

March 14th, 2024



Fifth Sunday of Lent



The Pastor's Column

Weed the Garden!

That was always on my list of summer chores growing up. Mom was an avid gardener and had numerous flower beds and a vegetable garden stocked with tomato plants. So Italian. My sister and I were cheap summer labor while Mom was at work at the hospital. As much as I hated gardening, there were benefits, especially the tomato sauce during the winter months, and the lovely flowers that would come up in different seasons.

Every morning lately when I pass by our flower beds in front of the Church I hear my Mom's voice nudging me to get in there and start tending the garden. Spring is coming! she implores me. Sadly (as she knows) gardening is not my

bag, but it may well be yours and as an urban dweller you may be yearning to get your hands dirty. There may be others who are unable to garden but would be happy to contribute expertise and/or funds to help beautify our surroundings. While I am not a gardener in the strict meaning of the word, I do like to organize things... and a lovely garden outside the church sends the message we care about our neighbors and we want to share the beauty of God's creation with them.

In that Spirit, and encouraged by at least one committed parishioner, I would like to launch the **St. Paul's Garden Club**. This would be a group of people who come together to discern with the staff what would be best and then get out there to do the work, find other competent gardeners, and raise the funds. The group could also invite guest speakers to come in and talk about urban gardening to get good ideas. We have four garden beds that need attention, and there are already some nice things growing in them thanks to Fr. Rick and others. Matter of fact an old friend of mine noticed the Camilla bushes and asked if she could take some cuttings for her church garden. While she was there, she discovered that we had Lenten Roses, too. A rarity she said. (See Photo)

If you are interested in any way in joining this effort, look for a sign-up sheet in the back of the church starting this weekend or drop me a line at eric.andrews@stpaultheapostle.org. No doubt we have at least one patron in heaven who will be smiling on our efforts, and one who will give me some peace in the mornings if we get this moving!

HAPPY SPRING TO ALL!

God Bless,

Fr. Eric



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



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](#)



FROM THE PAULISTS: Upcoming Ministerial Changes

As the Pastor's Column forecasted a few weeks ago, the Paulist Fathers have been discerning upcoming Ministerial changes to several of the parishes under their care around the country. Yesterday, the Paulist administration announced the scope and content of these changes:

The Paulist Fathers today announced the missionary society's intent to return pastoral care of Newman Hall – Holy Spirit Parish in Berkeley, CA, to the

Diocese of Oakland at the end of the current academic year, as well as other upcoming ministerial changes. The Paulist presence at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in Troy, NY, also will conclude in the coming months. Paulist Fr. Larry Rice has served since 2021 as campus chaplain at RPI, where he also led Christ, Sun of Justice Parish. At the end of the academic year, Fr. Rice will move to a new assignment.

The Paulist Fathers also today announce that three of the worshipping communities served by the society will transition from a model of being staffed by two full-time, active Paulist priests to being served by one full-time priest, assisted by local Paulists in senior ministry. These communities are Immaculate Conception Church in Knoxville, TN, Old St. Mary's Cathedral in San Francisco, CA, and the Paulist Center in Boston, MA.

Additionally, the Paulist Fathers announce the upcoming completion of the work for three of the society's longtime national offices: Paulist Evangelization Ministries; Landings International, a reconciliation ministry with Catholics returning to the Church after a time away; and the Paulist Office for Ecumenical and Interfaith Relations. By the end of 2024, these ministries will cease operations as distinct apostolic endeavors of the Paulist Fathers.

While none of the changes they outline directly effect the assignments at our parish, we encourage you to read their full statement to keep informed on our national ministry. You can find the full announcement from the Paulist Fathers by clicking the button below:

[Read Here](#)

Event Spotlight



VIDEO PREMIERE: Composing the Passion

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 proclaimed through song 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. You'll learn a bit about the history of the Passion set to music, the difference between the four gospel narratives, how a piece of liturgical music is composed, and what to keep an ear out for this Palm Sunday.

