



ST. PAUL PARISH

The Epiphany of the Lord

January 8, 2023



THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

"Where is the newborn king of the Jews? We saw his star at its rising and have come to do him homage." - Mt 2:2

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

FRIDAYS: 3pm ~ 4:30 pm
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

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

THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

Saturday, January 7 Vigil: The Epiphany of the Lord

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)

Monday, January 9 The Baptism of the Lord

8:00 a.m. † Marjorie R. Brown (Children)

Tuesday, January 10 Weekday

8:00 a.m. † Paul McCrone (Family)

Wednesday, January 11 Weekday

8:00 a.m. † Margaret Boland (Sally Walsh)

Thursday, January 12 Weekday

8:00 a.m. † Daniel Novitsky (Matt & Kristina Ruane)

Friday, January 13 Weekday

8:00 a.m. † Joseph Salernro (Salerno Family)

Saturday, January 14 Vigil: Second Sunday

8:00 a.m. † John Dougherty (Peter & Judy McCarthy)

4:30 p.m. † Dorothy Maguire (Paul & Mary Theresa Paterson)

Sunday, January 15 Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

8:00 a.m. † Patrick & Margaret Boland (Joe Donohue & Family)

10:30a.m. † Thomas P. Quinn (The Walsh Family)

RECENTLY DECEASED

Please pray for the repose of the souls of those recently departed. May their souls and all the souls of the faithful departed, through the Mercy of God, rest in peace!



Additional Poinsettia Memorial

In Loving Memory of:
Edward Karabin
With Love, From:
Family



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:

† Jim Cadden

With Love From:

Sandi & Caroline Cadden

St. Paul's St. Joseph Candle

In Loving Memory of:

† John Howell

With Love From:

Joanne Cantafio

St. Paul's Marian Candle

† Sr. Angela Miller, IHM

With Love From:

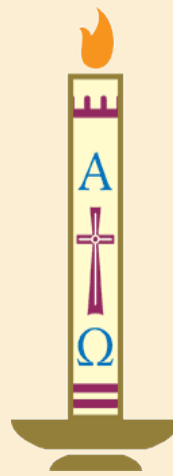
St. Paul Parish

St. Paul's Wine and Host

† Vincent Pappalardo

With Love From:

Family



There are still many memorial candles available throughout the 2023 Mass Book. If you would like to honor or memorialize your loved one in this way, please call the rectory at 570-961-1549 to schedule which week you would like the candle lit in your loved ones name.



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 13

**Marilyn Carlonas, Renee Fontana,
Mary Kryzanowski, Gretchen Welby,
Jody Maloney & Barbara Burkhouse**

St. Paul Food Pantry Donations

In Loving Memory of:

† Alan Sweeney

With Love,

Judy, Rachel & Kara



December 25, 2022

OFFERTORY:

\$10,620.00

ONLINE: \$5,471.91

January 1, 2023

OFFERTORY:

\$5,137.00

ONLINE: \$3,722.35



All registered parishioners will receive a yearly statement of giving in January. If you would like your tax deductible contributions to show on your 2021 statement, we must receive the donation by JAN. 15, 2023.

GOSPEL MEDITATION - ENCOURAGE DEEPER UNDERSTANDING OF SCRIPTURE

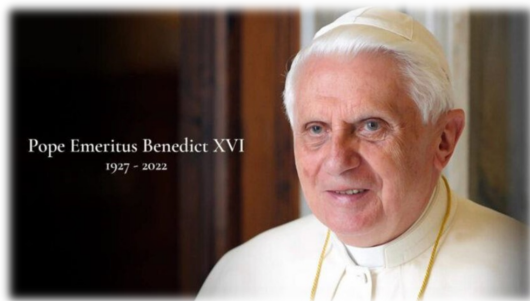
January 8, 2023: The Epiphany of the Lord



A friend of mine is a young priest who teaches high school physics at a Catholic boys' prep school. Like many today, the boys often think science and religion are enemies. So, he delights in their raised eyebrows when he reminds them his first full-time job as a priest was to be an astrophysicist. He cataloged the size, shape, and matter of distant stars. He tells them, "Science gave me more love for God, not less." The Magi were something like scientist-astronomers. Like today's scientists, they employed disciplined methods of discovering dependable patterns in the world. Their rigorous commitment to the truth led them to the joy of discovering Jesus.

