

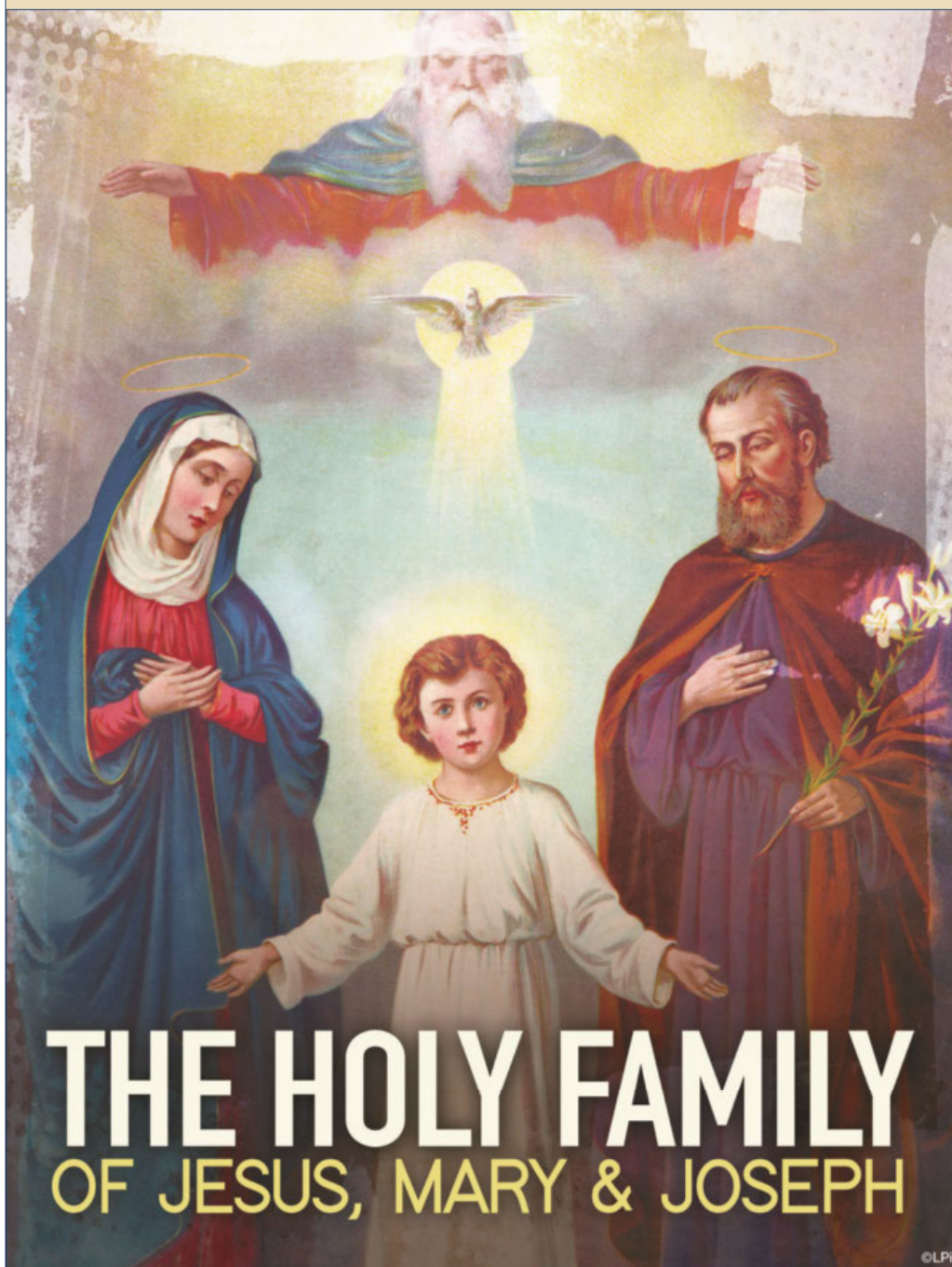


ST. PAUL OF THE CROSS

AS FOR ME AND MY HOUSE, WE WILL SERVE THE LORD

JOSHUA 24:15

December 31, 2023 | HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY, AND JOSEPH



THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY & JOSEPH

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

**There will be no confessions Tue, Jan 2nd*

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 31, 2023 HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY, AND JOSEPH

