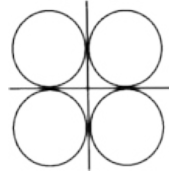


ST. PAUL'S CHURCH



783 Hard Road, Webster, New York 14580

March 2, 2025 Eighth 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.



**8TH SUNDAY IN
ORDINARY TIME**

"A good tree
does not bear
rotten fruit."
- Lk 6:43

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, March 3

Weekday

8:30A Mass

Tuesday, March 4

Weekday

8:30A Mass with anointing

12:00P Rosary Group

Wednesday, March 5

Ash Wednesday

Fasting & Abstinence

No Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

8:30A Mass

12:00P Mass

6:30P Mass

Thursday, March 6

Thursday after Ash Wednesday

8:30A Mass

Friday, March 7

Friday after Ash Wednesday

Abstinence

No Mass

Saturday, March 8

Saturday after Ash Wednesday

Good Sam Outreach Lenten

Food Drive Begins

2nd Collection: Black, Native

American & Hispanic

2:00P Confession

4:00P Mass

Sunday, March 9

1st Sunday of Lent

Good Sam Outreach Lenten

Food Drive Begins

2nd Collection: Black, Native American & Hispanic

9:00A Mass

10:00A SOR classes

10:00A Confirmation Prep class

yr. 1

11:00A Mass-SOR Rite of Enrollment



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

blackj1969@rochester.rr.com

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

	January 2025	July 2024-January 2025
Collections	\$40,510	\$291,628
Donations/ other revenue	\$2,867	\$24,156
Expenses	\$57,395	\$312,653
Operating surplus/deficit	\$(14,018)	\$3,131

**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
Ricard Stepp
From
The Del Negro &
Miller families*

Faith Formation: Excerpts from Bishop Matano's February Column of the Catholic Courier

Knowing Christ in the Eucharist Brings us Hope

Bishop Matano emphasized the importance of parish religious education programs, which according to him, "make a great contribution to the religious formation of our children and young adults, especially in places where there are no local Catholic schools or, even more sadly, in places where Catholic schools have had to close due to significantly declining enrollments."

The bishop is "saddened to see our Catholic schools decrease in number even when, realistically — despite the best of efforts — there is no other alternative to keep the doors of these schools open." It is Bishop Matano's hope that parents will "consider a Catholic school education for their children where this is possible and accessible, and thereby enrich the enrollment at these schools to make them sustainable into the future."

Related to our particular context here at St Paul's and together with other faith formation programs in the diocese of Rochester, it is the hope of Bishop Matano that "our parents will cooperate fully with our parish religious education programs, which also seek to introduce our children to Jesus. These catechetical programs at our parishes often are supported by volunteers, very dedicated laity, who cooperate with the staff, and who want the very best for our young people. These faith-filled teachers know and believe that the very best is to know the Savior born at Bethlehem, who alone could open for us the possibility of eternal life through His passion, death and resurrection." Here at St Paul's, we are blessed with very wonderful volunteers who on Sundays at 10am, help our kids who are attend public schools, with religious education.

Bishop Matano decried the fact that the religious component in our Catholic schools or in parish religious instructions is sometimes given a low priority. He considers religious education/catechesis an essential component of human development. Bishop Matano states: "our religious education instructors and pastors struggle to make parish religious education programs successful; our Catholic school teachers and pastors too often experience the sad reality that some Catholic school families are not present at Holy Mass each week to pray as a parish family with the parishioners whose donations subsidize our Catholic schools."

Bishop Matano further stressed the following: "whether religious instruction takes place in a Catholic school or in a parish setting, the goal is the same: **to lead our children to know, love and serve Jesus Christ in this life and unto eternity. This relationship with Jesus culminates in our presence at Holy Mass every week.** It makes little sense to attend a Catholic school or enroll in a parish religious education program and then be absent from Holy Mass each week and deprive our children of their union with Jesus in Holy Communion. Absence from Holy Mass sends a very conflicting message to our children, since what they learn in religious education classes is contradicted by the practice they experience within the family."

The bishop further continues: "our children need Jesus; our children need to know His message; our children need to know in Him we find hope even in the most desperate of situations. Our children need a moral compass to direct their lives, and that compass is Christ the Lord — the Way, the Truth and the Life! This relationship with Jesus should begin at the earliest age of childhood so that religious practice becomes as natural as the breath we take; it is constant and essential to life!"

The bishop reminds us of the theme of this Jubilee Year 2025, which is HOPE. In presenting the Bull, Pope Francis entitled this document, *SPES NON CONFUNDIT*, "Hope does not disappoint" (Romans 5:5). Going back to the importance of Catholic education, the bishop further said: "let us not deprive our children of a true Catholic education, whether in a Catholic school or parish religious education Program, which ultimately must find its home, its focus, its center in the Most Holy Eucharist and weekly participation at Holy Mass where our children encounter the real and true Jesus, His very body, blood, soul and divinity."

On the topic of hope the bishop wrote: "indeed, we all need hope, the reason to continue in the most difficult and trying circumstances; the reason to welcome each new day regardless of the crosses we carry."

