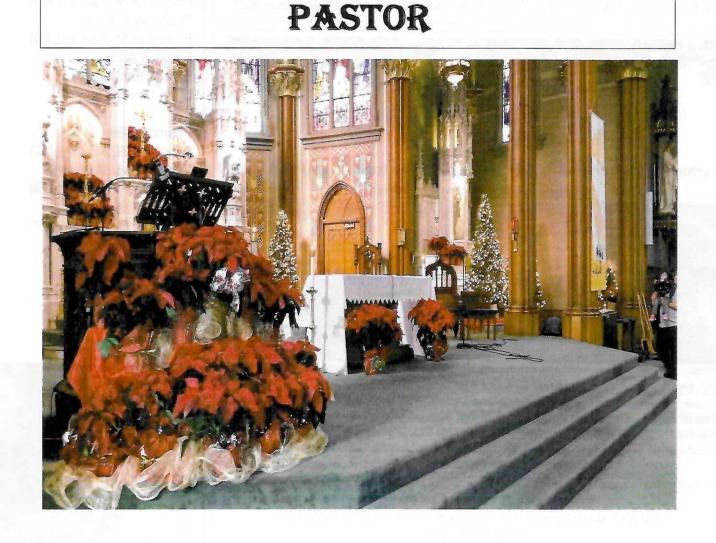
ST. PAUL'S CATHOLIC CHURCH 2022 CHRISTMAS BULLETIN FR. MARIO FARANA



Calendar of the Week

Monday Dec. 26th.
Tuesday: Dec. 27th.
Wednesday Dec. 28th.
'Thursday Dec. 29th.
Friday: Dec. 30th.

Friday: Dec. 30th.

Saturday: Dec. 31st. New Eve!

Sunday: Jan . 1st. New Year's Day!

ST. PAUL'S THANKSGIVING RESPONSE TO GOD THIS PAST WEEK Weekly Collection Dec 18-2022 \$ 3,746.00 E-Contributions for November 2022 \$ 10,903.00 2022 Annual Appeal Goal \$ 83,431.00 Collected as of October 2022 \$ 57,723.00 Balance Still Remaining for the 2022 Appeal \$ 23.631.00

THANK YOU

Thank you to all that came and helped to clean, decorate and fluff the Church for our Christmas Celebrations. We want to thank the Men of St Paul's for our beautiful new trees and for putting them together, we couldn't do it without you. And thank you to the Parish for providing our pizza lunch and Sandy Driscoll for her delicious salad. Merry Christmas 2022.



Father Mario, and the Parish Staff would like to wish you and your families a very Merry Christmas.



2022 Archdiocesan Annual Appeal update

Thank you for your response to Father Mario's latest letter about the 2022 Archdiocesan Annual Appeal. Our Parish is now only \$25,708 from our assigned goal. We remind you again that the Parish will have to pay the Archdiocese \$25,708 from our operating account if donations do not pick up. We know all things are possible with God. Please donate any amount you can for the good of St. Paul's Parish.

Check out the St. Paul's School Spirit Store
If you are a student, parent, alumni or parishioner you can be decked out
In St. Paul's Spirit

St. Pauls School Celtics Apparel Celtics - San Francisco, California - Sideline Store - BSN Sports

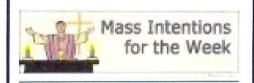
We have a new look

Come see our newly updated Web page.

www.stpaulsf.org

Follow us on Facebook at

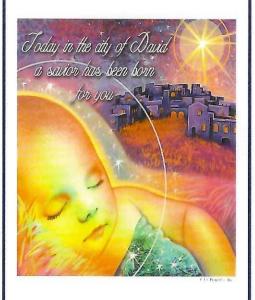
St. Paul's Catholic Church



Saturday Mass 4:30pm People of St. Paul's (L&D) Sunday Mass 8:00 am People of St. Paul's (L&D) Sunday Mass 9:30 am People of St. Paul's (L&D)

Monday 8:30 am
People of St. Paul's (L&D)
Tuesday 8:30 am
Alma Ruth Vargas AP (L)
Wednesday 8:30 am
People of St. Paul's (L&D)
Thursday 8:30am
People of St. Paul's (L&D)
Friday 8:30am
Erlinda Rendon (D)
Chris Lowry (D)