Their love for knowledge leads them to worship the Source of all knowledge. Luke says of them, "They were overjoyed at seeing the star." We may see the universe as cold and empty and feel sad. But why should we do that? The Magi, like my priest-friend, show us there is another way to experience the world. We use our intelligence to discover the beautiful patterns in the world — in mathematics, physics, astronomy, biology, neuroscience, and so on — and allow this to lead us to greater love for God. So, my fellow Magi: the world needs us to be overjoyed at finding God in science and, finally and fully, in Jesus.

Father John Mui ©LPI



Statement of the Most Rev. Joseph C. Bambera, Bishop of Scranton, on the Death of Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI

"On behalf of the clergy, religious and faithful of the Diocese of Scranton, I join people around the world in offering prayers and sympathy on the passing of Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI.

"Pope Emeritus Benedict will always be remembered as a great theologian-pope, not just because of the three encyclicals he wrote, but because of the intellectual precision he brought to all of his work, helping us to encounter God's love and truth. For example, in *Spe Salvi*, (*In hope we were saved*), he beautifully stated that God is our foundation of hope, and it is his love alone that gives us the possibility of soberly persevering day by day.

"In addition to being a strong supporter of the Church in America, Benedict truly believed in fostering Christian unity as a fundamental priority of the worldwide Church. From dialoging with Lutherans to his work with Anglicans, he made many efforts to see Christians fully united.

"We give thanks to the Father for the great gift of Benedict as a priest, bishop, cardinal and Successor to Saint Peter. While much has been written about his historic renunciation, Benedict's actions showed great humility, selflessness and courage as he determined he no longer had the physical strength for the demands of the papacy.

"On a personal level, I thank Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI for the trust and confidence he had in me when appointing me the tenth bishop of the Diocese of Scranton in February 2010. I will always treasure the opportunity to witness his humanity and devotion to Christ the following year during my first *ad limina* visit to the Vatican.

"I ask the people of the Diocese of Scranton to offer prayers for the peaceful repose of Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI's soul.

May God grant him the gift of eternal life and bring comfort to those who mourn his passing."



Financial Transparency FAQ

Through the Diocese of Scranton's listening efforts during the Synod on Synodality in 2022, one of the main themes that emerged from online surveys and in-person listening sessions was a broad demand for greater transparency from church leadership in all matters of importance. One of the areas frequently mentioned is parish financial matters.

On August 31, 2022, Bishop Joseph C. Bambera signed a decree instituting "Norms for Annual Parish Financial Reporting" which are to be considered law in the Diocese of Scranton. ***Each year beginning in 2023, on the second weekend in January, every parish in the Diocese will be required to publish a five-year financial trend analysis in its bulletin, which will include a narrative to help people understand the document. (narrative can be found on following page.)***

While a pastor/parish life coordinator is primarily responsible for the day-to-day supervision of a parish's financial and physical resources, they receive assistance from a Parish Finance Council. The Parish Finance Council is a consultative body of laypersons that advise a pastor in matters pertaining to the financial affairs of the parish. It is widely accepted that an active, well-informed Parish Finance Council strengthens accountability and assists the pastor with his responsibilities.

Parishes are much more expensive to maintain now than they were in the past. As the Diocese of Scranton continues in its Vision 2030 Pastoral Planning Process, striving to meet the opportunities and challenges of the coming decade, it is critical for parishioners to have an understanding of the financial position of their parish.

