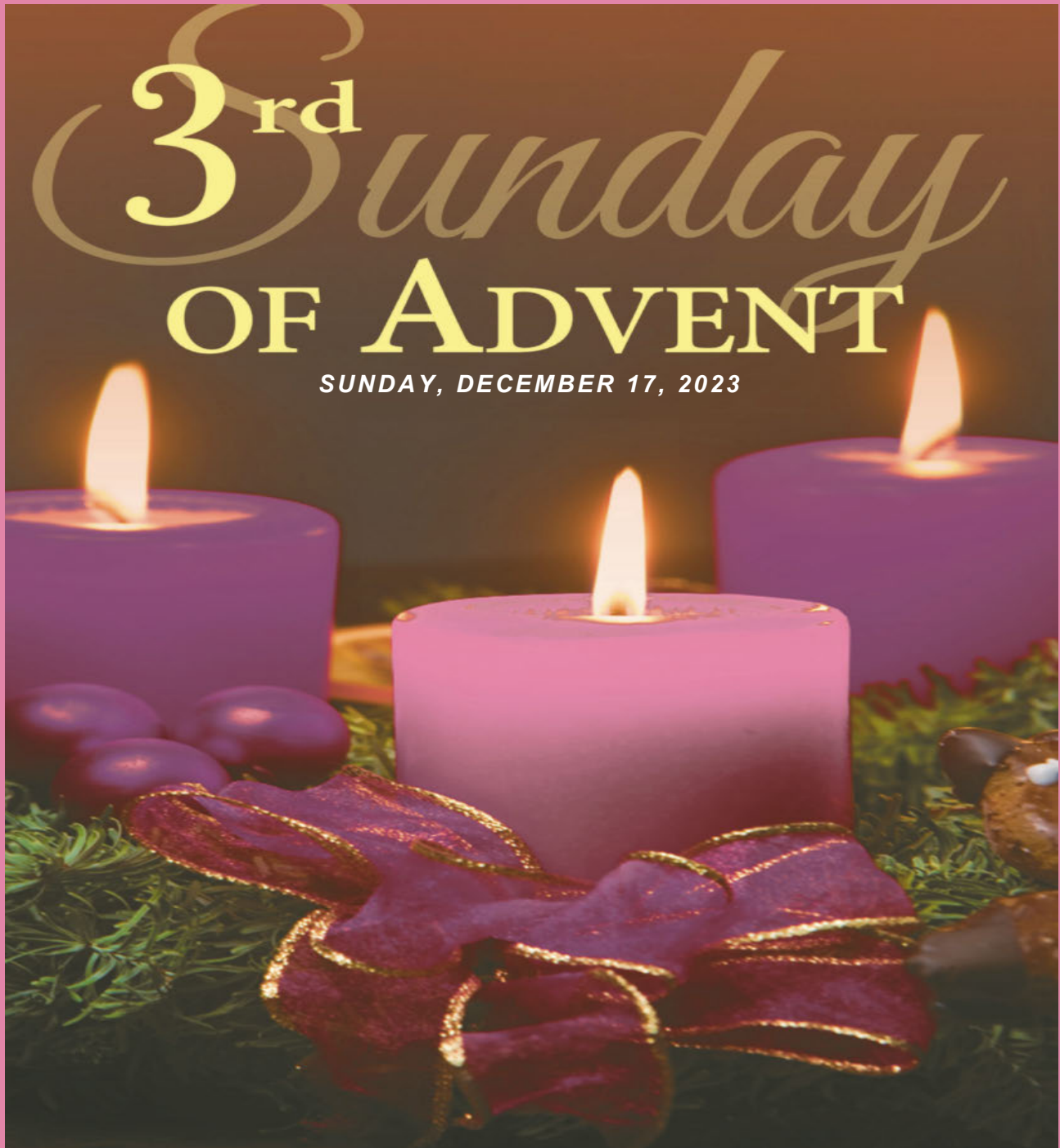




ST. PAUL VI PARISH



St. Mary Church
105 Herrick Road
Riverside

Mater Christi Church
2401 S. 10th Avenue
North Riverside

A message from our Pastor



“Christmas is joy, an inner joy of light and peace.”

Pope Francis

Doesn't that sound beautiful? But how many of us are actually feeling an inner joy of light and peace right now 8 days before Christmas? I would venture to guess that most of you are feeling a bit (or a lot) anxious and overwhelmed with lists of things you need to do in the next couple of days.

I was too, until I got a very unexpected break in my calendar this past weekend. Instead of dwelling on what I couldn't do, I decided to see this opened up time during the weekend as a very much needed gift. I cleaned out my email box, I wrote Christmas cards, did some online shopping, and worked on some upcoming homilies. I didn't get everything accomplished but I did feel better and more at peace.

I realize not everyone will get an unexpected gift of time like I did, so how do we find this inner joy of light and peace at undoubtedly the most busy, stressful and physically darkest time of the year? In the Second Reading today we get a clue: Rejoice always. Pray without ceasing. In all circumstances give thanks... We are reminded that we must consciously turn our thoughts to God; in doing so, it changes our perspective.

