



Saint Paul
the Apostle

DECEMBER 21, 2025

NATIVITY

of the Lord



Dear SPA Family,

Christmas is fast approaching. Christmas trees and lights have appeared outside the windows, and Christmas tables are being prepared. You can feel the excitement among children and the elderly, the general pre-Christmas joy. And what message does God's Word offer us for these last days of preparation?

At the end of Advent, we hear the Gospel of Matthew about the birth of Jesus. In it I would like to emphasize the special words that refer to St. Joseph. He passes through the pages of the Gospel as a silent figure. Not one word of Joseph was recorded. However, in the intention of God, he appears as the main figure among those who have been chosen and called to carry out the plan of salvation. It was God who wanted Mary to be married to Joseph before she became the Mother of the Son of God.



Joseph learns of the new tasks that await him. He was surprised by the apparent state of his wife, Mary. She was carrying a child under her heart. And he knew that he was not the child's father. He also knew, knowing Mary, that there was not the slightest reason to suspect her of betrayal. But the baby is there! So, what to do?

Joseph wants to divorce Mary because he does not understand how she can be blessed if they do not live together. He had already made up his mind to divorce Mary. However, God is not late, he comes at the right moment. Joseph hears the command in a dream: "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary your wife." Joseph's fear seems to be justified. He rightly wants to flee, because what is conceived in Mary is of the Spirit of God. This is the moment when Joseph also experiences his annunciation. The angel explains to him the mystery of the incarnation of the Son of God. That explanation was enough for him. So he did not dismiss Mary, which at first seemed to be the only solution, but he trusted and entrusted himself to God. He became convinced that God included him in His plan of salvation, that God needed him as a protector of Jesus. He saw that God needed him to fulfill the task envisioned for him: he was to give a name to the son she would give birth to, to bring him into the House of David. Joseph woke up from sleep and did as the angel told him: he received Mary with the Child in her womb.

It should be noted that Joseph certainly had his life plans. He probably wanted to live his years honestly, start a family, raise children, wait for grandchildren, and, with a sense of duty well done, rest with his ancestors in the grave. The intervention of the Lord God completely changed his plans and opened before him a new vision reaching into eternity. God gave his Son and his Mother into Joseph's hands, making him responsible for their fate on earth.

This Advent meeting with Saint Joseph can also encourage us to reflect more deeply on our own vision of life. What am I heading towards? What are my goals in life? Where is God in my life and His plans for me? Am I ready to fulfill them? St. Joseph, despite his doubts and misunderstandings, made the decision to open himself to God's plans and 'he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him.' What will I do?

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

Fourth Sunday of Advent

GOSPEL MEDITATION



A priest friend recently told me a remarkable story. One of his cousins reported having a vivid dream in which an angel told him the family needed to exhume their grandmother's body from a cemetery in New York and return it to her birthplace in Romania. She had been dead nearly 10 years. As you might expect, the family thought it was, well, crazy. But astonishingly they exhumed her body. It was incorrupt, showing no signs of decomposition. That experience sparked healing, faith, and reconciliation throughout the family.

In this Sunday's Gospel, Joseph also receives a dream. He's confused, afraid. But in the quiet of sleep, God speaks: "Do not be afraid to take Mary your wife into your home" (Matthew 1:20). When he wakes, Joseph acts. He doesn't overanalyze or dismiss the message. He trusts, and acts.

God still speaks — not necessarily through literal dreams but through those deeper intuitions of the heart. St. Ignatius of Loyola taught that God's voice draws us into peace, courage, and love. But we have to listen to it. Advent is a time for stillness. As we prepare for Christ's coming, we're invited to enter that quiet space where God's voice can be heard.

When and how do you become most receptive to God? Is it in silence? In prayer? In nature? At Mass? This week, go there. Be still. Listen. And like Joseph, have the courage to act on what God shows you.

