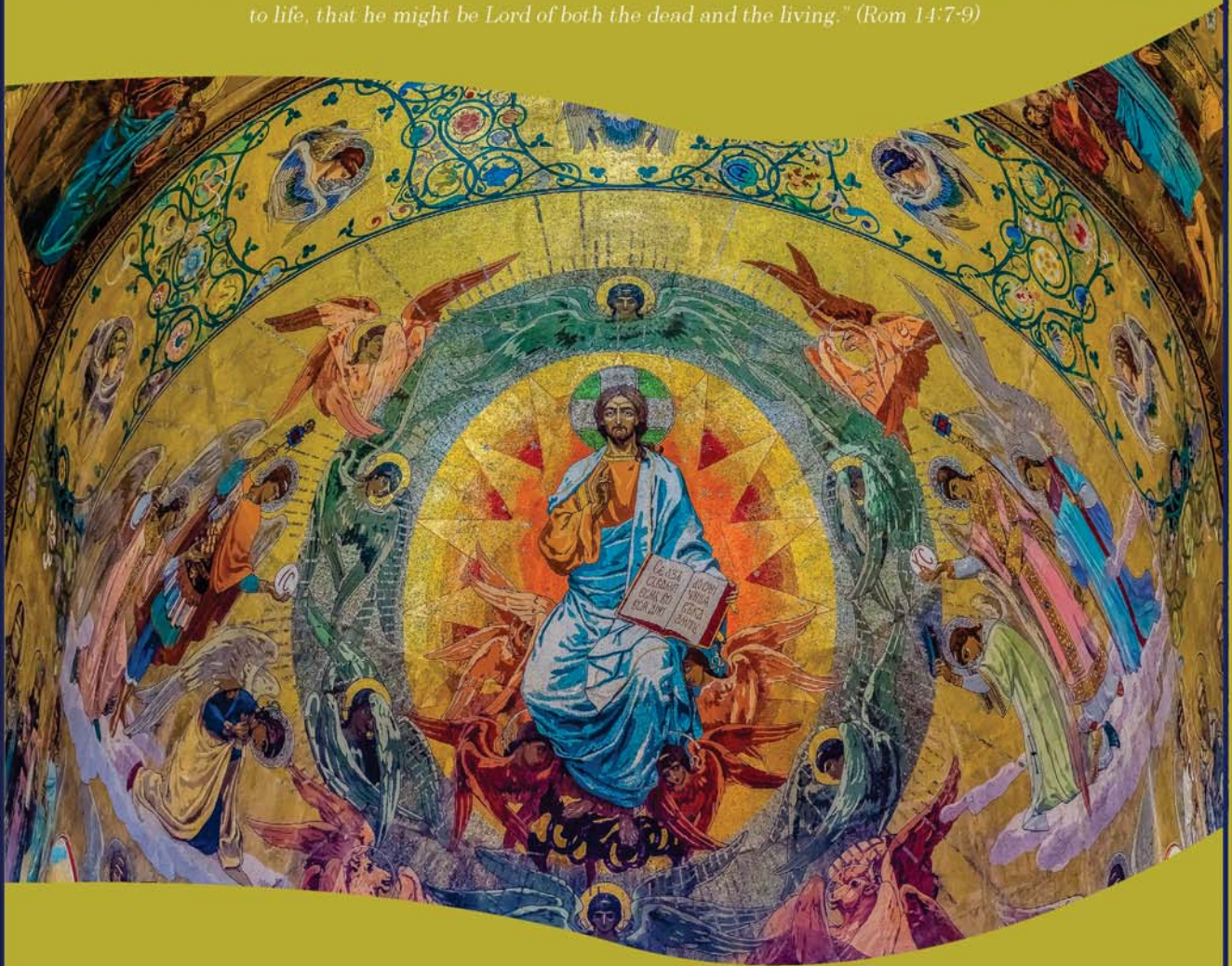


Twenty-fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

"Brothers and sisters: None of us lives for oneself, and no one dies for oneself. For if we live, we live for the Lord, and if we die, we die for the Lord: so then, whether we live or die, we are the Lord's. For this is why Christ died and came to life, that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living." (Rom 14:7-9)



Our Lady of Hope, Ipswich
Saint Paul, Hamilton-Wenham

OUR LADY OF HOPE / SAINT PAUL DIRECTORY

OUR LADY OF HOPE PARISH

**1 Pineswamp Road
Ipswich, MA 01938
978-356-3944**

WEBSITE: www.ipswichcatholics.org
EMAIL: rectory@ipswichcatholics.org



Handicap Parking and ramp into the church is located on Pineswamp Road on right side of Church .