This week when you begin to feel stressed or overwhelmed, take a moment, take a breath, take another one, and then say a prayer. It can be one of thanks, one for rest, one for peace – whatever you most feel at that moment, and then take another moment to listen for God's response. It may not come right away but be aware how your day changes.

Know that I will be keeping all of you in special prayer this week as we prepare for the most wondrous gift ever given to humanity. Listen to the words of the Second Reading again:

May the God of peace make you perfectly holy and make your entire spirit, soul, and body be preserved blameless for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. The one who calls you is faithful, and he will also accomplish it.

Fr. Tom May, Pastor

A message from our Associate Pastor



The Third Sunday of Advent is called Gaudete Sunday, referring to the opening Antiphon often sung at Mass, *Gaudete in Domino semper* (Rejoice in the Lord always). It is a day that signals the upcoming conclusion to the Advent season. Philip Kosloski of Aleteia has more to say about rejoicing and curing boredom this Advent.

For this reason, the Church urges the faithful to “rejoice,” as the time of penance and fasting is drawing to an end, making way for Christmas, a season of joy and feasting.

However, what does the Church mean by joy?

Pope Benedict XVI in an Angelus message in 2011, explained the difference between two types of joy.

The liturgy of this Sunday, known as “Gaudete” Sunday, is a special invitation to us to joyfulness, to a vigilance that is not sad but happy. “Gaudete in Domino semper,” St. Paul wrote: “Rejoice in the Lord always” (Phil 4:4). True joy is not a fruit of “divertirsi” [having a good time] understood in the

etymological sense of the word di-vertere (di-ersion), that is, shirking the commitments of life and one’s responsibilities. True joy is linked to something deeper. Of course, in the all too often frenetic pace of daily life it is important to find time for rest and relaxation, but true joy is linked to our relationship with God. Those who have encountered Christ in their own lives feel a serenity and joy in their hearts that no one and no situation can take from them. St. Augustine understood this very well; in his quest for truth, peace and joy, after seeking them in vain in many things he concluded with his famous words: “and our heart is restless until it rests in God” (cf. Confessions, I, 1, 1).

Benedict expands on this definition of joy, explaining how “True joy is not merely a passing state of mind or something that can be achieved with the person’s own effort; rather it is a gift, born from the encounter with the living Person of Jesus and, making room within ourselves, from welcoming the Holy Spirit who guides our lives. It is the invitation of the Apostle Paul who says: ‘May the God of peace himself sanctify you wholly; and may your spirit and soul and body be kept sound and blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ’ (1 Thessalonians 5:23).”

This means that Christian joy is not something we can grasp at or invent, but something we receive from a personal relationship with God. It is something we receive “from the encounter with the living Person of Jesus.”

If we want to foster Christian joy during this Advent season, we must deepen our own relationship with God. Then, and only then, will we possess a joy that the world can’t take away.

No matter what happens in our lives, if we stay rooted in Jesus Christ, we will be able to emanate a joy that far surpasses any momentary joy we may feel on earth. It is a joy that endures and brings us life everlasting.

It is not easy to maintain that joy it is relatively easy in today’s world to feel bored, not only with the current moment, but with life in general.

When we aren’t being entertained by the latest viral post on social media, we might lapse into a gnawing boredom that reaches to the core of our soul.

The cure to this boredom, according to Pope Benedict XVI, is to live with hope, looking forward to our final union with God.

He explained in an Advent homily in 2009 how waiting can become “unbearable” when we do not live with meaning.

[T]here are many different ways of waiting. If time is not filled by a present endowed with meaning expectation risks becoming unbearable; if one expects something but at a given moment there is nothing, in other words if the present remains empty, every instant that passes appears extremely long and waiting becomes too heavy a burden because the future remains completely uncertain.

If life has no meaning and it only involves mindlessly scrolling through our phones, hoping that something will entertain us; life will become unbearable.

Boredom will conquer us and our hearts.

Thankfully, Pope Benedict XVI offers us an antidote.

On the other hand, when time is endowed with meaning and at every instant we perceive something specific and worthwhile, it is then that the joy of expectation makes the present more precious. Dear brothers and sisters, let us experience intensely the present in which we already receive the gifts of the Lord, let us live it focused on the future, a future charged with hope. In this manner Christian Advent becomes an opportunity to reawaken within ourselves the true meaning of waiting, returning to the heart of our faith which is the mystery of Christ, the Messiah who was expected for long centuries and was born in poverty, in Bethlehem.

When we live in this way, we look forward to God’s presence in our lives and are aware that he is always active in it.

Advent can help cure our boredom as it reminds us that life is all about waiting with expectation for the coming of the Messiah. Our life has great meaning and purpose and when we feel bored with life, we can remind ourselves that God is with us, calling us to him.

