



Saint Paul
the Apostle

JANUARY 25, 2026



3RD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Jesus began to preach and say, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.” - Mt 4:17

SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT - CALLED TO LIGHT THE WAY!

BY MARY PENICH

When I began to write today, I was taken aback by the date. January 25? Yes, you'll read this on January 25, one month after Christmas Day! How did this happen?



Though my husband and I managed to take down our outdoor Christmas decorations before the deep freeze set in, several homes nearby still sport colorful Christmas lights. This isn't a complaint! Those lights are a welcome reminder to me to hold onto the joy and spirit of Christmas. Life in this world is tough on so many levels these days. Those lights elicit a smile and lighten my mood every time I see them. If a few light strings can work this magic for me, I wonder what we might be able to do for one another? I ask this question knowing that the answer is, "Quite a lot!"

I put my heart into Christmas 2025. Whether I was at the grocery store, shopping for gifts, doing laundry, trying to figure out my next bit of writing or our next meal, I kept myself focused on the "Merry" in "Merry Christmas". I was determined to spread cheer whenever and wherever possible. I didn't know what inspired the smiles and frowns of those around me. However, I did know that greeting them with a bit of cheer either broadened their smiles or diminished their frowns for the moment. Maybe those slight changes spurred them on to do the same for the next person they met along the way. I'm convinced that, however small our efforts may seem, they can and do make a difference!

Yes, it is *January 25*. So, why am I returning to Christmas for inspiration? Why? Because everything changed for us and for this world the day Jesus was born to Mary. This Son of God left everything he knew behind to embrace life among us on this earth. The scriptures tell us Jesus spent his first 30 years or so with Mary and Joseph. Joseph passed away sometime before Jesus left home. Jesus remained with his mother until he began his public life. What were Mary, Joseph, and Jesus thinking through all of this? We can only imagine!

We're told that an angel announced Jesus' arrival to Mary. An angel also explained the situation to Joseph in a dream. Angels also kept Joseph informed as potentially dangerous scenarios unfolded. Still, days, weeks, months, and years passed between and long after those visitations. How did Mary and Joseph manage as they struggled to raise Jesus? Did Jesus behave like a typical kid from Nazareth? Did he learn and play, obey and get into mischief like his childhood friends? Do you remember Jesus' family trip to the temple to celebrate Passover? Jesus was 12 years old. When his parents and their group began the journey from Jerusalem home to Nazareth, Jesus stayed behind. Do you remember Mary's and Joseph's fear when they realized Jesus wasn't with either of them? You know, despite having the Jesus we praise, emulate and obey in their midst, Mary and

Joseph had a tough life. On those difficult days, did their memories of the first Christmas bring them consolation? I wonder...

Christmas... It always pains me to take down our Christmas decorations because I'm reluctant to let go. I pride myself in making an annual attempt to transform The Twelve Days of Christmas into The Twelve Months of Christmas. I promised myself that New Year 2026 would be no exception and that New Year 2026 will be my best effort yet! Troubles great and small complicate our lives these days. Still, I'm determined not to give in to these things. I *can't* give in to them! Though I don't know *how* Joseph and Mary persisted in the impossible task of raising Jesus, I can help trying to imitate their effort in making Jesus' ways a part of every day that I'm given. The question is, "How can I do this?"



Today's scriptures offer a few hints. Isaiah (8:23-9:3) rejoices in ALL the Jewish people's relationship with God because this relationship gets them through everything. Paul (1 Corinthians 1:10-13,17) expresses serious disappointment in his friends at Corinth because they've wasted a lot of energy bickering. (Does this sound familiar?) Though they

all consider themselves Christians, they differentiate themselves from one another because different people brought them into the faith. Paul settles the matter by pointing out that Jesus is with each one of them regardless of how they first heard Jesus' name! Matthew's gospel (4:12-23) tells us that Jesus embraced all who listened. In the process, Jesus gathered a truly diverse group of disciples who brought the good news to *everyone*! Now that sounds like a plan!

Yes, it is January 25, 2026, and I can't help wondering... Can The Twelve Days of Christmas actually morph into The Twelve Months of Christmas? Can they become The Twelve Years of Christmas? I can't help answering, "Yes! They have to! Twelve Days must become Twelve Months and Twelve Months must become Twelve Years!" But how? Joseph and Mary managed long before Jesus began teaching the rest of us. It seems that being there for one another was enough to keep Jesus' family going and to prepare Jesus for the work that lay ahead. Being there for one another is enough to keep all our human family going as well. We need only to follow in Jesus' footsteps and to be there for one another one loving act at a time. Merry Christmas! Let's do it!

