

February 22nd, 2024

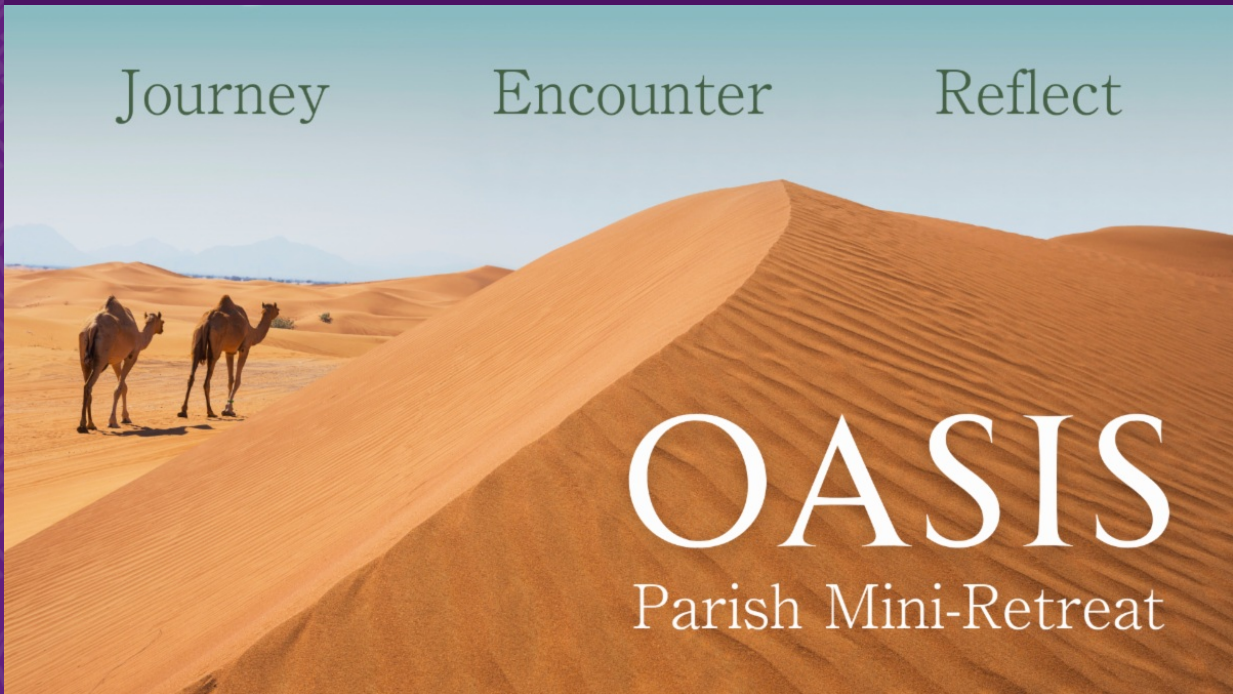


Second Sunday of Lent

Journey

Encounter

Reflect



The Pastor's Column

St. Paul the Apostle, Pray for Us!

During the first week of March, the Paulist Fathers General Council will be meeting in special session to discern in a particular way where the Holy Spirit is calling our Society of Apostolic Life at this present moment. Like many religious communities and (Arch)Dioceses across the country, the reality of the shortage of priests is upon us. In the Archdiocese of New York, parishes are combining as there aren't enough pastors for all the congregations. If you hadn't heard, Sacred Heart Parish on West 51st Street and St. Malachy's the Actor's Chapel have been combined and are now served by one pastor. The same is true for Holy Name Parish and St. Gregory's on the Upper West Side in the 90s, and Corpus Christi and Notre Dame parishes near Columbia University.

For the Paulist Fathers, some recent unforeseen personnel challenges have left two or three of our foundations shorthanded with many senior Paulists from our Motherhouse and elsewhere helping for extended periods. We barely have enough Paulists for all our ministerial commitments and demographic studies

suggest that we will hit a real crunch by 2034. At the March meeting, the Paulist General Council will most likely decide to withdraw from at least two of our worshipping communities.

Each parish, campus ministry, and downtown center has been asked to evaluate their ministries with an eye to sustainability as well as Paulist mission. Each location has been asked to submit data on collections, attendance, programs, etc. Paulist Fathers President Fr. René Constanza has shared that final decisions haven't been made yet and all our commitments are on the table for review. That said, as a realist, it is clear to me we won't be leaving St. Paul's here in New York as it is the Mother Church of the community.

I invite you to read a letter that Fr. René would like shared with all our foundations. You can access it at this Link: <https://paulist.org/letter/>.

While I was President of the Paulists, we withdrew from four of our ministries over my eight-year term. We decided to withdraw from three; a local bishop asked us to leave the fourth. Each leave taking was a dying experience for those who valued our presence. It took the stuffing out of all involved: parishioners, staff, and Paulists. Many Paulists still lament those places they served in the past that we have left. Parishioners of those places have fond remembrances of our ministry, some are mad at us for leaving, others stay connected through the Paulist Associates program and our own Virtch Church outreach.

