



ST. PAUL PARISH

Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 24, 2023



Sunday December 24th: Christmas Eve (Vigil Mass) 4pm & 10pm

Monday December 25th Christmas Day– 9am & 11am

St. Paul Church: 1510 Penn Ave. Scranton PA 18509

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 3:30p.m.- 4:30p.m.

Rosary begins at 3:45 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



For a child is born to us, a son is given to us; upon his shoulder dominion rests. They name him Wonder-Counselor, God-Hero, Father-Forever, Prince of Peace. -Isaiah 9:5

We rejoice again this year in the opportunity to celebrate the birth of Christ among us. In the midst of this season of joy and hope, we continue to find ourselves in a world of violence and unrest. However, in the early hours of Christmas morning a baby's voice was heard crying a message of peace, selflessness, love and a new beginning. "Emmanuel" – God with us! This same voice is now to be heard in the voices, actions and love of the people who follow that little child- the Prince of Peace.

Christ came to show us that God does the impossible, giving hope to the hopeless.

May we begin peace in our own hearts, homes and community.

Peace on Earth is possible. May it begin with us!

God bless you and your loved ones this Christmas.

Monsignor Neil J. Van Loon, V.F.

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
3:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Rosary begins- 3:45 p.m.

FOOD PANTRY

FRIDAYS: 3:30~ 4:30 pm
Rosary begins at 3:45
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 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

FOURTH SUNDAY IN ADVENT

Saturday, December 23 Vigil: Fourth Sunday of Advent

4:30 p.m. † Giovina Salerno (Salerno Family)

Sunday, December 24 Fourth Sunday of Advent

8:00 a.m. † Lindsay Doherty (Family)

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

Sunday, December 24 Vigil: The Nativity of the Lord

4:00 p.m. † Robert McAndrew (Family)

10:00 p.m. † Sirgany & Mille Families (Love, Karin)

Monday, December 25 The Nativity of the Lord

9:00 a.m. † Joe Benginia (Wife, Caroline, Natalie & Luciano)

11:00 a.m. † Ryan Steppacher (Family)

Tuesday, December 26 St. Stephen

8:00 a.m. † Sam Cottone (Family)

Wednesday, December 27 St. John

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

Thursday, December 28 The Holy Innocents

8:00 a.m. † John Yeager (Family)

Friday, December 29 5th day of The Octave of the Nativity

8:00 a.m. † Helen & Bud King (Betsy Watkins)

Saturday, December 30 Vigil: The Holy Family

8:00 a.m. † Betty Ratchford (Family)

10:30a.m. † Eugene P. Grady (Marge & Family)

Sunday, December 31 The Holy Family

4:00 p.m. † James P. Kennedy (Family)

10:00p.m. † Paul Dougherty (The Renard Family)



RECENTLY DECEASED

Please pray for the repose of the soul of those recently deceased. 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.

Fourth Sunday of Advent Memorial Candle:



**In Loving Memory of:
Deacon John Hanni**
With Love From,
Loving Wife,
Charlotte

REMEMBERED AT THE ALTAR:



St. Paul's Sanctuary Candle

In Loving Memory of:

† **Robert McAndrew**

With Love From:
Family

St. Paul's St. Joseph Candle

In Loving Memory of:

† **Harry McGrath**

With Love From:
Wife, Joell & Family

St. Paul's Marian Candle

Happy Birthday in Heaven:

† **Sister Mary William**

With Love From:
Cantafio Family



St. Paul's Wine & Host

In Loving Memory of

† **Harry McGrath**

With Love From:
Wife, Joell & Family

Food Pantry Hours: Fridays 3-4:30pm
Food Pantry Volunteers for Friday December 29
*Kris Pocius, Jean Weinschenk, Noreen Rowland,
Jody Maloney & Barbara Burkehouse*

St. Paul Food Pantry Donations

In Loving Memory of:

† **Jerry & Kathryn**

Maushart

With Love,
James & Rita Maushart

In Loving Memory of:

† **Patricia Mellody**

With Love,

Todd & Liz O'Malley



In Loving Memory of:

† **Lelucci Myaly Carlucci**

With Love,

Thomas N. Carlucci



We know that families, now more than ever, will struggle to make ends meet during this holiday season.

A 30 dollar donation helps to buy one juicy ham for a family in need and helps create holiday memories! Please mail donation to: St. Paul Parish -1510 Penn Ave. Scranton, PA 18509 and note "Helping Ham" or drop in offertory basket at Mass. We thank you in advance for your generosity!