— Father John Muir ©LPi

MASS HYMNS

Opening Song: **Gather #323** O Come, O Come, Emmanuel (VENI VENI EMMANUEL); 9th century

Latin hymn, translation by John M. Neale

At Sunday 5:00pm: O Come, O Come, Emmanuel (VENI VENI EMMANUEL); arranged by Josh Blakesley and Rich Grillone

Responsorial Psalm: **Let the Lord Enter** by Ben Walther

Gospel Acclamation: **MASS OF ENDLESS MERCY** by Steve Angrisano

Preparation Song: **Breath of Heaven (Mary's Song)** by Chris Eaton and Amy Grant

At Sunday 5:00pm: **Ave Maria (Mary, Sing with Joyful Heart)** by Steve Angrisano and James Quinn

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: **Spirit & Song #323** Let It Be Done by Chris Muglia

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

READING I

ISAIAH 7:10-14

The LORD spoke to Ahaz, saying:
Ask for a sign from the LORD, your God;
let it be deep as the netherworld, or high as the sky!
But Ahaz answered,
“I will not ask! I will not tempt the LORD!”
Then Isaiah said:
Listen, O house of David!
Is it not enough for you to weary people,
must you also weary my God?
Therefore the Lord himself will give you this sign:
the virgin shall conceive, and bear a son,
and shall name him Emmanuel.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

PSALM 24:1-2, 3-4, 5-6.

Lord, come and save us.

READING II

ROMANS 1:1-7

Paul, a slave of Christ Jesus,
called to be an apostle and set apart for the gospel of
God,
which he promised previously through his prophets
in the holy Scriptures,
the gospel about his Son, descended from David
according to the flesh,
but established as Son of God in power
according to the Spirit of holiness
through resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our
Lord.
Through him we have received the grace of
apostleship,
to bring about the obedience of faith,
for the sake of his name, among all the Gentiles,
among whom are you also, who are called to belong
to Jesus Christ;
to all the beloved of God in Rome, called to be holy.
Grace to you and peace from God our Father
and the Lord Jesus Christ.

GOSPEL

MATTHEW 1:18-24

This is how the birth of Jesus Christ came about.
When his mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph,
but before they lived together,
she was found with child through the Holy Spirit.
Joseph her husband, since he was a righteous man,
yet unwilling to expose her to shame,
decided to divorce her quietly.
Such was his intention when, behold,
the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and
said,
“Joseph, son of David,
do not be afraid to take Mary your wife into your home.
For it is through the Holy Spirit
that this child has been conceived in her.
She will bear a son and you are to name him Jesus,
because he will save his people from their sins.”
All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said
through the prophet:
Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,
and they shall name him Emmanuel,
which means “God is with us.”
When Joseph awoke,
he did as the angel of the Lord had commanded him
and took his wife into his home.



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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 7:10-14/Ps 24:1-2, 3-4, 5-6 (7c, 10b)/Rom 1:1-7/Mt 1:18-24

Monday: 1 Sm 1:24-28/1 Sm 2:1, 4-5, 6-7, 8abcd/Lk 1:46-56

Tuesday: Mal 3:1-4, 23-24/Ps 25:4-5ab, 8-9, 10 and 14/Lk 1:57-66

Wednesday: Morning: 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16/Ps 89:2-3, 4-5, 27 and 29/Lk 1:67-79

Thursday: Vigil: Is 62:1-5/Ps 89:4-5, 16-17, 27, 29 (2a)/Acts 13:16-17, 22-25/Mt 1:1-25 or 1:18-25

Night: Is 9:1-6/Ps 96:1-2, 2-3, 11-12, 13 (Lk 2:11)/Ti 2:11-14/Lk 2:1-14 Dawn: Is 62:11-12/Ps 97:1, 6, 11-12/Ti 3:4-7/Lk 2:15-20

Day: Is 52:7-10/Ps 98:1, 2-3, 3-4, 5-6 (3c)/Heb 1:1-6/Jn 1:1-18 or 1:1-5, 9-14

Friday: Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59/Ps 31:3cd-4, 6 and 8ab, 16bc and 17/Mt 10:17-22

Saturday: 1 Jn 1:1-4/Ps 97:1-2, 5-6, 11-12/Jn 20:1a, 2-8

WEEKDAY PSALMS

Monday: 1 Samuel 2:1, 4-5, 6-7, 8abcd
My heart exults in the Lord, my Savior.

Tuesday: Psalm 25:4-5ab, 8-9, 10 and 14
Lift up your heads and see; your redemption is near at hand.

Wednesday: Psalm 89:2-3, 4-5, 27 and 29
For ever I will sing the goodness of the Lord.

