

ST. PAUL OF THE CROSS

AS FOR ME AND MY HOUSE, WE WILL SERVE THE LORD
JOSHUA 24:15

December 24, 2023 | FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT / CHRISTMAS



THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD

"For today in the city of David a savior has been born for you
who is Christ and Lord." - Lk 2:11

WEEKLY MASS SCHEDULE

Upper Church

Monday - Friday

6:25 am
8:30 am

Saturday

8:30 am (*weekday Mass*)
4:30 pm (*vigil*)

Sunday

7:30 am
9:00 am
10:30 am
12:00 pm

MONTHLY FAMILY MASS

2nd Sunday @ 10:30 am
Holy Family Chapel

UPCOMING TEEN MASS

Sunday, Feb 18th @ 12:00 pm
Upper Church

CONFESSION

Upper Church

Monday - Friday

8:00 am - 8:15 am

Saturday

3:00 pm - 4:00pm

RECTORY OFFICE HOURS

Monday - Friday

9:00 am - 5:00 pm
closed from 12-1 pm for lunch

Saturday

9:00 am - 1:00pm

847-825-7605



December 24, 2023 FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT / CHRISTMAS

Schedule

WEEKLY MASS SCHEDULE

Upper Church

Monday through Friday	6:25 am
	8:30 am
Saturday (weekday Mass)	8:30 am
Saturday (vigil)	4:30 pm
Sunday	7:30 am
	9:00 am
	10:30 am
	12:00 pm

MONTHLY FAMILY MASS

Holy Family Chapel

2nd Sunday Family Mass 10:30 am

TEEN MASS (open to the public)

Upper Church

Sunday, Feb 18th at 12:00 pm

CONFESSIONS

in vestibule of Upper Church

Monday through Friday 8-8:15 am
Saturday 3-4:00 pm

FUNERALS

Monday through Saturday Morning

WEDDINGS

Friday and Saturday

BAPTISMS

Saturday and Sunday

Baptisms

Due to the early bulletin deadline because of the Christmas holiday, we do not have any baptisms to report at this time. We are sure to announce more than usual next week!



Wedding Banns

JOHN BAUMANN
& **SHANNON O'MALLEY**



*Please see our
Year-End Schedule
on page 8*

Due to the early bulletin deadline because of the Christmas holiday, we do not have financials available to report for the week of December 10th through 16th. These results will be reported in our December 31st bulletin.

Pray for our Sick

names remain for two months

Bailey
Delaney Bartz
Julie Benedetto-Wilcox
Ray Benedetto
Vince Ferraro
Ralph Greinke III
Gerry McDonald
Carole Zachary

In Loving Memory

Please pray for the souls of the faithful departed in our SPC community. Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them.

Josephine Drosos
Cindy Kennedy
Roy Ott
Patricia Taglialavore

Stewardship Report

WEEKLY OFFERING (December 3rd - December 9th)

Envelopes	\$15,971.00
Loose	\$9,474.50
Electronic Giving	\$20,286.42
Total Weekly Offering	\$45,731.92

SECOND COLLECTION (through December 9th)

Catholic Campaign for Human Dev	\$3,205.00
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ADDITIONAL FINANCIAL DATA

2023 Annual Catholic Appeal (through Nov 19th)(goal: \$142,718)	\$177,820 paid (125%) \$180,479 pledged (126%)
Sunday Giving FY24 Year to Date (July 1st through December 9th)	\$784,600.32
Sunday Giving FY24 vs. Budget (July 1st through November 30th)	+\$85,739.74

Readings for the Week

SUN, 12/24: 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16 / Ps 89:2-3, 4-5, 27, 29 / Rom 16:25-27 / Lk 1:26-38

MON, 12/25: Vigil: Is 62:1-5 / Ps 89:4-5, 16-17, 27, 29 / Acts 13:16-17, 22-25 / Mt 1:1-25 or 1:18-25 Night: Is 9:1-6 / Ps 96: 1-2, 2-3, 11-12, 13 / Ti 2:11-14 / Lk 2:1-14
Dawn: Is 62:11-12/Ps 97:1, 6, 11-12 / Ti 3:4-7 / Lk 2:15-20
Day: Is 52:7-10 /Ps 98:1, 2-3, 3-4, 5-6 / Heb 1:1-6 / Jn 1:1-18 or 1:1-5, 9-14

TUE, 12/26 Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59 / Ps 31:3cd-4, 6 and 8ab, 16bc and 17 / Mt 10:17-22

WED, 12/27: 1 Jn 1:1-4 / Ps 97:1-2, 5-6, 11-12 / Jn 20:1a, 2-8

THU, 12/28: 1 Jn 1:5 - 2:2 / Ps 124:2-3, 4-5, 7cd-8 / Mt 2:13-18

FRI, 12/29: 1 Jn 2:3-11 / Ps 96:1-2a, 2b-3, 5b-6 / Lk 2:22-35

SAT, 12/30: 1 Jn 2:12-17 /
Ps 96:7-8a, 8b-9, 10 /
Lk 2:36-40



Letter from a Pastor to his People



Dear Parishioners,

At our St. Nick's party several weeks ago I was delighted not just by the large crowd and festive gathering, but by the local high schoolers providing music. There was a band as well as a little group of carolers. They were great. Thank you for this, students. Their music got me

thinking about one of the lesser-sung Christmas carols, "I Saw Three Ships."

As an aside, I love how we have in our lexicon a word devoted solely for people who sing Christmas songs. We don't use the word *caroler* for anything else. People singing Taylor Swift songs or the Chicago Bears fight song are not caroling. And the true definition of a *caroler* is one who goes from house to house singing Christmas songs. *Carol* is rooted in the old English 'karolle' which was a round dance. Think of how evangelical that is... going around singing and dancing, spreading the good news of Christ's existence. Again, we don't go singing or dancing outside of peoples' homes announcing there's a sale at Target or a new show on Netflix. Let's not let caroling fall out of practice.