SAINT PAUL PARISH

**50 Union Street
South Hamilton, MA 01982
978-468-2337**

WEBSITE: www.churchofsaintpaul.net
EMAIL: stpaulsparish@verizon.net



Elevator for Handicapped Access to the Saint Paul church is located in the rear of the building.

WEEKEND MASS SCHEDULE

SATURDAY:

4:00 pm: Our Lady of Hope (OLOH)

SUNDAY:

7:30 am: Saint Paul (SP) ~No Music

9:30 am: Saint Paul (SP)

11:15 am: Our Lady of Hope (OLOH)

WEEKDAY MASS SCHEDULE

9:00 am: Monday & Tuesday (OLOH)

9:00 am: Thursday & Friday (SP)

SACRAMENTS

RECONCILIATION

SATURDAYS 3:00—3:45 PM at Our Lady of Hope or by appointment at either church.

BAPTISM

If you are planning a baptism in the future, please call the parish office to make arrangements.

MARRIAGE

If you are an engaged couple, please call Fr. Brogan *directly* at least 6 months prior to the intended date.

PASTORAL VISITATION: The Eucharist and the Anointing of the Sick can be brought to our parishioners confined to their homes.

RCIA & FAITH FORMATION

Questions regarding current, upcoming programs and/or sacramental programs available at our parish, please contact the parish office.



Hearing Assist Boxes are available at Our Lady of Hope. Let the Priest know if you would like one before Mass when attending Mass at OLOH.

NEW TO OUR PARISH?

If you are new to Our Lady of Hope or Saint Paul , please introduce yourself to Fr. Brogan following Mass. To formally register at on of our parishes, contact the parish office or go online to register through our website.

PARISH STAFF

PASTOR: Fr. David A. Brogan

PRIEST IN RESIDENCE: Fr. John G. Kiley

MUSIC MINISTER:

John Maher 978-500-6789
johnmaheripswich@gmail.com

BUSINESS MANAGER, OUR LADY OF HOPE:

Joanne DiNatale 978-356-3944
rectory@ipswichcatholics.org

BUSINESS MANAGER, SAINT PAUL:

David McLean 978-468-2337
stpaulsparish@verizon.net

PARISH SECRETARY, SAINT PAUL:

Lucy Cronan 978-468-2337
stpaulsparish@verizon.net

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

OUR LADY OF HOPE:

Kindergarten through Grade 11

Elisa St. Clair 978-356-3944 EXT. 28
elisastclair@ipswichcatholics.org

SAINT PAUL:

978-468-3617

Grades 1 through 5

Kristen Monahan klmonahanstpauls@gmail.com

Grades 6-8

Debra Brown spymnotes@gmail.com

Grades 9-10

John Cusolito johncusolito@comcast.net

STAY UP TO DATE THROUGH EMAIL

When important information is sent to registered parishioners, it is conveyed through email. Please let us know when your email has changed.

IMPORTANT REMINDER

Please accompany your child downstairs to the church hall or to restrooms. For their safety, please be sure they are always accompanied by an adult family member. Child safety is everyone's responsibility. Thank you for your cooperation.



COLLABORATIVE MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday, September 16

4:00 pm Vigil—(OLOH)

Sunday, September 17

7:30 am—Weekend Mass (SP) *NO MUSIC*

9:30 am—Parishioners (SP)

11:15am—Stanislaw, Zofia, Piotr & Slawek Banach (OLOH)

Monday, September 18

9:00 am— Special Intention (OLOH)

Tuesday, September 19

9:00 am— Dubowicz Family (OLOH)

Wednesday, September 20

No Daily Mass

Thursday, September 21

9:00 am—Driscoll & Mulcahy Family (SP)

Friday, September 22

9:00 am—Carole LaMontagne (SP)

Saturday, September 23

4:00 pm Vigil—Jennie Cynkus (OLOH)

Sunday, September 24

7:30 am—Parishioners (SP) *NO MUSIC*

9:30 am—Beth Gerolamo Rebello (SP)

11:15am—Lisa Thibodeau Weber (OLOH)

Please contact the parish office to schedule a Mass intention for your deceased loved one.

