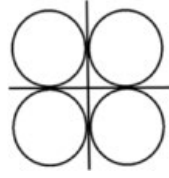


ST. PAUL'S CHURCH

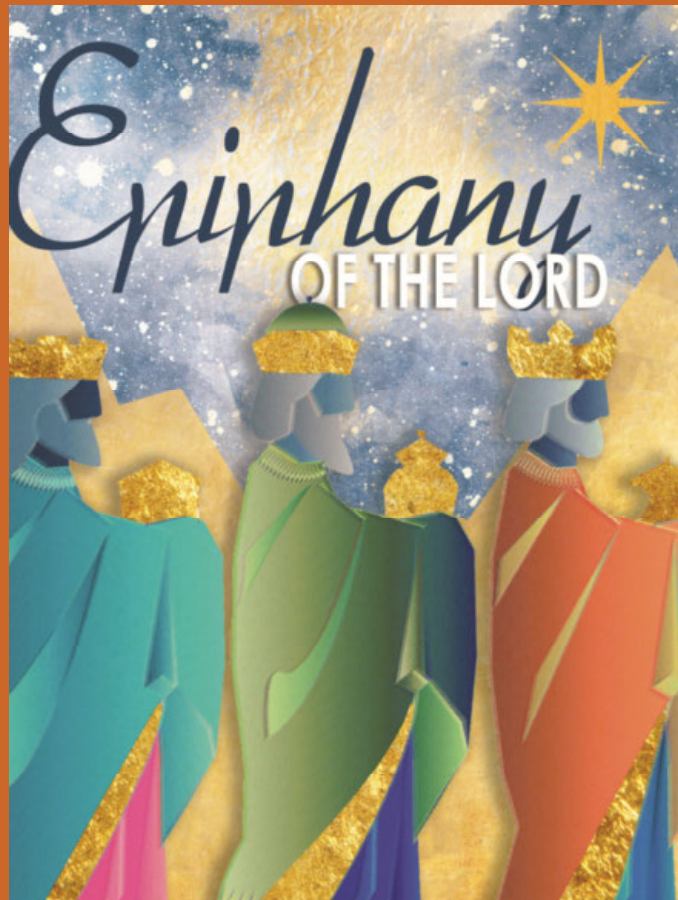


783 Hard Road, Webster, New York

January 8, 2023 Ephiphany 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, January 9
The Baptism of the Lord
 8:30A Mass
 7:00P Finance Council Mtg.

Tuesday, January 10
Weekday
 8:30A Mass
 11:00A Zoom Staff Mtg.
 12:00P Rosary Group

Wednesday, January 11
Weekday
 8:30A Mass
 9:00A Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

Thursday, January 12
Weekday
 8:30A Mass

Friday, January 13
Weekday
 No Mass

Saturday, January 14
Christmas Weekday
 2:00P Individual Confession
 4:00P Mass-choir will sing during Mass

Sunday, January 15
2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time
No SOR Classes
 9:00A Mass
 10:00A Confirmation Prep class yr. 1 & 2



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
Confirmation Minister: Anselm Mesue x27 anselm.mesue@dor.org
Coordinator of Music: John Gaspar john.gaspar@dor.org
Coordinator of SOR & Facilities Cleaning:
 Helen Stirpe x25 or 671-2110 helen.stirpe@dor.org
Maintenance Coordinator: Ben O'Brien x28 ben.obrien@dor.org
Multi Parish Finance Director: Joan Sullivan: 671-1100 x21 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-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

	November 2022	July 2022-November 2022
Collections	\$28,611	\$186,605
Donations/ other revenue	\$2,671	\$36,656
Expenses	\$39,871	\$261,078
Operating surplus/deficit	\$(8,589)	\$(37,817)

Expenses for include quarterly invoices paid.

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	
Jay Riesenberger	



*This week the
 Sanctuary Lamp burns for
 all the parishioners
 of St. Paul's*

Seeds for the Journey

"They prostrated themselves and did him homage." Today we celebrate the Feast of the Epiphany. The Epiphany is a feast of the manifestation or revelation of God. God has visited His people in the person of Jesus Christ. We celebrate God's immense love for us, so much so that God took on human flesh and became one like us in all things but sin. Today's feast reminds us clearly that Jesus is king, Jesus is Lord of the universe, and Jesus is God who unites all together.

In today's Gospel, we read the beautiful story of the visit of the Magi by Matthew, the Evangelist. Led by the star, the Magi went to see the child Jesus, the new king of the Jews. Even though the Bible does not mention their names, the Magi, the three wise men from the east, have been traditionally given the names Casper, Melchior and Balthazar. We do know that they were clever, wealthy and brave. They were also attentive to God's voice; that is why they did not return to Herod, who was greatly troubled hearing that a baby has been born who is the new king of the Jews. When they found the baby Jesus and his parents Mary and Joseph, the Magi prostrated themselves and paid homage to Jesus, offering him gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh.