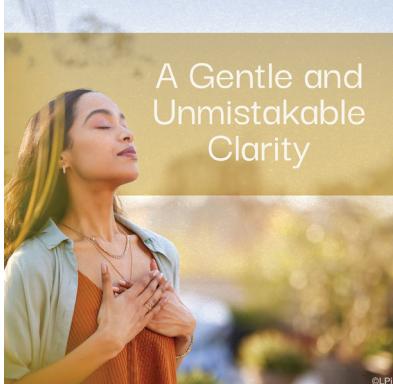
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To Read Fr. Chris' Weekly Letter
please visit our website: www.saintpaultheapostle.church

YOUR SUNDAY WORSHIP AID

3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

GOSPEL MEDITATION



I was 22 years old, lying in bed one night while on a pilgrimage, when I suddenly sensed an idea in my mind: "Go to the seminary." There was no voice, no vision, but a gentle and unmistakable clarity. I simply prayed, "Lord, if that's from you, let me find great joy in it." Three days later, my heart was bursting with joy. I dropped everything and entered the seminary. The older I get, the stranger my rather careless and hasty departure seems to me. I followed not because it made sense, or because I was especially brave. I went because the Lord called me.

Something like this happens in today's Gospel. Jesus walks by Simon, Andrew, James, and John and says, "Come after me" (Matthew 4:19). And immediately they leave their nets and follow. There's no explanation, no hesitation ... just movement. Why? As St. John says, "In this is love: not that we have loved God, but that he loved us" (1 John 4:10). They do not leave their nets because his call made perfect, calculable sense. They left them because they were called. And Jesus' call is powerful.

Take a moment this week to remember when Christ first called you. However small or quiet it was, recall it, and give thanks. The more we marvel that Christ has called us personally, the more passionately and freely we will follow him.

— Father John Muir ©LPi

MASS HYMNS

Opening Song: Way Maker by Osinachi Egbu

At Sunday 11:30am & 5:00pm: **Spirit & Song #211 Fish with Me** by Ken Canedo

Gloria: MASS OF RESTORATION by Josh Blakesley and Grae McCullough

Responsorial Psalm: The Lord Is My Light by Ed Bolduc

Gospel Acclamation: MASS OF THE DESERT by Steve Angrisano

Preparation Song: Gather #678 Pescador de Hombres by Cesareo Gabaraín

Eucharistic Acclamations: MASS OF RESTORATION by Josh Blakesley and Grae McCullough

Communion Songs: Solitude Song (Follow Me) by Tom Booth

At Sunday 11:30am: **Spirit & Song #270 10,000 Reasons (Bless the Lord)** by Jonas Myrin and Matt Redman

At Sunday 5:00pm: **Gratitude** by Benjamin Hastings, Brandon Lake, and Dante Bowe

Closing Song: Spirit & Song #242 Grateful by Steve Angrisano and Tom Tomaszek

At Sunday 5:00pm: **Praise** by Brandon Lake, Chandler Moore, Chris Brown, Cody Carnes, Pat Barrett

READING I

ISAIAH 8:23—9:3

First the Lord degraded the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali; but in the end he has glorified the seaward road, the land west of the Jordan, the District of the Gentiles.

Anguish has taken wing, dispelled is darkness: for there is no gloom where but now there was distress.

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; upon those who dwelt in the land of gloom a light has shone.

You have brought them abundant joy and great rejoicing, as they rejoice before you as at the harvest, as people make merry when dividing spoils.

For the yoke that burdened them, the pole on their shoulder, and the rod of their taskmaster you have smashed, as on the day of Midian.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

PSALM 27:1, 4, 13-14

The Lord is my light and my salvation.

READING II

1 CORINTHIANS 1:10-13, 17

I urge you, brothers and sisters, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree in what you say, and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be united in the same mind and in the same purpose.

For it has been reported to me about you, my brothers and sisters, by Chloe's people, that there are rivalries among you. I mean that each of you is saying, "I belong to Paul," or "I belong to Apollos," or "I belong to Cephas," or "I belong to Christ."

Is Christ divided?

Was Paul crucified for you?

Or were you baptized in the name of Paul?

For Christ did not send me to baptize but to preach the gospel, and not with the wisdom of human eloquence, so that the cross of Christ might not be emptied of its meaning.

GOSPEL

MATTHEW 4:12-17

When Jesus heard that John had been arrested, he withdrew to Galilee.

