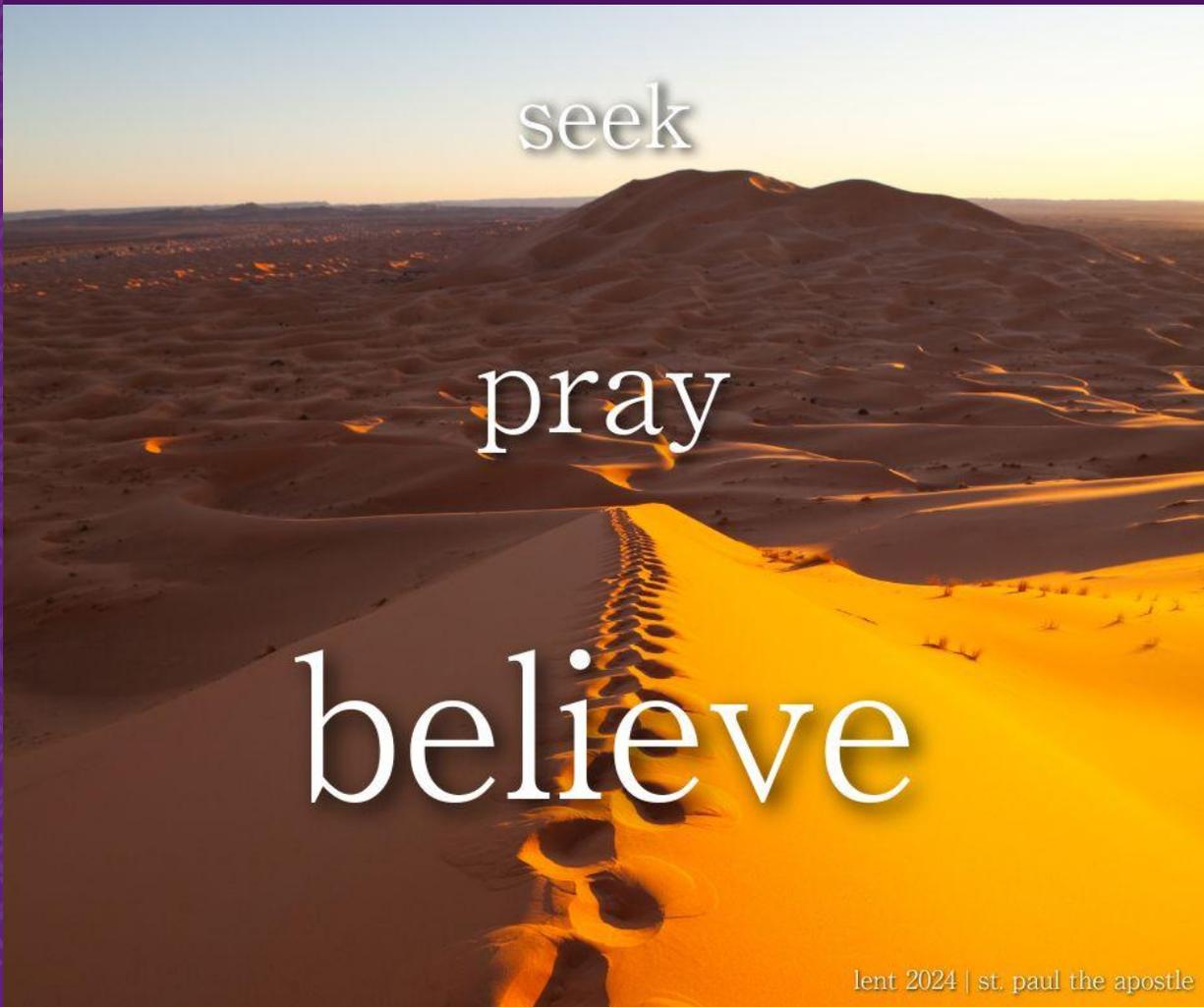


February 15th, 2024



First Sunday of Lent



lent 2024 | st. paul the apostle

### Lenten Message from the Top!

Lenten Greetings and Happy Holiday Weekend! As we as a parish embark on our journey through the desert to the promised land this holy season, let us take a moment to read, reflect and be encouraged by these excerpts from Pope Francis' 2024 Lenten message to us all. I hope his words inspire your Lenten observances as it has mine.