Fr. Matt Nemchausky, Associate Pastor

Worship

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday, December 16

(MC) 8:00 am † Richard Kean (Bob Dedowicz)
(SM) 4:00 pm † Nushardt & Jes Families (Sharmayne Stach), Don & Joan Dvorak (Dvorak Children), Hortencia Rodriguez (Thanksgiving of life) B-Day Wishes
(MC) 5:00 pm † Irena & Marian Mazurkiewicz, Jim Burns (Del Burns), Mary Anderson (PJ Folz), Walter Folz, Jr. (PJ Folz), Jean Folz (PJ Folz)

Sunday, December 17 - 3rd Sunday of Advent

(SM/MC) 8:00 am † Rev. Thomas Moran (Shelley Drogos)
(MC) 9:30 am † Jose Gonzalez Monroy, Rosa Guzman Jasso, Andrew Garcia, Rudolf, Yolana & Miroslav Vavrinec (Ludmila Vavrinec)
(SM) 10:00 am † Procoro & Lillian Cuevas (Cuevas Family), Ronald Smith, Celestine Casper, William & Therese Hanley
(MC) 11:00 am † Rosemary Kaluzny, St. Paul VI Women's Society, Juan & Francisca Madera (Flores Family), Emily Vrba 65th Anniv. of death (Alice Vrba)
(SM) 5:00 pm † Joseph & Leona Carrabotta (Anne Lysaught)

Monday, December 18

(MC) 8:00 am & (SM) 8:30 am † Leroy Gerali

Tuesday, December 19

(MC) 8:00 am & (SM) 8:30 am † Maryanne Carrabotta (Anne Lysaught)

Wednesday, December 20

(MC) 8:00 am & (SM) 8:30 am † Christine Spagnoletti, James Michael Cincinnati (Karen Fawcett)

Thursday, December 21 - St. Peter Canisius

(MC) 8:00 am & (SM) 8:30 am † Christopher Chang Pyo Hong

Friday, December 22

(MC) 8:00 am & (SM) 8:30 am † Aurelija Polikaitis (SPVI), Baby Eve Tomeczko (Tomeczko Family), Bernice Rachel (Dolores Tedesco)

Saturday, December 23 - St. John of Kanty

(MC) 8:00 am † Eileen Herbstritt (John & Susie O'Brien)
(SM) 4:00 pm † Eileen Herbstritt (John & Susie O'Brien), Marge & Bill Fuetterer, Robert Keehn III
(MC) 5:00 pm † Jim Burns (Del Burns), Eugene Koszala (Koszala Family)

Sunday, December 24 - 4th Sunday of Advent (Christmas Eve)

(MC) 9:30 am † Jose Gonzalez Monroy, Rosa Guzman Jasso, Andrew Garcia, Rudolf, Celestine Casper, Stephen Laskowski (Del Burns), Fr. Cyril Nemecek (Ludmila Vavrinec), Sandra Zdenek
(SM) 10:00 am † Nushardt & Jes Families (Sharmayne Stach), Enedina Arredondo (Letty Arredondo)
(SM) 3:00 pm † St. Paul VI Volunteers
(SM - Parish Center) 3:00 pm † St. Paul VI Parishioners
(MC) 3:30 pm † Healing for those sick in our parish
(SM) 5:00 pm † Joseph & Leona Carrabotta (Anne Lysaught)
(SM) 10:00 pm † For the first responders & their families
(MC) 12:00 am † Edward & Henriette Kwiek



In our hearts and prayers, we pray...

FOR THE DECEASED

PRAYER FOR THE ETERNAL REST

Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord,
and let perpetual light shine upon them.
May the souls of all the faithful departed,
through the mercy of God, rest in peace.

**For all those who have died, especially for
Barbara A. Shereck, Paul Maksimovic, Margie
McNeil, Catherine A. Csech and Elaine Kusek.**

May they rest in peace.

FOR THE SICK AND HOMEBOUND

Virginia Alba	Curtiss Klimes
Cheryl Albertsen	Jerry Kosik
Christine Alvarado	Virginia Kott
Jim Arndt	Donald J. Kotrba, Sr.
Antonio Arredondo	Mary Kratochvil
Neenah B.	Joseph Kratochvil
Arlene Batek	Diane Kretz
Mary Binder	Dorothy Kraus
Alberto Blasi	Christina Lee
Anita Blasi	Ramon Lehnen
Deacon Bob Boharic	Anthony Lindauer
Jennifer Borow	Charlotte Lindauer
Lauri Bukowski	Ashley Marlow
Del Burns	Eileen Marquetti
Raybon Carroll	Emily Martinez
Al Cimino	Harper Faith McGee
Victorino Herrera Corral	Spencer Mehr
Glen Cox	Dolores Messlein
Gloria DeSanto	Lizzie Mooney
Margarita Diaz	Rita Morrissey
Carol Dvorak	Freda Murphy
Alex Dynako	Annie Nystrom
David Dynako	Margaret O.
Elliott Franche	Russ O'Brien
Midge Galloro	Beth Pennacchio
Jayme Girard	Dean Pennacchio
Dawn Gmitro	Rafaela Perez
Mimi Gnolfo	Deacon Ron Pilarski
Bern Gordus	Elsie Piszczor
Anthony Gorski	Maria Pura
Elena Gorski	Dennis Raleigh
Irene Gorski	Lucia Ramirez
Chris Green	Maria Retana
Bob Gurski	Roberto Requena
Katie Hassberger	Dolores Rieber
Thomas Higgins	George Rieber Sr.
Marilynne Higgins	Al Riebock
Robert Holas	Rogelio Rojas
Irene Horacek	Maria Consuelo Serrano
Olga Horacek	Carol Schaffer
Juan Infante	Lorraine Schmecht
Peggy K	Ann Stauffer
Wassyl Kalin	Nicholas John Stiso
Noel Keen	Ethan Tkalec
Bill Kernan	Maria Villafuerte
Patricia King	Jennifer Walden
Norman Kirkley	Carina Willems
Theresa Kledek	Henry & Dorothy Zalabak
Russell Klemp	Pat Zdarsky

