



Saint Paul
the Apostle
DECEMBER 7, 2025

2nd

Sunday
OF ADVENT



Dear SPA Family,

We Christians look forward to Christmas and the Vigil of the Holy Night, while at the same time we know that this Night has existed for a long time. It was the Night during which the history of the world changed fundamentally. But as is often the case with us, we need time to understand the significance of this event. It is worth asking: who are we waiting for during Advent? Or maybe we don't want to wait, and we could celebrate Christmas almost immediately? Whoever wants to answer this question must make the conversion to which John the Baptist calls us this weekend.



At the center of the second Sunday of Advent is the figure of St. John the Baptist and his teaching about the Savior. John the Baptist teaches us about the necessity of conversion (metanoia). People need conversion because the kingdom of heaven is near. Conversion must begin with a change of mind. Metanoia means a change in thinking, the way of evaluating and experiencing reality. Conversion creates an opportunity to liberate oneself from one's patterns of thinking, perceiving, and acting, to change the perspective of experiencing oneself and others, to discover new life possibilities, to rebuild one's way of interacting with the world, with other people, with God.

Conversion is making straight paths for the Lord, as John the Baptist says. It is nothing else than to return in our lives to that moment when we followed the straight path in our discernment of reality, in our moral choices, in our words that were evangelical yes, yes; no, no (Matthew 5:37).

Conversion is a specific process of purifying one's life from illusions, appearances, and hypocrisy. As Bishop Fulton Sheen said, *"To be a sinner is our misfortune, but to be aware of it is our hope"*. John the Baptist, calling for conversion, evokes the image of threshing, which consisted first of threshing with flails of grain thrown on the threshing floor. Then they were thrown up with a shovel called a fan, as a result of which the grain fell to the ground, and the light chaff was blown away by the wind. Conversion is supposed to lead to a seed of truth about who we are, what we want, what we feel, how we think, and how it can fall into the soil of our lives.

After all, conversion is cutting yourself off from what doesn't bear fruit in your life. John the Baptist announces an imminent judgment that is supposed to motivate conversion: The ax is already laid to the root of the trees. So every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire (Matthew 3:10). The process of conversion, sticking to the gardening metaphor, is carried out through a kind of 'pruning' of our lives, by cutting off those shoots of our thinking and actions that bear bad fruit.

John the Baptist teaches not only about conversion, but also about the coming of the Savior. John, therefore, does not teach about himself, but announces the Messiah. He is the one who precedes the Messiah. It's a very beautiful picture for us. We also precede the Lord. We go before Him so that through us He can reach people. From time to time in history, careful witnesses of the times have pointed out that the Church is harmed not by her adversaries, but by 'lukewarm' Christians. We should relate to people in such a way as to awaken their longing, so that they wait 'for the Other' - for the One who will satisfy their deepest longings. Advent is a time to rediscover the presence of Christ among us.

Have a blessed Advent Season, 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

Second Sunday of Advent

GOSPEL MEDITATION



This week we hear that John the Baptist is out in the wilderness eating “locusts and wild honey” (Mark 1:6). It’s not just a strange historical detail. It’s a symbolic expression of a healthy spiritual diet. The path to Christ includes both the hard and the beautiful, the gritty and the sweet. We have to learn to gulp the locusts and savor the honey.

I remember working with a young couple preparing for marriage. They were sincere, but raw — barely beginning to discover faith. Part of me wanted to rush them ahead, to fill in all the gaps, to bombard them with scripture and church documents. I swallowed that instinct. It was like eating locusts.

But I also recall them light up as they spoke about each other, about their first child, then their second. And they wanted to be close to God. Something innocent and beautiful was unfolding. That was the honey. I knew God was asking me to savor it.

This Advent, maybe we’re each being invited to accept both locusts and honey. Maybe it’s time to stop avoiding the difficult parts of faith — prayer that feels dry, the call to repentance, the patience with the troublesome. It’s time to eat some locusts.

But we also need to notice the small gifts God gives us: a peaceful moment, a good conversation, the joy of serving someone else, new life, good intentions of our friends. That’s the honey. Savor it!