WEEKEND DONATIONS/COLLECTIONS

As we move forward with our collaborative, and our new schedule of 4 weekend Masses between Our Lady of Hope and St. Paul; you may decide to attend Mass at either Church. We understand you will have questions about how Offertory donations will be handled. If you make an offering in the collection basket at Mass with Parish (specific) contribution envelopes or put your donation in an envelope writing both Parish name and your name on the front, your donation will be transferred to that Church. Cash donations outside of an envelope will remain in the parish where you made your donation. If you have any questions, call the parish office.

PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS

God our Father, we thank you for calling men and women to serve in your Son's Kingdom as priests, deacons, and consecrated persons. Send our Holy Spirit to help others to respond generously and courageously to your call. May our community of faith support vocations of sacrificial love in our youth and young adults. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen.

PRAYER REQUESTS

WE ASK PARISHIONERS TO PRAY...

† For all those who are sick, especially Juliett Carlson, Cameron Gagnon, Cathryn Lally, Denise Polli, Gerrie O'Brien, Melissa Faino Palelli, Mikey Grover, Kyrsten Weber, Arline Thornell, Irene Stackpole, Connie Donovan, Connie, Christine & John Vallis, Maria Masse, Ed Manning, Patricia Foley, J. P. Quinn and all those infected with the Covid-19 virus

† For all our parishioners who are sick, homebound and those confined to nursing facilities and hospital

† For the those preparing for Confirmation in October

† For the all students and teachers.

† For those who work and live in war-torn countries, especially in the Ukraine

† For Stephen Sweeney, Helen Parker, Marie Chmura, Rose Crawford, Charles Abbott all the deceased members of our parishes

† For the safety and good health of all missionaries

† For all who serve our country in the Armed Forces

† For peace in our world, especially Ukraine

† For the unborn children

† For all those affected by natural disasters

PLEASE NOTE:

In order to keep our prayer list current, names will remain on the list for four weeks.

Please resubmit by contacting the parish office. Names should be submitted by the individual or immediate family member.



Our parishioner, Thomas Monahan is courageously entering the Marine Corp in the upcoming weeks to begin his training as he prepares to serve and protect our United States of America.

Thomas, we keep you in our thoughts and prayers and to his parents, Kristen and Phil, and to his siblings, Grace, Ryan and Caroline you are in our thoughts and prayers, as well.



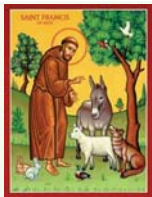
PRAYER FOR CATECHISTS

Loving Father, we pray today for our catechists. We thank you for their gift of ministry in your Church.

Grant them your wisdom that they may grow in the understanding and teaching of your Word. Grant them also your love that they may be fruitful heralds of your Word and lead others to love you.

Pour forth your Holy Spirit upon them to grant them wisdom about what is important; knowledge of the truths of faith; understanding of their meaning; right judgement about how to apply them in life; courage to persevere even in the face of adversity; reverence before all that is sacred and holy; and that loving zeal which leads others to a transforming encounter with your Son.

We pray this through Christ, our Lord. Amen.



THE BLESSING OF ANIMALS....

The Blessing of the animals is observed and celebrated in commemoration of St. Francis of Assisi (1182-1226) who is the patron saint of animals and the environment. He is also said to be a lover of all creatures by the Roman Catholic faith.

In honor of St. Francis of Assisi there will be a blessing of animals on the side lawn of Our Lady of Hope Parish on Sunday, October 1, 2023 at 1:00p.m. All are welcome. It is a wonderful experience to see a variety of God's creatures participating in this blessing.

If you would like your pet blessed, please be on the lawn on the Linebrook Rd. side of the church at 1:00 p.m. Fr. Brogan will meet you there.