If you have a loved one that you would like to be remembered for a special intention during Mass, please visit our parish office located at 40 E. Burlington St., Riverside or call 708-447-1020 to schedule one. To request your Mass Intention to be included in the bulletin, please submit minimum 2 weeks prior to the requested Sunday bulletin date.



2023 ADVENT & CHRISTMAS

SIMBANG GABI

Saturday, December 16
5:00 PM Mater Christi Church

LAS POSADAS

Monday, December 18
7:00 PM St. Mary Church
Wednesday, December 20
7:00 PM Mater Christi Church

4TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Saturday, December 23
4:00 PM Vigil St. Mary Church
5:00 PM Vigil Mater Christi Church
Sunday, December 24
**No 8 AM or 11:00 AM Masses*
9:30 AM Mater Christi Church
10:00 AM St. Mary Church

CHRISTMAS EVE

Sunday, December 24
3:00 PM Vigil St. Mary Church
3:00 PM Vigil St. Mary Parish Center
Children's Christmas Pageant
3:30 PM Vigil Mater Christi Church
5:00 PM Vigil St. Mary Church
**10:00 PM Vigil St. Mary Church*
**12:00 Midnight Mater Christi Church*
**Christmas carols 30 minutes
before Masses*

CHRISTMAS DAY

Monday, December 25
8:00 AM St. Mary Church
9:30 AM Mater Christi Church
10:00 AM St. Mary Church
11:00 AM Mater Christi Church

FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY & JOSEPH

Saturday, December 30
Sunday, December 31
Regular Weekend Mass Schedule
**No 5:00 PM Sunday Mass at St. Mary
Church*

SOLEMNITY OF MARY, MOTHER OF GOD

Monday, January 1, 2024
**No 8 AM or 8:30 AM Masses*
9:30 AM Mater Christi Church
10:00 AM St. Mary Church

EPIPHANY

Saturday, January 6, 2024
Sunday, January 7, 2024
Regular Weekend Mass Schedule

BAPTISM OF THE LORD

Saturday, January 13, 2024
Sunday, January 14, 2024
Regular Weekend Mass Schedule

Stewardship: Gifts of Time, Talent & Treasure

PLEASE HELP CHRISTIANS IN THE HOLY LAND AT CHRISTMAS!

We are all familiar with what is happening in the Holy Land. This conflict has had a devastating impact on the Christians living in the Holy Land. Their sole source of income is tourism from Christian pilgrims visiting the area. In addition to not receiving any income, families are not able to provide for themselves. Their children are being homeschooled.

The Holy Land is silent this Advent and Christmas Season...
There are no Christmas lights anywhere.
No musical processions preparing for the birth of our Lord and Savior.
No Christmas tree in Manger Square where Christ was born.

In spite of all of these difficulties, these Christian families choose to stay because they feel strongly that these sacred sites have a Christian presence.

Our parish has the opportunity to help support the families in the Holy Land this Christmas season by sponsoring 60 Christian children (ages 4-11). With our help, these children can receive a gift of hope on Christmas morning! Our goal is to raise \$25 for each child so that they can receive much needed items like clothing and school supplies and maybe even something fun. Any money we raise above and beyond this amount will be used to help their families through this difficult time.

In this season of Advent where we are asked to give to so many worthy causes, please prayerfully consider using the QR code or link to help sponsor a child in the Holy Land this Christmas. 100% of the proceeds will go directly to these Christian families in the Holy Land.

[Make a donation by clicking here or scanning the QR code with your phone.](#)

You can also drop a check off at the office or in the collection labeled. Please make the check out to St. Paul VI Parish with a memo, "Christmas in the Holy Land."



**Retirement Fund
for Religious**
Please give to those who
have given a lifetime.
retiredreligious.org

THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING OUR RELIGIOUS

Our women and men religious offer gratitude. A sister shares, "I thank the Lord for all who give. I don't think we would make it without them." Thank you for giving to the Retirement Fund for Religious last week. Your donation makes a difference in the lives of elderly women and men religious. To learn more about how your gift helps, visit retiredreligious.org.



