ST. PAUL'S CHURCH

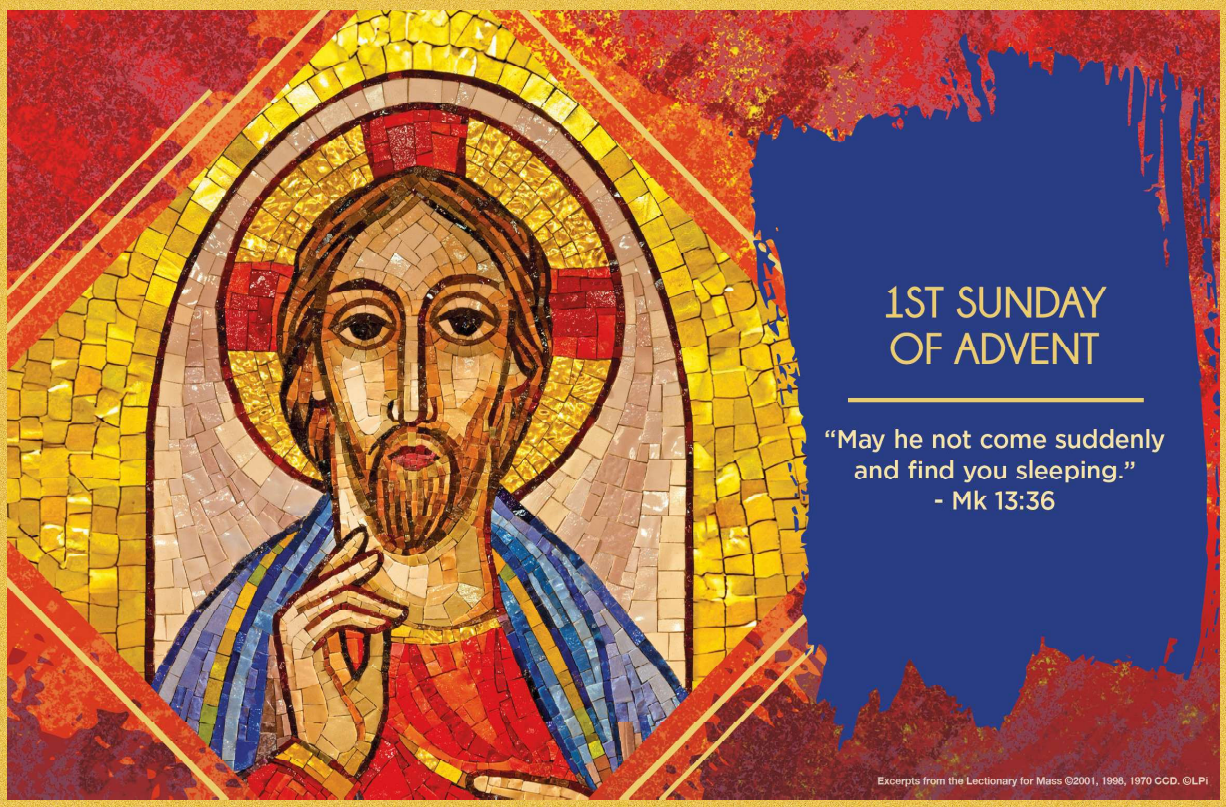


783 Hard Road, Webster, New York 14580

First Sunday of Advent
November 29, 2026

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

Confession
Saturday: 2:00-3:00 p.m.
or by appointment

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



Live Stream Masses on YouTube
Saturday: 4:00 p.m.
Sunday: 9:00 & 11:00 a.m.

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament
Wednesday: 9:00 a.m.



Monday, November 30
St. Andrew, Apostle
8:30A Mass

Tuesday, December 1
Advent Weekday
8:30A Mass
12:00P Rosary
6:00P Bible Study

Wednesday, December 2
Advent *Weekday*
8:30A Mass
9:00A Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament
7:00P Choir rehearsal

Thursday, December 3
St. Francis Xavier, Priest
8:30A Mass
6:00P Building & Grounds mtg.

Friday, December 4
Advent *Weekday*
Parish Office Closed
No Mass
8:30A Vac Pac

Saturday, December 5
Advent *Weekday*
Birthday Blessing during Mass
10:00A Prayer Shawl
2:00P Confession
4:00P Mass

Sunday, December 6
Second Sunday of Advent
Birthday Blessing during Mass
9:00A Mass-CLOW
10:00A Coffee & Donut hour
10:00A SOR classes
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
Director of Faith Formation: Anselm Mesue x27	anselm.mesue@dor.org
Coordinator of Music: John Gaspar	john.gaspar@dor.org
Faith Form. & Liturgy Assistant: Helen Stirpe x26	helen.stirpe@dor.org
Funeral Planning: Bonnie Serio	bonnie.serio@dor.org
Facilities Manager: Ben O'Brien x28	ben.obrien@dor.org
Finance Office:	webironfinance@dor.org
Finance Council Chair: Jack Black	blackj1969@rochester.rr.com
Parish Pastoral Council Chair: Patrice DeAngelis	
Parish Pastoral Council Vice Chair: Margie Richardson	
Parish Trustees: Forest Shick & Patrice DeAngelis	