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

There will be no confessions, Tue, Jan 2nd

FUNERALS

Monday through Saturday Morning

WEDDINGS

Friday and Saturday

BAPTISMS

Saturday and Sunday

Baptisms

GRACE MARY BRENNAN

daughter of Jack Brennan
and Alyssa Smith

MARY MARGARET BORYSEK

daughter of Stanely H. Borysek
and Anna C. Taconi

MADELEINE FRANCES WHALEN

daughter of Patrick Whalen
and Sarah Arana

THEO THOMAS AVENDT

son of John Avendt II
and Abby Amelse

SIERRA LYNN SACHER

daughter of Joshua Sacher
and Laura Hefner



Wedding Banns

II JOHN BAUMANN
& SHANNON O'MALLEY



Please see our
New Year's
Schedule
on page 5

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.

Maura Keane

Judith Kieser

Carol Penkala

HAVE A BLESSED
new year

Stewardship Report

WEEKLY OFFERING

	Dec 10th-16th	Dec 17th-23rd
Envelopes	\$11,927.51	\$14,509.00
Loose	\$14,893.80	\$7,081.81
Electronic Giving	\$10,796.84	\$12,577.37
Total	\$37,618.15	\$34,168.18

ADDITIONAL COLLECTION (through December 23rd)

Christmas	\$36,317.00
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ADDITIONAL FINANCIAL DATA

2023 Annual Catholic Appeal (through Dec 19th)(goal: \$142,718)	\$181,874 paid (127%) \$183,389 pledged (128%)
Sunday Giving FY24 Year to Date (July 1st through December 23rd)	\$856,321.65
Sunday Giving FY24 vs. Budget (July 1st through November 30th)	+\$85,674.74

Readings for the Week

SUN, 12/31: Sir 3:2-6, 12-14 or Gn 15:1-6; 21:1-3 /
Ps 128:1-2, 3, 4-5 or Ps 105:1-2, 3-4,
5-6, 8-9 / Col 3:12-21 or 3:12-17 or
Heb 11:8, 11-12, 17-19 / Lk 2:22-40
or 2:22, 39-40

MON, 1/1: Nm 6:22-27 / Ps 67:2-3, 5, 6, 8 (2a) /
Gal 4:4-7 / Lk 2:16-21

TUE, 1/2 1 Jn 2:22-28 / Ps 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4 /
Jn 1:19-28

WED, 1/3: 1 Jn 2:29 - 3:6 / Ps 98:1, 3cd-4, 5-6 /
Jn 1:29-34

THU, 1/4: 1 Jn 3:7-10 / Ps 98:1, 7-8, 9 / Jn 1:35-42

FRI, 1/5: 1 Jn 3:11-21 / Ps 100:1b-2, 3, 4, 5 /
Jn 1:43-51

SAT, 1/6: 1 Jn 5:5-13 / Ps 147:12-13, 14-15,
19-20 / Mk 1:7-11 or Lk 3:23-38
or 3:23, 31-34, 36, 38



Letter from a Pastor to his People



Dear Parishioners,

Next month the Archdiocese of Chicago is showcasing five priests who attended Catholic school and the impact it had on their vocation. I was asked to be part of this. Here's what I wrote for the piece:

I recall as a grammar school student, shortly

after the morning bell rang, putting my coat back on and walking over to church with my classmates for Mass. I recall playing kickball in the parking lot with the beautiful church in the background beyond the fence. Whoever hit the church on a fly was king for the day. I recall hearing the church bells while taking a quiz on the multiplication tables. I recall, when my parents drove me in the morning, seeing the church rising above the treeline; at pickup, seeing the tall steeple in the rearview mirror. For nearly a decade in my time as a student at Sts. Faith Hope and Charity in Winnetka, the church was truly the center of my life. Nothing has changed, and I'm grateful for it.

The point I'm trying to make in the brief article is that I was *impacted* by the church. Think of that word 'impact.' There is a receptivity implied in it, an openness. I didn't go probing and exploring in my early years. I witnessed, I observed, and I received. I was open, and so I was influenced. And all it really took was something very simple – like seeing the church – to instill a dedication to God in me.

Now, I say all this on the Feast of the Holy Family, for I feel the same applies to a family. For a family to be holy, it doesn't need to do anything extraordinary. Remember, I didn't become a priest because of some explicit lessons in the priesthood I received in grammar school. I wasn't convinced by anyone to become a priest. It came naturally because of the presence of the church.

