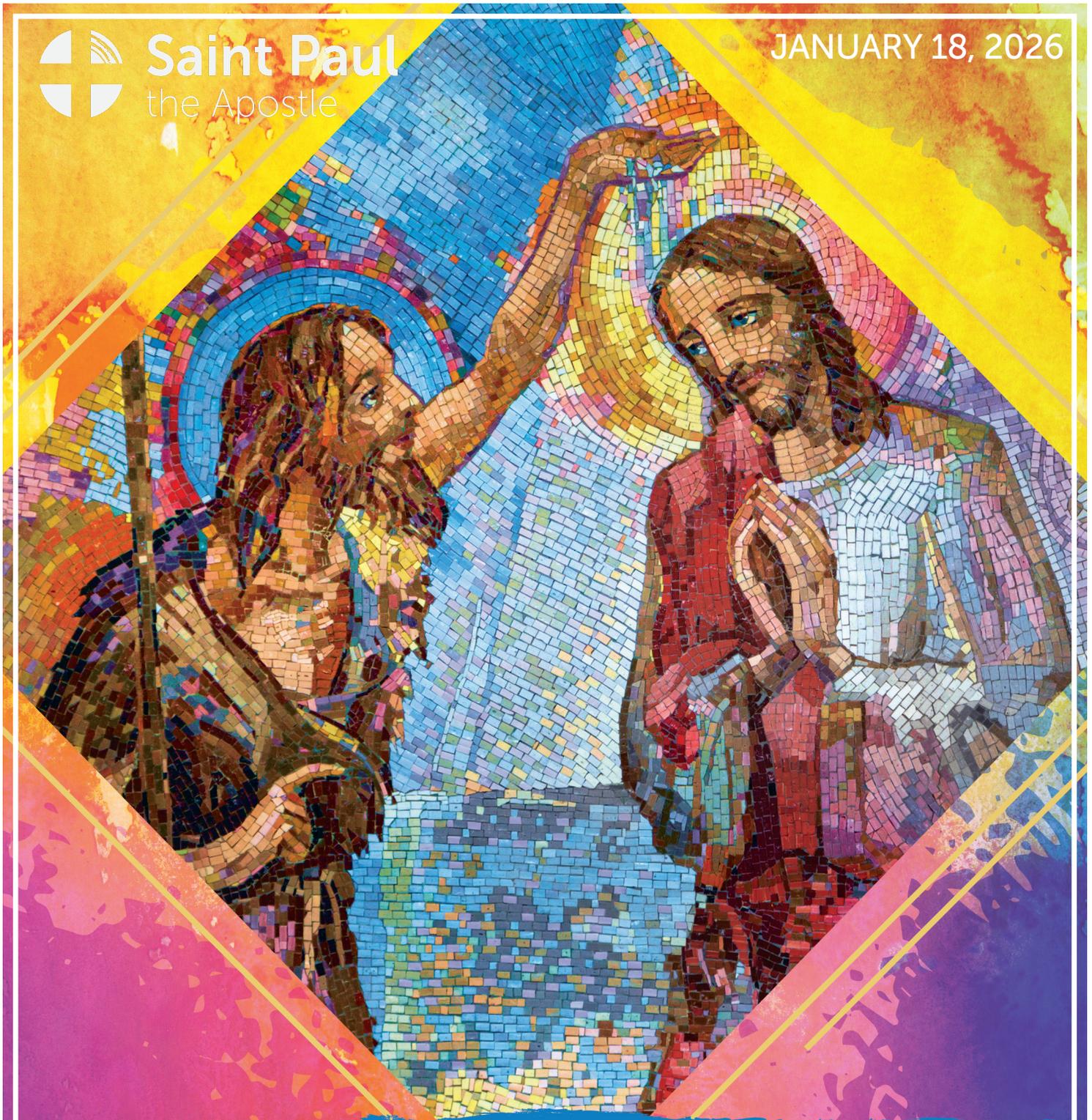




Saint Paul
the Apostle

JANUARY 18, 2026

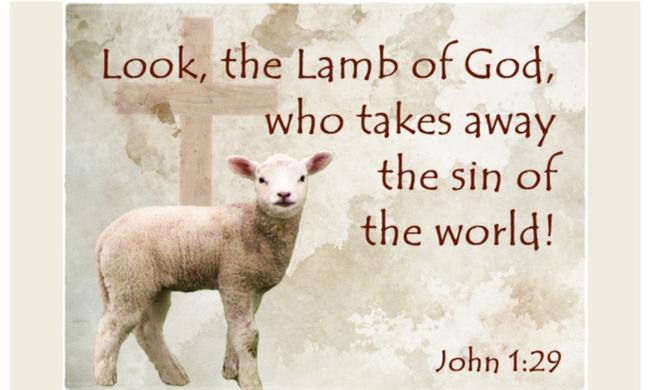


2ND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

“Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away
the sin of the world.” - Jn 1:29

Dear SPA Family,

The last person announcing the coming of God's Son, the Messiah, was John the Baptist. His mission had two purposes. First, the Israelites' preparation for the coming of the Messiah, and then the revealing and presentation of the announced Son of God. Both tasks were fulfilled by John the Baptist. He preached the imminent arrival of the Messiah and called everybody to a change of heart and conversion. The outward sign of this was the reception of the baptism of purification in the Jordan. Jesus was among the many who came to the Jordan. When John the Baptist saw Him, he announced the arrival of the Messiah: "This is the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world."



And let's ask a question here. Is Jesus the Messiah accepted by people today? It is sad to say that Jesus does not arouse universal interest among people. Why is this happening? Jesus as the Messiah has become unnecessary to many people. This is because humans have lost the sense of sin, from which the Messiah - the Lamb of God can deliver. Very clearly and with great sadness, St. John Paul II, in the Apostolic Exhortation on the Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation. There is a tendency to make fun of sins, to minimize their harmfulness, or to deny them. People don't lie, but only hide the facts and stretch the truth. People don't steal, they only borrow. They don't commit adultery, they just enjoy life. They don't cheat; they just know how to combine. After all, people don't kill unborn babies; they just terminate pregnancies, abort the fetus.

People, not recognizing sin, trivializing it, not considering themselves sinners, do not need Jesus, because He can no longer offer anything. John the Baptist had this awareness of the sinfulness of our human nature, which needs constant purification in God's Mercy.

