



# ST. PAUL PARISH

*First Sunday of Advent*

December 3, 2023



## *First Sunday of* **ADVENT**



*Holy Day Mass: The Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception*

**Vigil Mass: Thursday December 7th– 5:30 pm**

**& Friday December 8th– 8am & 12:10 pm**

### **ST. PAUL CHURCH**

Mon.-Fri. 8:00am

Saturday 8:00am & 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**

**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



## **CHRISTMAS SEASON MASS SCHEDULE 2023**

**Saint Paul Parish**



### **CONFESSIONS**

*Saturday, December 16th and 23rd*  
*(Please note date change from Christmas Card)*  
**3:30 p.m. - 4:15 p.m.**

### **Nativity of the Lord (Vigil)**

*Vigil: Sunday, December 24*  
**4:00 p.m.**  
*(Livestreamed on St. Paul Church Facebook Page)*  
**& 10:00 p.m. Mass**

### **Nativity of the Lord**

**Monday, December 25 - 9:00 a.m. & 11 a.m. Mass**

### **Solemnity of Mary- The Holy Mother of God**

**Monday, January 1- 9:00 a.m.**

#### **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](mailto: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 the  
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

FIRST SUNDAY IN ADVENT

Saturday, December 2 Vigil: First Sunday of Advent

4:30 p.m. † Sheila O'Keeffe (Peggy O'Keeffe)

Sunday, December 3 First Sunday of Advent

8:00 a.m. † Thomas P. & Thomas J. Quinn (Walsh Family)

10:30a.m. † Catherine Mulderig (Auriemma Family)

Monday, December 4 Weekday

8:00 a.m. † Louis Fernanda DePaola (Family)

Tuesday, December 5 Weekday

8:00 a.m. † Audrey Roche (Family)

Wednesday, December 6 Weekday

8:00 a.m. † Patrick Kearney (Family)

Thursday, December 7 Vigil: Immaculate Conception

8:00 a.m. † Elizabeth Birkeland (Family)

5:30 p.m. † Robert Cron (Ellie & Dale Richmond)

Friday, December 8 Immaculate Conception

8:00 a.m. † Donald Schoen (Family)

12:10p.m. † Gene Pidich (Wife, Regina)

Saturday, December 9 Vigil: First Sunday of Advent

8:00 a.m. † Mary Louise Burne (Lisa Gardier)

4:30 p.m. † Judge & Mrs. S. John Cottone (Family)

Sunday, December 10 First Sunday of Advent

8:00 a.m. † Lindsay Doherty (Family)

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



### RECENTLY DECEASED

Please pray for the repose of the soul of  
Nancy Kelly & Michael Muraca. May their  
souls and all of the souls of the faithful departed,  
through the Mercy of God, rest in peace!



## ADVENT



HOPE. LOVE. JOY. PEACE.

### First Sunday of Advent Memorial Candle:



*In Loving Memory of:*  
**John "Sonny" &  
Betty Lenko**  
*With Love From,*  
**Stan & Betty Bednarz**

## REMEMBERED AT THE ALTAR:



### St. Paul's Sanctuary Candle

In Loving Memory of:

† Nancy & Vincent Sweeney

With Love From:

**The Reynolds & Sweeney Family**

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

In Loving Memory of:

† Audrey Roche

With Love From:

**Family**

### St. Paul's Marian Candle

Happy Birthday in Heaven:

† Mary Floyd

With Love From:

**Caroline, Natalie & Luciano**



### St. Paul's Wine & Host

In Loving Memory of

† Nancy Kelly

With Love From:

**Family**

**Food Pantry Hours: Fridays 3-4:30pm**  
**Food Pantry Volunteers for Friday December 8**  
**Kathy Manley, Ellie Pyles, Zack Morrison,**  
**Judy Sweeney & Barbara Burkhouse**

### St. Paul Food Pantry Donations

*In Loving Memory*  
of: † Tom Lucas

*With Love,*

**Todd & Elizabeth  
O'Malley**



*In Loving Memory*  
of: † Ryan  
O'Malley

*With Love,*  
**Mom & Dad**



Each year we display an  
Advent Wreath to  
highlight the great season of  
preparation for the birth of  
the infant savior.

We welcome you to  
memorialize your loved ones  
by dedicating a candle.

The memorial donation is \$100.00 each candle.

Please contact Marci at the parish office.

Your loved one will be remembered in the weekly  
bulletin and again in the Christmas edition with  
other holiday memorials. Thank you for your  
donations in memory of your loved ones!



