

December 14th, 2023



Third Sunday of Advent

Christmas 2023

Mass Schedule

Reconciliation Monday

Monday, December 18th

Confessions Heard From 2 PM - 4 PM, 6 PM - 8 PM

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Saturday, December 23rd

5:00 PM Vigil Mass*

Sunday, December 24th

8:00 AM, 10:00 AM Masses*

12:30 PM Mass (Español)

Christmas Masses

Sunday, December 24th

5:00 PM Vigil Mass*

11:00 PM Christmas Concert*

12:00 AM Midnight Mass*

Monday, December 25th

10:00 AM Mass*

12:30 PM Mass (Español)*

Feast of the Holy Family

Saturday, December 30th

5:00 PM Vigil Mass*

Sunday, December 31st

8:00 AM Mass

10:00 AM Mass*

12:30 PM Mass (Español)*

Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God

Sunday, December 31st

5:00 PM Mass*

6:30 PM NY Festival Singers Concert

Monday, January 1st

10:00 AM Mass

* Livestreamed to www.stpaultheapostle.org



The Pastor's Column

REJOICE!

This weekend is the Third Sunday of Advent, known as Gaudete Sunday. Gaudete means rejoice in Latin. In earlier centuries, this weekend offered a reprieve from the Lent-like Advent disciplines; today it still encourages us to smile as we light the third candle of our wreath and delight in seeing the celebrant dressed in pink! Some priests get too self-conscious about wearing rose vestments. At St. Paul's, we lean into it.

I hope you are feeling more joy filled as the feast of Christmas approaches. Expressing joy has a venerable place in Christian worship. St. Thomas Aquinas, who is usually depicted as dour, spoke in its favor. For the theologian, joy constituted an outward sign of faith, evidence of a soul's charitable disposition and love for God. Holy cheer was a virtue, he wrote, one to be cultivated as an "operative habit," even a Christian duty.

Aquinas would have given us an A++ for fulfilling this duty had he attended last week's Christmas concert: *Christmas Time in the City*. This wonderfully conceived and executed program by our Music Director Joey Chancey hit all the right notes thanks to a creative blend of traditional and secular Christmas music and so many talented voices and musicians from Broadway and our parish. This may be the first major event at St. Paul's that everyone in attendance floated home on a wave of joy and gladness. To my amazement, there wasn't one person who stopped to point out a flaw. Those who had never been in our Church before were quite taken by the experience. Many indicated they would be back! This might be the first of Fr. Hecker's miracles on the way to Sainthood as we fulfilled his vision of the Paulists and the Parish: to bring the best of the Church to America, and the best of America to the Church. It was a wonderful moment to thank God for the gift of our parish.

Again, Congratulations Joey, the Choir, and all on the Staff who made this happen. If you missed it, not to worry! The Christmas Eve Concert and Midnight Mass are coming up very soon. No tickets required either in person or on Virtch Church!

With Christmas Eve falling on a Sunday evening, some might ask if this means that attending one Sunday Mass will take care of one's obligation for the Fourth Sunday of Advent and for Christmas. The Good News is the answer is NO. You have the wonderful obligation to celebrate two feasts over three days to fully savor the joy of the Fourth Sunday of Advent in which we hear the angel Gabriel announce to Mary she will bear a child and Christmas when we celebrate with great awe and splendor the birth of our Savior! We will be celebrating the Fourth Sunday of Advent Saturday evening and Sunday Morning; and then celebrate the Feast of Christmas Sunday evening and Monday Morning. We are called to do both. I know it will feel like the Baby Jesus is coming too early, but that happens sometimes. Enjoy the great abundance of grace-- one of the few things in life in which you can never overindulge!

AND know how happy we Paulists will be to wish you a MERRY CHRISTMAS not once, but twice!

God Bless,

Fr. Eric



Reverend Eric Andrews, CSP
Pastor, St. Paul the Apostle

P.S.: A note about our Christmas Schedule.

So that we might balance pastoral care with prudent use of resources, I have made some adjustments in this year's Christmas schedule. **The Saturday 9am Mass on December 23rd will be cancelled as the choir and musicians need as much time as possible to rehearse for Christmas Masses that morning.**

Also note that there are only two Christmas morning Masses: one in English and one in Spanish. Given that many of the Paulists will be concelebrating the Midnight Mass and Christmas Day Masses are lightly attended, this feels like the right balance.

Finally, there will be NO Daily Masses on December 26th. While I realize this may be a hardship for those who love worshipping at daily Mass, I ask you to consider offering the Paulists and the Staff a gift of a day off to rest and to enjoy the holiday with family, community, and friends after a very packed weekend.

