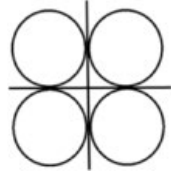


# ST. PAUL'S CHURCH

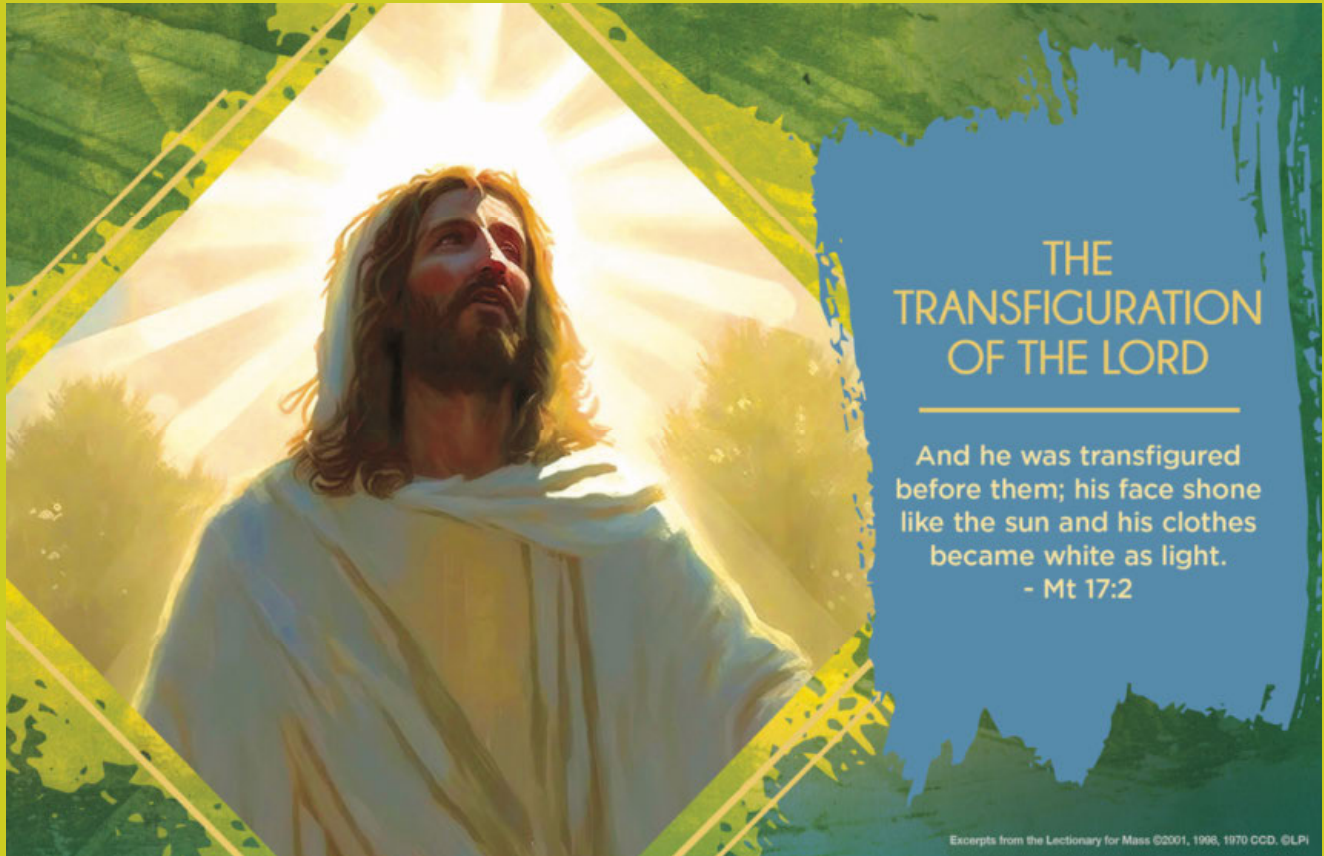


783 Hard Road, Webster, New York

## August 6, 2023 The Transfiguration of the Lord

### 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.



### 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.  
or by appointment

### 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 7**

### **Weekday**

8:30A Mass  
10:00A Summer Week of Reflection  
11:00A Book Club

## **Tuesday, August 8**

### **St. Dominic, Priest**

8:30A Mass  
12:00P Rosary Group  
1:00P Summer Week of Reflection

## **Wednesday, August 9**

### **Weekday**

8:30A Mass  
9:00A Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament  
10:00A Summer Week of Reflection