He left Nazareth and went to live in Capernaum by the sea,

in the region of Zebulun and Naphtali, that what had been said through Isaiah the prophet might be fulfilled:

Land of Zebulun and land of Naphtali, the way to the sea, beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles, the people who sit in darkness have seen a great light, on those dwelling in a land overshadowed by death light has arisen.

From that time on, Jesus began to preach and say, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand."



GLORIA

Glory to God in the highest,
and on earth peace to people of good will.
We praise you, we bless you,
we adore you, we glorify you,
we give you thanks for your great glory,
Lord God, heavenly King,
O God, almighty Father.
Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son,
Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,
you take away the sins of the world,
have mercy on us;
you take away the sins of the world,
receive our prayer;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father,
have mercy on us.
For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit, in the Glory of God the Father.
Amen.

APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God,
the Father almighty,
Creator of heaven and earth,
and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died and was buried;
he descended into hell;
on the third day he rose again from the dead;
he ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of God,
the Father almighty;
from there he will come to judge
the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and life everlasting.
Amen.

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Sunday: Is 8:23-9:3/Ps 27:1, 4, 13-14/1 Cor 1:10-13, 17/Mt 4:12-23 or 4:12-17

Monday: 2 Tm 1:1-8 or Ti 1:1-5/Ps 96:1-2a, 2b-3, 7-8a, 10, 21-22, 25-26/Mk 3:22-30

Tuesday: 2 Sm 6:12b-15, 17-19/Ps 24:7, 8, 9, 10/Mk 3:31-35

Wednesday: 2 Sm 7:4-17/Ps 89:4-5, 27-28, 29-30/Mk 4:1-20

Thursday: 2 Sm 7:18-19, 24-29/Ps 132:1-2, 3-5, 11, 12, 13-14/Mk 4:21-25

Friday: 2 Sm 11:1-4a, 5-10a, 13-17/Ps 51:3-4, 5-6a, 6bcd-7, 10-11/Mk 4:26-34

Saturday: 2 Sm 12:1-7a, 10-17/Ps 51:12-13, 14-15, 16-17/Mk 4:35-41

WEEKDAY PSALMS

Monday: *Psalm 96:1-2a, 2b-3, 7-8a, 10*

Proclaim God's marvelous deeds to all the nations.

Tuesday: *Psalm 24:7, 8, 9, 10*

Who is this king of glory? It is the Lord!

Wednesday: *Psalm 89:4-5, 27-28, 29-30*

For ever I will maintain my love for my servant.

Thursday: *Psalm 132:1-2, 3-5, 11, 12, 13-14*

The Lord God will give him the throne of David, his father.

Friday: *Psalm 51:3-4, 5-6a, 6bcd-7, 10-11*

Be merciful, O Lord, for we have sinned.

Saturday: *Psalm 51:12-13, 14-15, 16-17*

Create a clean heart in me, O God.

OBSERVANCES FOR THE WEEK

Sunday: 3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time; Celebrate Catholic Schools Week

Monday: Sts. Timothy and Titus, Bishops

Tuesday: St. Angela Merici, Virgin

Wednesday: St. Thomas Aquinas, Priest and Doctor of the Church

Saturday: St. John Bosco, Priest

Next Sunday: 4th Sunday in Ordinary Time

MASS INTENTIONS

SATURDAY, JANUARY 24, 2026

5:00pm: Gerry & Chuck Suhling | David Stankus | Raymond De Silvia, Sr. | Alice De Silvia | Raymond De Silvia, Jr. | Gerena O. Monis | Lawrence Doan Pham | John Carter Bennett | Scott Kohler | Peter Konrad | Rosemary Cummings-Lewis | Walter & Emily Macrowski

SUNDAY, JANUARY 25, 2026

7:30am: John Patrick Miller
9:30am: Winston Casis | Lou Baker | Marlene Roteman
11:30am: Vera Bena | Hector B. Brual, Jr. | Pablo & Yolanda Hernandez | Celia J. Auguste | Adrian Aromin | Amaryliss Ouano | Kenneth Horcher | Remigio Payawal | Nancy Jane Crutcher
5:00pm: Bob & Harriet Sutton | Our Parish Family

MONDAY, JANUARY 26, 2026

7:30am: Our Parish Family

TUESDAY, JANUARY 27, 2026

7:30am: Amelia Abear | Adrian Aromin

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 28, 2026

7:30am: Our Parish Family

THURSDAY, JANUARY 29, 2026

7:30am: Rene A. Navas | Edmund Kana

FRIDAY, JANUARY 30, 2026

7:30am: Our Parish Family

SATURDAY, JANUARY 31, 2026

5:00pm: Gerry & Chuck Suhling | Tristyn Karl | Gerena O. Monis | Lawrence Doan Pham | Marybeth & Charlotte Hilo | John Carter Bennett | Scott Kohler