After His resurrection, Jesus gave the apostles and their successors the power to forgive sins, establishing the sacrament of reconciliation. If people did not commit sins and did not need God's forgiveness, Jesus would not have instituted this sacrament. Through this sacrament, Jesus not only forgives sins but also gives graces for a better Christian life.

People who do not have this sacrament or avoid it may be unhappy. They are tormented by guilt and remorse. A substitute for experiencing the sacrament of penance and reconciliation is sought in the offices of psychotherapists, psychologists, and psychiatrists. Does it bear fruit? There you can talk, confide in your problems, throw out what torments the heart, but you can never hear those words that we hear in the sacrament of penance and reconciliation: "Go in peace! God has forgiven you your sins!"

Let us thank Christ, the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world, for His forgiving love. Let us ask for the grace of humility so that we can recognize and confess our sins in the sacrament of penance and reconciliation.

Have a blessed week,
Fr. Chris C.

To read Mary Penich's Something to Think About...
please visit our website, click "Media" on the homepage, then click "Mary's Reflection"

YOUR SUNDAY WORSHIP AID

2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

GOSPEL MEDITATION



It's common to hear belief in Jesus and the Church mocked as blind faith and credulity. But in reality, it is deeply human and rational. Think about it: we rely on the testimony of others constantly. I trust chemists who certify the safety of toothpaste and cleaning products. I trust engineers when I use a microwave or drive over a bridge. Why? Because they have studied and seen what I have not, and their testimony proves itself in daily life. That kind of trust is not irrational; it is how human knowledge works.