Please join us in the church on Wednesday, March 20th after the 6:30 PM mass for this engaging look into this Palm Sunday's liturgical music!



The Living Stations of the Cross, held on Friday, March 22nd at 7:00 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.

Please note the time of this event was previously advertised as 6:30PM; the Stations will begin at 7:00 PM.



2024 Easter Basket Drive

*for the benefit of Abbot House Charity
and Catholic Guardian Services*

Help us reach our goal of donating 400 Easter Baskets to teens in need!

Our Easter Basket Drive for Abbot House Charity and Catholic Guardian Services is back! We are asking for the parish's help to collect baskets for the benefit of foster teens throughout New York City. You can find information about [how to make an Easter basket on our website here](#)

Please bring your Easter Baskets back to the church on Palm Sunday, March 24th! Make sure to stop by the blessing of the baskets after our 5PM Palm Sunday mass - it is a sight to behold.

Thank you in advance for your generosity!

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

Scenes from the Week

dare

wait

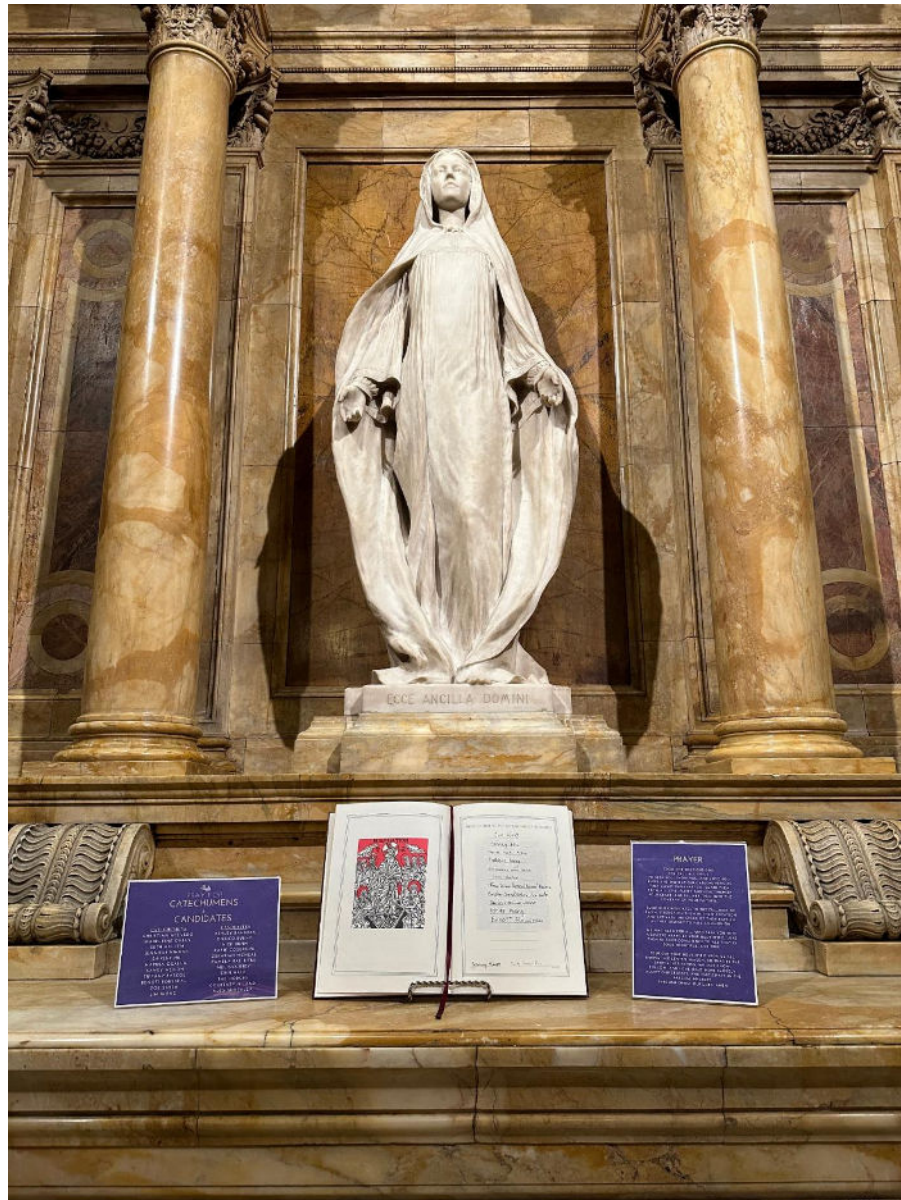
hope

lent 2024 | st. paul the apostle



This Easter, God willing, a dozen catechumens will be baptized into the Church, and more than a dozen Catholic candidates will be brought into full communion with the faith. It is truly a blessing to be a part of their formation and witness the many ways God calls each of us to a deeper understanding of His Love.

Last Sunday, our catechumens underwent the second Scrutiny Rite as part of their initiation in the lead-up to Easter. The final Scrutiny Rite will take place this weekend.



At the base of the Annunciation altar in the south aisle of the church, there is a book that includes the names of this year's class of catechumens and candidates. We ask that you keep them in your prayers as they journey through Lent towards the sacraments. **The next time you're in the church, consider stopping by the altar and offering the following prayer:**

Good and gracious God, you call all of us to seek you, know you, and love you. Bless and protect our catechumens as they await their baptism. Guard them from all evil, purify and heal them by your grace, and deliver them into the company of your faithful.

Guide our candidates to the fullness of faith, strengthen them in their vocation, and activate the grace of their baptism as they journey to full communion.

We pray also for all who seek you with a sincere heart. By your Holy Spirit, lead them by their conscience to all that is good, beautiful, and true.

Pour out your Holy Spirit upon us all during this Lenten season, so that by the spirit's inspiration, we may know, follow, and love Jesus more closely, accept our crosses, and

participate in the Paschal mystery.

Through Christ our Lord, Amen.

