

ST. PAUL'S CHURCH



783 Hard Road, Webster, New York

December 3, 2023 First Sunday of Advent

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, December 4

Advent Weekday

8:30A Mass
11:00A Book Club

Tuesday, December 5

Advent Weekday

8:30A Mass with anointing
12:00P Rosary Group
6:00P Parish Pastoral Council Mtg.

Wednesday, December 6

Advent Weekday

8:30A Mass
9:00A Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament
7:00P Choir rehearsal

Thursday, December 7

St. Ambrose, Bishop & Doctor of the Church

8:30A Mass
6:30P Eucharistic Revival
Speaker Series: "Family Life & the Eucharist"

Friday, December 8

Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary (Holyday of Obligation)

8:30A Mass
6:30P Mass

Saturday, December 9

Advent Weekday

12:30P Confirmation Prep
Service Day @ SSJ Motherhouse
2:00P Confession
4:00P Mass
5:00P If we make our CMA Goal: Pizza Party

Sunday, December 10

2nd Sunday of Advent

9:00A Mass-CLOW & choir sings
10:00A SOR classes
10:00A Coffee & Donut Hour
11:00A Mass
12:00P Coffee & Donut Hour

Parish Staff

Pastor: Fr. Paul Gitau fr.paul.gitau@dor.org
Deacon: Mark Robbins mark.robbins@dor.org
Administrative Asst.: Jodie Hickey x21 jodie.hickey@dor.org
Adult Faith Formation Coordinator:
 Katie Van Damme x24 katie.vandamme@dor.org
Business Manager: Kasey Baker x30 kasey.baker@dor.org
Director of Faith Formation: Anselm Mesue x27 anselm.mesue@dor.org
Coordinator of Music: John Gaspar john.gaspar@dor.org
Faith Formation & Liturgy Assistant: Helen Stirpe x26 helen.stirpe@dor.org
Facilities Manager: Ben O'Brien x28 ben.obrien@dor.org
Multi Parish Finance Director: Joan Sullivan: 671-1100 x107 joan.sullivan@dor.org
Finance Council Chair: Tom Napoli
Parish Council Chair: Linda D'Antonio
Parish Trustees: Forest Shick & George Hanley

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

	October 2023	July-October 2023
Collections	\$37,000	\$157,600
Donations/ other revenue	\$11,360	\$24,220
Expenses	\$64,100	\$188,100
Operating surplus/deficit	(\$15,740)	(\$6,320)

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
 all the parishioners
 of St. Paul's*

Seeds for the Journey

I know it's hard to believe but it's that time of the year again. The leaves are almost completely down, Thanksgiving is behind us, and many homes in our neighborhoods are covered with lights. At the same time, as you entered the Church this weekend you found the Advent wreath resting peacefully in the Sanctuary and our vestments and decorations saturated with the color purple. The season of Advent is once again upon us.

Advent, you may recall, is both a season of preparation for the feast of the Nativity (Christmas) when we celebrate the first coming of Christ into the world, and a season of reflection that points us to the final judgment and the second coming of Christ. Our readings over the past month have reminded us of this future event while warning us to be watchful and prepared. A few weeks ago, we heard about the bridegroom who arrives unexpectedly, only to find that not all his servants are prepared. We then heard the story of the master who returned from a long journey with the expectation that his servants invested his money wisely; not all did. In Today's Gospel, we hear Jesus warning us to be watchful and alert, since we don't know when the Lord will return! Four times we heard Jesus tells us – watch!

It sounds ominous, doesn't it? But the season of Advent helps us to see that we are not to hide in the shadows of the second coming of Christ, as if it were something to fear. Ours is to live in the light of Jesus' return with a spirit of joyful hope, as if it is something wonderful and glorious. And there is no greater witness and example of waiting in joyful hope than Mary, the mother of Jesus. Mary's response to the angel Gabrielle's invitation for her to give birth to the Son of God was simple and profound: *"Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word."* In essence, Mary said to the angel and to herself, "I don't know for sure what this whole experience of birthing the messiah is about, but I will trust and hope that good things will happen." Having little control over the situation, once she said yes, Mary is willing to wait in hope for the possibilities the future will hold, possibilities beyond her imagination.