This Week in Advent



WEDNESDAY: Notre Dame Christmas Concert

Come see the Notre Dame Glee Club and Symphony Orchestra as the two ensembles join together for a program of holiday favorites! They will perform right here at St. Paul's on **Wednesday, December 20th at 7:30PM.**

[Register to get your tickets now by clicking here](#)



LAST CHANCE TO DONATE: Giving Tree 2023

For many years now, the Church of St. Paul the Apostle has remembered those in need at Christmas through the Giving Tree. This year, the gifts will go to foster care children and teens at Abbott House, Catholic Guardian Services, and seniors at Encore Seniors.

Giving is easy! You can donate online via our charity registries, or visit our tree in the back of the church at the end of the month to grab a gift tag. Make sure to order from the online registry **OR drop off your unwrapped items at the Parish Center by Sunday, December 17th** to ensure your gift arrives by Christmas!

To donate online or learn more about our charities, [visit our Giving Tree website here](#). Thank you for your generosity!

Winter Coat Drive



St. Vincent de Paul Conference of SPA Winter Coat Drive

Please help St. Paul's parishioners and neighbors stay warm this winter! **Over the next week, SVDP will be collecting new winter coats for those in need.**

There are two ways to donate! You can place a new winter coat in the marked box in the back of the church, or you can go to our Amazon "Wish List" and order one - just click the button below!

If you need assistance, SVDP can be reached at: www.svdpspanyc.org. Thank you and God bless you!

Donate a Coat Online



After Mass Holiday Hang

The festivities continue during our after mass holiday hang! We'll meet in the back of the church **after the 5 PM mass on Sunday, December 17th** then step out for some fun and fellowship. Wear layers, as we are planning to walk over to Rockefeller Center together to see the tree!

Virtual Bible Study

Join us from wherever you are this Advent on **Monday, December 18th at 6 PM for virtual Bible Study!** Expect lively discussions and thoughtful reflections on this season's Gospel readings. Please [RSVP here](#); we will send a link to participants on Monday before the session begins. Even if you were not able to join us for our first session, we would love to see you over Zoom for part 2!

Advent Announcements



"The mouth of the just tells of wisdom
and his tongue utters what is right.
The law of his God is in his heart,
and his steps do not falter."

Psalm 37: 30-31

December 14

St. Paul's Advent Calendar

For this year's Virtual Advent Calendar, we'll be posting a brief excerpt from the day's readings every day to help us anticipate the joy of the Christmas season and everything that it brings.

In lieu of chocolate, every day's post also includes a beautiful photo of the art and architecture in our church (like the one below). You can save it to your phone or desktop - it makes a great phone background or screensaver!

Be sure to check in every day for our latest calendar post, or go to our website to see everything we've put on the calendar so far:
<https://stpaultheapostle.org/advent-calendar/>



Poinsettia Donation

Help us brighten up the church and beautify our sanctuary during Christmas with a basket of poinsettias!

Donations can be made with the intention of your choice - these intentions will be acknowledged in our eBlast newsletter and on our social media.

[Donate Here](#)



Make a Gift to St. Paul's

Your support is the primary way that we can continue to serve the people of St. Paul's - **we've put some information below about how you can give back if you are able to.** Please remember that you can have your donations go directly to the ministry of your choice!

To donate online go to stpaultheapostle.org and click on "Make a Donation" in the top right corner. Please remember that you can have your donations go directly to the ministry of your choice!

Or with the Faith Direct Text-TO-GIVE platform, you can text a donation to make a quick gift to help support The Church of St. Paul the Apostle.

Just text **NY539** to the number **(646) 859-1860** to enroll.



You can also find us on Venmo. Just scan the QR code above, or search for [@stpaulsnyc](https://www.venmo.com/@stpaulsnyc) to donate now!

Parish Spotlight



Photos: Grace Copeland

The house was packed for last Thursday's spectacular *Christmas Time in the City* concert. Thanks to everyone that lent their time, efforts, and talents to make such a beautiful production come to life. Congrats to Joey Chancey and our Music Department for an evening that we won't forget!





On Tuesday, we had a fantastic, festive celebration of the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe. Thanks to all who prayed with us!





We hope our participants in last weekend's Apostolist Mini-Retreat had a fruitful day reflecting on God's works and the promise of Advent!



The cover of the Christmas 2023 issue of 'the Voice' newsletter. The top section is dark blue with the text 'Christmas 2023' and 'the Voice' in white. Below this, it says 'News from The Paulist Fathers Office of Mission Advancement'. The central image is a circular stained-glass window with a yellow star at the top, a white lighthouse beam in the center, and a cityscape at the bottom. The Latin text 'PARVULVS NATVS' is visible in the window. At the bottom of the cover, a quote reads: 'The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; upon those who dwelt in the land of gloom a light has shone.' (Isaiah 9: 1). A red banner at the bottom right contains the website address 'paulist.org/Voice' in white text.