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 2026

7:30am: Judith Burley | Victor Peccioli | Michael Kinahan | Lupe Barcebal
9:30am: Robert Chester Buttrey | Maria Dominguez
11:30am: Bob & Harriet Sutton | Hector B. Brual, Jr. | Joseph Richardt | Mark Bonislawski
5:00pm: Our Parish Family

DONATIONS SUMMARY

Week of January 19, 2025

Sunday- \$14,395
Sharing- \$400
SVdP- \$585
Christmas- \$303
Retirement fund for Religious- \$50

Online Sunday- \$9,726
Online Sharing- \$477
Online SVdP- \$526

Month to Date - December

Sunday- \$63,555
Online Sunday- \$28,842
Christmas- \$5,312
Sharing- \$825
Online Sharing- \$1,614
SVdP- \$1,365
Online SVdP- \$1,920
Retirement fund for Religious- \$175

PRAY FOR THE SICK

Tom Asma	Consuelo Vargas
Karla Arce	Juan Miguel Currea
Jeanne Sypien	Gloria de Cardenas
Glenn Garamoni	Helena Sznicer
Daniel Schmelz	George Lawrence
Russell Yanow	Michael Miller
Victoria Sofia	Cynthia D. Caudell
Luquez Mogollon	Glafira Bunsen
Kinga Szymoniak	Jackie Herrera-Giron
Chris Lucy	Gino LaBellarte
Donna O'Brien	Dianne Scirri
Norilyn Querubin	Pat Wilson
Rey Querubin	Kimmy Cozart
Obdulia Elizalde	Mark Wilson
Jovita Menes	Pat Gundrum
Reginald Dulaca	Mary Thachil
Melody Cook	Daniela Gaborik
Brian Smolicek	Amy Patterson
Roberto Movilla	Melissa Fernandes
Shani Stahnke	Emily Meryer
Abby Swygard	Kathy Hunt
Rod Reyes	Laura Hopkins
Betty Falotico	Bill O'Brien
Keith Kellogg	Katie Travelstead
Lisa Mischke	Shanklin
David Zilligen	Roman Stankiewicz
Eduardo Perez	Charles Brown
Maria Domitila Zambrano de Polanco	Reginald Dulaca
Rafael Gloria	Melody Cook
Collen Wishall	Jeanne Tan
Silvia Pinedo	Gemma Olai
	Giovanni Deligero

Please know that we pray for all of the sick at every Mass. However, if you would like your name or that of a sick loved one to be included in the list above, please email or call

Catherine in the Parish Office:
info@spa.church or 847-918-0600



In loving memory of our recently deceased parishioners. May God's perpetual light shine upon them.

Avelina Doreza Tibudan



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

SATURDAY, JANUARY 24, 2026

8:30AM BCBP MEETING
11:00AM RECONCILIATION
2:00PM 1ST RECONCILIATION (1ST COMMUNION 2 - SCU 1 - SCU 2)
5:00PM MASS

SUNDAY, JANUARY 25, 2026

7:30AM MASS
9:00AM OCIA
9:00AM FF | SUN K-6
9:30AM MASS
11:30AM MASS
3:30PM CF 1-2-HS & SCU2
4:00PM TEEN CHOIR REHEARSAL
5:00PM MASS
6:00PM LIFETEEN NIGHT: LIFENIGHT

MONDAY, JANUARY 26, 2026

7:30AM MASS

TUESDAY, JANUARY 27, 2026

7:30AM MASS
8:00AM HOLY HOUR
2:00PM FAITH SHARING
6:30PM SPRED
7:00PM CURIOUS CATHOLIC

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 28, 2026

7:30AM MASS
7:00PM ADULT CHOIR REHEARSAL
7:00PM LIFETEEN CORE TEAM MEETING

THURSDAY, JANUARY 29, 2026

7:30AM MASS
8:00AM HOLY HOUR

FRIDAY, JANUARY 30, 2026

7:30AM MASS

SATURDAY, JANUARY 31, 2026

11:00AM RECONCILIATION
12:30PM BAPTISM - ARREOLA
5:00PM MASS

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 2026

7:30AM MASS
9:00AM OCIA
9:00AM FF | SUN K-6
9:30AM MASS
11:30AM MASS
3:30PM CF 1-2-HS & SCU2
4:00PM TEEN CHOIR REHEARSAL
5:00PM MASS
6:00PM LIFETEEN NIGHT: LIFENIGHT

