

September 18th, 2025



25th Sunday in Ordinary Time



A Note From the Director of OCIA

We Are All Pilgrims

Dear friends,

By the time you read this, Fr. Eric, Joey, and our Music Ministry will be in Italy, and I will have completed my brief pilgrimage to Rome. My wife and I managed to visit all four Papal basilicas, and along the way we caught up with Fr. Matt Berrios CSP and even invited fellow pilgrims to visit St. Paul's when they return to New York. I'm now in Thessaloniki with my theology hat on (and with a full heart and sore feet) to participate in a theology conference that commemorates the 1700th anniversary of the Nicene Creed, a milestone that informs this Jubilee Year. Since there is still time to observe this Holy Year devoted to Hope, I think it may be opportune to lift up the reality that whether one can travel or not for the Jubilee, *we are all pilgrims*.

Consider something as quotidian as traveling to church to participate in the Mass, to celebrate any liturgy, or for personal prayer. Stepping into any church is a "threshold" experience. In the Eucharist we have a "foretaste" of the heavenly liturgy, which we journey toward as pilgrims. I often think about the significance of the front steps of the church: we really ascend, as if going up the mountain, to pray. Think also about the periodic interruptions that anyone can experience amidst this weekly spiritual journey. A torrential downpour (think of Ash Wednesday 2025) or a rough day in the MTA will easily reinforce how much we really depend on God to get us through our daily travels—indeed, our lives. This is exactly what pilgrims experience. I am still deeply moved by the memory of so many of the faithful persevere through the rain to attend that Ash Wednesday Mass. It gives expression to pilgrim spirituality: *even when life "goes south," keep moving towards God*

We still have until January 6 to partake in this Jubilee. What would it mean to live a pilgrim spirituality without leaving home? I truly believe it will be more profound than we realize. Here are some practices to consider over these coming months so that you and I make the most of the rest of the Jubilee.

- **Pilgrims experience our faith with new eyes and ears.**

One of the hallmarks of a Jubilee is to make a profession of faith. Choose one Sunday between now and the new year to simply listen as the assembly recites the Nicene-Constantinopolitan Creed during Mass. I bet that you will find it moving to remember what you and I *pray* when we say it.

- **Pilgrims live with gratitude and practice charity.**

Remember and give thanks for your history of travel, near or far: not only when you have traveled, but when others have traveled to visit you. Relatedly, remember those who are part of the pilgrimage of your life. In particular, reach out to someone whose current season of life is "going south." One important way to do so is to engage in direct service, such as with our parish Loaves and Fishes ministry.

- **Pilgrims get to experience the wider Catholic Church.**

Visit another parish during the week or during a free day, or make a mini-pilgrimage to our Cathedral or one of the designated pilgrimage sites. Bring some friends on the journey if you can!

- Pilgrims share in the struggle of faith by their prayer.

Here I make a special request to pray for all who are journeying to Catholic faith. This year looks like it will be another robust one for our OCIA pilgrim community. Next month we hope to celebrate our Threshold Rites during the 10 AM Mass on October 19 and the 5 PM Mass on October 26. Once these pilgrims have become catechumens and candidates, I invite you to reach out to them to offer your love and support. [And don't forget to recite the Jubilee prayer](#) for your needs and for others' needs. It goes without saying that there is so much to pray for, respond to, and stand up for. And we should recall that "all serious and upright human conduct is hope in action" (Spe Salvi 35). We need our prayer to be, and become, action.

Truly, we are all pilgrims. While I certainly wish that everyone has the chance to visit Rome to commemorate a Jubilee year (for the planners among us, I would bet that we will see an "extraordinary" Jubilee in 2033), I hope above all that we grow in appreciation of the call to embrace pilgrim spirituality, to be pilgrims of hope here in New York. Every step we make towards God makes a difference, even if the subway messes with your travel plans. You are not alone in this journey. Gathered together in Jesus, we all make our way towards—and even back to—God. I've thought about and prayed in gratitude for you all amidst my travels. Thank you for witnessing to hope in all that you are and do!

+AMDG



Dr. Dave de la Fuente
Director of OCIA, St. Paul the Apostle

Upcoming Events

St. Paul's Bereavement Support Group

The purpose of bereavement support groups is to provide support to those who have experienced the loss of a loved one: to offer an environment where the bereaved can help each other through their pain and sorrow, to see each other emerge from the experience able to survive and become stronger.

The Fall Bereavement Group will start in September and meet once a week for 6 weeks from 6:30 to 8pm. (Day of the week to be determined by the availability of the participants.) The group will be facilitated by Barbara Burns.