Online now
and
coming
soon
to your
mailbox!

The Christmas 2023 edition of *The Voice* is out now! In this issue, the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops votes to affirm the advancement of the Cause for Beatification and Canonization of our founder, Servant of God Isaac Hecker. There are also some holiday greetings from Paulists around the nation!

Your co

[Click Here to Read](#)



A Year to Treasure 2024 Calendar

Now that it's Advent, we're officially allowed to share a suggestion for this year's Christmas gifts! Fr. Eric's 2024 Calendar is available for purchase now in the Welcome Center Bookstore, and [online at our St. Paul's Bookstore website](#).

Each page features gorgeous idyllic pictures taken by our pastor during his walks around the city (and beyond) that are sure to spark joy in your day. The calendar makes a great gift to your loved ones - and to yourself - plus all of the proceeds from sales directly help to support our parish.

[Click here to order your copy!](#)



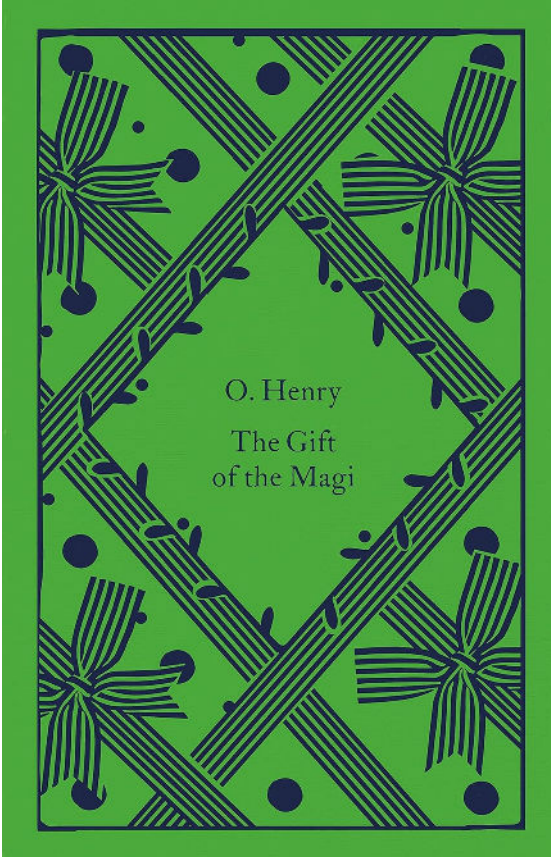
Upcoming Events

Christmas Eve Prelude

DECEMBER 24, 2023 | 11:00 PM

The St. Paul's Choir Christmas Eve Prelude
Saturday, December 24th at 11PM
Free Admission

Hear your favorite Christmas carols, traditional melodies with exciting arrangements, and beautiful new compositions before celebrating Midnight Mass. All are welcome to attend! We will live-stream the concert for those who aren't able to join us.

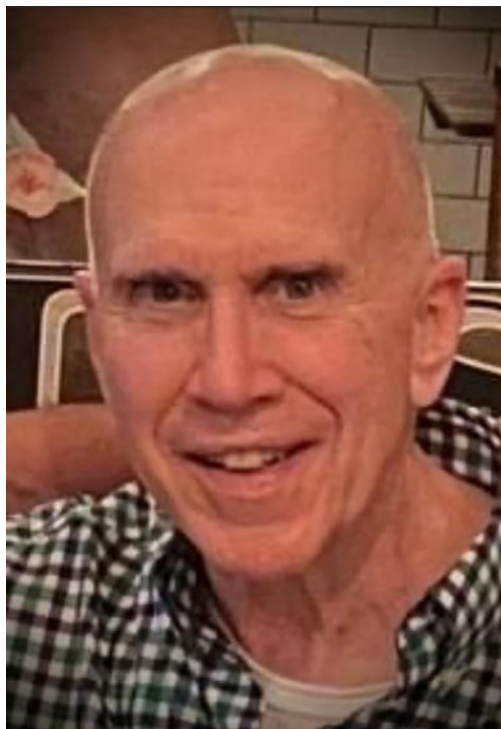


St. Paul's Book Club

Join us via Zoom on
Monday, January 8th
at 6:30PM
for our discussion of
The Gift of the Magi
by O. Henry

Please RSVP to
welcomecenter@stpaultheapostle.org to
receive our meeting link!

O. Henry is one of the most popular American writers of the twentieth century and a true master of the short story. This selection of tales ranges from Christmas in New York to the cattle-lands of Texas, taking in con men, clerks, shop assistants, tramps and tricksters. They all highlight O. Henry's comic eye, his gift for evoking speech and setting, and his unique approach to life's quirks of fate.