John didn’t avoid either. He took it all in. And so can we. What are your locusts? Your honey? If we let God feed us with both, we’ll be ready — really ready — for the coming of Christ.

— Father John Muir ©LPi

MASS HYMNS

Opening Song: **Spirit & Song #144 Come to Us** by Greg and Mary Walton

At Sunday 5:00pm: **O Come, O Come, Emmanuel (VENI VENI EMMANUEL)**; arranged by Josh

Blakesley and Rich Grillone

Responsorial Psalm: **Justice Shall Flourish** by PJ Anderson

Gospel Acclamation: **MASS OF SAINT MARY MAGDALENE** by Sarah Hart

Preparation Song: **Be the Light** by Ed Bolduc and Jack Busche

At Sunday 5:00pm: **Spirit & Song #142 Ready the Way** by Curtis Stephan

Eucharistic Acclamations: **MASS OF COMFORT AND JOY** by Kevin Keil | Advent Lamb of God by Kevin Keil

At Sunday 5:00pm: **MASS OF RESTORATION** by Josh Blakesley and Grae McCullough

Communion Songs: **Come, Lord Jesus (Even So Come)** by Chris Tomlin, Jess Cates, and Jason Ingram

At Sunday 5:00pm: **Creator of the Stars of Night (CONDITOR ALME SIDERUM)**; arranged by Josh

Blakesley

Closing Song: **Spirit & Song #140 Emmanuel** by Steve Angrisano

At Sunday 5:00pm: **Awake to the Day** by Ed Bolduc and John Barker

READING I

ISAIAH 11:1-10

On that day, a shoot shall sprout from the stump of Jesse, and from his roots a bud shall blossom.

The spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him:

a spirit of wisdom and of understanding,

a spirit of counsel and of strength,

a spirit of knowledge and of fear of the LORD,

and his delight shall be the fear of the LORD.

Not by appearance shall he judge,

nor by hearsay shall he decide,

but he shall judge the poor with justice,

and decide aright for the land's afflicted.

He shall strike the ruthless with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall slay the wicked.

Justice shall be the band around his waist,

and faithfulness a belt upon his hips.

Then the wolf shall be a guest of the lamb,

and the leopard shall lie down with the kid;

the calf and the young lion shall browse together, with a little child to guide them.

The cow and the bear shall be neighbors,

together their young shall rest;

the lion shall eat hay like the ox.

The baby shall play by the cobra's den,

and the child lay his hand on the adder's lair.

There shall be no harm or ruin on all my holy mountain;

for the earth shall be filled with knowledge of the LORD, as water covers the sea.

On that day, the root of Jesse,

set up as a signal for the nations,

the Gentiles shall seek out,

for his dwelling shall be glorious.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

PSALM 72:1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 17

Justice shall flourish in his time, and fullness of peace for ever.

READING II

ROMANS 15:4-9

Brothers and sisters:

Whatever was written previously was written for our instruction,

that by endurance and by the encouragement of the Scriptures

we might have hope.

May the God of endurance and encouragement

grant you to think in harmony with one another,

in keeping with Christ Jesus,

that with one accord you may with one voice

glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Welcome one another, then, as Christ welcomed you, for the glory of God.

For I say that Christ became a minister of the circumcised to show God's truthfulness,

to confirm the promises to the patriarchs,

but so that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy.

As it is written:

Therefore, I will praise you among the Gentiles and sing praises to your name.

GOSPEL

MATTHEW 3:1-12

John the Baptist appeared, preaching in the desert of Judea and saying, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand!" It was of him that the prophet Isaiah had spoken when he said:

A voice of one crying out in the desert,

Prepare the way of the Lord,

make straight his paths.

John wore clothing made of camel's hair

and had a leather belt around his waist.

His food was locusts and wild honey.

At that time Jerusalem, all Judea,

and the whole region around the Jordan

were going out to him

and were being baptized by him in the Jordan River

as they acknowledged their sins.

When he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming to his baptism, he said to them, "You brood of vipers!

Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath?

Produce good fruit as evidence of your repentance.

