

The Noe Valley Parishes

Rev. Thomas Vital Martin, Pastor

St. Paul's Catholic Church

Mass Schedule:

Saturdays: 4:30 p.m. Vigil Mass
Sundays: 8:00 and 9:15 a.m.
Holy Days: 8:30 a.m. and 6:00 p.m.
Weekdays: 8:30 a.m. in the Chapel
Confession/Reconciliation:
Saturdays 3:30 - 4:15 p.m.
or by appointment.

Sacramental Programs:

Faith Formation: Grades K- 8 Saturdays: 9:30-11:00 a.m. (Sept-May)
Sr. Mary Margaret, LHC, 415 648 7540
srmm@stpaulsf.org

Confirmation Preparation: Grades 9-12, classes twice per month (October-June)

Baptism Preparation for Parents:

First **Tuesday** of the month 7:00PM at rectory. Call parish office to register.

Marriage Preparation: Contact rectory 6 months prior to wedding date.

OCIA Program: *Order of Christian Initiation:* Terri Brady and Deacon Bill McLoughlin (October-May)

For further information please call:

St. Paul's Parish Office and Rectory
221 Valley Street, San Francisco, CA 94131
415 648 7538 ☎ M-F, 9:30AM – 4:30PM
Secretary: Laurie Miller
Email: lmiller@stpaulsf.org

Web page: www.stpaulsf.org

Facebook: Follow us at St. Paul's Catholic Church

Flocknote: Text SPCSF to 84576 **or**
stpaulscatholicchurchsan.flocknote.com

Revised: 12/13/2025



Parish Staff

Rev. Tom Martin, Pastor

Rev. Brendan McBride
In Residence, St. Philip's
Rev. Ulysses D'Aquila,
In Residence St. James

Rev. Mr. Bill McLoughlin, Deacon

Joseph Duggan, Diane Costa: Music Ministry

Sr. Mary Margaret Phan, LHC,
Director Faith Formation & Religious
Education
415 648 7540 srmm@stpaulsf.org

Jacqueline Curran, Principal, St. Paul's
Elementary School, K-8, 415 648 2055
www.stpaulschools.org

Tina Baluyut, Director,
Littlest Angels Preparatory Preschool,
415 824 5437
www.littlestangelpreschool.com



Saint Paul's Parish

December 13, 2025

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Today the Church celebrates ***Gaudete Sunday***, the Third Sunday of Advent. This marks a point of joy and rejoicing as the feast of Christmas fast approaches. The scriptures proclaimed reflect a time of renewal of the human condition as God enters our human nature with His Son. This marks the manifestation of the promise of salvation history with the birth of Jesus Christ, the long-sought Messiah. The Book of the prophet Isaiah poses an almost-lyrical cadence as the restoration of Zion, and the holy city of Jerusalem is realized. The road of suffering of the Jewish people takes them from the slavery of Egypt to the freedom and triumph of Zion. The faithfulness of God is made known in a transformative way; from a barren and forsaken landscape gives way to fertile ground and new life.

We see the triumph of healing and reconciliation over brokenness experienced by human beings. “Strengthen the hands that are feeble, make firm the knees that are weak, say to those whose hearts are frightened: be strong, fear not!” Throughout the Advent season, the words of Isaiah echo the graciousness of God who keeps faith with His people and portends the coming of Jesus. The Messiah is the One who heals the brokenhearted and dispirited; he welcomed the foreigner and the stranger; he brought hope and redemption to a broken world.

The Letter of James offers us great advice not only as we prepare for the birth of Jesus but for our daily way of proceeding. James exhorts us to be patient. He uses the metaphor of a farmer who patiently, quietly awaits the fruits of his hard labor. Patience is a virtue very difficult to live by, especially in our highly driven culture. We are conditioned by our “Silicon Valley Culture” to expect immediate answers to our questions; to get to our destination as quickly as possible; to find easy access to our desires and aspirations.

