

ST. PAUL'S CHURCH



783 Hard Road, Webster, New York 14580

September 14, 2025 The Exaltation of the Holy Cross

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.



THE EXALTATION OF THE HOLY CROSS

Jesus said to Nicodemus:
"No one has gone up to
heaven except the one who
has come down from heaven,
the Son of Man." For God
did not send his Son into the
world to condemn the world,
but that the world might be
saved through him.
- Jn 3:13, 17

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

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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.

**Monday, September 15*****Our Lady of Sorrows***

8:30A Mass

Tuesday, September 16***Sts. Cornelius, Pope, & Cyprian, Bishop, Martyrs***

8:30A Mass with anointing

12:00P Rosary Group

5:00P Bible Study

6:00P Parish Pastoral Council

Wednesday, September 17***Weekday***

8:30A Mass

9:00A Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

7:00P Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, September 18***Weekday***

8:30A Mass

11:00A Together in Grief

Friday, September 19***Weekday***

No Mass

Saturday, September 20***Sts. Andrew Kim Tae-gon, Priest & Paul Chong Ha-sang, & Companions & Martyrs***

2nd Collection: Catholic

Campaign for Human

Development

Catechetical Sunday

10:00A Prayer Shawl

2:00P Confession

4:00P Mass

Sunday, September 21***25th Sunday in Ordinary Time***

2nd Collection: Catholic

Campaign for Human

Development

Catechetical Sunday

9:00A Mass-Blessing of Catechists

10:00A SOR meet & greet

11:00A Mass-Choir sings

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
Judy Cornell
From
The Cornell family*

Seeds for the Journey

The Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross celebrates the Cross as the symbol of our salvation. This instrument seen by some people as a sign of shame, became the life-giving tree that reversed Adam's original sin when he ate from the tree of knowledge of good and evil in the Garden of Eden. Jesus turned the Cross into a symbol of sacrificial love, victory, and life.

The emperor Constantine who made Christianity legal in 313 also eliminated crucifixion as a form of capital punishment. Incidentally, it was vision of the Cross that led to the conversion of Constantine. He was assured in the vision that in the sign of the Cross he would conquer Maxentius, a rival to the throne, and he would become emperor of Rome. Once he gained control of the Roman Empire, he went to the Holy Land with his mother, St. Helena, to discover the places where Jesus lived and died on the Cross. They tried to excavate the Holy Sepulcher and attempted to locate the true Cross of Jesus. Three Crosses were found on the spot.

According to one tradition the inscription *Iesus Nazarenus Rex Iudaeorum* ("Jesus of Nazareth, King of the Jews") was missing.

St. Helena and St. Macarius, the bishop of Jerusalem, assuming that one was the true Cross of Jesus and the other two belonged to the thieves crucified alongside Jesus, devised an experiment to determine which was the true Cross of Jesus.

The three Crosses were taken to a sick woman who was near death; when she touched the true Cross of Jesus, she was healed. Another tradition indicates that a body of a dead man was brought to the place where the three Crosses were found, and laid upon each cross. The true Cross of Jesus restored the dead man to life.

In celebration of the discovery of the Holy Cross, Constantine ordered the construction of churches at the site of the Holy Sepulcher and on Mt. Calvary. Those churches were dedicated on September 13 and 14, 355, and shortly thereafter the Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross began to be celebrated on September 14th.

Today's readings and prayers invite us to contemplate on the Cross as a symbol of healing and everlasting life, "for just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the desert, so must the Son of Man be lifted up. So that everyone who believes in him may have eternal life (John 3:14). It is good to venerate the Cross, or Crucifix in our churches and houses and even to wear on a necklace. "Standing by the Cross of Jesus were His Mother..." (John 19:25). Monday September 15th is the Feast of Our Lady of Sorrows. In 1814 Pope Pius VII established this Feast to commemorate the union of Immaculate Mary's heart with the Sacred Heart of her Son. Through this union Mary experienced the sorrows of Jesus' entire mission.