And do not presume to say to yourselves,

'We have Abraham as our father.'

For I tell you,

God can raise up children to Abraham from these stones.

Even now the ax lies at the root of the trees.

Therefore every tree that does not bear good fruit

will be cut down and thrown into the fire.

I am baptizing you with water, for repentance,

but the one who is coming after me is mightier than I.

I am not worthy to carry his sandals.

He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.

His winnowing fan is in his hand.

He will clear his threshing floor

and gather his wheat into his barn,

but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."



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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 11:1-10/Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 17 (see 7)/Rom 15:4-9/Mt 3:1-12

Monday: Gn 3:9-15, 20/Ps 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4/Eph 1:3-6, 11-12/Lk 1:26-38

Tuesday: Is 40:1-11/Ps 96:1-2, 3 and 10ac, 11-12, 13/Mt 18:12-14

Wednesday: Is 40:25-31/Ps 103:1-2, 3-4, 8 and 10/Mt 11:28-30

Thursday: Is 41:13-20/Ps 145:1 and 9, 10-11, 12-13ab/Mt 11:11-15

Friday: Zec 2:14-17 or Rv 11:19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab/Jdt 13:18bcde, 19/Lk 1:26-38 or Lk 1:39-47

Saturday: Sir 48:1-4, 9-11/Ps 80:2ac and 3b, 15-16, 18-19/Mt 17:9a, 10-13

WEEKDAY PSALMS

Monday: Psalm 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4
Sing to the Lord a new song, for he has done marvelous deeds.

Tuesday: Psalm 96:1-2, 3 and 10ac, 11-12, 13
The Lord our God comes with power.

Wednesday: Psalm 103:1-2, 3-4, 8 and 10
O bless the Lord, my soul!

Thursday: Psalm 145:1 and 9, 10-11, 12-13ab
The Lord is gracious and merciful; slow to anger, and of great kindness.

Friday: Judith 13:18bcde, 19
You are the highest honor of our race.

Saturday: Psalm 80:2ac and 3b, 15-16, 18-19
Lord, make us turn to you; let us see your face and we shall be saved.

OBSERVANCES FOR THE WEEK

Sunday: 2nd Sunday of Advent

Monday: The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Tuesday: St. Juan Diego Cuauhtlatoatzin

Wednesday: Our Lady of Loreto

Thursday: St. Damasus I, Pope

Friday: Our Lady of Guadalupe

Saturday: St. Lucy, Virgin and Martyr

Next Sunday: 3rd Sunday of Advent

MASS INTENTIONS

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 6, 2025

5:00pm: Gerry & Chuck Suhling | Maria Dominguez | Michael Plutkis | Scott Kohler | Gerena O. Monis | Bill Vasilius | Nancy Martin | Rebecca Sanchez | John Carter Bennett

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 7, 2025

7:30am: Michael Kinahan | Dolores & Kevin Killian
9:30am: Oscar Morien | Robert Chester Buttrey | Shawn Sweeney
Ron Paiser | Antoni Mroz | Helena Czyzewski | Consolacion Canlas
| Kinga Szymoniak
11:30am: Joseph & Yolanda Leahy | Harriet Sutton | Celia J. Auguste | Kristin Yee Reyes | Hector B. Brual, Jr. | Ronald Fessler
Rosita M. Nazareno | Maria & Carlos Alcala
5:00pm: Rizalina Macavinta

MONDAY, DECEMBER 8, 2025

7:30am: Gerena O. Monis
7:00pm: Gerena O. Monis

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 9, 2025

7:30am: Mercy Dizon | Scott Kohler

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 10, 2025

7:30am: Anne Adolphe | Honesto & Consolacion Garibay

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 11, 2025

7:30am: Charles Smith, Jr.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 12, 2025

7:30am: Lucy Herrmann | Betty Falotico | Kathleen Seidler

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 13, 2025

5:00pm: Gerry & Chuck Suhling | Walter & Emily Macrowski
Gerena O. Monis | Bill Vasilius | John Carter Bennett | Adrian Aromin