On Friday, January 12th at 7PM, please join in the Celebration of the Life of Steven Harris, a former Paulist Father who died on November 2nd.



Prayer Requests

Grant eternal rest to Reginald & Torrance Jean Black, Christine Resman, Geraldine Gillen, Anna Loiacono, Igor Mencos, Luis Raul Ortiz, Sylvia Popkin, Nelly Gomez, James & Peggy John, Walter J. Yarrosh, Angelina Smith Gray, and Mario Viernes Locquiano.

Grant health or healing to Josephine Andrews, Andrew R. Moynihan, Eileen Kent, Evangelina Villaraza, Grace Pettijohn, Archdeacon Fr. Michael Suvak, Archimandrite Fr. Christopher Calin, Fr. Nicholas Garklavs, Bishop Nikodhim Preston, Teddy Suvak, Tripp Jones, Anne Troy, Ashley Oken, Isaac Morales, Alex Nelson, Alexandra Evans, Ariela G., Sara Lissa Paulsson, Vanessa Belsito, Seamus Miller, Maureen Moriarty, Rev. Ronald Yarrosh, Samuel Perrins, Donnie Strickland, Daniel L. Rodriguez, Ricardo Cameron, Paolo Struff, Christopher Henderson, and Stephanie Boccuzzi.

Grant peace and well-being to Elise Wilkins, Hilda Ojeda, Damianus Aditya Christie, James Golka, Andrew R. Moynihan, Mary & James Miller, Mary Neven Marsh, Freda Q. Malanyaon, Genevieve Brockway Kuhar, the Wilkins family, and the Gorelick family.

Have someone you would like our parish to pray for? You can submit prayer requests through our online form below. The names in your intentions will be shared with the parish here and will remain in our virtual newsletter one month after submission.

Click the button below to fill out our prayer request form:

Submit Your Prayer
Requests

Mass Intentions

Friday, December 15th

7:30AM † Dorothy Box
12:10PM † Laura Catherine Davidson
Fowell

Saturday, December 16th

9:00AM † Pascal Hyppolite
5:00PM † Maria Deila Cruz

Sunday, December 17th

8:00AM - For the People
10:00AM † Angelina Meola
12:30PM † Para todos los difuntos
5:00PM † Joan Martin

Monday, December 18th

7:30AM † Alexander Wiczorek
12:10 PM † Donald Kelly

Tuesday, December 19th

7:30AM † Paul McDonough, Jr.
12:10PM † Beverly D'Angelo

Wednesday, December 20th

7:30AM † Maria Diaz Rodriguez
12:10PM † Mary Margaret Thomas

Thursday, December 21st

7:30AM † Gerda Joseph
12:10PM - Jimmy Hughes

Parish Information



Church Hours

Monday-Tuesday, Thursday - Friday

7:00 AM - 5:00 PM

Wednesday

7:00 AM - 7:00 PM

Saturday

9:00 AM - 6:30 PM

Sunday

7:00 AM - 6:30 PM

Mass Schedule

Monday - Friday

7:30 AM and 12:10 PM

Saturday

9:00AM and 5:00 PM

Sunday

8:00 AM - Mass Without Music

10:00 AM - Mass With St. Paul's Choir
12:30 PM - Misa con Coro en Español
5:00 PM - Mass With Inspirit Ensemble



Donate flowers for weekend masses and special occasions to beautify our sanctuary!

Make a gift in honor of or in memory of a loved one. Their name - and even yours, if desired - will be acknowledged on our weekly newsletter and social media. Our parish staff will order the arrangements on your behalf in order to coordinate with the liturgical season's colors.

This week's altar flowers are donated in loving memory of Paul McDonough Jr.

[Click Here to Learn More](#)

Virtch Church
ONLINE MINISTRY



Happy Fall!

Given that it's prime apple-picking season, we know you might not always be around to celebrate with us. Stay connected to the parish you love and take St. Paul's with you wherever you go through Virtch Church!

Whether you're home sick, enjoying a long weekend, or just need a spiritual vacation in the middle of the workday, you can always pray with us on Virtch Church.

Join us Monday-Friday at 12:10PM, or on Sunday at 10:00AM and 5:00PM. Our masses are live-streamed to our [website](#), our [YouTube page](#), and our [Facebook page](#). In addition to these platforms, [check out our Instagram](#) to never miss what's happening at St. Paul's!



Our services, along with the readings and hymns for the day, can be found on our [SPA app](#) - you can download it by scanning the relevant QR code above! Our app also has an online "copy" you can access through your phone's browser in case you have difficult accessing it. Find it at <https://stpaulny.web4uapps.com>.

The Church of Saint Paul the Apostle | 405 West 59 Street, New York, NY 10019

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