This is all ugly business, frankly, and no matter what happens, many people will be hurt, angry, and upset. So, I ask you to pray for the Holy Spirit's guidance of the Paulist General Council that they make wise decisions and implement them with a compassionate heart. Pray for vocations to the Paulist priesthood and religious life while also asking the Spirit to guide our discernment as Church on who may be called to serve as a Deacon or Priest. Finally commend to the Sacred Heart of Jesus those parishioners and Paulists who will have to bring to a close a treasured time of ministry by the Paulist Fathers. That's where the impact will be felt most of all.

May God be with us all, leading us from death to new life in the Spirit which is the journey of Lent to Easter.

Peace to you,

Fr. Eric



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.



MARCH 6: Finding My Place, Finding My Happiness

Join us as we welcome Arthur C. Brooks, PhD, 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.

Mr. Brooks will join us on Wednesday, March 6 at 7:30pm following our weekly evening mass. Tickets are \$20; you can [purchase them by clicking here](#), or by going to www.stpaultheapostle.org/brooks.

Scenes from the Week

share

care

help

lent 2024 | st. paul the apostle



Last night, the President of Sant'Egidio NY, Paola Piscitelli, and Lorenzo Sironi discussed the crisis of homelessness in New York City after our 6:30PM mass. Thanks to the 30 folks that stuck around to listen to their talk and ask questions.

If you'd like to hear what the Community of Sant'Egidio does, [you can watch the playback here.](#)





St. Paul's
NYC

On Friday evening, over 50 people walked in the footsteps of Christ at the Stations of the Cross. The devotion, held every week at 6:30PM, was led by our OCIA ministry.



Join us this Friday, February 23rd, for Stations of the Cross led by our St. Vincent de Paul ministry.



Last Sunday, February 18th, we celebrated the Rite of Sending of Catechumens to St. Patrick's Cathedral. We then had our annual OCIA community brunch at DJ Reynolds. From there, we journeyed to the Cathedral for the Rite of Election, which culminated in the solemn declaration that our eleven catechumens have been Elected in Christ and will be ready for the Easter sacraments. One of the signature actions during the Rite of Election is the enrollment of names.



Many of our candidates and sponsors also attended the Rite of Election to pray, and six of them served as hospitality volunteers to welcome nearly one thousand participants from across the Archdiocese. They also ensured that our Elect would see some friendly faces as they approached the altar to enroll their names.

We invite you to continue to pray for our Elect and our candidates. Besides praying for them in a special way at many upcoming rites that will be celebrated over the next several Sundays, please visit the Annunciation altar in the South Aisle to say a short prayer for our twenty two total catechumens and candidates. Thank you for your prayers!



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 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



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!*

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!

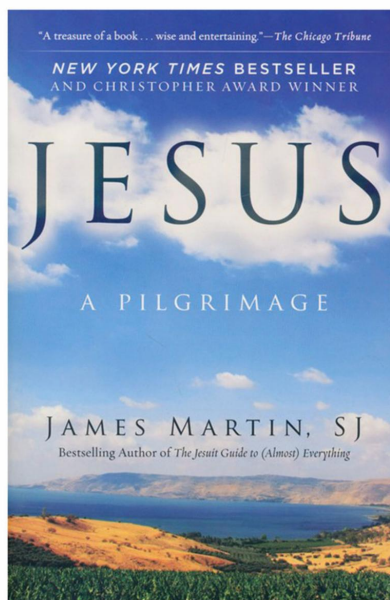
Our upcoming groups of Visiting Voices, the Hilltop Band & Choir, and the Sycamore High School Orchestra, will perform on Friday, March 8th at 1PM and 3PM respectively.



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](#)



St. Paul's Book Club

Join us via Zoom on
Tuesday, March 19th
at 6:30PM

for our discussion of
Jesus: A Pilgrimage
by James Martin, SJ

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

About the Book:

James Martin, SJ, gifted storyteller, St. Paul's parishioner, and New York Times bestselling author of *The Jesuit Guide to (Almost) Everything*, brings the Gospels to life and invites believers and seekers alike to experience Jesus through Scripture, prayer, and travel.

Father Martin ushers you into Jesus' life and times and shows us how Jesus speaks to us today through combining fascinating insights of historical Jesus

studies with profound spiritual insights about the Christ of faith, recreating the world of first-century Galilee and Judea.



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.

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

Holy Humor

HOW YOU LOOK



**TRYING TO HIDE
SIN FROM GOD**

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 Gherzi, 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.

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](#)

Mass Intentions

Friday, February 23rd

7:30AM † Barnett Epstein
12:10PM † Bennett W. Galgano

Saturday, February 24th

9:00AM † Philip & Rose Dondiego
5:00PM † Bobbyesue Albrecht

Sunday, February 25th

8:00AM - For the People
10:00AM - Delores Desso
12:30PM † Ramon Horacio Almanzar
5:00PM † Josephine Andrews

Monday, February 26th

7:30AM † Carlota B. Lopez
12:10PM † Ramon Dungca

Tuesday, February 27th

7:30AM - The Loanzon Family
12:10PM - Elizabeth Marcus

Wednesday, February 28th

7:30AM † Marcy Deysher
12:10PM † Elizabeth Vella
6:30PM - For the People

Thursday, February 29th

7:30AM † Lucja Kuklewicz
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 difficulty 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 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](#) to donate now!

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

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