Likewise, your family members can naturally become holy if you simply have "the church" as a constant presence in your lives. No need to cajole or convince or yell. Just live it yourself. Silently go to Mass every Sunday. Silently pray. Silently live a decent, hardworking life. Silently resist temptations to gossip

or greed or materialism. Silently read instead of mindlessly flipping through your phone or Netflix. Silently be good to strangers. Silently write thank-you cards and make eye contact when you shake someone's hand. Silently come up with another word when you're upset instead of taking the Lord's name in vain. Silently pray for others, even your enemies.

All of these little things will go to making you holy. And the people around you will be made better because of it.



A reminder about the **Mass schedule** this weekend: the Masses on Sunday morning (7:30am, 9am, 10:30am, and 12pm) will be Masses for the Holy Family, fulfilling the Sunday obligation. The Mass on Sunday evening (5pm) will be for the Solemnity of Mary, the Mother of God (Jan. 1). We will have two Masses on Monday, January 1st for the holy day of obligation: 7:30am and 9am. There will be only one Mass on Tuesday, January 2nd at 8:30am with no Confessions prior.

I've continued my written "**Advent**" reflections through the Baptism of the Lord. You'll find this week's reflection inside the bulletin and online.

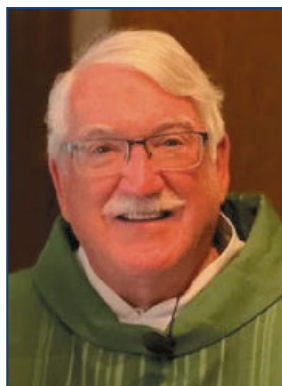
Allow me the opportunity to **thank** all those who made the Christmas celebrations possible: the choir and musicians, the church and gym decorators, the sacristans and servers, the ushers and counters, and the eucharistic ministers and lectors. I also want to thank my staff who were very busy in the weeks leading up to Christmas. They did a wonderful job keeping everything together and functioning smoothly.

Finally, I want to thank all of you who supported the parish in a tremendous way this season. Your gifts and contributions were, as usual, quite remarkable. And thanks to your donations we were also able to serve the needs of the poor through our food pantry a few weeks ago. God bless you for your generosity.

Have a wonderful and safe new year. May 2024 be a fruitful and faith-filled year for you.

Yours in Christ,

Community Reflections



My wife Kathy asked me what the message of this article was going to be. I said that I wanted to use the Holy Family as a role model for modern family life. Kathy said, *"The Holy Family? That's two saints and the Son of God. How can we compete with that?"*

As we know, Catholic family life begins with a Sacrament called "Holy Matrimony." But often nothing feels "holy" about family life. Although, I have been known to ask *"Holy Mackerel, what is going on here?"* Not exactly what this Feast is supposed to inspire! Truth is, like every other family, we each have our joys and sorrows, our successes, and our challenges. Family life seems more messy, stressful, and chaotic rather than holy. But Pope Francis in an Apostolic Exhortation wrote *"every family despite its weakness can become a light in the darkness of the world."* [Amoris Laetitia]

So, an important message for us to hear today is this: none of us may be the next *"Holy Family"* but each of us can strive to make our *families holy*. In Colossians 3:17, St. Paul writes *"Whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus."* The message is to "do loving things" for one another. Love needs to be a verb not a noun.

St. John Paul II wrote *"the family has the mission to guard, reveal and communicate love."* That is the glue that holds a family together and allows forgiveness and peace to flourish. In fact, we learn our first lessons of God's love in our family relationships. It's the parents who are the first and best teachers of love, respect, forgiveness, compassion, understanding, empathy and so on.

Think about couples married 25, 30, 50 years. You need *everyday holiness* to get there.

Finally, let's think about most of the statues and images we have ever seen of the Holy Family: Mary and Joseph on either side and Jesus in the middle. Jesus is Emmanuel: "God with us."

The simplest way to make our families holy: place Jesus in the middle of it.