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 14, 2025

7:30am: Loreto Gaspar, Jr.
9:30am: Oscar Morien | Honesto & Consolacion Garibay | Kinga Szymoniak
11:30am: Chuck Gresser | Celia J. Auguste | Hector B. Brual, Jr.
Adrian Aromin
5:00pm: Kathleen Russell | Harriet Sutton

DONATIONS SUMMARY

Week of November 24, 2025

Sunday- \$23,709	Online Sunday- \$14,936
Sharing- \$555	Online Sharing- \$555
SVdP- \$2,242	Online SVdP- \$3,285
Holiday Dinners - \$1,329	
Campaign for Human Development- \$783	

Month to Date - November

Sunday- \$77,323
Online Sunday- \$32,637
Sharing- \$2,058
Online Sharing- \$1,919
SVdP- \$7,560
Online SVdP- \$6,352
Holiday Dinners - \$4,742
World Mission Sunday- \$523
Campaign for Human Development- \$978



PRAY FOR THE SICK

Rosa LaBellarte	Rod Reyes
Rachel Ciullo	Betty Falotico
Patricia Freeman	Keith Kellogg
Toni Lynn Mengarelli	Lisa Mischke
Shannon Bremmer	David Zilligen
April Grandgeorge	Eduardo Perez
Alma De Torres	Maria Domitila Zambrano de Polanco
Stephanie Rappe	Rafael Gloria
Vicki Shafer	Collen Wishall
Ruth Blood	Silvia Pinedo
Maria Delannoy	Consuelo Vargas
Tom Asma	Juan Miguel Currea
Karla Arce	Gloria de Cardenas
Jeanne Sypien	Helena Sznicer
Glenn Garamoni	George Lawrence
Daniel Schmelz	Michael Miller
Russell Yanow	Cynthia D. Caudell
Victoria Sofia	Daniel Pawlak III
Luquez Mogollon	Glaflira 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	

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.

David Jahn

Thomas Franklin Donahue

Karen Louise Swazas

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 6, 2025

11:00AM RECONCILIATION
1:30PM FIRST SATURDAY PRAYER GROUP
5:00PM MASS

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 7, 2025

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, DECEMBER 8, 2024

7:30AM MASS
7:00PM FEAST OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION MASS

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 9, 2024

7:30AM MASS
8:00AM HOLY HOUR
5:00PM CHILDREN'S CHOIR REHEARSAL
6:30PM HANDBELL ENSEMBLE REHEARSAL
7:00PM CURIOUS CATHOLIC - DN. BOB

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 10, 2025

7:30AM MASS
11:00AM SENIOR LUNCHEON
7:00PM LIFETEEN CORE TEAM MTG
7:00PM ADULT CHOIR REHEARSAL

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 11, 2025

7:30AM MASS
8:00AM HOLY HOUR
7:00PM 1ST RECONCILIATION/1ST COMMUNION PARENT MEETING
7:00PM K OF C MEMBERS MEETING

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 12, 2025

7:30AM MASS

4:00PM WEDDING REHEARSAL - DICKMAN/FLORES

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 13, 2025 HOSPITALITY WEEKEND