Back to the story... what are the "three ships" that sailed into Bethlehem on Christmas day? It's a bit of a head scratcher, since Bethlehem was landlocked. Some think it's a reference to the three kings, as camels were called "ships of the desert." Others think it's a reference to the relics of the magi and parts of the creche being carried to Europe. (By the way, Sting actually has a great version of this carol.)

There might not be an exact rationale behind the carol, but I do believe the image of a ship is very fitting for Christmas. You'll see a ship in one of the frieze carvings on the front of our church. Christ is sailing on the ship. The ship is both the Church and his mother Mary. Joseph is the captain of the ship. That ship, which has been out to sea for the last four weeks, comes to port on Christmas Day. The port is our heart. Our Lord brings us a new taste of his grace, of his love this day.

Before the modern era, the sight of a ship (think of those large wooden ships with massive white sails) was something terrific. It excited and brought great joy to the people on land. Supplies were coming, as were delicacies from afar. I guess it would be the equivalent today of an Amazon truck pulling up to your house.

Christ brings to you the greatest gift you could ever imagine. Don't be afraid to sing and dance and tell others about it. Merry Christmas.



We are happy to give each of you a little Christmas present, a **free book, "Beautiful Eucharist."** Thank you to the Knights of Columbus for sponsoring this effort. Feel free to take a book or two and hand out to people you know. We hope this will help your own understanding and devotion to the Eucharist and perhaps help bring others to Mass.

Please see inside the bulletin for our **Christmas Eve/Christmas Day Mass schedule**. Just a reminder, the Mass at 9am on Sunday, December 24th "counts" for the 4th Sunday of Advent. Please also note there will be only one Mass on Tuesday, December 26th at 8:30am and no daily confessions that morning.

Next **Sunday, December 31st** is the Feast of the Holy Family. There will be a 5pm Mass that Sunday afternoon, but that Mass is a vigil Mass that "counts" for the Solemnity of Mary, the Mother of God on January 1st. Monday is a holy day of obligation and we will have two Masses that morning: 7:30am and 9am. There will be only one Mass on Tuesday, January 2nd at 8:30am and no daily confessions that morning.

There will be no Wednesday morning **Scripture Seminar** this Wednesday, December 27th or for the next several weeks. We will resume on Wednesday, January 24th.

Once again, on behalf of the entire staff, we wish you and your loved ones a very merry Christmas and a happy New Year. God bless you for your faith and all you do for our parish.

Yours in Christ,

Community Reflections



From the beginning of Advent until Christmas can feel like a sprint. Everything from decorating to shopping for Christmas presents to parties and family gatherings. I'm also mindful of those who are hurting because of broken families or a death in the family, it seems like everyday I hear stories of another person dealing with anxiety or panic attacks. Needless to say, this season like life itself can be a mixed bag. In my prayer, I keep coming back to the hope that radiates from the manger of the Christ child. Immanuel, our God choosing to live among us having dived into the trenches of our life.

Any parent who has looked at their newborn baby can relate to this feeling of hope evident; the gratitude for having a reason to hope. Our faith, our vocations as parents, or priests, or as disciples needs to be inclined to hope. And it is not foolishness to hope when we understand all that has been promised throughout the scriptures has begun to blossom in the incarnation of Christ. When our movement throughout the season is propelled by the hope in the truth of God's promise being fulfilled in our hearing; then whether we enjoy every event or treasure every tradition or not at the end of the day in the silence of the night our joy is properly fueled by the realization of heavenly realities; that as long as God is with us and watching over us I cannot despair lest I deny the truly good news of his tender, unique love for me and for you.

If hope springs from the truth of who God is and the beauty of all he has built then gratitude is surely an appropriate response. Our gratitude is what drives us into praise and worship, Christmas carols, letters of friendship, and well wishes. This expression of our faith is an organic exchange, a relationship with God and with each other, it's precisely these things that makes us human and pulls us out of the transactional nature of earthly society to something deeper, an understanding of our interconnectedness and acknowledgment of our true citizenship which is in heaven. Our God is the author of hope and he sees the goodness and potential in us and wanted to call that out by living our life and showing us the way back home, hopefully our journey will ultimately help us grow in love for him who loved us first and appreciate the reign of his Holy Rule.

Fr. Nicholas Cavallari, Associate Pastor

Adoration Chapel

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION CHAPEL

COME SPEND SOME TIME WITH JESUS!

Our Adoration Chapel is open from 5 am until 11 pm.



Our current adorer schedule is pictured below. Red boxes indicate where there are no committed adorers. We need at least two committed adorers for each slot before we can reopen during the night. Yellow slots are when we have only one committed adorer; additional commitments are needed to fortify the schedule. Green indicates two or more adorers are present.

If you would like to sign up for a timeslot, please call the parish office at **847-825-7605** or email adorationchapel@spc-church.org

	Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
12:00 AM							
1:00 AM							
2:00 AM							
3:00 AM							
4:00 AM							
5:00 AM							
6:00 AM		clean		clean		clean	
7:00 AM							
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7:00 PM							
8:00 PM							
9:00 PM							
10:00 PM							
11:00 PM							