The bishop called on us to "follow Mary's example of faith, humility, commitment and courage, and lead our children to the truth, the light that will accompany and sustain them all the days of their lives, namely the Child born at Bethlehem, the Savior found by the Magi because they followed that star, the Good Shepherd who welcomed simple, poor shepherds to His home in that crude cave because 'there was no room in the inn' (Luke 2:7)."

Bishop Matano closed the article by expressing his sincere gratitude to our priests, religious education directors, teachers and staff, Catholic school principals, faculty and staff, and above all the parents who provide for the religious education and formation of their children by word, example and support. He called on the intercession of Mary, mother of the Church and of St John Fisher, the patron saint of the Diocese of Rochester.

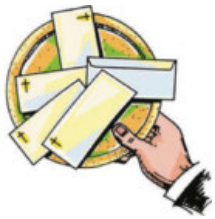
Join us for CRS Rice Bowl's
50th Anniversary

FOR
LENT
FOR **LIFE**

CRS Rice Bowl is celebrating 50 years of helping Catholic faith communities bring Lent to life and encounter God through our global family. During the 40 days of Lent, let us journey together through CRS Rice Bowl to meet people in Nigeria, Guatemala and Bangladesh who are rising above the challenges of hunger and malnutrition. Pick up your rice bowl after all Masses next weekend, March 8 and 9. Visit crsricebowl.org to learn more.

Second Collection

Next weekend, March 8 and 9, there is special collection for the Black, Native American and Hispanic.



The generosity of the good people of God allows the Commission to give helpful grants to dioceses across the country to operate schools, parishes, and other missionary services that build the Body of Christ in Catholic communities.

If you wish to support this collection, please make your check payable to St. Paul's, adding "Black, Native American & Hispanic" in the memo. Thank you for your generous support.

St. Paul's Panera Bread Fundraiser

Do you have dinner plans for Wednesday, March 19th? Now you do! Take the night off from cooking and pick up dinner at Panera Bread on Holt Rd. You won't have to do dishes and you will help support St. Paul's at the same time.

How does this work, you ask? It's pretty simple! All you have to do is go to Panera on March 19th from 4:00-8:00 p.m. with a St. Paul's Panera night flyer. You can order your food either online, to-go, dine in or just go through the drive through, whatever is easiest. At the time of placing your order you simply present the flyer to the Panera team member and St. Paul's will receive 25% from your total order. Flyers will be inserted in March 15 & 16 bulletin with all the details.

It's a win-win, a dinner you didn't have to cook and some extra dough for St. Paul's.

St. Paul's
Lenten SOUP **Suppers**

Pray
Fast
Learn
Give



March 13
March 27
April 10



5:30-6:15 p.m. in the church hall

Bring the whole family and your favorite soup, bread or macaroni and cheese to share! Sign up sheets are on the bulletin board across from the parish office.

Adult Faith Formation Programs During & Following the Soup Suppers

March 13 @ 6:15 p.m.:
Presentation by Deacon Mark Robbins

March 27 @ 5:30 p.m.:
Trivia about the Catholic Faith & St. Paul's Parish **during** the Soup Supper

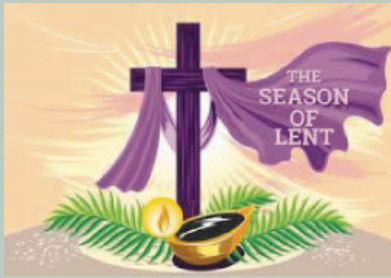
April 10 @ 6:15 p.m.:
Stations of the Cross

Christ is Alive Essay Contest

Students in School of Religion and in the Confirmation, Program are invited to participate in the Christ is Alive Essay Contest. Those not attending School of Religion or attending Catholic School can also participate. All Essays are due to Anselm by March 23. Winners will receive \$100 and your choice of a Bible from comcenter.com. Essays can be typed or handwritten.

ESSAY TOPIC:

Describe a moment in the last year when you felt close to God. For example, it could have been when you were praying, on a retreat, or at Mass. Or it could have been in an answer to one of your prayers, or in the mercy or kindness of someone you know. God is at work in the world all the time. He is close to his people in their daily lives, in all their joys and sorrows. He comforts us, heals us and helps us. That's the good news: God is with us! For this essay, think of a time when you felt God was with you and write about it.



Lent is a 40-day season of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving that begins on Ash Wednesday and ends immediately before the Mass of the Lord's Supper on Holy Thursday. It's a period of preparation to celebrate the Lord's Resurrection at Easter. **During Lent, we seek the Lord in prayer by reading Sacred Scripture; we serve by giving alms; and we practice self-control through fasting.** We are called not only to abstain from luxuries during Lent, but to a true inner conversion of heart as we seek to follow Christ's will more faithfully. We recall the waters of baptism in which we were also baptized into Christ's death, died to sin and evil, and began new life in Christ.

