



783 Hard Road, Webster, New York

May 23, 2021 Pentecost Sunday

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.



St. Paul's Church, Webster, New York

May 23, 2021

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<u>Mass Times</u> Saturday, 4:00 p.m. Sunday, 9:00 a.m. & 11:00 a.m.

> <u>Confession</u> Saturday 2:00-3:00 p.m. or by appointment

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

> Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament Wednesday at 9:00 a.m.

<u>Live Stream Mass via YouTube</u> Saturday, 4:00 p.m.

Upcoming Events



Monday, May 24 The Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of the Church 8:30A Mass

Tuesday, May 25 Weekday 8:30A Mass

<u>Wednesday, May 26</u> *St. Philip Neri, Priest* 8:30A Mass 9:00A Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

Thursday, May 27 Weekday 8:30A Mass

<u>Friday, May 28</u> Weekday No Mass or events

Saturday, May 29 Weekday 2:00P Individual Confession 4:00P Mass

Sunday, May 30 The Most Holy Trinity 9:00A Mass 11:00A Mass-First Communion during Mass

Parish Staff

Pastor: Fr. Paul Gitau Deacon: Mark Robbins Coordinator of Music: Tom McGary x31 Adult & Youth Faith Formation & Confirmation Prep Coordinator: Sue Ward 671-2110 Business Manager: Robin Martz x30 Facility Cleaning Coordinator: Helen Stirpe Maintenance 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

Financial Snapshot		
	April 2021	July 2020-April 2021
Collections	\$40,949	\$457,699
Donations/ other revenue	\$2,854	\$36,996
Expenses	\$67,933	\$477,946
Operating surplus/deficit	\$(24,130)	\$16,749

*"Expenses" include quarterly invoices paid.

Jay Riesenberger

*"Donations/other revenue" does not include CMA shortage donations of \$39,000 from challengers and donors.

Let Us Pray for Those in the Military This week the Sanctuary Lamp burns for Mary Alice Rieger From Jason Aman Josh Bartlett Zach Bartlett Sean Black Brian & Ann Marie Bryan Gross Andrew O'Brien Tom Weisenreder Cydney Blong Bocklage Mason Serrano Michael J. Desiato Andrew Zani **Daniel Thomas**

Are We Worthy of Them?

Today is Pentecost Sunday, the day we celebrate the beginning of the church of Jesus Christ. Recently, my sense of celebration was challenged, however, when I read the results of a 2017 study by St. Mary's Press, in collaboration with the Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate (CARA). The study found that "between 2007 and 2014 there has been an increase of about 19 million religiously unaffiliated adults—also known as the "Nones"—in the United States, bringing the total number ...to 56 million." The age group representing the highest percentage of the unaffiliated (36%) are the "young millennials," ages 18-24, followed by the "older millennials," ages 25-33, representing 34%. The *median age of disaffiliation is 13*, and "of all the major denominations, Catholicism has experienced the greatest net losses...."

Why are they leaving? To find an answer, Saint Mary's Press conducted in-depth personal interviews with 15 young people (ages 15 to 25) who had once self-identified as Catholic but no longer do. Their stated purpose: *"This study attempts to reveal the life stories of disaffiliated young people so that we as Church might develop empathy for and true understanding of the complex and varied realities of real people who have made a thoughtful, discerning, and often deeply reflective choice—a choice typically not made in haste or lightly."*

What did they learn? The responses fall over a broad spectrum, as you might imagine, and include: I don't really believe in God; I believe in God, but I don't think organized religion serves any purpose and is irrelevant today; I don't agree with the church's position on most social issues, especially those involving women, marriage and sexuality; the church's teachings are too rigid and judgmental. Two respondents asked these questions: How can the church condemn homosexuality while protecting pedophile priests? And, Why would a loving God create people and then condemn his creation to hell?

We'd be foolish to ignore these statements and questions in light of the above statistics, and we do need to take an honest look at who we are as Catholics, how we do "Church," and how we hand on the teachings of Jesus (faith formation). That said, though, on April 12th Bishop Matano Confirmed 25 young people from St. Paul-s—kids who are the same age as the median age of disaffiliation, but who asked the Bishop to initiate them into the adult component of the Catholic church. I'd like to share with you a few excerpts from their letters to the Bishop, asking for the Sacrament:

"The Sacrament of Confirmation will make me think about how I can help the people in need and really get to fulfill my duties as a Christian. I will make sure I can practice the teachings of Jesus Christ to help all people even if they don't believe in God because we are all children of God. I feel that I will still not be the best person I can be but with the Sacrament I will think of things a different way, trying to help everyone I can."

"In the early stages of the pandemic I was starting to lose my faith. I felt a growing distance between God and me. I was feeling lonely most days. But once I started to pray regularly again, I just felt better. I felt that connection with God again, and it helped me to get through the rest of these crazy times so far. My faith has also helped me strengthen my relationships with my family and friends. I feel closer to my family as well as to God, and that has helped me to feel a stronger connection to my Catholicism."

"To respect my Lord and Savior, I feel as if I should become closer to him and become one with him—through faith, through love and through happiness. I've been very lucky to become already so close with a church and the people and family along with it. They make me feel safe and loved."

I hope the honesty, humility, and maturity of these students lifted your spirits a little, as they did mine. We certainly owe our deepest gratitude to their parents and to all the catechists throughout the years who have brought them to this point. Yet, on this, the birthday of the church, we are impelled to honestly reflect upon who we are as "Church" and pray that we are, and can continue to become, the community of the Holy Spirit that is worthy of retaining young people such as these from St. Paul's.

