

December 21st, 2023



Fourth Sunday in Advent/The Nativity of Our Lord

Christmas 2023 Mass Schedule

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

CHRISTMAS FAQ

Do any of the upcoming masses or concerts at St. Paul's require tickets or registration?

There will be no tickets or registration required for any Christmas masses or concerts - we are open to the public and all are welcome to attend! While there will be additional seating available in the back of the church at our Christmas masses, space in the pews may fill up quickly. Make sure to stop by a few minutes early to make sure you've got a spot!

Will any of the Christmas masses or concerts be live-streamed?

Yes! All starred (*) masses on the schedule above will be live-streamed to our [website](#), our [YouTube page](#), and our [Facebook page](#). For a quick summary, this includes our 5PM and 12AM masses on Christmas Eve, our 11PM Christmas Eve prelude concert, and our 10AM and 12:30PM masses on Christmas Day.

Since the Fourth Sunday of Advent falls on Christmas Eve, does evening mass fulfill both feast day obligations?

In a word: 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. Enjoy the great abundance of grace - one of the few things in life in which you can never overindulge!

The Pastor's Column



Grateful Pastor at Christmas

As we light the fourth candle of the Advent wreath and the forest of Christmas trees in the sanctuary surrounding them... I just want to share how grateful I am to our parish for the massive outpouring of care and concern for those in need around us through the various Advent initiatives here at St. Paul's. The response to the Giving Tree, the New Coat Drive, the needs of our Food Pantry, and St. Vincent de Society, have been epic. Thank heavens the Giving Tree donations got picked up and delivered to grateful recipients, I couldn't get to my mailbox in the mail room! Blessings to you all.

You have helped address a need that has never been greater. We are now feeding over 300 families a month through our pantry. We can meet this demand through your donations and by new partnerships with local schools and organizations. It's great to see the local community come together to meet the needs of our neighbors.

As we are mindful of others, we need to attend to the needs of the parish itself. Operational costs including electricity and heating continue to escalate; we are blessed with one of the largest groups of people seeking to join the Church this Easter; we are serving more children and youth in our Sunday School program; our incredible programs, including music, OSP, and Apostolist seek to grow; and many initiatives to bring people together in the new year need funding.

As much as we rely on God's Word and the Body of Christ to sustain us spiritually, we also need cash to pay the bills and do the mission to spread God's love. There is a connection, in that, when we truly feel God's presence in the community of the faithful, we are called to give thanks and give back for all the good received. So, as you are thinking about any year end gifts, please consider a special gift to St. Paul's so that we may meet the spiritual needs of all in 2024.

A final thought. We received a surprise gift from Pope Francis on Monday with the pronouncement allowing blessings for same sex couples. I'll opine further on this when the 12 Days of Christmas are completed. Let me just say for now, that our parish has been richly blessed by our LGBTQ siblings for as long as I can remember. I am grateful for the ministry of Out at St. Paul's whose persistence in asking for a place at the table has been seen and heard. Any blessing given here at St Paul's would include an expression of thanksgiving to God for the faith, witness, and perseverance of those who stand before me.

Merry Christmas & may the New Year bring you every good gift on earth and heaven!

In Gratitude,

Fr. Eric



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

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.

In a turnabout that only Charles Dickens would appreciate, there will be a 10AM Mass, on the Feast of Stephen, Tuesday, December 26th. The church will be open all day from 9AM - 5PM. God bless us, everyone!

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.



"Our soul waits for the LORD,
who is our help and our shield,
For in him our hearts rejoice;
in his holy name we trust."

Ps 33: 20-21

December 21

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://stpaulthepostle.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](#)

Poinsettias have been generously donated for the following intentions:

Zoila Hernandez and Conchita Espinoza

Mary, John, and George Onacilla

Arthur Schreiber

Gladys Salazar

Walter J. and Mary C. McGuire

Joseph and Evelyn Benoit

Frank and Agnes Molensek. Jr

Kyle J. Mulrooney

Ed Pon



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



Overwhelming Generosity: Giving Tree, Coat Drive, and More

We want to thank parishioners for the tremendous response we have had to this year's charity drives!

- Our Giving Tree drive for the benefit of Abbot House, Catholic Charities, and Encore Seniors was a great success thanks to your generosity; more than 650 Christmas gifts were donated to children, teens, and seniors in need!
- The Winter Coat Drive run by our parish's chapter of the St. Vincent de Paul Society collected dozens upon dozens of coats for the needy - enough to fill up the donation box four times!
- Our Loaves & Fishes food pantry served more than 300 families this month thanks to your financial support.

Finally, we have to thank the many parishioners that have volunteered and given their time to organizing these donations, helping with distribution, preparing the church for Christmas, and much more.

Thank you again for your generosity and your prayers! We look forward to celebrating this holy season with you all this weekend.



It has been a festive (and musical!) week at St. Paul's! Yesterday evening, the Notre Dame Glee Club and Symphony Orchestra performed a wonderful program of holiday favorites to a packed church!



The Collegiate School (pictured below) also held their annual Christmas celebration at St. Paul's. We hope members of both schools have a restful and fruitful Christmas holiday!





