

February 8th, 2024



Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

The Pastor's Column



Lent is for Lovers!

In a twist of fate that only us celibate religious and priests can appreciate, Lent and Valentine's Day fall on the same date this year, Wednesday February 14th. As some of us in the rectory say, "Welcome to our world!" Father Paul has a better spin on this. He has been saying: "Bring your sweetie to Church for Ashes..." You are all adults, so I trust you will work out how to negotiate these two events. Suggestion: you could come to our fabulous Mardi Gras Party on February 13th. Paulist Chef Evan Cummings is featuring heart shaped pancakes!

On further reflection, one could make a case that Valentine's Day and Lent both celebrate love. All our relationships married, engaged, dating, friendship, and family find their source in the love God has for us all. Lent is that critical

time to deepen our relationship with God and one another through prayer, fasting, and almsgiving. So, instead of the usual, why not consider these Lenten activities that might strengthen the love relationships you do have?

1. Pray Together: Find a time to pray with your partner. Beginners: hold hands and say the Our Father together slowly and meaningfully. Advanced: hold hands and read the Sunday scriptures together. Share how you connect with the readings as a couple.
2. Active Listening: Couples often complain that they are not heard. Perhaps allow each other to speak for a set period (10 minutes at least) without interruption to talk about what's working well in the relationship and what the challenges are.
3. Resolve a conflict: No doubt something will come up during active listening. Work on a challenge in your relationship. Seek to understand the problem. Be gracious and forgiving. Negotiate a solution that is a win-win for both. Can't get there? find a good friend or professional to referee! Don't let conflicts fester... little things become big things if left unattended.
4. Sacrifice for the other: In any relationship, partners do things the other won't or can't. Laundry? Cooking? Cleaning? Walking the Dog? Consider going out of your way to take care of an onerous task your partner always does.
5. Care for others: Do an act of service together. There are plenty of opportunities to donate your time just for a day or for long term. Working together as a team to better the community will better your relationship!

Single and hating it? I have three Lenten actions for you to consider. The first is to pray for an abundance of God's love in your heart. God's love is infinite. Ask God to expand your heart to overcome past hurts so to be open to new relationships. Second, my Mom lived by the adage: "You have to be a friend, to make a friend." Don't wait for someone else to reach out to you. Take the first step yourself, trusting that whatever happens, God is with you. (Just try not to be creepy about it.) Finally, sacrifice for others. The best antidote for loneliness is to reach out to others through service. I always hear from volunteers that they get more out of service than they give. It also puts you in a situation to meet others of like hearts.

These ideas are just a start to get you thinking creatively about Lent. We have a ton of great things planned for this prayerful season. (See Below!) Come with your sweetie or come alone... either way when you are with the Body of Christ, you will be surrounded with the Love of God and good things will happen. That's God's promise to us.

Blessing to you this Lenten Season,

Fr. Eric



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

How to Do Lent at St. Paul's

ASH WEDNESDAY

"FOR GOD SO LOVED
THE WORLD THAT HE GAVE
HIS ONLY SON,
THAT WHOEVER BELIEVES IN HIM
SHOULD NOT PERISH
BUT HAVE ETERNAL LIFE."
JOHN 3:16



ASHES DISTRIBUTED
6:00 AM TO 9:00 PM

MASSES AT
7:30 AM, 12:10 PM, AND 6:30 PM

FEBRUARY 14TH

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.

Our season begins with Ash Wednesday and ends inside of the walls of Jerusalem at the precipice of the Triduum. Over the next few weeks, we will have many events, talks, and moments of prayer that will help you journey, encounter, and reflect:

Journey



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.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

EVERY FRIDAY IN LENT
FEBRUARY 16TH — MARCH 22ND

MINISTRY-SPONSORED STATIONS AT 6:30PM

FEBRUARY 16TH: OCIA

FEBRUARY 23RD: ST. VINCENT DE PAUL

MARCH 1ST: LAUDATO SI

MARCH 8TH: OSP

MARCH 15TH: APOSTOLIST

MARCH 23RD: LIVING STATIONS

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

Walk in the footsteps of Christ during the Stations of the Cross, 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.



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.



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](#) to follow Pope Francis' 2015 encyclical, *Laudato Si*.

Currently there are over 1,100 Laudato Si parishes worldwide, dedicated to reverencing, respecting and nurturing our planet as God commanded us to do. Pope Francis has passionately addressed the urgent need for environmental stewardship, emphasizing the interconnectedness of all living beings in a call for a collective response to the ecological crisis.

