

March 21st, 2024



Palm Sunday



The Pastor's Column

Mark: The Musical

I remember so many Palm Sunday mornings as a kid standing or sitting in the pew enduring the reading of the Passion. My poor Mom... we really were unmanageable and less than holy. God help the folks sitting around us! So, I happen to be one of those priests who supports parishioners who fashion their palms into crosses during the reading of the passion. It's the best meditation when you just can't sit still.

THANKS BE TO GOD this will not be an issue for us this Palm Sunday. I am so excited to announce the debut of a new musical setting of the Passion Narrative According to St. Mark composed by our resident composer J. Oconer Navarro. This is the third passion narrative J. has created for St. Paul's. His first composition was in 2022 with Luke, and he followed it up with Matthew in 2023. Previous to that, J. composed settings for all the Responsorial Psalms which are sung at the 5pm Sunday Mass, and some of the other Masses too.

According to J., St. Matthew leaned toward operetta, while St. Luke was more traditional. With Mark, J. was inspired by the Year of the Rhapsody over at

Carnegie Hall, which will give the music a unique tone and feel. As he approached the scriptures, he was faced with St. Mark's Gospel which is famously stark and sparse in text. He asked himself the question: what were the emotions behind those lines? That's how he unlocked how the Passion would sing.

Another huge factor in the creation of this work was J.'s own experience of tragedy and loss. As he wrote on Facebook: "I had scheduled a week-or-so-long writing retreat in January to compose this, but a certain 5-alarm fire that burned down our apartment changed those plans. Undoubtedly thanks to guardian angel Jules, my piano survived, and I suppose it's true that our most fruitful art sometimes comes during the most trying times."

These settings are unique and cutting edge in liturgical music today, and they also express the spirit and personality of our parish. This year, there is great buzz around the parish center as our musicians and singers have been rehearsing. Every year J. out does himself, and I am told this is an astounding achievement. What a proud moment for all of us! God Bless You J. for sharing your gifts and talents with your parish!

I am so grateful for Joey Chancey for placing before J. this challenge to compose these settings with the direction not to change one word of the given text. Hats off to Adam Jones who orchestrated the work into a 7-piece ensemble. Finally, heartfelt thanks to the members of our choir who will bring J.'s work to life through their hearts, souls and voices!

If you can't join us at the 5pm Saturday Vigil Mass at 5pm, the 10am or 5pm Mass on Palm Sunday, please find us online. I believe we will all be drawn so deeply into the Jesus walk to the Cross that we won't even think of reaching for that palm branch!

God Bless,

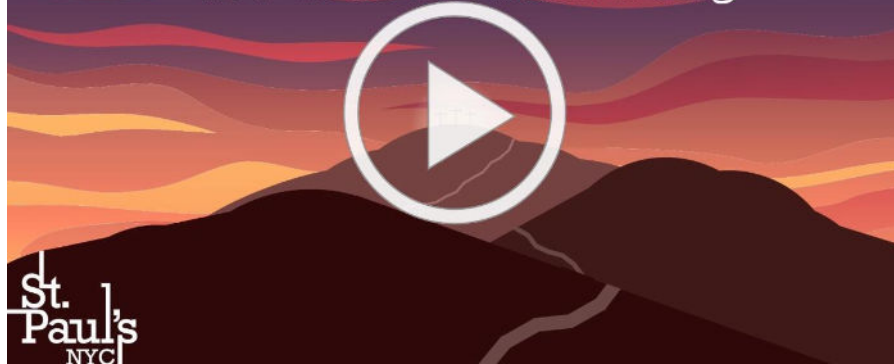
Fr. Eric



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

THE ROAD TO CALVARY

how we set the Passion to song



We sat down with those who are involved in the composition and performance of the Passion to get a better understanding of how this monumental task is undertaken and what creative underpinnings inspire such an emotional endeavor. Watch the full documentary by clicking the video above!



We also want to call your attention to the Bereavement Ministry at St. Paul's. This comes to us from parishioner Barbara Burns who formerly led this ministry at Holy Name Parish.