Deacon Bob Bulger

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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8:00 PM							
9:00 PM							
10:00 PM							
11:00 PM							

Mass Schedule

FEAST DAY	TIME	PRESIDER	LECTOR	EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS	MASS INTENTIONS
MON, 1/1 Mary, Mother of God	7:30 am UC 9:00 am UC	Fr. Nick Fr. James	 <p><i>As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord</i> - Joshua 24:15</p>		<i>Hail Mary, Full of Grace...</i>
TUE, 1/2 Saint Basil the Great and Saint Gregory Nazianzen	8:30 am UC	Fr. James			Terese DeLucca, Robert A. Carlson, Mary Patricia Neubaure LeGare, Jean Roche
WED, 1/3 The Most Holy Name of Jesus	6:25 am UC	Fr. James			Patricia Lanctot
	8:30 am UC	Fr. James/ MN*			Tad Moskal, Agnes Woods, Michael Sheehan, John Kennelly
THU, 1/4 Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton	6:25 am UC	Fr. Nick			Margaret Matz
	8:30 am UC	Fr. Nick/ MN*			Don Pasier, Eileen Kelly
FRI, 1/5 Saint John Neumann	6:25 am UC	Fr Nick			Bill Eddy
	8:30 am UC	Fr. Nick/ MN*			Healing and Blessings for Tim Kelly, Jolanta Bialobrzewski, Jan Bialobrzewski , Holy Souls in Purgatory
SAT, 1/6 Saint Andre Bessette	8:30 am UC	Fr. Nick			Mary Popowicz, Josephine and Robert Benedix
	4:30 pm UC	Fr. James	Izabella Stachowicz, Jake Zabratanski	Joanne Cichon-Feeney, Joseph Feeney, Mary Jack, Geri Weissmann	Thaddeus Nowak, Robert Hunt, Bridget and Owen McGarry, Maggie and Joe Carozza, John Ahern, Michael Christy Mullane, Josephine and Robert Benedix
SUN, 1/7 The Epiphany of the Lord	7:30 am UC	Fr. James/ MN*	Steve Palac, Eugene Cooney	David Dempsey, John Humm, Shirley Patras, Carol Scantlan	Ken Johnson, Deborah Carvatta, Luigi Notardonato, Mary Schloss, People of the Parish
	9:00 am UC	Fr. Nick	Frances Johnson, Brianna Santucci	Margie Alicea, Randy Bull, Elly Lamacchia, Lisanne Roth	Arlene Bickler, Joseph Ford, Bernadette Pryor, Rosario Cabhera
	10:30 am UC	Fr. James	Veronica Kohndorfer, Susan Davis	Bob Kohndorfer, Mary Nicolau, Kathleen A. McMahon, Chris Poindexter	Jose Almandarez, Sherry Ingram, Isabelle Kowalski, Dan Fitzgerald, Sophie Osborne, Vincent Sackett, Cari Scafa, Myles Knape, Fr. Matt's Mother
	12:00 pm UC	Fr. Nick	Neda Naum, Chris Paotelli	Susan Clifford, Josephine Gullo, Amy Kladis, Ann Solari-Twadell	Annina Neri, Emma Alfonso Izzi, Jean Hansen, Eugene and Genowefa Piatek

* **LEGEND:** /MN = Deacon Martin Nyberg preaching

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

Rectory Office Closure



Please note that our
rectory offices will be

CLOSED

for the New Year
holiday on

**Monday,
January 1, 2024**

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.

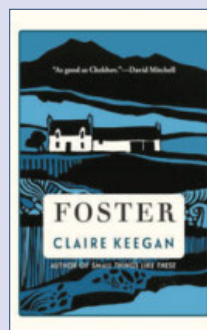
BOOK CLUB

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**



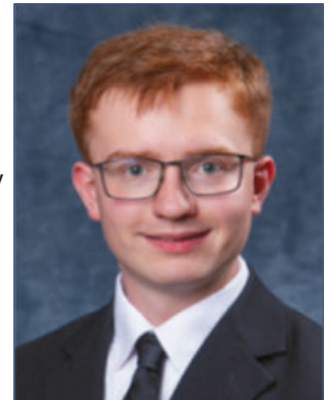
"And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ." (Ephesians 4:11-12)

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.

Support Daniel Keefe

Dear St. Paul of the Cross Family,

My name is Daniel Keefe, a parishioner and a former student at SPC school until 6th grade, finishing middle and high school at Northridge Catholic Prep. I am currently in my second year at St. John Vianney Seminary studying for priesthood in the Archdiocese of Chicago. As part of my formation, the seminarians have an opportunity to travel to Denver, Colorado for the 2024 Christ in the City Mission. While in Denver, seminarians from SJV will work alongside missionaries from Christ in the City, a Catholic organization that seeks to create a culture of encounter where each person is seen, known, and loved. I hope to learn how to better interact with the poor during this experience. I am reaching out to you to ask for your financial support to help me cover the \$300 cost of this trip, but most important I ask for your prayerful support as I continue on this journey of a lifetime serving God and His Church.



