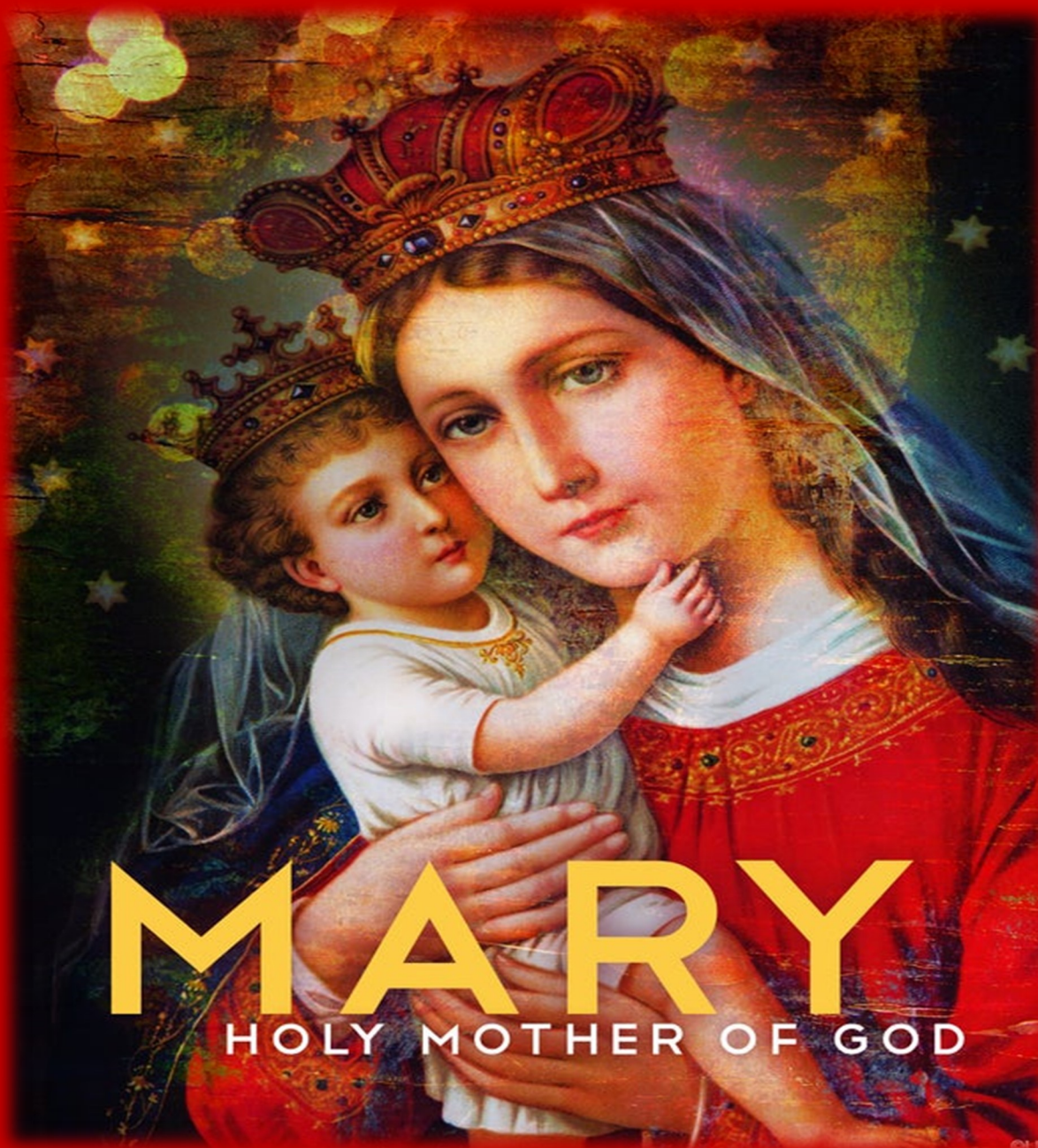




# ST. PAUL PARISH

*Solemnity of Mary, The Holy Mother of God*

January 1, 2023



## ST. PAUL CHURCH

Mon.-Sat. 8:00 a.m.- Daily Mass  
Saturday 4:30 p.m.- Vigil Mass  
Sunday 8a.m. & 10:30a.m.

## ST. CLARE CHURCH

Eucharistic Adoration & Rosary  
Monday-Friday 4p.m.-5p.m.  
Rosary begins at 4:30 p.m.