Along those lines, consider joining us for our Lenten Mini-Retreat on Saturday, February 24th! You can [sign up for free on our website](#).

Blessings,

Fr. Eric



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



**Message from the Holy Father for Lent**  
*Through the Desert God Leads us to Freedom*

Dear Brothers and Sisters!

When our God reveals himself, his message is always one of freedom: “I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery” (Ex 20:2). The call to freedom is a demanding one. It is not answered straightaway; it has to mature as part of a journey. Just as Israel in the desert still clung to Egypt – often longing for the past and grumbling against the Lord and Moses – today too, God’s people can cling to an oppressive bondage that it is called to leave behind. We realize how true this is at those moments when we feel hopeless, wandering through life like a desert and lacking a promised land as our destination. Lent is the season of grace in which the desert can become once more – in the words of the prophet Hosea – the place of our first love (cf. Hos 2:16-17). God shapes his people, he enables us to leave our slavery behind and experience a Passover from death to life.

Like a bridegroom, the Lord draws us once more to himself, whispering words of love to our hearts.

It is time to act, and in Lent, to act also means to pause. To pause in prayer, in order to receive the word of God, to pause like the Samaritan in the presence of a wounded brother or sister. Love of God and love of neighbor are one love. Not to have other gods is to pause in the presence of God beside the flesh of our neighbor. For this reason, prayer, almsgiving and fasting are not three unrelated acts, but a single movement of openness and self-emptying, in which we cast out the idols that weigh us down, the attachments that imprison us. Then the atrophied and isolated heart will revive. Slow down, then, and pause! The contemplative dimension of life that Lent helps us to rediscover will release new energies. In the presence of God, we become brothers and sisters, more sensitive to one another: in place of threats and enemies, we discover companions and fellow travelers. This is God's dream, the promised land to which we journey once we have left our slavery behind.

To the extent that this Lent becomes a time of conversion, an anxious humanity will notice a burst of creativity, a flash of new hope. Allow me to repeat what I told the young people whom I met in Lisbon last summer: "Keep seeking and be ready to take risks. At this moment in time, we face enormous risks; we hear the painful plea of so many people. Indeed, we are experiencing a third world war fought piecemeal. Yet let us find the courage to see our world, not as being in its death throes but in a process of giving birth, not at the end but at the beginning of a great new chapter of history. We need courage to think like this" (Address to University Students, 3 August 2023). Such is the courage of conversion, born of coming up from slavery. For faith and charity take hope, this small child, by the hand. They teach her to walk, and at the same time, she leads them forward.

I bless all of you and your Lenten journey.

POPE FRANCIS

[Read the Full Text  
Here](#)

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## THIS MONDAY: One Mass at 10AM

In observance of the Presidents Day holiday on Monday, February 19th, the church and Parish Center will be closed! This is with the exception of one mass, held at 10:00 AM. Please enter the church through the handicap elevator located in the South Tower on Columbus Ave. To those of you with the day off, we wish you fruitful relaxation.

## Event Spotlight



## Navigating the Desert of Lent Together

Our parish mini-retreat, *Oasis*, will take place on Saturday, February 24th from 9:00 AM - 12:30 PM. Our first parish retreat in several years, *Oasis* brings our community together to journey through the most important aspects of the Lenten season. Bring the lessons and prayers from our presentations and group discussions with you on your forty-day trip through the desert of our souls.

Participation in the retreat is open to all, and it will be administered in both English and Spanish. [Sign up for free online by filling out this form](#), or sign up in-person at our Welcome Center.



# SANT'EGIDIO

## WEDNESDAY AT 6:30PM: Sant'Egidio talks Homelessness

Come to St. Paul's to listen to a short talk by the [Community of Sant'Egidio](#) immediately following mass on Wednesday, February 21st at 6:30 PM.

During the talk, the President of Sant'Egidio NY, Paola Piscitelli, and Lorenzo Sironi will discuss the crisis of homelessness in New York City, how their organization responds to the needs of our neighbors, and what you can do this Lent to help.

