

## St. Paul the Apostle

2233 Waldron Road, Corpus Christi, Texas 78418 • 361-937-3864 • Fax: 361-939-7774 E-mail: office@stpaultheapostlecc.com Website: www.stpaultheapostlecc.com

St. Paul the Apostle Parish Community exists for the sole purpose of carrying out the Mission of Jesus the Christ, the salvation of all Humankind, by living and spreading the Good News.

#### **PARISH STAFF**

| Pastor: Rev. Tomasz Kozub   | 937-3864   |
|---|--|
| Deacon: Rev. Deacon Gary Robinson Director of Religious Ed: Mrs Kayla Davila Youth Ministry Dir: Ms Jessica Lobato Parish Secretary: Mrs Rhodora Martin Bookkeeper: Mrs Cheryl Hooper | 937-3864<br>937-5875<br>937-5875<br>937-3864<br>937-3864 |

**Pastoral Council Meeting:** Meetings are open to all parishioners and announced as scheduled.

**Altar Rosary Society:** Meetings are open to all parishioners and are held on the second Sunday after the 8:30 Mass in September, through May in Room A.

**Knights of Columbus Council 8170:** Meetings are held on the second Tuesday of each month at 7:00PM in the Parish Hall.

**Legion of Mary:** Meetings are held on Mondays at 5:00PM in Room "A".

**Catholic Daughters of the Americas Court #2692:** First Tuesday of each month 6:00PM in the Parish Hall.

**SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM:** Contact the Parish Office. Baptisms will be on the first and last Sunday of the month after the 11:00AM Mass. Parents must be registered parishioners of St. Paul the Apostle. The child's birth certificate is required. No Baptisms during Advent and Lenten season.

**SACRAMENTS OF MARRIAGE:** By appointment only and with notice of six months before the desired date of marriage. Weddings may take place on weekdays at any time and on Saturdays no later then 2:00 PM.

**SACRAMENT OF THE ANOINTING OF THE SICK:** Anytime on request.

#### Weekday Masses

First Saturday - 8:00AM Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday - 8:00AM Wednesday, First Fridays and Holy Days - 7:00PM

Saturday Vigil Mass: 5:00PM

**Sunday Masses**: 8:30AM. 11:00AM and 6:00PM

### SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION (Confessions):

Saturdays from 3:30 to 4:30 PM, Wednesdays, First Fridays and Eve of Holy Day from 6:00 to 6:45PM and also by appointment.

#### **EUCHARISTIC ADORATION CHAPEL:**

Monday through Friday - 9:00AM - 5:00PM

If you wish to sign up for a particular hour to visit with Jesus every week, please call the Parish Office at 361-937-3864

**OFFICE HOURS:** Monday through Thursday 9:00AM - 5:00PM & Friday 9:00AM to 12 noon.

**BULLETIN E-MAIL:** Office@stpaultheapostlecc.com Deadline - Tuesday at Noon

**REGISTRATION FOR NEW PARISHIONERS:** We warmly welcome new parishioners and visitors. If you have any questions about our Parish feel free to call the Rectory Office during working hours. New parishioners please register at the Church Office or Online. Anyone who moves out of the parish, or has a change of address, please let us know.