Saturday Mass 4:30pm People of St. Paul's (L&D) Sunday Mass 8:00 am People of St. Paul's (L&D) Sunday Mass 9:30 am People of St. Paul's (L&D)





Christmas 2022

Dear Friends in Christ,

Several years ago, during the Christmas Season, members of a New England church were preparing for their annual Christmas Pageant. A sensitive and caring little boy wanted to play a part in the pageant. All of the major roles had been assigned – Joseph, the Wise Men, Shepherds – and the boy understandably was disappointed. Finally, it was decided that he would play the role of the innkeeper. But the boy was heartbroken because he was the only person in the play who would have to reject Jesus. All during rehearsals this sensitive young lad was deeply troubled by the role he had been given to play. The night came for the pageant to be presented. The auditorium was packed with parents and others from the church, and the play began with Joseph's knock on the door of the inn.

The little boy's big moment had arrived. He couldn't restrain himself any longer. He threw open the door of the inn and shouted at the top of his voice, "Come in! I've been expecting you." The audience roared – thunderous applause broke out, and they all agreed later that this was the greatest Christmas play they had ever seen. In his own special was, the little boy had expressed the spirit of the Gospel, crying out to God, "Come in! I've been expecting You."

During this coming year, today and every day, may each one of us invite the Lord Jesus, Son of God and Son of Mary, into our homes – the homes of our heart.

May God bless you and keep you.

Ru. Mand P. Xarena

Sincerely,



ST. PAUL'S SCHOOL

1690 Church Street, San Francisco, CA 94131 | (415) 648-2055 | www.stpaulschoolsf.org

Dear Saint Paul Families,

What a year 2022 has been! As St. Paul School prepares its 107th graduating class in June, I could not be prouder to have become principal of this school. Our greatest strength remains our community: families, teachers, parishioners, and alumni.

I graduated from St. Paul in 1995, the daughter of two graduates and granddaughter of Agnes Keane Farrell, Class of 1930. I am committed to seeing Saint Paul School continue to educate students in both academics and the Catholic faith; instilling in our next generation values of service, community, and academic excellence.

The Covid pandemic brought challenges with enrollment and financial implications no one could have expected. This year nationwide teacher shortages and inflation have added to these difficulties. Yet, as it has so many times before, St. Paul's has once again risen to the challenge. Throughout the pandemic we continued to prepare our students for the challenges of high school and the world beyond our classrooms. As we get ready for our WCEA accreditation visit in Spring of 2023, we continue to reflect and adapt to the changing dynamics of San Francisco and the needs of our families.

In addition to a new principal, we welcomed three new teachers and a healthy kindergarten class to St. Paul's this year. Our social media accounts and in-person events have Noe Valley buzzing with our dynamic learning and diverse community spirit. This year has seen the return of the Blessing of the Pets on St. Francis's Feast Day, Oktoberfest, the Nativity Pageant, and many other combined school and parish events for the first time in three years. If you know someone looking for a small, welcoming school, we have weekly tours for families who wish to join us for the upcoming school year.

We are not an independent school at St. Paul; we are a parish school. I look forward to continuing to partner with our parish organizations on future events. We'd also like to engage our alumni more often! If you or someone you know is a graduate, please have them send updated contact information to alumni@stpaulsf.net. I am particularly interested in connecting with the Classes of 1973 and 1998, who will be celebrating their gold and silver jubilees. And if you know anyone from the Class of 1948 — Diamonds especially sparkle at reunions!

Christmas is the most wonderful time of year in San Francisco and the Christmas Eve Children's Mass is always a personal highlight. Thank you for joining us here at St. Paul's for the season. I look forward to welcoming you back throughout 2023. Merry Christmas and have a blessed New Year!