Thursday: Psalm 96: 1-2, 2-3, 11-12, 13.
Today is born our Savior, Christ the Lord.

Friday: Psalm 31:3cd-4, 6 and 8ab, 16bc and 17
Into your hands, O Lord, I commend my spirit.

Saturday: Psalm 97:1-2, 5-6, 11-12
Rejoice in the Lord, you just!

OBSERVANCES FOR THE WEEK

Sunday: 4th Sunday of Advent

Tuesday: St. John of Kanty, Priest

Wednesday: Christmas Eve

Thursday: The Nativity of the Lord

Friday: St. Stephen, First Martyr

Saturday: St. John, Apostle and Evangelist

Next Sunday: The Holy Family

MASS INTENTIONS

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 20, 2025

5:00pm: Gerry & Chuck Suhling | Lucy Herrmann | Thomas Rusnak, Sr. | George Braniiff | Gerena O. Monis | Margaret Spoden Scott Kohler | John Carter Bennett

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 21, 2025

7:30am: Victor Peccioli | Edward Novick
9:30am: Ron Paiser | Florence Dulak | Ophelia Deasis | Teodoro Deligero | Finilia Bayawa | Lydia Alzona
11:30am: Celso Balita Castor | Lynn Sharpee | Ben & Harriet Sutton Celia J. Auguste | Hector B. Brual, Jr.
5:00pm: Carol Hough

MONDAY, DECEMBER 22, 2025

7:30am: Our Parish Family

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 23, 2025

7:30am: Teodoro Deligero | Finilia Bayawa | Lydia Alzona

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 24, 2025

NO 7:30AM MASS

3:00pm: Theresa Galuska | Carlos Rivera | Wilfredo Rivera Francisca T. Masso | Arnulfo Masso | Scott Kohler | Larry Hickey Raymond Totten | Bob, Sr. & Judy Russell | John & Zella Drury Robert & Gail Da Valler | Durwood & Lucille Baltzell | Tom Peterson
6:00pm: Richard Hink | John, Sr. & Betty Rygiel | John, Jr. & Karen Rygiel | Nolan John LaBuda | Thomas & Susan August | William August | Adrian Aromin | Hortelano Family
8:00pm: Carl Willaby | Roy Hilo, Sr. | Narciso & Bella Hilo | Domingo & Rosario Cacal | Regino & Felipa Raelb | Isidro & Gregoria Cacal David Michael Jahn | Eric & Susan Jahn

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 25, 2025

12:00am: Fred & Mary Ann Perry | Fred & Joan Harold | Harry, Jeanette, Robert Siuda | Gerena O. Monis | Wilfredo & Alicia Garcia Edward Skowron | Loida Busa Phelps
9:30am: Dizon & Doreza Families | Don & Joan Meersman | Bud & Bea Tebbetts | Szymoniak Family | Gerena O. Monis | Joseph Falotico | Winston Casis | Teodoro Deligero | Finilia Bayawa | Lydia Alzona | Zofia Karwot and Guadalupe de la Rosa Ortega
11:30am: Tom Wessell | Loida Buse Phelps | Edward Skowron | Hilo & Cacal Family | Richard Schroeder | David Michael Jahn | Eric & Susan Jahn

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 26, 2025

7:30am: NO MASS

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 27, 2025

5:00pm: Gerry & Chuck Suhling | Domingo Cabuay | Raymond DeSilvia, Sr. | Alice DeSilvia | Raymond DeSilvia | Gerena O. Monis Nieves Arceo | John Carter Bennett | Jolly De Guzman

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 28, 2025

7:30am: Rosa Kriess | Alfredo & Procesa de Leon | Felicisimo & Felicisima Pacheco | Bob & Mary O'Brien, Sr. | Rose Marie Pennington | Norman Pennington | Carl Willaby
9:30am: Edward Rybka | Teresa Rybka | Fr. Jan Rybka | Christine Tarchala | Stanley Kot | Franciszch Sas | Mr. & Mrs. Armand Somera Dennis Vaseloff | Nancy Jo Vaseloff
11:30am: Peter Bohdanowicz | Jovita Garcia | Celia J. Auguste | Hector B. Brual, Jr. | Joe & Eileen Tuckey
5:00pm: Ben & Harriet Sutton | Stanley Kwiecinski