These gifts are highly symbolic. The gold symbolizes Christ's kingship. Christ is king not only of the Jews but of the entire universe. Christ is the king of all creation. Christ is also our king here at St Paul's. The frankincense, which is a sweet-smelling resin used in worship, represents Christ's priesthood. Jesus is the high priest par excellence. Jesus is the mediator between God and humans. We learnt in our School of Religion and Confirmation classes that through Baptism we share in Christ's priestly office – in fact, we are made priests, kings and prophets. St. Cyprian is known to have said that every Christian is another Christ (*Christianus alter Christus*). Through Baptism we are all called to holiness. By our reception of the Eucharist, we are called to be Christ to the world. The gift of myrrh foreshadows Christ's death. It is an ointment used in burial. Christ won Redemption for us by his death on the cross. Christ conquered sin. We too are called to die to sin (Romans 6:11). We should neither allow ourselves to be dominated by sin nor should we conform ourselves to the pattern of this world; rather we should be transformed by God's grace working in us and we should bring God to others in season and out of season. This transforming power of God in us should be seen by the way we live our lives in society.

Gold, frankincense and myrrh were Christ's own Christmas presents. Scholars tell us that even the Magi themselves may not have fully understood the impact of their Christmas presents. We should also make sacrifices for Jesus as did the Magi. What are we ready to offer up to Jesus during this new year 2023? Christ wants us to grow in holiness everyday and to live out the gospel values at our homes, our jobs or wherever we find ourselves. In our Confirmation program, we are continuing to stress the importance of being present at Sunday Mass, helping in any of the roles at Mass, being comfortable celebrating the sacrament of Penance, and last but not the least, bringing a positive difference at school by witnessing to the gospel values and spreading love.

By encountering God and celebrating Jesus's birth, we should strive to be God's worthy ambassadors in society through our words and actions. We can emulate the example of the Magi, who were courageous enough to make the difficult and uncertain trip to look for Jesus. Nothing could stop them from find Jesus and paying him homage. We too shouldn't allow anything to stop us from looking for and welcoming Jesus in our lives, for Jesus is with us always, yes even to the end of time.

Anselm

Remembering Pope Benedict XVI: A Synopsis of His Life, Thoughts and Works Part 1



Today, we begin a series on the life and work of Pope Benedict XVI whose funeral took place on Thursday January 5, 2023. In order to honor the life of this great Pope and Church scholar, we shall highlight certain aspects of his life and scholarly work both as a theologian and as the head of the Universal Church. Pope Benedict was born on April 16, 1927 in Bavaria, Germany and was given the name Joseph Aloisius Ratzinger. He was ordained a priest on June 29, 1951. As a priest, he held a long career as a theology professor at several German universities. Due to his reputation as a great intellectual and scholar, he was invited by the Archbishop of Munich to be his peritus at the Second Vatican Council that was held in three different sessions from 1962 to 1965. The then Fr. Ratzinger was appointed Archbishop of Munich and Freising by Pope Paul VI. He was ordained a bishop on May 28, 1977. Pope Paul VI created a Cardinal on June 27, 1977, barely one month after his episcopal ordination. Pope John Paul II appointed him the Prefect of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith (CDF) in 1981, a position he held until he became Pope. As head of the CDF he was known for his unwavering orthodoxy and his staunch defense of Catholic doctrine, morals, values and the liturgy. In 2002, the then Cardinal Ratzinger became the Dean of the College of Cardinals. He was one of the closest confidants of Pope John Paul II and a very major figure in the Vatican. He became Pope on April 19, 2005, at the conclave that was held after the death of Pope John Paul II. Cardinal Ratzinger chose the name Benedict. It was Pope Benedict XVI who began the beatification process of Pope John Paul II. During his papacy, he canonized 45 people. Pope Benedict resigned as Pope in February 2013 citing his deteriorating strength and the physical and mental demands of the papacy.

Throughout his writings one of the key aspects Pope Benedict XVI was concerned with was the Enlightenment in general and the German strand in particular known as the *Aufklärung*. The *Aufklärung* was built on the foundation that the natural faculty of human reason is qualitatively similar to the divine reason although quantitatively weaker. It was more centered on the human person than on the Divine. As both a theologian and as the Pope, Benedict XVI was very concerned with the perspectives and positions of that mindset and that of the west as a whole.

To him, the *Aufklärung* marked an enduring criticism of revealed faith, a critique that we as a Church must continue to engage with and respond to, for it touched on the fundamental relationship between faith and reason in today's world rooted in relativism; a world, especially the developed world, that is very hostile to the Christian faith in general and to Catholicism in particular. To Pope Benedict, what is urgent is to open up spaces of conversation and dialogue so that together the currents of secular rationality and faith could mutually enrich one another.

To be continued next week

Bethany House January Wish List

Laundry detergent
Garbage bags (33 gal. & 13 gal.)*
Clorox wipes*
Floor cleaner
All purpose cleaner
Stapler & staples*
Clear tape
Ice melt*
No. 10 envelopes
Stamps
Canned food
Peanut butter
Cereal
Size 6 diapers
Baby wipes
Baby food*
Baby formula*
Coffee filters (basket shape – 12cup)*
Dry Erase Markers*

* indicates a great need for that item



Coffee & Donut Hour

Join us for Coffee Hour in the Jambo Java Café on Sunday, January 8th at 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. and a bonus coffee hour from 12:00-1:00 p.m.