In today's Gospel, John the Baptist declares: "Now I have seen and testified that he is the Son of God" (John 1:34). That is the language of an eyewitness. It invites us into a very human act: trusting someone who has directly encountered something — or Someone — we have not yet fully seen ourselves.

The Church's faith is built on this kind of reliable sight-based testimony. The Apostles did not make abstract claims. They saw, followed, suffered for, and proclaimed Jesus Christ. Over centuries, their witness — carried in Scripture, in the lives of the saints, and in the sacramental life of the Church — has proven dependable. We come to know its truth by assenting to it, by living and studying it, praying with it, trusting it.

Faith in Christ is not a childish leap into the dark. It is a step into the light of testimony that proves itself over time.

— Father John Muir ©LPI

MASS HYMNS

Opening Song: **Gather #512 / Spirit & Song #207 Christ, Be Our Light** by Bernadette Farrell

At Sunday 5:00pm: **A Light to the Nations** by Ben Walther

Gloria: **MASS OF RESTORATION** by Josh Blakesley and Grae McCullough

Responsorial Psalm: **Here Am I, Lord** by Paul Hillebrand

At Sunday 5:00pm: **Spirit & Song #66 Psalm 40: Here Am I, Lord** by Steve Angrisano

Gospel Acclamation: **MASS OF RESTORATION** by Josh Blakesley and Grae McCullough

Preparation Song: **Spirit & Song #307 Here I Am** by Tom Booth

At Sunday 5:00pm: **Holy Spirit** by Bryan Torwalt and Katie Torwalt

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

Communion Songs: **Breathe** by Marie Barnett

At Sunday 5:00pm: **Oceans (Where Feet May Fail)** by Matt Crocker, Joel Houston, and Salomon Ligthelm

Closing Song: **God Is with Us** by Dana Catherine, Sarah Hart, Chris Muglia, and Mary Kate Westrich

At Sunday 5:00pm: **Spirit & Song #336 Overflow** by Matt Maher

READING I

ISAIAH 49:3, 5-6

The LORD said to me: You are my servant,
Israel, through whom I show my glory.
Now the LORD has spoken
who formed me as his servant from the womb,
that Jacob may be brought back to him
and Israel gathered to him;
and I am made glorious in the sight of the LORD,
and my God is now my strength!
It is too little, the LORD says, for you to be my
servant,
to raise up the tribes of Jacob,
and restore the survivors of Israel;
I will make you a light to the nations,
that my salvation may reach to the ends of the earth.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

PSALM 40:2, 4, 7-8, 8-9, 10

Here am I, Lord; I come to do your will.

READING II

1 CORINTHIANS 1:1-3

Paul, called to be an apostle of Christ Jesus by the
will of God,
and Sosthenes our brother,
to the church of God that is in Corinth,
to you who have been sanctified in Christ Jesus,
called to be holy,
with all those everywhere who call upon the name of
our Lord Jesus Christ, their Lord and ours.
Grace to you and peace from God our Father
and the Lord Jesus Christ.

GOSPEL

JOHN 1:29-34

John the Baptist saw Jesus coming toward him and said,
“Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the
world.

He is the one of whom I said,
‘A man is coming after me who ranks ahead of me
because he existed before me.’

I did not know him,
but the reason why I came baptizing with water
was that he might be made known to Israel.”

John testified further, saying,
“I saw the Spirit come down like a dove from heaven
and remain upon him.

I did not know him,
but the one who sent me to baptize with water told me,
‘On whomever you see the Spirit come down and remain,
he is the one who will baptize with the Holy Spirit.’

Now I have seen and testified that he is the Son of God.”



