaim in this weekend's Gospel, *"Make his path straight."* Those words remind us of our need to pause from the busyness of the season and to spend some time searching our hearts and scrutinizing our lives for those twists and turns along the road life that need to be straightened, the rough edges that need to be smoothed, so that we can come to know and experience Christ more intimately and serve him more faithfully.

Advent, along with Christmas, is also a time of nostalgia as memories of years past scroll through our minds: a special gift given or received, family dinners, the joy and laughter and excitement of young children, that first experience of midnight Mass, grandmas' cookies, trudging through the snow looking for the perfect Christmas tree, etc. Unfortunately, for some, those joyful memories may be clouded with a tinge of sadness, especially if this is their first Advent and Christmas season celebrated without the presence of a deceased friend, sibling, child, spouse, mother, or father.

Yes, Advent is a season of preparation, of rejoicing, of remembering. But at its core Advent is a season of hope. Hope in the face of pain, sadness, sorrow, and loss. Hope in our experience of illness, loneliness, stress, or grief. Hope as we struggle with our own faith. Hope in the face of a world divided. In the face of all that confronts us in life, we have reason to hope. And the reason for our hope is the fact the God, in his great love for us, shared in our humanity, continues to be with us in Word and Sacrament, and will come again in glory to give us a share in eternal life.

May the grace of the season of Advent, give us the strength to live out our faith in this world, as we await with joyful hope for the coming of our savior, Jesus Christ.



Deacon Mark



Christmas Mass Schedule

Christmas Eve Masses

4:00 p.m.

6:30 p.m.

(6:00 p.m. Pre-Service Caroling)

Christmas Day Mass

10:00 a.m.



Prayer for the second week of Advent

Prayer of Preparation

With abiding hope as we look forward to Jesus' arrival —Make straight the paths, Lord!

Fill us with holy excitement, in Your name.

Amen.

YOUTH CHOIR

We will be having a Youth Choir at the 4:00 p.m. family Mass on Christmas Eve, December 24.

Children will be taught 2 songs to sing that day. They will be asked to come up during the homily and will sing "The Virgin Mother Had a Baby Boy." They will also sing "Silent Night" during preparation of the gifts.

There will be 2 rehearsals on Sundays 12/8 and 12/15 from 10:00 -10:15 a.m. in the Worship Space. Students from the School of Religion (Grades 1 to 7) and the Confirmation classes will participate. We invite other children who are in grades 1-8 who would like to sing on Christmas Eve to come to these rehearsals. We also invite those who have graduated from the Confirmation program and are in high school to come to those rehearsals and sing with this group.

Materials for home practice will also be sent home via email. Please contact John Gaspar, Music Coordinator at john.gaspar@dor.org if you have any questions.

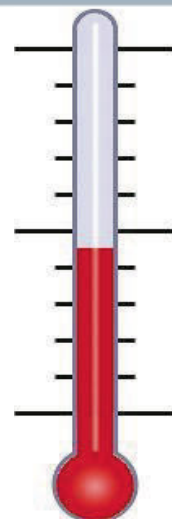


Totals as of:
12/2/24

Goal
\$100,000

Pledged
\$46,220

46.22%
of our goal



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



Advent Penance Service With Individual Confession

Thursday, December 12 at 6:30 p.m.

Christmas Flowers



If you wish to make a donation in memory or honor of a loved one, please note the name(s) on the envelope. The memorials will be listed in the Christmas bulletin. We use the parishioner info on the front of the envelope to note who the donation is from, so if you want something different, please note that as well.

Please make checks payable to "St. Paul's Church". The deadline is **Monday, December 16th** to make it into the bulletin. If you have any questions please contact Kasey at kasey.baker@dor.org

St. Paul's Question of the Week

Question: Please explain again in other words what an indulgence is and how it can reduce or eliminate the time a soul must spend in purgatory.

Response: Indulgences are perhaps one of the more misunderstood parts of Catholic practice; but indulgences are deeply rooted in several key Catholic theological concepts, such as the nature of purgatory, the church's authority, the spiritual power of prayer and sacrifice and the communion of saints.

The *Catechism of the Catholic Church* says the following about indulgences when it states: "through indulgences the faithful can obtain the remission of temporal punishment resulting from sin for themselves and also for the souls in Purgatory" (CCC, No. 1498). Canon 992 of the *Code of Canon Law* further tells us: "A member of Christ's faithful who is properly disposed and who fulfils certain specific conditions, may gain an indulgence by the help of the Church which, as the minister of redemption, authoritatively dispenses and applies the treasury of the merits of Christ and the Saints."

Breaking this down into more practical terms, an indulgence is a spiritual benefit attached to certain pious acts specified by the Holy Father -- such as, for example, visiting a designated pilgrimage site during a Jubilee year -- which can eliminate (in the case of a "plenary indulgence") or reduce (with a "partial indulgence") the amount of time a soul spends in purgatory.