If you are interested in participating or just want to find out more about the process, **contact bereavement@stpaultheapostle.org or 212 663-5640.**

**Meetings Start in September
in the Parish Center (405 W59th St)**



ARE YOU THINKING ABOUT BECOMING CATHOLIC?

COME *and* SEE

OCIA INQUIRY PROGRAM
SUNDAYS @ 11:30 AM
BEGINNING SEPTEMBER 7
IN THE PARISH CENTER

QUESTIONS?
CONTACT DR. DAVE VIA QR CODE



Our annual OCIA process resumes this Fall with our inquiry phase, which we call our Come and See program. This is a great program for spiritual seekers and those who are curious about Catholicism.

We will meet regularly on Sundays beginning on September 7 at 11:30 and explore what it means to be Catholic today. To learn more, contact Dr. Dave at david.de.la.fuente@stpaultheapostle.org.

“There were also women looking on from a distance, among whom were Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James the younger and of Joses, and Salome. When he was in Galilee, they followed him and ministered to him, and **there were many other women who came up with him to Jerusalem.**” Mark 15:40–41




WOMEN AT THE CHURCH OF SAINT PAUL THE APOSTLE
ARE INVITED FOR WINE, CHEESE, AND A CHAT

Tuesday, September 23rd
at 6:30 PM in the Parish Center

Join other women in our parish community for a discussion about a new ministry created for women of the parish. This gathering will be an opportunity to get to know each other and express ideas about what we hope this ministry might offer. Let's have fun building this together!

RSVP at the link below!

[Click Here to Sign Up](#)



*St. Paul's Religious Education classes
start this weekend! Guided by the Holy
Spirit, we look forward to a great year!*



Poets@StPaul

In-Person Gathering



For more information, contact: tholahan@paulist.org

Poets@StPaul meets monthly to learn more about poetry writing as well as sharing recent work. All are welcome to our poetry gatherings: poetry writers, poetry lovers and the poetry curious. Bring a poem you have written or a favorite by another! Reading and discussion to follow.

Wednesday, September 24th
at 7:00 PM in the Parish Center





FRIENDS OF THE POOR WALK 2025

COME JOIN YOUR FRIENDS FROM OUR CHURCH'S CHAPTER OF SVDP

SATURDAY SEPT. 27TH AT 9:30 AM

STARTING FROM ST. PATRICK'S CATHEDRAL
ON FIFTH AVE. BETWEEN 50TH AND 51ST STREET

TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THE MANY THINGS SVDP DOES TO HELP THOSE IN NEED, ASK FOR ASSISTANCE, OR TO SHOW YOUR SUPPORT, SCAN THIS QR CODE OR VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT WWW.SVDPSpanyc.org



GOD BLESS YOU!

Donate to SVDP

Learn More about Our Ministry

OSP Fall Hike & Pilgrimage

Hudson Highlands visit to Graymoor: The Holy Mountain



Join for a guided hike and pilgrimage for the 2025 Jubilee

Saturday, September 27, 7:30 am to late afternoon

4.7 miles from Garrison, NY to Graymoor

LEARN MORE & RSVP BY 9/21 AT THE LINK IN BIO





homecoming

OSP will host its first-ever reunion, called Homecoming, on **Saturday, October 11th and Sunday, October 12th.**

The weekend will include a talk about the history and future of OSP on Saturday afternoon, a reception on Saturday evening, and Mass on Sunday at 5pm. Everyone who has ever been involved with OSP in any way is invited. If you didn't receive the save-the-date email, please let us know -- and please help us spread the word!

October 11th and 12th

Sign up by clicking the button below, or go to
www.stpaultheapostle.org/homecoming

[Click Here to Sign Up](#)

BILINGUAL HEALING MASS



Join us for an evening mass on October 15th dedicated to special prayer for the health and healing of participants and those that we keep in our hearts. It will include the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick. Please spread the word to those in your life that are in particular need of God's healing power and love.

ST. PAUL THE APOSTLE
Wednesday, October 15th at 6:00 PM



SAVE THE DATE
October 25 – 26



Ministry Fair

October BOOK CLUB

Set during the French Revolution, this classic novella by Gertrud von Le Fort is based on the true story of the Carmelite nuns of Compiègne, who offered their lives for the preservation of the Church in France.

The story captures an epoch vividly demonstrating man's capacity for both heroism and brutality, exploring eighteenth century Paris, the Reign of Terror in France, and the Catholic faithful caught in the middle.