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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 49:3, 5-6/Ps 40:2 and 4, 7-8, 8-9, 10/1 Cor 1:1-3/Jn 1:29-34

Monday: 1 Sm 15:16-23/Ps 50:8-9, 16bc-17, 21 and 23/Mk 2:18-22

Tuesday: 1 Sm 16:1-13/Ps 89:20, 21-22, 27-28/Mk 2:23-28

Wednesday: 1 Sm 17:32-33, 37, 40-51/Ps 144:1b, 2, 9-10/Mk 3:1-6

Thursday: 1 Sm 18:6-9; 19:1-7/Ps 56:2-3, 9-10a, 10b-11, 12-13/Mk 3:7-12

Friday: 1 Sm 24:3-21/Ps 57:2, 3-4, 6 and 11/Mk 3:13-19

Saturday: 2 Sm 1:1-4, 11-12, 19, 23-27/Ps 80:2-3, 5-7/Mk 3:20-21

WEEKDAY PSALMS

Monday: Psalm 50:8-9, 16bc-17, 21 and 23
To the upright I will show the saving power of God.

Tuesday: Psalm 89:20, 21-22, 27-28
I have found David, my servant.

Wednesday: Psalm 144:1b, 2, 9-10
Blessed be the Lord, my Rock!

Thursday: Psalm 56:2-3, 9-10a, 10b-11, 12-13
In God I trust; I shall not fear.

Friday: Psalm 57:2, 3-4, 6 and 11
Have mercy on me, God, have mercy.

Saturday: Psalm 80:2-3, 5-7
Let us see your face, Lord, and we shall be saved.

OBSERVANCES FOR THE WEEK

Sunday: 2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

Monday: Martin Luther King Day

Tuesday: St. Fabian, Pope and Martyr; St. Sebastian, Martyr

Wednesday: St. Agnes, Virgin and Martyr

Thursday: Day of Prayer for the Legal Protection of Unborn Children

Friday: St. Vincent, Deacon and Martyr; St. Marianne Cope, Virgin

Saturday: St. Francis de Sales, Bishop and Doctor of the Church

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

MASS INTENTIONS

SATURDAY, JANUARY 17, 2026

5:00pm: Gerry & Chuck Suhling | Lawrence Doan Pham | Gerena O. Monis | John Carter Bennett | Erlinda Saballa | Marie Kapp Peter Ho Nguyen

SUNDAY, JANUARY 18, 2026

7:30am: Leonard Kalaw | Rose Ann Kouba | Michael Kinahan
9:30am: Wally Zagol | Nenita Recinto | Luisa Ramos | Evangelino Ramos | Jay R. Ablona | Elvira Camacho | Margaret Crawford
11:30am: Lynn Sharpee | Bob & Harriet Sutton | Hector B. Brual, Jr. | Cristina Jacobo Calderon | Celia J. Auguste | Richard Loeffler
Chris Stoyandoff | Elizabeth & Thomas Krakowski | Celso Balita Castor
5:00pm: Our Parish Family

MONDAY, JANUARY 19, 2026

7:30am: Jack White

TUESDAY, JANUARY 20, 2026

7:30am: Alex & Beth Corros

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 21, 2026

7:30am: Our Parish Family

THURSDAY, JANUARY 22, 2026

7:30am: Rosario Cacal | Nilo Arceo

FRIDAY, JANUARY 23, 2026

7:30am: Yolanda Hernandez

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

SUNDAY, JANUARY 25, 2026

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

DONATIONS SUMMARY

Week of January 12, 2025

Sunday- \$12,725
Sharing- \$400
SVdP- \$515
Christmas- \$4,354
Retirement fund for Religious- \$50

Online Sunday- \$19,116
Online Sharing- \$1,137
Online SVdP- \$1,394

Month to Date - December

Sunday- \$49,148
Online Sunday- \$19,116
Christmas- \$5,009
Sharing- \$425
Online Sharing- \$1,137
SVdP- \$780
Online SVdP- \$1,394
Retirement fund for Religious- \$125



PRAY FOR THE SICK

Vicki Shafer	Collen Wishall
Ruth Blood	Silvia Pinedo
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
	Jeanne Tan

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.