Like Mary, we too prepare for and wait on events that stretch our imaginations. During advent we wait, ironically, for an event that has already taken place, the Incarnation, the coming of God into the world. And, by recalling what God has already done in the first advent, we can look forward with joyful hope to what God will do in the second advent, when Christ will come again in glory!

Our hope, however, is not only future oriented. Our hopeful waiting for the coming of Christ is a way of life that enables us to stay faithful in the difficult times of the present. The whole of our Advent journey tells us that even as we struggle with life's issues today, and we all have plenty of those, we have reason to hope. Even when we don't understand the events in the world around us, we have reason to hope. Even as we deal with stress, confusion, or grief this holiday season, we have reason to stay hopeful. Even as we grapple with our own faith, we have reason to hope. And the reason for our hope is that God, who in his great love for us shared in our humanity, continues to be with us today in Word and Sacrament, enabling us to grow in faith and holiness and in love for one another.

I pray that God will grace our hearts this coming Advent and Christmas season, and beyond, with a deep abiding peace that enables us to live out our faith in this life, as together we wait with joyful hope for the coming of our savior, Jesus the Christ.



Deacon Mark



We extend a warm St. Paul's welcome to
The Most Reverend Salvatore R. Matano and
The Reverend Father Daniel E. White to
celebrate Sunday, 10:00 a.m. Mass.

Christmas Flowers

If you wish to make a donation in memory or honor of a loved one, please note the name(s) on the envelope. The memorials will be listed in the Christmas bulletin. We use the parishioner info on the front of the envelope to note who the donation is from, if you would like something different, please note that as well. Envelopes are available in the Narthex if needed.

Please make checks payable to "St. Paul's Church". Envelopes must be received by **Monday, December 18th** in order for your loved ones names to make it into the bulletin. If you have any questions please contact Kasey at 671-2100 ext. 30 or kasey.baker@dor.org

Jambo Java Café Coffee & Donut Hour

Sunday, December 10
10:00-11:00 a.m. &
12:00-1:00 p.m.



Family Life and the Eucharist

Join us on Thursday, December 7th at 6:30 PM as we welcome Dr. Matthew Kuhner and his wife Michelle to our Eucharistic Revival speaker series. The Eucharist is not something we only celebrate at mass, we must also celebrate the importance of the Eucharist as a family. As a married couple, and educators in the Catholic Church, Matthew and Michelle will introduce us to the importance of the **Eucharist and Family Life**, along with steps we can take to build up the Eucharist within our families.

What's New at the John Walsh Library

The cart in the JW Library has been updated with adult and children's books for Advent and Christmas. We hope that you are able to take a moment away from the chaos and crowds to enjoy some quiet time with one of these wonderful books.

Children's Liturgy of the Word (CLOW)

Leaders Needed

Children's Liturgy of the Word (CLOW) is during the 9am and 11am Mass on Sundays. Following the Gathering Rite, children are invited to gather along with an Adult Leader to proclaim, celebrate and reflect on God's Word in a way that they can understand and relate to. Adult leaders are needed for this important ministry. Please contact Anselm or Helen at helen.stirpe@dor.org or Anselm.mesue@dor.org.

Critical Need for Sacristans

If you are thinking of serving in a ministry at St. Paul's, but have not taken the plunge yet, please consider serving as a sacristan at the 11:00 a.m. Mass. We have lost another sacristan, and that leaves only two people that can serve at the 11:00 a.m. Mass, this is a very easy task, and we will train you. It is a nice opportunity for a family to do together, or for an individual, or with a friend. Please give prayerful consideration to volunteering for this ministry, St. Paul's parish really needs your help! If interested please contact, Jane Adams at 544-5602 or via email jane.adams1227@gmail.com.