CLERGY TRUST COLLECTION THIS WEEKEND



SUPPORT OUR PRIESTS THIS SEPTEMBER

Clergy Trust helps us give back to the active and senior priests in good standing who serve our parishes, schools, families, and communities.

Learn more
and give today at
clergytrust.org/september

SCAN HERE for
Venmo, Google/
Apple Pay, PayPal
via Givebutter.



CATHOLIC IN RECOVERY LAZARUS CENTER FOR HEALING SHRINE IN WAKEFIELD.

SUNDAYS at 6:15pm.

Catholic in Recovery provides healing from addictions, compulsions, and unhealthy attachments. Meetings combine the spiritual principles of 12-step recovery with a sacramental understanding of the Catholic Church. Join others in recovery as we overlap scripture from Sunday's Mass readings, liturgical themes, and recovery topics with honest discussion and prayer. Confidentiality is protected. For more information visit www.catholicinrecovery.com or email cireileenk@gmail.com.

Meetings are held on SUNDAYS at 6:15pm at the Lazarus Center for Healing Shrine (formerly St. Florence Parish) located at 47 Butler Avenue, Wakefield.



FR. BROGAN'S INSTALLATION MASSES



As you all know, Fr. David Brogan has been appointed Pastor of Our Lady of Hope Parish and St. Paul Parish. We enthusiastically invite you to attend Fr. Brogan's Installation Masses & Receptions that will immediately follow each Mass The dates and times are as follows:

Saturday, October 21st at Our Lady of Hope Parish

Pineswamp Road, Ipswich
4:00 pm Mass followed by Reception



Sunday, October 22nd at St. Paul Parish

50 Union Street, South Hamilton
9:30 am Mass followed by Reception

Worldwide Marriage Encounter: Twenty-Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time- "Seek the Lord."

Isaiah 55:6 "Seek the Lord while he may be found, call him while he is near." The Lord is near to all who call upon him. Ask the Lord to make your marriage even better. How? Sign up for a Worldwide Marriage Encounter Experience. You can find one by looking up WWME.org. Some of the dates to sign up are:

October 16-November 6, 2023, Virtual 3RE (M/W evenings)
October 20-22, 2023 in Barre, Vermont (St. Monica/
St. Michael)

Worldwide Marriage Encounter sponsors a variety of in-person and virtual marriage experiences, some on weekends and some on seven weekdays. Couples explore their relationship with each other, God, and the Church. Registration is limited; there is a \$100 application fee. For more information or to apply, call Joe & Ginny Vatel at 978-870-5646 or <https://www.mema.org/>.

Start off the school year with a prayer!
Our parish is praying for all of our students,
families and teachers.

PRAYER TO BEGIN A SCHOOL YEAR

Blessed are you, Lord God,
Creator of body and mind and heart;
you have sent the Spirit of wisdom and knowledge
to guide your people in all their ways.
At the beginning of this new school year
we implore your mercy:
bless our students, teachers, and staff,
that together we may grow in faith, hope, and love
as we learn from you and each other
how to follow your Son Jesus.
Expand the horizons of our minds,
that we may grow in wisdom,
understanding, and knowledge;
deepen our commitment to seek the truth of your ways;
and enliven our faith to reach out to those in need.
Glory and praise to you, Lord God,
in the Church and in Christ Jesus forever and ever.

R/. Amen

Prayer taken from the Catholic Household Blessings and Prayers,
Revised Edition (Washington, DC: USCCB, 2007), USCCB 300.

PROTECTING GOD'S CHILDREN

All volunteers who minister in the Archdiocese must attend the Protecting God's Children and complete the Code of Conduct form. In addition, every year all current volunteers and new volunteers must complete a CORI Form; we have began the 2023-24 Process. Those who need to follow this requirement are anyone who helps in building our church in any way. This includes list of volunteer includes: staff, teachers, assistants to religious education, lectors, eucharistic ministers, ushers, Finance and Pastoral Council members, etc.

Please consider sharing your gifts and talents in our new collaborative at Our Lady of Hope and St. Paul's by attending this training to be ready to serve.