PRAY FOR THE SICK

Rosa LaBellarte	Betty Falotico
Rachel Ciullo	Keith Kellogg
Patricia Freeman	Lisa Mischke
Toni Lynn Mengarelli	David Zilligen
Shannon Bremmer	Eduardo Perez
April Grandgeorge	Maria Domitila Zambrano de Polanco
Alma De Torres	Rafael Gloria
Stephanie Rappe	Collen Wishall
Vicki Shafer	Silvia Pinedo
Ruth Blood	Consuelo Vargas
Tom Asma	Juan Miguel Correa
Karla Arce	Gloria de Cardenas
Jeanne Sypien	Helena Sznicer
Glenn Garamoni	George Lawrence
Daniel Schmelz	Michael Miller
Russell Yanow	Cynthia D. Caudell
Victoria Sofia	Glaflira Bunsen
Luquez Mogollon	Jackie Herrera-Giron
Kinga Szymoniak	Gino LaBellarte
Chris Lucy	Dianne Scirri
Donna O'Brien	Pat Wilson
Norilyn Querubin	Kimmy Cozart
Rey Querubin	Mark Wilson
Obdulia Elizalde	Pat Gundrum
Jovita Menes	Mary Thachil
Reginald Dulaca	Daniela Gaborik
Melody Cook	Amy Patterson
Brian Smolicek	Melissa Fernandes
Roberto Movilla	Emily Meryer
Shani Stahnke	
Abby Swygard	
Rod Reyes	

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 Michael Jahn
Thomas Franklin Donahue
Karen Louise Swazas
Marie Ann Simpson
Antonio Alforque
Lawrence Dean Pham
Mary E. Grosskopf*

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 20, 2025 11:00AM RECONCILIATION 5:00PM MASS	TUESDAY, DECEMBER 23, 2024 7:30AM MASS 8:00AM HOLY HOUR 5:00PM CHILDREN'S CHOIR REHEARSAL 7:00PM SIMBANG GABI LITURGY & CELEBRATION	FRIDAY, DECEMBER 26, 2025 NO 7:30AM MASS
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 21, 2025 7:30AM MASS 9:00AM OCIA 9:30AM MASS 11:30AM MASS 1:00PM BAPTISM - SIAP 4:00PM TEEN CHOIR REHEARSAL 5:00PM MASS 6:00PM LIFETEEN NIGHT: LIFENIGHT	WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 24, 2025 CHRISTMAS EVE NO 7:30AM MASS 2:30PM CHRISTMAS EVE CAROLS WITH HANDBELL ENSEMBLE 3:00PM CHRISTMAS EVE MASS 6:00PM CHRISTMAS EVE MASS 8:00PM CHRISTMAS EVE MASS	SATURDAY, DECEMBER 27, 2025 8:30AM BCBP MEETING 8:30AM VISITATION - JAHN 9:30AM FUNERAL - JAHN 11:00AM RECONCILIATION 12:30PM BAPTISM - MCCULLOUGH 1:30PM BAPTISM - DIAZ 5:00PM MASS
MONDAY, DECEMBER 22, 2024 7:30AM MASS 2:30PM BRASS REHEARSAL FOR CHRISTMAS MASSES 7:00PM ADVENT HOLY HOUR	THURSDAY, DECEMBER 25, 2025 CHRISTMAS DAY 12:00AM MIDNIGHT MASS 9:30AM CHRISTMAS DAY MASS 11:30AM CHRISTMAS DAY MASS	SUNDAY, DECEMBER 28, 2025 7:30AM MASS 9:00AM OCIA 9:30AM MASS 11:30AM MASS 1:00PM BAPTISM - REYES 4:00PM TEEN CHOIR REHEARSAL 5:00PM MASS