The experience of grief and loss is common to every human person, but when you are in the midst of it, the feelings of loneliness, sadness, anger, and isolation can be very intense, lasting far longer than the caring capacity of those around us. The good news and bad news is it is normal... Yet, sharing those feelings with a small group of people who are in the same situation, led by caring and experienced individuals, can be a precious lifeline.

The bereavement group will meet once a week for six weeks in person here at the Parish starting shortly after Easter. If you have experienced the death of a spouse, partner, child, or close friend in the past year and are interested in joining, please email us at bereavement@stpaultheapostle.org and Barbara will get back to you.

Event Spotlight



The Living Stations of the Cross, held tomorrow, 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.

This devotion will be live-streamed to our social media channels and our website.



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!

How to Do Holy Week at St. Paul's



Holy Week is, in many ways, the apex of the liturgical year.

Starting on Palm Sunday and continuing through Easter, this eight-day period

brings us through all of the mysteries of our faith, celebrating the passion, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. The focal point of the Church's prayer next week will be the Triduum, which begins on Holy Thursday and extends through our celebration of the Easter Vigil in the Holy Night on Saturday.

Though the celebration spans from Thursday to Saturday, **the Triduum is regarded as a single liturgy that unfolds over the course of three days**, closely mirroring the timeline of the salvific drama the first disciples bore witness to. You will notice that there are no dismissals blessings at the conclusion of mass, and our Friday and Saturday liturgies "pick up" where the previous day's service left off. Experiencing these sacred liturgies in succession helps us appreciate how we are called to carry our own crosses and truly immerses us in the faith. **We strongly encourage you, if your schedule permits it, to attend each service and in doing so participate fully in the great mystery of salvation.**

Here is a breakdown of our Holy Week schedule at St. Paul's:

Palm Sunday | March 24th



Our Holy Week journey begins with Christ's triumphant entrance into Jerusalem. We will celebrate this during our usual Sunday liturgies; **join us for a Saturday vigil mass at 5 PM, or on Sunday at 8 AM, 10 AM, 12:30 PM, and 5 PM.**

As Fr. Eric noted above, 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.** 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. You can hear this new proclamation at our Saturday 5 PM mass, as well as our Sunday 10 AM and 5 PM mass.

We will close out Palm Sunday after our 5PM mass with a blessing of the Easter Baskets!

Reconciliation Monday | March 25th



As Catholics, we are encouraged to enter into the Triduum with a penitent heart. God's unending mercy is graciously expressed through the sacrament of reconciliation; if you haven't been to confession in a while, Holy Week is a wonderful opportunity to do so.

Confessions will be offered in all parishes throughout the Archdiocese of New York and the Diocese of Brooklyn on Monday, March 25th from 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM and 6:00 PM to 9:00 PM. For what it's worth, we like to say that the Paulists are the kindest confessors in the city!

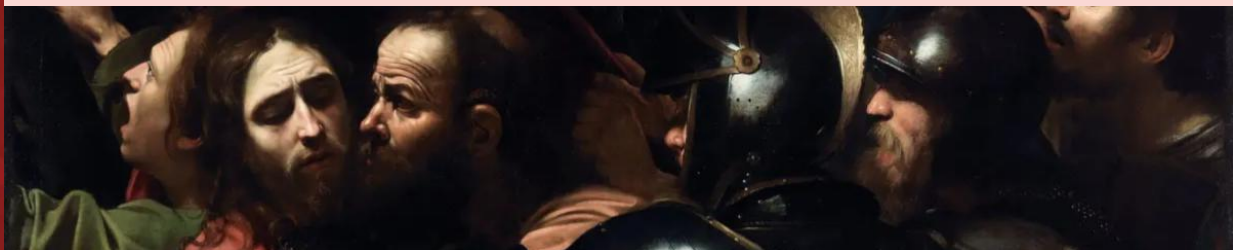
Holy Thursday | March 28th



Holy Thursday starts our Triduum liturgy, recounting the first celebration of the Eucharist. **Our mass celebrating the Supper of the Lord will begin at 7:00 PM.** Mass is followed by a period of Adoration of the Eucharist, where our choir will lead us in meditative hymns as we accompany Christ in the Garden of Gethsemane.