9:30AM CIRCLE OF WOMEN
11:00AM RECONCILIATION
1:00PM WEDDING - DICKMAN/FLORES
5:00PM MASS

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 14, 2025

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

DECEMBER 13/14 | LITURGY SCHEDULE

	USHERS	LECTORS	COMMUNION MINISTERS		GREETERS	PRESIDER
SATURDAY 5:00PM	A. Rusnak T. Rusnak G. Johnson B. Murphy	Warren Kati Bill Murphy	Drexler, Eric Fening, Patty Hauck, Janet	Herchenbach, Dan Wells, Dawn	D. Wells P. Fening	Fr. John Dn. Ivan
SUNDAY 7:30AM	T. Shurtleff R. Dizon T. Burns J. Climaco S. Bilas P. Rothacker	Sharon Brabson Doug Nieman	Calendo, Karen Janik, Margaret Nelsen, Eric	Rafael- Azcueta, Teo Wicinski, Carol	K. Sekany R. Sekany	Fr. Martin Dn. Bob
SUNDAY 9:30AM	B. Kibitlewski K. King G. Pratcher D. Scheffler P. Mengarelli T. Mengarelli	Mike Kana Nancy Tayborn	Belk, Karen Estorque- Deligero, Sherryl Griesser, Lisa	Ignacio, Arnold Ignacio, Riza	J. Fossier C. Fossier	Fr. Chris Dn. Brent
SUNDAY 11:30AM	P. Watson C. Haines C. Karl R. Cuasay	Danny Castro Melissa Fernandes	Auguste, Romie Colcol, Emery	Hilo, Maribeth Tebbetts, Sue	D. Moseley W. Manila	Fr. Martin Dn. Andy
SUNDAY 5:00PM	B. Marchioni JJ Plamoottil C. Johnson M. Deniz K. Deniz	Cathy Roberts Teen or Lector	Crow, Christine Holland, Lorraine	Robb, Tom Roberts, Jason	TEEN TEEN	Fr. Chris Dn. Bob

Cookies with Santa!

Sunday, Dec. 14th, 1-3 pm

Downstairs gathering space

\$5 per child

Reservations

Required

Sign up online

Scan here to reserve



Scan above or fill out this form, deposit it in the collection box with your payment.

Last Name: _____

First Names of Children: _____

Total enclosed: \$ _____



CURIOUS CATHOLIC
PRESENTS

Deacon Bob Birck

12.9.25 @ 7:00pm

St. Juan Diego and the Message
of Our Lady of Guadalupe



All adults are invited to Curious Catholic this Tuesday at 7:00PM in the Gathering Space. Our speaker will be Deacon Bob, who will share the miraculous story of the apparition of Our Lady of Guadalupe, whose feast we'll celebrate on December 12, to a humble, faithful man named Juan Diego, whose feast we celebrate that day, December 9.



SPRED Candy and Nut Sale ONE WEEKEND ONLY Dec. 13-14

For one weekend only, the SPRED (Special Religious Development) program will hold its holiday candy and nut Sale after all masses Dec. 13 and Dec. 14 to support the faith formation program for persons with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

High-quality chocolates, cashews, and mixed nuts in decorative boxes will make a perfect holiday gift for families, friends, and teachers.

With your generosity, St. Paul will continue to enrich the lives of special needs children and adults by helping them grow in their faith.

Thank you in advance for your generosity.

CATHOLIC CHARITIES CHRISTMAS GIFT PROGRAM

The Catholic Charities Christmas Gift Program tags are in the gathering space during weekends in November until they are all gone. New generic toy/clothes or gift cards are also appreciated to fulfill requests.

For those new to the parish and/or this program, one selects a tag and purchases a NEW gift(s) for the person. Wrap the gift(s) and attach the tag securely with the name and CSP# showing, or write the name and CSP# on each gift (in case they get separated). Gifts are due back at the church during **Gift Weekend Dec 6/7th and NO LATER than 12pm Sunday.**

Immediately after the 11:30 mass on Dec 7th, we need help sorting all of the gifts by family, bagging them and loading them on to trucks. (Thank you Bekins Lake County movers for donating the trucks and drivers again this year!)

On Monday-Wednesday, Dec 8-10, we need volunteers to help check all of the bags at the warehouse. See us for details on signing up with Catholic Charities volunteer website.

For more information or questions, see Nancy Payonk or Carol Zimmer after all the masses or contact us. Nancy Payonk (847-309-8230), napayonka@comcast.net or Carol Zimmer (847-732-6126), zimmerca@outlook.com.



Saint Paul
the Apostle

SENIOR LUNCHEON

Christmas

CELEBRATION

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 10, 2025
11AM- 1:30 PM

RSVP BY SUNDAY DECEMBER 7TH
MURQUHART@SPA.CHURCH OR CALL 847-816-8677
(PLEASE RSVP WITH NAME AND PHONE NUMBER)

Bring a New/Wrapped \$10-\$15
Unisex Gift for Christmas Game
(Optional)

Lunch Entertainment by
Brass Band Quartet



Appreciate and
Accepting Free-Will
Donations

DN. MIKE NEEDS A LITTLE HELP!