Luke 2:35 tells us that when Mary and Joseph presented Jesus in the Temple, Simeon prophesized that "a sword would pierce" Mary's heart. This reflects the Seven Sorrows of Mary: the prophecy of Simeon, the flight to Egypt, the loss of the Child Jesus in the Temple, Mary meeting Jesus on the road to Calvary, Mary at the Crucifixion, Mary receiving her Son's body, and Jesus' burial. In the same way that Mary stood beside Jesus, she now stands beside us as we carry our crosses. Mary and Joseph are united in helping us.

Fr. Paul

Join Our Choir!

The St. Paul's Church Choir provides support for congregational singing as well as music for meditation. Our repertoire ranges from Latin chant to contemporary styles of music. The Choir sings at the weekend Masses on a rotating basis, i.e., the 4:00 p.m. Saturday Mass one week, the Mass at 9:00 a.m. the following Sunday and the 11:00 a.m. Sunday Mass the week after that. The Choir also sings at a Christmas Eve Mass and at Holy Week Liturgies.

This year the Choir will present A Service of Lessons and Carols on Sunday, December 14 at 3:00 p.m. This program includes music provided by the Choir, congregational singing and Scripture readings which will be proclaimed by parish youth. Our Choir will also participate in the Webster Festival of Choirs on Sun., Nov. 2 at 2:00 p.m.

The "Choir Season" runs from September through June. Rehearsals are on Wednesday evenings from 7:00-8:30 p.m., as well as 30 minutes prior to whatever liturgies at which it is singing. While there are no auditions, members have to sing on pitch in the group and follow directions. While some of our singers have prior musical training, some do not. The Coordinator of Music is happy to provide additional resources (recordings) to help singers learn their choir pieces. Singers who are 18 years and older are welcome to join the Choir. Our first rehearsal of the season will be on Wednesday, September 10 from 7:00-8:30 p.m. in the Music Room.

St. Paul's Choir has a long tradition of excellence and is always seeking additional singers. We welcome new members for a short or long term commitment. Please contact our Coordinator of Music John Gaspar for more information via email: john.gaspar@dor.org



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

SCHUTT'S DONUT FUNDRAISER UPDATE

We ate, we sold, we conquered! We are "sprinkled" with joy to tell you that our Schutt's Donut Fundraiser was a great success! St. Paul's sold 55 dozen donuts which raised us \$302.50. WOW!!!!

Thanks a "hole" bunch to Schutt's Apple Mill for making the donuts, our Parish Pastoral Council for all their hard work organizing this fundraiser and to all of you who bought dozens of donuts. You "donut" know how much we appreciate all of your support! THANK YOU!



St. Paul's Family



Saturday, October 18
5:00 p.m.
In the Parish Hall

Game Night Highlights:

- Light dinner, soft drinks, tea, coffee and desserts
- Casual Euchre Tournament
- Bring your favorite game: Chess, hearts, Uno
- Or just come to socialize with family, friends and fellow parishioners

Tickets will be sold on the weekends of **October 4/5** and **October 11/12** after all Masses. Tickets will be limited at the door.

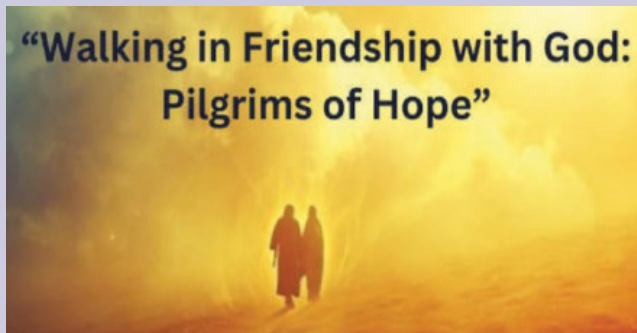
*****Details to Follow*****

Second Collection

Next weekend, September 20 & 21, there will be a second collection to support the **Catholic Campaign for Human Development**. CCHD funds programs that empower low-income people to address the root causes of their poverty. These grants support organizations across the country. Over the past decade, six organizations in our own Diocese have received major national CCHD grants. In addition, 25% of the funds we collect will remain in our diocese to fund smaller, local anti-poverty projects. By supporting this collection, you are standing with people on the margins and making positive social change.

