

March 10, 2024

Fourth Sunday *of* Lent

God, who is rich in mercy,
because of the great love he had
for us, even when we were dead
in our transgressions, brought us
to life with Christ
- Eph 2:4-5

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, May 19th @ 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

Saturday

9:00 am - 1:00pm

847-825-7605

ST. PAUL OF THE CROSS
AS FOR ME AND MY HOUSE, WE WILL SERVE THE LORD

JOSHUA 24:15

320 South Washington Street
Park Ridge, Illinois, 60068

March 10, 2024

FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT

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, May 19th @ 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



Pray for our Sick

Names Stay in Bulletin for 2 months

Delaney Bartz
Julie Benedetto-Wilcox
Ray Benedetto
Julie Finan
Donald Izban
Georgiana T. Glennon
Jaime
Laura
Rose
Stanislaw Kazmierczak
Carole Zachary
Vince Ross

In Loving Memory

Please pray for the souls of
the faithful departed in our
SPC community.

Richard Di Pietro
William Payne
Emilie V. Reiter
Raymond J. Ferrini

About the Cover Artist

François-Louis Dejuinne (1786–1844) was a French Neoclassical painter known for his skillful execution of historical and genre scenes.

Stewardship Report

WEEKLY OFFERING (February 25th - March 2nd)

Envelopes	\$12,587.20
Loose	\$6,227.16
Electronic Giving	\$11,377.92
Total Weekly Offering	\$30,192.28

2024 ANNUAL CATHOLIC APPEAL

Thank you to those who've already made a gift. Data coming soon!

ADDITIONAL FINANCIAL DATA

Sunday Giving FY24 Year to Date (July 1st through March 2nd)	\$1,218,115.90
Sunday Giving FY24 vs Budget (July 1st through December 31st)	+\$22,355.94

Readings for the Week

Sunday: 2 Chr 36:14-16, 19-23/Ps 137:1-2, 3, 4-5, 6 (6ab)/Eph 2:4-10/Jn 3:14-21
Scrutiny: 1 Sm 16:1b, 6-7, 10-13a/Ps 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6 (1)/Eph 5:8-14/Jn 9:1-41 or 9:1, 6-9, 13-17, 34-38

Monday: Is 65:17-21/Ps 30:2 and 4, 5-6, 11-12a and 13b/Jn 4:43-54

Tuesday: Ez 47:1-9, 12/Ps 46:2-3, 5-6, 8-9/Jn 5:1-16

Wednesday: Is 49:8-15/Ps 145:8-9, 13cd-14, 17-18/Jn 5:17-30

Thursday: Ex 32:7-14/Ps 106:19-20, 21-22, 23/Jn 5:31-47

Friday: Wis 2:1a, 12-22/Ps 34:17-18, 19-20, 21 and 23/Jn 7:1-2, 10, 25-30

Saturday: Jer 11:18-20/Ps 7:2-3, 9bc-10, 11-12/Jn 7:40-53

Next Sunday: Jer 31:31-34/Ps 51:3-4, 12-13, 14-15 (12a)/Heb 5:7-9/Jn 12:20-33 Scrutiny: Ez 37:12-14/Ps 130: 1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 7-8 (7)/Rom 8:8-11/Jn 11:1-45 or 11:3-7, 17, 20-27, 33b-45

Letters from a Pastor to his People



Dear Parishioners,

Why do you think Christ chose to suffer and die on the cross?

There are many answers to this question. You could take the strictly theological approach and say Jesus was atoning for our sins by making the ultimate sacrifice and greatest act of love to God the Father.

You could take the spiritual approach and say Jesus was showing us what it means to really live. Let me take that second, “spiritual approach” right now.

We have a natural tendency to try to preserve our lives. We want to live, so we take care of our bodies, we don’t walk out into traffic, we don’t pet a rattlesnake. That’s all fine. But this self-preservation, however, is corrupted a bit and becomes twisted (thanks to Adam and Eve). More than just preserving our lives, we tend to cling to our lives. This clinging means we obsess over our image, we feel threatened when someone else succeeds and we don’t, we grasp at pleasures that we think will enhance our lives, and we are stingy about paying compliments, being generous, encouraging, and forgiving. We are afraid that somehow we will be hurt if we forgive or are generous (without expecting anything in return) or if we miss out on the fun.

In other words, we avoid the cross.

The funny thing is, the more we avoid the cross, the more we actually die. Whereas embracing the cross and giving our lives away is how we truly live. Jesus said as much: “For whoever wishes to save his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will save it” (Matthew 16:25).

It requires a lot of trust to embrace the cross. It means really exercising faith that God will provide for us. Can I trust that I will be okay if I forgive the person who hurt me? Can I trust that I won’t miss out by not engaging in that gossip or that wrong behavior that makes me temporarily happy or popular? Can I forsake that thing I want and go hungry?

You can. You all have the strength within you to carry the cross. May you know that God will be with you and he will bless your sacrifice.

So, back to our opening question, Jesus suffered so that we would be able to suffer “successfully” as well. Jesus changed our DNA, if you will. If we were naturally inclined to preserve our life and, due to Adam and Eve, inclined to cling to our life, now we, who are baptized and con-

firmed in Jesus, are inclined to give our lives away for others. Carrying the cross and sacrificing for others—that’s the trademark of the saint.