## **Thursday, August 10**

### **St. Lawrence, Deacon & Martyr**

8:30A Mass  
11:00A Summer Week of Reflection

## **Friday, August 11**

### **St. Clare, Virgin**

No Mass  
10:00A Summer Week of Reflection

## **Saturday, August 12**

### **Weekday**

2:00P Confession  
4:00P Mass

## **Sunday, August 13**

### **19th 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:** Katie Van Damme x24  
**Business Manager:** Kasey Baker x30  
**Confirmation Minister:** Anselm Mesue x27  
**Coordinator of Music:** John Gaspar  
**Coordinator of SOR & Facilities Cleaning:** Helen Stirpe x25 or 671-2110  
**Maintenance Coordinator:** Ben O'Brien x28  
**Multi Parish Finance Director:** Joan Sullivan: 671-1100 x21  
**Finance Council Chair:** Tom Napoli  
**Parish Council Chair:** Linda D'Antonio  
**Parish Trustees:** Forest Shick & George Hanley

fr.paul.gitau@dor.org  
mark.robbins@dor.org  
jodie.hickey@dor.org  
katie.vandamme@dor.org  
kasey.baker@dor.org  
anselm.mesue@dor.org  
john.gaspar@dor.org  
helen.stirpe@dor.org  
ben.obrien@dor.org  
joan.sullivan@dor.org

## **Office Hours**

8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. Monday-Thursday  
8:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. Friday  
(closed for the lunch hour from 12:00-1:00 p.m.)

**Phone:** 671- 2100

**Emergency Number:** 369-9687

**Website:** www.stpaulsrcc.org

**Diocese of Rochester:** www.dor.org



## **Financial Snapshot**

|                              | June 2023 | July 2022-June 2023 |
|------------------------------|-----------|---------------------|
| Collections                  | \$29,158  | \$498,636           |
| Donations/<br>other revenue  | \$4,971   | \$66,062            |
| Expenses                     | \$39,904  | \$597,310           |
| Operating<br>surplus/deficit | \$(5,775) | \$(32,612)          |

## **Let Us Pray for Those in the Military**

|                  |                    |
|------------------|--------------------|
| Jason Aman       | Josh Bartlett      |
| Zach Bartlett    | Andrew O'Brien     |
| 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  
all the parishioners  
of St. Paul's*

## *Seeds for the Journey*

**"He was Transfigured before them; His face shone like the sun and His clothes became white as light."**

Today, we celebrate the Feast of the Transfiguration of the Lord. This Feast occurs forty days before the celebration of the Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross, celebrated on September 14, which commemorates the Crucifixion. The choice to celebrate this feast on August 6 derives from the fact that it would have taken place forty days before the crucifixion of Jesus, which was celebrated by our brothers and sisters of the Eastern Churches on September 14. In the West, when we celebrate the feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross, we celebrate darkness being dispelled and light being restored. We celebrate the cross as a treasure, through which the riches of our salvation are restored to us. There is a great connection between both feasts.

The Transfiguration episode is recounted in the three synoptic Gospels: Matthew, Mark and Luke. Today's story of the Transfiguration read in the Liturgy is recounted by Matthew. Jesus takes Peter, James and John up a high mountain. There, he was transfigured before them, and Moses and Elijah appeared and began conversing with him. The Transfiguration is the miraculous transformation of Jesus before the eyes of Peter, James and John, in the presence of Moses and Elijah.

The account of the Transfiguration is one of the few occasions when Jesus manifested himself in his Divine nature, presenting himself to his close companions as the Son of God. The other instances of the manifestation of Jesus' Divine nature include: the Baptism of Jesus by John in the Jordan river, where the voice from heaven referred to him as the Beloved Son; and Jesus' prayer in the Garden of Gethsemane on the eve of his passion.