As people of faith, we realize that this is a false and fleeting comfort. When we live on the periphery, without patience and deeper reflection, we can be easily disappointed and dissatisfied. Patience affords us the opportunity to not only ponder the deeper things in life but to appreciate our God-given blessings. Patience gives us perspective on how we navigate our way through life. Patience is an anecdote falling into the trap and temptation of complaining and rendering judgment and casting aspersions against others. James calls on us to be firm of heart; this is one of the spiritual gifts of the Advent season: to not lose heart, to be stouthearted in anticipation for the coming of the Lord.

Matthew's Gospel speaks to us of the magnanimity of John the Baptist. His example to us is both edifying and instructive as we renew our own call to Christian discipleship. John came into the world as the herald of the Good News; in a profound spirit of humility, his voice never pointed inward to himself but towards the Lord. As he finds himself in a prison cell, knowing that Jesus was indeed the Messiah, he sent his followers to ask Jesus if he was indeed the Messiah. This was done so Jesus could confirm his own identity. “Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind regain their sight, the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have the good news proclaimed to them.”

This is indeed cause for joy and celebration this ***Gaudete Sunday***!

--Fr. Tom

CALENDAR OF THE WEEK

Sunday, Dec. 14 th	Hanukkah begins (at sundown)
Monday, Dec 15 th	Confirmation Class Year II 6:30pm
Tuesday, Dec 16 th	Simbang Gabi begins
	Las Posadas Begins
Thursday, Dec 18 th	Las Parrandas begins
Friday, Dec 19 th	International Migrants Day
Saturday, Dec 20 th	St. Paul's School's Christmas Concert – 11am, church
	Faith Formation – 9:30am to 11am
	Christmas Pageant Practice 9:30am to 11am
	International Human Solidarity Day
Sunday, Dec 21 st	Coffee and Donuts following 9:15am Mass

ST. PAUL'S THANKSGIVING RESPONSE TO GOD THIS PAST WEEK

Weekly Collection: Dec 7, 2025	\$ 4,969.00
Second Collection Preservation Fund	\$ 5,481.00
E Collection November 2025	\$ 13,333.00
2025 Annual Appeal	\$ 74,922.00
Collected as of Dec 12, 2025	\$ 46,724.00
Balance Still Remaining for the 2025 Appeal	\$ 28,198.00

MINISTERS SIGN UP – CHRISTMAS 2025/26

Extraordinary Ministers, Lectors, Commentators: we are looking for people to serve at our Christmas Masses on Dec 24th and 25th. If you can serve at either of the Masses, there is a sign-up sheet in the Sacristy, or you can contact Joan Strachan. Please sign up early.

Christmas Eve Vigil 4:30pm Christmas Day Mass 10am

ALL MASSES ARE NOW HELD IN THE CHURCH

Daily 8:30am Mass

Saturday 4:30pm Vigil Mass

Sunday 8am and 9:15am Mass

The Third Sunday of Advent is traditionally called **Gaudete Sunday**. Gaudete is the Latin word meaning “rejoice.” This Sunday is so named because “Rejoice” is the first word in the entrance antiphon for today's Mass taken from Philippians 4:4-5: “Rejoice in the Lord always; again, I say, rejoice!

Flocknote is a real time communication system that helps our parish get information out to you quickly through texting or email.

Email: stpaulscatholicchurchsan.flocknote.com

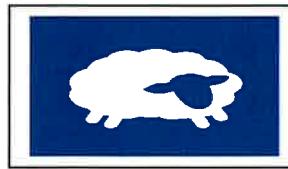
Text: SPCSF to 84576

Our Website is www.stpaulsf.org

Follow us on Facebook at **St. Paul's**

Catholic Church.

Join us on Flocknote and Uno won't be lonely.



Please pray for those in our Book of the Sick and especially for: Kathy O'Mary, Mike Callen, Sunny Abbott, People of St. Paul's, Mila Coyne, and Mary Light. And for those who have died: Amy Bruce, Ygnacio Dominguez, Mary Catherine Bosque.