INTERESTED IN GETTING INVOLVED?

We are looking for volunteers to be a part of our new Building and Grounds Committee. If you have experience in maintaining buildings (contractors, plumbers, electricians, architects, grounds upkeep, etc), we need you.

Your talents would be most helpful in advising the operations team regarding potential projects, prioritizing projects, and reviewing proposals.

We would meet quarterly in the evening at the Lyne Center.

If you are interested, please reach out to Bryant Rouleau at 708-447-1020.



Stewardship: Gifts of Time, Talent & Treasure

ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO 

2023 LEGACY PLANNING

Behold what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called children of God; and [such] we are. (1 John 3:1)

Please Remember Our Priests

Priests have dedicated their lives to the ministry of God's children, serving our needs as Catholics without asking for anything in return. Now, it is our turn to show our love and care for their ever-faithful support. Please consider including a legacy gift for Priests' Health and Retirement to support the healthcare needs of our active priests, as well as the medical and housing needs of our retired priests.

If you would like more information on how to make a QCD gift to St. Paul VI Parish, please contact Jane Birmingham at 708-447-1020 or jbirmingham@stpaulviparish.org.

Ways to give

MAIL - DROP OFF - CALL

- Bishop Lyne Pastoral Center
40 E Burlington St. Riverside IL 60546
- (708) 447-1020

ONLINE

- Click the donate button at www.stpaulviparish.org to set up an EFT or credit/debit card donation.

TEXT-TO-GIVE

- Text **DONATE** to 708-55-4PAUL (708-554-7285).
- A verification and an email will be sent to you.



SCAN TO DONATE

How to scan a QR code using your iPhone or Android phone:

- Open the Camera app on your phone.
- Then point your phone on the QR code to scan.
- Tap on the pop-up banner to open St. Paul VI Donate page.



December 11, 2023 WINNERS!

1st Place (\$75)
#103
Maracich

2nd Place (\$25)
#218
Joanne McGovern

THERE ARE STILL TICKETS AVAILABLE!

ALL proceeds from this fundraiser will help defray regular operating costs in the parish budget. The parish FUNDRAISING GOAL for 2023-2024 is \$35,000.

For the official rules, terms and conditions, visit our website at www.stpaulviparish.org.

Tickets will also be available for purchase at 40 E. Burlington, Riverside. [Visit our website to download and print the order form.](#) Ticket numbers are assigned in the order payments are received.

Any questions? Please contact Jane Birmingham at jbirmingham@stpaulviparish.org or 708-853-1421. Thank you in advance for supporting the parish and GOOD LUCK!

TAX CREDIT SCHOLARSHIPS SET TO EXPIRE

While the Illinois state legislature has allowed the Invest in Kids Act Tax Credit Scholarship Program to sunset, you can still support St. Mary School and Catholic education this school year and reduce your Illinois income tax bill for up to five years by making a contribution this December.

Many students are currently on the waitlist to receive a tax credit scholarship for this final year of the program. To guarantee that your donation helps a student during the 2023-24 school year, please make your contribution to a scholarship granting organization (SGO) like Empower Illinois or Big Shoulders Fund per the timeline below:

December 20, 2023- deadline to complete a stock or bond donation.

December 22, 2023- deadline to complete an electronic payment donation (e.g., credit card, ACH, e-check/wire transfer)

With the support of your tax credit scholarship donation today, students can receive this year's desperately needed scholarship funds while you receive a 75% state income tax credit for the amount of your donation. Contributions received this December qualify for a tax credit for the 2023 tax year and if you don't use all of your tax credits in 2023, you can roll them forward for up to five years.

We are so grateful for the generosity of our tax credit scholarship donors who have made a Catholic education possible for many of our most vulnerable students over the years. For those who would like more information about the Illinois Tax Credit Scholarship program, please go to empowerillinois.org or contact Jane Birmingham at jbirmingham@stpaulviparish.org or 708-447-1020.





Fr. Luke Spannagel is a member of the team of National Eucharistic Preachers, part of the National Eucharistic Revival. He loves being a spiritual father to many and has a great passion for helping hearts to grow.



Save the Date: **Explanatory Mass!**

January 23, 2024
6:30pm in St. Mary Church

Have you ever thought about the prayers and responses of the Mass... what do they mean? What's the "why" behind what we do in the Mass? Are you ever bored or find your mind wandering off in Mass? In January, our parish will have an explanatory Mass where Fr. Luke will walk through the prayers and gestures, explain the background and meaning of different parts of the Mass, and give some helpful tips for prayer and participating more deeply in our greatest celebration each Sunday-- the Holy Mass!

Third Sunday of Advent

Experiencing Joy Meditation

THE GRACE I SEEK: to live in joy at the coming of Christ.

IN THE NAME OF THE FATHER, AND OF THE SON, AND OF THE HOLY SPIRIT. AMEN.