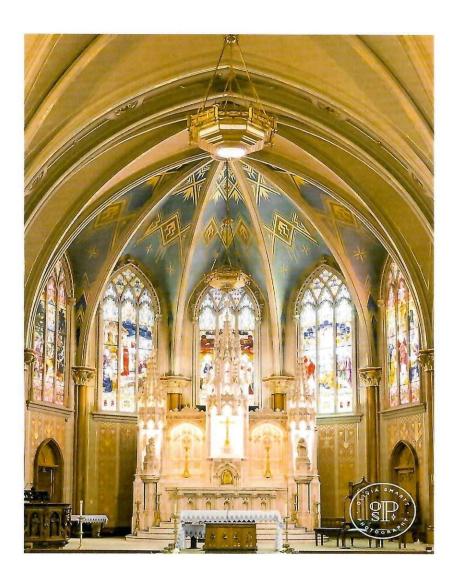
Sincerely,

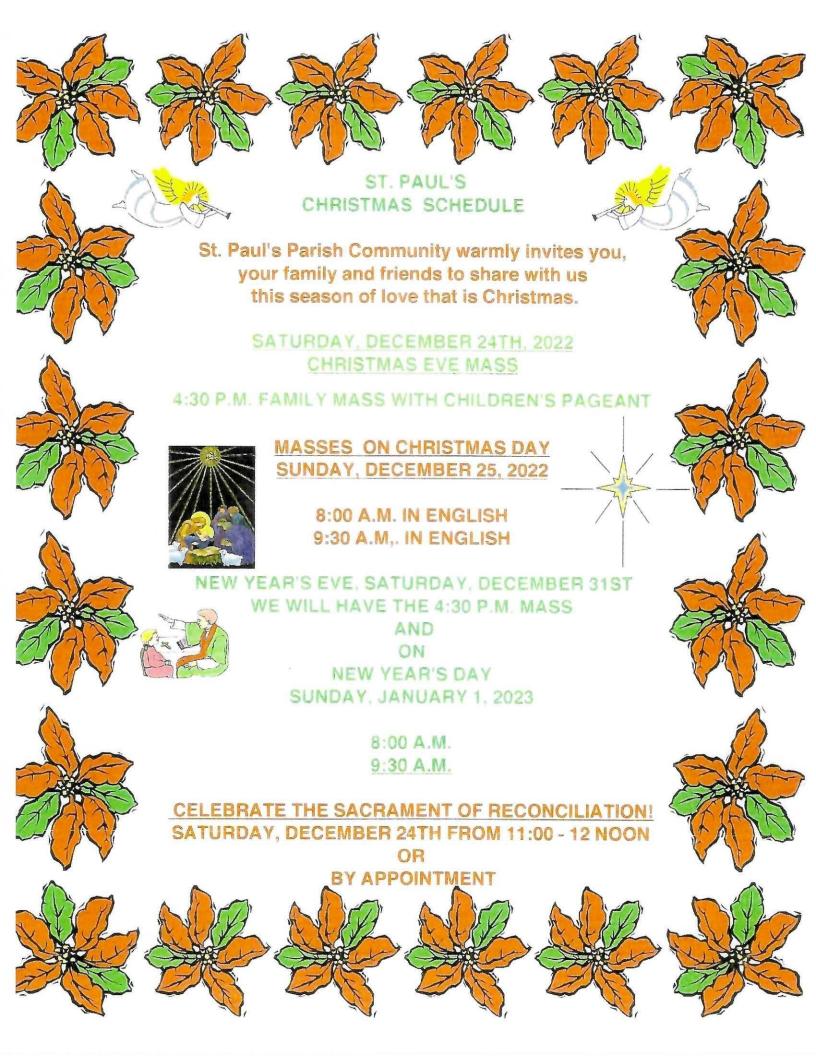
Jacqueline Curran (Class of '95) Principal St. Paul School

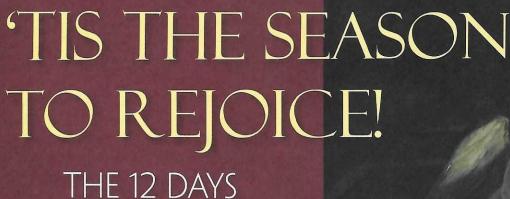
STAINED GLASS RESTORATION PROJECT

Restoring and strengthening our beautiful stained-glass windows has been a several years-long project, and the craftsmen of Hogan Studios have made great progress in our church. Having completed the largest window (the rosette at the front) plus the biblical story and saint windows in the nave, transept, and sacristy (and several other places!), the project is moving to a final stage and restoring the windows behind the altar in 2023. We're so very grateful for all the contributors who made this project possible over these years. We created a video to thank and recognize donors and placed it over a time-lapse video of restoration work at the rosette window. You can view the video online via the link below or scan this QR code with your smartphone to start the video. stpaulsf.org/stained-glass-video