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This Friday, March 15th is the parish **Friday Fish Fry** sponsored by the Knights of Columbus. Thank you to the KofC for their efforts. We hope to see you there. More details are in the bulletin. **Stations of the Cross** will also be taking place this Friday at 7pm in the church.

Our **Wednesday morning Scripture Seminar** will be at 9am in the Holy Family Chapel this week. All are welcome to discuss the upcoming Sunday readings.

Next Saturday, March 16th is the **First Communion Retreat** for our second graders and their parents. We will do a teaching Mass in the Holy Family Chapel starting at 9am, followed by the spiritual exercise of baking the bread. Thank you to Anna Mae Parkhill for organizing this day. The next First Communion Retreat will be on Saturday, April 13th.

Thank you to those who have contributed to our annual **Lenten Almsgiving Project**. This weekend we will be hearing from our seminarian Lee Noel about his experience in the Diocese of Cheyenne, Wyoming, the area we are supporting this year. You can find donation envelopes and flyers about the effort in the church.

And thank you to all who contributed to the **Annual Catholic Appeal** for the Archdiocese of Chicago, helping us reach our goal of \$145,569. Last year our goal was \$142,718 and we raised \$186,674.

Congratulations to all the participants in the **SPC School Roundball** tournament, which took place this past week. A special thanks to Ryan Fletcher and Joe Haugh for their efforts in organizing the event.

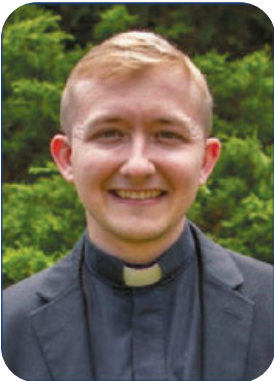
Finally, here is a brief look ahead to the **Sacred Triduum and Easter** schedule, for your planning purposes: Holy Thursday Mass at 7:30pm, Good Friday Veneration of the Cross at 3pm, Easter Basket Blessing on Holy Saturday at 11am, Easter Vigil Mass at 7:30pm, and then the regular Sunday schedule for Easter Sunday, with the addition of Masses in the gym at 9am and 10:30am.

Congratulations, you’re more than halfway through Lent.

Yours in Christ,

Fr. James Wallace

Community Reflections



When they see the man born blind Jesus’ disciples ask: “Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?” In the ancient world, physical illness was a sign of sin, a punishment from God. It was natural, then, for the disciples to wonder whose sin caused the blindness of the man in front of them. Jesus’ answer, of course, turns this assumption on its head. He says, “Neither he nor his parents sinned; it is so that the works of God might be made visible through him.” The man’s blindness was not a punishment from God but part of God’s plan to save his soul. Through his infirmity, he encountered the love of Jesus which led not only to a physical cure but, more importantly, to faith, to trust in Jesus. In the light of the Lord’s love for him he experienced conversion, a change of mind – his weakness did not mean what he thought it meant.

Lent is a great time to ask ourselves how we relate to our weaknesses—our shortcomings and sins, the unresolved and messy parts of our lives. Do we believe they can be occasions to discover God’s mercy and love?

St. Paul heard the Lord say to him, “My grace is sufficient for you, for power is made perfect in weakness”; and Samuel, who assumed the Lord would choose the strongest and most put-together of Jesse’s sons, heard the same voice saying, “Not as man sees does God see, because man sees the appearance but the Lord looks into the heart.”

God says the same thing to each one of us. He wants us to be convinced, especially in our weaknesses, of the power of His love over every part of our lives.

Have a great week!

God bless,
Don. Martin Nyberg

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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11:00 PM							

Mass Schedule

FEAST DAY	TIME	PRESIDER	LECTOR	EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS	MASS INTENTIONS
MON, 3/11 Lenten Weekday	6:25 am UC	Fr. Nick			John Leoci
	8:30 am UC	Fr. James			Edward Maschek, Virginia Bensen
TUE, 3/12 Lenten Weekday	6:25 am UC	Fr. James			Bridget Byrne
	8:30 am UC	Fr. Nick			Dorothy Frasco, Rev. Dan Smilanic, Ryan Semel, Holy Souls in Purgatory
WED, 3/13 Lenten Weekday	6:25 am UC	Fr. James			Renate Andersen
	8:30 am UC	Fr. James			Patrick Fleming, Edward and Adeline Wolkowicz, John Newell, Patricia Gavin, Una McGlew
THUR, 3/14 Lenten Weekday	6:25 am UC	Fr. Nick			Leona Denton
	8:30 am UC	Fr. Nick			John Reckert, Dominic Morris, Lorraine Kieser, Joe Kelly, Blessings for Medical Procedure
FRI, 3/15 Lenten Weekday	6:25 am UC	Fr. Nick			John Fitzsimmons
	8:30 am UC	Fr. James			Lauren Clemens, Nancy and Mark Pospisil, Robert Weitzel
SAT, 3/16 Lenten Weekday	8:30 am UC	Fr. James			Patricia Gavin, Rosira Spuria
	4:30 pm UC	Fr. Nick	Marjorie Ochsner, Jake Zabratanski	George Kirkland, Suzanne Kirkland, Karl Ochsner, Gina Caruso	Nancy Panek, Walter Schreiman, Mary Whitney
SUN, 3/17 Fifth Sunday of Lent	7:30 am UC	Fr. James	Steve Palac, Eugene Cooney	Reggie Higgins Reither, Shirley Patras, Christopher Buti, Alex Jasinowski II	Rose Vargas, Simon O'Donnell
	9:00 am UC	Fr. Nick	Frances Johnson, Joni Haley	Cheryl Kaufman, Randy Bull, Will Alicea, Mary Hester-Tone	George Knappstein
	10:30 am UC	Fr. James	Dan Hogan, Kim Soifer	Chris Poindexter, Margaret Teich, Paula Vallejo, Iryna Olyva	Jean Roche, Joseph Wolfe, Eugene O'Regan, Lorraine Piasecki, Fr. Dan Smilanic, Birthday Blessings for Patsy Noonan, Lisa Muench, Anthony Nickle
	12:00 pm UC	Fr. Nick*/MN	Neda Naum, Jimmy Johnston	Chris Paoelli, Ann Solari-Twadell, Katie Johnston	Deceased members of the Modzelewski family
*LEGEND: /MN = Deacon Martin Nyberg preaching					