Pause for a few moments and allow yourself to become aware of Jesus' gift of himself in the Eucharist. Realize that, at this very moment, the Lord of Life is gazing upon you with great love. Allow yourself to receive his loving gaze. You are his beloved child. Rest in his loving gaze. Thank Jesus for the gift of himself in the Eucharist.

ASK FOR THE GRACE: Jesus, help me to joyfully prepare my heart to welcome you.

SCRIPTURE MEDITATION — Read slowly, 3–4 times. Allow the words of Scripture to wash over your mind and heart. Allow the Holy Spirit to speak to you through this passage.

"I rejoice heartily in the LORD, in my God is the joy of my soul; for he has clothed me with a robe of salvation." (Isaiah 61:10)

FOR REFLECTION — Allow yourself to sit with these questions for a while, being attentive to how the Lord is speaking in your heart. How is God inviting me to detach my heart from other loves so that he can be the center and true joy of my soul? Remain in silence with the Lord. Allow him to speak in the silence, in your heart. Receive his presence. If it helps, write down what you sense the Lord is communicating to you during this time of prayer.

CLOSING PRAYER — O God, who sees how your people faithfully await the feast of the Lord's Nativity, enable us, we pray, to attain the joys of so great a salvation and to celebrate them always with solemn worship and glad rejoicing. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God for ever and ever. Amen. (Collect, Third Sunday of Advent)

SUNDAY MASS CONNECTION — Every celebration of the Mass imparts sanctifying grace that helps us to decrease so that our Lord can increase within us. On this Gaudete Sunday, may our lives become a living hymn of praise and thanksgiving to our Eucharistic Lord, who comes to us with humility and love at every Mass. Ask our Lord today for the grace to humbly proclaim the Good News with your life.

LOVE IN ACTION - In the book of Nehemiah, we hear that "... rejoicing in the LORD is [our] strength" (Nehemiah 8:10). This week, respond to the Gospel mandate to care for the poor by reaching out to someone who is homeless or impoverished with a sign of Christ's joy, whether it is a thoughtful card, a pocket Bible with a loving dedication, or some other concrete token.



Parish Announcements & Events



May the Lord Bless You and
Keep You, and
continue to watch
over you.

December 3, 2023
Emilio Armando Ayala

December 10, 2023
Lenna Marilyn Klasek
Rosemary Lella Sundry
Eleanor Mary Francis

CHRISTMAS PARISH OFFICE HOURS

Please note that the office will have shortened hours or will be closed during the following dates:

Friday, December 22 - 10 am to 1 pm
Monday, December 25 - CLOSED
Tuesday, December 26 - CLOSED
Wednesday, December 27 - 3 pm to 6 pm
Friday, December 29 - 10 am to 1 pm
January 1, 2024 - CLOSED

CALLING ALL CHRISTMAS SINGERS!

Please consider joining the Parish Choir for the 10:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Mass. We will also be singing Christmas carols as a congregation the half hour prior to Mass, so come get into the holiday spirit!

Wednesday, December 20th, 7:00p-8:30p p.m. at St. Mary Church

Blessings on your Christmas, and happy singing!



OUR PARISH GIVING TREE

Thank you to those who have picked up a tag to help bring Christmas cheer to children in need in our local community. If you have not turned in your gift, please bring it to the Parish Office as soon as possible. Thank you!

Questions? Contact the Parish Office at 708-447-1020.

Oplatki Christmas Wafers (Oplatek)

Oplatki will be available at both churches and the Parish Office until supplies last.

Envelopes of wafers (2 white and 1 pink) are \$3 each.

The tradition of the Oplatki originated in Poland during Early Christian times. This Christmas Custom began with a simple white wafer, baked from flour and water. The wafers are wonderfully designed to display Christmas images, such as the Nativity.

HOW TO CELEBRATE THE OPLATKI TRADITION

The Oplatki are enjoyed by families, typically right before the Christmas Eve meal. The entire family will gather around the table with the Oplatek. Generally, the eldest member of the family will begin the ritual by breaking off a piece of the wafer and passing it to another family member with a blessing. This blessing can simply consist of what you desire for your loved one in the upcoming year – whether it be good health, success, or happiness. The purpose of this act is primarily to express unconditional love and forgiveness for each member of his or her family.

THE SYMBOLISM

The significance of the Oplatki Christmas wafer is in that it shadows the Eucharistic meal that Catholics participate in at each Mass. Just as we share in the Eucharist as one family in Christ and receive Christ's love through the Eucharist, the Oplatki allows for one's immediate family to come together and share the love they have for one another. This symbolism is deepened by the fact that the name of the town where Jesus Christ was born, Bethlehem, means "House of Bread," which makes the Oplatki tradition an especially beautiful way to celebrate the charity and unity so characteristic of the Christmas season.

YES, EVEN FOR FAMILY PETS!

Although this tradition is primarily enjoyed by the human members of the family, even the family pets can partake in this meal. Traditionally, this corresponds to the animals that were the first to greet Christ at his birth. In current times, this can also represent the important role that pets play in the family. Whereas the wafers are generally white in color, there are colored Oplatki made especially for pets (although both colors are edible by people). Our packs of 10 Oplatki wafers contain 8 white ones for the humans and 2 pink ones for the family pets.