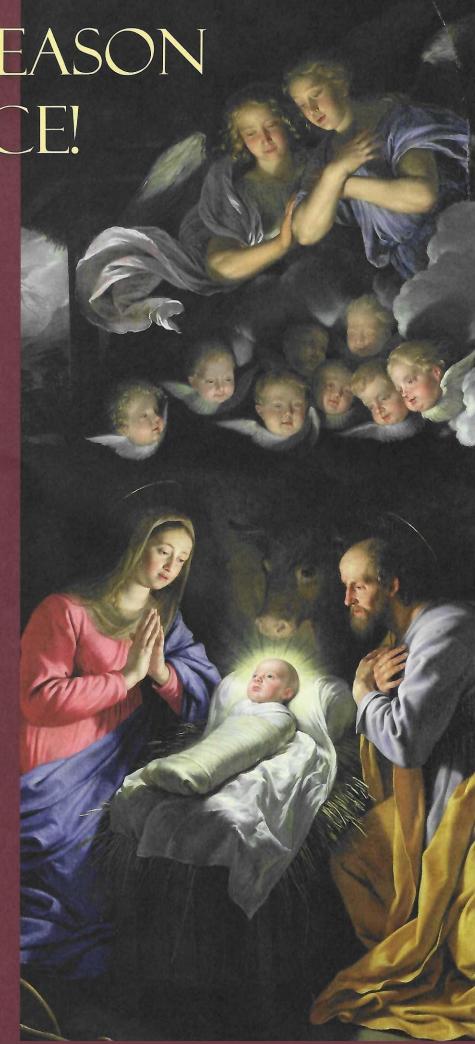


As the familiar 18th century English Christmas carol reminds us, the Christmas Season, also known as Christmastide, extends far longer than just the day of Christmas. In the Church year, Christmas day is the first of the 12 days of Christmas. The last night, twelfth night, is January 5, the eve of the feast of the Epiphany, celebrated on January 6. Today, the final Sunday of the Christmas Season celebrates the Baptism of Jesus. Clearly, Christmas is meant to be not just a celebration of the baby Jesus or Jesus' birthday but a summary of our lives in relation to God's intimate, incarnate presence with us today.

OF CHRISTMAS

In the early Eastern Church, the Epiphany was the primary celebration of both Jesus' birth and his manifestation to the world. It was associated with the winter solstice when the sun's light began to be renewed for another year. In the Roman West in the 3rd century, the celebration of Jesus' birth was shifted to December 25 to compete with the pagan festival of the "unconquered sun" (natalis solis invicti) and the time until Epiphany became the Christmas Season.

From the 4th century on, Christmas, with its focus on Christ's incarnation as a truly human person like ourselves, grew in popularity until today it often surpasses Easter in the popular imagination. During this blessed season, then, we are constantly reminded of God's love and desire to be with us and for us to share in the divine life.



Traditions of the Christmas Season

The Christmas Crib

St. Francis of Assisi first popularized the custom of making a Christmas crib or crèche to represent the nativity in 1223 when he said Christmas Mass in a cave with a hay-filled manger and a live ox and ass.

The Christmas Tree

Though Christmas trees play no part in scripture and have only in the last few centuries found their way into the Christian celebration of Christmas, they are sacred signs of God's life-giving presence among us and their lights remind us of Christ, "the Light of the world" (Jn 8:12).

Christmas Carols

Popular songs called carols (Greek *choros*, a sung dance) celebrate the events of the Season. The oldest known carol is "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" from the 12th century. Another popular English carol, "The 12 Days of Christmas" (1780), enumerates a series of daily gifts that total 364—a gift for every day until next Christmas!

ACTIVITIES FOLLOWING CHRISTMAS DAY

In our society, much of the celebration of Christmas comes before December 25. For Christians, the days after Christmas provide a period of calm in which the spiritual meaning of the manifestation of Jesus, God-With-Us can be explored. The following activities help us appreciate the meaning of the Incarnation as the new year arrives.

- Take some time to look back upon the previous year and identify your personal "joyful mysteries," moments when God was especially present to you. Express your gratitude to God for these moments and your hope that you will experience more fully the presence of God in the new year.
- The slower pace of activity after December 25 makes this a good time for visiting with family and friends during these days. Reflect on how God is revealed to you especially in your relationships.
- Spend some time in silent prayer before the crib, the Christmas tree or in church. Invite God to touch your heart at the wonder of the Incarnation.