Sant'Egidio has a 50-year history of lending assistance to a whole spectrum of needy persons, including the homeless, immigrants, at-risk children, and prisoners. In New York, they perform extensive outreach to homeless in the subway system and offer assistance at their "House of Solidarity" by providing hygienic care, documentation, job help, and child care.

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## MARCH 6: Finding My Place, Finding My Happiness

Join us as we welcome Arthur C. Brooks, Harvard Professor and Author of the #1 New York Times bestseller *Build the Life You Want: The Art and Science of Getting Happier* - co-authored with Oprah Winfrey.

Dr. Brooks will join us on Wednesday, March 6 at 7:30pm following our weekly

evening mass. Check back here next week for further details and ticket information!

## Scenes from the Week



Last Saturday, Notre Dame Folk Choir alumni joined the St. Paul's Choir for an evening of alleluias to finish out Ordinary Time.



Thanks to parishioners and music lovers from around the city who helped pack the house; congratulations to Steven Warner, Karen Schneider-Kirner, and our Music Director Joey Chancey for putting on a beautiful concert! [You can watch the full playback by clicking here.](#)



We had around 100 parishioners stop by our Mardi Gras celebration on Tuesday! A special thanks to everyone who helped decorate and serve food, and to Fr. Evan for cooking up some delicious pancakes!



Finally, we entered the sacred season of Lent through our Ash Wednesday services yesterday.



How to Do Lent at St. Paul's



## Journey - Encounter - Reflect

This Lent, journey with us to encounter the mercy of God, reflect on our blessings, and help each other carry our burdens.

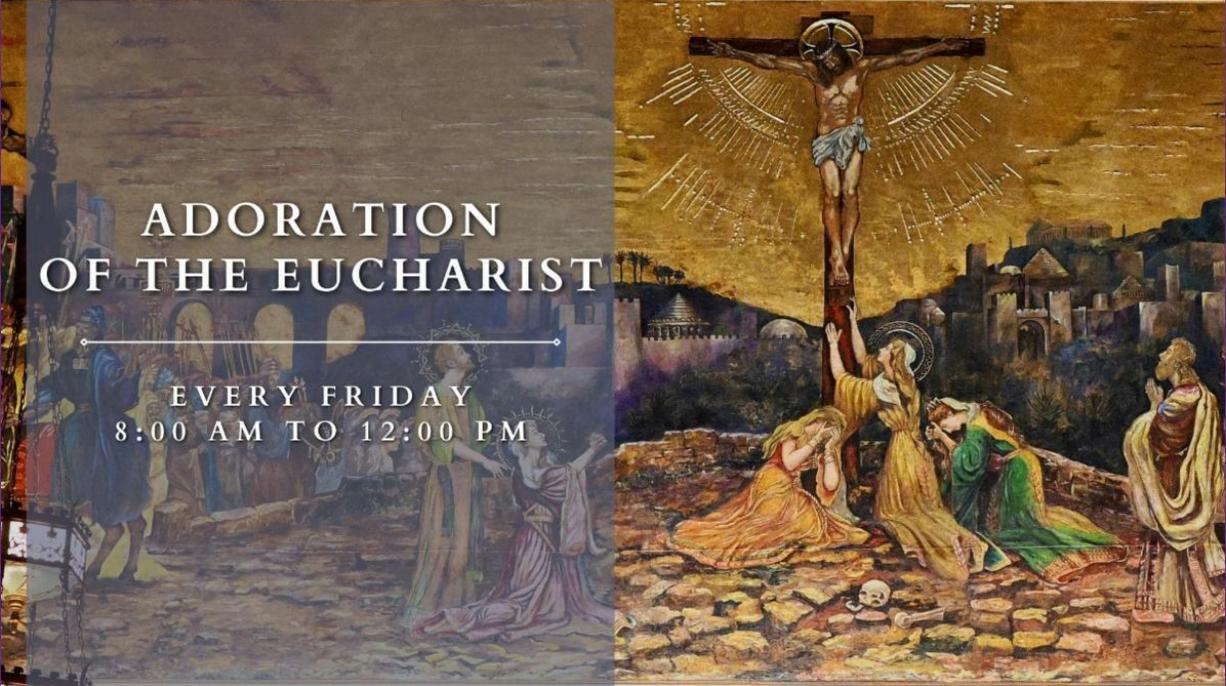
Christ endured the harsh sands of temptation through His total reliance on the love of God; we too are not alone in our forty day journey of prayer. We are journeying with the seeker, the poor, friends and stewards of creation, those who need a place, and those who long for peace.