Events This Week

DATE / TIME	LOCATION	EVENT
Sunday, March 10th @ 8:30 pm	Morello Parish Life Center Gym	Pick Up Basketball
Monday, March 11th @ 6:30 pm	Holy Family Chapel	Parish Pastoral Council
Monday, March 11th @ 7:30 pm	Kinane Center	That Man is You
Wednesday, March 12th @ 9:00 am	Holy Family Chapel	Scripture Seminar with Father James
Thursday, March 13th @ 7:30 pm	Kinane Center	Praying with Scripture (Lectio Divina)
Friday, March 14th @ 7:00 pm	Upper Church	Stations of the Cross

Opportunities at St. Paul of the Cross

HIRING MAINTENANCE WORKER

St. Paul of the Cross is looking for someone to fill a full-time Custodian/Maintenance Worker position. Primary responsibilities include cleaning, snow removal, and room setup and tear downs.

This job calls for demanding physical labor, including heavy lifting.

If interested, please contact:
Nick Testa, Campus Manager

847-825-7605, x2250
nicktesta@spc-church.org

SCRIPTURE SEMINAR *with* FATHER JAMES

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 13, 2024.
9:00 am
Holy Family Chapel

Please join Fr. James at the next
SCRIPTURE SEMINAR
on Wednesday, March 13th 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 depen-
dent on one another, so attend
at your leisure. No fee or regis-
tration or prior knowledge of
the Bible required.

MARCH MADNESS THURSDAY, MARCH 21st at

6:00 pm

Harp and Fiddle
110 Main Street, Park Ridge

The St. Paul of the Cross Men's Club is hosting our annual March Madness extravaganza. This year's event will be held at Harp and Fiddle on March 21st beginning at 6:00 pm. For \$60 per person, our members will receive 3 HOURS of OPEN BAR, quality food and brotherhood.

One of the goals for the Men's Club in 2024 is to grow enrollment in our highly desired Club. Please grab a buddy and use this event as an entrée for a new member. Let's let others see everything the Men's Club represents — camaraderie, service, faith, tomfoolery, etc.

Please send me your email if you are not on the mailing list or would like more information about becoming a member.

Randy Bull
President, SPC Men's Club,
rbull29@gmail.com,
847-644-3111

St Paul of the Cross Blood Drive 2024 - Palm Sunday

March 24, 2024 from

8AM-2PM

Morello Parish Life Center

Appointments ensure appropriate staffing and quicker donations!

Walk-ins are welcome, but may have to wait.

Call the help desk with medical or travel questions (877) 258-4825 option #1

Please contact Christine Perille, 847-494-5150 or Eileen Kaczmarek, 847-533-7952 with questions or to make an appointment. Or visit <https://www.vitalant.org/> and use code ORDORG08 for St. Paul of the Cross.

**YOU'RE
SOMEBODY'S
TYPE**

Announcements

HOLY WEEK/EASTER SCHEDULE

HOLY THURSDAY, MARCH 28

*note- no morning Mass
9am- Morning Prayer
7:30pm- Mass of the Lord's Supper

GOOD FRIDAY, MARCH 29

*note- no morning Mass
9am- Morning Prayer
12pm- Sacrament of Reconciliation
12pm- Stations of the Cross
3pm- Passion of the Lord Service with Veneration of the Cross

HOLY SATURDAY, MARCH 30

*note- no Morning Mass
9am- Morning Prayer
11am- Easter Basket Blessing
7:30pm- Easter Vigil Mass

EASTER SUNDAY, MARCH 31

7:30am- Mass in Upper Church
9am- Mass in Upper Church
9am- Mass in Gym
10:30am- Mass in Upper Church
10:30am- Mass in Gym
12pm- Mass in Upper Church

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL

PARISH-WIDE DISCUSSION ON SYNODALITY

MONDAY, MARCH 11, 2024

6:30 pm HFC

Pope Francis had given the Church an extraordinary opportunity to hear from the faithful when he introduced the Synodal process in 2023 and 2024. The Synod held in Rome in October, 2023, was the culmination of countless listening sessions held throughout the world.

As a run-up to the October, 2024, Synod session, we have been asked to answer one question: How can we be a synodal Church in mission?