Christmas is just around the corner and it's time to think about decorating the church. This is a big job that requires the help of a few men and women with a little muscle and big hearts. Don't worry! Our camels aren't as large as the one Deacon Mike found!

If you can help, please meet us on Saturday, December 20, at 9:00 AM, in the church. You can let us know you're coming by leaving your name with Catherine at the Parish House at 847-918-0600, or you can just show up. That day, we'll set up the Christmas Trees in the sanctuary. Remember, the more the merrier!



Circle of Women

We, the Circle of Women, are women rooted in faith, called to share our faith with one another. 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 December 13th.

Each month is a different topic, each session is separate so consistent attendance is not required. Come as you are, share with us, or just listen if that is what you need. Our cornerstones come from the word saint: safe, accepting, inclusive, nurturing and trust. Our space is sacred and what we share at Circle of Women stays at Circle of Women.

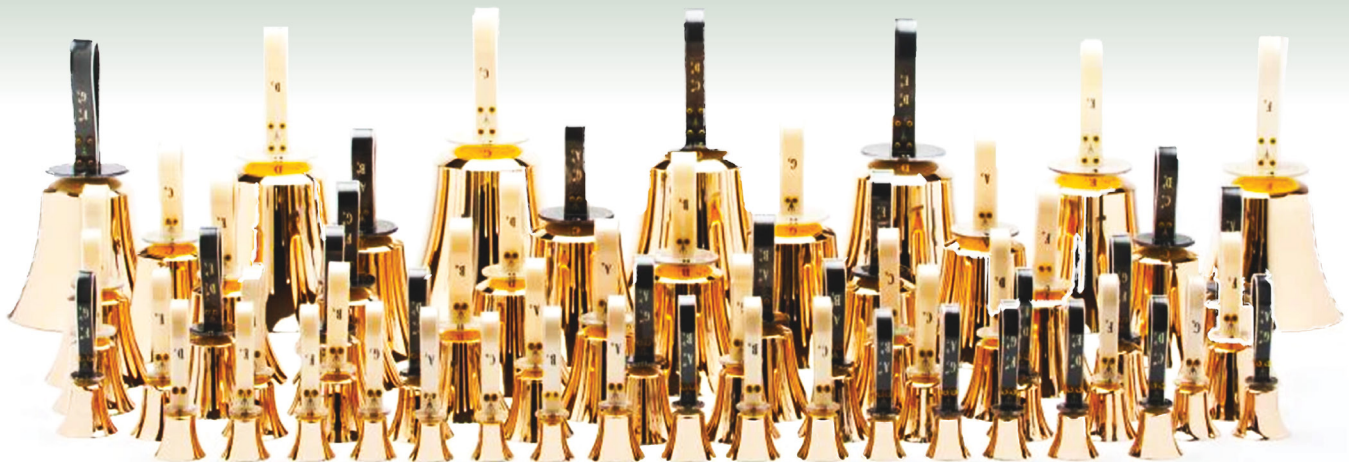
All women are welcome- bring your friends!

Saint Paul the Apostle Music Ministry

Christmas Concert

Friday, December 19th, @ 7:00pm

Admission is FREE!





Simbang Gabi

NOVENA OF MASSES

Simbang Gabi is a unique Filipino tradition of celebrating nine-day novena of Marian masses to heighten our preparation for the celebration of the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ. Through Simbang Gabi, the participating parishes of Vicariate I, deaneries A, B, and C offer the faithful a deepening of spiritual experience that leads to a more meaningful Christmas season.

Each of the parishes listed below will host one of the evening masses.

