

ST. PAUL'S CHURCH



783 Hard Road, Webster, New York 14580

August 17, 2025 Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Mission Statement

St Paul's Parish Family exists for the purpose of witnessing and proclaiming the message of Jesus Christ, that message proclaimed in word, worship, service: love God, love your neighbor as yourself.



20TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

"There is a baptism with
which I must be baptized,
and how great is my anguish
until it is accomplished!"
- Lk 12:50

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD. ©LPI

Mass Times

Saturday at 4:00 p.m.
Sunday at 9:00 a.m. & 11:00 a.m.

Daily Masses

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday &
Thursday at 8:30 a.m.

Confession

Saturday at 2:00-3:00 p.m.

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

Wednesday at 9:00 a.m.

Live Stream Mass via YouTube

Saturday at 4:00 p.m.
Sunday at 9:00 a.m. & 11:00 a.m.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Monday, August 18

Weekday

8:30A Mass

Tuesday, August 19

Weekday

8:30A Mass with anointing
12:00P Rosary Group

Wednesday, August 20

St. Bernard, Abbot & Doctor of the Church

8:30A Mass
9:00A Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

Thursday, August 21

St. Pius X, Pope

8:30A Mass
9:15A Bible Study
5:30P Kids Fun Night

Friday, August 22

The Queenship of the Blessed Virgin Mary

No Mass
4:00-6:00P Schutt's donut pick-up

Saturday, August 23

Weekday

Schutt's donut pick-up after Mass

2:00P Confession
4:00P Mass

Sunday, August 24

21st Sunday in Ordinary Time

9:00A Mass
11:00A Mass



Parish Staff

Pastor: Fr. Paul Gitau

Deacon: Mark Robbins

Administrative Asst.: Jodie Hickey x21

Adult Faith Formation Coordinator:

Director of Faith Formation: Anselm Mesue x27

Coordinator of Music: John Gaspar

Faith Formation & Liturgy Assistant: Helen Stirpe x26

Funeral Planning: Bonnie Serio

Facilities Manager: Ben O'Brien x28

Finance Office:

Finance Council Chair: Jack Black

Parish Council Chair: Patrice DeAngelis

Parish Trustees: Forest Shick & George Hanley

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Parish Office Hours

8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. Monday-Friday

Phone: 671- 2100

Emergency Number: 369-9687

Website: www.stpaulsrcc.org

Diocese of Rochester: www.dor.org



Financial Snapshot

	July 2025	
Collections	\$34,300	
Donations/ other revenue	\$2,100	
Expenses	\$49,400	
Operating surplus/deficit	\$(13,000)	

Let Us Pray for Those in the Military

Jason Aman

Josh Bartlett

Bryan Gross

Cydney Blong

Tom Weisenreder

Michael J. Desiato

Mason Serrano

Daniel Thomas

Andrew Zani

Robert Wright

Jay Riesenberger



*This week the
Sanctuary Lamp burns for
Hank Mannella
From
Ann Mannella &
family*

Seeds for the Journey

Jesus said to his disciples: "I have come to set the earth on fire, and how I wish it were already blazing!"

Scorching July and August temperatures, raging fires throughout US and Canada, burning rays of the sun...appropriate settings for this weekend's Gospel, don't you think?

I wasn't always a fan of this Gospel reading. Jesus' words are disturbing and even frightening; that He came to establish division...the sword, not peace? Commentaries have provided me with thoughts and opinions that are helpful and have given me a deeper understanding of the passage.

When Jesus spoke those words to his Apostles, he was frustrated and upset that they could not comprehend his mission. As his time on earth was coming to an end, how else could he convey to them that their mission when he was gone, would not be an easy one, and in fact, would spark division and not peace...even in families.

Jesus is telling them and us that He wants to inspire a mystical fire – a blaze of faith, love, and action, and yet, He knows this will cause division; Jesus is exclaiming that His peace is not the peace of the world.

In Exodus 3:14, the image of fire represents the presence of God, and in the Catechism of the Catholic Church, no.696 states that it is "the transforming energy of the Spirit's actions". Do you recall the disciples from Emmaus, after their encounter with the resurrected Christ, testifying, "Did not our hearts burn within us while he talked to us on the road, while he opened to us the scriptures?"

The question for us is now, how do we transform ourselves and enkindle that fire with our own hearts.

As I prepared this article, I recalled one of my favorite hymns by Marty Haugen, "Send Down the Fire", #557 in our hymnals. Usually sung on Pentecost, its lyrics, especially the verses, gave me a new perspective on Jesus' words and an insight on how I can express that fire during these present times. Why don't you look them up for yourselves and let me know your thoughts.

Or, consider Pope Francis' opinion:

"It is not that Jesus wishes to split people up. On the contrary Jesus is our peace, he is our reconciliation! But this peace is not the peace of the tomb, it is not neutrality. Jesus does not bring neutrality; this peace is not a compromise at all costs. Following Jesus entails giving up evil and selfishness and choosing good, truth and justice, even when this demands sacrifice and the renunciation of our own interests. And this indeed divides; as we know, it even cuts the closest ties. However, be careful: it is not Jesus who creates division! He establishes the criterion: whether to live for ourselves or to live for God and for others; to be served or to serve; to obey one's own ego or to obey God. It is in this sense that Jesus is a 'sign that is spoken against' (Lk 2:34)."