THE Song AT THE Scaffold



GERTRUD VON LE FORT

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 28TH
at 6:30PM in the Parish Center

RSVP to welcomecenter@stpaultheapostle.org

Laudato Si

Environmental Ministry



SPA Pilgrims of Hope For Creation in Central Park

[CLICK HERE
TO READ ALL ABOUT IT!](#)

Scenes from the Week



Thanks to everyone who came out for our Welcome Weekend celebrations! A special shout out to the St. Vincent de Paul ministry for sponsoring the festivities as they prepare for this year's Friends of the Poor walk.





Our choir is finally on their pilgrimage to Italy (alongside Fr. Eric!) Here they are on their first stop in Florence, where they just performed their first concert at the Basilica di Santa Trinita. Keep an eye out for more updates - and even some footage of their magnificent singing - on our social media channels!

Holy Humor

Sox fans: Jesus, could you please let the Sox at least have a winning record this season?

Jesus:



[See More](#)

Prayer Requests



Grant eternal rest to Stephani Joy Katechis, Emilia Hernandez Pabon, Dr. Robert K. Eschenauer, Liza Monette David, Robert Nilles, Sr. Angela Stodolski, S.C., Olivia Besteiro, Thomas R. Hessel, Nicholas P. O'Neill, Marian A Milne, Daniel Wilson, Lorraine Bucalo, Cullen Holt Creel, John Henry Paige, and Marco Pievani.

Grant health and healing to Paula Ryan, Maureen Belsito, Luke Janke, Dee Tomeo, Valerie Bosco, Tony Micakaj, Liza David, Paul Schmittner, Rev. Ronald Yarrosch, Jayne Boccuzzi, Donnie Strickland, Michael Conner, Rudy Alamia, Kathryn Sanders, Christopher Henderson, Lucy Gbile, Francela Lopez, Denise Abady, Albert Besteiro, Shay Gavin, Daniel, Linda and Nathan Wilson, Mary Dare, Kathleen Friel, Yvonne Beatrice, Mary Dare and Luz Maria Baquera, Christopher Ryan Asencio, Luke Nedza, the people of Palestine, Gaza & the Middle East, Jerry Ward, Albert Besteiro, Marilyn, Cheney, Judy Britt, and Diane Sheedy.

Grant peace and well-being to Marcine Stephenson, Tessa Grace, Mariana de los Angeles Sevcek, Marcine Stephenson, Antoinette Cinturati, Patrick Brennan, Leonardo Canas, Keon Whyte, Marguerite Zohni, Neil Sussman, Baby Elias, Neil Sussman, Catherene Baker, and Jean Blackwell, Fr. Samuel Perrins, Tim Dillon, Gail & Tom Santner, and John Altez.

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, September 19th

7:30 AM † Ligia Menzies
12:10 PM † Ronalde Bazile

Saturday, September 20th

8:30 AM † Anne Ryan
5:00 PM † Lost Souls of Purgatory

Sunday, September 21st

8:00AM - For the People
10:00AM † Greg A. Smith
12:30PM - John Stravros
5:00PM † Marcin Broda

Monday, September 22nd

7:30 AM - Zenon Wiczorek
12:10 PM - Reena Ghosh

Tuesday, September 23rd

7:30 AM † Marge McTigue
12:10 PM † Sr. Alice O'Shaughnessy

Wednesday, September 24th

7:30AM † Marichu Loanzon
12:10PM † Aurelia Real

Thursday, September 25th

7:30 AM † James Wong
12:10 PM † Herbert J. Kerr

Parish Information



Church Hours

Monday-Tuesday, Thursday - Friday

7:00 AM - 5:00 PM

Wednesday

7:00 AM - 7:00 PM

Saturday

8:30 AM - 6:30 PM

Sunday

7:00 AM - 6:30 PM

Mass Schedule

Daily Mass

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday

7:30 AM and 12:10 PM

Wednesday

7:30 AM, 12:10 PM, and 6:30 PM

Saturday

8:30AM

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



Make a Gift to St. Paul's

You may be away for the summer, but our bills aren't going anywhere! Help us keep the air conditioning running and our ministries flourishing by showing your support to St. Paul's.

Your support is the primary way that we can continue to serve the people of our parish - **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!

Virtch Church ONLINE MINISTRY





TAKE ST. PAUL'S WITH YOU
WHEREVER YOU GO!

Masses Livestreamed

WEEKDAYS AT 12:10 PM

SATURDAYS AT 5 PM

SUNDAYS AT 10 AM & 5 PM



Virtch Church on the St. Paul's
Website

Virtch Church on YouTube

Virtch Church on Facebook



Our services, along with the readings and hymns for weekends, 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>.



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