## Weekly Devotions



## More Ways to Pray

Every Wednesday night in Lent, we will hold an additional mass at 6:30 PM. There is no better way to keep the spirit of Lent in your heart! Come by after work for a mid-week celebration of holiness and sanctity. Each mass will be followed by a brief talk



## ADORATION OF THE EUCHARIST

EVERY FRIDAY  
8:00 AM TO 12:00 PM

### Spend Time with the Lord this Lent

Deepen your faith in Jesus's astounding gift of His Real Presence - body, blood, soul, and divinity - during Adoration of the Eucharist, held every Friday from 8:00 AM to 12:00 PM.

### STATIONS OF THE CROSS

### MINISTRY-SPONSORED STATIONS AT 6:30PM



EVERY FRIDAY IN LENT  
FEBRUARY 16TH — MARCH 22ND

12:40 PM | 6:30 PM  
7:30 PM (EN ESPAÑOL)

FEBRUARY 16TH: OCIA

FEBRUARY 23RD: ST. VINCENT DE PAUL

MARCH 1ST: LAUDATO SI

MARCH 8TH: OSP

MARCH 15TH: APOSTOLIST

MARCH 23RD: LIVING STATIONS

### Walk in the Footsteps of Christ

Stations of the Cross are held every Friday after 12:10 PM mass, at 6:30 PM, and at 7:30 PM (en Español).

To better journey with every facet of our parish community, our 6:30 PM Stations of the Cross will be led each week by a different St. Paul's ministry. They will offer a unique set of reflections relating to their mission during the devotion. These 6:30 PM Stations will be live-streamed to allow everyone access to participate, or use the playbacks as part of a weekly devotion.



Members of Saint Paul's parish are eager to invite you to participate in our start-up efforts to become [an official Laudato Si International Parish](#). Currently there are over 1,100 Laudato Si parishes worldwide, dedicated to reverencing, respecting and nurturing our planet as God commanded us to do.

**We would like to begin this journey by offering you to take on a PLEDGE to SAY NO TO PLASTICS.** We hope you will join us in participating in educational and action-oriented opportunities starting this Lent. Want to learn more? [Sign up here to receive information on our group.](#)



Part of the journey of Lent involves living as Jesus did during the forty days in the desert. **Every year, we like to remind parishioners of the designated days of fasting and abstinence.**

Ash Wednesday and Good Friday are obligatory days of fasting and abstinence for Catholics aged 18-59. Fasting is defined as taking one full meal during the day, and two smaller meals to maintain physical strength. Those small meals should not equal a full meal in quantity. Abstinence forbids the eating of meat and poultry; this is compulsory on Fridays in Lent.



**Much like our time and our mental energy is precious to us, material gifts are a form of sacrifice that can make a big impact.** Any donations you are able to make during Lent help us tremendously to continue our ministries, support our priests, and maintain our building.

To donate online, go to [www.stpaultheapostle.org](http://www.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.