*See page 7 for a message
from our Adoration Team*

Mass Schedule

FEAST DAY	TIME	PRESIDER	LECTOR	EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS	MASS INTENTIONS
SUN, 12/24 Fourth Sunday of Advent - Christmas Eve	9:00 am UC	Fr. Nick	John Tallman, Jane Olson	Patty Beaudet-Frances, Mary Hester-Tone, Shirley Patras, Patricia Thomson	
	3:00 pm UC	Fr. Nick/MN*	Dan Hogan, Jake Zabratanski	Reggie Higgins Reither, John Humm, Amy Kladis, Heather Rusk, Philip Spagnolo, Patricia Thomson	
	3:00 pm Gym	Fr. James	Neda Naum, Jennifer Waters	Pat Adlaf, Bob Bulger, Sharon Sernel, Kevin Wiley, Jennifer Waters, OPEN	
	4:30 pm UC	Fr. Britto	Brianna Santucci, Vincent Santucci	Christopher Buti, Peggy O'Neill, Chris Poindexter, Patti Nowak, Paul Ziegenhorn, Gina Caruso	
MON, 12/25 Christmas Day	12:00 am UC	Fr. Nick	John Tallman, Jimmy Johnston	Katie Johnston, Nicolette, Vallejo, Ann Solari-Twadell, Paula Vallejo	
	7:30 am UC	Fr. James	Steve Palac, Anastasia Jakubow	Patty Bacci, Reggie Higgins Reither, Anastasia Jakubow, Mike Marrese	
	9:00 am UC	Fr. Nick	Jane Olson, Patty Beaudet-Frances	Margie Alicea, Will Alicea, Pat Lawlor, Linda Swoboda	
	10:30 am UC	Fr. James	Matthew Steward, Frances Johnson	Randy Bull, Patricia Thomson, Geri Weissmann, OPEN	
	12:00 pm UC	Fr. James	Neda Naum, Kirke Machon	Joan Keefe, Missy Machon, Shirley Patras, Sandra Hernandez	
TUE, 12/26 Saint Stephen	8:30 am UC	Fr. James			William Davis, Jr, Dominic Morris, Alice Hunt, Lorraine Sullivan and Family
WED, 12/27 Saint John	6:25 am UC	Fr. James			Joseph Pinkos
	8:30 am UC	Fr. James/MN*			Matthew Heinen, Lorraine Klein, Deacon Al and Bette Memmel, Louise Sottile
THU, 12/28 The Holy Innocents	6:25 am UC	Fr. Nick/MN*			Birthday Blessings for Robert Altman
	8:30 am UC	Fr. Nick			Jolanta Bialobrzewski
FRI, 12/29 Saint Thomas Becket	6:25 am UC	Fr Nick			Irma Hoehne
	8:30 am UC	Fr. Nick/MN*			Holy Souls in Purgatory
SAT, 12/30 Sixth Day within the Octave of the Nativity of the Lord	8:30 am UC	Fr. Nick/MN*			Anne Stuerhoff
	4:30 pm UC	Fr. James	Patti Nowak, Patricia Izban	Gina Caruso, Mary Fran Cashman, Pat Lawlor, Carol Welton	Estelle Peplow, Genie Garcia, George O'Leary, Luke Schilling, Deceased Members of the Hugh and McCormick Families, Healing and Blessings for John Ahern
SUN, 12/31 The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph	7:30 am UC	Fr. Nick	Anastasia Jakubow, Walter Cwik	Reggie Higgins Reither, John Humm, Anastasia Jakubow, Mike Marrese	Lorraine A. Kieser, Healing and Blessings for Charlene Widmaier
	9:00 am UC	Fr. James	John Tallman, Frances Johnson	Margie Alicea, Will Alicea, Shirley Patras, OPEN	Birthday Blessings for Ange Santangelo, People of the Parish
	10:30 am UC	Fr. Nick/AC*	Dan Hogan, Armand Andreoni	Cheryl Kaufman, Maria Talarico, Margaret Teich, Patricia Thomson	Orville Maxwold, Jr, Susan Harrison, Caite Sturh, Blessings for Bernad and Betty Phillips
	12:00 pm UC	Fr. James/MN*	Neda Naum, Chris Paotelli	Virginia Underwood, Kevin Wiley, Paul Ziegenhorn, OPEN	Pat Maughan, Rose Huhta
	5:00 pm UC (vigil)	Fr. James	Patricia Izban, OPEN	Neda Naum, Patti Nowak, Mary Ryan Smith, Carol Welton	People of the Parish
MON, 1/1 Mary, Mother of God	7:30 am UC	Fr. Nick			*LEGEND: /AC = Deacon Andy Cameron preaching /MN = Deacon Martin Nyberg preaching
	9:00 am UC	Fr. James			

Opportunities at St. Paul of the Cross

CHRISTMAS DECORATION REMOVAL

SATURDAY, JANUARY 6th

10:00 am

Rectory and Kinane Center

Please join us on Saturday, January 6th, at 10:00 am to take down the Christmas decorations in the Rectory and Kinane Center. Service hours are available for students.

Volunteer link:

www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0B4FA8A828A4F58-45365597-rectorykinance

ST. PAUL OF THE CROSS
APOSTOLATE
of **WOMEN**

NEW PARISHIONER WELCOME *and* DONUT SUNDAY

SUNDAY, JANUARY 7th

8:30 am — 12:00 pm

Parish Life Center



Our **NEW PARISHIONER WELCOME MINISTRY** will be available on January 7th from 8:30 am until noon to register new parishioners, answer questions, and distribute welcome packets. **DONUTS** will be served after the 9:00 am and 10:30 am Masses.

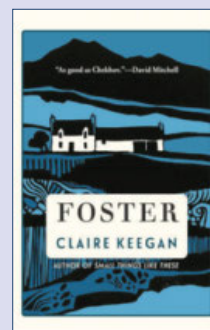
BOOK CLUB

MONDAY, JANUARY 8th

7:30 pm

Parish Life Center AB Room

Please join us for our next book club meeting where we will discuss the following two novellas by Claire Keegan: **SMALL THINGS LIKE THESE** and **FOSTER**.



All are welcome!

SCRIPTURE SEMINAR *with* FATHER JAMES

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 24th

9:00 am

Holy Family Chapel

Please join Fr. James at the next **SCRIPTURE SEMINAR** on Wednesday, January 24th at 9:00 am in the Holy Family Chapel. The group will discuss and pray over a scripture passage, and try to use the sacred text to deal with some questions we all may have. Sessions are not dependent on one another, so attend at your leisure. No fee or registration or prior knowledge of the Bible required.

SCRIPTURE  **STUDY**

FAMILY MASS

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 11th

10:30 am

Holy Family Chapel

Please note that there is no Family Mass in January due to the holiday weekend (MLK)



Our next Family Mass will be held February 11th. Children will assist with the readings and ushering at this Mass. Everyone of all ages, of course, is welcome to attend the HFC Mass. If you are interested in being involved, please contact Jennifer Waters at jenwaters13@gmail.com.