Please sign up by logging onto:

Go to <https://www.virtusonline.org/>

- Click on "First-Time Registrant"
- Click on "Begin the registration Process"
- From the pull-down menu, choose "Boston, MA (Archdiocese)," ONLY
- When asked, "Have you previously registered with VIRTUS Online?" click "NO"
- Create a username and password when asked to do so and click "Continue"
- Fill in all the required fields for contact information on the next screen and click continue
- From the pull-down menu for "Location," choose "Our Lady of Hope Ipswich " or "St. Paul Hamilton" or wherever else they are coming from
- When the roles appear, choose a primary role and an additional role
- Add a Title (what you do for parish/school) in the box at bottom and click "Continue"
- On the next page, you may choose YES or NO depending on whether you want to associate your name with an additional school or parish
- Answer the four Yes/No questions on the next page and click "Continue"
- When asked "Have you already attended a VIRTUS Protecting God's Children Session?" answer NO.
- On the next page, choose date and church to attend Protecting God's Children for Adults"

Confirm and you are done!

If you register for a training, please let us know once completed and forward a copy of your completion certificate to the rectory office. Thank you

ADULT CHOIR

Music Director John Maher is looking for choir members to sing at the 9:30am Mass at St Paul's on Sundays, or the 4pm Mass at Our Lady of Hope on Saturdays. Time commitment is minimal. Whether you have sung with a choir in the past or have never done it before, all are welcome!

Reach out to John at johnmaheripswich@gmail.com or call 978-500-6789.

2023-2024 CORI PROCESS **NOW DUE!!**

For those who volunteer at Our Lady of Hope and Saint Paul the 2024 CORI forms are available on the rectory porch, exit tables in church and in the sacristy for you to take home and complete. Once completed, we need to verify your ID (driver's license or passport) in person. Not to overload Fr. Brogan at Mass, please stop by parish office to have Joanne DiNatale or Lucy Cronan to verify your picture ID.

Volunteers include anyone who help in service of their time and talent at Our Lady of Hope and Saint Paul.

Volunteers are required to complete a CORI form EACH fiscal year. In addition, you must have completed the Protecting God's Children (PGC) Program and Archdiocesan Code of Conduct. If you are interested in volunteering, and have not volunteered during this past year; please call the rectory to receive a blue form and read the notice to register for the PGC training.

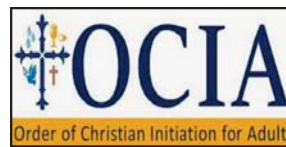
Thank you in advance for your help in this requirement and for all you do in helping us to be a vibrant parish.

Thinking of becoming Catholic? Already Catholic, but never confirmed?

Many Catholics rediscover or reconnect with their faith as adults, and many people decide to convert to Catholicism from another faith, or from no faith background at all. If you (or someone you know) are a Catholic who was Baptized and received First Communion, but was never confirmed and would like to be, this year, **Adult Confirmations will be held in local parishes, and ours at Our Lady of Hope and St. Paul's are on the weekend of October 21st & 22nd. Preparation for adult Confirmation will consist of four weekly gatherings, time & day to be determined by what works best for those who participate.**



For anyone who has not received the Sacraments of Initiation (Baptism, Holy Communion, and



Confirmation), and who would like to become Catholic, **the program called the O.C.I.A. (formerly the R.C.I.A.), or Order of Christian Initiation for Adults, will run from the fall through Pentecost, and those people will be received into the church at the Easter Vigil. Again, the specific time will be discussed among volunteers and participants, but the OCIA does meet on Sundays after a parish Mass.**

For more information on either of these, please reach Elisa St. Clair at Our Lady of Hope: all of her contact information can be found here in the bulletin. It is such a gift to grow in faith and relationship with Jesus and the community of the church over the course of our life, and that opportunity is always before us. If now is that time for you, reach out for more information, as programs will begin soon. God bless!

PARISH MINISTRY CONTACTS

CATHOLIC WOMEN'S CLUB

Bonni Berkowitz, President | 617-549-2744
berky000@gmail.com

MUSIC MINISTRIES

John Maher | 978-500-6789
johnmaheripswich@gmail.com

SAINT VINCENT DE PAUL

James McCarthy, President | 978-992-6151

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

James Foley | 978-360-2799

**For more information, contact the parish office.
Consider sharing your gifts and talents.**

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL (OLOH)

Below you will find a list of Parish Council members' email addresses.