**We look forward to growing in faith with you all during this forty-day Lenten journey!**

## Upcoming Events



**Lenten Reflections Small Group**

Sunday, February 18 - 3:30 PM-5:00 PM  
@ Parish Center

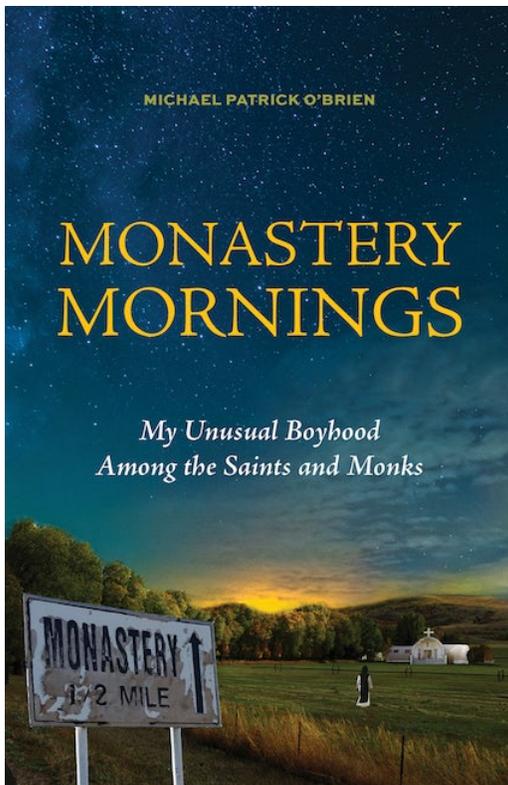
We are excited to offer weekly audio reflections and small group faith-sharing discussions during the season of Lent. The sessions will be on Sundays at the Parish Center at 3:30 pm. You're invited to join us for weekly, small group gatherings during this season of fasting, prayer, giving and contemplation. Conversation questions will also be provided for our group.

Following our discussion, there will be the opportunity to attend the 5 pm Mass together. Future sessions will be held on February 25, March 3, March 10, and March 17. Even if you are not able to join us on February 18, we would love to see you at any or all of these later dates.

### **Apostolist Homebase**

Wednesday, February 28 - 6:30PM @ Parish Center

Meet us at the Parish Center for our regular Apostolist gathering, held on the second and fourth Wednesday of the month. On February 28th, our event will center around *Rosary 101!*



### **St. Paul's Book Club**

Join us via Zoom on  
**Tuesday, February 20th**  
**at 6:30PM**  
for our discussion of  
*Monastery Mornings*  
by Michael Patrick O'Brien

Please RSVP to  
[welcomecenter@stpaultheapostle.org](mailto:welcomecenter@stpaultheapostle.org) to  
receive our meeting link!

# Visiting Voices

**March 8th**

Hilltop Band and Choir at 1 PM  
Sycamore HS Orchestra at 3 PM

**March 11th**

Austin HS Orchestra at 10 AM

**March 15th**

Lee County HS Orchestra at 4 PM

**March 18th**

Salem HS Choir and Orchestra at 2 PM

**April 6th**

Sylvania Southwest HS Choir and  
Orchestra at 10 AM



## *Visiting Voices* in Lent

St. Paul's often hosts groups of young musicians who are on tour around the country and offer free concerts to the public in our church. Join them for a wonderful break in any day!

Our upcoming groups of *Visiting Voices*, the Hilltop Band & Choir, and the Sycamore High School Orchestra, will perform on Friday, March 8th at 1PM and 3PM respectively.



## Give to the 2024 Cardinal's Appeal

The mission of the Archdiocese of New York is to live and proclaim the Gospel

of Jesus Christ, aware of the local area and the world, the spiritual and the material, the present and the future. The archdiocese serves 2.5 million Catholics across the New York City boroughs of Manhattan, Staten Island, and the Bronx, as well as in the counties of Dutchess, Orange, Sullivan, Westchester, Ulster, Rockland, and Putnam.

The Cardinal's Annual Stewardship Appeal, a critical component of the archdiocesan mission, raises funds to sustain the various ministries, institutions, and outreach programs that serve thousands of individuals and families throughout New York. [Learn more or donate at their website here](#)

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The Living Stations of the Cross, held on Friday, March 22nd at 6:30 PM, presents real people - St. Paul's parishioners - in tableaux expressing the essential action and emotions of Jesus and those around Him as He made His way to the cross. This experience is moving for performers and spectators alike.

