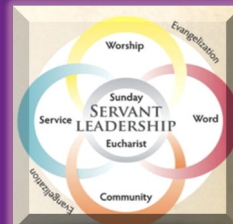




# ST. PAUL PARISH

*Second Sunday of Advent*

December 4th 2022



## *second sunday of* ADVENT



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### 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

### St. Paul Rectory

1510 Penn Ave.,  
Scranton, PA

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](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  
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 OF ADVENT

**Saturday, December 3** Vigil: Second Sunday of Advent

4:30 p.m. † Paul Dougherty (Alicia Dougherty)

**Sunday, December 4** Second Sunday of Advent

8:00 a.m. † Members of the Parish

† Joseph & Grace Luby (Michael & Maryjule Kapacs)

10:30 a.m. † Alice Foley (Faith & Joe Foley)

**Monday, December 5** Advent Weekday

8:00 a.m. † Audrey Roche (Family)

**Tuesday, December 6** Advent Weekday

8:00 a.m. ♥ Intentions of Dr. Arthur Jordan, Sr.  
(Ed & Katie Veety)

**Wednesday, December 7** Saint Ambrose / Vigil Mass

8:00 a.m. † Christopher Melia (Barbetti Family)

5:30 p.m. † Donald Schoen (Family)

**Thursday, December 8** The Immaculate Conception

8:00 a.m. † Sheila O'Keeffe (Family)

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

**Friday, December 9** Advent Weekday

8:00 a.m. † James P. Kennedy (Family)

**Saturday, December 10** Vigil: Third Sunday of Advent

8:00 a.m. † Joseph Dougherty (Family)

4:30 p.m. † Robert McAndrew (Robert McAndrew)

**Sunday, December 11** Third Sunday of Advent

8:00 a.m. † Members of the Parish

† Patricia J. Mellody (Mary Lou Riley)

10:30 a.m. † Maryanne Donohue (Joe & Family)



### RECENTLY DECEASED

Please pray for the repose of the soul of Joanne Cote & Jean Sweeney. May their souls 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 in their memory. There are many daily Masses still open in the 2023 Mass Book.

Also, you can have the Sanctuary, Marian, or St. Joseph candle lit at St. Paul's Church for the week in Honor or Memory of your loved one. This beautiful tribute will be noted in our bulletin. Please call Marci at the rectory for more information. 570-961-1549



## REMEMBERED AT THE ALTAR:



### St. Paul's Sanctuary Candle

With Honor & Intentions of:

♥ Karen Finnerty

With Love From:

Bob & Diane Thornton

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

In Loving Memory of:

† Vincent & Nancy Sweeney

With Love From:

Reynolds & Sweeney Family

### St. Paul's Marian Candle

In Loving Memory of

† Mary Floyd

With Love From:

Daughter, Caroline

### St. Paul's Wine and Host

In Loving Memory of:

† Stanley & Blanche Bednarz

With Love, Stan & Betty Bednarz



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

### Food Pantry Volunteers for Friday December 9

Marilyn Carlonas, Judy Fedor, Kris Pocius, Jane Strobino, Jody Maloney, Barbara Burkhouse

## St. Paul Food Pantry Donations

### In Loving Honor of:

♥ Karen Finnerty

With Love,

Todd & Elizabeth  
O'Malley

### In Loving Memory of:

† John Howell

With Love,

Joanne Cantafio &  
Family

## Thank-you to SPSC schools!

The Food Pantry is very very grateful to the students, parents and staff for the very generous donations. We received 950 pounds of food and our shelves are very full!

-Barb & Jody



### FOOD PANTRY CHRISTMAS DONATION

Christmas Hams for Families- \$30.00 will buy a Christmas

ham and clementine oranges for a needy

family. Please enclose your donation in an envelope marked "Christmas Ham" and place it in the collection basket on any Sunday.

Any funds left over will be used to stock food items for the winter months.

Thank you for your generosity!





**November 20, 2022**

**OFFERTORY: \$4,590.00**

**ONLINE GIVING: \$2,794.91**

**November 27, 2022**

**OFFERTORY: \$4,436.00**

**ONLINE GIVING: \$2,439.00**



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.

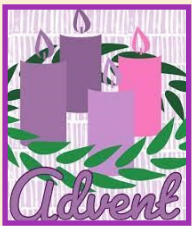
The memorial donation is \$100.00 each candle.

Please contact Marci at the parish office.

Your loved one will be remembered in our Christmas bulletin edition with other holiday memorials, along with the weekly bulletin.

Thank you for your generous donations.

### **First Sunday of Advent Memorial Candle:**



*In Loving Memory of:  
Marie & Jerry Mauck  
& Aldona & Ed Pocius*

*With Love From:  
Jim & Kris*

### **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.

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



**In Memory**

of: \_\_\_\_\_

**Requested**

by: \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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



### **OPLATKI– Christmas Wafer**

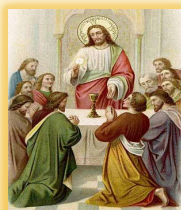
Many Slavic homes celebrate the tradition of the Christmas Wafer Meal.

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.