We hope you will join us in participating in educational and action-oriented opportunities starting this Lent. **We would like to begin this journey by offering you to take on a PLEDGE to SAY NO TO PLASTICS**. Team Members will be staffing a table at the church entrance at all masses on Ash Wednesday and the First Sunday of Lent with the information you need. For additional questions, [contact Fr. James DiLuzio by e-mail here](#).



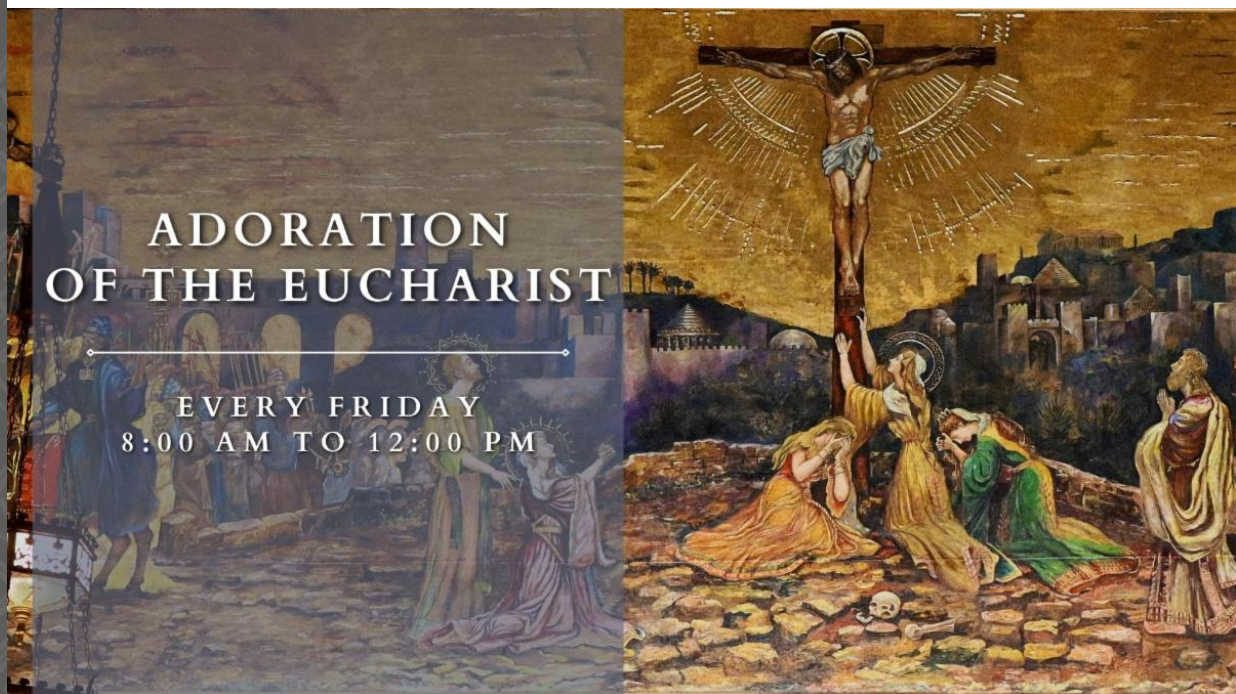
Part of the journey of Lent involves living as Jesus did during the forty days in the desert. **Every year, we like to remind parishioners of the designated days of fasting and abstinence.** Ash Wednesday and Good Friday are obligatory days of fasting and abstinence for Catholics aged 18-59. Fasting 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; we are strongly encouraged to practice abstinence and fasting on all Fridays in Lent.



As we draw closer to Holy Week, full participation in the liturgy will further facilitate our journey to holiness:

- Join the Palm Sunday procession on Saturday, March 23rd or Sunday, March 24th
- Purify your heart for the Triduum on Reconciliation Monday, March 24th, from 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM and 6:00 PM - 9:00 PM
- Remain with Christ in the garden on Holy Thursday, March 28th, after our 7:00 PM service for quiet meditation and song
- Join us for the Seven Last Words on Good Friday, March 29th, at 1:30 PM.