Special thanks to Hannah Jaconetti for photo

TEEN MASS

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 18th

12:00 pm

Upper Church



Please join Fr. James for our next **TEEN MASS** on February 18th.

While the Mass will be simple and catered to teenagers, we have opened this Mass to the general public.

We hope to see you there!

Women's Little Christmas

JANUARY 6th

4:30 pm Mass

and reception to follow

In celebration of the feast of the Epiphany in Ireland, January 6th is marked as Women's Little Christmas. On this day, it is tradition for the women to get together and enjoy their own Christmas celebration. The Apostolate of Women would like to introduce this tradition to the ladies of St. Paul of the Cross. Please save the date and join us for 4:30 pm Mass and a reception to follow.

ST. PAUL OF THE CROSS
APOSTOLATE
of **WOMEN**

Volunteer Opportunity

**NEW PARISHIONER MINISTRY
VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY**



"And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ." (Ephesians 4:11-12)

We are looking for volunteers to welcome new parishioners to St. Paul of the Cross. New Parishioner registration by volunteers is held typically on the first Sunday of each month at the Parish Life Center. Please help us demonstrate the spirit of our vibrant parish. Call **Maria Mehl** at **847-823-0930** for more information.

Message from Adoration Team

**SO, EARLY ON THE EUCHARIST WAS RESERVED
IN CAVES OR HERMITAGES.
WHAT CAME NEXT?**

From EWTN, "As early as the Council of Nicea (325), we know that the Eucharist began to be reserved in the churches of monasteries and convents. Again, the immediate reason for this reservation was for the sick and the dying, and also for the ceremony of the fermentum. But naturally its sacred character was recognized, and the place of reservation was set off from profane usage. From the beginning of community life, therefore, the Blessed Sacrament became an integral part of the church structure of a monastery. A bewildering variety of names was used to identify the place of reservation. Pastoforium, diakonikon, secretarium, prothesis are the most common. As far as we can tell, the Eucharist was originally kept in a special room, just off the sanctuary but separated from the church where Mass was offered.

Stay tuned for our next message which will discuss how mice played a role in reserving the Eucharist. God bless!



Year-End Liturgical Schedule



CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE

CHRISTMAS EVE

Sunday, December 24th

The Vigil of Christmas

3:00 pm Upper Church and Gym

4:30 pm Upper Church

11:30 pm Upper Church (choir prelude)

Midnight Upper Church

CHRISTMAS DAY

Monday, December 25th

The Nativity of the Lord

7:30 am Upper Church

9:00 am Upper Church

10:30 am Upper Church

12:00 pm Upper Church

NEW YEAR'S SCHEDULE

NEW YEAR'S EVE

Sunday, December 31st

Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph

7:30 am Upper Church

9:00 am Upper Church

10:30 am Upper Church

12:00 pm Upper Church

Vigil of Mary, the Mother of God

5:00 pm Upper Church

NEW YEAR'S DAY

Monday, January 1st

Mary, the Mother of God

7:30 am Upper Church

9:00 am Upper Church

A NOTE FROM OUR USHERS

We are anticipating large crowds for all 3:00 pm Christmas Eve services. In order to seat all families who arrive first, **NO SAVING SEATS IS ALLOWED.** To avoid being separated from other family members, please wait until all of your family is present before entering church. **We thank you for your cooperation!**

Rectory Office Holiday Schedule

Please note that our rectory offices will be closed for the holidays on the following days :



Monday, December 25th

Tuesday, December 26th

Monday, January 1, 2024

Optłaki Christmas Wafers

As has been our parish tradition, we will have Oplatki Christmas Wafers (4 wafers per pack) available for purchase at the Rectory office and in the Sacristy in between Masses.

A suggested \$2 donation is appreciated



RECTORY OFFICE HOURS:

Monday through Friday

9:00 am — 5:00 pm*

**closed for lunch from 12:00 pm—1:00 pm*

Saturday

9:00 am — 1:00 pm

Sunday

Closed

Make your Christmas Donation Online

Our Christmas collection constitutes a significant portion of our annual budget.

Thank you for your generosity year after year!

You can make your donation online at the following link:

givecentral.org/location/133/event/20390



Social Service Ministry Corner

CHRISTMAS HOPE

Ever since I could remember, Christmas has always been special for me. When I was no more than 5 years old living in the Philippines, I remember putting my sapatos (shoes!) on the ledge of my Lola's (Grandma's) two-story house hoping that I would see Santa Claus fill my shoes with candy. My siblings and I would try to stay up and wait for him.

Somehow, we always managed to fall sleep, and missed his coming.

Well, give or take 50+ years later, I'm still anticipating and waiting, but not for Santa. As we get closer to celebrating the birth of Jesus Christ, my heart is filled with hope. Hope for so many that you will receive and get to know Jesus. He is faithful, loving, forgiving, and best of all, you will get to live to eternity with Him if you seek Him, and Believe He is Lord and Savior.

Merry Christmas!

Leni Duffy

Director of Social Service Ministry



Food Pantry



Our food pantry is currently in need of the following:

- Toothpaste
- Salad dressing
- Canned pineapple (not crushed)
- Boxes of granola bars (not jumbo sized please)
- Pasta sauce

Thank you for helping fill our cupboards!

Fr. James' Advent and Christmas Reflections



The Fourth Sunday of Advent

"Descended from David according to the flesh,
but established as Son of God in power according to
the spirit of holiness through resurrection from the dead,
Jesus Christ our Lord."
Romans 1:3-4

I received a "Christmas card" the other day with the image of an Easter Lily and the word "Alleluia!" on the front. The inside message read, "He is risen!" My immediate thought was an Alzheimer's patient had escaped from the ward and made it to the Post Office. But then I thought again. There was a grace in this card. The resurrection is fundamental to our faith. Whether it's Christmas or the middle of August, we are never out of the shade of the empty tomb. Our entire faith hinges on the resurrection.