Pope Francis, *Angelus*, 18 August 2013.

Blessings,
Bonnie




**"Walking in Friendship
with God:
Pilgrims of Hope"**


St. Paul's Men's Retreat


Join us on the weekend of September 12-14 at Note Dame Retreat House for St. Paul's Annual Men's Retreat. The theme for this year is "Walking in Friendship with God: Pilgrims of Hope" Take time to rest, reflect, and deepen your relationship with the Lord in the company of others on the journey. If you are unable to attend on this date Note Dame Retreat House offers is also offering Men to join the October 24-26 retreat. If you would like more information or to register, please contact St. Paul's Representative, Dan Milner by calling 208-6631.




Schutt's Fried Cake Fundraiser Ends This Weekend!

 14 per dozen

 Choices-All glazed or mixed
(6 glazed, 3 cinnamon, 3 plain)

 Payment- due when ordering
Exact cash or check (payable to St. Paul's)

 Pick up at St. Paul's
Friday, August 22 from 4:00-6:00 p.m.
or after Mass on Saturday, August 23

SAVE THE DATE



**Thursday,
September 25**

4:00-8:00 p.m.

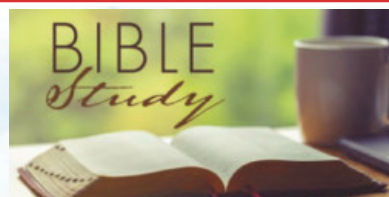
**Panera Bread
935 Holt Rd.**

**LET'S RAISE
SOME
DOUGH FOR
ST. PAUL'S**

School of Religion Registration

Registration for School of Religion classes here at St Paul's is currently going on for grades K to 7. Registration is also currently going on for First Communion and Penance preparation. The registration fee for School of Religion is \$70 per child, \$140 for 2 children and \$175 for three or more children in the program. The registration fee for the sacraments prep is \$65 per child, and this includes two books. Kindly spread the word. For more information, kindly contact Helen or Anselm at:

helen.stirpe@dor.org
anselm.mesue@dor.org



Join us for Bible Study this Thursday, August 21st at 9:15 a.m. in the worship area. We will discuss the Gospel of John Session 1. You are encouraged to bring your own Bible however. Bibles will be available to use during the session if needed. We hope to see you there!

Pope Leo's Message to Young People at Tor Vergata: "Aspire to Great Things, to Holiness, Wherever You Are"

August 5, 2025

"Dear young people, aspire to great things, to holiness, wherever you are. Do not settle for less. Then you will see the light of the Gospel grow every day, within you and around you."

Thus Pope Leo ended his homily at the Mass for the Jubilee of Young People, which he presided over at Tor Vergata in Rome last Sunday, August 3, before a million pilgrims from all around the world. Those two days which the young pilgrims spent at Tor Vergata, will remain etched in the memories of a million young men and women.

The young people had arrived at the large esplanade on the morning of Saturday, August 2, spread out their ground-sheets, put down their heavy backpacks, and joyfully awaited the beginning of a long afternoon of music, testimonies, and prayer. At 2:00 pm, entertainment began on the central stage, with 20 bands from round the world performing for the young people. At 5:00 pm, the prayer vigil began, with testimonies, performances by Christian bands, and reflections on the themes of friendship, courage in making decisions, and spirituality.

At 7:20 p.m., a roar went up as the crowd greeted Pope Leo's arrival by helicopter. The Holy Father then took to the popemobile and immersed himself in the embrace of the young people with a long drive through the esplanade, greeting the crowds to the music of Don Marco Frisina, performed by the choir of the Diocese of Rome, and conducted by the composer himself. Leo XIV climbed the steps to the large stage carrying the Jubilee Cross and was accompanied by 200 young people representing countries from all around the world. The vigil then opened with three young people asking the Pope questions:

- How can we find sincere friendship and genuine love that leads us to true hope?
- Where do we find the courage to choose?
- How can we truly encounter the risen Lord in our lives and be certain of his presence even in times of trial and uncertainty?

"As Saint Augustine says: 'No friendship is authentic if it is not in Christ,'" the Holy Father said in response to the first question from Dulce María, a young Mexican woman. "Friendship in Christ is not just helping others build the future; it is our guiding star. (...) Dear young people, love one another! Love one another in Christ. Know how to see Jesus in others. Friendship can truly change the world. Friendship is a path to peace."

To Gaia's question about the risk of choosing, he responded with these words: "The courage to choose comes from love, which God shows us in Christ."

It is He who loved us with all of Himself, saving the world and thus showing us that the gift of life is the path to personal fulfillment. Therefore, the encounter with Jesus corresponds to the deepest longings of our hearts, because Jesus is the Love of God made man."