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## *Holy Week Mass Schedule*

### PALM SUNDAY

SATURDAY, MARCH 23RD  
5:00PM\* (CHOIR)

SUNDAY, MARCH 24TH  
8:00AM  
10:00AM\* (CHOIR)

12:30PM (ESPAÑOL)  
5:00PM\* (CHOIR)

## RECONCILIATION MONDAY

MONDAY, MARCH 25TH  
CONFESSION | 2PM - 4PM, 6PM - 9PM

## HOLY THURSDAY

THURSDAY, MARCH 28TH  
MASS OF THE LORD'S SUPPER | 7:00PM\*

## GOOD FRIDAY

FRIDAY, MARCH 29TH  
STATIONS OF THE CROSS | 12:00PM\*  
SEVEN LAST WORDS | 1:00PM\*

PASSION OF THE LORD | 3:00PM\*  
SIETE ÚLTIMAS PALABRAS | 5:30PM  
TENEBRAE | 7:00PM\*

## HOLY SATURDAY

SATURDAY, MARCH 30TH  
EASTER VIGIL IN THE HOLY NIGHT | 7:30PM\*

## EASTER SUNDAY

SUNDAY, MARCH 31ST  
8:00AM  
10:00AM\* (CHOIR)  
12:30PM (ESPAÑOL)  
5:00PM\* (CHOIR)

\*LIVESTREAMED AT [WWW.STPAULTHEAPOSTLE.ORG](http://WWW.STPAULTHEAPOSTLE.ORG)

Holy Humor



New York Post 

@nypost



Woman sues McDonald's after burger compelled her to break Lent fast:  
report [trib.al/qAGoYYN](https://trib.al/qAGoYYN)



## Prayer Requests



*Prayer Requests*

Grant eternal rest to Josephine Andrews, Rosana Niemeyer, Ralph J. Elia, Chloe Marie Gervasi, Julie "Jules" Lee, Michael Bloom, Robert Celtus Driscoll, Christopher Battaglia, Rafael Montero, Maria Veronica Trota, Rodrigo Ospina, Adriana Cardona, Felice Bernardi, Santina & Alfred Montana, Tom Moore, Angelina Maddonni, and Divaldo Camara.

Grant health or healing to Eileen Schreiber, Anders Valeur, Carmine Poppiti, Keon Whyte, Susan O'Dell, Sandra Guillen, Carmen Reyes, Christopher Henderson, Andrew R. Moynihan, Violet Leong, Deacon Wally Sandoval, Jim O'Brien, Jacqueline Dinella, Ashley Johnson, Marissa Casimiro, Fernando Sanchez, Jane Dengel, Betty Daly, Tom Moore, Karen Jackson, Daniel Wilson, Liliana Gheresi, Domenico S., Howard Grater, Denise Abady, Margie Fretz, Anna Eakin, Tiffani Nelson, Vanessa Belsito, Karen Potter, Delores Desso, Maureen Moriarty, Stephanie Boccuzzi, and Sean Timothy Tanega.

Grant peace and well-being to Genevieve Brockway Kuhar, Mary Chancey, Zylus Tamali'i, Krys White, Danny Diaz, Francis Lombardi, Jean Remyana Rodriguez, Felix & Anthony Mayusa, Nicholas, Melissa and Hazel Mae Montana-Walkonis, Reggie Whitehead, the Wilkins family, the Gorelick family, the Hicks family, and the Whyte family.

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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, February 16th

7:30AM + Clair McGovern  
12:10PM + Donald Sweeney

### Saturday, February 17th

9:00AM + Josephine Andrews  
5:00PM - For the People

### Sunday, February 18th

8:00AM - Pope Francis  
10:00AM + Josephine & Cliff Andrews  
12:30PM - Almonlt Rochiquez Familia  
5:00PM + Jeffrey Schapira

### Monday, February 19th

10:00AM + Jesus Cubillos

### Tuesday, February 20th

7:30AM - Elizabeth Wieczorek  
12:10PM + Josephine Andrews

### Wednesday, February 21st

7:30AM + Patrick Seiger  
12:10PM - James Gelormino

### Thursday, February 22nd

6:30PM - For the People  
7:30AM + Robert O'Connor & Patrick Bergin  
12:10PM + Joshua Lee Giralde

## 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

### Daily Mass Monday - Friday

7:30 AM and 12:10 PM

### Saturday

9:00AM

### **Sunday Mass**

### Saturday

5:00 PM (Vigil)

### 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

# Virtch Church ONLINE MINISTRY



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>.



## Make a Gift to St. Paul's

As our Lenten season is underway, please consider donating to support the work of our church.

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](http://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.



**venmo**

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

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

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