The Filipino community of the participating parishes would like to extend a cordial invitation to all parishioners, families, and friends to come and share this cherished Filipino tradition at:

2025 SIMBANG GABI Schedule of Participating Northern Lake County Parishes (Vicariate I - A/B/C)

Date (Day)	Time	Parish (Deanery)	Address	Parish Phone	Pastor	SG Coordinator(s)	Phone
Dec 15 (Mon)	7PM	ST. THERÉSE LITTLE FLOWER - St. Dismas (B)	2600 Sunset Ave., Waukegan, IL 60087	847-623-5050	Rev. Xamie Reyes	Reggie Baylon	224-627-5381
Dec 16 (Tue)	7PM	ST. BRIGID - St. Patrick (B)	15000 Wadsworth Rd., Wadsworth, IL 60083	847-872-8778	Rev. Wojciech Oleksy	Winnie Webber	847-815-6655
Dec 17 (Wed)	7PM	MOST BLESSED TRINITY - Immaculate Conception (B) Most Rev. Tim O'Malley (celebrant)	508 Grand Ave, Waukegan, IL 60085	847-623-2655	Most Rev. Tim O'Malley	Vicky Irala Ligaya Bell	847-912-5573 224-381-6739
Dec 18 (Thu)	7PM	ST. RAPHAEL THE ARCHANGEL (A)	40000 N. U Hwy 45, Old Mill Creek, IL 60046	847-395-3474	Rev. Matthew Kowalski	Peter Dadas	224-628-9720
Dec 19 (Fri)	7PM	ST. MARY OF THE ANNUNCIATION (A)	22333 W. Erhart Rd, Mundelein, IL 60060	847-223-0010	Rev. Joji Thanugundla	Evelyn Martin	224-426-8882
Dec 20 (Sat)	7PM	ST. MARY OF VERNON (C)	236 US Hwy 45, Indian Creek, IL 60061	847-362-1005	Rev. Ignatius Anaele	Annette Liwanag Jocelyn Ko	847-219-4574 847-924-3756
Dec 21 (Sun)	5PM	ST. GILBERT (A)	301 E. Belvidere Rd., Grayslake, IL 60030	847-223-4731	Rev. Mario Stefanowski	Heidi Metz	847-927-2265
	7PM	PRINCE OF PEACE (A)	135 S. Milwaukee Ave, Lake Villa, IL 60046	847-356-7915	Rev. Gerald Walsh	Allan Lacson	757-439-0256
Dec 22 (Mon)	7PM	ST. JOSEPH (A)	114 N. Lincoln Ave., Round Lake, IL 60073	847-546-3610	Rev. Michael Zoufal	Chulita Coloma	224-715-2377
Dec 23 (Tue)	7PM	ST. PAUL THE APOSTLE (B)	6401 Gages Lake Rd, Gurnee, IL 60031	847-918-0600	Rev. Krzysztof Ciaston	Catherine Karl	847-909-3220

- For further information please contact the parish office or the Simbang Gabi coordinator(s) of that parish -



Maligayang Pasko Sa Inyong Lahat
(Merry Christmas to Everyone)



Pilipino Mass: 5PM, every last Sunday of the month at Little Flower Parish--St. Dismas church. All are welcome!

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ARCHDIOCESAN COUNCIL OF
CATHOLIC WOMEN
ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO

GOLDEN ROSE AWARD

This event honors high school girls who are extraordinary examples of faith in action.

St. Paul the Apostle is looking for our 2026 candidate. Please let me know if you would like to read the criteria to be our Golden Rose. This terrific breakfast event is Saturday, February 7, 2026, at Chevy Chase Golf Club. Contact: jlatz@spa.church



CHRISTMAS TREE SALE NOW OPEN!

Weekends: 8:30am - 7pm
Monday-Friday: 4pm - 7pm

All proceeds support
Knights of Columbus Charities.
Open everyday while supplies last
until December 20.



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.

PRAYER- FOR EVERYBODY AND EVERYDAY

PRAYER FOR ADVENT – PEACE



Come, Lord Jesus!

Bring your peace to our world.

Inspire reconciliation, heal divisions, bind wounds, rewrite scripts. You are the Prince of Peace, bring that light into every space. Amen.



Simbang Gabi is more than a liturgical observance—it's a cultural celebration. In towns across the Philippines, the tradition is marked by parols (star lanterns), festive music, and local delicacies like bibingka and puto bumbong served after Mass. These elements reflect the Filipino spirit of joyful anticipation, hospitality, and resilience.