Many know of the tradition of abstaining from meat on Fridays during Lent, but we are also called to practice self-discipline and fast in other ways throughout the season. Contemplate the meaning and origins of the Lenten fasting tradition in this reflection. In addition, the giving of alms is one way to share God's gifts—not only through the distribution of money, but through the sharing of our time and talents. As St. John Chrysostom reminds us: "Not to enable the poor to share in our goods is to steal from them and deprive them of life. The goods we possess are not ours, but theirs." (*Catechism of the Catholic Church*, no. 2446).

In Lent, the baptized are called to renew their baptismal commitment as others prepare to be baptized through the Order of Christian Initiation of Adults (OCIA), a period of learning and discernment for individuals who have declared their desire to become Catholics. We currently have one candidate in the parish who is going through the OCIA.

The foundational call of Christians to charity is a frequent theme of the Gospels. During Lent, we are asked to focus more intently on "almsgiving," which means donating money or goods to the poor and performing other acts of charity. As one of the three pillars of Lenten practice, almsgiving is 'a witness to fraternal charity' and 'a work of justice pleasing to God.' (*Catechism of the Catholic Church*, no. 2462).

Ash Wednesday and Good Friday are obligatory days of fasting and abstinence for Catholics. In addition, Fridays during Lent are obligatory days of abstinence.

Fasting is obligatory from age 18 until age 59. When fasting, a person is permitted to eat one full meal, as well as two smaller meals that together are not equal to a full meal. **Abstinence from meat is binding from age 14 onwards (that is, for the rest of one's life).**

However, the eating of fish is permitted. If possible, the fast on Good Friday is continued until the Easter Vigil (on Holy Saturday night) as the 'paschal fast' to honor the suffering and death of the Lord Jesus and to prepare ourselves to share more fully and to celebrate more readily his Resurrection. It is appropriate that children, although not strictly bound by the law of fasting and abstinence, are nonetheless educated in a genuine sense of penance and even perform acts of penance appropriate to their age and understanding.

The Church sees fasting and abstinence as a part of the larger concept of penance. The fundamental fact is that penance is integral to the Christian life because we have been redeemed by Christ's passion, death and resurrection. This is the context within which the phrase 'the divine law binds all the Christian faithful to do penance' should be understood. **Penance is not an 'optional extra' that some may choose to do from time to time: the law of God obliges all people to do penance.**


2025 Jubilee Pilgrims of Hope Pilgrimage to Saint Michael Church and Pantry: Receive and Share Mercy

As part of our activities for the season of Lent, the Confirmation Program and those in Grades 6 and 7 of School of Religion of our parish will be making a pilgrimage for the 2025 Jubilee Pilgrims of Hope to the beautiful Saint Michael Church in inner city Rochester. There, the kids will have the opportunity to bring hope to the poor by volunteering at their food pantry for a few hours, we will get to tour Saint Michael Church and participate in other spiritual activities. The pilgrimage will take place Saturday, March 29 from noon to 5pm. If there are any middle or high school students interested who are not in the Confirmation program or attend School of Religion and would like to attend, kindly contact our Director of Faith Formation at anselm.mesue@dor.org or by phone through 671-2100 ext. 27 or during one of the weekend Masses.

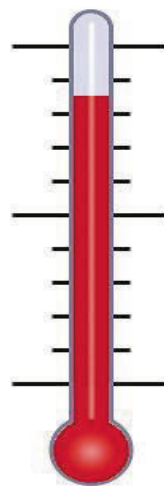
Ministry Schedule for March 8 & 9, 2025

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	Luca Picca Volunteer Needed	Lucy Rynkiewicz Volunteer Needed
Cantors	Cindy Rutan	Tom Napoli	Bonnie Serio
EMHC	Bob Frank Sue Dettman	Jack Black DA Hutnick	Gina McNamara Volunteer Needed
Greeters	Theresa Augsbury Patrice DeAngelis	Ebertz family	Anne LaClair Jean Van Apeldoorn
Lectors	Dan Bower	Ann Grieb	Gina & Larry McNamara
Linens	Barb Mongiovi No specific time for pick up		
Sacristans	Christine Grant	Pat Rotundo Mary Fitch	Sandra Happ
Stream Team	John Kosel	Sue Muto	Chris Yuskiw
Ushers	Sue Dettman Alice Bower	Paul Fetter Herb Gauch	Charlie & Nancy Carson Fred Compertore



Totals as of:
2/25/25




Goal
\$100,000

Pledged
\$85,310

85.31%
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.

An Ash Wednesday Prayer



“Ashes to ashes. Dust to dust.”

You remind us today, oh Lord, of our origin and end.
In the beginning, You fashioned us in the Garden.
You dignified dust with the Breath of Life.
You made us in Your image and likeness.
You led Your people through the dust of the Sinai wilderness to the Promised Land.
You overcame temptation in the dry desert.
You healed the blind with dirt and clay.
Three times Your body stirred the dust as you fell on the road to Calvary.
Hear the cry of Your people!
One day we will return to dust.

This Lenten season, stir our minds to contemplate You, our hearts to love You, and our bodies to serve You in our brothers and sisters.
May our prayer, fasting, and almsgiving be Your breath alive in us.
Amen.



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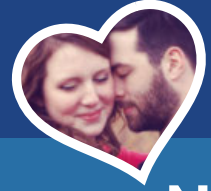
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