In support of this collection, please make your check payable to St. Paul's, adding "Catholic Campaign for Human Development" in the memo. Thank you!

Notre Dame Retreat House



Drawing inspiration from the 2025 Universal Jubilee Pilgrims of Hope and inspired by Sacred Scripture, we invite all to grow in awareness of their friendship with God through prayer, discernment, and service. We look forward to sharing this life-giving retreat with YOU!

St. Paul's Church 2025 Retreat Weekends:

Men: September 12-14:

Coordinator for men is Dan Milner

Women: September 26-28:

We are looking for a women to be the coordinator of this retreat. Please call or email Jodie in the parish office at 671-2100 or via email: jodie.hickey@dor.org.

Suggested Room Rates:

Single room has shared bathroom and double room has a private bathroom.

Single room: \$200

Double room shared: \$170 per person

Double room alone: \$250

Commuter: \$75

For questions or to register, contact: Jodie Scordo at Notre Dame Retreat House 394-5700 or online at notredameretreat.org

From the John Walsh Library

Guntzelman, Joan

Blessed Grieving

Dr Guntzelman is a practicing psychologist with a long history of grief counseling. Not all losses are of the same magnitude, and all people will endure many types of losses in their lives. Each loss brings grief and the challenge to let go of something or someone who was an important part of our lives: a dear friend or family member, a significant relationship, a beloved pet, or a fond dream. While we often cannot control the losses in our lives, we can decide how we handle them. Each chapter in this book begins and ends with a prayer, and offers commentary and exercises about dealing with loss and growing from the experience. (Call No. 248.8-Gun.)

Rochester Hope September Wish List

Peanut butter, jelly, cereal, diapers sizes 3,4,5 & 6, toothpaste, single wrapped toothbrushes, soap and sugar

Please place your donations in the collection box in the Narthex before or after Mass. The Good Sam Outreach Committee will deliver our donations on a regular basis. Thank you for your generosity.



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

Ministry Schedule for September 20 & 21, 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	Chris Yuskiw Volunteer Needed
Cantors	Bob Slon	Cindy Rutan	Elizabeth Randisi
EMHC	Don Oinen Bob Frank	Trisha DeBacco Maggie Milner	Cindy Ottina Gina McNamara
Greeters	Ellen Oinen Don Oinen	Jack Black Lucille Frisicano	Jean Van Apeldoorn Anne Hauber
Lectors	Linda Pratt	Josephine Cozzo	Gina & Larry McNamara
Linens	Mary Fitch (No specific time for pick up)		
Sacristans	Sue Dettman	DA Hutnick	Laure Barr
Stream Team	Rod Campbell	Jerry Healey	Chris Yuskiw
Ushers	Sue Dettman Alice Bower	Dan Milner Don Black	Charlie & Nancy Carson Fred Compertore

Bishop Matano Presents:

Woman: A Gift of God

A Women's Morning to Give Thanks, bring Hope, & Celebrate Faith



Thursday, October 18

8:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

**Where: Parish of the Holy Family
(4100 Lyell Rd. Gates, NY)**

Join the Diocese of Rochester for a morning of prayer and reflection with Professor Lisa Lickona, STL! The day will begin with Mass with Bishop Matano, followed by reflection, prayer, fellowship and lunch. Women 18+ are invited to attend.

To learn more and register via QR code or online at stbernards.regfox.com/dor-womens-morning-oct-2025



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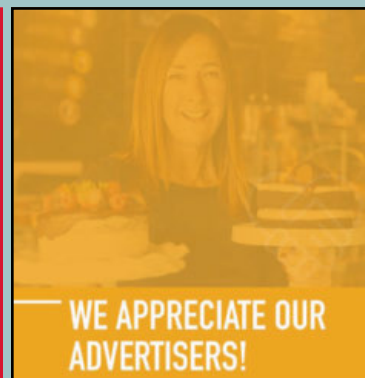
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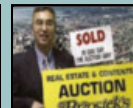
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