Adult Faith Event

There will be an Adult Faith Formation Catechesis open to all parishioners on Sunday, December 17th at 10:00 a.m. in the gathering room. The Topic is "A Walk Through the Mass. Exploring the Sacred Liturgy." The presenter for this talk will be Scott Rutan. For more information contact Anselm Mesue at Anselm.mesue@dor.org

The Giving Tree



In lieu of tags on the Christmas tree please refer to the list below. The items requested are for boys or girls size infant to 16. Please bring **UNWRAPPED** gifts, to St Paul's and place them in the parish office hallway.....**no later than December 17.** Donations for "Fuel" are also being accepted this year, please

make your check payable to St. Paul's and add "Fuel" in the memo line.

Help us to provide Christmas joy for less fortunate families. Thanks to your continued generosity. If you have questions please call Pat Rotundo at 356-8309.

PANTS OR JEANS
PAJAMAS
MITTENS, GLOVES, HATS
SHIRTS or TOPS
UNDERWEAR, SOCKS
TOYS, BOOKS

Goodbye Katie

Advent was meant to be a time of peace, joy, love, and hope. A time to prepare and celebrate the coming of the Lord. Lately I've been lacking this peace. I'm sure many of you may feel the same way during the holidays. Shopping, celebrating, sending cards, traveling, making cookies; and it's only the start of the advent season. This uneasiness is kind of how I've felt in my personal life; like we're continuously preparing for Christmas, but the peace of Christ has not arrived. My family has been experiencing many changes, especially after the death of my brother-in-law. It's my eldest daughter, Avery's, senior year. We've gone on several college visits, she's completed her college applications, finished her last school swim season, and is working. My middle child, Annika, is a junior, going through the biggest year in high school. She's into acting, travel softball, beginning her college search, and working as well. My son Vaughn plays travel hockey, travel soccer, piano, percussion, and started middle school this year. In addition to my children's schedules, Leo, my husband, received a promotion which requires him to travel several times a month. When I'm not working, I'm living in my car, driving everywhere from Buffalo to Poughkeepsie to Pittsburg, preparing notes for the diocesan school board as the Catholic Identity Chair and completing my homework for St. Bernard's in between hockey games, play intermissions and swim matches. Our lives can be anything but peaceful at times, and this restlessness has been felt by all members of my family, especially me.

In a conversation with Avery, I asked her about the stress in our lives. Her response was eye opening, "Mom if you are stressed, that is not from God. God isn't stress and he doesn't want that for you." She's right (and a total genius)! After months of prayerful discerning Avery's comment, while feeling as if God was completely silent in the process, I finally opened my heart enough to allow God to enter. His message was so clear: "Stop resisting Me. Let My will be done. There is a time and a purpose for everything."

I have finally let go of the reins and given them over to God. His way is much easier and gentler on my spirit than my resistance is to His will. At this point in my life, I am being called to be there for my family. I love St. Paul's Church and everyone here. I am so grateful for Fr. Paul and the staff, volunteers, and parishioners I have worked with. You have changed my life, and I am appreciative of this gift. Working here has been one of the greatest joys of my life, but I feel that my timing is just a little off. God is calling me to take a step back, find that peace of Christ I have been missing, and to be genuinely content with this part of my life. I will never regret a moment spent with my family.

Thank you for allowing me into your lives. I am honored and humbled to have worked with you over the last 2 ½ years. What an immense blessing. I know the staff here will take great care of the Adult Faith Community. This ministry is vital to our parish. I wish you Christ's peace in your hearts, mind and soul. My family and I will still be around; therefore, I look forward to seeing you at mass and around the Webster area. I'll really be living by the words of Pope Francis, "Peace is a daily commitment. It is a homemade peace." And remember, "All shall be well, and all shall be well, and all manner of things shall be well."
(Julian of Norwich)

With Gratitude,
Katie

We will all miss Katie and her sunny personality. Thank you for your love and dedication to our parish and Adult Faith Programs.

We wish her all the best!



4th Sunday of Advent & Christmas Mass Schedule

4th Sunday of Advent Masses

Saturday, December 23 @ 4:00 p.m.

Sunday, December 24 @ 900 a.m.

Christmas Eve Masses

4:00 p.m.

6:00 p.m. Pre-Service Caroling

6:30 p.m.

Christmas Day Mass

10:00 a.m.



The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary Thursday, December 8

Mass Times:

8:30 a.m.