**Rev. Mon. Neil J. Van Loon, V.F., Pastor**  
Deacon John A. Hanni

**St. Paul Staff**

Rita Cicco - Director of Religious Education

Robert Fitzsimmons - Sacristan

Eugene Mentz - Director of Liturgical Music

Marci Stevens-Scanlon - Administrative Assistant

Phoebe Wilson - Operations Manager



## St. Paul Parish

Lord God, you appointed Paul your apostle to preach the good news of salvation to the nations. May his example and prayers inspire the faithful of our parish to be more fully Alive in Christ.

Fill our hearts with the spirit of your charity so that we may please you in our thoughts, words and deeds and be witnesses to hope that does not disappoint.

May the prayers of St. Paul and all the saints be our constant encouragement so that we may walk worthily as disciples of Your Son.

*Amen*



### **St. Paul Church**

Corner of Penn Avenue  
and Marion Street,  
Scranton, PA 18509

### **St. Paul Rectory**

1510 Penn Ave.,  
Scranton, PA 18509  
Phone: 570-961-1549

Fax: 570-961-0335

Office Hours: Mon-Fri

8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

### **MASS SCHEDULE**

CONFESSIONS- Sat.-4pm

8 am Mass ~ Mon.-Sat.

4:30 Mass ~ Sat. (Vigil)

8 am & 10:30 am ~ Sun

### **St. Clare Church**

2235 N. Washington Ave.

Adoration and Rosary

Monday ~ Friday

4:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Rosary at 4:30 p.m.

### **FOOD PANTRY**

3:00 p.m. ~ 4:30 p.m.

St. Clare Church Basement

### **JOIN US FOR MASS**

Join us on Facebook at St.  
Paul's Parish for our  
live-streaming of the  
Celebration of Mass.

info@stpaulscranton.org

Facebook ~ Saint Paul's

Parish Scranton

[www.stpaulscranton.org](http://www.stpaulscranton.org)

### **Sacrament of Baptism**

All first time parents are  
asked to attend  
a baptismal preparation  
meeting prior  
to the Baptism.

Please call the parish  
office to schedule dates.

### **Sacrament of Matrimony**

A meeting with the  
parish priest should  
precede all other  
wedding plans. Contact  
the parish  
office at least six months  
before  
date of the intended  
marriage.

### **Sacrament of Holy Anointing**

All who are seriously  
sick, hospitalized,  
or having surgery can  
receive this sacrament.  
Please call the rectory  
if you wish to be  
anointed.

### **Sponsor Cards**

Sponsor cards for  
Baptism or Confirmation  
will be issued to  
parishioners who attend  
Mass regularly;  
are Baptized and  
Confirmed Catholics;  
are married in  
conformity with the  
laws of the Church.



## ST. PAUL MASS INTENTIONS

### SOLEMNITY OF MARY, THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD

**Saturday, December 31** Vigil: Solemnity of Mary

4:30 p.m. † Eugene P. Grady (Marge & Family)

**Sunday, January 1** Solemnity of Mary, Holy Mother of God

8:00 a.m. † Lindsay Doherty (Family)

10:30 a.m. † Ryan Steppacher (Family)

**Monday, January 2** Sts Basil & Gregory

8:00 a.m. † Robert Schmidt (Family)

**Tuesday, January 3** Christmas Weekday

8:00 a.m. † John "Sonny" Lenko (Stan & Betty Bednarz)

**Wednesday, January 4** St. Elizabeth Ann Seton

8:00 a.m. † Pat Malloy (Malloy Family)

**Thursday, January 5** St. John Neumann

8:00 a.m. † Gerard Tomko (Ruth & Tom Burke)

**Friday, January 6** Christmas Weekday

8:00 a.m. † Mrs. Karen Evans  
(Kara Kennedy Ware & Family)

**Saturday, January 7** Vigil: Epiphany of the Lord

8:00 a.m. † Edward "Ned" Jordan (John & Lynn Earley)

4:30 p.m. † Michael & Gladys Gursky (Karen & Walt Bullett)

**Sunday, January 8** The Epiphany of the Lord

8:00 a.m. † James P. Kennedy (Family)

10:30 a.m. † Robert McAndrew (Family)



### RECENTLY DECEASED

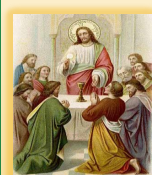
Please pray for the repose of the soul of Kathleen O'Hara. May her soul and all the souls of the faithful departed, through the Mercy of God, rest in peace!

### MEMORIALIZING A LOVED ONE

You may memorialize a loved one by requesting a Mass to be said or a candle to be lit in their memory.

There are many daily Masses still open as well as candles each week throughout our 2023 Mass Book.

Please call 570-961-1549 for more information.