With Christ as my center, Daniel Keefe
give.sjvseminary.org/fundraiser/5112424

Called To Serve
2024 SJV Christ in the City Mission Trip



Calling ALL babies, toddlers and preschoolers!

Please join us for the **Fun, Faith & Music** class in the Kinane Center!

You and your little ones attend this weekly, fun music class together!
New songs and tried and true songs, songs for seasons, songs of praise!
And fun times!

Wednesdays from 9:45 – 10:15 am

Classes will meet in the Kinane Center (215 Ridge Terrace)

Classes will be held January 17 – March 20

Cost: \$35 (checks payable to St. Paul of the Cross) per family
OR

Pay Online at: <https://www.givecentral.org/location/133/event/37309>

Questions? Contact Anna Mae Parkhill at 847.692.2758

PLEASE PRINT

Parent Name: _____

Adult Bringing Child: _____

Email: _____

Best Phone Number: _____

Child's Name: _____ Age: _____

Child's Name: _____ Age: _____

Child's Name: _____ Age: _____

Drop Off (leave in mailbox) **OR** email to spccatechesis@yahoo.com

St. Paul of the Cross – Kinane Center – 215 Ridge Terrace

Music Class 2023-2024

All young adults in their 20s and 30s...

SAVE THE DATE!

Wednesday, January 31st

7:00 pm - 9:00 pm

Harp & Fiddle

110 Main Street, Park Ridge
(bar area by the fireplace is reserved)

A gathering just for you, hang out with other young adults from Chicago and Milwaukee along with Fr. James and some of his fellow priests.

Free appetizers all evening



Questions?

beshare@hotmail.com

Fr. James' Advent and Christmas Reflections



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.



December 31 - Saint Sylvester

"All things came to be through him, and without him nothing came to be."

John 1:3

The 1927 African-American spiritual, "He's Got the Whole Word in His Hands" can be a good prayer to make when we

question the beauty of the world. Everything fits together neatly into God's plan.

Imagine the world like a painting. When one watches a painting unfold, it can appear odd and as if many mistakes are being made. A gray splotch randomly at the top, an erasure of what had been a nice tree, a bleeding of one color into the next: if we have the patience to wait out the artist, we will see a textured sky, a dense forest, a bouquet of flowers. The key for us is to trust the artist.

Trusting in God as he paints the cosmos with every element of the world in his hands, good and evil, beautiful and ugly, becomes the calling. This is what is enjoyable. Watching God paint is life-giving. He is a far superior artist than us and we can take the posture of sitting at his feet while he works.

His painting of the world is not on one canvas. It is not one painting upon which he is constantly working. God has produced as many images of the world as there have been years on this planet. It is a gallery he has created. Every image is unique, and every image is beautiful.

Prayer: Lord, I pause to reflect back on my year, on my life. What kind of image would you paint to describe me? A ship on turbulent waters? A soothing landscape? A self-portrait? Whatever it is, I trust it is beautiful and that you are pleased with the work.



January 1 - Mary, the Mother of God

"When the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, to ransom those under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons."

Galatians 4:4-5

Circumcision in ancient Israel initiated the male into the nation. Without the male being circumcised, he remained a foreigner. He was in slavery and in darkness, for this is the state into which everyone is born. The slicing off of the excess tissue was the ransom price for being saved. Once paid, the child and the family were now secure in the nation of Israel and secure under its law. The law and its practices was salvation.

Actually, said Saint Paul, everyone in the nation of Israel and under the law was still in darkness, still in slavery. The way to freedom and light is not circumcision but believing in Jesus and being baptized into him.

Today is like a mini-4th of July or Independence Day. We don't recreate our slavery and liberation, but rather celebrate the reality that we are free. Just like the 4th stokes patriotism in us, the 1st can stoke pride in Jesus and love for him. We can look back and see how we took little steps, perhaps, back into slavery or darkness, and allow Christ once again to

secure us in the light and freedom.

Mary was present at the Circumcision. She was present at the Annunciation and Nativity. She was present at the Crucifixion. She was present in all of this. She guided her son to this redemption. She was present every day for us last year and will be present for us every day this year. She will guide us to freedom.

Prayer: God, I imagine the baby Jesus being held by Mary, who is lifting him to the temple priest for the circumcision. Regardless of whether the baby is crying or is still, I see Mary's calmness; her deep trust in you. Mary, please pray I may have that similar trust and serenity before the trials of my life.



January 2 - Saints Basial and Gregory

"So they asked him, 'What are you then?'"