A SYMBOL OF FAMILY UNITY

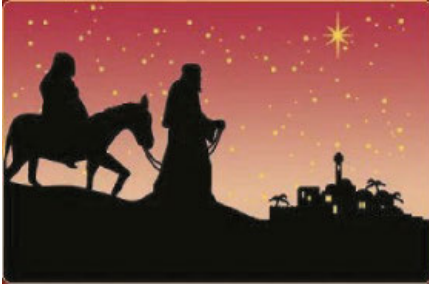
The Oplatki tradition is one that is easy, fun, and deeply meaningful to introduce to the family anytime during the long Christmas season. All it requires is a simple wafer paired with love and affection, and the willingness to share it. This is a heartwarming tradition that will complete your family's time together during the Christmas season.



CELEBRATE THE FIFTH SUNDAY MASS WITH THE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

Members of St. Paul VI Knights of Columbus Bishop Ketteler Council 1628 and their family members recite the Rosary on the Fifth Sunday of the Month. This occurred only five times in 2023. Because the final Fifth Sunday for 2023 occurs on New Years Eve and because the 5 PM Mass will not be offered we will be reciting the Rosary after the 10:00 AM Mass at St. Mary. We invite all parishioners to take 15-20 minutes out of their busy schedules to prayerfully close out 2023, and ring in 2024 by joining us in reciting this beautiful prayer to our Lord's Mother Mary on Sunday December 31. Members also recite the Rosary at 6:30 PM prior to our meetings which are held at 7 PM on the first Wednesday of the month in the Oak Room. All men 18 & older are invited to attend our meetings to find out more about our Order. See our article in the parish bulletin under "Parish & Community Resources" for more information. We wish you a Blessed Christmas and New Year, and Vivat Jesus! which translates into Jesus Lives!

Service Opportunities



CHRISTMAS PREPARATION

Please join the Art & Environment ministry in decorating the St Mary Church and Parish Center on December 23rd for Christmas. Come help spread some cheer!

[St. Paul VI Parish Art & Environment: CHRISTMAS PREPARATION Saturday, December 23rd 9:00AM \(signupgenius.com\)](https://www.signupgenius.com/go/904054EAEA62AAAF1-catholic66#/)

CATHOLIC CHARITIES (CC) - TUESDAY SUPPER

CC Cicero began the Tuesday Supper program at the beginning of the pandemic in October 2020. The geographic area that is served is mostly the near-west suburbs of Berwyn, Cicero, and South Oak Park. The CC clients served are seniors and the working poor. **St. Paul VI Parish is a monthly sponsor.** The Service Outreach Committee coordinates a supper on the 3rd Tuesday of every month; different menus are planned. Thank you to all who have helped us to help others, especially those who help on a regular monthly basis.



Volunteers are needed on the 3rd Tuesday of every month

1. **Cooks & Bakers** – Prepare food for 24, ready to serve in disposable trays delivered between 4:45 – 5 pm to St. Mary's Parking Lot near the entrance off of Herrick Street.
2. **Drivers** – needed at 4:40 pm to meet at St. Mary's Parking Lot to load up prepared food and drop off by 5:30 pm at the CC Cicero location where the food is served.

Our next supper will be on Tuesday, December 19th. Check the SignUpGenius link for more info: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/904054EAEA62AAAF1-catholic66#/>



FOOD PANTRY - STOCK THE PANTRY!!

The Food Pantry stays open year round. Please continue to support the Food Pantry by keeping it stocked year round. Bring your donation for the Catholic Charities Pantry items to the Parish Office at 40 E. Burlington, Riverside. Canned goods: soup, vegetables, fruit, tuna, and pasta, pasta sauce, rice, cereal, and mac n cheese are welcome. In addition, gift cards can be placed in an envelope and dropped at the office mailbox. Please label the envelope CC Food Pantry Collection.

Thank you for your generosity and continued support!

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS COLLECTING DIAPERS FOR CATHOLIC CHARITIES

Thank You for your generous donations to the ongoing Knights of Columbus Diaper Drive for Catholic Charities. Any sizes will help families and babies in need but **sizes 5 & 6 are the most needed.** Please drop off your donations at the parish office located at 40 E Burlington St, Riverside, or Mater Christi Church at 2401 S. 10th Ave., North Riverside.



FEEDING THE HUNGRY

Looking for volunteers to help feed 40 meals to the hungry for a homeless shelter located on Lake Street in Oak Park on the first Friday of each month. Each volunteer makes 5-10 dinners on a menu of their

choosing comprising of an entree, a vegetable, and a dessert. Containers are supplied. Meals are delivered.

Interested? Contact Kathy Burns, burns.kathleen@comcast.net
Sponsored by the St Paul VI Women's Society.

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL

Please consider helping serve the poor by joining the Society of St. Vincent de Paul or by making a donation in the donation box found in the back of both Churches. Thank You for your generosity!