Why did Jesus choose to manifest himself on Mount Tabor in the presence of some of his apostles? According to Athanasius of Sinai, because the Apostles remained uncertain about the Kingdom which Jesus had announced, Jesus transfigured himself to lead the apostles to firm and profound faith and to draw them to belief, in things to come. The Transfiguration event foreshadows the Kingdom of Heaven. The experience was so magnificent that Peter suggested: "Lord, it is good that we are here. If you wish, I will make three tents here, one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah." Jesus Christ is the light who illuminates all of us. According to St Augustine, the white clothes of Jesus are his Church; for whoever serves the Church would have their sins forgiven.

Today's feast should lead us to a deeper faith in Jesus. It should inspire the theological virtues of faith, hope and charity in us. It should give us a glimpse of the magnificence of a life with God after our earthly life is over. This feast assures us that there is a more beautiful life in heaven. This should encourage us in our faith journey; that all the sacrifices we make for God, for the Church and for our parish St. Paul would not go in vain. When Peter experienced the Transfiguration, seeing Jesus's face shine like the sun and his clothes becoming dazzling white, he did not want to leave the place. That would be our experience of the Beatific Vision for remaining faithful to Jesus and His Church. Our God loves us so much that God wants that experience for us eternally in Heaven.

*Anselm*



## Order of Christian Initiation for Adults (OCIA)



Our greatest mission in life is to help our loved ones get to heaven. As Catholics, we have that same responsibility to help our friends, neighbors, loved ones, and community to know Christ's unconditional love, forgiveness, and grace. When we are fulfilling that mission, we will naturally direct them toward God's will, towards our heavenly Father. If you know someone who is searching for God, please take a OCIA brochure from the Narthex or bulletin board, complete the form and Katie Van Damme, St. Paul's Adult Faith Formation Coordinator, will contact you.

## School of Religion (SOR) Needs you!

Have you been looking for a ministry that would allow you to share your faith and help guide children in their Catholic faith formation? St. Paul's School of Religion (SOR) is in need of Catechists (a person of faith who leads others in understanding the faith teachings). Sunday classes are from 10:00-11:00 a.m., September 2023 through May 2024. No experience required. Full support provided with materials and teaching guides. Prayerfully consider joining this ministry to help continue the desire of children to learn about The Father, The Son, and The Holy Spirit. Please contact Helen with questions or interest at [helen.stirpe@dor.org](mailto:helen.stirpe@dor.org)



The tax law allows individuals who are 70 ½ and older to make contributions directly from their individual retirement account (IRA) to a qualified charity. These qualified charitable contributions (Charitable Rollovers) are income tax free for the donor. St. Paul Church is a qualified charity for purposes of the charitable rollover rules. Please consult your income tax advisor to see if this might benefit you.



**Mass times:**

**8:30 a.m.**

**6:30 p.m.**

## Day in the life of St. Paul's Ministries

Have you wondered what you could do to become more involved at St. Paul's or provide more support? Each week we will feature a ministry/committee at St. Paul's with a short description of what we do and time commitment. A contact is provided should you want to join or have questions.

### Funeral Ministry

Our Funeral Ministry team consists of Greeters, Ushers, and Acolytes and our Ministry Leader is Katie Van Damme.

Funerals can be held on weekdays or Saturday mornings. Katie contacts us a few days prior to the Funeral to let us know when our assistance is needed. We arrive at church about a half hour before the funeral and our duties include those of a greeter, usher, or acolyte.

If you are interested in joining our Funeral Ministry team, please contact *Katie Van Damme* ([katie.vandamme@dor.org](mailto:katie.vandamme@dor.org)). Volunteers are needed for both weekday and Saturday funerals. We are especially in need of Acolytes but volunteers from the Usher or Greeter ministries are most welcome, too.

It's a spiritually rewarding way to help our fellow parishioners during a difficult time. Please consider joining our team.