Because Holy Thursday is the beginning of the Triduum liturgies, there will be no masses held earlier in the day, though the church will be open for prayer. As we mentioned, the three-day Triduum is also considered one long liturgy; because of this, we ask that you leave the church in silence at the conclusion of each liturgy on Thursday and Friday to maintain a prayerful atmosphere.

Good Friday | March 29th



Christ's ultimate sacrifice for the redemption of humanity is commemorated in the Good Friday liturgy. **Our main service, the Passion of the Lord, will be held at 3:00 PM.**

Good Friday has a rich tradition of additional devotional services which we will offer this year:

- **Stations of the Cross will be held at 12:00 PM.** This devotional allows us to walk in the footsteps of Jesus to more deeply witness His journey to Golgotha. Meditating on the fourteen stations, we experience the different ways each station typologically reflects the suffering we may encounter in the world.
- **The Seven Last Words will be held at 1:00 PM in English, and at 5:30 PM in Spanish.** The "Seven Last Words" service is based around the sayings of Jesus upon the cross as recorded by the four Gospel writers. Each phrase will be offered alongside a reflection; traditionally, the seven sayings speak about the themes of forgiveness, salvation, relationship, abandonment, distress, triumph, and reunion.

- In the evening, a *Tenebrae* service will be held at 7:00 PM. *Tenebrae*, named after Latin word for darkness, has a rich tradition of history in the church and was often celebrated in the three evenings preceding Easter Sunday. Nowadays, the service consists of readings paired with sacred music. After each one, a candle is extinguished

If you can't make it to the church for any of these events, our 3:00 PM Good Friday service and these three devotionals will be live-streamed to our website and social media channels.

Additionally, it's always good to have a reminder that Good Friday is an obligatory day 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.

Holy Saturday | March 30th



The Easter Vigil mass in the Holy Night is perhaps the most moving liturgy in the Church calendar. Plunged into darkness after Christ's sacrifice on the cross, we are guided by the shining light of the word present throughout the evening's readings and psalms to His victory over death. Fallen and then redeemed, we celebrate the joy of the resurrection and the promise of new life.

Our Easter Vigil service will be held at 7:30 PM. God willing, a dozen catechumens will be invited to share in new life through their baptism; an additional dozen candidates will be confirmed alongside them.

Earlier in the day, we invite you to St. Paul's at 12:30 PM for the traditional Świąconka blessing! Świąconka, or the Blessing of the Food, is an ancient Catholic tradition dating back to the paschal celebrations of 7th century Polish communities. Food symbolic of Easter - such as eggs, lamb, bread, and salt - is blessed as an expression of "gratitude to God for all His gifts of both nature and grace." Regardless of what you will cook for yourself or your family, you can bring any food you will serve at your Easter Sunday meal for a blessing.

Finally, we have a favor to ask you to make our Easter Vigil celebration even more special!



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!

You can find our full Holy Week Schedule below, or grab a card with the schedule at the back of the church on Palm Sunday, We look forward to praying with you!

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



We wanted to thank the women of the New York Athletic Club that came together to make several dozen baskets for our Easter Basket Drive!



Thanks to the children of our church who gathered in the Parish Center this weekend to make Easter Baskets! Many included personalized artwork alongside candy, gift cards, and other Easter treats.



Upcoming Events



Holy Thursday Homebase
Thursday, March 28 - 6:30 PM-9:30 PM

We will hold next week's Homebase on Thursday so we can attend the 7 pm Holy Thursday Mass as a group and then, following Mass and Adoration, gather to head out to share a meal in the neighborhood. We are looking forward to praying and breaking bread together!



SECOND COLLECTION: Good Friday

On Good Friday, we will be conducting The Pontifical Collection for the Holy Land for the benefit and maintenance of the lands where Jesus walked. In the words of Paul VI, it is "not only for the Holy Places but above all for those pastoral, charitable, educational, and social works which the Church supports in the Holy Land for the welfare of their Christian brethren and of the local communities."

Now more than ever, the Christian community in the Holy Land could use our support. Thank you in advance for your generosity!



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 Sylvania Southwest HS Choir, will perform on Saturday, April 6th at 10 AM. 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



Fine Art Book Sale!