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

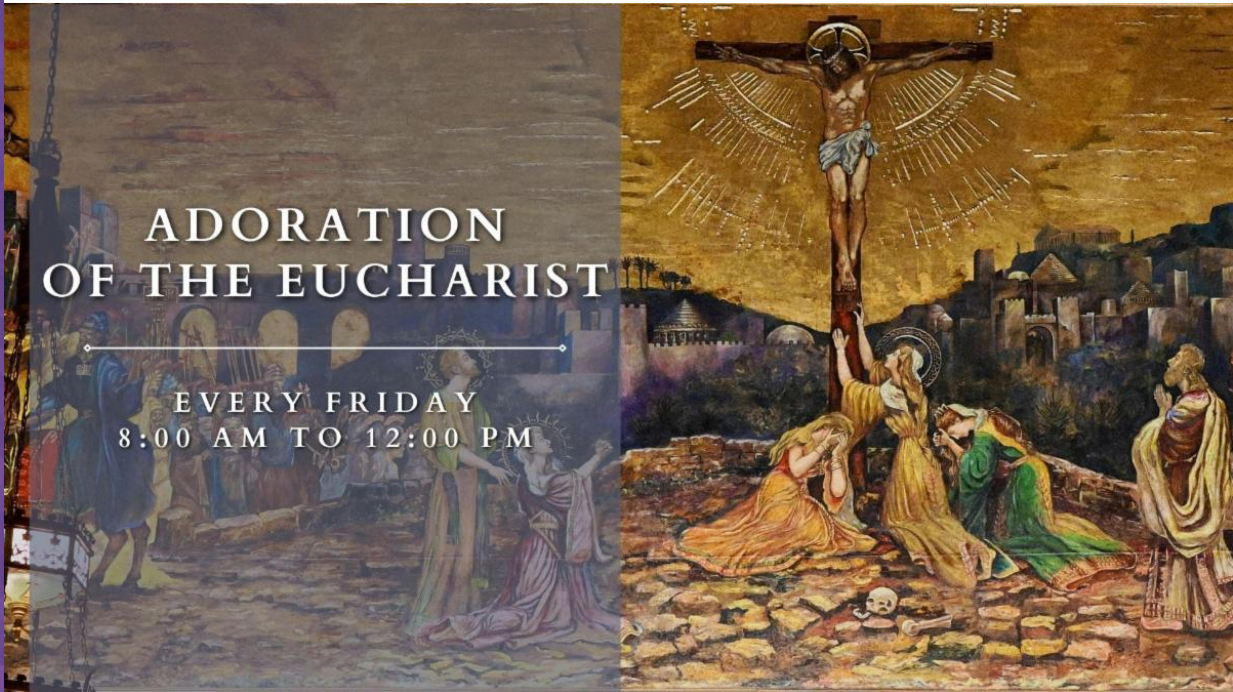


LENTEN EVENING MASS

EVERY WEDNESDAY
AT 6:30 PM

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 22ND: 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.

Our last ministry-led Stations of the Cross will be hosted by Apostolist tomorrow, **March 15th**. Our Living Stations will take place the following Friday, **March 22nd**, at 7:00 PM.

Parish Initiatives



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. Want to learn more? [Sign up here to receive information on our group](#)

Below is a reflection contributed by Laudato Si and Apostolist Team Member

"(Saint Francis of Assisi) felt called to care for all that exists...Such a conviction cannot be written off as naive romanticism, for it affects the choices which determine our behavior. . . If we approach nature and the environment without his openness to awe and wonder, if we no longer speak the language of fraternity and beauty in our relationship with the world, our attitude will be that of masters, consumers, ruthless exploiters, unable to set limits on their immediate needs. By contrast, if we feel intimately united with all that exists, then sobriety and care will well up spontaneously." **Pope Francis' Laudato Si Encyclical, Section 11**

1. We invite you to rest on a park bench or sit on your stoop and say, "Praise be to you, My Lord for my life and all that sustains it." What springs forth in your mind and heart?
- 2 . Schedule an "Awareness Moment" to commemorate the Spring Equinox March 19 (9:09 PM) and pray / journal / share with someone your favorite signs of spring.
3. Consider purchasing fresh fruits and produce at your nearest local farmer's market this week and make a point of thanking the farmers for their hard work and our appreciation for local farms that nourish and sustain us.



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.



Help Grow Our Parish

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



BAKERS NEEDED: Help Us Welcome New Catholics at the Easter Vigil

We are the friendliest parish on the West Side of Manhattan, so let's welcome our newly baptized and confirmed Catholics into the fold on the Easter Vigil. This is the 20th year of our beloved tradition - we pray together at mass... and then eat cupcakes!

St. Paul's needs your help! We need volunteers who can bring cupcakes or Easter cookies for our post-Vigil reception on Saturday, March 30th following our 7:30PM service.

It's been a long desert crossing during lent, so we are going to need a feast. If you're able to help bake Easter cupcakes or cookies, please reach out to welcomecenter@stpaultheapostle.org to volunteer. We usually do an old-fashioned e-mail chain to share ideas, prayers, and fun. A little bit of Hecker flour goes a long way!



Lenten Reflections Small Group
Sunday, March 17 - 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. **Our final session will be held on March 17. Even if you were not able to join us for previous sessions, we would love to see you this Sunday!**



Visiting Voices

St. Paul's hosts groups of young musicians on tour around the country, offering free concerts to the public in our church. Enjoy the talents of these young artists at any of the listed times in the next image -- no tickets or RSVP required!