Josephine Maikranz

Lillian Caravello

Ponciano Romantico

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

SATURDAY, JANUARY 17, 2026

11:00AM RECONCILIATION
5:00PM MASS

SUNDAY, JANUARY 18, 2026

7:30AM MASS
9:00AM OCIA
9:30AM MASS
11:30AM MASS
1:00PM STO NINO - NOVENA
2:00PM STO NINO - MASS
3:30PM STO NINO - CELEBRATION
4:00PM TEEN CHOIR REHEARSAL
5:00PM MASS

MONDAY, JANUARY 19, 2026

7:30AM MASS

TUESDAY, JANUARY 20, 2026

7:30AM MASS
8:00AM HOLY HOUR

2:00PM FAITH SHARING
5:00PM CHILDREN'S CHOIR REHEARSAL
6:30PM SPRED
7:00PM CURIOUS CATHOLIC
7:00PM KNIT PURL PRAY

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 21, 2026

7:30AM MASS
3:00PM GRIEF SUPPORT
5:30PM FF | WED K-6, SCU 1
7:00PM ADULT CHOIR REHEARSAL
7:00PM LIFETEEN CORE TEAM MEETING

THURSDAY, JANUARY 22, 2026

7:30AM MASS
8:00AM HOLY HOUR

FRIDAY, JANUARY 23, 2026

7:30AM MASS
6:00PM SSSC - CHILI COOK-OFF

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
1:00PM BAPTISM - LECHOWICZ
3:30PM CF 1-2-HS & SCU2
4:00PM TEEN CHOIR REHEARSAL
5:00PM MASS
6:00PM LIFETEEN NIGHT: LIFENIGHT

JANUARY 24/25 | LITURGY SCHEDULE

	USHERS	LECTORS	COMMUNION MINISTERS	GREETERS	PRESIDER
SATURDAY 5:00PM	M. Mohrfeld A. Barrie A. Rusnak G. Johnson OPEN x 2	Kevin Lowe Mike Mohrfeld	Drexler Grzesiak Hauck Minich Rusnak	I. Safiejko J. Amezquita	Fr. Chris Dn. Brent
SUNDAY 7:30AM	B. O'Brien B. Murphy J. Siegel R. Dizon T. Shurtleff T. Burns	Sue Lucas Mike Beaudoin	Azcueta Chandy Janik O'Neil, D O'Neil, M	M. Zorc R. Zorc	Fr. Chris D. Andy
SUNDAY 9:30AM	D. Scheffler B. Kibitkewki K. King P. Mengarelli S. Fragassi T. Mengarelli	Beth Penfold Tom Maus	Belk Brennan Latza Maus Moriarty	C. Fossier J. Fossier	Fr. John Dn. Bob
SUNDAY 11:30AM	R. Cuasay K. Deniz C. Haines C. Karl R. Terraza P. Watson	Gerald Galano Jerry Donahue	Auguste Galano Richardt Schoenherr Tebbetts	R. Guziec B. Moreno	Fr. Martin Dn. Ivan
SUNDAY 5:00PM	J. Plamoottil B. Marchioni K. Deniz M. Deniz OPEN x 2	Nancy Fink Teen or Lector 1	Deniz Gaytan Plamoottil Roberts Zdenahik	Teens	Fr. Joe Dn. Mike

GRIEF JOURNEY MINISTRY

"What we have once enjoyed deeply, we can never lose. All that we love deeply becomes a part of us."
-Helen Keller

You are invited to join with us as we gather with others who have lost a loved one. Here you will find support and encouragement in abundance.

The next meeting is January 21, 2026 at 3pm.

Sandy Gbur, Certified Grief Educator
sgbur@spa.church | 708-217-2209

All is confidential; facilitated by a professional counselor

CURIOUS CATHOLIC Presents



Dr. Bill Murphy
1.20.26 @ 7:00pm
St. Paul's Theology of
Transformation in Christ

1.27.26 @ 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 for the next two weeks will be Dr. Bill Murphy. This Tuesday, he will speak about St. Paul and the Theology of Transformation in Christ. The following week he will speak about St. Thomas Aquinas on Virtue and Holiness. Wine and snacks will be served.

Adoration of The Blessed Sacrament

(with Praise and Worship music)

Monday, February 2 at
7:00 PM



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!