In addition to devoutly completing the pious act in question, the one seeking to earn a plenary indulgence must also: 1. Pray for the pope's intentions; 2. Make a good confession and receive Holy Communion close to the time of earning the indulgence; and 3. Be sincerely repentant of their sins, to the point of no longer having any sense of attachment to sin. While the process of gaining an indulgence is relatively straightforward, the spiritual mechanics of how and why indulgences work can be a bit more subtle.

First of all, it's important to keep in mind that souls in purgatory are all destined for heaven, and thus that they have already repented of and been forgiven for their sins. We also need to understand that, strictly speaking, purgatory is a state outside of linear time as we experience it on earth. So even though we speak of purgatory as a time of "temporal punishment," this does not mean that purgatory is akin to a jail sentence with indulgences being like a sort of parole.

Recalling the catechism's reminder that "every sin, even venial, entails an unhealthy attachment to creatures, which must be purified either here on earth, or after death" (CCC, No. 1472), we can more accurately understand purgatory as a phase of spiritual purification to prepare souls still affected by the spiritual consequences of their sins to enter eventually into the full presence of God in heaven.

Just like our prayers and sacrifices can help ourselves and others grow closer to God in this life, the Church teaches that we can help the souls in purgatory move farther along on their spiritual journey even after their deaths. While our simple prayers can always help the souls in purgatory, indulgences are an especially powerful means of providing this kind of spiritual assistance. Indulgences work because we believe that many of the church's saints already prayed, sacrificed and patiently suffered enough during their earthly lives to have already have been purified enough to enter heaven; and that all their additional good deeds on top of what was needed for their own salvation created a kind of "surplus" of grace which the catechism refers to as "the Church's treasury" (CCC, No. 1476).



2025 calendars are available at each of the entrances! Many thanks to our sponsor:

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From the John Walsh Library

Scalia, Elizabeth

Strange Gods: Unmasking the Idols in Everyday Life

God created humankind in His own image, but we humans tend to create God in our own image. ("You can safely assume you have created God in your own image when it turns out that God hates all the same people you do."—Annie Lamott.) We are so comfortable with our own idols and so convinced that they are built entirely on correct ideas, that we have almost stopped wondering and worrying about any of our certitudes. It is the author's hope that by identifying our idols for what they are, we can begin removing them from all the high places we have allowed them to be enshrined. To become too attached to a thought or a feeling or a thing is to place it between God and ourselves. Whether it is the idol of Prosperity, the idol of Idea, the idol of Technology, or the idol of Sex, we need to constantly try to knock our idols aside before they stand in the way of God. (Call No. 241-SCA)

Ministry Schedule for December 14 & 15, 2024

If **TBD** or **Volunteer Needed** is listed, please contact the ministry coordinator to see if that position still needs to be filled. Thank you for all you do for St. Paul's!

	4:00 PM	9:00 AM	11:00 AM
Acolytes	Volunteer Needed Volunteer Needed	Blake Cusse Volunteer Needed	Lucy Rynkiewicz Volunteer Needed
Cantors	Tom Napoli	Elizabeth Randisi	Cindy Rutan
EMHC	TBD TBD	TBD TBD	TBD TBD
Greeters	Ellen Oinen Don Oinen	Pat Amedeo Jack Black	Anne LaClair Ellen Santora
Lectors	Margie Richardson	Jack Black	Kay Vargo
Linens	Mary Beth Speicher No specific time for pick up		
Sacristans	Laure Barr	DA Hutnick	Connie Gurske
Stream Team	Rod Campbell	Sue Muto	George Hanley
Ushers	Sue Dettman Alice Bower	Paul Fetter Jack Black	Charlie & Nancy Carson Fred Compertore

Fathom Events Movie at AMC Webster



“I am the Immaculate Conception” is how Mary introduced herself to St. Bernadette in 1858 in Lourdes, France. A new documentary film invites audiences to ponder why Mary presents herself this way. In the film, a group of eminent experts, including Marian Fathers, analyze Greek texts of the Holy Scripture, revelations, and the dogma of the Immaculate Conception. The result is a new interpretation of passages of the Scripture revealing Mary and her extraordinary role in the divine plan for the salvation of the world. The movie uses latest technology to transport audiences to participate in the most crucial moments of Mary and Jesus’ lives, such as the Wedding at Cana, the Last Supper, and Golgotha. The movie will be shown at AMC Webster on Thu Dec 12 at 7pm, Sat Dec 14 at 4pm, and Tue Dec 17 at 7pm.

The Giving Tree

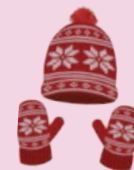


The items requested below from Corpus Christi located in downtown Rochester are for boys or girls size infant to 16. Please bring **UNWRAPPED** gifts, to St Paul's and place them in the parish office hallway.....**no later than December 17**. Donations for “Fuel” are also being accepted this year, please make your check payable to St. Paul's and add “Fuel” in the memo line.

Help us to provide Christmas joy for less fortunate families. Thanks to your continued generosity. If you have questions please call Pat Rotundo at 356-8309.



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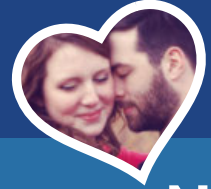
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