**November 19th Collection**  
**Offertory Total: \$ 4, 633.00**  
**Online Total: \$2,835.00**

**RECENTLY BAPTIZED:**  
**Jack Finkernagel**, child of Christopher  
& Kelly, has recently received the  
sacrament of baptism at  
St. Paul Parish.



**We welcome Jack to our parish community!**



**Solemnity  
of the  
Immaculate  
Conception**  
**December 8**

## FROM THE CATECHISM

### **Mary: God's Masterpiece** (Para 721-726)

Who is the Creator's masterpiece?

The *Catechism* says that God's masterwork of the mission of the Son and the Spirit is the all-holy, ever Virgin Mary. She, for the first time, was the dwelling where the Father could place His Son and His Spirit to live among men.

The Church, says the *Catechism*, has often read the most beautiful texts on wisdom as relating to Mary.

She is acclaimed in liturgy as the "Seat of Wisdom."

The Holy Spirit prepared Mary for her great task by filling her with grace, and by her sheer grace she was conceived without sin. It was appropriate that she, in whom the Eternal Son would dwell, would herself be without any stain of original sin. -Peggy Stanton, DM

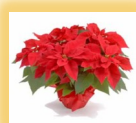
### Hearing God's Call



**We invite you to consider becoming  
an Acolyte at St. Paul Parish.  
As an Acolyte, you will have the  
opportunity to serve God and our  
community in a special way.**

Lay people take an active part in worship at St. Paul Parish. Young and old serve as acolytes (altar servers), lectors, extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion, choir members, instrumentalists, song leaders, and ushers. We are especially in need of adult acolytes who are available during the weekday morning hours to assist with Funeral Masses. Please reach out to us at 570-961-1549 for additional information and training.

**If you have served as an adult Acolyte for  
St. Paul Parish previous to the Covid Pandemic,  
we hope you will return!**



### WREATH AND POINSETTIA MEMORIALS

Advent is quickly approaching and we are making plans for our church decorations.

A lovely way to remember your deceased friends and family is to purchase a wreath or poinsettia as a tribute. If you would like to memorialize a poinsettia or wreath, simply fill out this form or for your convenience we have also supplied you with an envelope in your weekly envelope packet, just fill either one out and put it in the basket at church or send it to the rectory. A list of persons being memorialized will appear in our special Christmas bulletin. Due to early bulletin deadline submittal, please return requests by **December 5th**.

**Poinsettias \$15.00**  
**Wreaths \$25.00**



**In Memory of:**

**Requested by:**

**Number of Poinsettias:** \_\_\_\_\_ (**@ \$15 ea**)

**Number of Wreaths:** \_\_\_\_\_ (**@ \$25 ea**)

**Donation enclosed :** \_\_\_\_\_

**Complete form or simply call or email your request  
to us then mail or drop off donation!**

**570-961-1549 or [info@stpaulscranton.org](mailto:info@stpaulscranton.org)**



### MOLLIE'S MITTEN TREE

The Mitten Tree is our additional holiday tree during the season of Advent. Along with trees at SC/ SP School, these trees continue in memory of the efforts of Mollie Conway who began the tradition. Donations

of hats, gloves, scarves and mittens are collected for those who need to keep warm in the winter.

These mittens have been donated to many places over the years and are offered to our Food Pantry Families who need our assistance. Mollie's Mitten trees is located in the vestibule of St. Paul's Church.

Please consider those who cannot keep warm this winter by continuing to give back in the spirit of the season. Simply bring in hats, glove, mittens or scarves and feel welcome to hang those items on the tree.

**This Sunday, December 3rd, begins the season of Advent!**  
**This is a time of preparation before Christmas. A wreath of candles is made and 1 is lit each Sunday**

Traditionally, Advent wreaths are constructed of a circle of evergreen branches into which four candles are inserted, representing the four weeks of Advent.

Ideally, three candles are purple and one is rose, but white candles can also be used.

The purple candles in particular symbolize the prayer, penance, and preparatory sacrifices and good works undertaken at this time.

The rose candle is lit on the third Sunday, Gaudete Sunday, when the priest also wears rose vestments at Mass; Gaudete Sunday is the Sunday of rejoicing, because the faithful have arrived at the midpoint of Advent, when their preparation is now half over and they are close to Christmas.

The progressive lighting of the candles symbolizes the expectation and hope surrounding our Lord's first coming into the world and the anticipation of His second coming to judge the living and the dead.

The wreath and candles are full of symbolism associated with the Christmas season.

The wreath itself, which is made of various evergreens, signifies "CONTINUOUS LIFE".

The circle of the wreath, which has no beginning or end, symbolize the eternity of God, the immortality of the soul, and the everlasting life we find in Christ.