"My beloved sons will introduce the FLAME OF LOVE of MY HEART in a procession, so that, in such fashion, it becomes a living fire in the hearts, in the souls. Everything must be prepared in such a way that it spreads like wildfire."

From The Spiritual Diary of Elizabeth Kindelmann

Come and Celebrate...

WITH: Bishop O'Malley & Father Koeune
WHAT: THE FEAST OF THE FLAME OF LOVE PRAYER CENACLE

- THE FEAST OF THE PRESENTATION
- THE FEAST OF THE PURIFICATION OF MARY
- CANDLEMAS DAY

Celebration includes Mass, Flame of Love Rosary & Passing of the Flame of Love.
(light refreshments afterwards)

WHERE:
St. Bede Church
36455 N. Wilson Rd.
Ingleside, IL 60041

WHEN:
Monday,
February 2, 2026
at 6:00 pm

OUR LADY OF THE LAKES

Come and Accept the Flame
ADD YOUR LOVE
TO THIS FLAME
& PASS IT ON

For additional information
please call 847-587-2251

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.



ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO



Vicariate I Ministry Commission

Formation and Training for NEW EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS

Presenter: Fr. Robert Ryan

When: Saturday, January 31, 2026
Where: St. Theresa Parish, 455 N. Benton St., Palatine, IL 60067
Time: Check in at 8:30 a.m. | Training 9 – Noon
Register at: forms.office.com/r/HLx59MtwEc



A follow up session will take place in your parish that will include any particular practices for your parish.

This training meets the archdiocesan requirements for mandation and remandation.

Questions? Contact Marie Paul at mariep@sttheresachurch.org.





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

Christopher Leadership Weekend!

March 13–15, 2026



University of St. Mary of the Lake/
Mundelein Seminary

A God-Centered Leadership Program to...

- Grow in Confidence
- Improve Communication Skills
- Learn "People" Skills that Work
- Put More Purpose in Your Life!



Limited Seating
Registration Closes February 17, 2026
www.christophers.org/leadership



For information and registration
contact Class Coordinator, Pam Hammond
845-661-5159, Cell/Text; phammond@hvc.rr.com

"Love of people for the love of God is an essential quality of a true leader."

Father James Keller, M.M. 1900-1977, Founder of The Christophers

Join us as we honor the **Santo Niño—the Holy Infant Jesus**, the oldest Catholic icon in the Philippines and a beloved symbol of trust, protection, and childlike faith. The image, gifted by Ferdinand Magellan to Rajah Humabon (baptized as Carlos) and his wife, Reyna Humamay (baptized as Juana), at their baptism in 1521, marks the beginning of Christianity in the Philippines. Today, the Santo Niño is enshrined in the **Basilica Minore del Santo Niño in Cebu**, drawing millions of pilgrims and celebrated worldwide by the Filipino diaspora.

For our community, the Santo Niño reminds us to share our blessings. As immigrants graced with new opportunities, we live the Gospel by supporting charities that serve abandoned elderly, special needs children, human trafficking survivors, and seminarians.

Celebration Schedule – Sunday, January 18, 2026, followed by a reception in the Lower Level Gathering Space. All are welcome to attend.

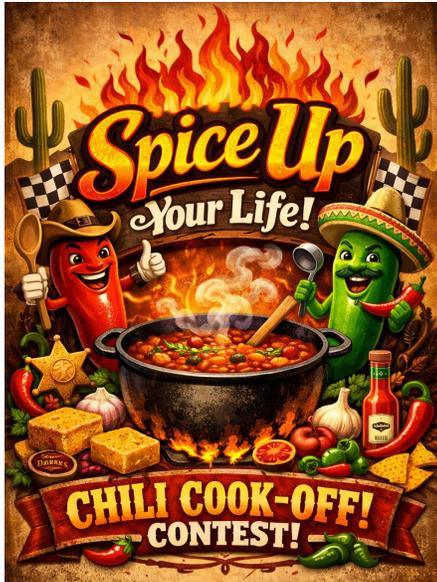
- 1:00 PM – Rosary Novena
- 2:00 PM – Holy Mass

Volunteers Needed – Contact:

- Ruby Hidalgo: ruby11971@yahoo.com
- Gigi Aranas Uy: gigiaranasuy@yahoo.com 847-912-4896
- Arleen Siap: hcdirect@sbcglobal.net 224-688-0479 (text only)

SINGLE SENIORS SOCIAL CLUB

55+ Active Singles - A new way to meet friends or partners!