DEEMBER 27/28 | LITURGY SCHEDULE

	USHERS	LECTORS	COMMUNION MINISTERS		GREETERS	PRESIDER
SATURDAY 5:00PM	M. Mohrfeld G. Johnson T. Rusnak A. Rusnak B. Murphy K. Gaston	Maryalice Smith Lura Johnson	VOLUNTEER SIGN-UP IN THE BOOK AT THE DESK	IN THE GATHERING SPACE	P. Blames H. Gloria	Fr. Joe Dn. Ivan
SUNDAY 7:30AM	T. Shurtleff J. Climaco J. Siegel R. Dizon T. Burns OPEN	Bob O'Brien Tom Krissek	VOLUNTEER SIGN-UP IN THE BOOK AT THE DESK	IN THE GATHERING SPACE	G. Aranas J.R. Delgado	Fr. Chris
SUNDAY 9:30AM	B. Kibitlewski D. Scheffler K. King OPEN x 3	Cathy Latza Claress Pettengill	VOLUNTEER SIGN-UP IN THE BOOK AT THE DESK	IN THE GATHERING SPACE	M. Maus T. Maus	Fr. Chris Dn. Brent
SUNDAY 11:30AM	G. Galano R. Cuasay C. Karl R. Terrazas P. Watson OPEN	Conchita Manalo Anna Richardt	VOLUNTEER SIGN-UP IN THE BOOK AT THE DESK	IN THE GATHERING SPACE	D. Moseley A. Brown	Fr. Martin Dn. Andy
SUNDAY 5:00PM	B. Marchioni JJ Plamoottil C. Johnson OPEN x 3	JJ Plamoottil Teen or Lector I	VOLUNTEER SIGN-UP IN THE BOOK AT THE DESK	IN THE GATHERING SPACE	T. Marlowe OPEN	Fr. Martin Dn. Bob

DONATIONS SUMMARY

Week of December 12, 2025

Sunday- \$20,328
Online Sunday- \$12,502
Sharing- \$135
Online Sharing- \$725
SVdP- \$385
Online SVdP- \$561
Holiday Dinners - \$132
Campaign for Human Development- \$183

Month to Date - December

Sunday- \$30,016
Online Sunday- \$12,502
Sharing- \$1,190
Online Sharing- \$725
SVdP- \$1,464
Online SVdP- \$561
Holiday Dinners - \$192
Campaign for Human Development- \$313



Advent Holy Hour

December 22nd @ 7:00pm



The Women's Fellowship
Angel Trees
are displayed in the
gathering space.
You may donate by
taking an envelope from
the tree
or online via our
website.

All donations will be
used to support our
Parish, food pantries,
Aid for Women,
and the needs
of our neighboring
communities.

CHRISTMAS EVE

3PM , 6PM*

8PM

Midnight*

*live-streaming



CHRISTMAS DAY

9:30am

11:30am



HOLY FAMILY

Dec. 27th

5pm

Dec. 28th

7:30, 9:30,
11:30am
& 5pm



MOTHER OF GOD

Dec. 31st

5pm

Jan. 1st

9am



Dear SPA Family,

I would like to express my deepest gratitude for your contribution to Saint Paul the Apostle during this past year. **Your donations, time, and talents are very important to our parish and are greatly appreciated.** It helps the continuity of our commitment to serving the community. This would not have been successful without your act of generosity in support of your church.



I always believe that through the movement of the gospel, a peaceful and healthy community is formed, social justice is achieved, and love and peace with God in our hearts are cultivated. And thus, **St. Paul conducts activities that enable everyone to experience and feel God's teachings.**

St. Paul the Apostle Church is very blessed to have you and your family in our humble congregation. **Thank you again for your generous support,** and I ask that you continue to keep me, parish leaders, and staff in your prayers as we keep you and your family in ours.

After the season of Advent, **the spirit of Christmas will permeate our homes and families.** We will be joined by faith and the joy of the Savior's birth in Bethlehem. Before Him, the three Magi fell on their faces and worshiped Him. They offered Him great gifts: gold, frankincense, and myrrh. But the greatest and greatest was their fourth gift: they bowed down to Jesus.

To bow to the Child is in the act of adoration to recognize Him as God, as Creator and Savior, as Lord of all that exists, as infinite and merciful Love. To bow down to the Child is to acknowledge His sovereignty over ourselves, to trustfully surrender our will to His law, to let Him reign and act in our heart and life. The meeting in the stable in Bethlehem changed the lives of the Magi, who returned to their daily lives in a different way, on a path marked by trust in the presence of a merciful God.

And let us go with the shepherds and the three Magi to little Jesus and worship Him with reverence, **let us recognize in Him as our Divine King and Lord.** May the celebration of the mystery of Christmas be a source of new spiritual strength for all of us, a strengthening of our relationship with Jesus and communion among all of us.