Parish Office Hours
8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. Monday-Friday

Phone: 671- 2100
Website: www.stpaulsrcc.org
Diocese of Rochester: www.dor.org

Financial Snapshot	Oct. 2026	July-Oct. 2026
Collections	$31,326	$159,828
Donations/other revenue	$5,887	$23,790
Expenses	$62,331	$197,783
Operating surplus/deficit	$(25,118)	$(14,165)

Pray for Those in the Military

Jason Aman
PJ Lajoie
Tom Weisenreder
Mason Serrano
Andrew Zani
Jay Riesenberger
Christina Vozzo
Josh Bartlett
Cydney Blong
Michael J. Desiato
Daniel Thomas
Robert Wright
Angelina Price
Zach Bartlett



This week the Sanctuary Lamp burns for:
Neil Rojek
from
Wife & family

Seeds for the Journey

As I am sure you are aware, this weekend marks the beginning of the liturgical season of Advent. From a secular perspective we spend much of this season shopping, gift wrapping, baking, sending cards, and decorating in anticipation for celebrations soon to come. From a spiritual perspective, however, Advent is a time of prayer and reflection during which we prepare ourselves to celebrate the birth of Jesus while, at the same time, we prepare for his return. To help facilitate this spiritual journey many Christians decorate their homes and Churches with Advent wreaths. No doubt as you entered the Church this weekend you found our Advent wreath resting peacefully in the Sanctuary.

The Advent wreath, however, is more than a decoration, it is in many ways the voice of God inviting us to reflect on, pray about, and prepare ourselves for the coming of Jesus. Through each of the four candles resting on the wreath, which are lit at the beginning of Mass over the four Sundays of Advent, we are invited to open our hearts more deeply to the presence of Jesus in our lives, and to prepare ourselves for the day on which Jesus will return.

On the first Sunday of Advent, we light the first purple candle as a sign of hope. Often referred to as the "Prophet's Candle" it recalls the Old Testament prophecies of Jesus' coming into the world and the hope He brings to the world. As the prophet Isaiah proclaimed: "The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shined." (Isaiah 9:2)

On the second Sunday of Advent, we light both the first and second purple candles, with the second candle being a sign of Peace. The second candle is known as the "Bethlehem Candle" because it represents Mary and Joseph's journey from Nazareth to Jerusalem and the promise of peace on Earth through the birth of their son Jesus that the prophets spoke of.

On the third Sunday of Advent, often referred to as "Gaudete or Joyful Sunday," we light the first and second purple candles, as well as the pink candle, with pink being a sign of Joy. This candle is sometimes referred to as the "Shepherds Candle" because it symbolizes the joy that the shepherds experienced as they traveled to Bethlehem to see the newborn baby Jesus. We share in the joy of the shepherds as we wait in joyful hope for the coming of Jesus.

On the fourth Sunday we light all four Advent Candles, with the fourth (purple) candle being a sign of God's love, concretized by the sending of his son, Jesus, to us. This candle, known as the "Angel's Candle," also symbolizes the angels' message to the shepherds at the birth of Jesus, "Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests."

Some Advent wreaths, such as the one in our Sanctuary, have a fifth candle residing at its center. It is a white candle that we light on Christmas that celebrates the coming of Jesus into the world as one like us. The color white symbolizes Jesus' purity and holiness, which we one day hope to experience.

As we continue our Advent journey may all that we do in these coming days, every gift we buy or receive, every family gathering or meal we attend, remind us to prepare a place for Jesus in our hearts. And may we live each day with joyful hope as we wait for the coming of our Savior, Jesus Christ.



Deacon Mark

St. Paul's 60th Anniversary Trivia

Last week's question: Why did St. Paul's build a cinder block church where the I-beams are visible?

Answer: The Pastor and the community of St. Paul's believed that the people are the Church, not the building. Thus, opting for a very low-cost structure to focus on outreach and tithing of St. Paul's revenue to those in greater need with Good Sam administering it. At the time, there was encouragement from Bishop Sheen for a low-cost building and to not exceed the agreed budget, which St. Paul's accomplished.

A Building Steering Committee was formed in 1967 with a mission to 1. Determine the building structure of St. Paul's. 2. Evolve the type of governance and organization for St. Paul's. The Steering Committee quickly realized that they needed to agree on the purpose of St. Paul's, its mission, and its reason for being, before tackling their stated mission. With much debate they concluded that St. Paul's needed a place for worship and space for a variety of education, administrative and social activities and functions.

From the beginning, the parish desired a modest and simple structure to minimize the cost to the parishioners. The community wanted their resources shared with those in greater need. Until the church was later expanded, parishioners worshipped on metal folding chairs, seeing cinder blocks and I-beams. While some described the space as "quite Spartan," the deeper understanding remained that the true Church is the community of believers. Unlike other churches, St. Paul's was not going to be a monument to the builders' themselves with a large debt for future generations at St. Paul's to pay off.