#### Follow us on social media:







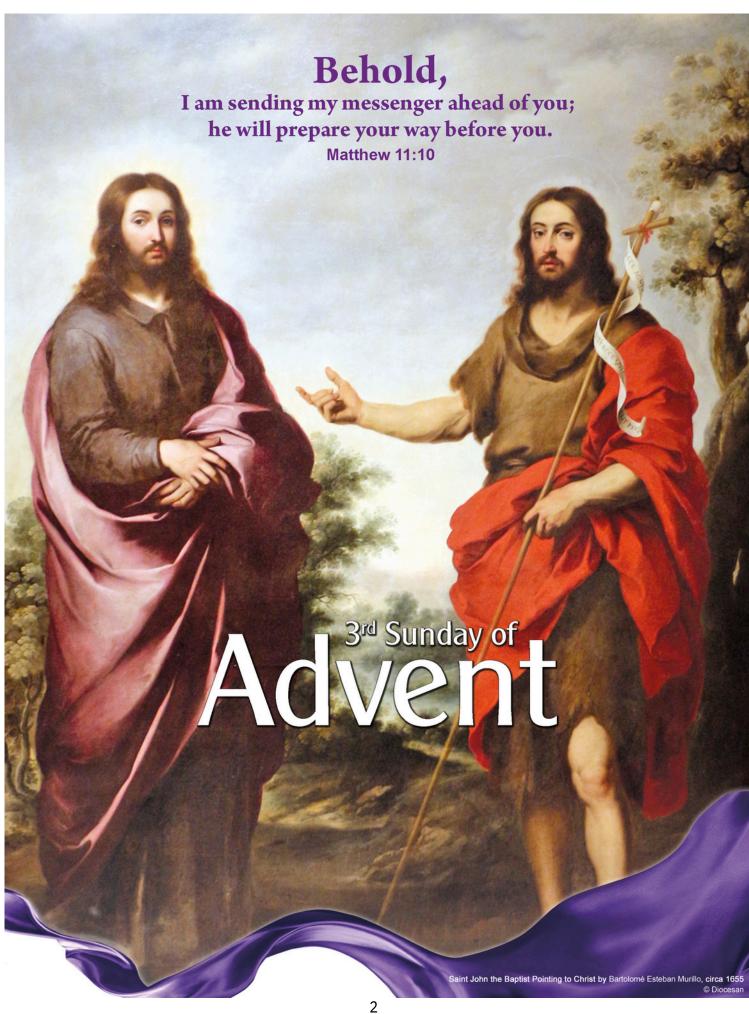












#### Mass Intentions for the Week

**Monday December 15:** 

8:00 AM Ricky Rocha ~ Birthday ~ Family

**Tuesday December 16:** 

8:00 AM † David Vargas ~ Alice Vargas and Family

Wednesday December 17:

7:00 PM † Mary Ann Dennehy, † Ron Ausmus, † Jose Guerra,

† Bascilia Guerra, † Andrew Guerra, † Miguel Travino Vasquez Jr.,

† Diosdado Cabanlit Lim, † Vicente Cabanlit Lim, † Gerald Pond,

† Eloro Rafanan, † Melchor Oville, † Marge Lehman,

† James Richardson, † Josel Dimalanta, † Emma Wright

Healing: Debbie Garcia, Richard Ausmus, Kathy Rutherford,

Luz Quinsay

General: Rhiannon Rocha

**Thursday December 18** 

8:00 AM † Paul Vargas ~ Alice Vargas and Family

Friday December 19

8:00 AM † Michael Maraist ~ Kevin and Gaby Maraist

#### Fourth Sunday of Advent

**Saturday December 20** 

5:00 PM † Felix DeLeon Sr. ~ Family

Sunday December 21:

8:30 AM † Peter Tau Nguyen ~ Family

11:00 AM Parishioners of St. Paul the Apostle

6:00 PM † Amparo Garcia ~ Family

#### Ministers of the Altar

Saturday 5:00PM December 20

Lector: M Borgmeyer

EMs H Reddick and G Madden Sunday 8:30AM December 21

Lector: V Ayala

EMs: O Herrera and P Martinez
Sunday 11:00AM December 21

Lector: CDA EMs: CDA

Sunday 6:00 PM December 21

Lector: L Truelove

EMs: R Ortiz and D Campbell Homebound: G Madden and M Madden



Behold,
I am sending
my messenger
ahead of you;
he will prepare
your way
before you.
Matthew 11:10



The message of the Bible is not just directed to people in the past. The Bible actually speaks to all people in all time and has a clear message for us today as we

celebrate this third Sunday of Advent.