We hope to see you there!



As of January 3, 272 families have contributed to the CMA. We thank those who have given generously and ask all who have not yet given to prayerfully consider doing so. The CMA helps our Church and our parish in so many ways. Please consider all the ways that God has blessed you and your family and think how the Church has brought goodness into your lives. Join our appeal and give back what you can so that we remain strong and able to do God's great work!

From the John Walsh Library

Ellsberg, Robert

All Saints: Daily Reflections on Saints, Prophets, and Witnesses for Our Time

As we start a new year, this book offers a treasury of meditations—one for every day of the year—to draw you into the world of the greatest saints of all times, places, and religions. Mr. Ellsberg has compiled a list of men and women, both ancient and contemporary figures, whose lives and messages speak to the spiritual needs of our day. We need examples of holiness beyond the cloister, so the saints featured in this book were immersed in the worlds of art, literature, scholarship, political struggle, and in everyday life. We need prophets who challenge the church as well as the world to better reflect the justice and mercy of God. By exploring a range of lives far beyond an official canon of saints, Mr. Ellsberg hopes to expand the popular understanding of holiness itself. (Call No. 920-ELL)



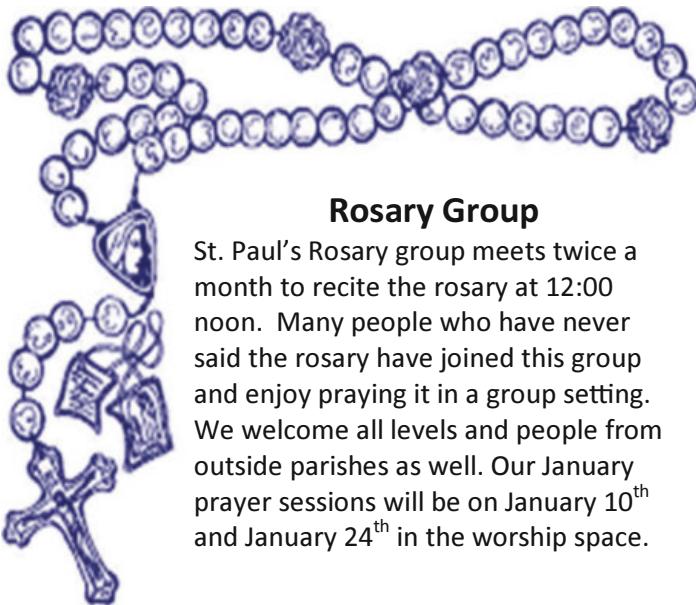
Stress in Your Marriage?

Retrouvaille (pronounced retro-vi, meaning rediscovery) is a program for married couples who feel disillusioned, frustrated or angry in their marriage.

- ◆ Some don't want to air dirty laundry at counseling.
- ◆ Some are counseling but going nowhere.
- ◆ Sometimes life-changing events occur (car accident, illness, addictions) and most don't know how to change the situation or even communicate with their spouses about it.

This world-wide Catholic program has helped tens of thousands of couples experiencing difficulties in their marriage.

In 2023, we have two programs beginning with a weekend on January 27th or April 21st, please call **585-293-1552** with confidential questions or visit the web site at www.HelpOurMarriage.org



Rosary Group

St. Paul's Rosary group meets twice a month to recite the rosary at 12:00 noon. Many people who have never said the rosary have joined this group and enjoy praying it in a group setting. We welcome all levels and people from outside parishes as well. Our January prayer sessions will be on January 10th and January 24th in the worship space.

Ministry Schedule for January 14 & 15

If you are not available to serve in your ministry, please find a substitute.
Thank you for all you do for St. Paul's!

	4:00 PM	9:00 AM	11:00 AM
Acolytes	TBD	TBD	TBD
Cantors	TBD	TBD	TBD
EMHC	Christine Grant Volunteer Needed	Jack Black Josephine Cozzo	Fred Compertore Volunteer Needed
Greeters	Bill Galbraith Patrice DeAngelis	DA Hutnick Barb Rehberg	Jean Van Apeldoorn Nancy Willard
Lectors	David Swinson	Jack Black	Gene Mancuso
Linens	Mary Fitch (no specific time for pick up)		
Sacristans	Irene Dragt	Jane Adams	Sharyn LiPari
Stream Team	TBD	TBD	TBD
Ushers	Sue Dettman Alice Bower	Volunteer Needed Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed Volunteer Needed

Giving Options

Drop your offering in the donation box or slot as you leave church.

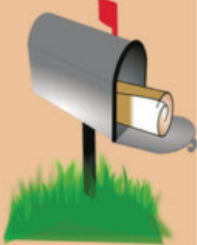
Send us a check through your own Bank's BILL PAY feature.



Go to our website (stpaulsrcc.org) and click on the GIVING tab

Questions?
Call Kasey in the office
at 671-2100 X30

**Mail your envelope to:
St. Paul Church
783 Hard Road
Webster, NY 14580**



Thank you!



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