Spice Up Your Life with the Single Seniors Social Club Chili Cook-off!

Bring your best pot of chili or just come hungry and ready to vote.

Good food, good company, and a little friendly competition!

**Friday, January 23rd
@ 6:00pm**

\$20 pp unless you enter a chili

St. Paul the Apostle Church - Lower Level
Register by 1/20 @ saintpaultheapostle.church;
Select Single Senior Social Club; Chili Cook Off

Questions? Please call or email:
Mary Ross 847.912.0033 mary_ross@comcast.net

(PRACTICING) CATHOLIC - BENEATH THE SURFACE

WHEN JESUS WADES IN

Usually, when God comes to us, we aren't ready.

We think we are. Like John the Baptist, we stand in our waters of baptism, certain of our mission. We know how it's going to go. We know what's going to be asked of us. We're sure of it.

Christ wades into the waters. And he screws up all our plans.

To be clear, I don't think John the Baptist lacks faith when he balks at the idea of baptizing Jesus. I think it is, in fact, a testament to his humility. But whatever motivated John's actions, he is — if even for a brief moment — hesitating to do the will of God. Just a few chapters after this in the Gospel of Matthew, Jesus will acknowledge that John is the greatest person "born of women" — with the caveat that even he is not perfect enough for the Kingdom of Heaven.

Not yet.

Jesus didn't give John an explanation as the two stood in the River Jordan. He merely said, "Allow it for now." John could have resisted further, demanding to understand why. He could have grown suspicious at the simplicity of Jesus' answer, at the strangeness of this request. He could have clung desperately to his version of How Things Are Supposed To Be, and in doing so, fostered doubt in his heart. He could have even stormed off, confused and angry.

He did none of these things, because John is, as Jesus says, the greatest born of women.

When the Holy Spirit descends and the voice of God declares, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased," he is referring, of course, to Jesus. But I think He would say the same of John the Baptist — and of all those who welcome Jesus into the waters, ready to do as he bids.

— Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

©LPI



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

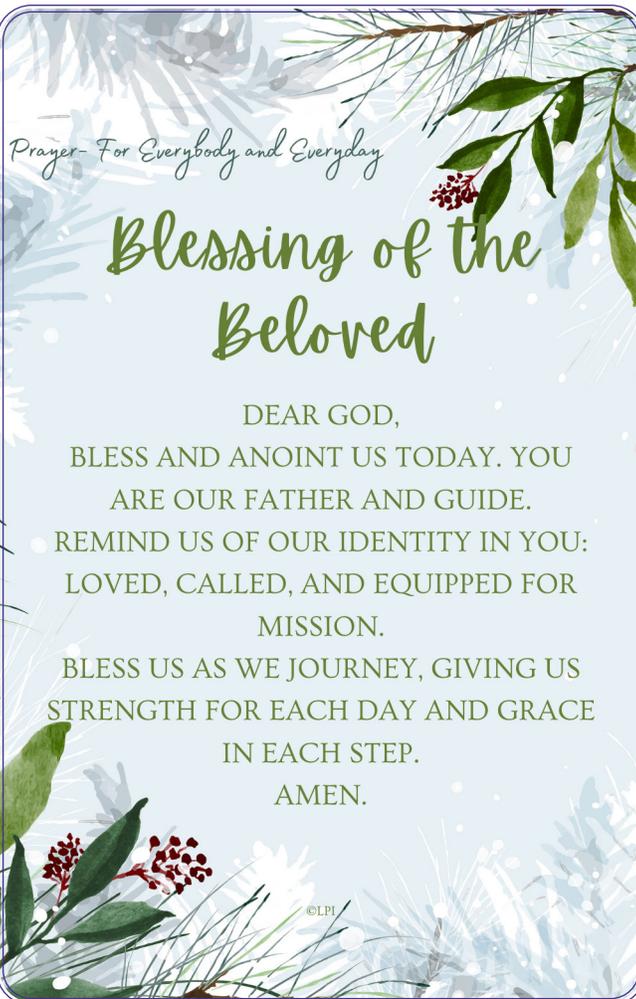
We will not be offering the Precious Blood from the 1st Sunday of Advent until Palm Sunday, for health reasons during cold and flu season, to avoid potential virus transmission. A Catholic does not have to receive both the Body and Blood of Christ, as receiving either one is a full reception of the sacrament. 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.