"Behold, the virgin shall be with child and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel," is the prophecy we hear constantly throughout Advent and again this weekend. It is what the angel told Joseph. Just as angels were present when God created the world in Genesis *ex nihilo*, angels were present outside the tomb when God recreated the world on Easter, when that *ex nihilo* had crept back on Good Friday. And angels are present to Mary and Joseph, the parents of the redeemer. The Annunciation is the overture to Christmas and Easter.

It is tradition to listen to Handel's *Messiah* during the Christmas season. The "Hallelujah Chorus," the most famous piece in the entire symphony, is seen as the ultimate Christmas Carol, if you will. Ironically, in the symphony, the "Hallelujah Chorus" is meant for *Easter*. But like that card I received with the "Christmas Lily," maybe there is some wisdom in our erroneous music selection. "Hallelujah... he is born!"

Prayer: Jesus, I submit to you. I obey the promptings of the Holy Spirit you have given me and continue to give me. I am a dutiful son/daughter. I renounce the darkness creeping into my heart and choose to live in the light. I choose to be joyful as Christmas nears.



Extra: Christmas Eve

"Now there were shepherds in that region living in the fields
and keeping the night watch over their flock."
Luke 2:8

I made a retreat at a Trappist monastery in Iowa one summer. Each day I went walking through the cornfields. Not through the actual rows of corn, but on wide paths with knee-high,

coarse grass slicing through the fields. I was curious why these paths existed. Surely not for me. Well, one particularly hot day the grass was mowed, and I found myself walking on a bed of green straw. A day later the straw was gone, and I was walking on dirt. My puzzle was solved when I reached the end of the cornfield and saw a large hay bale. This tall, coarse grass, seemingly at first a farmer's oversight in an otherwise ordered and fruitful field, was as significant as the corn.

The area was going through a spell of hot and dry weather that summer - perfect conditions for making hay. Little did I know this hay would be put to use around now: feeding animals that are unable to graze because snow covers the land or the grass is dormant.

The 16th Century English priest and martyr, Robert Southwell, penned "The Nativity of Christ" while in prison awaiting execution. The poem ends with the follow stanza:

Man alter'd was by sin from man to beast;
Beast's food is hay, hay is all mortal flesh;
Now God is flesh, and lies in manger press'd,
As hay the brutest sinner to refresh:
Oh happy field wherein this fodder grew,
Whose taste doth us from beasts to men renew!

It is a curious thing why animals are included in Nativity scenes, along with hay. Maybe it is a message that we are not just to adore the baby, but to feed on him. The Word was made flesh precisely in this wintertime, when the earth by itself does not produce food, so we can live.

Prayer: Christ, I thank you for this Advent season. There were beautiful graces and painful challenges. My heart was on fire at times, icy cold at others. I was near, I was far. I reflected your face to others by my goodness, I turned others away from you by my sin. There is no scorecard. You love me all the same. You came into this world for me. My heart is the empty manger for you.



Christmas



Haystacks-Snow Effect, Claude Monet, 1891

December 25 - The Nativity of the Lord

"You shall be called by a new name pronounced
by the mouth of the Lord."

Isaiah 62:2

The figures in a Nativity set can show us what elements are to be present in our religious and spiritual lives. We start with the angels. An angel usually rests on the apex of the creche, not to mention our Christmas trees. An angel is a supernatural, mystical, and transcendent being. They praise God constantly in heaven and serve him by serving us. The mystical is to be part of our lives. We are to reflect on the higher things and be awed by them. We are to praise God and adore him. We are to serve God by serving others.

We move next to the shepherds. If angels are on one end of the spectrum, shepherds would be on the other. Both ends of the spectrum are good and necessary. Shepherds are ordinary, humble, and even ugly. Angels fly, shepherds walk. They don't look directly on the face of God as angels do, but they encounter God in the rolling hills, the starry night sky, and the majestic trees. We aren't called to live in the clouds, but to experience God in our labor and in our nature. We aren't called to be the smartest individuals, but simple and faithful ones.

Sheep, donkeys, camels, and other animals are wonderfully present around the Christ-child. We are to be a people who respects creation. The three magi from the east tell us the "Gentiles" - those outside the standard practice of the faith - are actually inside with us. Joseph is our life of everyday virtue and fidelity. Mary is our life of prayer and interiority. And Jesus is our all.

Prayer: Jesus, my life is so dynamic. I am busy and I am still. I think and I act. I am joyful and melancholic. I want to be with you in silence; I want to serve others. My heart is the Nativity set. You are pleased to make it and I am pleased to have you dwell in it.



December 26 - Saint Stephen

"The witnesses laid down their cloaks at
the feet of a young man named Saul."

Acts 7:58

The martyrdom of Stephen was the turning point in Saul's life. Some might say the turning point was the Road to Damascus, but the seeds for that event were planted this day.

Saul was responsible for Stephen's death. He arrested the young Christian, rallied the angry rabble, and brought forth the charges. Stephen before the Sanhedrin proceeded to teach a lesson of salvation history and how Christ was the fulfillment of that history. He was then calm when the crowd and leaders rejected this teaching and falsely accused him of blasphemy. When the stones hit his body, his focus was

on the Father in heaven. He spoke the very words Jesus spoke from the cross: into your hands I commend my spirit.

Saul witnessed Stephen's behavior, and it struck him to the core. Stephen acted in a non-human, supernatural way. This could only be possible if Christ were real.

After Saul's conversion, which followed shortly thereafter, he took Stephen as his model. He would teach similarly the history of salvation when dragged before an angry crowd, he would stay silent and pray when the stones hit him, and he would move on to the next mission and never stop, lest Stephen's death be in vain.

Stephen gave his life as a gift to Paul and to all of us, and this is why we celebrate him the day after Christmas.

Prayer: Jesus, while I am in the joy of Christmas, I am also afflicted with some pains: pains of family members and friends with whom I don't agree, pains of the season being over and returning to work, pains of the looming months of winter ahead. I offer you, Father, my suffering and commend my spirit into your hands.



