



ST. PAUL PARISH

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph
December 31, 2023



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



***Please take note of misprint in the
Mass Intention section of Christmas bulletin:***

Correct Mass Times

Saturday December 30th Mass Times: 8am & 4:30 pm

Sunday December 31st: 8am & 10:30pm

(Normal Mass times)

Apologies for any confusion!

Reminder:

***The Solemnity of Mary, The Holy Mother of God
Monday January 1st: 9am***

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

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

FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY

Saturday, December 30 Vigil: the Holy Family

4:30 p.m. † Eugene P. Grady (Marge & Family)

Sunday, December 31 The Holy Family

8:00 a.m. † James P. Kennedy (Family)

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

Monday, January 1 The Solemnity of Mary

9:00 a.m. † Eleanor & Gus Mille (Daughter, Karin)

Tuesday, January 2 Sts. Basil & Gregory

8:00 a.m. † Mr. & Mrs. Arthur J. Derbin (Daughter, Kim)

Wednesday, January 3 Christmas Weekday

8:00 a.m. † John "Sonny" & Betty Lenko (Stan & Betty Bednarz)

Thursday, January 4 St. Elizabeth Ann Seton

8:00 a.m. † Erin Walsh (Walsh- Dempsey Family)

Friday, January 5 St. John Neumann

8:00 a.m. † Lois Mae Morell (Lisa Gardier)

Saturday, January 6 Vigil: The Epiphany of the Lord

8:00 a.m. † Maria Christina Rinaldi (Eugene Mentz)

4:30p.m. † Sr. Mary William Philbin
(Mike & Cindy Donovan)

Sunday, January 7 The Epiphany of the Lord

8:00 a.m. † Lindsay Doherty (Family)

10:30a.m. † Shirley Cook (Connie Nealon)

REMEMBERED AT THE ALTAR:



St. Paul's Sanctuary Candle

In Loving Memory of:

† **Henry Taylor**

With Love From:

Susan Conway

St. Paul's St. Joseph Candle

In Loving Memory of:

† **Robert Kerrigan**

With Love From:

Family

St. Paul's Marian Candle

In Loving Memory:

† **Deacon John Hanni**

With Love From:

Wife, Charlotte & Family

St. Paul's Wine & Host

In Loving Memory of

† **Damian Flasser**

With Love from:

Joe, Anne & Christian Grady



Food Pantry Hours: Fridays 3-4pm

Food Pantry Volunteers for Friday December 29

**Kris Pocius, Jean Weinschenk, Noreen Rowland,
Jody Maloney & Barbara Burkhouse**



RECENTLY DECEASED

Please pray for the repose of the souls of
**Gloria Fisher, Gayle Gilman, Kimberly
Hayes, Peter Shorten, Mary Murtaugh,
Anne Kearns, Rita Stahl, Mary Tunis
& Loretta Flanagan.**

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

An Act of Spiritual Communion

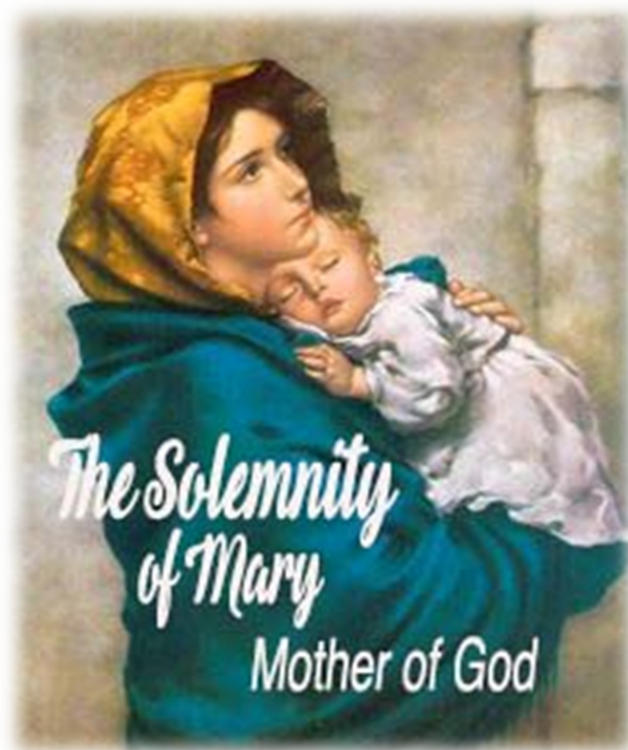
My Jesus, I believe that you are present
in the Most Holy Sacrament.