We want to make ourselves available. We are still learning ourselves, but feel free to speak with us after Mass or email us if you have any questions. We are here for all of you to help in any way we can.

Bonni Berkowitz Berky000@gmail.com

Joanne Bialek BialekJo@gmail.com

JoAnne Kelleher j.kelleher829@gmail.com

Linda Murphy lmem@comcast.net

James Foley jamesfoley2233@gmail.com

Richard & Diane Bostrom dbbluejeans@aol.com

MEN'S GROUP AT OUR LADY OF HOPE

The Men's Group invites you to come join them on Saturday mornings from 7:15-8:30 am in the church hall at Our Lady of Hope for light refreshments and Christian fellowship in an easy-going, informal atmosphere.

KNITTING MINISTRY



St. Paul's knitting ministry knits baptismal blankets for St. Paul's and baby blankets and hats for Project Linus which are donated to local hospitals. If you knit, crochet or quilt and would like to join us, we meet generally on the first Saturday of the month from 2PM to 4PM in the Church hall.

HOMEBOUND

If you or someone you know is homebound and wishes to receive Holy Communion, please the call parish office to make arrangements.

ONLINE GIVING

We offer this convenience to our parishioners and visitors. Online giving is an easy and secure way to make contributions to support our parish. You may contribute using direct withdrawals (ACH) or credit cards. Visa, MasterCard and American Express are all accepted.

SAINT PAUL

If you prefer the convenience of giving your donation online, please call the parish office or enroll online at: <https://churchofsaintpaul.churchgiving.com/>

Parish envelopes for your weekly donation allows us to keep a record for your tax purposes. If you would like to receive weekly envelopes, please call the parish office.

OUR LADY OF HOPE

To contribute using online giving, simply visit our website: ipswichcatholics.org and follow the instructions. For assistance, call the parish office..

Remember God's will in yours...



When you leave a bequest to the Church in your will or estate plan, you express your commitment to the future of your parish. You also return some of the blessings God gave to your life and leave an eternal message of what is important to you. Please consider including Our Lady of Hope Parish and Saint Paul Parish when preparing your will.

For more information contact Fr. Brogan or call /email the parish office.

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL

It has been a busy summer with our Saint Vincent de Paul chapter continuing to serve those in need in our newly combined parish community. Your generous contributions to the poor boxes at the exits of Our Lady of Hope Church allow us to provide financial and spiritual assistance to our sisters and brothers in need. We also greatly benefit from the invaluable participation of parishioners active in this ministry. This summer, we have continued to assist seniors struggling financially due to ill health or requiring assistance dealing with the extreme heat, families experiencing short-term job loss, or other temporary setbacks.



Vincentsians are a network of friends inspired by Gospel values, growing in holiness, and building a more just world through personal relationships with and serving people in need. Please consider joining us in our work. We meet once a month in the OLH parish hall, the first Monday evening of each month, where we pray and review the past month's efforts. Two Vincentsians volunteer to be "on-call" each month. One can put as much or little into their participation as their schedules permit. True faith in Jesus Christ always produces good works. May the words from the Letter of St James stir you to participate in our Vincentsian mission: For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also.

Contact us for more information about becoming a member or if you know anyone who may benefit from our assistance, at 978-992-6151. Also, please visit our website for additional details <https://svdpipswich.blogspot.com/>

OLH Middle & High School Faith Formation 2023-24

Fall is coming, and we're looking toward the beginning of Faith Formation for our elementary through high school groups! Here are our start dates, and full calendars and information can be found at www.ipswichcatholics.org:

Elementary Faith Formation begins Sunday, October 15th!

Middle School EDGE begins Wednesday, October 11th!

High School (9th & 10th) begins Sunday, October 15th!

CATECHISTS ARE STILL NEEDED! Please consider how you can help.

In our Elementary program, it's currently a classroom style, where one or two teachers will have a small group of students. For Middle and High School, you'd be part of a team, helping to lead discussion and prayer in a small group, with the teaching done each week to the larger group.