JANUARY 31/FEBRUARY 1 | LITURGY SCHEDULE

	USHERS	LECTORS	COMMUNION MINISTERS	GREETERS	PRESIDER
SATURDAY 5:00PM	G. Johnson A. Barrie A. Rusnak T. Rusnak K. Gaston OPEN	Warren Kati Maryalice Smith	Balmes Boswell Goajski Wicinski, C Wicinski, E	J. Amezquita P. Balmes	Fr. Martin Dn. Mike
SUNDAY 7:30AM	R. Dizon B. O'Brien J. Siegel R. Sekany T. Shurtleff B. Murphy	Doug Niemann Tom Krissek	Burns Kurien Mumm Nieman Pieper	M. Zorc R. Zorc	Fr. John D. Brent
SUNDAY 9:30AM	B. Kibitlewski K. King T. Mengarelli P. Mengarelli G. Pratscher D. Scheffler	Cathy Latza Claress Pettengill	Anderson Bautista Beaudoin Gbur Kleemann	D. Shuppert R. Pratscher	Fr. Chris Dn. Andy
SUNDAY 11:30AM	R. Cuasay C. Karl G. Galeno P. Watson R. Terrazas OPEN	Anna Richardt Maribeth Hilo	Denecke- Dattalo Richardt Hilo Mozny	A. Brown T. Guziec	Fr. Joe Dn. Bob
SUNDAY 5:00PM	K. Deniz M. Deniz J. Plamooottil OPEN x 2	Christine Crow Teen or Lector I	Crow Marino Plamooottill Robb Wattelet	Teens	Fr. Martin Dn. Ivan



St. Paul's Annual Baby Bottle Campaign and Baby Shower is coming! Please take a baby bottle home on the weekend of January 17th and 18th. Fill the bottle and bring it back on the weekend of February 21st and 22nd. You may also donate online through the parish website.

"Aid for Women" is in need the following items: Diapers, bibs, infant gowns, baby bath towels, long sleeve onesies, baby wash and lotion, baby socks, pacifiers, wipes, as well as Walmart or Menards gift cards.

Labeled "Baby Shower" carts will be in the upper and lower levels for items dropped off beginning January 17th and 18th.

Thank you in advance for your continued generosity! God Bless!

Adoration of The Blessed Sacrament

(with Praise and Worship music)

Monday, February 2 at
7:00 PM



CURIOS CATHOLIC
PRESENTS



Dr. Bill Murphy

1.27.25 @ 7:00pm

St. Thomas Aquinas on the
Virtues and Holiness

All adults are invited to Curious Catholic this Tuesday at 7:00pm in the Gathering Space. Our speaker is Dr. Bill Murphy who will speak about St. Thomas Aquinas on Virtue and Holiness. Wine and snacks will be served.



**Circle of
Women**

We, the Circle of Women, are women rooted in faith, called to share our faith with others.

The group meets monthly on Saturday mornings, from 9:30 to 11:00 A.M. at St. Paul's lower level.

The next meeting is on February 14th.

Each month is a different topic, each session is separate, so consistent attendance is not required. Come as you are, share with us, or listen if that is what you need. Our cornerstones come from the word saint: safe, accepting, inclusive, nurturing, and trusting.

Our space is sacred, and what we share at Circle of Women stays at Circle of Women. All women are welcome- bring your friends!

You are cordially invited to
a special informational session
to learn more about the
Ignite the Future Campaign.

Please join us on
February 10th at 6:30pm in the church.

The meeting will include a presentation,
a Q&A session,
and a time to hear participants' opinions,
and will also help build momentum
and increase awareness on the given topics.

Please register on our website.

We look forward to sharing this important event with you.



scan to register



ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO



RENEWAL WORKSHOPS

Growing Together: Building Transformative Small Groups in Lent

Tuesday, January 27 | 12 – 2 p.m. and 7 – 9 p.m. | Online

Small groups during Lent offer an incredible opportunity to increase engagement and invite your community into intentional discipleship. Explore the basic elements needed to turn a typical small group into a transformative experience of encounter with Jesus.

For more information and to register,
visit renewmychurch.org/renewal-workshops
or scan the QR code.





Soles For Jesus

Soles For Jesus is an organization that distributes shoes to the underserved people in sub-Saharan Africa. Collected shoes will provide hope and diminish disease for these people.

We are collecting new and gently used shoes. Please drop off your donations in the box in the gathering space. All sizes are needed: Toddler thru Adult.