### An Act of Spiritual Communion

My Jesus, I believe that you are present in the Most Holy Sacrament. I love you above all things, And I desire to receive you into my soul. Since I cannot at this moment receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace you as already there and unite myself wholly to you. Never permit me to be separated from you. Amen.

## REMEMBERED AT THE ALTAR:



### St. Paul's Sanctuary Candle

In Loving Memory of:

† Erin Walsh Dempsey

With Love From:

Family

### St. Paul's St. Joseph Candle

In Loving Memory of:

† Robert Kerrigan

With Love From:

Family

### St. Paul's Marian Candle

† Florence Connelly

With Love From:

The Bartlebaugh Family



### St. Paul's Wine and Host

† Sr. Mary William Philbin, IHM

With Love From:

Family



We ask for your ongoing prayers for Deacon John Hanni of our parish as he convalesces.

## Food Pantry Hours: Fridays 3-4:30pm

Food Pantry Volunteers for Friday January 6

Jane Farr, Bobbie Jadick, Kathy Manley, Mary McAndrew, Jody Maloney, Barbara Burkhouse

## St. Paul Food Pantry Donations



### In Loving Memory of:

† Alice Grogan

With Love,

Joann Cantafio

## RECTORY OFFICE CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE

The Parish Office will be closed for Christmas on

Friday December 23rd and re-open December 27th & 28th from 8:30-12pm

### RECTORY NEW YEAR SCHEDULE

The Parish Office will be closed

Thursday December 29th & resume regular office hours on Monday Jan. 2nd





**December 18, 2022**

**OFFERTORY:**

**\$7,323.00**

**ONLINE GIVING:**

**\$2,555.00**

*Every donation counts!!  
If you have not yet pledged, please...  
Help us reach our Annual Appeal Parish Goal!*

**OUR PARISH IS AT  
56% OF OUR \$66,000 goal**  
*Our parish is reimbursed 75% for any gifts  
made  
to the Appeal in excess of our Appeal goal.*

## **NEW YEAR'S REFLECTION AND PRAYER**

As the old year ends and a new one begins, take time.

Time to remember the struggles you faced, and mistakes you might have made, and maybe even loved ones you lost.

In every year, you experience heartache. This one was no different.

And in remembering, find a seed of hope hidden in yesterday.

Remember how you've been blessed. Re-live when you found unexpected strength. Recall where you saw God's great Spirit at work, and know his mercy kept you going all this time.

Recognize his mercy. Ask for his peace.

The peace that pours out every moment of every day from the wounds of Christ. Prepare us Lord for the New Year. Lift us up and place in our hearts a renewed desire to know and worship you more.

Give us your abundant grace. Shower us with your healing love.

May your eternal Kingdom reign in our hearts and our lives. May the New Year show us once again your eternal mercy and glory.

And let us sing your praises with great joy! -Amen

*A  
New Year*  
IS GOD'S GIFT

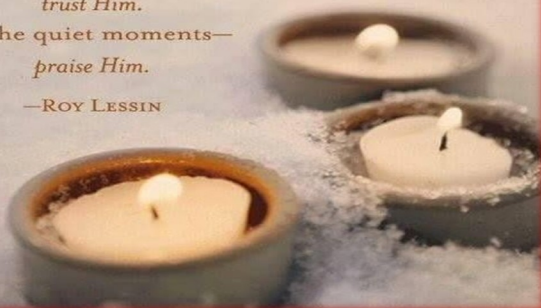
In the joyful moments—  
thank Him.

In the busy moments—  
bless Him.

In the trying moments—  
trust Him.

In the quiet moments—  
praise Him.

—ROY LESSIN





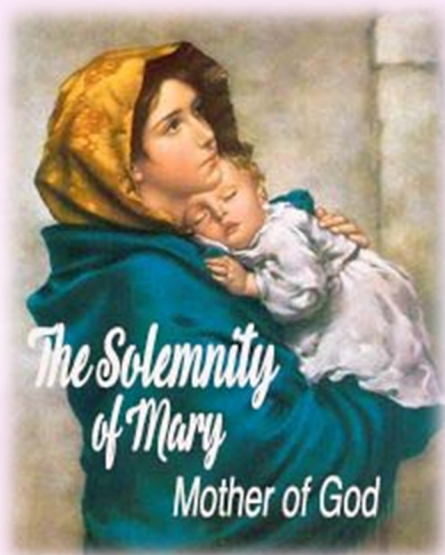
## GOSPEL MEDITATION - ENCOURAGE DEEPER UNDERSTANDING OF SCRIPTURE

*January 1, 2023: Solemnity of Mary, The Holy Mother of God*

We hide ourselves and our secrets from God because we are afraid. Even Mary can seem too perfect to approach. The shepherds find the strength to speak to Mary and Joseph at the moment they see the child in the manger. They open their hearts and share what they've experienced. Saint Luke writes of the shepherds, "When they saw this, they made known the message that had been told them about this child."