Encounter

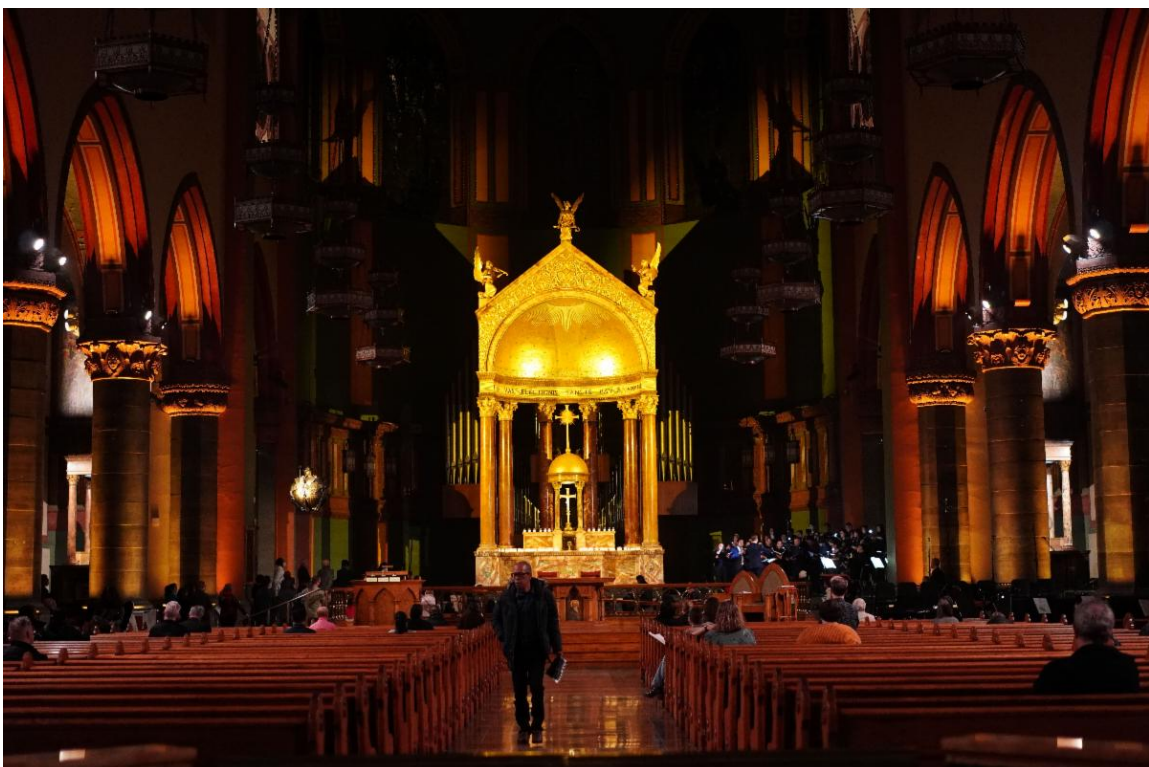


Every Friday in Lent, we will hold Adoration of the Eucharist following our 7:30 AM mass through the beginning of our 12:10 PM mass, ending with a Rite of Benediction. Adoration cuts to the heart of our faith, offering a profound encounter with Christ while keeping our eyes towards God in wonder, humility, and gratitude.



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.

If you would like to participate, rehearsals begin Saturday, February 10 and continue every Saturday through March 16 from 10AM to Noon, plus a weeknight rehearsal before the presentation. If you're interested in being a part of the Living Stations of the Cross, contact Tony Lopresti at tony@tonylopresti.com.



Powerful moments of encounter are available all throughout Lent. During Holy Week, keep a special eye out for:

- The proclamation of the Passion on Good Friday, March 29th at 3:00PM
- The return of Tenebrae, an prayerful evening of music on Good Friday at 7:00 PM
- The celebration of the Easter Vigil on Saturday, March 30th at 7:30PM, where, God willing, a cohort of more than a dozen catechumens will be baptized and confirmed into the faith.

Reflect



Most Wednesdays in Lent after 6:30 PM mass, we will host a speaker in the church to offer a reflection for the week, touching on a group we journey with in the world. Just a few of these include:

- Paola Piscitelli and Lorenzo Sironi from Sant'Egidio, who will speak to us about New York City Homelessness and our encounters with those in need.
- Arthur Brooks, an acclaimed author, speaker, and happiness researcher, who will help us reflect on our need to find a place in the world.

More information to follow!



It is rare for churches to sing the full Passion of the Christ during Holy Week, let alone debut new musical settings of the sacred scripture. St. Paul's is blessed to premier the work of our composer-in-residence J. Oconer Navarro for the third year in a row; this year, you will hear the Passion According to St. Mark on Palm Sunday.

Reflecting on this great gift, "Hearing the Passion at St. Paul's: A Behind the Scenes Look" will explore the composition of this year's Passion setting and the impact of liturgical music on our prayer. This video presentation, screened the Wednesday prior to Holy Week, dissects Mr. Navarro's process of writing new liturgical music to frame and accompany the Gospel narratives of Christ's sacrifice.



Almsgiving has always been a key component of Lenten penance, offering us a chance to reflect on our gratitude for what we have and the ways we may be able to bless others in need.