It is the hope that by having more financial transparency between a parish and its parishioners, there can be greater trust and cooperation to further the mission of the Church. Pastors and parish staff must be open and consultative in the conducting of affairs and parishioners must accept responsibility for their parish and contribute generously to its programs and projects.

Parish Financial Report St. Paul - Scranton TREND ANALYSIS					
	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018
Fiscal Year July 1 - June 30					
Revenue					
Collections	513,597	489,374	525,584	574,785	617,129
Faith Formation Fees	4,913	3,750	5,341	5,407	6,095
Fundraising/Development	40,824	17,232	43,537	33,365	52,352
Other Income	74,650	87,054	95,202	96,924	87,435
Designated Income/Grants/PPP Loan	-	-	4,276	-	-
Transfers Savings Account/Other	69,976	22,333	41,098	19,063	-
Diocesan Special Collections	28,343	14,913	23,557	29,030	35,662
Total Revenue	732,303	634,656	738,595	758,574	798,673
Expenses					
Administration	299,682	251,256	260,772	254,880	272,489
Rectorry	21,342	33,461	32,341	34,855	58,608
Liturgy	58,397	62,155	53,794	94,994	81,449
Faith Formation	32,883	40,223	46,044	53,532	56,567
Social Justice	12,076	9,535	11,127	15,731	9,903
Operation & Maintenance of Plant	106,268	69,933	121,495	109,295	109,406
Fixed Expense	25,171	26,173	23,218	22,326	23,646
Debt Service	-	-	-	-	-
Capital Outlays	-	-	16,032	22,464	-
Designated Expenses /Transfers Out	43,391	13,368	10,861	16,587	15,276
Catholic School Assessment	98,090	112,875	108,535	103,387	108,624
Diocesan Special Collections Remittance	10,542	10,425	17,642	26,809	30,226
Total Expense	707,842	629,404	701,861	754,860	766,194
Parish Surplus/(Deficit) - CASH Basis	24,461	5,252	36,734	3,714	32,479
(Increase)/Decrease in Unpaid Diocesan Obligations	*(SEE NOTE)*	(14,824)	26,324	(9,209)	(23,056)
Actual Parish Net Surplus/(Deficit)	9,637	31,576	27,525	(19,342)	34,376
NOTE					
Outstanding Diocesan Obligations could include: Diocesan assessments, School assessments, health insurance, self-insurance, pension and other expenses.					
End of Year Unpaid Diocesan Obligations	38,752	23,928	50,252	41,043	17,987
Beginning of Year Unpaid Diocesan Obligations	23,928	50,252	41,043	17,987	19,884
(Increase)/Decrease in Unpaid Diocesan Obligations	(14,824)	26,324	(9,209)	(23,056)	1,897
Diocesan Loan/Debt	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

Understanding Your Parish Financial Report

REVENUE

- **Collections** include all offertory envelopes, online giving and loose collections, including for holidays, Holy Days and any special collection (flowers) envelopes.
- **Faith Formation Fees** include all registration and program fees for both faith formation and adults programs.
- **Fundraising/Development** includes any gifts or donations that are not regular parish offertory, bequests and memorials, parish activities (dinners, picnics, bingo, lottery, etc.), donations from parish societies and any parish rebate from the Diocesan Annual Appeal (75% over goal is refunded to the parish).
- **Other Income** includes rental of facilities, insurance refunds, interest income, sale of assets, funeral/wedding perquisites or any other income.
- **Designated Income/Grants/PPP Loan** includes donations or grants specifically earmarked for a designated purpose, reimbursements from linked parishes to help cover expenses and any Paycheck Protection Plan grant income.
- **Transfers Savings Account/Other** includes transfers from bank accounts that are excluded from operating income or have already been reported as operating income.
- **Diocesan Special Collections** are special collections (Care & Education of Priests or Emergency collections following a natural disaster) which get remitted back to the Diocese.