The Building Committee also proposed a governance model of Parish Council and various Committees such as Finance, Religious Education, Good Samaritans, Facilities, etc. The model acknowledged the equal partnership that laity has with clergy and religious in realizing Christ's goal that all may be one as He and the Father are One (John XVII, 21). This governance model of St. Paul's was adopted across the Diocese of Rochester, and while it has evolved, it is generally operating today.



This week's question: What is the official logo of St. Paul's? (A clue: note the altar ornamental backscreen of 467 metal rings and wooden joiners on the altar wall in the picture above).





Children's Liturgy of the Word (CLOW) returns Sunday, December 6th during the 9:00 a.m. Mass. Children in the School of Religion and others in kindergarten to seventh grade are invited to participate in Children's Liturgy of the Word. After the Opening Prayer at Mass, Fr. Paul will invite the children along with their phenomenal adult catechists to come up to the foot of the sanctuary for a blessing and dismissal. During CLOW, the children will take part in the Sunday scripture at their level. Terminology at the appropriate age level helps the children to understand and appreciate the Gospel messge of Jesus Christ. This is a great way to help kids in their faith formation and development. We strongly exhort parents to encourage their kids to attend. Participation at CLOW is required for all those preparing for their First Eucharist and First Penance and Reconciliation.

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.

Please make checks payable to St. Paul's Church adding Christmas Flowers on the memo line. The deadline is Monday, December 14th. If you have any questions, please contact Jodie by calling or via email at jodie.hickey@dor.org

St. Paul's 2026 Advent Retreat

Saturday, December , 12
Retreat begins at 10:45 followed by Mass at 4:00 p.m.

Theme: *"Advent; Holy Longing & Joyful Waiting"*

Registration forms are on the bulletin board across from the parish office

Questions? Contact Anselm: anselm.mesue@dor.org



Birthday Blessing Weekend

Fr. Paul will give a special blessing during all Masses next weekend, December 5 & 6 as we celebrate December birthdays.

The Giving Tree

Good Sam Outreach is again sponsoring the Giving Tree which provides Christmas gifts for children in downtown Rochester.

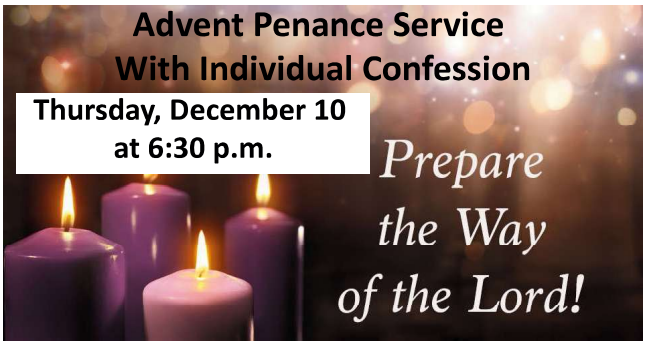
The items requested below from St. Francis Xavier Cabrini Parish are for boys or girls size infant to 16. Please bring **UNWRAPPED** gifts to St. Paul's and place them in the parish office hallway. **No later than December 13th.** Donations for "Fuel" are also accepted, please make your check payable to St. Paul's adding "Fuel in the memo line.

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



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

PLEASE NO GIFT CARDS & NO CASH

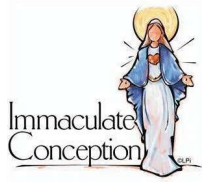


Prayer for Advent -Arise

Bless God's Holy Name!
Prepare our hearts for Your coming, Lord.
Awaken them from any places that have become sleepy or despondent. Inspire us with new visions.
Be with us as we climb closer to You.
Amen!

Tuesday, December 8

Mass Times:
8:30 a.m.
6:30 p.m.



Join the Rosary Group

Deepen your prayer life this season by joining our Rosary Group every Tuesday at Noon in the worship area.

As we prepare our hearts for the birth of Christ, there is no better way to find peace and reflection during the busy weeks of Advent than through the traditional prayers of the Rosary. Whether you pray the Rosary daily or haven't picked up beads in years, all are welcome to gather in community, offer up personal intentions, and journey through this holy season together. All are welcome!

2027 calendars are available at each of the entrances!

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Please feel free to take one for yourself and for anyone you may know who would like one.

Ministry Schedule for December 5 & 6, 2026

Due to this 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	**TBD** **TBD**	**TBD** **TBD**	**TBD** **TBD**
Cantors	**TBD**	**TBD**	**TBD**
EMHC	Mary Beth Speicher Sue Dettman	Margaret Milner **Volunteer Needed**	Ruth Prinzivalli **Volunteer Needed**
Greeters	Julie Shick Forest Shick	Ebertz family	Jean Van Apeldoorn Anne LaClair
Lectors	Dan Bower	Crissy Picca	Kay Vargo
Linens	No linen pick up this week		
Sacristans	Christine Grant	Jane Adams	Connie Gurske
Stream Team	Rod Campbell	Sue Muto	Chris Yuskiw
Ushers	Bill Green Alice Bower	Jack Black Herb Gauch	Dallas & Joanne Miller **Volunteer Needed**



Festival of Choirs 2026





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