Thank you for your donations in the past months.

visit: SolesforJesus.org



ST. PATRICK SCHOOL

Open House
January 25, 2026
9:00am-1:00pm

Inspiring Learning, Faith and Character



Contact us for more info
847-623-8446

PANCAKE BREAKFAST
8:00AM-12:30PM



- ✓ Tour Our PreK-8th Grade Classrooms
- ✓ Meet Teachers and Administration
- ✓ See First-Hand our Successes in Faith Development & Academics
- ✓ Learn About Our Many Extra-Curricular Activities
- ✓ Discuss Financial Assistance

Scan for more SPS information



15020 W. Wadsworth Rd. Wadsworth, IL

www.spswadsworth.org

St Paul's Men's Legacy celebrated their ninth annual Magi Dinner and Candlelight Prayer on January 9th.



If you would like to know more about Men's Legacy and share in our brotherhood of faith with various events throughout the year, please contact Jon Marion or Dennis Mumm through the Parish Office or parish website.

SOUPER BOWL 2026 FAN ALERT! EVEN THOUGH...



Fellow Football Fans, I'm writing this at the end of the Bears' last game of the season. Though they didn't make it to Super LXI, we're doing our best to prepare for an even bigger competition! This is Deacon Mike. My fellow deacons and I are uniting against another very real opponent- HUNGER! Deacon Bob, Ivan, Andy, Rod, Brent and I are transforming Super Bowl LX Weekend into SOUPer Bowl Weekend here at St. Paul the Apostle, and we're inviting you to join us! Father Chris and Father Martin have commissioned us to become our own Monsters of The Midway! Will you help us to tackle hunger? You can start today by picking up an envelope on the way in or out of church. On SOUPer Bowl Weekend, February 7-8, just drop it in the SOUPer Bowl pots or the collection bins, or you can donate online. As always, 100% of the funds collected will be given to Holy Family and St. Anastasia Food Pantries in Waukegan to assist in blocking hunger in a big way! As always, we thank you in advance for your consistently amazing and heartwarming generosity!

WWW.SAINTPAULTHEAPOSTLE.CHURCH



Knights Corner



Divine Mercy Council thanks all parishioners who supported us in 2025 to raise money for our parish and other charities. Our Christmas tree sales were down a little again this year, mainly due to the weather, but we were still able to share our Keep Christ in Christmas message to more than 200 families in our St Paul community.

We wish your family a blessed and safe New Year. We welcome those men 18 years or older to join our council to continue our mission in 2026. Please contact a member of our council or scan the QR code. If you have any questions about becoming a Knight, please don't hesitate to reach out.

Vivat Jesus,
Steven Bilas
Grand Knight
Divine Mercy Council #11112

(PRACTICING) CATHOLIC -
BENEATH THE SURFACE

RECOGNIZE GOD IN YOUR ORDINARY MOMENTS

Young or old, believer or non-believer, rich or poor, healthy or sick: it doesn't matter who we are. It doesn't matter what our life looks like. If we are a human being, if we have a soul, we stand on the shore of a great and powerful sea, a net in our hands and a hunger in our soul.

So what's in the sea? I don't know about yours, but mine is filled with feelings of inadequacy. It's filled with fear and resentment and confusion. It's filled with misplaced pride. It's deep. It's dark. It's well-stocked.

I cast my net, over and over again. What else is there to do? If I draw back a harvest, it can sustain me for days, weeks, maybe even years. The nourishment of the sea can keep away the hunger pangs — for a time. You can survive on fear and resentment and pride if it's all you have. You'll never feel full, and you'll never be strong, but you'll survive on what the world can offer you — so long as you keep coming back to the shore.

This is where Jesus finds us.

If I close my eyes, I can picture the moments exactly, all of them: my Sea of Galilee moments. I could describe them to you — the day, the year, what was happening in my life, what I wanted and what I needed and what gnawing hunger had brought me, once again, limping, crawling back to the shore.

But you wouldn't understand my Sea of Galilee moments, just like I wouldn't understand yours. There is only one who understands, and his is the voice we heard, clear and strong: "Put down the net, and come with me."

— Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

©LPI

We will not be offering the Precious Blood from the 1st Sunday of Advent until Palm Sunday, for health reasons during cold and flu season, to avoid potential virus transmission. A Catholic does not have to receive both the Body and Blood of Christ, as receiving either one is a full reception of the sacrament. Receiving only one form is a valid and common practice, and provides the same graces as receiving both; we receive the entirety of Jesus in the Eucharist.