## St. Paul's Question of the Week

**Dear editor, what does the Catholic Church teach about the truth of the Bible? (Part 2)**

Dear reader, in the first part, we talked about the Bible being a collection of Books written over centuries. I exhorted you to read the Bible often and strongly recommended that you get a copy if you do not own one. You can also access the bible through this link from the US Bishops' Conference Books of the Bible | USCCB. Remember that the Bible was not written in the English Language. The original languages of the Bible are Hebrew and Greek.

With the above in mind, the question remains, is the Bible true? The Bible is not a history book; the bible is not a story book; the bible is not a book of science. That does not mean one cannot find accurately historical information in the bible and of course, there are many beautiful stories in the Bible. **The Bible is true in the sense that the Bible teaches us the truth that is necessary for our salvation.** The Second Vatican Council Constitution on the Word of God states: "The books of Sacred Scripture must be acknowledged as teaching solidly, faithfully and without error the truth which God wanted to put into the sacred writings for the sake of our salvation" (*Dei Verbum* n. 11). It further teaches that "the Words of God expressed in human language, have been made like human discourse, just as the word of the eternal Father, when He took Himself the flesh of human weakness, was in every way made like us." (*Dei Verbum* n. 13). **The books of the Bible were written under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit and are therefore the word of God. The human authors are true authors and God acted through them.** *Dei Verbum* further states that "Holy Mother Church has firmly and with absolute constancy held, and continues to hold, that the four Gospels, whose historical character the Church unhesitatingly asserts, faithfully hand on what Jesus Christ, while living among us, really did and taught for our eternal salvation" (*Dei Verbum* n. 19).

The Bible teaches us the truth necessary for salvation. This does not mean that everything in the Bible is historically true. We should note that the human authors were children of their time. They shared the cultural ideas of the world around them and often were also dominated by its errors. Nevertheless, **everything that we must know about God and the way of God's salvation is found with infallible certainty in the Bible** (Cf. *YouCat*, 15).

Consequently, to interpret scripture well, we need to ask what the human authors intended to communicate. We must consider the literary genres used and writing styles of their day when interpreting scripture. Just as Jesus is truly God and truly man, so scripture is truly God's word and truly the word of human beings.

## From the John Walsh Library

Miller, ed., Mary Ann B.

### St Peter's B-List

#### (Contemporary Poems Inspired by the Saints)

In his Afterword to this book, Father James Martin observes that the most important truths about God are not reached with definitions and proofs, but with poems and stories. The title of the book comes from one of the poems; many of us can imagine ourselves on "St. Peter's B-List," invited to a dimly-lit seedy bar rather than the well-lit banquet hall reserved for the canonized and extremely holy. In each poem, the poet describes a contemporary situation that reminds him or her in some way of one of the saints. The voices are varied: a single mother trying to get her newborn to fall asleep at 3:00 a.m., a friend of a woman who attempted suicide, a patron of a food pantry who finds money on the floor, a college student who drank too much the night before an exam. Despite our failings, each poem reminds us that we all have a place in the "communion of saints." (Call No. 811-MIL)

## Confirmation Prep Registration

Registration for the Confirmation Preparation Program at St Paul's Church is now open. Confirmation preparation in the Diocese of Rochester is a two-year formation program that begins in 8<sup>th</sup> grade and is geared at helping the candidates in their faith development as well as helping them to understand the basic teachings of the Catholic Church. Any potential candidate can begin the program later than 8<sup>th</sup> grade.

The instructional content includes: an understanding of Confirmation as a Sacrament of Initiation with special connections to Baptism and First Eucharist; an understanding of the role of the Holy Spirit in the life of the individual and of the Church; a greater awareness of the person of Jesus Christ and his teachings as found in Scripture; an understanding of the importance of social justice; an understanding of the Catholic Church: its Divine origin, sacraments, doctrines, history and hierarchical structure; an understanding of the moral teachings of the Catholic Church including the Ten Commandments and the Beatitudes; an understanding of the structure of the Mass and the manner for participating in it; an understanding of prayer and its importance in our lives; a working knowledge of the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*; an understanding of Christian vocations.