*Due to early submission
deadlines
collection totals will be
in next week's bulletin.
Thank you for your
generosity!*

RECENTLY BAPTIZED:

*Ellen Kennedy Williamson, child of
Anthony & Katherine, has recently
received the sacrament of baptism at St.
Paul Parish.*

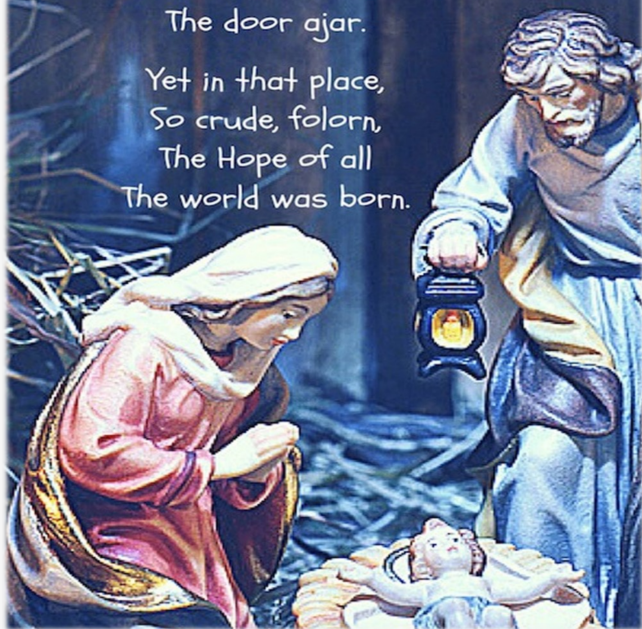


We welcome Ellen to our parish community!

BETHLEHEM OF JUDEA

A little child,
A shining star.
A stable rude,
The door ajar.

Yet in that place,
So crude, forlorn,
The Hope of all
The world was born.



OPLATKI— Christmas Wafer

Many Slavic homes
celebrate the tradition
of the
Christmas Wafer.
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 the church
or at the rectory.



The
best of all
gifts around
any Christmas tree
is the presence of a
happy family all wrapped
up in each other. - Burton Hillis



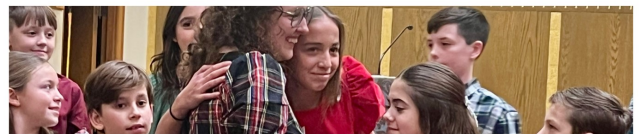
HOW TO KEEP CHRIST IN CHRISTMAS

1. Display a nativity at home.
2. Give a gift to a child or neighbour in need.
3. Sing Christmas Carols.
4. Complete one of the Christmas devotional reading plans on the Bible App.
5. Go to church and invite a friend.

www.thirstydeer.net



Highlights from the SC/SP Primary & Main Campus 2023 Christmas program!



Bishop Bambara celebrated Mass with our St. Clare/St. Paul students. As part of his homily, the Bishop talked about how we are quickly approaching Christmas and the importance of thinking of others before we think about ourselves, which can be very challenging. "When we place someone else first, we show God's love and we make a difference in the world" was his message. He reminded the students of all the good they currently do by helping others in big and small ways!



"The Son of God became a man to enable men to become sons of God."
C.S. Lewis

"Once in our world, a stable had something in it that was bigger than our whole world." -*C.S. Lewis*

"It is Christmas every time you let God love others through you."
- *Mother Teresa of Calcutta*

"From now on all generations will call me blessed."
- *Mary's Song*

"Keep your Christmas-heart open all the year round."
- *Jessica Archmint*

"Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people."
- *Luke 2:10*

"Christmas is the season for kindling the fire of hospitality in the hall, the genial flame of charity in the heart."
- *Washington Irving*

"Let us celebrate this day not because of the visible sun, but because of Him who made this day."
- *Augustine*

"As long as we know in our hearts what Christmas ought to be, Christmas is."
- *Eric Sevareid*

"Because of his boundless love, Jesus became what we are that He might make us to be what He is."
- *Irenaeus*

"I will honor Christmas in my heart, and try to keep it all the year."
- *Charles Dickens*

"It is Christmas in the heart that puts Christmas in the air."
- *W.T. Ellis*

Grief Support Ministry

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. 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 10, 2024, and ending on Wednesday, January 31, 2024, 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.



RECTORY OFFICE CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE

The Parish Office will be closed for Christmas on Friday December 22nd and re-open December 26, 27th & 28th from 8:30-12pm

RECTORY NEW YEAR SCHEDULE

The Parish Office will be closed Friday December 29th & resume regular office hours on Tuesday January 2nd

Notice Regarding Reporting Sexual Abuse of a Minor: It is the policy of the Diocese of Scranton to report any allegation of sexual abuse of a minor to law enforcement. If you are a victim of sexual abuse committed by a priest, deacon, religious or lay employee or volunteer of the Diocese of Scranton, you are encouraged to immediately report the matter to law enforcement. If any priest, deacon, religious, lay employee or volunteer of the Diocese of Scranton has cause or reason to suspect that a minor has been subjected to any form of abuse, including child sexual abuse, the matter will be reported to law enforcement. In accordance with the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania's Child Protective Services Laws, reports of suspected child abuse should also be made immediately by phone to the 24-Hour Child Abuse hotline (ChildLine) at 1-800-932-0313 or you may contact them electronically at www.compass.state.pa.us/cwis. It is also the policy of the Diocese to adhere to all civil and state regulations. To this end, the Diocese is equally committed to adhering to the norms of the Code of Canon Law and to upholding the tenets of the USCCB Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People, which includes supporting victims of sexual abuse in their pursuit of emotional and spiritual well-being. As such, information regarding an allegation of sexual abuse of a minor should also be reported to the Victim Assistance Coordinator, Mary Beth Pacuska at (570-862-7551).