SAINT KATERI'S CLOSET

We are still accepting First Communion outfits for our St. Kateri's Closet. We are looking to build a closet of dresses and suits for children and parents to shop and borrow for this special occasion. Items can then be returned freshly laundered for the next family to use.

There is no cost to the families. Donations can be dropped off at:

St. Hugh Faith Formation Center
2400 S. 10th Ave., North Riverside

St. Paul VI Parish Office (Lyne Parish Office)
40 E. Burlington St., Riverside

Questions? Contact Chris at 708-224-9993 or jcvalfred@outlook.com

If you know of someone who needs assistance, or would like to join St. Vincent DePaul, please call the office at 708-447-1020, X217.

Parish & Community Resources

ST. PAUL VI PARISH WOMEN'S SOCIETY

The St. Paul VI Women's Society holds its monthly gatherings on the first Wednesday of every month, September through June, unless otherwise noted. The meetings begin at 7:00 p.m. in the Marian Room (lower level) of Mater Christi Church. Prior to the meeting, everyone is invited to church for the Rosary at 6:30 pm. For information, contact Co-President Nicki Mendez, 708-539-6575, nicki828@myyahoo.com; or Co-President Theresa Mendez, 815-383-8841, thrmndz2055@gmail.com.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

Bishop Ketteler Council 1628 Catholic men 18 and older are invited to our monthly meeting held on the first Wednesday of the month at 7:00 p.m. in the basement of St. Mary Church (Oak Room). Info: Roger Jensen at (630) 418-3308.

HISPANIC MINISTRY / MINISTERIO HISPANO

Join the St. Paul VI Hispanic Committee to talk about promoting our Latino faith and share with the parish community.

For questions, contact Matthew Brophy mbrophy@archchicago.org or call 708-447-1020.

Únase al Comité Hispano de St. Paul VI para hablar sobre promover nuestra fe latina y compartir con la comunidad Parroquial.

Si tiene preguntas, comuníquese con Matthew Brophy mbrophy@archchicago.org o llame al 708-447-1020.

ST. PAUL VI HOLY NAME SOCIETY

St Paul VI Parish Holy Name Society (HNS) meets monthly from September through May each term. General meetings are held on the second Friday of each month with a Mass celebrated the Sunday immediately following the meeting. Other HNS events are held throughout the calendar year with information posted in advance in the bulletin. For information contact Ted Watylyk at stpaulvihns@gmail.com.

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

Prayer Shawl Ministry meets twice a month to pray, knit and crochet. Please let us know when someone in your family or neighborhood is in need of the comfort these prayer filled shawls, hats & scarves provide.

For information, call the parish office at 708-447-1020.

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY

St. Paul VI's Conference of the St. Vincent DePaul Society helps those in the surrounding areas with assistance. If you need assistance or know someone that needs assistance, please call the parish office and leave a message for St. Vincent DePaul and a volunteer will contact you.

BAPTISM OF INFANTS

Second and fourth Sundays at St. Mary, first and third Sundays at Mater Christi. Register for Parent Preparation Session by calling the Parish Office at 708-447-1020.

MARRIAGE PREPARATION

This process begins with an interview with a Pastoral Staff member. No date for the ceremony can be reserved until this interview is completed. For more information, call the Parish Office at 708-447-1020.

ANOINTING OF THE SICK

If you would like to receive an anointing, or you know someone who would like to receive this Sacrament, please call the parish office (708-447-1020) to schedule an appointment to arrange a visit.

FUNERAL PLANNING & ARRANGEMENTS

St. Paul VI Parish will assist you in preparing and customizing the Funeral Mass for your loved one. We are here to be of service to you during your time of sorrow.

Please contact the parish office at 708-447-1020 to make arrangements.

There is a simple outline of choices you may use to personalize the Mass for you and your family. All of these are suggestions; you may choose any sacred music that is familiar or important to you.

Contact the parish office for assistance in any musical questions or special requests.

For a complete list of the Outline of Funeral Mass, please visit <https://www.stpaulviparish.org/funerals.html>

COUNSELING SERVICES

St. Paul VI offers counseling services to our parishioners. All issues are treated with respect and confidentiality.

Appointments are set at your convenience and are held at the Pastoral Center or other suitable location.

Clients are served on a sliding scale and whenever possible insurance reimbursement will be encouraged and supported.

Meet our parish counselor Damaris Colón-Soto. She is now available for confidential counseling in person at the Lyne Pastoral Center or St. Hugh Faith Formation Center from 9 am-4 pm. To schedule an appointment, please email damariscolon.claret@gmail.com or call 773-313-2492 (Se habla español). She will be available to meet in person at the Lyne Parish Office on Fridays.

For reading resources, visit stpaulviparish.org.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE RESOURCE

FOR HELP 24/7

National Domestic Violence Hotline 1-800-799-7233

Love is Respect (For Teens) 1-866-331-9474

Text: LOVEIS to 22522

For online resources, visit <https://www.stpaulviparish.org/domestic-violence-resources.html>

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