Co-responsibility for the mission seems to be at the heart of synodality. It means coming together in communion to participate together in moving the mission forward. Furthermore, this shared responsibility for mission shapes every level of Church life. It means listening to each other, working together, challenging one another, and encouraging each other. (Fr. Lou Cameli, America, January 12, 2024)

With the goal of truly listening and engaging in a Conversation in the Spirit, the Parish Pastoral Council will lead discussion with parishioners about "what is the mission of the Church?" so that SPC can participate and be included in the national statement that will be submitted for the October 2024 Synod meeting.

WE LOOK FORWARD TO WELCOMING ALL PARISHIONERS! If you are unable to participate in person, please send your input/comments to: pattinowak56@gmail.com.

Father James' Lenten Reflections

The Fourth Sunday of Lent

"He spat on the ground and made clay with the saliva, and smeared the clay on his eyes, and said to him, 'Go wash in the Pool of Siloam.'"

John 9:6-7

Siloam was one of the best things the city of Jerusalem had going for it. Fed by the Spring of Gihon outside the city walls, this was the only fresh-water source in the entire city. It had allowed the Israelites to withstand a siege against the Assyrians in the 700 BC, which was why King Hezekiah had built the tunnel to feed the pool, and it allowed the Israelites in Christ's day to bathe and draw water. This was a simple source of relief and salvation for them.

So when Jesus tells the man to wash the mud off into the pool, defiling it, he is indicating that he, Jesus, is the best thing going for the city and for the people. As he had told the Samaritan woman earlier, he himself is the real water for which people thirst.

The man born blind accepts this truth. He knows Christ is his salvation and he worships

him. His life has meaning now. Not because he can literally see with his eyes, but because he has the Lord in his soul.

The world will always try to tell us Christ is not enough; that we need more, that we need a better home, a better car, a better job, a better body, a better reputation. We look for these things that will fill us. Let Christ rub mud all over those false eyes. Let him confirm in your soul that he is enough, and then follow him.

Directed Prayer: Lord, show me where doubts arise in my heart. Allow me to be honest before you. Please rub the mud of your love over these wounded parts of me. I trust that you are enough.

Monday of the Fourth Week of Lent

"When he came into Galilee, the Galileans welcomed him, since they had seen all he had done in Jerusalem at the feast."

John 4:45

What Jesus had "done in Jerusalem at the feast" was cleanse the temple. This was still early on in Christ's ministry. The miracles of the man born

Father James' Lenten Reflections (continued)

blind and Lazarus, as well as the woman caught in adultery, would come later. The Galileans did not need these miracles to believe. They were moved to faith by a display of Jesus' anger.

Just as today there is plenty to be angry about regarding the state of affairs, so too back then. Even more so. This was a world of malnourishment, slavery, injustice, oppression, racism, and clerical abuse, just to name a few. The temple in Jerusalem was viewed as a microcosm of the cosmos, which meant not just the beauty of the world was present, but also the ugliness. Christ entered and cleansed the ugliness. He did not preach about it. He did not make statements with empty rhetoric. He acted. And he went right at the heart of the ugliness: spiritual depravity. For when religion is corrupted, the soul and the world will follow suit.

The people wanted a better world. They realized that a better religion had to come first. When Christ reformed their religion, they believed. May he reform our temples too.

Directed Prayer: Christ, I give you permission to cleanse the temple of my soul. Make a whip of cords and drive out what should not be there. Please also cleanse our church, our city, our country, and our world. May your kingdom come.

Tuesday of the Fourth Week of Lent

"Rise, take up your mat, and walk."
John 5:8

The man had been sitting by his mat for 38 years. The mat was his sole possession, his one piece of comfort, his only guarantee. In a life marked by slavery, the mat gave him assurance. And yet it was also his greatest hindrance. Why could he not make his way down to the pool of Bethesda only yards away? Because he was afraid to leave his mat. He was afraid to surrender and possibly lose the one thing he had. He believed the risk was not worth the reward.

Christ healed the man. He was finally able to stand upright and move on his own. He did not go down to the pool at which he had been staring for 38 years. He walked out of the city. He walked out into his life. And he took the mat with him.

He no longer needed the mat. Able and free, he could now own other possessions, live in an actual house, be secure with other people. Yet Christ wanted the man to keep the mat, at least for the time being. Perhaps as a reminder of his slavery, of his crippling fear, of his inability to surrender and trust. Whenever he saw that mat he would call to mind Christ, the miracle-worker.

One can only imagine the man was one day able to finally relinquish the mat. He may have burned it for fuel. He may have thrown into the garbage heap in Gehenna. He may have simply left it on the side of the road or back at

the pool of Bethesda for another person. When that day came, Christ was imprinted on his soul.

Directed Prayer: I imagine my mat--my possession that enslaves me. Jesus, with you I can let go of that mat and walk. You always offer me something better.

Wednesday of the Fourth Week of Lent

"Do not be amazed at this, because the hour is coming in which all who are in the tombs will hear his voice and will come out."
John 5:28-29

The confessionals inside the church of Saint Paul of the Cross in Park Ridge have wood carvings. The middle door, where the priest sits, displays dragons. The side doors, where the penitent sits, displays peacocks. The dragon represents sin; the peacock beauty. We enter confession with the dragon on our hearts. The priest takes the dragon upon himself, slays it with the sword of Christ's grace, and the penitent emerges a colorful peacock. The feathers are fanned out, ready to mesmerize the world.