December 27 - Saint John

"Then the other disciple also went in, the one who had arrived
at the tomb first, and he saw and believed."

John 20:8

Saint John got it. Others have gotten it over the millennia too, but John was the first, and in the most unique way. His love for Jesus illumined his whole being. It gave him an insight into the divine of which subsequent saints have only glimpsed.

John's heart was completely transfixed to the Sacred Heart. His heart pulsed with Jesus'. It suffered, died, and rose with him. It shared a communion with the Trinity. It was oriented outwards to service. John wrote: "What we have seen and heard we proclaim now to you, so that you too may have fellowship with us; for our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son, Jesus Christ. We are writing this so that our joy may be complete."

Similar words Christ himself spoke at the Last Supper.

When John reclined his head on Jesus' shoulder at the banquet, the heat from Christ's heart radiated into the apostle. That sacred heat never left John. It allowed him to run to the empty tomb and believe, to recognize the risen Christ from the seashore, and to compose his sacred texts in exile.

John is the symbol and reminder to us that the love of Christ is first. We can know all of theology, follow all the rules, and pray every day, but it is all straw without that love.

Prayer: Jesus, I recline my head upon your chest. I rest in that place. I feel the warmth of your heart coursing into my being. I

accept that you have called me to this privileged position. We have fellowship together. Please complete my joy.



December 28 - The Holy Innocents

"A voice was heard in Ramah, sobbing and loud lamentation; Rachel weeping for her children, and she would not be consoled, since they were no more."

Matthew 2:18

The closing prayer at the liturgy today reads: "Grant, O Lord, abundant salvation to your faithful as they receive your holy gifts on the feast day of these, your Saints, who, though still unable to profess your Son in speech, were crowned with heavenly grace on account of his birth."

May the faithful indeed receive the gift this day of silent surrender, for that is what the holy innocents exercised. They could not speak. They could not choose. And yet by being killed they witnessed to the truth of the faith. Simply existing is sometimes the course of saintliness.

The Church certainly exalts learning. We have a category of saints known as 'Doctors of the Church.' The Church lauds those who build and create. We think of all the founders of religious communities who have been canonized. And the Church honors those who willingly give their lives in defense of the faith. These are the martyrs.

The Holy Innocents did none of those. They simply were. But there was something deep and holy within their little bodies. Their souls were infused with God's grace and glory, like John the Baptist was in his mother's womb. The eye could not see it, but we know it now. There was something special in these infants in Bethlehem who were killed.

God had chosen these select few. He has chosen us. Deep within our souls is the light of divinity and a love of God. Should our lives too suddenly come to an end, may we become saints.

Prayer: "My heart is not proud, O Lord, nor are my eyes haughty; I do not concern myself with great matters or things too sublime for me. I have stilled and quieted my soul; like a weaned child with its mother, like a weaned child is my soul within me." (Psalm 131)



December 29 - Saint Thomas Beckett

"Every male that opens the womb shall be consecrated to the Lord."

Luke 2:23

Consecration has a real effect. The blessing changes the person or object. It can be a temporal change, like food blessed; it can be permanent, like a person or church being blessed. But the object is changed. There is a seed of divinity planted deep within the object and it now radiates this glory. As we saw yesterday with the Holy Innocents, these boys who had already been consecrated to the Lord due to the Jewish law were martyrs without even knowing it.

Saint Thomas Beckett was a changed man after he received

priestly and episcopal consecration. Once King Henry II's crony as a layman, he was now a servant of the Church. Henry had selected Beckett as the Archbishop of Canterbury, figuring this was a way he could control the Church, having his ally in the most powerful ecclesiastical position. But Henry underestimated the power of grace and consecration. Beckett, while respectful and loyal to the king, served the truth and Jesus Christ first. Henry, enraged at his friend's betrayal, had the archbishop murdered.

Consecrations are powerful and we can unofficially consecrate ourselves anew when we feel called to dedicate everything to God. And just like objects can lose their consecration, we too can be desecrated. Reconsecration is always a possibility and may that be our path this day.

Prayer: O God, I consecrate myself to. I give you everything that I am. My heart and my soul, my mind and my body - they are yours. My career, my reputation, my memories, my relationships. I surrender all to you. Totally free and totally in my raw self, I choose to love and serve you.



The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

"The angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, 'Rise, take the child and his mother, flee to Egypt, and stay there until I tell you.'"

Matthew 2:13

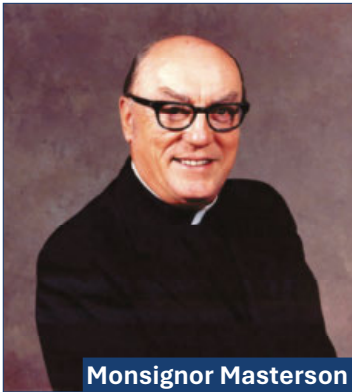
Saint Joseph displayed intrepid fathering skills, a balance of openness and planning. Several times Joseph's plans were unexpectedly and drastically changed. First was his plan to marry and have a regular family with Mary. This is upended by the Annunciation. Second was Joseph's plan to assist Mary with the birth of her child in their home. This is upended by the census and the need to travel at the most unideal time, when Mary is nine months pregnant, to Bethlehem. Third was Joseph's plan to raise the young family back home, but this is upended when the angel tells Joseph to travel down to Egypt, a foreign and pagan land with no family and no timeline as to how long they will stay. Joseph was open to all of it. He was open because he had a fundamental trust in God.

Joseph wasn't completely phlegmatic, however. There was a choleric side to him. Carpenters have this balance naturally. Joseph was able to provide in Egypt for his family like his Old Testament namesake, who demonstrated shrew management skills for Pharaoh. Joseph didn't willy nilly return to Israel, but chose a location where Archelaus was not ruling, for Archelaus was a madman (and would later be removed by the Romans).

Holiness is finding balance. We have to relinquish control and be open to God's will, but we also have to exercise prudence and our other natural skills to help facilitate the unfolding of this will. Joseph taught Jesus this balance and he can teach us too.