6:30 p.m.



Advent Penance Service With Individual Confession

Thursday, December 14
at 6:30 p.m.

Ministry Schedule for December 9 & 10, 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!

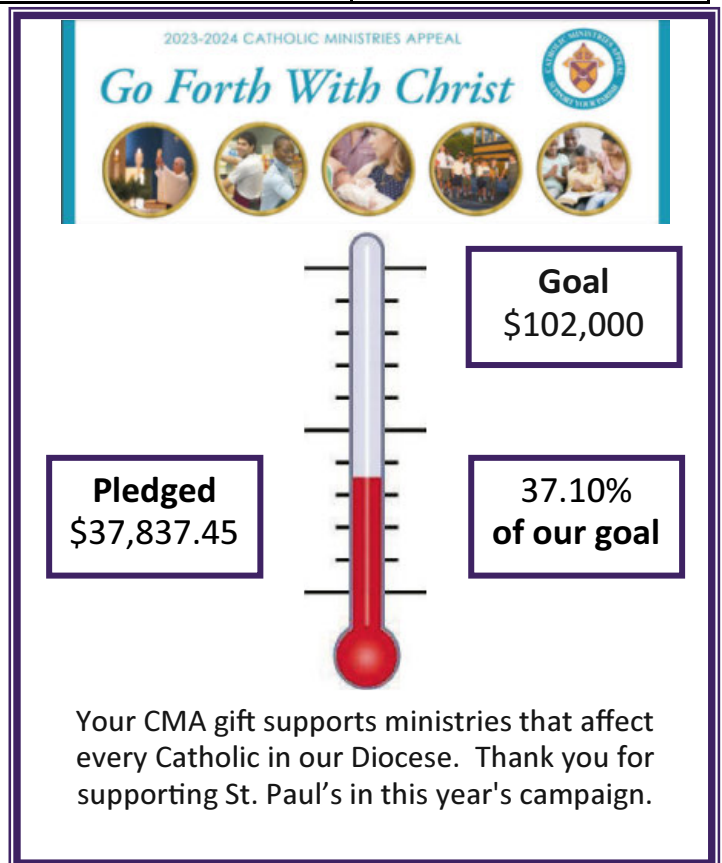
	4:00 PM	9:00 AM	11:00 AM
Acolytes	Volunteer Needed Volunteer Needed	Maggie Milner Volunteer Needed	Lucy Rynkiewicz Volunteer Needed
Cantors	Bob Slon	Elizabeth Randisi	Cindy Rutan
EMHC	Sue Dettman Bob Frank	Jack Black Craig Lippolis	Anne LaClair Cindy Ottina
Greeters	Theresa Augsburg Diana Kemp	Izzy Ebertz, Jeanne Leo & Pat Amedeo	Bella Pumputis Ellen Santora
Lectors	Dan Bower	Scott Rutan	Leo Van Damme
Linens	No Linen pick up with week		
Sacristans	Christine Grant	DA Hutnick	Sharyn LiPari
Stream Team	John Kosel	Lou Rotundo	Chris Yuskiw
Ushers	Sue Dettman Alice Bower	Volunteer Needed Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed Volunteer Needed

From the John Walsh Library

Rohr, Richard

The Good News According to Luke (Spiritual Reflections)

The Gospel of Luke is one of the four New Testament Gospels that recount the life and death of Jesus, whose birth we await during the Advent season. Luke's Gospel is sometimes called "the Gospel of the poor" or "the Gospel of mercy." Father Rohr asks what is God trying to do through these sacred Scriptures. The Bible is not a lecture or treatise on God; it is the story of the experience of God. It is the story of God revealing Himself to the people; it is not a text that always provides easy answers. When Luke started putting together his gospel story, almost fifty years had passed since the death and resurrection of Jesus so he relied on many sources to gather information. Father Rohr shares his understanding of Luke's message with today's reader, shedding light on its main themes. (Call No. 226.407)





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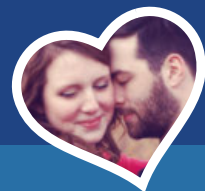
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