Entering confession and praying with our sins is an experience of the tomb. We own the darkness and nothingness of our sins. If we try to race through the confession by reciting our sins in kind and number in a rote way, we are missing the graced experience. We need to really think how weak we are; how, in this life before heaven, we are a shadow of what our glorious selves are meant to be. That weakness is what we bring before the priest. And so, before we enter the tomb, we should place ourselves in a sort of "hospice care" situation. We should comfortably pray before the Lord's mercy about the person we hope to be in heaven and who we are not right now. If we can do that, when we emerge from the tomb another feather in our coat will have turned a beautiful color.

Directed Prayer: Jesus, I look deep into my being and see the person you created in Heaven before I was placed in my mother's womb. I see the pure beauty and joy and light. That seed has been buried in the earth but it will soon emerge.

Thursday of the Fourth Week of Lent

"There is another who testifies on my behalf."
John 5:32

Much energy is spent defending ourselves. Sometimes in front of others; most of the times in our own head. We sin and fall short, we hear the accuser's voice, and we speak up. Though our defense usually doesn't come in the form of speech. It comes, rather, in the form of shame. We slink back into ourselves. We feel terrible and a darkness covers us like a funeral pall. A subcon-

scious lie tells us that if we are dead the accuser's voice will silence.

"I do not accept human testimony," said our Lord. "I say this so that you may be saved." We do not need to defend ourselves. No testimony--either from ourselves or from another--will take away the pain of the accusation. Instead, the Father speaks for us. And his voice is the only one that matters. He silences the accuser. He assures us we are good and worthwhile and wanted. He speaks a truth that boggles the mind: that it is precisely our sin and weakness that make us good.

Moses and the Lord saw a stubborn characteristic in the Israelite people. "Stiff-necked" is what they called the nation. Such a person is stuck in his way. He refuses to look up to heaven for relief. He refuses to look down in humility. He stares blankly straight ahead, never relinquishing his defense. It is for us to be limber-necked. The rest of our body will follow in relaxation.

Directed Prayer: Lord, I place my hands on my knees in a comfortable sitting position. I loosen my neck and breathe deeply. Father, you speak words of love and encouragement and affirmation to me. I love you in return. I reject shame and choose your mercy.

Friday of the Fourth Week of Lent

"With revilement and torture let us put him to the test that we may have proof of his gentleness and try his patience."
Wisdom 2:19

One of the reasons Christ chose to suffer and die was to show to us God's faithfulness. Going to torture, Jesus knew the Father would provide for him. He knew he would be raised from the dead and that good would come forth from his suffering. We too can accept the cross, for we know God will be there for us. Even the wicked in the Book of Wisdom acknowledge this. "For if the just one be the son of God," they say to themselves in deciding to kill the just man, "God will defend him and deliver him from the hand of his foes."

Christ also chose to suffer in order to reveal God's gentleness and patience. This was, as the above quote indicates, what people were looking for in a Messiah: proof of his gentleness and patience. Christ did not lash out at his foes. He did not summon the legion of angels as he said he could. Nor did give up on the world and wash it away, as in the days of Noah.

If we know our God is gentle and patient, all the more we should be towards ourselves. We tend to harshness. We condemn and belittle ourselves. We grow frustrated that we are not holier; impatient that our desires haven't come to fruition. That impatience and harshness then bleeds into how we view others. If we can receive God's gentleness and patience, then the ethos of the Messiah will have spread.

Directed Prayer: Lord, I let go of the harshness towards myself. It will not make me smarter or better or whatever. It will only bring me down. You love me and

are fine with me. I accept that truth.

Saturday of the Fourth Week of Lent

"So a division occurred in the crowd because of him."
John 7:43

Some people thought Jesus was the Messiah because of the miracles he had performed. Some thought he was just a prophet. Some thought he was indeed the Christ, but not the Son of God. Others thought he was nothing. Because, they thought, he had not been born in Bethlehem, and the Messiah was supposed to be born in Bethlehem, where David was born. (They thought, erroneously, Jesus was from Galilee, since that was where he was living at the time.)

Where is Christ from? Bethlehem (birth)? Nazareth (upbringing)? Galilee (career)? Jerusalem (retirement and death)?

None. He is from your heart.

The Pharisees instruct Nicodemus to make sure "no prophet arises from Galilee." That is, they want to suppress Jesus. Nicodemus follows orders. No prophet indeed arises from Galilee. For Christ is more than a prophet, and he did not arise from that location. He is God, and he arises from our hearts.

Directed Prayer: Jesus, bind the wounds and divisions that are in my family. Heal the wounds in our church and in our country. Heal the wounds in my soul. May be united as you are in the Trinity.



Lenten Almsgiving

You can make a big difference by helping the missionary priests and parish communities. Let's be a part of God's grace working in the faithful people in Wyoming.

The University of Wyoming in Laramie is the only four-year University in the state. As such, the only ministry to young adults in the state is at St. Paul's Newman Center. The dedicated staff of the Newman Center continue to discern and innovate new ways to support students, help them grow in their faith and equip them for careers and vocations that will transform hearts, lives, and society. St. Paul's Newman Center brings the Gospel to the students through vibrant liturgies, hospitality, education, formation, empowerment, and support. They also offer a diverse selection of educational, social, and spiritual activities to the college students, creating a welcoming environment and catholic family culture as the students grow into formed adults.