Prayer: Saint Joseph, I am a person of routine. Please show me how I can let go, be open, and in some way today be extemporaneous. Give me the trust in God to do so. Saint Joseph, I am an impromptu and free-spirit person. Please show me how I can plan and be intentional today and offer that for another person. Give me the trust in God to do so.

Archive Corner *with Mark Miller*



Monsignor Masterson

THIS WEEK IN 1973

In 1973, Monsignor Masterson (our fifth pastor) was just beginning his tenure. A new simple logo was used for the bulletin. It was a smaller square-shaped format. As we close out our look at the bulletin during Advent from the 50s through the 70s, the Archive Corner wishes all a very Merry Christmas.

Special thanks to Nick Testa for help with the bulletin library

1973
CHRISTMAS WEEK SCHEDULE

MASS SCHEDULE:

Monday, December 24	— 6:25, 8:00 and 9:00 AM; 4:30 and 7:30 PM Midnight Up and Down The Choir will present a concert of Christmas music at 11:30 PM prior to Midnight Mass
Tuesday, December 25	— 7:00, 8:45, 10:00 Up Only, 11:15 and 12:30 No afternoon Masses on Christmas Day
Monday, December 31	— 6:25, 8:00 and 9:00 AM; 4:30 Up and Down 7:30 PM
Tuesday, January 1	— 8:00, 10:00 Up Only, 11:15 AM; 12:30 and 4:30 PM

Christmas Mass schedule

December 23, 1973 bulletin cover



Inside cover articles

Page Two

FOURTH SUNDAY OF

THE CHRISTMAS COVER

Our thanks to Mark Wendland, a seventh grade student at St. Paul of the Cross School. He is the artist who designed the cover for today's Christmas issue of the bulletin.

CHRISTMAS NOVENA

The sisters in the convent invite all the members of the parish to join them at 7 PM in the convent chapel, 215 Ridge Terrace, every evening before Christmas.

NEW PARISHIONER?

Are you new in these parts? We'd like to get to know you. You say you've been around for awhile? Maybe we've not had the opportunity to get acquainted. Please drop by and see us. And we ask you to kindly register if you have not yet done so.

SUNDAY FINANCIAL REPORT

December 9, 1973	\$5,994.50
December 16, 1973	\$5,799.89

SOON TO BE MARRIED

III—Gail Zilla and Lee Bardach
III—Marita MacKinnon and
Mariano Schifalacqua
II—Mary Pat Morgan and Richard Myers
I—Pat Wederitch and Dale Schuber

Professional night photo at Christmas believed to be from 70s



Ministry Corner



KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

On the first Christmas, God the Father gave the world its Redeemer, Jesus Christ. This gift of the Father remains available to us continuously through the Eucharist at Mass. In the Eucharist, Jesus gives us His true presence – body, blood, soul, and divinity. Knowing this, Sundays and holy days throughout the year should feel like joyful opportunities to receive a great gift. Archbishop William E. Lori (Supreme Chaplain of the Knights of Columbus) writes, “Not to take part in the Eucharist is like refusing to open a present from a loved one on Christmas morning. Unthinkable!”

In recognition of the USCCB’s National Eucharistic Revival, the Knights of Columbus – Maria Council #4836 is happy to give copies of the book Beautiful Eucharist by Matthew Kelly to households attending Masses at St. Paul of the Cross this Christmas. Copies can be found near the entrance(s) of the church.

Maria Council #4836 is the local K of C council serving St. Paul of the Cross, Mary Seat of Wisdom, Our Lady of Hope, and Our Lady of Ransom. If you are interested in joining the Knights, you may also contact Maria Council #4836 via email at kofcmaria4836@gmail.com.

Robert Gawronski is a SPC parishioner and the Grand Knight of the Knights of Columbus – Maria Council #4836.

FAITH FORMATION MINISTRIES

Bible Study—George and Sue Kirkland—george@georgesue.com
 Book Club—Dawn Golembiewski—golembiewski.dawn.renee@gmail.com
 Catechesis—Anna Mae Parkhill—annamaeparkhill@spc-church.org
 Disciples in Mission—Susan Clifford and Sue Feldman—disciplesinmission@spc-church.org
 Evangelization—Nick Testa—nicktesta@spc-church.org
 Perpetual Eucharistic Adoration Chapel—Ben Paoletti—adorationchapel@spc-church.org
 Praying with Scripture—Beshar Bahjat—besshare@hotmail.com
 RCIA—Beshar Bahjat—besshare@hotmail.com
 That Man is You!—Will Gohl—wmgohl@gmail.com
 Vacation Bible School—Anna Mae Parkhill—annamaeparkhill@spc-church.org
 Vocation Ministry—Jerry White—jerryswhite56@gmail.com
 Walking with Purpose—Megan McLaughlin—walkingwithpurposespc@gmail.com

LITURGICAL MINISTRIES

Altar Servers, Arts and Environment, Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion, Lectors, Sacristans—Fr. Nick—frnick@spc-church.org
 Bereavement—Margaret Teich—mfteich@yahoo.com
 Liturgy Committee—Deacon Andy—andycameron@spc-church.org
 Ministers of Care—Ann Vidovic—viddesign4@yahoo.com
 Music Ministries—Ed Eicker—edwardeicker@spc-church.org
 Ushers—Steve Bozek—sbozek@sbcglobal.net

MARRIAGE AND FAMILY MINISTRIES

Baptismal Preparation Class—Deacon Andy—andycameron@spc-church.org
 Fun, Faith & Music—Anna Mae Parkhill—annamaeparkhill@spc-church.org
 Wedding Ministry—Joyce Johnson—jmj323@comcast.net