Catechists are needed at all levels, and the most important things you can bring are your love for God, and your love for our kids. What we most need are disciples — our youth need to see people who are living their faith, and who can share that faith with them.

In this pursuit—**more workers are ALWAYS needed in the vineyard of the Lord!** So, please prayerfully consider if God is calling you to help minister to our youth, and reach me at elisastclair@ipswichcatholics.org or 978-356-3944.



IPSWICH KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS



The Knights of Columbus is the world's largest Catholic fraternal service organization. It was founded by the Venerable Father Michael J. McGivney in New Haven, Connecticut, in 1882, and named in honor of the navigator Christopher Columbus. Originally serving as a mutual benefit society to low-income immigrant Catholics, it developed into a fraternal service organization dedicated to providing charitable services, promoting Catholic education, and actively defending Catholicism in various nations.

The Knights of Columbus is not just a fraternity in name. It is a brotherhood of Catholic men who each play a part in improving the world around them, one community at a time. They are dedicated to upholding the principles they cherish: Charity, Unity, and Fraternity. The Knights stand together in faith and lend their support to the parish, home, and fellow Knights. From charity for worldwide causes, to helping closer to home with volunteer activities, to a top-rated insurance program that protects those closest to you, the Knights make the most of its brotherhood. All men in the parish are welcome and should consider joining the Knights of Columbus. We'd love to have you! For more information on joining the Knights, please contact Jim Foley Grand Knight of Ipswich Council 498 at: Jamesfoley2233@gmail.com.

VOCATIONS

Interested in learning how you can lend your talents to encouraging those men called to be holy priests? Want to explore vocational discernment, life, and the life of seminarians.

See the new vocations website www.vocationsboston.org feel free to contact the Vocation Office by phone at 617-746-5949.



Knights of Columbus

The Open Door Food Drive

The Knights of Columbus will be sponsoring a food drive for The Open Door Food Pantry in Ipswich. Please leave your donations near the front entrance of Our Lady of Hope Parish in the food donation box. The Knights will be transporting the food once a week and they

Thank you for your donation.

Most needed items at

The Open Door (no glass!):

Peanut Butter • Canned Tuna, Chicken & Turkey • Healthy Snack Items • 100% Juice/Juice Boxes • Breakfast Cereal • Hearty Soups • Canned Vegetables & Fruits • Spaghetti Sauce • Macaroni & Cheese • Rice, Noodles, & Pasta • Cake, Muffin & Pancake Mix

SAINT PAUL PARISH RELIGIOUS EDUCATION INFORMATION



RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CLASSES WILL BE STARTING SOON.

Registration Forms can be found on the parish website: churchofsaintpaul.net

Prep, Edge & Purpose Students, Parents, Teachers & Volunteers

Join us for the **9:30 a.m. Mass on Sunday, September 17th** to celebrate Catechetical Sunday. It is a day to pray for the Church's mission to share Christ with all people. Please bless the upcoming religious education year with your prayers during this special Mass that the seeds of faith might grow deeply and broadly in the lives of our young people giving them meaning, purpose, and value as well as an eternal vision of happiness for which to live for the glory of God and the good of their souls.

**Letter to EDGE (Grades 6-8) Parents
from Debra Brown, EDGE Director**



Dear EDGE Families,

We hope that you are enjoying the last weeks of summer. This will be the last email to the full EDGE group. Starting next week, I will be sending more direct emails to those who have registered and/or to those who have not yet registered. St. Paul's EDGE program has been very successful helping middle school students get engaged in their faith with each other as role models. Each year we have leaders from eighth grade, seventh grade and six grade step us to lead groups and teams in our games, in our readings and in discussion. Some highlights of our program are (1) search for Mary in the Church (how many images can each group find); (2) annual tour of the Church and their chance to experience being an altar server; (3) adoration (although we do not use the Eucharist, students experience the entrance of the monstrance); (4) Fat Tuesday pancake dinner for the parish; (5) annual Saint Paul Easter Egg hunt (all eggs filled by Edge students) and many other special nights. This year will bring the special gift of students being able to meet and discuss their faith with Father Brogan! For years we have heard from parents that their students want to come to EDGE - and last year there were EDGE chats where students all encouraged each other to attend. The success of the program starts with families submitting their registrations and some stepping up to help as a CORE Team member. All you need to do is attend - we give you the class summary each night. Most CORE team members get so much out of EDGE for their own faith! So please submit your registration and pick your requested night: Tuesday or Wednesday. If we do not have enough registered it will be made into one night only. We will start at the end of September.