St. Paul's Newman Center has consistently formed lay ministerial leaders for the local Church of Wyoming while providing a robust student experience of Catholicism. Your gift will support this evangelizing outreach to young adults and support the formation of future leaders of the mission of the Catholic Church in Wyoming.

This past year, Pope Francis affirmed the talent and promise of a St. Paul's Newman Center college student when he chose one of them to be a representative voice for the Church of North America at a world-wide gathering! Pope Francis named Wyatt Olivas from the Diocese of Cheyenne, Wyoming as a voting participant of the global Synod in October. Until recently, only bishops were allowed to be voting members of these consultative bodies. In unprecedented fashion, Pope Francis changed these rules in April 2023, announcing that he intended to incorporate many diverse voices into the Synod as voting members, including young people. He selected Wyatt as one such voting member, who proudly represented all of us at this historic gathering last month. Wyatt has been a student at the University of Wyoming and is an active member at St. Paul's Newman Center on campus, where he is a music intern. Below is a picture of him having a face-to-face chat with Pope Francis at the synod. Over the years, St. Paul's Newman Center has consistently formed leaders, like Wyatt for the Church of Wyoming and beyond.

Your gift will support the formation of more future leaders like Wyatt and Lee Noel. The Newman Center not only serves the community at the University of Wyoming, but it is also an asset to the rest of the local Church of Wyoming.

Thank you for your support and generosity!



Fish Fry

Co-Sponsored by

**Knights of Columbus, Maria Council #4836
and St. Paul of the Cross' Apostolate of Women**
at St. Paul of the Cross Church's Parish Life Center
320 S. Washington Street, Park Ridge
Friday, March 15th, from 5:30 - 8:30 p.m.

Join us for a delicious meal of fresh hand-battered cod (we use trans fat-free canola oil), cole-slaw, French fries, dinner rolls, and dessert. Shrimp available for purchase. Cheese pizza for the kids. Free lemonade and coffee! Soda, beer, and wine will be available for purchase. Carry out meals available!

Please consider bringing soaps, shampoos, toothbrushes, toothpaste, baby wipes, and/or diapers (sizes: newborn - 6 mos.) for **donation to The Women's Center of Greater Chicagoland**.

Cost:

Note: **Proceeds to benefit local Seminarian/Novitiate education and SPC's AOW**

Adults \$14 each if pre-order received by 3/9/24 (\$16 at the door)

Seniors: \$12 if pre-order received by 3/9/24 (\$14 at the door)

Children: \$6 (children under 3 are free)

Add \$4 to any ticket to add 3 pieces of shrimp to your meal

Questions? Contact Robbie Gawronski at kofcmaria4836@gmail.com

Purchase Tickets:

Deliver your completed order form below with payment (cash or check) to SPC's rectory by noon on Sunday, March 10th. To pay by credit card, email your order to kofcmaria4836@gmail.com, and a link will be emailed to you for payment on-line.

Please make checks payable to "K of C – Maria Council 4836" (write SPC Fish Fry on the memo line).

Order Form for March 15th Fish Fry at St. Paul of the Cross

Name: _____

Total Check Amount: \$ _____

Phone #: _____

Check here if carryout: _____
(fish or pizza only)

_____ # of Adults @ \$14 each* _____ # of Seniors @ \$12 each* _____ # of Kids (4-12) at \$6 each
Kids 3 & under are FREE

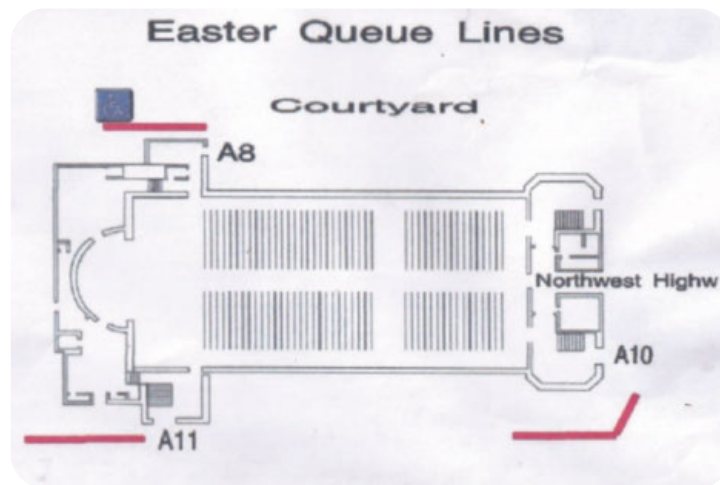
_____ Add 3 Shrimp for \$4 _____ Add 3 Shrimp for \$4 _____ # of Kids above who want pizza

* The price of Adult and Senior meals ordered after 3/10/24 will increase to \$16 and \$14, respectively

Easter Note from the Ushers

We are expecting large crowds for all services this Easter. The Church has added 2 Masses in the Gym as well as providing a simulcast in the Holy Family Chapel for all Easter Services. We ask that when entering the Church please move to the center of your pew, allowing room for all. We must also ask that there is no standing in the aisles. Once the upper Church is at capacity, we ask that you attend the HFC Simulcast or Gym Services. To be considerate to all, **saving seats will not be allowed.**

Services may still be in session when you arrive. We will have three queue lines set up off the parking lot, on Northwest Highway and in the courtyard handicap entrance. Bring a coat or umbrella in case we have inclement weather. Let's all pray for nice weather.