The Companions of Christ

Over the centuries as the Christmas Season was celebrated, the Church gradually drew together a series of feasts following Christmas Day that by the Middle Ages were often referred to as the "Companions of Christ" (*Comites Christi*), a kind of royal entourage to accompany the newborn king. In their various ways, they represent different forms of witness to Christ or some aspect of our Christian faith.

December 26: St. Stephen, the first martyr, who was filled with the Holy Spirit and proclaimed that salvation came through Christ and was stoned by an angry Jewish (Acts 6:8-8:1).

December 27: St. John, apostle & evangelist, who followed Christ during his earthly ministry and then wrote his Gospel to reveal the meaning of Christ's words and actions (Mt 4:18-21, Jn 21:24-25).

December 28: The Holy Innocents were the children who were murdered by King Herod the Great in his attempt to eliminate Jesus as a threat to his royal power (Mt 2:16-18).

December 29: St. Thomas Becket, Archbishop of Canterbury and head of the English Church, who was murdered by King Henry II's knights for opposing the king's attempts to control the Church.

December 30: The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph who show how our own families might reflect a right relationship to God and one another.

December 31: Pope St. Sylvester, who oversaw the transition of the church from an illegal to a legal religion under Roman emperor Constantine and invited the world's bishops to the first Ecumenical Council at Nicea (325).

January 1: (the Octave Day of Christmas): Mary the Mother of God, whose "yes" to God models our willingness to bring Jesus to birth in ourselves and our world (Lk 1:26-38).

January 8: the Epiphany, when God in the incarnate child Jesus is revealed to the all the world in the persons of the Gentile Magi (Mt. 2:1-12).

January 9: The Baptism of the Lord. This feast now ends the Christmas Season by celebrating Jesus' commitment to God's saving activity and God's commissioning him with the power of the Holy Spirit to accomplish it.





St. Paul's Athletic Board Crab Feed & Auction



St. Paul's Parish Center

Saturday, February 4, 2023

5:30 pm - 9:00 pm

Dinner service begins at 6:30 pm Dinner includes Fresh Crab, Caesar Salad, Pasta, Bread and Dessert

Advanced Ticket Purchase is required and seating is limited!

\$75.00 Adult, \$25.00 Child, under 5 years free child ticket: students in grades K-8th

Thank you for your support!

to order tickets online visit: https://stpaulparishandschool.schoolauction.net/crabfeed2023 or scan QR Code



last day to purchase tickets is January 31, 2023 OT BE SOLD AT THE DOOR • PLEASE, NO

	CRAB FEED	
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		M

CRAB FEED	Family Name	
	Phone	email
	Child's name(s) and Grade(s)	if a St. Paul's School Family
•	Seating preference (Family or Grade) will be accommodated as best as possible
No. of Adult Tickets:	x \$75.00/ticket \$	please make your check payable to:
		St. Paul's Athletic Board
No. of Child Tickets:	x \$25.00/ticket \$	
	TOTAL Enclosed: \$	AND MAIL OR DROP OFF
		Athletic Board Crab Feed c/o St.
No. of Children under 5: x free		Paul School
'Child Tickets are for studen	ts in grades K-8 th	1690 Church Street
For more information	nlease contact: athletics@stnaulsf net	San Francisco CA 94131

ST. PAUL'S PARISH & SCHOOL ANNUAL GALA AND AUCTION

Mark your calendar's!

Save the Date

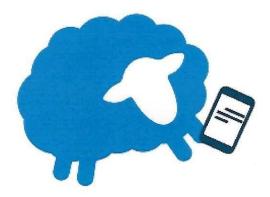
ST. PAUL'S DERBY

April 29th 2023

Dinner and Auction benefitting St. Paul's Parish & School



Flocknote is coming to St. Paul's Catholic Church in 2023.



Flocknote is an email and text messaging tool created for churches, ministries, teams and other community organizations. Whether it's short messages or long newsletters, Flocknote's the simplest way to send emails and text messages to groups – large or small.

With so many social networks, mobile apps and communication tools out there, it's easy to forget that text messaging and email are still the most important! In fact, 95% of text messages are viewed within 3 minutes (no other form of communication is close to that kind of effectiveness). Using Flocknote St. Paul's Church will send event notifications, updates, prayer requests, and more to members via email or text messages.

Simple concept. Simple interface. No software to load. And Flocknote is free.