Saturday Mass 4:30pm

William Hanlon(D)

Walter Jones (D)

Angel Hinojosa (D)

Christine Navarrete (D)

Sunday Mass 8am

Alfred & Carmela Raffo (D)

Juana Montgomery-Kleiman (D)

Sunday Mass 9:15am

Martin King (D)

Spencer Snow (D)

John Farrell (D)

Jackie Acacio (L)

Monday 8:30am

St. Paul's HS Alumnae & Benefactors (L&D)

Bonny Eder (L)

Mary Jane (L)

Wednesday 8:30am

Bill O'Malley (D)

Friday 8:30am

Bill & Vickie Mahoric (D)

Saturday Mass 4:30pm

Armando Campos (D)

Sunday Mass 8am

Anna Raffo (D)

Harvey Anderson (D)

Sunday Mass 9:15am

Dorothy Vigna (D)

Jim Meyers (D)

Fr. Mario Farana (D)

Alicia Molina (D)



St. Paul's Parish Christmas Eve Nativity Pageant



All Parish children are invited to take part in the Nativity Pageant! We welcome children that are Preschool age to 3rd Grade from the Parish Community, Littlest Angel Preparatory Preschool, St Paul's School of Religion, and St. Paul's School.

Costumes are provided. All roles are non-speaking roles.

Practice will be held on two Saturdays in St. Paul's Church. The first practice will be held on **Saturday, December 13th** @11:15a.m. - 12:30p.m. Casting for all roles except Angels will be done during this first practice. *Angels do not need to attend the first practice.*

The second practice will be **Saturday, December 20th** from 9:30a.m. - 11:00a.m.

All Cast must attend this second practice.

Wednesday, December 24th - please arrive by 4:00p.m. and report in costume to the Parish Center.

**You must attend in order to be chosen for a
part in the pageant!**

**Parents must attend practices with their
children. Please plan to stay for the entirety of
practice.**

**Practices will take place in St. Paul's Church.
Please enter from side door nearest to the
school building.**



Roles will be filled as follows:

Mary (3rd grader)

Joseph (3rd grader)

Angel Gabriel (3rd grader)

Innkeepers (1st - 3rd graders)

Wise Kids (1st - 3rd graders)

Shepherds (Kinder - 3rd graders)

Angels (Preschool - 3rd graders)

Sheep (Preschool - 3rd graders)

Star (Kinder - 1st grader)



Saint Paul's Parish

*St. Paul's Catholic Church
Join us Christmas Eve through New Year's Day*

Wednesday, December 24:

Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession)
10:00 AM-Noon in the church, or by appointment

Christmas Eve:

Vigil Mass of Christmas with Children's Pageant, 4:30 PM
Very Rev. Patrick Summerhays, VG, Celebrant

Thursday, December 25:

Christmas Day Mass – 10:00 AM
Rev. Tom Martin, Pastor, Celebrant
Tamika Shiotani, Organist

Saturday, December 27:

Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession)
3:30-4:30 PM in the church, or by appointment

Vigil Mass of the Holy Family
4:30 PM

Sunday, December 28:

Feast of the Holy Family, Masses 8:00 and 9:15 AM

Thursday, January 1, 2026:

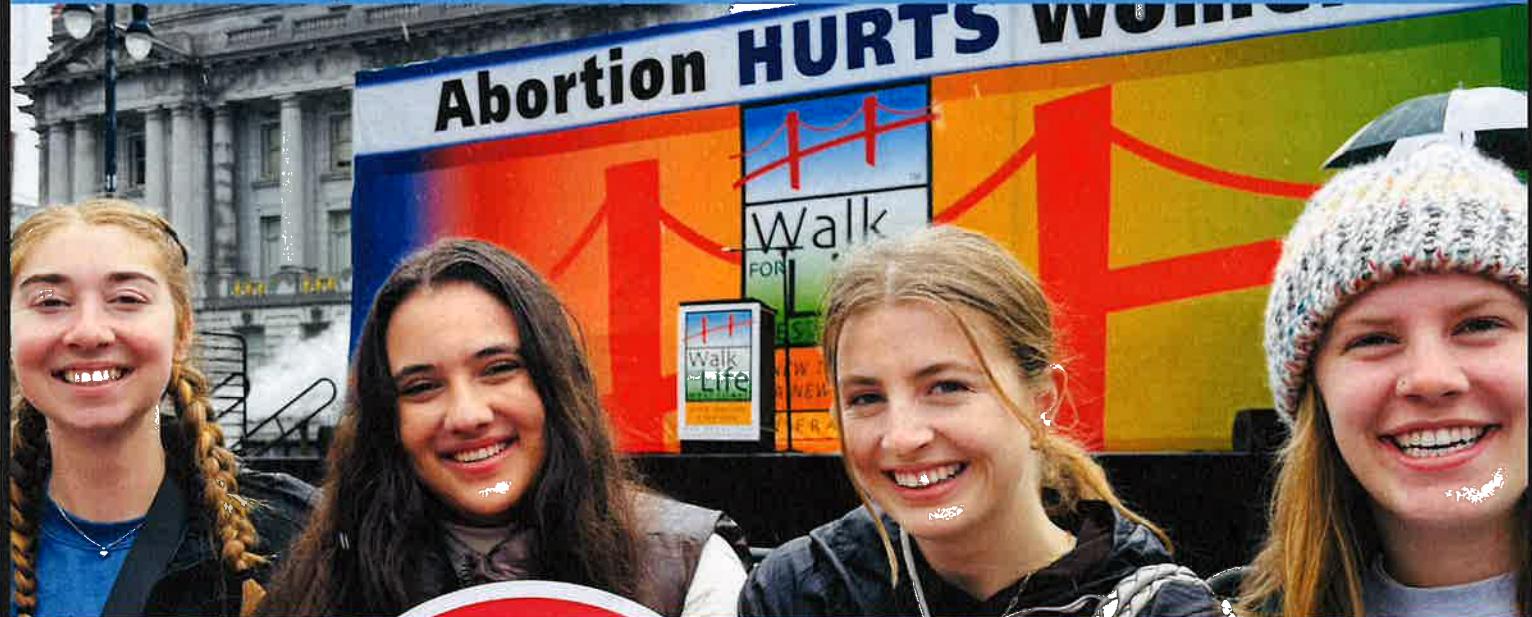
Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God, Mass: 9:15 AM

Because Women Deserve Better than Abortion.®

WALK for LIFE

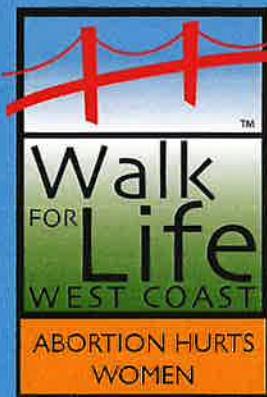
22ND ANNUAL

WEST COAST



SATURDAY, JANUARY 24, 2026 • CIVIC CENTER PLAZA • SAN FRANCISCO

Rally: 12:30PM
CIVIC CENTER PLAZA
Info Faire: 11:00AM
Saturday, January 24, 2026



**Rally starts at Civic Center Plaza,
walking down Market Street (2 miles).
Walk ends at Embarcadero Plaza.**

BART stations at both locations. Ample parking.



Register and info:
(415) 658-1793 | email: info@WalkforLifeWC.com

WalkforLifeWC.com

SUNDAY GOSPEL ACTIVITIES

This is the one about whom it is written: 'Behold, I am sending my messenger before you; he will prepare your way before you. *Matthew 11:10*



Visit CatholicMom.com for more resources for you and your family.
"The Family That Prays Together, Stays Together." - Venerable Patrick Peyton
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