EXPENSES

- **Administration** includes clergy salary and benefits, office staff salary and benefits, administrative expenses, telephone, computer services, postage, printing, envelopes and the Cathedricum (9.5% parish assessment to the Diocese) and Clergy Care and Wellness Assessment.
- **Rectory** expenses include the costs to run and maintain the rectory, as well as household expenses for the pastor(s).
- **Liturgy** includes salaries and benefits for musicians and liturgical staff including directors, musicians and sacristans. This also includes all liturgical equipment and supplies (printed materials, candles, flowers, decorations, etc.)
- **Faith Formation** includes salaries and benefits of faith formation director and staff, including family and/or youth director. This also includes the cost of all textbooks and supplies, retreats, etc.
- **Social Justice** includes all social justice salaries and benefits, as well as the cost of all social justice expenses.
- **Operation & Maintenance of Plant** includes salaries and benefits of all maintenance staff. This also includes the occupancy costs of the parish buildings, including electricity, heat, water, cleaning, janitorial, repairs and maintenance, and any plant and maintenance supplies.

- **Fixed Expense** includes insurance premiums from the Diocesan self-insured program for property, liability and workers compensation, real estate taxes (if any) and rental of facilities.
- **Debt Service** includes the interest and principal payments paid on outstanding parish debt.
- **Capital Outlays** includes any major repairs on the parish building or site or any new construction costs.
- **Designated Expenses/Transfers Out** includes all expenses designated for a specific purpose (i.e., food pantry) or transfers out to savings/building fund.
- **Catholic School Assessments** paid are included here. These represent the parish's portion allocated for the support of the Diocese of Scranton Catholic School System which are 14.5% for a parish with a Catholic School in its county and 8% if there is no school in its county.

- **Diocesan Special Collections Remittance** are the remittals of the Diocesan collections above.

Parish Surplus/(Deficit) - CASH Basis

- This line represents the **increase** or **decrease** in parish cash balances from the beginning of the year to the end of the year on a **CASH BASIS** based on actual expenses paid.

(Increase)/Decrease in Unpaid Diocesan Obligations

- This amount represents the change in the parish's **unpaid obligations** over the year. If there is an **increase** in unpaid obligations, this number will be **negative**. If the parish **reduced** its unpaid obligations, this will be a **positive** number.

Actual Parish Net Surplus/(Deficit)

- This value is the sum of the Parish Surplus/(Deficit) and the (Increase)/decrease of Unpaid Diocesan Obligations. The cash balance represents the net effect of operating activity on a cash basis. If a parish is current on all of its obligation, there would be no difference between the Cash and ACTUAL Parish Net Surplus/(Deficit). However, if a parish is unable to stay current on its obligations, the increase of unpaid obligations will reduce their CASH Basis Net Surplus/(Deficit) by the amount of the increase in unpaid Diocesan obligations.

This Actual Parish Net Surplus/(Deficit) reflects a parish's true ability to pay its current obligations.

Outstanding Diocesan Obligations

- This section highlights the change in a parish's unpaid Diocesan obligations over each fiscal year. If a parish has an increase in unpaid obligations for the year, this will result in a lower Actual Parish Net Surplus/(Deficit) as these are an annual obligation of the parish that was not paid in the current year.

Diocesan Loan/Debt

- This is the amount of outstanding loans of the parish.

YEARLY STATEMENT

All registered parishioners will receive a yearly statement of giving in January 2023. Many people enjoy using Christmas and Year's End as a special time to give to their favorite Catholic institutions and also positively impact their Federal and State Income taxes.

Year End giving provides many advantages to you, the donor.

- All gifts made on or before December 31st are tax deductible for the tax year 2022.

- A year end donation can be used to memorialize a loved one for the holidays.
- If you itemize, your gift will lessen your tax liability for 2021.
- If you do not itemize, your Christmas gift may be just the right decision to allow you to itemize and lower your tax bill (check with tax advisor).

If you would like your tax deductible contributions to show on your 2021 statement, we must receive the money by JAN. 15, 2023.