Social Service Ministry Corner

GRIEFSHARE BEGINNING SOON ST. PAUL OF THE CROSS

**Tuesdays, 6:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.
March 19 thru June 11, 2024**

This program features biblical, Christ-centered teaching that focuses on grief topics associated with the death of a loved one.

A \$30.00 donation is appreciated to cover the cost of the workbook and operating expenses.

Please contact Kathy O'Toole Nowicki with questions or to register at irish1chgo@gmail.com or call our rectory at 847-825-7605. You may also go to www.griefshare.org for more information and to register online.

PANTRY NEEDS THIS WEEK

- * Salad dressing
- * Mustard
- * Spaghetti noodles
- * Paper towels



Thank you!

We are grateful to everyone who has made a gift to our **2024 Annual Catholic Appeal**, an occasion to bridge our efforts to support parish life, Catholic schools, programs of religious education, and various other initiatives across the Archdiocese of Chicago. As we come **"Together at the Table,"** we join in a unified sense of purpose.

There is still time to make a gift if you have not already done so.

See the various giving options below or scan the QR code to the right to make your gift online today!



Ways to Make ACA Gifts

One-time gifts, pledges, sustaining recurring gifts, as well as gifts made through stock, Donor Advised Funds and IRA distributions can be made by cash, check or credit card through the following methods:

- Reply form received in the cardinal's direct mailings
- Online at annualcatholicappeal.com
- In-pew envelopes (pre-addressed)
- Telephone — Annual Catholic Appeal — 312.534.7959
- Mail to — Annual Catholic Appeal, 835 North Rush Street, Chicago, Illinois 60611-2030
- Charitable Gift Funds — Legal Name: The Catholic Bishop of Chicago, Federal tax ID #36-2170826

THE ANNUAL CATHOLIC APPEAL HELPS SUPPORT

Our faith, which draws us ever closer to God as we work to renew our local Church within a new missionary age. We endeavor to grow as disciples so we might share the love of Jesus Christ in creative ways and strengthen our parish communities to welcome and invite others.

Our parishes, where our faith is lived out. The Annual Catholic Appeal provides significant funding to local parishes through the rebate program as well as support to under-resourced parishes and schools throughout Cook and Lake counties.

Our priests, who deserve our gratitude and support. The Annual Catholic Appeal provides funds for priest and seminarian education and ongoing development, providing our priests with important formation opportunities to best serve their communities.

Our schools, which offer a robust academic education and form a new generation in faith. Scholarships provide critical support to make Catholic education possible and foster our children's relationship with Jesus Christ and the Church.

Archive Corner with Mark Miller

The Archive Corner concludes this series with Stations 11 & 12. Archdiocesan history states that our Stations of the Cross were copied from The Stations in Saint Mary of the Lake Church in Mundelein.

1.



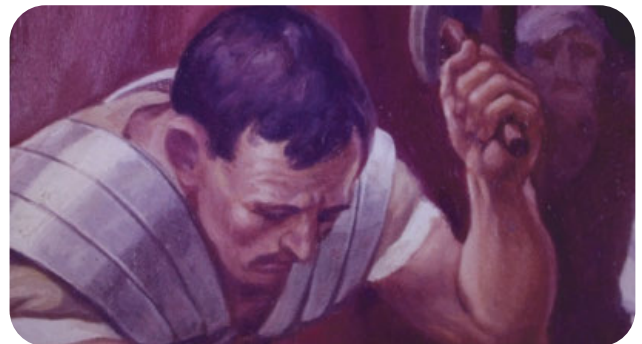
2.



3.



4.



5.



6.



7.



8.



11th Station: Jesus is nailed to the Cross.

1,2,3,4,

12th Station: Jesus dies on the Cross.

5,6,7,8.

2024 GIRL SCOUT AWARDS

Last Sunday, March 10, at the 9:00 Mass we celebrated and honored the Girl Scouts of all ages of St. Paul of the Cross parish. In particular, we recognized those Girl Scouts who have been working on religious awards this year and received their medals last Sunday.

The Girl Scouts My Promise, My Faith pin is a national award given to girls who have completed a study and series of activities that link the Girl Scout Law and the teachings of the Catholic Faith. There are 5 steps to earn the pin, including the girl's choice of the Girl Scout Law and connecting it with a facet of her faith. She discerns what they have in common, talking with a woman in our community and learning how she tries to use that part of the Law in her life, and finds inspirational quotes by women that reflect the Law chosen for the award, and other activities.

Kindergarten Daisy Troop 47784 who received the pin for the first time were Taleen Arslanyan, Kyla Balata, Kensie Blair, Abby Bohlke, Maddie Calfee, Eve Collins, Charlotte Del Rio, Juliette Dinella, Cameron Draths, Ella Dziedzic, Tara Finlay, Clare Gardiner, Cameran Hartranft, Vailene Icao, Sofia Junkovic, Sophia Loukas, Brooke Lunsford, Claire Moran, Violet Mote, Kathryn Neville, Brooke Noverini, Nora O'Connell, Sienna Rigali, Elsie Shields, Katherine Sosa, Reagan Stengle, Evelyn Volden, and Ava Wiess. Their leaders are Leonna Mote, Eileen Finlay, and Kelly Moran