### **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.*



### **Diocese of Scranton DIOCESAN ANNUAL APPEAL**



**Every donation counts!!**

***If you have not yet pledged, please...***

**Help us reach our Annual Appeal Parish Goal!**

**OUR PARISH IS AT**

**42% OF OUR \$66,000 goal**

***Our parish is reimbursed 75% for any gifts made to the Appeal in excess of our Appeal goal.***



## GOSPEL MEDITATION - ENCOURAGE DEEPER UNDERSTANDING OF SCRIPTURE

*December 4, 2022: 2nd Sunday of Advent*

At sixty years of age, Maria and Paul had a beautiful life. High school sweethearts, they had four children, five grandchildren, a successful business, good friends and a fabulous beach house. They felt very blessed. Their strong faith in God saw them through some difficult challenges. Without warning, Paul died suddenly. Maria was devastated. Why did God do this? Why did God allow this to happen? An indescribable depth of sadness weighed heavily upon her heart. She felt betrayed by the God she thought was looking out for her.

She was overwhelmed by despair. Have you ever experienced such incredible and deafening sadness?

Where is God in all of the pain?

We often want God to fix things or intervene and change nature's course. When He doesn't act as we desire, it shakes our faith. We do not always understand or appreciate why things happen as they do. There is much that is beyond our control. John the Baptist prepared the way for Jesus and Jesus is the way to God.

There is something more going on in life than what we can see with human eyes. We are on a sacred path, and God is with us. God is with us in our confusion, suffering, doubts, and intense sadness. Jesus announced God's vision for humanity and taught people to see God and themselves for who they are.

There is a way through and beyond all hardship and suffering. God does not abandon us. God has a clear vision for the future, both for us individually and for our world. It is a vision of harmony and gentleness where all will live as one and the "wolf shall be a guest of the lamb." God is not indifferent. He is the God of "endurance and encouragement." In God, we see what we may be, what may come and who we can become. When Maria opened herself to God's creative presence, she learned to trust.

She began to realize that she could endure more than she had imagined.

She also discovered a spark of encouragement, bringing her through the sadness to where she could be.

In retrospect, Maria knew that God's reassuring presence was with her. ©LPi

## The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary

On *Thursday, December 8th*, we celebrate *The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary, the Mother of Jesus, without any stain of original sin.*



**St. Paul Church**

**Vigil: Wednesday December 7th:**

**5:30 p.m.**

**Wednesday, December 8th:**

**8:00 a.m. & 12:10 p.m.**



### MOLLIE'S MITTEN TREE

The Mitten Tree is our additional holiday tree during the season of Advent. Along with trees at St. Clare/St. Paul School, Mollie's Mitten 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.



### ST. PAUL PARISH GIVING TREE

**This year St. Paul Parish is asking for donations to the NEPA Youth Shelter**

NEPA Youth Shelter is an emergency shelter for youth ages 14 and up **Among specific items listed on each ornament are generic earbuds, lightning cords and blocks, hand lotion, gender neutral gloves & hats and gift cards in the amount of 20.00. Cash donations will also be accepted so that gift cards can be purchased for the children as well. Please place gifts in small gift bags or stocking.**

**Gift deadline is Friday December 16th**

## Silver Circle

A membership program to benefit the retired Sisters of IHM



### HELPING THE IHM SISTERS

Silver Circle is a membership program that benefits retired I.H.M. Sisters.

For only \$25.00 per membership, your name is entered in more than 324 drawings from October, 2022 through June, 2023 with cash prizes of \$50.00 to \$1,000.00!

You will also be remembered in a monthly Mass for benefactors and in the prayers of the I.H.M. Sisters. **Please contact Sister M. Rosella: 570-346-3359 for a Silver Circle Membership form.**

*Thank you for supporting the I.H.M. Sisters!*



**All St. Clare AND CCD students** receiving First Penance on December 11th ...

### REQUIRED PRACTICE:

**December 6th, 7th & 8th  
3- 4pm at St. Paul Church**

### SAVE THE DATE:

**First Penance: December 11th-2pm**

**Confirmation: April 18th-5pm**

**First Holy Communion: May 6th-10am**

### Advent Service: *We Long for You, O Lord,*

an Advent Service of Word and Song will be presented at 6:30 PM on Sunday, December 11 at St. Anthony of Padua Church, 208 Smith Street, Dunmore. The service is open to the public at no charge and will feature a combined choir from the Dunmore parishes of Saints Anthony & Rocco and Our Lady of Mount Carmel, Holy Family Parish, Luzerne, and St. Ignatius of Loyola Parish, Kingston as well as several soloists and an instrumental ensemble.

### ALTAR SERVERS

We would like to restore the practice of having altar servers at the weekend Masses at 4:30 Saturday and 10:30 Sunday.

*If you are a former server or wish to train as a new server, please call the rectory at (570) 961-1549.*



## CHRISTMAS DONATIONS

St. Paul Church relies on the generosity of our parishioners to sustain our parish. The Christmas collection, the Easter collection and our block party, remain the chief source of income to help balance our stressed budget. Your set of envelopes contain a Christmas donation envelope for your convenience. *We appreciate your continued support of your Church.*

### HOW YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE FOR OUR PARISH?

St. Paul's has served the Diocese of Scranton by spreading the Gospel message, celebrating the Sacraments and caring for those in need in the Scranton area. You can help keep this ministry active by providing for the future needs of our parish. Please consider St. Paul's in your estate planning.

Some ways you can provide lasting benefits include:

Bequests through your Will: Designate a dollar amount or percentage of your Estate;

Annuities: Donations of stocks, bonds or mutual funds. You receive the interest and dividends, and upon death, the remainder goes to the St. Paul's

Other assets: A contribution of a specific cash amount or property. Contact your accountant or financial advisor for additional information on how you can benefit from making a significant charitable contribution to St. Paul Parish.

Thank you for your consideration and generosity!

### 2nd SUNDAY OF ADVENT