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.





December 17th Collection

Offertory Total: \$ 3,596.00

Online Total: \$3,669.00

Due to early submission deadlines, collection totals for 12/24 will be listed next week. Thank you for your generosity this Christmas!

Worship & Meditation

Readings for the week of December 31, 2023

Sunday:

Sir 3:2-6, 12-14 or Gn 15:1-6; 21:1-3/Ps 128:1-2, 3, 4-5 or Ps 105:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 8-9/ Col 3:12-21 or 3:12-17 or Heb 11:8, 11-12, 17-19/Lk 2:22-40 or 2:22, 39-40

Monday:

Nm 6:22-27/Ps 67:2-3, 5, 6, 8 (2a)/ Gal 4:4-7/Lk 2:16-21

Tuesday:

1 Jn 2:22-28/Ps 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4/ Jn 1:19-28

Wednesday:

1 Jn 2:29—3:6/Ps 98:1, 3cd-4, 5-6/ Jn 1:29-34

Thursday:

1 Jn 3:7-10/Ps 98:1, 7-8, 9/Jn 1:35-42

Friday:

1 Jn 3:11-21/Ps 100:1b-2, 3, 4, 5/Jn 1:43-51

Saturday:

1 Jn 5:5-13/Ps 147:12-13, 14-15, 19-20/ Mk 1:7-11 or Lk 3:23-38 or 3:23, 31-34, 36, 38

Next Sunday:

Is 60:1-6/Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-11, 12-13 (see 11)/Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6/Mt 2:1-12



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Gospel Meditation

Encourage Deeper Understanding of Scripture

I remember the first time my older sister asked me if I wanted to hold her newborn son. Terrified, I told her I didn't think it was a good idea. My résumé had nothing to suggest I would be a qualified baby holder. But she warmly told me, "I'll help you hold him." It struck me that she is baby's mother. She is the one who decides who is qualified to hold him. I took him in my arms and soon I began to feel comfortable with that tiny little warm cooing creature in my arms, and soon I no longer feared holding him. Now, twenty-seven nieces and nephews later, holding a newborn child is one of the great joys of my life.

Do we sometimes think that Jesus is given only to the highly qualified, special religious people? In the Gospel of Luke today we hear about the presentation of the Lord in the temple. The newborn son of God is passed around like a baton in a relay race, not guarded like a precious jewel or a breakable china dish. We can see him going from the arms of Mary to Joseph, then to the priest performing the ceremony, then to Simeon the old man, then to Anna the old widow. Each one receiving him and then handing him to the next. A tidal wave of joy and thanksgiving follows wherever he is placed.

Believe me, you are qualified to hold Jesus in your arms. How can I say that with such confidence? Because the mother decides who is qualified. The Blessed Virgin, embodied in the Church, holds him out to you and me. She rejoices to place him in our arms to hold, and to hand him on, too.

— Father John Muir

(PRACTICING) CATHOLIC

The Sword and the Family

In the first few weeks of parenthood, the tears flowed fast and freely, and with very little provocation.

Sometimes I wept because it was getting dark out, and sometimes because the sun was coming up. Sometimes I wept because the days were so unbearably long. Sometimes I wept because they were so cruelly short and slipped past so quickly, bearing away with them forever these inaugural moments of my daughter's life — moments I knew I would long for on my deathbed.

So, the inclusion of the Presentation of Christ in the Joyful Mysteries of the Rosary has always struck me. The Blessed Mother, just a few weeks after giving birth, standing at the holy temple: Is she tired? Is she emotional? Is she frightened? Is she happy? We cannot know for sure, but if she is anything like most of the postpartum women I know, she is all four. But she stands there dutifully, offering her baby to the Lord, and this is what she is told, "A sword shall pierce your heart."

Joyful? I would have snatched the baby back, called the police and sobbed for a week.