The first candle, which is purple, symbolizes "HOPE". It is sometimes called the "PROPHECY CANDLE" in remembrance of the prophets, especially Isaiah, who foretold the birth of Christ. It represents the expectation felt in anticipation of the coming Messiah.

The second candle, also purple, represents "FAITH". It is called the "BETHLEHEM CANDLE" as a reminder of Mary and Joseph's journey to Bethlehem.

The third candle is pink and symbolizes "JOY". It is called the "SHEPARD'S CANDLE" and is pink because rose is a liturgical color for joy. The third Sunday of Advent is called "GAUDETE SUNDAY" and is meant to remind us of the joy that the world experienced at the birth of Jesus, as well as the joy that the faithful have reached the midpoint of Advent.

On the fourth week of Advent, we light the final purple candle to mark the final week of prayer and penance as we wait for the birth of our Savior. This final candle, the "ANGEL'S CANDLE" symbolizes "PEACE".

It reminds us of the message of the angels: "Peace on Earth, Good Will Toward Men." The white candle is placed in the middle of the wreath and lit on Christmas Eve. This candle is called the "CHRIST CANDLE" and represents the life of Christ. The color white is for "PURITY" because Christ is our sinless, pure Savior.

***Wishing everyone a very happy  
 Advent Sunday—full of enjoyment  
 and preparations for a most  
 memorable and joyful  
 Christmas Season!***



**St. Paul Parish CCD- SAVE THE DATES:**

**First Penance Practice: December 5th, 6th, & 7th  
 3-4pm at St. Paul Church**

**First Penance: Sunday December 10th—2pm**

**First Holy Communion:  
 Saturday May 4th @ 10am**

**Confirmation: Sunday May 19th—12pm**

**OPLATKI– Christmas Wafer**

Many Slavic homes celebrate the tradition of the Christmas Wafer Meal. On Christmas Eve the family joins in a supper of special foods with the highlight of the meal being the breaking and distribution of the wafer bread to each other. It is a sign of love and friendship that is especially appropriate at Christmas time. The offering is \$3.00 per envelope. Oplatki will be in the back of both churches or at the rectory.



Our St. Paul parish CCD students came up with the theme of “comfort/spa” for our Teen “Gifts for Kids” Tree this year. They wanted to focus on hygiene products and cozy blankets and pillows. Our SC/SP Students worked hard on making the ornaments that you will see placed on the tree in the vestibule of the church. Please consider taking an ornament from our tree to buy a gift written on the front of the ornament or you can scan the QR code placed on the back of the ornament to have shipped directly to the Dioceses for the day of giving. You can also take a look at the QR code for ideas if you are purchasing a gift to place under the tree if you would like to. All donated gifts will be delivered to children in our community who are in need this Christmas!

# TWEENS & TEENS NEED OUR LOVE, TOO!

THIS CHRISTMAS SEASON, OUR PARISH  
- LED BY OUR CCC STUDENTS - IS PARTNERING  
WITH THE DIOCESE OF SCRANTON TO PUT  
SMILES ON YOUNG FACES THROUGH THE ANNUAL  
GIFTS FOR KIDS GIVEAWAY COORDINATED BY

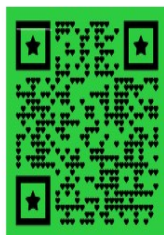
FRIENDS OF THE POOR,  
THE CATHERINE MCAULEY CENTER,  
CATHOLIC SOCIAL SERVICES, AND  
THE SALVATION ARMY.

OUR CHOSEN THEME THIS YEAR IS  
CLEAN AND COZY GIFTS FOR THE  
OFTEN-OVERLOOKED 12-17 AGE GROUP.

PLEASE CONSIDER SELECTING A GIFT OR GIFTS  
FROM OUR PARISH'S TWEEN-TEEN  
AMAZON WISH LIST  
AND HAVING YOUR CHOICE/S SHIPPED DIRECTLY  
TO THE DIOCESAN PASTORAL CENTER!

## HIGH-PRIORITY ITEMS:

- ✓ Tween/teen hygiene/bath products and tween/teen body/skin/hair/dental care
- ✓ Cozy blankets and pillows with tween/teen appeal



SCAN HERE  
TO PICK AND SEND  
A GIFT!  
PRICES RANGE  
FROM \$5 TO \$30!

USE "SORT BY" TO FILTER  
WISH LIST BY PRICE.

NEED HELP? CALL SANDRA SNYDER AT  
570-501-5004 OR EMAIL  
SANDRA-SNYDER@DIOCESEOFSCRANTON.ORG