During the Communion Procession:

1. Approach the Priest, Deacon, or Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion.
2. The Sacred Host will be lifted and shown to you, and the Priest, Deacon, or Communion Minister will say, "The Body of Christ".
3. Extend your hands or tongue and say "Amen".
4. Whether you receive on the tongue or the hands -- DO NOT MOVE -- until the Sacred Host is placed on your tongue or hands.
5. PLEASE DO NOT step to the side, but consume the Host immediately in front of the priest, deacon, or Communion Minister.
6. Then, you can return to your seat.

- If you do not receive communion and want a blessing, come, cross your hands over your chest to receive the blessing.

Thank you for your understanding and for enhancing Catholic beliefs.

2025 Tax Statements

Here are two ways you can request your tax letter:

1. Complete your information on the Tax Request sheet on the table in the gathering space.
2. Send an email request to info@spa.church

We will send the tax letter back to the same email address you used to request it.

As always, we thank you for your generous support of our parish.



PRAYER – FOR EVERYDAY AND EVERYBODY

Blessing of Light

Where you have known darkness, may the light stretch and shine.

Where you have dwelt in shadows, may the sun reach its gentle rays.

Where you have hidden in shame, may you know light-filled redemption, healing, belonging, and rest in Jesus.

Amen.

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CATHOLIC TRIVIA

JUST FOR FUN!

Question:
When Jesus was praying alone in the desert, how many times did the devil tempt him?

Answer:
Three.

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St. Thomas Aquinas | January 28

One of the most famous members of the Dominican Order, St. Thomas Aquinas (1225 – 1274) is well-known by many for his theological work, "The Summa Theologiae." Born in Italy, his mother wanted him to become a Benedictine and had high hopes that he would eventually become abbot of Monte Cassino, where he spent much of his youth. To change his vocation, she had him kidnapped by his brothers on his way to Paris at the age of 19. He spent two years in their captivity. Despite this, nothing could shake him from his vocation to become a Dominican priest and he was eventually released. Once free, he went to Paris and then to Cologne, where he finished his studies with Albert the Great.

His greatest contribution to the Catholic Church is his writings. The unity, harmony, and continuity of faith and reason, of revealed and natural human knowledge, encompasses his writings. The Summa Theologiae, his last and, unfortunately, uncompleted work, deals with the whole of Catholic theology.

The patron saint of teachers, theologians and students, St. Thomas Aquinas died in 1274. His life and the impact he had on the whole Church, however, remains alive today.

Lpi



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EMERGENCY AND TRANSITIONAL ASSISTANCE, FISCAL SUPPORT, HELP WITH LOCATING AVAILABLE RESOURCES AND OTHER SERVICES AIMED AT ADDRESSING ALL ISSUES A PERSON OR FAMILY MAY BE FACING WITH THE INTENT OF SUPPORTING SUSTAINED POSITIVE CHANGE.

Crisis Support Resources

DOMESTIC ABUSE

A Safe Place Hotline: 847-249-4450

Sexual Abuse: 847-872-7799

PREGNANCY SUPPORT:

Aid for Women: 847-249-2700

POST-ABORTION

EMOTIONAL SUPPORT:

Project Rachel: 800-SWE-CARE

EMERGENCY SHELTER:

PADS: 847-689-4357

Catholic Charities: 847-782-4000

COUNSELING:

Holbrook Center: 312-655-7725

SUICIDE PREVENTION

Emergency: 911
988

FOOD PANTRIES:

Avon Township: 847-546-1446

Holy Family: 847-782-4166

Saint Anastasia: 847-623-2112

Warren Township: 847-244-1101

The St. Paul the Apostle Legal Aid Clinic opens **Feb. 7, 2026**.



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"What's a pirate's favorite class in school?"



"Arrrrrrrt!"

theFAITHFULFUNNIES
J. B. H.



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PARISH OFFICE

MONDAY THROUGH THURSDAY

HOURS: 9:00AM - 5:00PM

FRIDAY HOURS: 9:00AM - 12:00PM

847-918-0600

BUSINESS OFFICE

HOURS: 9:00AM - 4:00PM

MONDAY & WEDNESDAY

FRIDAY HOURS: 8:30AM - 12:00PM

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FAITH FORMATION OFFICE

MONDAY THROUGH THURSDAY

HOURS: 8:30AM - 3:00PM

FRIDAY HOURS: 8:30AM - 12:00PM

847-816-8677

MASS SCHEDULE

WEEKDAY MASS:

MONDAY THROUGH FRIDAY

7:30AM

SATURDAY EVENING:

5:00PM

SUNDAY:

7:30 | 9:30 | 11:30AM | 5:00PM

ADORATION

TUESDAY/THURSDAY MORNINGS

8:00AM

RECONCILIATION

SATURDAYS IN THE BLESSED
SACRAMENT CHAPEL

11:00AM

The advertisement features a green gradient background. At the top, the company name "McMurrough" is written in a large, bold, serif font. Below it, "Funeral Chapel" is written in a smaller, italicized serif font. To the right of the text is a photograph of two men in dark suits and ties. The man on the left is smiling, and the man on the right is looking slightly to the side. Below the photo, the text "Three Generations Since 1947" is displayed in a large serif font. Underneath this, there is a bulleted list: "• Traditional Funerals", "• Cremations", and "• Pre-Arrangements". At the bottom, the names "Brian & Mark McMurrough" are in a large serif font, followed by the address "101 Park Place, Libertyville" in a slightly smaller serif font. The phone number "847-362-2626" is in a large, bold, sans-serif font, and the website "www.libertyvillefuneralhome.com" is in a large, bold, sans-serif font at the bottom.

An advertisement for Strang Funeral Chapel & Crematorium, Ltd. The top half features a woman in a white uniform with a name tag that says 'MEDALERT'. To her left is a red 'MDMedAlert!' logo with a 'TM' symbol, a 'STARTING AT \$19.95/mo.' price, and a 'MedAlert' badge. Below the logo is a red checkmark next to 'Ambulance' and another next to 'Police/Fire'. To the right of the price is a red checkmark next to 'Family/Friends' and another next to 'GPS & Fall Alert'. Below these are the words 'CALL NOW! 800.809.3570' and the website 'md-medalert.com'. The bottom half features the text 'Strang Funeral Chapel & Crematorium, Ltd.' in a serif font, followed by 'Family Owned & Operated!!' in a larger, bold, sans-serif font. Below that is the address '410 E. Belvidere Road, Grayslake' and the website 'www.strangfuneral.org • 847-223-8122'. To the right is a crest featuring a shield with a cross and a sword. The bottom left corner shows a sketch of a building with the words 'STRANG FUNERAL CHAPEL' above it. The bottom right corner features the text 'Richard A. Gaddis, Mark Willhite' and 'Directors'.

LET'S GROW YOUR BUSINESS
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Jeff Hansen

jhansen@4LPi.com
(800) 950-9952 x2683

An advertisement for Assisted Living By Theresa in Gurnee. The top half features a green banner with the text 'Assisted Living By Theresa ~ In Gurnee'. Below the banner, on the left, is a yellow box containing text about caring for loved ones and providing a pleasant environment. On the right is a photo of two hands clasped together. The bottom half features a large red phone number '847-525-2816' and a red house icon with a heart, next to the address '6455 Cunningham Gurnee'.



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The image is a promotional advertisement for European Food & Gifts. It features a large sandwich with various fillings, including cheese and vegetables, served in a paper container. The container has a repeating pattern of words like 'TASTY', 'DEALS', 'ODDIES', 'COOKING', 'CRISPY', 'HOT', 'DELICIOUS', and 'BITES'. To the right of the sandwich, there is a large '10% OFF' offer for the entire order when shared on Facebook. Below this, there is a 'Like + Share!' button and a QR code. The text 'and TAG three of your Friends' is also present. At the bottom, there is a call to action: 'Dine in • Take out • Call ahead!', followed by the text 'Come taste the warmth of Europe in every bite. Made with fresh ingredients and love ❤️', and a final call to action: 'Call us to order today!'. The overall layout is clean and professional, with a focus on the sandwich and the promotional offer.

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38028 N. Dilleyes Rd., Wadsworth

The image is a composite of several elements. At the top left is the 'Dignity Memorial' logo, featuring the word 'Dignity' in a large, green, serif font with a green swoosh underneath, and 'MEMORIAL' in a smaller, green, sans-serif font below it. To the right of this is the 'Marsh Funeral Home' logo, with 'Marsh' in a large, dark gray serif font and 'Funeral Home' in a large, dark gray sans-serif font. Below these, centered, is the text 'CREMATION PRE-ARRANGEMENTS' in a large, dark gray sans-serif font. At the bottom left is a photograph of a single-story, light-colored house with a dark roof, surrounded by a lawn and trees. A dark sign in front of the house reads 'MARSH FUNERAL HOME'. To the right of the photo is the phone number '847-336-0127' in a large, bold, black sans-serif font. At the very bottom, the website 'WWW.MARSHFUNERALHOME.COM' and address '305 N. CEMETERY ROAD • GURNEE' are in a smaller, black sans-serif font, along with the text 'Owned and Operated by SCI Illinois Services, Inc.' in a smaller, black sans-serif font.

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