CATHOLIC TRIVIA — JUST FOR FUN!

Question:

Is it true or false that all wine used in the Eucharist must be fermented?

Answer:

True

©LPI

SAINT BIO

St. Marianne Cope | January 23

Barbara Koop, later Mother Marianne Cope, was born in Germany on January 23, 1838, and immigrated with her parents to New York when she was 2 years old. In August of 1862 she went to the sisters of the Third Order of Saint Francis in Syracuse, New York and took her vows the next year. Her early religious life saw her working as a teacher and administrator for local Catholic schools until she was called upon by the bishop to use her administrative skills as superior of St. Joseph's Hospital in Syracuse, New York. She devoted herself to the care of the sick and infirm and the hospital flourished under her leadership. As the Provincial Mother of her order in Syracuse, Cope, along with six other sisters, she answered a call made by the Hawaiian government to run the Kaka'ako Branch Hospital on Oahu that served as a receiving station for people suspected of having leprosy.

Of the more than 50 religious communities in the United States and Canada who were asked by the government to help the suffering communities and hospitals for those with leprosy (Hansen's disease) in Hawaii, Mother Marianne and her sisters were the only ones to answer the call. They immediately got to work transforming the hospital environment for those with leprosy and their families. Of this mission, she said —

"I am hungry for the work and I wish with all my heart to be one of the chosen ones, whose privilege it will be to sacrifice themselves for the salvation of the souls of the poor Islanders.... I am not afraid of any disease, hence, it would be my greatest delight even to minister to the abandoned 'lepers'."

In 1888, Mother Marianne and two sisters took on an even more challenging assignment and went to the Hawaiian island of Molokai, a leper colony, to open a new home devoted to the protection of girls and women with leprosy as well as to take charge of the home that her friend, Saint Damien de Veuster, had established for men and boys. She helped improve life on the island by introducing pride, cleanliness, and a little fun to the colony. She often provided bright scarves and dresses for the women she served and cheerfully carried out her mission until she died on August 9, 1918. While in service, she was awarded the Royal Order of Kapiolani by the Hawaiian government for her selfless love and care of those in need and never contracted leprosy. She was canonized in 2012.

LPI

St. Paul the Apostle is working to open a **Legal Aid Clinic** on Feb. 7, 2026.



Administer Justice

We are especially in need of Attorneys to serve for 4 hours, one Saturday morning, a month to advise clients on a pro-bono basis on a variety of common legal matters, including landlord/tenant, debt collection, immigration, child custody, estate planning, criminal records, and more.

Attorneys work with the client to develop a next steps plan to address the problem and provide peace of mind. Training is provided to all attorneys at no charge.

We are also in need of interpreters who speak various languages to translate for clients as needed.

Training for interpreters is also available free of charge.

For more information, contact legalclinic@spa.church with your name, email address, and phone. One of the co-team leaders will be in touch.

"What's the most stressful thing about being a dragon?"



"Trying to blow out birthday candles."



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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

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MASS SCHEDULE

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7:30AM

SATURDAY EVENING:
5:00PM

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

ADORATION

TUESDAY/THURSDAY MORNINGS
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