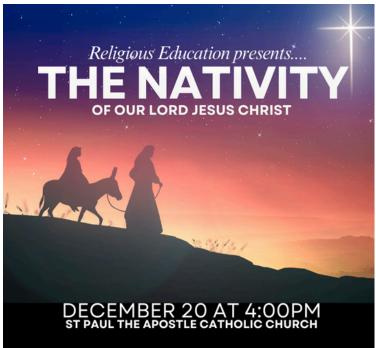
The message today is to be patient, to enter courageously the desert, to allow yourself to become like a seed that dies to itself in order to grow and bear fruit. This Advent, the Church invites us to consider all that we can hope for through life in Christ and what we

hope for in eternal life.

For truly, the Christian life is a participation in the life of heaven already begun here on earth. What does entering the desert mean for us today? It means three things. First, the desert can be seen as a conversion moment. Israel had to prepare itself for the Promised Land by a forty-year sojourn in the desert. The wandering was not in vain. Each year and each day, the hearts of the new generation of the children of Israel were being stretched and reformed until they were able to give God the most important place in their life. The forty years had a purpose. Like the people of Israel, the desert is a place to face ourselves, to overcome ourselves, and to let go of all the sin in our lives. Second, the desert means getting oneself away from the noise of the world. The desert is silent. Out in this symbolic desert, we can silence the many voices around us so as to hear the only voice that matters: God. The desert represents getting away from worldliness and all the petty distractions that bring us down. This Advent, going into the desert means: spending less time "connected" to the world (phones and social media); spending less time on frivolous shopping and entertainment; spending more time with God: spending more time with the important relationships in our lives. Third, life in the desert is simple. The landscape of the desert is stark and bare. There are no "distractions". The desert helps us focus. In the desert, you have to find one thing: water. All other "distractions" in life are useless and quickly become less important. Finding water is the one and only goal, the one thing necessary. Likewise, for a Christian, there is one thing necessary: Jesus Christ. This teaches us to be as simple as children and to abandon complexities and unnecessary vain pursuits. The desert teaches us to have a simpler life.

This Advent, going into the desert means: seeking to simplify one's life, saying "no" to excessive commitments that pull me away from my duties and goals. It also means seeking to focus one's life and saying "yes" to good and holy things that help me arrive closer to my personal goals.

Sincerely, Rev.TK















IF YOU'RE INTERESTED IN GIVING OF YOUR TIME AND TALENTS, PLEASE GET IN TOUCH TO LET US KNOW BY CALLING THE OFFICE AT (361) 937-3864

### **Religious Education**

December 19 - Final Practice for Nativity Play
We will have our last practice on Friday, December
19 at 5:00 pm. All our young actors are asked to
attend.

**December 20 - The Nativity Story** 

All are invited to attend the The Nativity Story on Saturday at 4:00 pm.

**December 21 - Religious Education Party** 



We will have our Religious Education Christmas Party during regular class time on Sunday. Please scan the QR to donate an item to the party.

Religious Education is having a toiletry item drive.
All items will go to St. Paul's Food Pantry.
The class with the most will win a prize in January.



## Knights of Columbus Council #8170

- <>< Continue to pray daily during Advent.
- <>< Saturday, December 20, Knights Out after the 5:00pm Mass.
- <>< Sunday, December 28, 8:30am Knights Mass, no breakfast.
- <>< Tuesday, January 06 at 6:30pm Knights Officers meeting.
- <>< Tuesday, January 13 at 7:00pm, Knights meeting, Rosary before at 6:30pm.

"Be patient, brothers and sisters, until the coming of the Lord."

Matthew 11:29

St. Paul the Apostle Church December 14, 2025, Volume 27 Issue 50 2233 Waldron 78418 937-3864 Fax: 939-7774 office@stpaultheapostlecc.com



## Catholic Daughters of America

How to join Catholic Daughters? Attend a meeting or event and, of course pray for guidance. If and when the time is right, join.

Membership is open to Catholic women ages 18 and older who love and support the Church. Together, lets live our Motto of "Unity and Charity by serving our community through faith and fellowship".

For more information about joining please call or text Belia Mora 361-765-6576

Mary Our Patroness, "Pray for Us."