- Our annual Easter Basket Drive will collect baskets on Palm Sunday for the benefit of several charities around the city; on St. Patrick's Day, Sunday, March 17th, you'll have a chance to make your own Easter Baskets in the Parish Center for our drive!

- [Through the CRS Rice Bowl drive](#), families learn about how our sisters and brothers across the globe overcome hardships like hunger and climate change, and how through Lenten alms, we have the power to make the world a better place for all. Rice bowls will be present in our church throughout 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 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.



Pope Francis recently gave a beautiful exhortation on the meaning of Lent in our lives; read the full text below to start immersing yourself in the spirit of this holy season.



Through the Desert God Leads us to Freedom | Pope Francis

"The desert is the place where our freedom can mature in a personal decision not to fall back into slavery. Lent is a season of conversion, a time of freedom. Jesus himself, as we recall each year on the first Sunday of Lent, was driven

into the desert by the Spirit in order to be tempted in freedom. For forty days, he will stand before us and with us: the incarnate Son. In Lent, we find new criteria of justice and a community with which we can press forward on a road not yet taken."

[Read
More](#)

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

One Last "Alleluia" Before Lent!

*Notre Dame Folk Choir Alumni & Music at St. Paul's
presents*

THE SECOND ANNUAL
**SACRED SONG
IN THE CITY**

An Evening of Alleluias

featuring music by

Steven C. Warner and Karen Schneider-Kirner

Notre Dame Folk Choir Directors Emeritus

THIS SATURDAY: An Evening of Alleluias

St. Paul's will reunite alumni of the Notre Dame Folk Choir for the second time to perform a special concert with the Music Ministry of St. Paul's. Original compositions by directors emeritus Steven C. Warner and Karen Schneider-Kirner will be featured in the concert, *Sacred Song in the City: An Evening of Alleluias*.

An Evening of Alleluias will be presented in the church at 7:30PM on Saturday, February 10th. Admission is free and the concert is open to the public; all are welcome to attend!

Check out a song from last year's concert below:

Notre Dame Alumni Concert 2023

at St. Paul the Apostle



I Love the Lord

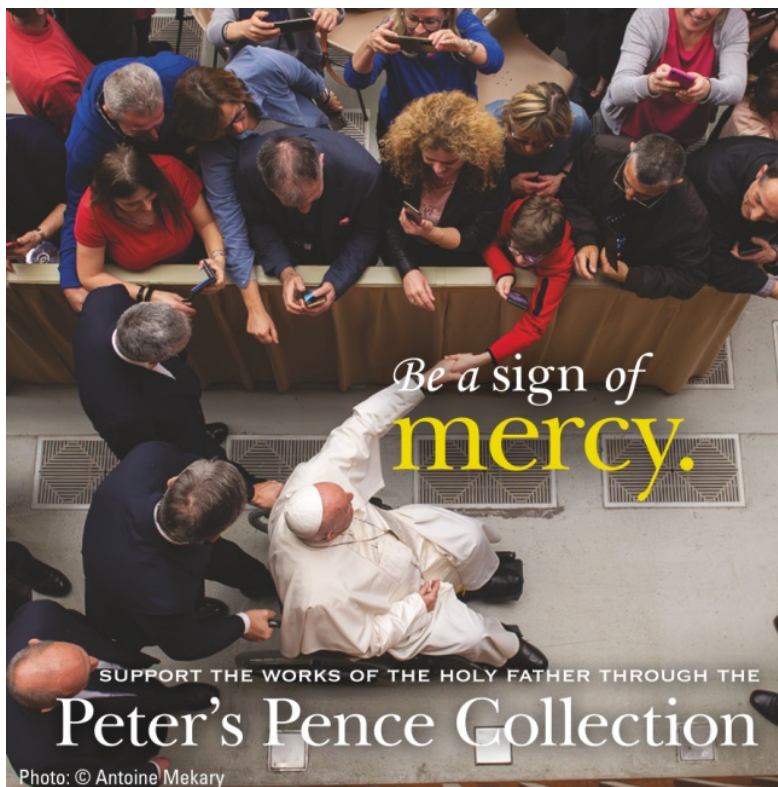




THIS SUNDAY: Welcome Weekend

This Saturday and Sunday, **February 10th and 11th**, is our next monthly Welcome Weekend at St. Paul's!

Want to meet the folks in the pews you've sat next to but never really gotten to know? Stop by the back of the church after all of our masses to grab some refreshments and build community with your fellow parishioners.