May the light flowing from the Bethlehem crèche illuminate your lives and hearts throughout Christmas, and New Year.

Have a blessed Christmas Season,
Fr. Chris D. Ciastoń



Dear parishioners, Jacob Francois, a seminarian of the University of St. Mary of the Lake and assigned to the Tolton Teaching Parish of St. Paul the Apostle, will be ordained to the Transitional Diaconate on December 20th

at the Cathedral of St. Raphael in Dubuque. at the 10 a.m. Mass of Ordination is open to the public and will be livestreamed for those who cannot attend, <https://dbqarch.org/live-broadcasts>

After his ordination, Jacob will be assigned to St. Thomas Aquinas Church and Student Center in Ames, IA, and Sts. Peter and Paul Parish in Gilbert, IA, before his ordination in the spring to the priesthood for the Archdiocese of Dubuque.

Congratulation Jacob.

We are all praying for you.

Today, Simbang Gabi continues to thrive—not only in the Philippines but also in Filipino communities around the world. In the United States, especially in cities like Chicago, the tradition has been lovingly adapted. Masses are often held in the evening to accommodate modern schedules, and parishes collaborate to host the novena across different churches.

Despite the changes, the heart of Simbang Gabi remains: a spiritual preparation for Christmas, a communal act of faith, and a celebration of Filipino heritage.

In 2019, Pope Francis celebrated Simbang Gabi at St. Peter's Basilica, marking the first time a pope led the traditional Mass—an affirmation of its global significance.

"Nothing can take our American Dream, not even the winter chill of early morning!" (Sinaunang Panahon, 2025)—and here at Saint Paul the Apostle, we share our American Dream blessings through Simbang Gabi fundraising efforts, charitable outreach, and community events that bring warmth and hope to those in need during the season of giving.

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: hcdirect@sbcglobal.net



Filipino-American families attending Simbang Gabi in winter
Source: Tennessee Register

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 – MIRACLES



Dear God,

You are in the miracle business. I still believe that You can move mountains and separate seas. Break into every unknown and astound us with Your goodness and grace. Amen.



A big thank you to all for your tremendous generosity in providing holiday meals to our veterans and the needy families within our local community. As a parish, we collected over \$14,000 and provided 300 holiday dinners through Holy Family, St. Anastasia, and Midwest Veterans food pantries.



We will continue to support our local food pantries by distributing the remaining money throughout the coming year to feed those within our community who remain food insecure.

Words like "thoughtful...caring...giving" are not enough to describe your level of generosity. Again, a very special thank you to an awesome parish!

CATHOLIC TRIVIA – JUST FOR FUN!

Question:
Which saint's nickname is "Santa Claus"?

Answer:
St. Nicholas

©LPI

SAINT BIO

Saint John the Apostle | December 27

Saint John was one of the Twelve, part of Jesus' inner circle, among the few that witnessed the Transfiguration, the raising of Jarius' Daughter, and the Agony in the garden at Gethsemane. He and his brother James were the sons of Zebedee and Salome. When Jesus called them, they left their father mending nets and followed him. Jesus called the brothers "Boanerges," meaning "sons of thunder" — they were passionate in their faith and Jesus had to rebuke them for their fiery zeal on more than one occasion. John, the younger brother, possibly the youngest disciple, was the only one present at Jesus' death.

Saint John the Apostle is traditionally thought to be the author of the fourth Gospel, the three Epistles of John, and the Book of Revelation. However, there has been some debate among scholars from antiquity to the present. Tradition also gives him the title Beloved Disciple and John's Gospel sees him seated next to Jesus at the last supper and the one to whom Jesus gives the care of Mary at the crucifixion.

Although Church tradition says that John survived the other disciples, living a long life, much of it is steeped in myth and legend. Some say he retired to Ephesus after the crucifixion with Mary and remained there until he died. But in other traditions he is more active. For a time he remained in Jerusalem with the other disciples, then founded churches in Asia Minor. In a legend of his persecution, during the reign of the Emperor Domitian, John is taken to Rome and thrown into a cauldron of boiling oil but preserved from death. He is then exiled to the island of Patmos where the Book of Revelation was written.

Most accounts agree that after his exile and the Assumption of Mary he returned to Ephesus where he died sometime after 98, during the reign of the emperor Trajan.

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