The final response was to a question from Will, aged 26, from the United States. "Do you truly want to encounter the Risen Lord?" the Holy Father asked. "Listen to His word, which is the Gospel of salvation! Seek justice, renewing your way of life, to build a more humane world! Serve the poor, bearing witness to the good we always desire to receive from our neighbor! Remain united with Jesus in the Eucharist. Adore the Eucharist, the source of eternal life! Study, work, and love in the manner of Jesus, the good Teacher who always walks beside us."

The young people then spent about 40 minutes in Eucharistic Adoration, gathered in silence before the monstrance – the same one which had been used for prayer by Saint John Bosco and Blessed Pier Giorgio Frassati.

The crowds spent the night at Tor Vergata, and on Sunday morning the Pope once again joined them on the esplanade around 7:30 am, and at 9 am Mass began, with over 7,000 concelebrating priests, 400 bishops, and 25 cardinals. "Dear friends, we are not made for a life where everything is taken for granted and fixed, but for an existence that is constantly regenerated in giving, in love," the Holy Father said during his homily, commenting on the day's readings, from the Gospel of Luke, with the episode of the disciples on the road to Emmaus.

"And so we continually aspire to something more that no created reality can give us," he added, "we feel a great and burning thirst, so great that no drink of this world can quench it. Faced with this thirst, let us not deceive our hearts by trying to quench it with ineffective substitutes! Let us listen to it, instead! Let us make it a stool on which we can climb, so that we can look out, like children, on tip-toe, at the window of our encounter with God. We will find ourselves before Him, who awaits us, or rather, who knocks gently on the window of our soul (cf. Rev 3:20). And it is beautiful, even at 20 years of age, to open our hearts wide to Him, to allow Him to enter, and then to venture forth with Him, toward the eternal spaces of infinity."

At the end of Mass, the Pope invited young people to meet up again in Seoul in 2027 for World Youth Day. "After this Jubilee, the 'pilgrimage of hope' continues for young people and will take us to Asia! I renew the invitation that Pope Francis extended in Lisbon two years ago: young people from all over the world will gather together with the Successor of Peter to celebrate World Youth Day in Seoul, Korea, from August 3 to 8, 2027. This Day will have as its theme, 'Take courage: I have conquered the world!'"

And so it was that young people, set out on a thousand return journeys as their Jubilee concluded and will continue to be "pilgrims of hope" to the ends of the earth.

Ministry Schedule for August 23 & 24, 2025

Due to the bulletin being sent to press early, some ministry schedules have not been completed yet. If **TBD** or **Volunteer Needed** is listed, please contact the ministry coordinator to let them know your availability.

	4:00 PM	9:00 AM	11:00 AM
Acolytes	Volunteer Needed Volunteer Needed	Luca Picca Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed Volunteer Needed
Cantors	Cindy Rutan	Tom Napoli	Bob Slon
EMHC	Christine Grant Mary Beth Speicher	Jack Black DA Hutnick	Ellen Santora Ruth Prinzivalli
Greeters	Bill Galbraith Diana Kemp	Ebertz family	Nancy Willard Anne LaClair
Lectors	Barb Robbins	Jack Black	Marcia Kusse
Linens	Cindy Rutan (No specific time for pick up)		
Sacristans	Olbrich family	Jane Adams	Connie Gurske
Stream Team	Rod Campbell	Sue Muto	Tom Napoli
Ushers	Sue Dettman Alice Bower	Don Black Jack Black	Charlie & Nancy Carson Fred Compertore

From the John Walsh Library

Scalia, Elizabeth

Strange Gods: Unmasking the Idols in Everyday Life

God created humankind in His own image, and we humans tend to create God in our own image. ("You can safely assume you have created God in your own image when it turns out that your God hates all the same people that you do.")--Annie Lamont. We are so comfortable with our own idols and so convinced that they are built on entirely correct values that we have almost stopped wondering about the appropriateness of our idols. It is the author's hope that by identifying our idols for what they are, we can begin removing them from all the high places where we have allowed them to be enshrined. To become too attached to a thought or a feeling or a thing is to place it between God and ourselves. Whether it is the idol of prosperity, the idol of a political movement, the idol of technology or the idol of sex, we need to constantly knock our idols aside before they stand in the way of God. (Call No. 241-SCA.)

Order of Christian Initiation of Adults (OCIA)

Registration is now open for the OCIA here at St Paul's. The OCIA is sacramental preparation journey for unbaptized adults preparing to enter the Roman Catholic Church through the reception of the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation and Holy Communion. It is also meant for baptized Christians wishing to enter the Roman Catholic Church or baptized adult Catholics seeking to complete their initiation with the Sacraments of Confirmation and Holy Communion. Interested persons or those who need more information about the process, should contact Anselm, the Director of Faith Formation, via email at anslem.mesue@dor.org



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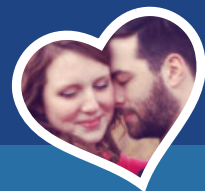
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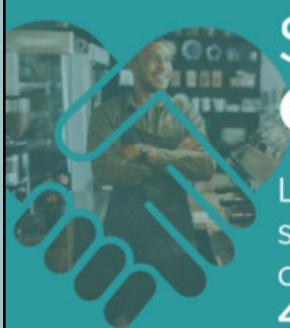
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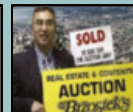


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