#### The Mission of Mercy Medical Center

2421 Ayers Street
Provides medical care for the uninsured.
Call 361-883-5500 Monday thru Friday
From 9:00AM to 5:00 PM to make an appointment

## Christus Spohn Care Van for Women's OB And Gynecological Services

Christus Spohn Care Van for Women's OB
And Gynecological Services
(medical care for the uninsured)
Will next be here at St. Paul's on January 20<sup>th</sup>
and January 21<sup>th</sup>.
To schedule an appointment from 9:00AM -3:00PM
call 877-3547

### **God is Calling You**

St Paul offers many different opportunities for returning our gifts of time and talent to God.

As stewards of God-given skills and abilities, volunteering in a ministry or organization provides a way to thank God, share our faith with others, and enhance our community.

Three important ones: Lectoring.

Minister of the Eucharist and Homebound Ministries are in need of assistance. If you feel you are being called to one or more of these very satisfying ministries, please contact

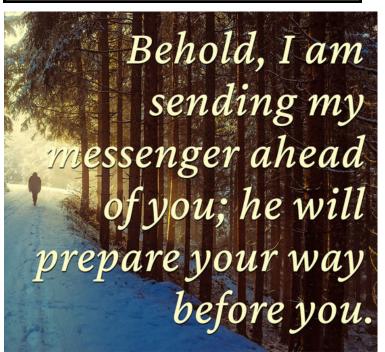
Deacon Gary Robinson at (361) 548-4152 or the office at (361) 937-3864 for more information.

### Stewardship of Treasure December 7, 2025

| Sunday Offering:<br>Online/Mail-in:<br>Total (Thank You)<br>Total Attendance: |                          | \$<br>\$<br>\$<br>775 | 7,661.32<br>5,426.00<br>13,087.32                      |
|---|--------------------------|-----------------------|--|
| Saturday 5:00PM Sunday 8:30 AM Sunday 11:00 AM Sunday 6:00 PM Children        | 160<br>154<br>335<br>126 | \$<br>\$<br>\$<br>\$  | 2,238.00<br>1,210.00<br>2,884.50<br>1,197.07<br>131.75 |
| Immaculate Concept  | <u>ion</u>               | \$                    | 1,639.21   |

Thank you for sharing your time with us.

In the month of December a portion of your tithes will go to help aid Timon's Ministries, Mission of Mercy Clinic and St Paul's Works of Mercy, Retirement Fund for Religious



### Diocese of Corpus Christi Bishop Stewardship Appeal 2025



Bishop's Stewardship Appeal Goal: Appeal \$ 33,474.00 Pledge Amount \$ 28,892.00 Paid \$ 27,012.00. Your participation is a blessing for our Church and Diocese. Together we share the joy of having made our goal to support the ministries funded by your pledge to the Bishop's Stewardship Appeal.

#### Do Your Share for Our Parish

We are in partnership with St. Peter's by the Sea UMC and Lord of Life Lutheran Church to distribute food monthly through the Coastal Bend Food Bank to households in Flour Bluff. Volunteers are needed to help with the distribution which takes place at St. Peter's by the Sea. Sign up sheets are on the table in the vestibule.

Volunteer to help if you can.

The next food distribution date will take place on January 8<sup>th</sup> from 3:30 to 5:30pm. Distribution days are the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of each month St. Peter's by the Sea UMC.

#### Finance Corner

Word of Appreciation

Your continued support through out the year helps our parish greatly. Our parish is open seven days a week and serves many people in the area with our prayers and through our Works of Mercy. To those who are homebound, keep us informed of your needs. Your gifts are greatly appreciated.

Thank you and God Bless

#### SAFE ENVIRONMENT THANK YOU FOR VOLUNTEERING

If you are a new Volunteer or in a Ministry at St Paul's
Please ask about our safe environment trainings.
This training is required for all volunteers from the Diocese
of Corpus Christi

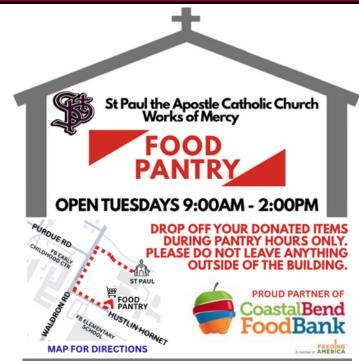
and will stay valid for 3 years. The training can be done online. link is below.