Over 50 high quality art books will be for sale to benefit Openings Summer Residency Scholarships. Most are high end exhibition catalogues in excellent condition, many are hardcover. Some are rare. All books will be heavily discounted.

The sale will take place one day only, on Saturday, April 13 from 1-4pm in the Parish Center.

No reserves; first come first served. All credit cards accepted!



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.

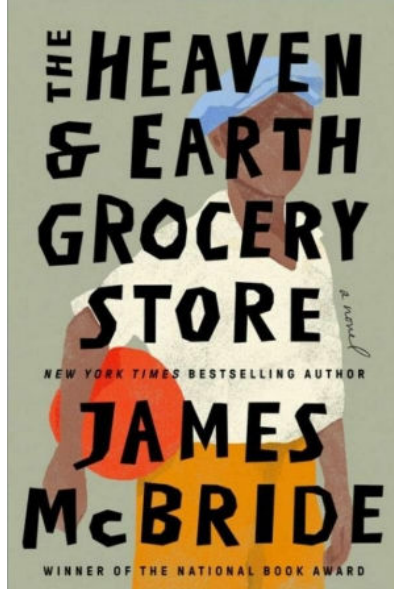
The composition incorporates sacred and secular texts in English, Spanish, and Latin, from biblical times to the present day, in an extraordinarily dramatic retelling of the Nativity.

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's Book Club

Join us via Zoom on



Tuesday, April 23rd
at 6:30PM

for our discussion of
*The Heaven & Earth Grocery
Store*
by James McBride

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

From James McBride, author of the bestselling Oprah's Book Club pick *Deacon King Kong* and the National Book Award-winning *The Good Lord Bird*, a novel about small-town secrets and the people who keep them.

In 1972, when workers in Pottstown, Pennsylvania, were digging the foundations for a new development, the last thing they expected to find was a skeleton at the bottom of a well. Who the skeleton was and how it got there were two of the long-held secrets kept by the residents of Chicken Hill, the dilapidated neighborhood where immigrant Jews and African Americans lived side by side and shared ambitions and sorrows. As these characters' stories overlap and deepen, it becomes clear how much the people who live on the margins of white, Christian America struggle and what they must do to survive. When the truth is finally revealed about what happened on Chicken Hill and the part the town's establishment played in it, McBride shows us that even in dark times, it is love and community—heaven and earth—that sustain us.



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 Team Member Erik Mencos:

"...while the existing world order proves powerless to assume its responsibilities, local individuals and groups can make a real difference. They are able to instill a greater sense of responsibility, a strong sense of community, a readiness to protect

others, a spirit of creativity, and a deep love for the land.” (Laudato Si, Chapter 5, Section II)

- How can you as an individual make a real difference in protecting God’s creation? Some ideas include: Collecting your household organic waste and discarding it in NYC Smart Compost Bins or other composting facilities (this reduces harmful methane emissions and provides fertilizer for green spaces); Contacting elected officials and letting them know sustainability initiatives are important to the community; Regularly praying for the health of our planet and all its creatures and ecosystems.
- Take a stroll at the nearest park, garden or green space you can find. Observe the various types of plants, birds, land animals, and insects... Is there anything you had never noticed before? How does being in this space make you feel? Does it bring in you a “deep love for the land”?
- In Laudato Si, Pope Francis asks us to develop an attitude of “less is more”. How can you do this in your own life? (Laudato Si, Discussion Questions)



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



Well bro, the truth is, I didn't see that Peter was there. I just sang like always



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, Jacquieline 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 22nd

7:30AM † Graciela Margarita Villa
Lobos de Nava

12:10PM † Eloisa Burgos

Saturday, March 23rd

9:00AM - For the People

5:00PM † Berjuni Varjabedian

Sunday, March 24th

8:00AM † Louise E. DeMartino

10:00AM † Benny Rodriguez

12:30PM † Magdalena Toledo

5:00PM † Marcin Broda

Monday, March 25th

7:30AM - The Loanzon Family

12:10PM - For the People

Tuesday, March 26th

7:30AM † Veronica De La Paz Fernadez

12:10PM - For the People

Wednesday, March 27th

7:30AM † Peter Florio

12:10PM † Celida Medina

Thursday, March 28th

No Mass Intentions

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.



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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