John 1:21

Many in society today try to stand out to identify themselves. They recreate themselves so they will be something. They try to be original. They don't trust that who they are is unique enough. And so they refashion themselves into another image from which they hope others will copy them. In reality, they've just copied someone else.

This is precisely what occurred with Adam in the Garden.

This is not what happened with John the Baptist. John did not need to be someone else - a prophet, Elijah, the Messiah, whatever. He found his identity in God. His purpose was simply to point out the Messiah and encourage people to be in relationship with him. He lived a spirit of receptivity. That is, his identity wasn't to be someone, but to receive someone. He lived like the woman who caused him to leap while in his mother's womb. Mary's "yes" to God at the Annunciation is the model of receptivity. Opening herself up, she is completely filled by God and flourishes. John followed the same.

The path to human flourishing thus is poverty. We have nothing, we are nothing, we desire nothing other than God. This is poverty, and in living it we are in a position to receive God. Poverty leads simultaneously to wealth. "Those who are last shall be first."

To be truly human is to accept the fundamental position of poverty. This is a great blessing, for it means we are meant to be filled by God himself, and God is true wealth.

We need not worry when we fit in with the rest of humanity. We can accept our bodies and our identities as we are. That is the communion of saints.

Prayer: Be it done unto me according to your will. Jesus, I accept who I am. I trust that I am beautiful and significant in this world. I am a son/daughter of God and I see you smiling

before me.



January 3 - The Holy Name of Jesus

"A man is coming after me who ranks ahead of me because he existed before me."

John 1:30

The way the casserole dish holds all the ingredients together, allowing them to be one though many parts, so too the name of an individual holds the person together. There are many parts to us. We have our bodies, our personalities, our experiences, our minds, our interests, our histories, and so forth. *Who are you?* is answered not by one of those items above, but simply by your name. Your name captures all of that. It is not semantics.

Who is Jesus? He is God. He is the eternal Word who has always existed coeternal with the Father. He receives his identity from the Father, but the Father cannot exist without him. He reveals the face of the invisible Father to us. In so doing he also heals us, fulfills us, and makes us one with him. We too can share in the Godhead.

The name 'Jesus' means 'God saves.' That is, God doesn't exist just to be by himself. He exists to love us. This love is our salvation. Jesus, we could say, is purely holy. There is no selfishness or egotism in him. He is purely generous. His name is holy.

Prayer: Jesus. (pause) Jesus. I breathe your name in. It fills my lungs, my heart, my mind. You say my name (say your name). I love you and I love myself. We are one.



January 4 - Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton

"John was standing with two of his disciples, and as he watched Jesus walk by, he said, 'Behold, the Lamb of God.'"

John 1:35

Andrew and James had been standing with John the Baptist over the last several days, witnessing John's baptism of Jesus, the dialogue with the Pharisees, the first pointing out of the Lamb of God, and then, on the fourth day, the second pointing out of the Lamb of God. Each day the two disciples prayed over the experiences. They finally realized they needed to act. They approached Jesus and began their new relationship.

One of the areas over which they must have prayed was to what were they a disciple of. To be a disciple of the Baptist was more to follow a movement, a theory, a system. John preached a message of repentance and upheaval of the establishment. But he didn't preach himself. He didn't call people to himself. To be a disciple of Jesus was to follow the

man, not the theory. Andrew and James realized they were called to be in relationship with this man, to study under him, and to love him. In their discernment their hearts told them this was the higher way.

We need to give ourselves space to pray over the experiences, encounters, and impactful moments we have in our day. What do they mean? Where is the spirit of God in this? What are we called to do?

We also need to make the movement from the discipleship of theory to the discipleship of the person. We can be "Catholic" and believe all the truths, but if we are not in an active, loving relationship with Jesus, then we are not yet true disciples.

Prayer: Lord, I say 'I love you' so many times. It is a habit. When I say it now, I truly mean it. I reach into the depths of my heart, as far as I can go, and I pull out the love that is within. I joyfully give it to you. To love also means to listen and trust, and so I will wait now for you to respond.



January 5 - Saint John Neumann

"Before Philip called you, I saw you under the fig tree."
John 1:48

The funeral Mass for Pope Benedict XVI was held this day in St. Peter's Basilica in 2023. In the days following, many reflected on the man. Joseph Ratzinger was a brilliant mind, a faithful servant, a priest who loved God. His writing already, even before his death, had created a legacy for him. What about his pontificate?