Our new mass schedule - Sunday at 7:30 am (no music) and 9:30 am (beautiful music) has been wonderful. Last Sunday our new music director John Mayer invited everyone to consider joining the newly formed choir that will start in a few weeks. Singing at mass is an amazing experience! Please submit your registrations.

God Bless you,
Debra



As a parish volunteer, it is mandatory that all volunteers take a VIRTUS Protecting God's Children training class. This is a one-time obligation that must be fulfilled to volunteer for ministry work throughout the Archdiocese.

A VIRTUS Training session will be offered on Sunday, September 24 at 5:00 PM. Please see VIRTUS Registration Instructions of page 4 of the bulletin to pre-register for the session.

If you have any questions, please contact the parish office.

Grade 1 Religious Education

GRADE 1 REGISTRATION...If you have a child entering Grade 1 in September, please let us know. In addition, if you have friends in your community or your neighborhood with 1st graders, please have them contact the parish office at: 978-468-2337 or send an email to: stpaulsparish@verizon.net for Religious Education class information.

TIPS FOR TAKING YOUNG CHILDREN TO MASS



by Josh and Stacey Noem

As parents, and leaders of our domestic church, we are responsible for forming our children in our Catholic faith. There is no more important experience to Catholics than the Mass, so it is crucial to help children understand and participate in liturgy as much as they are able.

BEFORE CHURCH

- **Make sure children are well-fed** right before Mass. They do not need to fast, nor will fasting help them to be on their best behavior during Mass.
- **Dress them in some special clothing** that they wear only for church or other special events. It helps them to identify that what we do at Mass as different from everyday activity.
- **Check your diaper bag** to make sure it is stocked for any possible needs. Consider including a small toy or book that your child sees only on Sunday at Mass.

FOR TODDLERS OR OLDER CHILDREN

- **Read the readings in the car** on the way to church. This could be the job of an older child. Then everyone hears them at least once in case someone has to step out during a portion of the Mass.
- **Before going into the church** take a moment to remind children what you are about to do. Make sure they know what their job is at Mass. For us, we say that their job is to be quiet/still, to participate by sharing their voices and to pray.

AT CHURCH

- **Sit up front.** It can feel scary and even a little out of control the first few times, but it makes a world of difference for little ones to be able to see the action.
- **We physically hold** our young children in our arms during Mass. The children get a better view;

as they grow and mature we can talk them through the stories and the actions; and we have a bit more control over their behavior. If an infant or toddler gets squirmy, often switching who is holding them is enough to calm them down. Otherwise we might play a quiet game of “point to the... candles, priest, altar, cross, etc.”

- **If an infant or toddler** makes a little noise during Mass and settles down right away, try not to feel self-conscious. Most folks except for those closest to you do not even notice.
- **If a child cries** or makes continual noise, it is best to calmly step out of the pew and take the child out of the main assembly until they have calmed down or are quiet. Our experience is that stepping out and returning even a few times is not nearly as disruptive as a crying baby and parishioners appreciate your consideration of their attempt to pray. Those that are parents understand.

AFTER MASS

- **Praise your children** abundantly for their good behavior.
- **If they need some improvement**, mention briefly how they might do better next week and explain why. Let them know that you will help them by trying to remind them before the next Mass.
- **Answer questions** children have about Mass and encourage them to understand the liturgy.
- **For older children** consider taking time to discuss the readings and the homily.



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This article is adapted from “How to Take Young Children to Mass” originally published on USCCB’s For Your Marriage website. <http://www.foryourmarriage.org/how-to-take-young-children-to-mass/>. Copyright © 2019, United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, Washington DC. All rights reserved. Used with permission.

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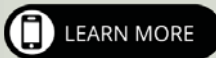
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