The practice also became a tool for evangelization. Missionaries used the novena to teach Catholic doctrine while embracing Filipino customs. The Masses were often held outdoors to accommodate large crowds, and the community would gather in celebration afterward.

Here at Saint Paul the Apostle, one way we pass on our faith to the next generation is through our Simbang Gabi—inviting children to participate in the liturgy, music, and traditions that have shaped our identity for centuries. This tradition has endured for centuries, becoming a cornerstone of Filipino identity. Even during colonial restrictions—such as the temporary ban on native-language hymns in the late 1600s—Filipinos found ways to preserve and adapt Simbang Gabi.

"More than just a religious observance, Simbang Gabi is a vibrant expression of Philippine cultural heritage, weaving together faith, community, and historical legacy." (Sinaunang Panahon, 2025)

Join us for our Simbang Gabi Mass at St. Paul the Apostle on December 23rd at 7:00 PM, followed by a reception in the Lower Level Gathering Space. All are welcome to attend.
Volunteers needed. Contact: Arleen Siap: Cell (224) 688-0479
Email: hcdirectesbcglobal.net

CATHOLIC TRIVIA – JUST FOR FUN!

Question:

What are the names of the three biblical archangels?

Answer:

Gabriel, Michael, and Raphael.

©LPi

SAINT BIO

St. Lucy | Feast Day December 13

A name that means "light," St. Lucy (283 – 304) is the patron saint of those blind or suffering with eye trouble. Not much is known about her life, except that she was determined to remain a virgin and thus refused marriage. History tells the story of a frustrated suitor who eventually accused St. Lucy of being a Christian (at crime at the time), and she was executed in Syracuse, Sicily, in the year 304.

Today, we celebrate a number of traditions that incorporate symbolic meaning of St. Lucy as the "bearer" of light in the darkness of winter. This is particularly seen in Scandinavian countries, with their long dark winters. There, a young girl dressed in a white dress and a red sash (as the symbol of martyrdom) carries palms and wears a crown or wreath of candles on her head. In Denmark, Norway and Sweden, girls dressed as Lucy carry rolls and cookies in procession as songs are sung.

Lpi



Anticipating Thanksgiving, we at ElderCARE with all of our older adults that we serve, thank St. Paul the Apostle for your support. Our volunteers now serve over 900 older adults with medical transportation, shopping, food pantry orders, phone calls, visits and technical help. If there are parishioners who would appreciate any of our services or if others would like to volunteer, please call 847-406-4683.

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.

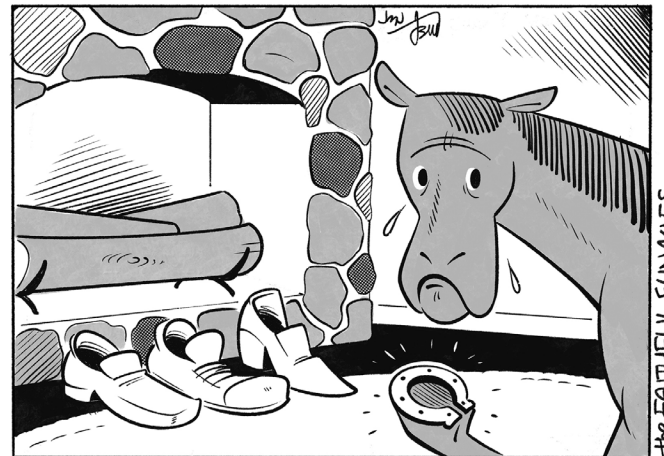
Attorneys work with the client to develop a next steps plan to address the problem and provide peace of mind. Training is provided to all attorneys at no charge.

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.

"Why was the horse sad?"



the FAITHFUL FUNNIES

"He couldn't put out his **shoes** for St. Nicholas Day."



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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



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
847-918-0600

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

Saint Paul the Apostle

847-918-0600
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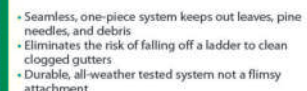
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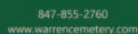
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