If unable to do online contact: Denise Campbell At 361-813-9428

https://diocesecc.safeenvironment.org

#### SAINT JOHN OF THE CROSS (c. 1542-1591) December 14

How beautiful the experience of love for God and neighbor, a fire deep within! How disheartening when love suddenly cools; and our souls grow dark, our prayer arid. How painful when misunderstanding, even rejection, comes our way, sometimes from those we least expect. For all such "seasons of the soul," an inspiring fellow-pilgrim is the poet and mystic, John of the Cross. As a young Carmelite, he was recruited by Teresa of Avila for her Discalced ("barefoot," evangelical poverty) Carmelite reform, striving to renew the Church from within after the Protestant Reformation had led countless religious away. John suffered unspeakably harsh abuse, even imprisonment, from friars who rejected this reform. Yet during these times of deepest suffering, John composed spiritual masterpieces that still guide souls to God, their titles reflecting his own painful yet ultimately victorious journey: from The Dark Night of the Soul, through The Ascent of Mount Carmel, to his Spiritual Canticle and The Living Flame of Love. John summarized his spirituality simply: "Put love where there is no love, and you will find love." —Peter Scagnelli



For check donations, please make check payable to St Paul the Apostle and on the memo, write food pantry. Drop off the check at the Parish Office or in the collection basket during mass. For cash donations, please drop off at the Parish Office.

## Scripture Readings For the Week of December 14, 2025

Sunday Third Sunday of Advent

Is 35:1-6a, 10; Ps 146:6-7, 8-9, 9-10; Jas 5:7-10;

Mt 11:2-11

**Monday** Num 24: 2-7, 15-17a; Ps 25:4-5ab; 6 and 7bc, 8-9;

Mt 21:23-27

**Tuesday** Zep 3:1-2, 9-13; Ps 34:2-3, 6-7, 17-18, 19 and 23;

Mt 21:28-32

Wednesday Gen 49:2, 8-10; Ps 72:1-2, 3-4ab, 7-8,17;

Mt 1:1-17

**Thursday** Jer 23:5-8; Ps 72:1-2, 12-13, 18-19; Mt 1:18-25

**Friday** Jdg 13:2-7, 24-25a; Ps 71:3-4a, 5-6ab, 16-17;

Lk 1:5-25

**Saturday** Is 7:10-14; Ps 24:1-2, 3-4ab, 5-6; Lk 1:26-38

Sunday Fourth Sunday of Advent

Is 7:10-14; Ps 24:1-2, 3-4, 5-6; Rm 1:1-7;

Mt 1:18-24





#### Third Sunday of Advent The Prophet's Profit

Old Testament prophets were not very popular. Most were killed or exiled because they challenged people to follow the commands of God. John the Baptist suffered the same way. So what kept the prophets going?

First of all, the prophets had faith in God. They believed that God spoke through them, that God would protect them and support them. Second, they had patience. They kept going when people rejected their preaching. Some prophets had to be patient with their own weaknesses.

The third gift of the prophets was hope: That by keeping God's commands, God's people would be renewed, along with all of creation. Our first reading is an example of such hope, with its descriptions of deserts becoming gardens and the sick and disabled being healed and strengthened.

So what do we learn from those prophets? First, we need to keep our faith in God strong. If you go to church once a week, the bare minimum, it would be like exercising only once a week and thinking that will keep you in shape. Second, we need patience and not just with our kids. We need to be patient with ourselves and with God. Some people stop going to church because they don't see any spiritual growth in themselves. So be patient; don't expect to become a saint right away. Finally, the reading from Isaiah gives us hope that God will open our eyes of faith, clear our ears to hear His word, (Is 35:5) and "meet him with joy and gladness" (Is 35:10).

#### Legion of Mary

Do you want to serve God more but don't know how? Do you want to grow closer to Jesus and his Mother? Do you want to deepen your spiritual life? The Legion of Mary meets on Mondays at 5:00 PM in Room A. All practicing Catholics, 18 and older are invited to come.