1st Grade Daisy Troop 47442 who received the award were Mila Battista, Bridget Biros, Giorgia Bontempo, Piper Brasie, Evelyn Brasky, Annabelle Braun, Skyler Childers, Adeline Degen, Alexandra Dutmers, Hadley Fauntleroy, Zovinar George, Vianne Icao, Marina Iglesias, Nora Jackiewicz, Asha Kajderowicz, Maggie Krause, Amelia Ludwig, Violet Mahany, Sophia Martinez, Adelaide Monroe-Judd, Caroline Moran, Addison Mullarkey, Ava Nast, Lillian Persino, Olivia Poupore, Quinn Regan, Ophelia Seraj, Lucy Stauffer, Olivia Sugrue, Nora Tabares, Vivianne Tews, and Abigail Vogt. Their leaders are Kayleigh Persino, Maria Iglesias and Katlyn Poupore

Second Grade Troop 40651 Brownies who received the award were Olivia Bartz, Delaney Brennan, Alessandra Bush, Millie Castellucci, Lianna Di Vito, Sadie Dinella, Frances Diwisch, Ella Frano, Camille Freccia, Helene Hart, Adelaide Heenan, Rachel Huber, Alexandra India, Juliette India, Emily Jung, Kaia Kuehlman, Olivia Maniatis, Elinor Monroe-Judd, Madelyn Moran, Lindsey Novak, Paige Noverini, Teagan Pansky, Julia Ramundo, and Maxine Rubenstein. Their leaders are: Megan Weber, Jenny Ramundo, and Kelly Moran.

Third Grade Brownie Troop 47226 recipients were: Hannah Baker, Ewa Bitzaya, Zuzu Bogdanowicz, Julia Brasky, Madison Braun, Finnley Brennan, Eleanor Bryant, Caroline Butts, Claire Chandler, Emily Conway, Bebe Francis, Claire Kenny, Ally Kuehlman, Natalie McCaghy, Sionainn McGarry, Sloane McNally, Gia Nast, Lauren Neville, Maisie Noonan, Maddie Popadowski, Genevieve Porcaro, Samantha Stinar, and Emily Sugrue. Their leaders are Eileen Sugrue, Rosemary Francis, and Laura Brasky.

Fourth Grade Junior Troop 47043 recipients of the award were Alyson Badalpoor, Abigail Blaikie, Francesca Bontempo, Nora Braun, Scarlett Bryant, Annie Rose Butler, Katherine Conway, Gabriella DeJulio, Ethel Diwisch, Emma Gornik, Harriet Hart, Sofia Hartranft, Venise Icao, Claire Jackiewicz, Cate Krause, Allison McCarthy, Ciara McGarry, Leighton Mote, Madeleine Nolten, Mia Noverini, Maura Nyhan, Grace Potaczek, Clara Ramundo, Eliana Rygula, Mallory Veit, and Lia Vu. Their leaders are Carrie Gornik and Cathy Hart

Eighth Grade Cadette troop 45249 recipient was Maddie Enderle. The troop leader is Diana Enderle.

Congratulations to all our Girl Scouts for your work and projects as Girl Scouts, and a special thank you to all the Girl Scout leaders and volunteers who offer their time and energy and talents to make our Girl Scout program a success year after year.

THE GIRL SCOUT LAW

I will do my best to be
honest and fair, friendly and helpful,
considerate and caring, courageous and strong,
and responsible for what I say and do,
and to respect myself and others, respect authority,
use resources wisely, make the world a better place,
and be a sister to every Girl Scout.

Ministry Corner

New Parishioner Welcome



Greetings! New Parishioner Welcome typically occurs during the first Sunday of each month at the St Paul of the Cross (SPC) Parish Life Center. Two volunteers at each shift greet the new parishioners and transcribe their pertinent family data in our SPC registration cards. The first shift of volunteers starts at 8:15 AM and the second shift takes over at 10:15 AM through 12 noon. The volunteers answer questions from registrants regarding the parish and distribute SPC New Parishioner folders. The folders contain valuable information about church ministries, volunteer opportunities, social organizations throughout the parish and SPC school tuition including the extended day program. Our parish is truly fortunate to have volunteers meet and greet our new parishioners. If you would like to meet new people, share your SPC experience and commit two hours every four months to volunteer, then we would love to have you join our New Parishioner Welcome ministry. Please call me at 847.823.0930 and I can share more information about this fulfilling ministry.

Maria Mehl

Maria Mehl

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 Paoelli—adorationchapel@spc-church.org
 Praying with Scripture—Beshar Bahjat—beshare@hotmail.com
 RCIA—Beshar Bahjat—beshare@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—jerrywhite56@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—Debbie Russo—russonet@sbcglobal.net
 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—beshare@hotmail.com



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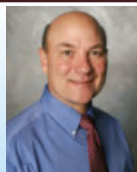
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RECTORY OFFICE HOURS

Monday through Friday 9:00 am - 5:00 pm*
* closed from 12:00pm—1:00 pm
Saturday 9:00 am - 1:00 pm
Sunday Closed

DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS

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

DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS

Mark Hutchinson: markhutchinson@spc-church.org
847-825-7605 x2245 / www.spc-church.org

DIRECTOR OF FINANCE

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

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

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(847) 692-6767

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(847) 825-7605 x2253

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Andrea Bartolomeo: andreabartolomeo@spc-church.org

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

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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
March 17th issue: Friday, March 8th
March 24th issue: Friday, March 14th

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