THIS WEEKEND: 2nd Collection for Peter's Pence

The Holy Father's charitable outreach to victims of war, migrants and refugees, and the poor affected by illness and natural disasters is supported by contributions to the Peter's Pence Collection. When you participate in the collection, you join Catholics across the globe in supporting the pope's mission of mercy as well as the activities of the Holy See's dicasteries that assist his ministry. Support for such papal efforts is rooted in the scriptural message to take care of the poor and expresses unity with the Holy Father in two ways: through the ongoing activities of the Holy See and through the charitable works of the Holy Father on behalf of those most in need.

For more information on Peter's Pence, [please visit the Vatican's Peter's Pence website here](#). Thank you in advance for your generosity!

ST. PAUL'S MARDI GRAS



Fresh Pancakes & Toppings Bar
Soda | Beer | Wine | Beads | Fun!

**Come together for one last party
with the Parish before Ash Wednesday!**

\$5 Suggested Donation

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 13
at 7PM in the Parish Center

Upcoming Events



After-Mass Social

Meet us in the back of the church after the 5 PM mass on Sunday, February 11th for a Super Bowl Sunday edition of our monthly social gathering! Whether you're looking to learn more about Apostolist or have been a part of our ministry for a long time, these socials are a great way to catch up with the young adults in our parish community.

Lenten Reflections Small Group

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

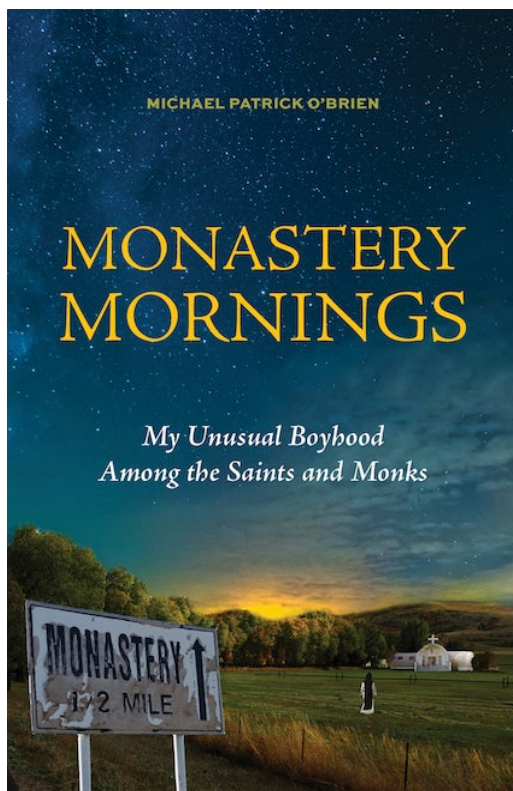
We are excited to offer weekly audio reflections and small group faith-sharing discussions during the season of Lent. The sessions will be on Sundays at the Parish Center at 3:30 pm. You're invited to join us for weekly, small group gatherings during this season of fasting, prayer, giving and contemplation.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



President's Day: 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 elevator located in the South Tower of the church on Columbus Ave.



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 to
receive our meeting link!

About the book:

This warmhearted memoir describes how a small, insecure boy with a vibrant imagination found an unlikely family in the company of monks at Holy Trinity Abbey, in the mountains of rural Latter-day Saint Utah. Struggling with his parents' recent divorce, Michael O'Brien discovered a community filled with warmth, humor, idiosyncrasies, and most of all, listening ears. Filled with

anecdotes and delightful "behind the scenes" descriptions of his experiences living alongside the monks as they farmed, prayed, buried their dead, ate, and shared the joys of life, *Monastery Mornings* speaks to the value of spiritual fatherhood, the lasting impact of positive mentoring, and the stability that the spiritual life can offer to people of all ages and walks of life.

Holy Humor

When Valentine's Day falls on Ash Wednesday



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, and Maria Veronica Trota.

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, and Domenico S.

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, the Wilkins family, the Gorelick family, the Hicks family, and the Whyte 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, February 9th
7:30AM + Regina Bonet
12:10PM - Kistie Smyth
Saturday, February 10th
9:00AM + Fausto Manalili
5:00PM + Josephine Andrews
Sunday, February 11th
8:00AM - For the People
10:00AM + Kyle J. Mulrooney
12:30PM + Victor Santiago
5:00PM + Marcin Broda

Monday, February 12th
7:30AM + Danuta Chniel
12:10PM + Catalino & Aurelia Real
Tuesday, February 13th
7:30AM + James Farrell
12:10PM + Laurie O'Byrne
Wednesday, February 14th
7:30AM + Josephine Andrews
12:10PM + Alfredo Siason
6:30PM - For the People
Thursday, February 15th
7:30AM - For the People
12:10PM + Toma Vulaj

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 Lent grows near, 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 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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