Fr. Evan Cummings, CSP was just interviewed by Paulist associate Michael Hayes for his "Five Questions" series; check out the interview with our associate pastor above!

The cover of 'the Voice' magazine, Christmas 2023 issue. It features a stained-glass style illustration of a star and a path leading to a city. The text on the cover includes 'the Voice', 'News from The Paulist Fathers Office of Mission Advancement', and a quote from Isaiah 9:1. A red banner at the bottom contains the website 'paulist.org/Voice'.

Christmas 2023

the Voice

News from The Paulist Fathers Office of Mission Advancement

"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)

paulist.org/Voice

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!

[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!](#)



A Chamber Choir on New Year's Eve

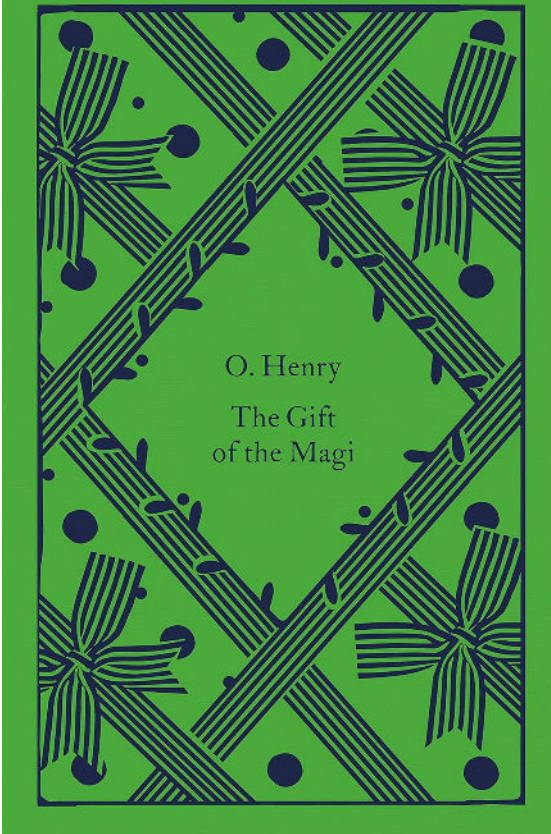
Kick off your New Year's Eve celebrations at 6:30PM on Sunday, December 31st with the New York Festival Singers for a charming chamber concert! Featuring many of your favorite classical choral works. A freewill donation is encouraged for admission.

St. Paul's Book Club

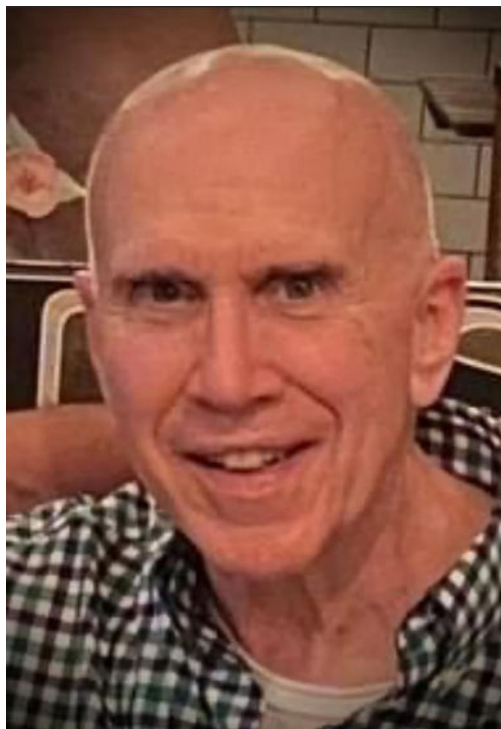
Join us via Zoom on
Monday, January 8th
at 6:30PM
for our discussion of

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.

Steven was Associate Pastor here in the 1990s. A Memorial Service - to honor this remarkable man who gave so much to so many - will be held at St Paul's.

In lieu of any flowers, his family asks that we please consider a donation in Steven's name to [Broadway Cares/Equity Fights AIDS](#).

Holy Humor



Prayer Requests



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, Mario Viernes Locquiano, and Rosana Niemeyer.

Grant health or healing to 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, Stephanie Boccuzzi, Eileen Schreiber Anders Valeur, Carmine Poppiti, Keon Whyte, Susan O'Dell, Sandra Guillen, Carmen Reyes

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 22nd

7:30AM † Alain Sylvian
12:10PM † Carmen Welsh

Saturday, December 23rd

5:00PM † Maria Deila Cruz

Sunday, December 24th

8:00AM - Jean
10:00AM † Celida Medina
12:30PM † Carmencita Gutierrez
5:00PM † Raymond Lussa

Monday, December 25th

12:00 AM - For the People
10:00AM † Anna Maria LePiane
12:30 PM - For the People

Tuesday, December 26th

No Masses

Wednesday, December 27th

7:30AM † Esther Loanzon
12:10PM † Dr. Gabriel Amalanathan

Thursday, December 28th

7:30AM † Grace Ceragno
12:10PM † Esther Loanzon

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 Rosa & Fued Maluf.

[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>.



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