To register, you may complete the form on the website: Confirmation/St. Paul's Roman Catholic Church ([stpaulsrcc.org](http://stpaulsrcc.org)) or you may collect the Confirmation registration form on the Bulletin Board across from the parish office. The fee is \$50 per candidate. Payments can be made in checks payable to St Paul Parish, memo: Confirmation or in cash at the parish office. If you have any questions, contact Anselm Mesue during the weekend Masses or via email [anselm.mesue@dor.org](mailto:anselm.mesue@dor.org) or via phone 671-2100 x27.

## Ministry Schedule for August 12 & 13, 2023

If **TBD or Volunteer Needed** is listed, please contact the ministry coordinator to see if that position still needs to be filled. Thank you for all you do for St. Paul's!

|                    | 4:00 PM                                       | 9:00 AM  | 11:00 AM   |
|--------------------|---|--|--|
| <b>Acolytes</b>    | <b>TBD</b><br><b>TBD</b>                      | <b>TBD</b><br><b>TBD</b>                           | <b>TBD</b><br><b>TBD</b>                           |
| <b>Cantors</b>     | Bob Slon                                      | Bonnie Serio                                       | Tom Napoli   |
| <b>EMHC</b>        | Bob Frank<br>Christine Grant                  | Jack Black<br><b>TBD</b>                           | Ellen Santora<br>Nancy Willard                     |
| <b>Greeters</b>    | Theresa Augsburg<br>Patrice DeAngelis         | Linda D'Antonio<br>Jerry Healey                    | Nancy Willard<br>Ann LaClair                       |
| <b>Lectors</b>     | Linda Pratt                                   | Josephine Cozzo                                    | <b>TBD</b>   |
| <b>Linens</b>      | Pat Rotundo<br>(No specific time for pick up) |  |  |
| <b>Sacristans</b>  | Olbrich Family                                | DA Hutnick   | Barr Family  |
| <b>Stream Team</b> | John Kosel                                    | Lou Rotundo  | George Hanley                                      |
| <b>Ushers</b>      | Sue Dettman<br>Alice Bower                    | <b>Volunteer Needed</b><br><b>Volunteer Needed</b> | <b>Volunteer Needed</b><br><b>Volunteer Needed</b> |

### Webster Hope August Wish List

**Sugar, flower, cooking oil \*\*coffee\*\*, shampoo & conditioner, Kleenex, feminine products, jarred spaghetti sauce, \*\*bar soap & body wash\*\* & mouthwash**

Please place your donations in the collection box in the Narthex. The Good Sam Outreach Committee will deliver our donations on a regular basis.

**\*\* indicates a very high need\*\***



### Summer Rosary Group

St. Paul's Rosary Group will continue to meet this summer every Tuesday at noon in the worship space. We encourage everyone to join us for this prayerful meditation, no experience required. Many of our participants have learned how to recite the Rosary from this group. Friends and family, men and women, parishioners and non-parishioners are all invited. The summer is a great time for school employees and students to join us for prayer as well. It only takes about 30 minutes of your time for this peaceful meditation. If you have any questions please contact Katie Van Damme in the parish office.

### Prayer for Vocations

Heavenly Father, Lord of the harvest, call forth vocations to the priesthood and consecrated life from our parishes. Inspire men to imitate Jesus Christ the Eternal High Priest in sacrificial service to Your Church. Move the hearts of men and women to offer themselves wholly to You in poverty, chastity, and obedience.

Send them as labors for Your harvest. Inspire the faithful to support them with prayer and sacrifice.

Raise up holy families who foster openness to Your call.

We ask this through Christ, Our Lord.  
Amen.

Mary Immaculate, pray for us.  
St. John Fisher, pray for us.  
St. John Vianney, pray for us



Missed a Mass and you would like a copy of the bulletin to stay in the loop? Copies of the bulletin from the last three weeks are available in the magazine holders next to the narthex. Also the most recent copy is available outside of the south entrance door.





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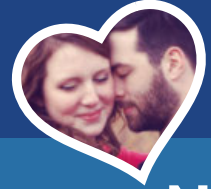
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