When I was a college student, I visited Rome. Beggars often approached and said, "Mangia? Mangia?" I didn't speak Italian and thought, "Why are they speaking about the Christmas nativity scene?" My friend said, "Mangia means eat. They're hungry." That's when I realized more deeply than ever before that Mary puts her baby in a place designed for hungry animals to eat.

See that baby in the manger in your heart. Imagine Mary kneeling nearby looking at you with love. She doesn't cling to God for herself. In that cave, from the beginning, she quietly offers her son to hungry souls. The manger means vulnerable self-offering love. That's the sign. This week that same manger opens our hearts to tell Mary about our lives, too. — Father John Muir ©LPi



### The Solemnity of Mary, The Holy Mother of God

The Solemnity of Mary, Holy Mother of God is a liturgical celebration observed on January 1st which falls exactly one week after Christmas, the end of the octave of Christmas.

The Blessed Virgin Mary is honored as the Mother of God because she conceived and gave birth to Christ, who is the incarnation of God the Son, the Second Person of the Blessed Trinity.

It is fitting to honor Mary as Mother of Jesus, following the birth of Christ.

When Catholics celebrate the Solemnity of Mary Mother of God, we are not only honoring Mary, who was chosen among all women throughout history to bear God incarnate, but we are also honoring our Lord, who is fully God and fully human.

Since the first centuries of Christianity, the Church customarily has regarded the Blessed Virgin Mary to be the Mother of God for a simple, logical reason; By the power of the Holy Spirit, she conceived Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

Since the divine Person, God the Son, assumed, or took on, human nature, she is the Mother of God in the fullest since:

"What the Catholic faith believes about Mary is based on what it believes about Christ, and what it teaches about Mary illumines in turn its faith in Christ" (CCC 487).

The Church solemnly defined this belief at the Ecumenical Council of Ephesus AD 431.



## A Weekend with Sarah Hart

***The Parishes of St. John the Evangelist and St. Joseph Mareello Parishes*** are delighted to welcome renowned

Catholic composer Sarah Hart to Pittston this February! Sarah is the writer of many newer pieces which are becoming beloved hymns in their own right. You have heard many of her hymns during weekend liturgies, evening prayer, and perhaps most notably during funeral liturgies. These works include “Remembrance of You,” “All That We Have Seen,” “The House That Love Is Building,” and “Go in Peace,” a staple song of

farewell. Sarah offers music that blends together beautiful and distinct melodies with incredibly profound and moving lyrics to create a unique and accessible prayer for each of us. Sarah will present a “Beatitude Walk,” a beautiful and moving spiritual retreat centered on the 8 Beatitudes, on the morning of ***Saturday, February 4 in Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Church, St. Joseph Mareello Parish, 237 William Street in Pittston.*** Tickets for this retreat will cost \$10 per person. A start time will be announced soon. Sarah will then present an evening concert on Sunday, February 5, also in St. Joseph Mareello Parish (time will also soon be determined by OCP). Tickets for this concert will also cost \$10 each. Tickets will be available from the Parish Office beginning January 10. You may *reserve tickets by calling the Parish Office at 570-654-6902, visiting in person, or by emailing Brandon at [brandon@sjmparish.org](mailto:brandon@sjmparish.org).* Tickets for the retreat or concert will also be available “at the door” during each event. All are invited to join us for what promises to be a beautiful weekend with Sarah!



## We'd like to thank all those who contributed to holiday giving this season!

We know the holidays are very busy for everyone but your generosity made a huge difference in the lives of our clients.

In addition to providing basic food assistance, we were able to provide them with special holiday hams as well. We were also able to provide all of our clients with warm mittens due to your generous donations to “Mollie’s Mitten Tree”.

Through your generous donations to the **Giving Tree** this year we were able to make sure 40 needy children from the NEPA Youth Shelter each had something

under the tree at their Christmas party.

We would also like to extend our

sincere gratitude to **National Bakery and Zummos** for all of their weekly contributions of baked goods throughout the year. Their generosity and kindness brings so much joy to all of our patrons throughout the year!

Another **very special** thank-you to **all** of the volunteers who assist in ministry at St. Paul Parish. To our CCD Instructors, Lectors, Servers, Eucharistic Ministers, Choir members, and Food Pantry Volunteers: The gifts you share with your parish and community are so very appreciated and valued.

**Thank you so very much for**

**your generosity!**

♥ ***Your donations of food, goods, time and money make such a meaningful difference to our parish & our community*** ♥