Sue

St Paul's Church, Webster, New York





2021 Update

Catholic Relief Services (CRS), through our Rice Bowl alms, helps brothers and sisters in-need around the world, especially in these challenging times. Thank you for your many sacrifices during Lent. **Through your generosity, \$3,405 was collected from St. Paul's parishioners.** Through these alms given to Catholic Relief Services, *we become a blessing for others.* What we gave up for Lent will change lives!

75% of our CRS Rice Bowl alms support Catholic Relief Services development projects overseas carried out on behalf of the U.S. Catholic community (us!).

25% of the CRS Rice Bowl alms remain in our Diocese to help support local hunger relief efforts.

Father's Day Flowers



We invite you to make a donation towards the purchase of plants and flowers to decorate the church, in memory or honor of your loved ones, for Father's Day.

Please make your check payable to "**St. Paul's Church**" and mark your donation "**Father's Day Flowers**" and include **who the donation is in memory of**; we will list them in the bulletin on Father's Day. Please have your requests to the office **by Monday June 14**.

You can also request a Father's Day flower memorial on our website! Use the "Donate" link. There will be a text box to enter who you wish the flowers to be in memory / honor of. Please note there is a 50 character limit, if you can't fit everyone in please call or email us and we can adjust.

Questions please contact Jodie or Robin at 671-2100 or Jodie.hickey@dor.org or robin.martz@dor.org Thanks!

St. Paul's Parish Pastoral Council

Scott Rutan - Chair Bill Green - Vice Chair Elizabeth Randisi - Secretary Linda D'Antonio Joe & Marianne Ferrara Chuck & Bonnie Korherr Sharyn Lipari Tim Runyan Ella Rynkiewicz - Youth Rep. Diana Strassman Deborah Urtz-Gleason - Trustee/Ex-Officio

St. Paul's Parish Pastoral Council encourages you to share your questions and ideas with them. Contact Jodie at 671-2100 or Jodie.hickey@dor.org and she will relay your questions and ideas to the Council.

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The Chicken is Back!

Our Annual Chicken BBQ is a parish fundraiser. In the past it was also fun for those attending as folks could eat in or drive through and each year more people came inside. We never

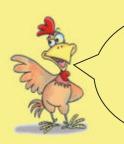
quite managed to achieve our sales goals but the staff and crew enjoyed putting it together. This will be our sixth BBQ, and the fifth year with the same company, who use an automatic charcoal cooker which provides more consistent results.

This year we are making some changes, mostly due to the pandemic and also to try to get more sales.

It will be drive through only. Our downstairs hall is just not suitable for a crowd eating during a pandemic. We will miss seeing everyone who came inside to eat and chat with their neighbors. Also no drinks or ice cream sales either (those of you who did not come inside did not know you missed the ice cream. (!) Maybe we'll bring those back next year.

We are not doing a presale; it will be cash only the day of the BBQ. (The good news is that we won't be badgering you to buy a ticket after mass - although we will be encouraging everyone to attend – and tell your friends!)

We considered raising the price this year but decided to try for low price/high volume which is why we are doing cash only and keeping the price the same as two years ago. See details below!



What a deal! And Fr. Paul says it's delicious!

St. Paul's 6th Annual **Chicken BBQ Fundraiser**

> Friday, June 18, 2021 4:30 to 6:30 PM (or until sold out)

\$10 per dinner: 1/2 chicken, salt potatoes, cole slaw, and a roll/butter

cash only - drive through only

Giving Options-Thank You!

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





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, victimsassistance@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

St Paul's Church, Webster, New York

May 23, 2021

SUNDAY'S READINGS

FIRST READING:

Then there appeared to them tongues as of fire, which parted and came to rest on each one of them. (Acts 2:3)

PSALM:

Lord, send out your Spirit, and renew the face of the earth. (Ps 104) Or Alleluia.

SECOND READING:

In contrast, the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law. (Gal 5:22-23)

GOSPEL:

"But when he comes, the Spirit of truth, he will guide you to all truth." (Jn 15:27, 16:13)

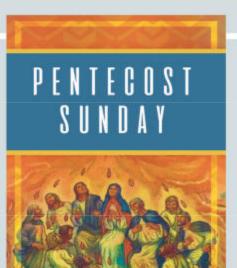
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OBSERVANCES FOR THE WEEK OF MAY 23, 2021

Pentecost Sunday	
Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of the Church	
St. Bede the Venerable, Priest and Doctor of the Church;	
St. Gregory VII, Pope; St. Mary Magdalene de'Pazzi, Virgin	
St. Philip Neri, Priest	
St. Augustine of Canterbury, Bishop	
St. Paul VI, Pope; BVM	
The Most Holy Trinity	

"AS MARINERS ARE GUIDED INTO PORT BY THE SHINING OF A STAR. SO CHRISTIANS ARE GUIDED TO HEAVEN BY MARY."

- SAINT THOMAS AQUINAS



REFLECT FIRST READING

The descent of the Holy Spirit onto the disciples, which marked the beginning of the Church, was a transformative experience for the followers of Jesus. What have been some transformative experiences for you in your faith journey?

OLPi

SECOND READING

Paul speaks to the Galatians about our universal struggle between the Spirit and the flesh. Paul even lists examples of the "works of the flesh" and the "fruits of the Spirit." How would you measure you own success in this spiritual battle?

GOSPEL READING

Jesus assured his disciples that his Father would send the "Spirit of truth" to believers offering guidance and divine gifts. Where do you see the Holy Spirit active in your life?

PENTECOST SUNDAY



