



ST. PAUL PARISH

Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 18th 2022



Fourth Sunday of ADVENT



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

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

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Saturday, December 17 Vigil: Fourth Sunday of Advent

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

Sunday, December 18 Fourth Sunday of Advent

8:00 a.m. † Members of the Parish
† Lindsay Doherty (Family)

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

Monday, December 19 Late Advent Weekday

8:00 a.m. † Jerry Mausart (Kathy & Family)

Tuesday, December 20 Late Advent Weekday

8:00 a.m. † James Pappas Jr. (Washo & McGinnis Family)

Wednesday, December 21 Late Advent Weekday

8:00 a.m. † Harry McGrath (Joell & Family)

Thursday, December 22 Late Advent Weekday

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

Friday, December 23 Late Advent Weekday

8:00 a.m. † Helen McDonough
(Victor, Kate, Jonathan, Heidi Martens)

Saturday, December 24 Vigil: Nativity of The Lord

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

4:30 p.m. † Ralph Longo (Nancy & Family)

10:00 p.m. † Sirgany & Millie Family (Love, Karin)

Sunday, December 25 Fourth Sunday of Advent

8:00 a.m. † Members of the Parish
† Maryclaire Jordan (Dr. Arthur Jordan, Sr.)

10:30a.m. † Ryan Steppacher (Family)



RECENTLY DECEASED

Please pray for the repose of the soul of Alice Grogan.

May her 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.*



REMEMBERED AT THE ALTAR:



St. Paul's Sanctuary Candle

In Loving Memory of:
† Sirgany & Mille Families
With Love From:
Karin

St. Paul's St. Joseph Candle

In Loving Memory of:
† Harry McGrath
With Love From:
Joell & Family

St. Paul's Marian Candle

In Loving Memory of
† Sister Mary William Philbin, IHM
With Love From:
Joanne Cantafio

St. Paul's Wine and Host

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



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 23

Jerry Burns, Noelle Lynett, Marissa McHale,
Jody Maloney, Barbara Burkhouse

St. Paul Food Pantry Donations

In Loving Memory of:

† Jerry & Kathy Maushart
With Love,
James & Rita Maushart

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.



Fourth Sunday of Advent Memorial Candle:

In Loving Memory of:

Joan R. Phillips

With Love From, Family



December 11, 2022

OFFERTORY: \$5,757.00

ONLINE GIVING:

\$2,451.50

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



"Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love."

- John 4:8

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*

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 18, 2022: 4th Sunday of Advent

A seminary professor of mine once said, “Don’t confuse enthusiasm for a virtue with the virtue itself.” How easy it’s been in my life as a priest to talk about the greatest of virtues — love — and totally fail to live up to its concrete demands!

Fortunately, our religion is not mainly about ideas or virtues but about persons. The angel of the Lord says to Joseph, “Do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit” (Mt.1:20). We don’t know exactly why Joseph was scared to receive Mary and therefore Jesus. We do know the solution: take Mary home. It’s so concrete. Look at her. Listen to her. Talk to her. Protect her. Help her. Laugh with her. Eat with her. Rest with her. Christianity begins here for Joseph, so it must with us, too.

New year challenge: This week I challenge you to choose a concrete way to “take Mary into your home.” Praying a weekly or daily Rosary is a proven way. Perhaps for you it’s making a little shrine with a statue or image. Maybe it’s praying a weekly Litany of Our Lady on Saturday night. Whatever it is, make sure it is a concrete action and do it. She will be there. Soon her virtues will follow, especially love. - 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.



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

Unfortunately, St. Paul Parish has had some phishing emails posing as parish staff. **Please be skeptical of all messages saying they are from parish staff.** Please call us to confirm any suspicious emails or text.



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 : _____

...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!

The work of **Catholic Social Services** in our communities is love in action. This good work done by the ministry of Catholic Social Services seeks to fulfill the physical, emotional, and spiritual needs of the most vulnerable in our society.

Catholic Social Services provides: aid for veterans, transitional housing for men, women, and children, support for expectant mothers and for mothers with newborns, food and clothing for the hungry and less fortunate, affordable senior housing parenting development for families, relief assistance, financial management, and assistance with applications for social services.

Catholic Social Services' work does not just change lives - it affirms LIFE!

I invite you to pray these words of hope throughout the Christmas season as we keep those less fortunate than ourselves in our hearts and minds

A Prayer to See the World in Jesus' Light

Dear Jesus, As we celebrate your birth may we begin to see the world in the light of the understanding you give us.

As you chose the lowly and those less fortunate to receive the greatest news the world has ever known,
So may we praise you in meekness of heart.

May we also remember our brothers and sisters less fortunate than ourselves in this season of giving.

Through Christ our Lord,

Amen

Grief Support Ministry

Jesus said, "Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted" (Mt. 5:4).

The Cathedral of Saint Peter Parish will once again hold a Grief Support group program for people in our community who are grieving the loss of a loved one. In our community we are frequently reminded of the reality of Death, and of our Christian responsibility to offer some degree of comfort to those who mourn. Our Ministry is **not confined to Parish members only and is available to anyone in the community** who feels the need to participate in a Grief Ministry Program that offers spiritual as well as emotional support during the weeks, months or years following the death of a close family member or friend. The next Grief Support Group will meet weekly for 4 weeks starting **on Wednesday, January 11, 2023, and ending on Wednesday, February 1, 2023, from 6:30 PM to 7:30 PM** in the Diocesan Pastoral Center, 330 Wyoming Avenue (across the street from the Cathedral). If you feel that you may benefit from this program and would like to attend, please contact the Cathedral Parish Office at 570-344-7231.