Ratzinger served as Prefect of the Congregation of the Doctrine of the Faith under Pope John Paul II for nearly thirty years. He was, arguably, the Polish pope's most trusted advisor. When the Church experienced its greatest crisis in 2002 in the sexual abuse crisis, with John Paul II infirm from Parkinson's, Ratzinger was the man who stepped up. Jurisdiction to prosecute cases of abuse was transferred from the Congregation of the Clergy to Ratzinger's office. He was the only man who could be trusted; the only man with an uncompromised integrity, a fair sense of a justice, and a pastoral heart, to both victims and priests. He helped navigate the barque of Peter during this very dark time.

Ratzinger was a faithful and holy servant because he knew Jesus saw him sitting under the fig tree. Philip realized the Lord saw his soul. This awareness led him to be a faithful disciple. It did the same for Ratzinger.

Prayer: Jesus, I sit beneath the fig tree. I contemplate my life. Who am I? What have I done? What will be my legacy? Much of it is out of my control. The one thing I can do now is love you entirely, and that is all that matters. I pray my life will help others love you the same.



January 6 - The Feast of the Epiphany

"O God, with your judgment endow the king."

Psalm 72:1

There is a good balance struck between divine intervention and human ingenuity in the case of the three magi. We start with the very fact that these pagan scholars were looking for a star. The Jewish prophet Daniel had spoken about the star while he was in Babylon, and it was referenced in the Hebrew texts (cf. Numbers). God provided the initial clues, but the three magi used their human intellect and openness to other cultures to follow the clues.

The star vanished, so they sought help. They wanted to provide gifts for the Holy Family, so they asked advice on what would be appropriate. The Hebrew Scriptures instructed them to bring gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And when it was time to leave, they listened to the angel to "go another way." The way they had initially come was the fastest and safest way. This new way would be much more difficult, perhaps through the desert or perhaps further west towards Egypt. But they trusted.

Yes, the magi are wonderful models of openness and receptivity. They don't have it all figured out. They seek help and they follow it. Their simplicity was enough to "deceive" the cunning Herod.

If we have faith in God and truly desire him, God will help us to see Christ.

Prayer: At the beginning of Advent, we were instructed to look east, toward the coming of Christ. The magi initially went west. Lord, I set out westward into the unknown. You are calling me to serve you. I'm not exactly sure how, but I trust it will become clear for me. And then I will return home by the eastward route.

Social Service Ministry Corner

'TIS THE SEASON!

Through God's Blessings, we were able to give to so many families in need this holiday season. Thank You Parishioners, Sponsors, Volunteers, and the Community for your contributions! Your selfless generosity made it possible for us to distribute food packages and ham dinners to over 170 households, and \$50 Walmart gift cards/donations to over 780 family members! So Awesome!

Leni Duffy

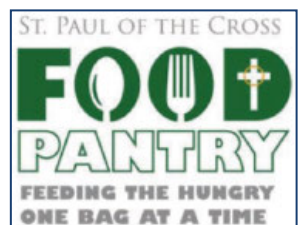
Director of Social Service Ministry



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 replenish our cupboards!

Kids' Corner

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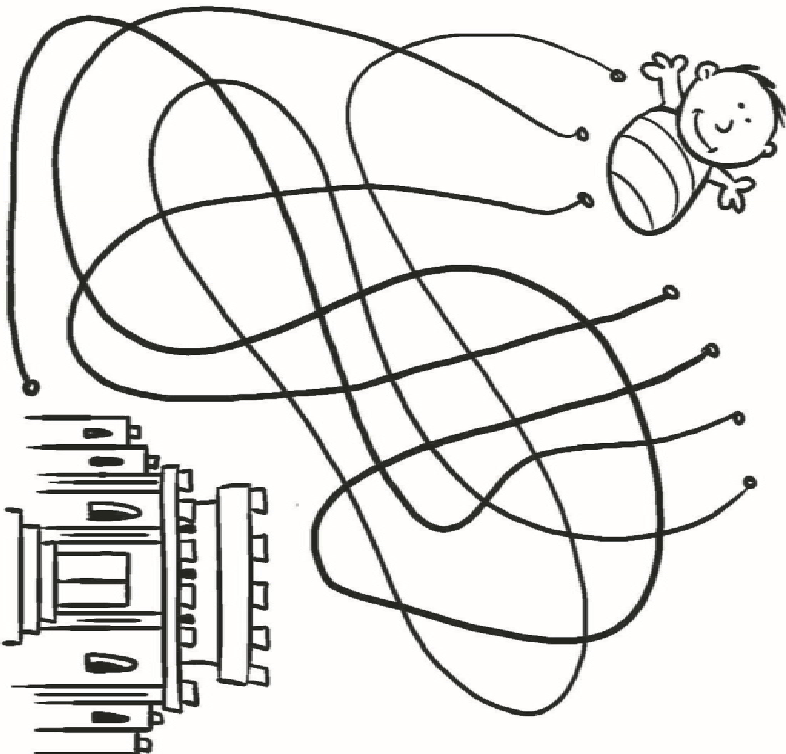
COLOR