Our upcoming groups of Visiting Voices, the Lee County HS Orchestra, will perform on Friday, March 15th at 4PM. Find our full schedule below:

Concert Times

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

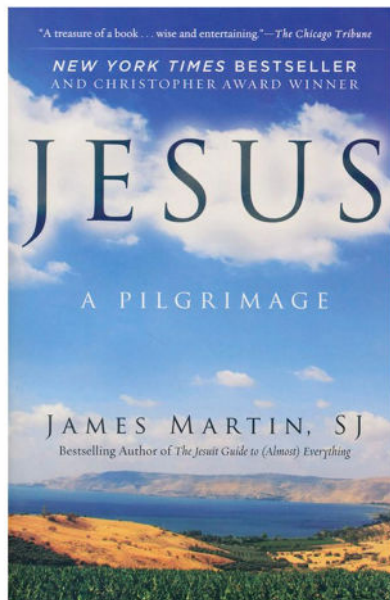
Lee County HS Orchestra
at 4 PM

March 16th

Cedar Valley Choir
at 1 PM

April 6th

Sylvania Southwest HS Choir
and Orchestra at 10 AM



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 critically-acclaimed opera premieres at the Met, and director Lileana Blain-Cruz joins us for an evening of conversation on art, faith, and justice

A Christmas story at Easter time? That's essentially what the Metropolitan Opera is doing in presenting the company premier of John Adams's *El Niño*. But the opera-oratorio's focus on the experience of the refugee and the migrant—how they struggled to find acceptance in Biblical times—could not be more contemporary, and urgent.

The composition incorporates sacred and secular texts in English, Spanish, and Latin, from biblical times to the present day, in an extraordinarily dramatic retelling of the Nativity.

The vivid new production also marks the Met debut of celebrated theater maker Lileana Blain-Cruz, resident director at Lincoln Center Theater, who joins us to talk about the opera and the importance of staging art that matters for our world today. She will be joined by Fadi Skeiker of Fordham's theater department and Fordham theology professor Leo Guardado. David Gibson, director of the Center on Religion and Culture, will moderate the discussion with the panelists and the audience.

Join us for this talk at St. Paul's on Friday, April 19th at 6PM. Admission is free and open to all; [please RSVP by filling out this form on Fordham's website](#)