## Chapel Vigil Lights † Julie Guerrero

The Infant Jesus Statue Light

† Julie Guerrero

#### To Celebrate or Remember

The intention book for 2026 is open for mass intentions. Also, our large vigil lights can be lit for a week in honor of a friend, a birthday, a graduation, an anniversary, or to remember someone you have loved and lost.

Contact the office to reserve the date you want. The usual mass offering is five dollars. To schedule a special week for the vigil light(s) the offering for Infant Jesus light is \$5 per week and the offering for the two chapel lights is \$10.

### Sponsor of the week

Pest Patrol



#### Please remember those who live in need of prayers:

Alexander Family, Kenny Alexander, Nicholas Anderson, Sam Anderson, Lupe Arredondo, Janie Ayala, George Ayala, Abel Bentancourt, Esther Bentancourt, Joel Bentancourt, Janet Buhidar, Max Borgmeyer, Chris Burns, Chuck Burns, Heather Burns, Manuel Bustos, Andrea Cabrera, Antonio Cabrera, Maria Cabrera, Claudia Cardenas, Rachel Casanova, Kathy Casey, Isaac Cavasos, Miko Cerrone, Brandon Clark, Scott Clark, Annabelle Concert, Paul Concert, Jay and Jacqueline Dancy, Diana Diaz, Lidia Ducote, Denny David Eaton, Gerald Escamilla, Aida Escobar, David Escobar, Laura Farrish, Abel Flores, Gamez Family, Justin and Teresa Gamez, Jose Gamez, Amanda Garcia, Cindy Garcia, Joe Garcia, Sergio Garza, Grace Geeding, Julia and Ellie, Beryl Hathcock, Benny Herrera, Mike Hernandez, Olivia Holt, Maria Holguin, David Kraeer, Melinda Kraeer and Richard Kraeer, Rachel Kraeer, Maryann Krohn, Victor Lara, Stephen Libby, Juan Lorenzo, Jose Luiz, Aimee Lusson, Juanita and Steve Lusson, Kathryn Maraist, Martin Family, Maniz Family, Joseph S. Martin Jr., Josefina Martin, Jacob Martinez, Cynthia Mora, John (Johnny) McCarty, Patricio Mendoza, C. Nicholson III, Marie Martinez, Richard Nunez Jr., Rogelio Olaes, Esperanza Ortiz, Lupe Ortiz, Adam Mathias Ortiz, Oscar Ortiz, Jimmy Parker, John Pelko, Gloria Perez, Mary Perez, Katia Perez, Rick Perez, Perea Family, Faye Phillips, Deacon Mike Rauen, Eddie Rocha, Josh Rock, David Rodriguez, Michelle Ruff, Phyllis Ruff, Nati Ruiz, Favian Salazar, Consuelo Salinas, Elizabeth Sanchez, Hudson Schoene, Kari Strehlow, Crystal Tannous, Christina Turelli, Kaiden Turner, Sandra Vargas, Mark Walker, Carol Walker, Pam Wondolowski, Israel Ybarra

Everyone, please look over the prayer list and contact the parish Office at 361-937-3864 or at office@stpaultheapostlecc.com if anyone on the list No longer need to be listed

We would like to take this opportunity to thank all of our bulletin sponsors and advertisers for providing our weekly bulletin at no cost to our parish. We are grateful for your continued support of St. Paul. As it is now time to renew and acquire new advertisements, we ask that you prayerfully consider sponsoring an advertisement in the weekly digital and printed church bulletin. You can advertise your business, promote your parish organization or place a personal ad such as "Pray for Vocations", "Pray the Rosary", "In Memory of a Loved One", etc. Whenever you are in the market for goods and services, please consider using the business and mention that you saw their ad in St. Paul's bulletin, and thank them for their support.

If you are interested in advertising your business, organization, or a personal ad on our bulletin, please contact Javier Aguilera at 512-694-4989 or jaguilera@Diocesan.com for more information.



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