Read the Gospel of the week and color the image.



PUZZLE

Find the path to bring Jesus to the temple.



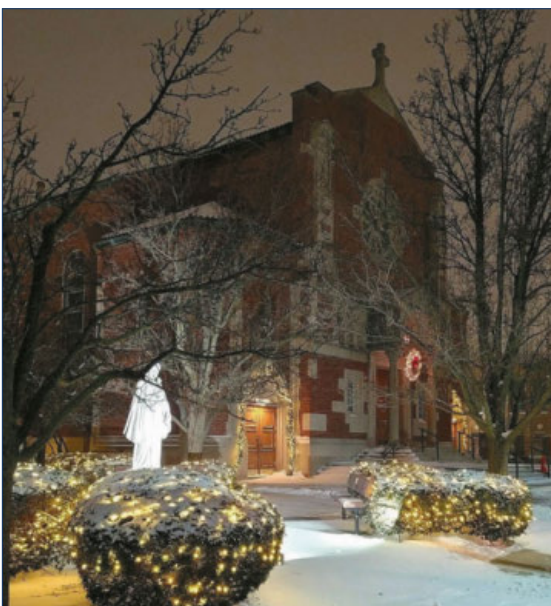
MISSION

I will offer everything I do for you,
Lord, Jesus Christ.

Archive Corner *with Mark Miller*

CHRISTMAS AT SAINT PAUL OF THE CROSS

Over the years, the Archive Corner has received many wonderful photos of our Campus at Christmas. This week we would like to share a few. Wishing everyone a healthy and happy new year! *Special thanks to Dave Charewicz*



Ministry Corner

MUSIC MINISTRY

A few summers ago, “before COVID,” I attended the annual National Association of Pastoral Musicians Convention in Houston, TX. Nearly 3000 members of NPM packed the convention hall on the last night of the convention to attend the closing Eucharist. Imagine the incredible sound when 3000 people raised their voices in song as the entrance procession began. It was unbelievable.

So why do we sing at Mass? Singing, of course is just another form of prayer. St. Augustine once said, “He who sings, prays twice.” That might be a good enough reason by itself to sing when we come to church.

The songs and hymns we sing during Mass are indeed prayers and should be sung just as fervently as the prayers we recite. We wouldn’t think to omit the spoken prayers from the liturgy, so why stand by on the sidelines during the parts that are sung? Just as important, the hymns and songs we sing at Mass reinforce the messages heard in the scripture. By singing, we come away from the liturgy with a deeper understanding of the lessons we’ve learned. Lastly, music and song have the power to lift the spirit and enhance our worship. Someone once told me, “It’s nearly impossible to be upset when you’re singing.”

During the darkest days of the pandemic, hymnals were removed from churches around the country. There was a palpable absence on Sundays as the assembly’s voice was silenced. But thankfully, that was temporary, and hymnals and missalettes were eventually returned to the pews.

I understand for some, singing doesn’t come naturally. Maybe you don’t feel you have a good enough voice to sing out at Mass. I assure you... you do! Regardless of your skill or the quality of your voice, I encourage your full and active participation when invited to sing! As the Carpenter’s once sang, “Sing, sing a song, sing out loud, sing out strong!”

Ed Eicker, *Director of Music*

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—beshare@hotmail.com
 RCIA—Beshar Bahjat—beshare@hotmail.com
 That Man is You!—Will Gohl—wmgothl@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

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 Bereavement—Margaret Teich—mteich@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—jnj323@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

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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

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 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
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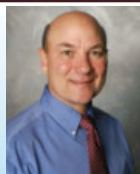
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(847) 692-2758 / www.spc-catechesis.net

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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

January 7th issue: Friday, December 29th

January 14th issue: Monday, January 5th

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

There will be no confessions Tuesday, January 2nd

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