St. Paul the Apostle Reunion

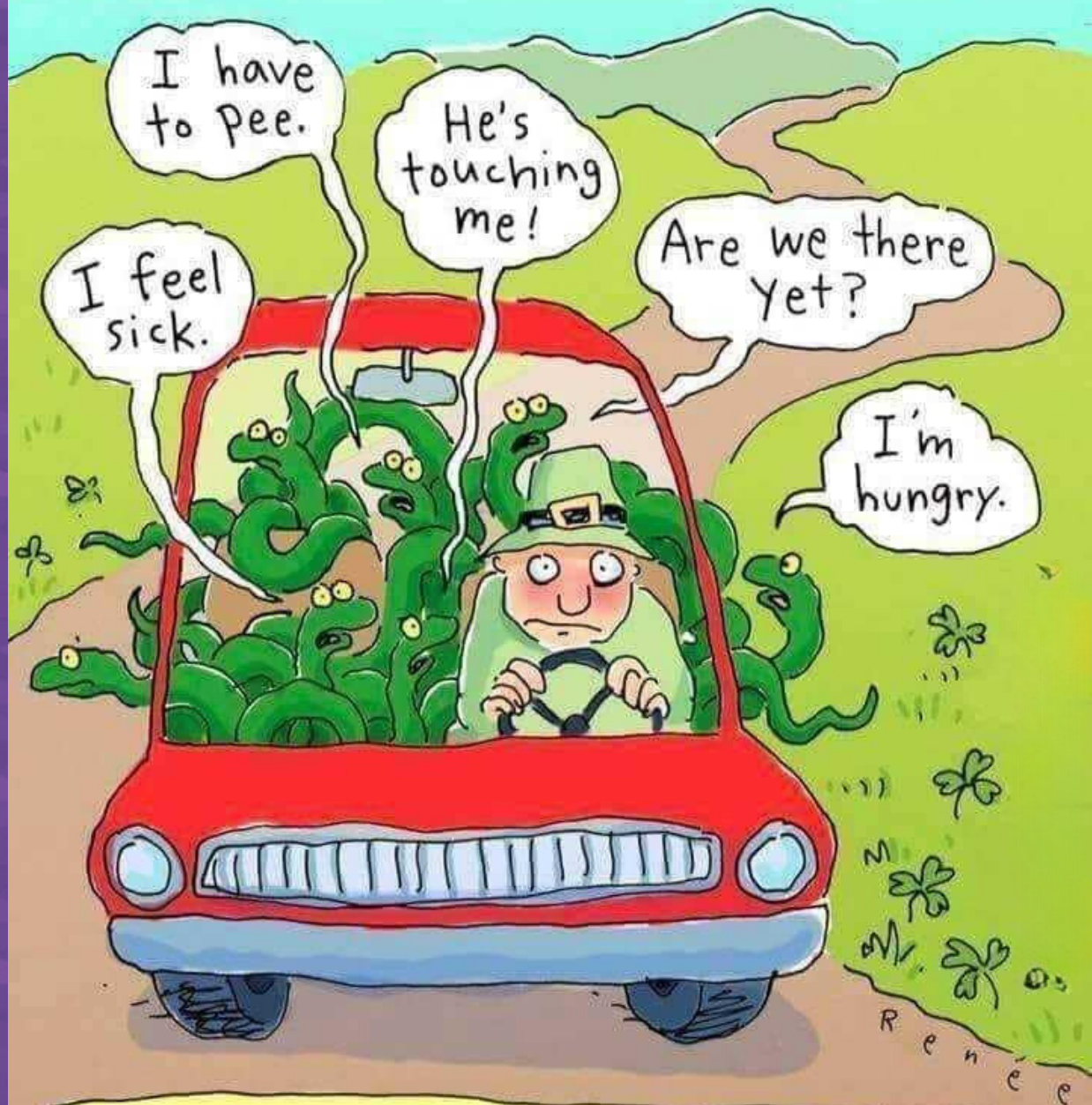
It's been fifty years since St. Paul the Apostle School closed. It's a sad anniversary, but also an opportunity to celebrate the students that we were, the Holy Cross Sisters who labored indefatigably, the Paulist Fathers who supported and visited our classrooms, and the Parish of St. Paul the Apostle.

On May 4th at the 5:00pm Mass, we will have our anniversary celebration, followed by a reception in the parish center (which didn't exist when we were at St. Paul's). If you can be present, please send your first and last name, email and year of graduation to Linda Ocasio (linda@geb.net). If you cannot come but wish to make a donation to the parish send it to: School Anniversary, c/o St. Paul the Apostle, 405 W. 59th Street, NY, NY 10019. If you have a question, send it to mission@pemdc.org.

Let's celebrate who we were -- and who we are!



Holy Humor



Saint Patrick regrets his decision to drive the snakes out of Ireland.

Prayer Requests



Prayer Requests

Grant eternal rest to 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 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, Sean Timothy Tanega, Jeanne Connors, Christopher Henderson, and Bryon Gordon.

Grant peace and well-being to Jean Remyana Rodriguez, Felix & Anthony Mayusa, Nicholas, Melissa & 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
Requests

Mass Intentions

Friday, March 15th

7:30AM - Griselda Guerrero
12:10PM † Jose Benjamin Jerez

Saturday, March 16th

9:00AM - Fr. Paul Ropsond
5:00PM † Lillian Blades

Sunday, March 17th

8:00AM - For the People
10:00AM † Tom Cahill
12:30PM - Fr. Paul Rospond
5:00PM † Fr. Patrick G. Burns

Monday, March 18th

7:30AM † Michael Gilbert Loanzon
12:10PM † Julia C. Abaya

Tuesday, March 19th

7:30AM - Matthew Kane
12:10PM † Josephine Andrews

Wednesday, March 20th

7:30AM - The Kane Family
12:10PM † Elsie T. Leaprot
6:30PM - For the People

Thursday, March 21st

7:30AM - The Lonely
12:10PM † Joseph Alan Restruccia

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 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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