But Mary knows that Simeon speaks the truth, and she cannot receive God's will with anything less than joy, even if it means a pierced heart.

Family means love, but love means — what, exactly? Pleasure, fulfillment, contentment? Yes, but so much more, too. Love means you have much to lose.

How full is family life with these beautiful moments which, on the surface, look and feel painful — but hold within them the opportunity to be like Mary, to bow our heads and once again say "Yes, Lord."

"Put on, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, heartfelt compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience, bearing with one another and forgiving one another..." — Colossians 3:12

Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

Why do we do that? Catholic Life Explained

Question:

What are the servant songs of Isaiah? How do they relate to Jesus' life and ministry?

Answer:

The four servant songs (Isaiah 42:1-4, 49:1-6, 50:4-9, and 52:13—53:12) are strategically placed in Second Isaiah to offer hope and consolation to a suffering Israel during its Babylonian Exile.

Israel had been defeated by the Babylonians, who destroyed their temple, killed the last of the kings in David's lineage, exiled them from their land, and transported them to Babylon. This is the context in which Second Isaiah composes his powerfully poetic book of hope and consolation. A significant part of that message is the portrait of God's servant, who is called to be a source of hope and encouragement for the people.

Each of the four poems emphasizes God's choice and election of the servant. The last poem stresses the suffering and rejection of God's servant, along with his eventual death. Isaiah is certain that God will use the servant's innocent suffering as a way to redeem and remove the guilt and sin of others. Thus, the servant becomes a source of salvation for himself and for others.

Who is this servant? Many suggest that Isaiah was referring to Israel herself, as she underwent exilic suffering which would ultimately prove to be redemptive. Jesus' followers, including those for whom Mark wrote his Gospel, understood Jesus' ministry in terms of Isaiah's suffering servant whose innocent suffering and death became the means of salvation for all.

NEW YEAR'S REFLECTION AND PRAYER

As the old year ends and a new one begins, take time.

Time to remember the struggles you faced, and mistakes you might have made, and maybe even loved ones you lost.

In every year, you experience heartache. This one was no different.

And in remembering, find a seed of hope hidden in yesterday.

Remember how you've been blessed. Re-live when you found unexpected strength. Recall where you saw God's great Spirit at work, and know his mercy kept you going all this time. Recognize his mercy. Ask for his peace.

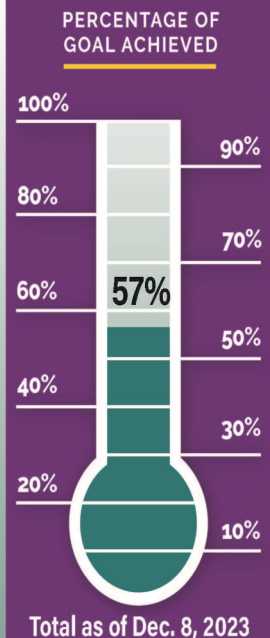
The peace that pours out every moment of every day from the wounds of Christ.

Prepare us Lord for the New Year. Lift us up and place in our hearts a renewed desire to know and worship you more.

Give us your abundant grace. Shower us with your healing love.

May your eternal Kingdom reign in our hearts and our lives. May the New Year show us once again your eternal mercy and glory.

And let us sing your praises with great joy! -Amen



THANK YOU

to those who have given to the 2023 Diocesan Annual Appeal.

Those whose lives you change are grateful for your gift.

Saint Paul Parish has a parish goal of \$66,000 and has raised 57% to date.



To donate, scan the QR code, visit annualappeal.org or call (570)207-2250

For your past generosity, prayerful consideration and future sharing — thank you and God bless your loved ones!



You are never alone.

grief support group

support group meeting

The Cathedral grief support group works through a series of topics to help you understand the grief process and to find healing.

when

The winter 2024 session of the support group will meet on Wednesdays beginning January 10th and ending on January 31st from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m.

where

Diocesan Pastoral Center
330 Wyoming Avenue, Scranton

registration information

To register, contact the Cathedral Parish office at 570.344.7231 or info@stpeterscathedral.org or Deacon Ed Shoener at deaconed@stpeterscathedral.org