PARISH SERVICE MINISTRIES

Altar Linens, Mass Intentions—Donna Ebert—donnaebert@spc-church.org
 Apostolate of Women—Melissa Poindexter and Jessica Armour—aow.spc@gmail.com
 Collection Counters—Mike Angelini—angelinimike9@gmail.com
 Home and School Association—Dr. Erika Mickelburgh—emickelburgh@spc-school.net
 Inclusion Committee—Maureen Wudtke—transformfromtheinsideout@gmail.com
 Knights of Columbus—Robert Gawronski—kofcmaria4836@gmail.com
 Men’s Club—Randy Bull—rbull29@gmail.com
 New Parishioner Welcome—Maria Mehl—msmehl@gmail.com
 Parish Finance Council—Robb Armour—rarmour123@gmail.com
 Parish Pastoral Council—Patti Nowak—pattinowak56@gmail.com
 Parish Records—Marianne Armstrong—mariannearmstrong@spc-church.org
 Respect Life Committee—Cecilia Klein—cmklein817@gmail.com

SOCIAL SERVICE MINISTRIES

Centennial Garden, Domestic Abuse Awareness Group (DAAG), Food Pantry, General Assistance, GriefShare, Holiday Outreach, Lenten Almsgiving, Our Lady of the Angels Mission, Sharing Parish/St. Benedict the African, Sunday Night Supper—Leni Duffy—leniduffy@spc-church.org

YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULT MINISTRIES

Boy Scouts—Steve Knapp—knapp1415@gmail.com
 Cub Scouts—Ken Kulas—kulasken@gmail.com; Ken Kapst—kapstk@aol.com
 Girl Scouts—Karen Huber—hubekar@gmail.com
 School Athletic Board—Kelly Spanos—kspanos@spc-school.net
 Young Adult Ministry—Beshar Bahjat—besshare@hotmail.com

A Christmas Gift for You!

Merry Christmas!

Beautiful Eucharist is an invitation to encounter the life-giving presence of Jesus in the Eucharist so you can be a life-giving presence in the world.

The Knights of Columbus – Maria Council #4836 is happy to give copies of the book Beautiful Eucharist by Matthew Kelly to households attending Masses at St. Paul of the Cross this Christmas. Copies can be found near the entrance(s) of the church.

Please grab a copy for yourself and anyone else who needs to receive this special gift this Christmas!



Kids' Corner

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COLOR

Read the Gospel of the week and color the image.



PUZZLE

Circle the picture that is facing the wrong way.
Then color in all the pictures.



MISSION

I will be a good shepherd and protect my brother
and sister from harm.

Christmas Morning • Luke 2:15-20



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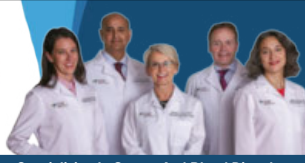
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frjames@spc-church.org

REV. NICK CAVALLARI, ASSOCIATE PASTOR

frnick@spc-church.org

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SEMINARIANS: **DEACON MARTIN NYBERG, LEE NOEL**

St. Paul of the Cross Parish

320 S. Washington
Park Ridge, IL 60068
phone: 847-825-7605

RECTORY OFFICE HOURS

Monday through Friday 9:00 am - 5:00 pm*

* closed for lunch from 12:00pm—1:00 pm

Saturday 9:00 am - 1:00 pm

Sunday Closed

DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS

Sandra Labouvie: sandylabouvie@spc-church.org
847-825-7605 x2249 / www.spc-church.org

EVANGELIZATION AND CAMPUS MANAGER

Nick Testa: nicktesta@spc-church.org
(847) 825-7605 x2250

DIRECTOR OF CATECHESIS

Anna Mae Parkhill: annamaeparkhill@spc-church.org
(847) 692-2758 / www.spc-catechesis.net

DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL SERVICE MINISTRY

Leni Duffy: leniduffy@spc-church.org
(847) 692-6767

DIRECTOR OF MUSIC

Edward J. Eicker: edwardeicker@spc-church.org
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ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF MUSIC

Andrea Bartolomeo: andreabartolomeo@spc-church.org

ST. PAUL OF THE CROSS SCHOOL PRINCIPAL

Erika Mickelburgh: emickelburgh@spc-school.net
(847) 825-6366 / www.spc-school.net

RCIA

rcia@spc-church.org

CAMPUS SPACE RESERVATIONS

calendars@spc-church.org

VIRTUS

virtus@spc-church.org

LITURGICAL MINISTERS SCHEDULING

schedule@spc-church.org

BULLETIN EDITOR

spcbulletin@spc-church.org

UPCOMING BULLETIN CONTENT DEADLINES

December 31st issue: Monday, December 18th

January 7th issue: Friday, December 29th

Schedule

WEEKLY MASS SCHEDULE

(Upper Church)

Monday through Friday 6:25 am

8:30 am*

Saturday 8:30 am* - daily Mass

4:30 pm* - vigil

Sunday 7:30 am

9:00 am

10:30 am*

12:00 pm

* Livestreamed services. Our 10:30 am Sunday Mass is also simulcast to our Upper Church vestibule and Holy Family Chapel

MONTHLY FAMILY MASS

(Holy Family Chapel)

2nd Sunday Family Mass 10:30 am

TEEN MASS *(open to the public)*

(Upper Church)

Sunday, **February 18, 2024** 12:00 pm

ADORATION

Adoration Chapel open 5:00 am until 11:00 pm daily
email adorationchapel@spc-church.org to register

CONFESSION

(Upper Church vestibule)

Monday through Friday 8:00 am to 8:15 am

Saturday 3:00 pm to 4:00 pm

FUNERALS

Monday through Saturday Morning

WEDDINGS

Friday and Saturday

Call rectory office at least 6 months in advance

BAPTISMS

Saturday and Sunday

If this is your first child, baptism prep class is required and provided on the fourth Thursday every month at 7:00 pm. Please contact the parish office at 847-825-7605 to register.

NEW PARISHIONER REGISTRATION

(8:30 am - 12:00 pm)

and

DONUT SUNDAY

(after 9:00 am and 10:30 am Masses)

First Sunday of Every Month *(unless advertised otherwise)*

ANOINTING OF THE SICK

Call rectory office at 847-825-7605

COMMUNION FOR THE HOMEBOUND

Call rectory office at 847-825-7605

ROSARY

After 8:30 am Daily Mass