



# ST. PAUL PARISH

*Third Sunday of Advent*

December 11th 2022



## 3RD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Jesus said to them in reply, "Go and tell John what you hear and see." - Mt 11:4

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD, ©LPI

### 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 10** Vigil: Third Sunday of Advent

4:30 p.m. † Robert McAndrew (Family)

**Sunday, December 11** Second Sunday of Advent

8:00 a.m. † Members of the Parish

† Patricia J. Mellody (MaryLou Riley)

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

**Monday, December 12** Our Lady of Guadalupe

8:00 a.m. † Maryanne Donahue (Joe & Family)

**Tuesday, December 13** St. Lucy

8:00 a.m. † Katharine O'Donnell (Volz Family)

**Wednesday, December 14** St. John of the Cross

8:00 a.m. † Maryclaire Jordan (Dr. Arthur Jordan, Sr.)

**Thursday, December 15** Advent Weekday

8:00 a.m. † Timothy Curtin (Margo Portanova)

**Friday, December 16** Advent Weekday

8:00 a.m. † Genevieve Pocius (Jim & Kris)

**Saturday, December 17** Vigil: Fourth Sunday of Advent

8:00 a.m. † Patricia Mellody (Joan & Jim Kearney)

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

**Sunday, December 18** Third Sunday of Advent

8:00 a.m. † Members of the Parish

† Lindsay Dougherty (Family)

10:30a.m. † Paul Dougherty (Renard Family)



### RECENTLY DECEASED

Please pray for the repose of the soul of John Langan .

May his soul and all the souls of the faithful departed, through the Mercy of God, rest in peace!



### 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.



### 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. Please call Marci at the rectory for more information.

## REMEMBERED AT THE ALTAR:



### St. Paul's Sanctuary Candle

With Honor & Intentions of:  
† Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Sheridan  
With Love From:  
Family

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

In Loving Memory of:  
† Joe Benginia  
With Love From:  
Wife, Caroline

### St. Paul's Marian Candle

In Loving Memory of  
† Kathleen Keating  
With Love From:  
Family



### St. Paul's Wine and Host

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



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 December 16

Jen Clark, Mary Kryzanowski, Kathy Manley, Jane Strobino, Jody Maloney, Barbara Burkhouse

## St. Paul Food Pantry Donations

### In Loving Memory of: \* In Loving Memory of:

† Bob McAndrew

With Love,

Scot & Katie McKenna & Family

† John Howell

With Love,

Joanne Cantafio & Family

### 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!





# ADVENT



HOPE. LOVE. JOY. PEACE.

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.



## Third Sunday of Advent Memorial Candle:

*In Loving Memory of:  
Joan R. Phillips  
With Love From, Family*



**December 4, 2022**

**OFFERTORY: \$6,700.00**

**ONLINE GIVING:**

**\$3,467.35**

*Every donation counts!!*

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

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

**OUR PARISH IS AT**

**53% OF OUR \$66,000 goal**

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

Diocese of Scranton  
**DIOCESAN**  
ANNUAL APPEAL



*"May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit"*

- Romans 15:13

## Merry Christmas

*St. Paul Parish  
Christmas Mass Schedule  
St. Paul Church*

**Confessions: Sat. 12/10 & 12/17  
3:30-4:15pm**

**Christmas Eve Saturday**

**Nativity of the Lord (Vigil)**

**December 24th 4:00 p.m.**

**(Live streamed on our Facebook Page)**

**10:00 p.m. Mass**

**Christmas Day Sunday**

**Nativity of the Lord**

**December 25th**

**9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.**

**(No 4:30 Mass)**



## 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.



Gifts to the 2022 Diocesan Annual Appeal impact the lives of our brothers and sisters in need each day. As Christmas draws near, ask God what gift you can offer him in support of the poor, lonely and vulnerable in our community.

*Help Our Parish Reach Its  
Goal by the end of 2022*

Diocese of Scranton  
**DIOCESAN**  
ANNUAL APPEAL

**Donate now at:**

**annualappeal.org**

**or click the QR code below**



**GIFTS OF ALL SIZES ARE NEEDED AND APPRECIATED!**



## GOSPEL MEDITATION - ENCOURAGE DEEPER UNDERSTANDING OF SCRIPTURE

*December 11, 2022: 3rd Sunday of Advent*

For about a month I was consistently feeling annoyed by the people around me. A friend challenged me to simply notice my internal judgments against others throughout the day. Quickly I “heard” my internal voice saying things like: “He’s so lazy.” “She’s weak and self-centered.” “He’s arrogant.” “They are so stupid.” And so on. To have those thoughts was one thing. But I was choosing them and quietly agreeing with them. They perhaps protected my fragile ego, but it fueled my frustration. My friend invited me to commit to refuse to agree with those judgments, and I felt much more at peace.

The Bible says, “Beloved, do not grumble against one another, so that you may not be judged.” (James 5:9).

That word — “grumble” — beautifully describes what I was doing: quietly judging the inner character of people in my life. Of course, we judge actions and ideas all the time. So we must. But the grumble-judgment is about persons. It is never loving and always isolates and attacks. Happily, we don’t have to waste that precious spiritual energy because Jesus alone is the judge of each person.

New year challenge: This week, I challenge you to do what my friend asked me to do: notice your internal judgments about those around you (perhaps also those on tv, social media, etc.), and then to refuse to agree with the judgments. Ask Jesus to help you resist those unloving judgments. It’s not easy, but you’ll be amazed at the peace that comes when Jesus liberates you from grumble-judgments.

— Father John Muir ©LPi



### 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.



### 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 :** \_\_\_\_\_



### 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**

...to Sing is to Pray Twice" -St. Augustine

*St. Paul Parish Choir*

**Calling All Choir Members  
& New Members Welcome!**

**Join us for Practice**  
**Wednesdays at 7pm - St. Paul Church**

Questions- Call 570-961-1549




### 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.*



### 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!*

CONGRATULATIONS

RAFFLE

WINNERS



1st Winner: \$1,000.00  
2nd Winner: \$ 2,000.00  
3rd: Winner (50/50) \$3,550.00

A SPECIAL  
**THANK YOU**  
FOR YOUR GENEROUS DONATIONS