



1836

St. Paul Parish

Established 1839

December 17, 2023

Third Sunday of Advent



1846

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Penance Service is Wednesday, December 20th, 6:30pm

Confession is healing. Confession is an encounter with the Love of God through a priest. Jesus made this sacrament available to us so that our forgiveness would be tangible and real to us. Please consider coming to our Advent Penance Service

Christmas Masses:

Christmas Eve Children's Mass: 5pm

Christmas Day: 9am

Father Baier has appointed Tammy Jackson and Cindy Smith to the Pastoral Council. Thank you everyone for your nominations.

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY—We are beginning a new study in January and welcome anyone who would like to join us. We will meet each Tuesday from 8-9AM. Our next book will be "In the School of the Holy Spirit" by Jacques Phillippe. Questions? Please contact Kelly Mullen, 503-507-5904 or Gwen Owens, 500-800-1191

MASS SCHEDULE

Saturday Vigil	6:00 PM
Sunday	9:00 AM
Tuesday	6:00 PM
Wednesday	8:30 AM
Thursday-Sat	8:30 AM
ADORATION	
Tuesday	5:00-6:00 PM
Thursday	9:00AM-noon

CONFESSION

Tuesday-after Mass until last confession.
 Friday 8:05-8:20 AM
 Saturdays 4:00-5:15 PM
 And by appointment or drop in at the office as
 Father is available.
 Parish office: 503-633-4611
 sbaier@archdpdx.org
PARISH OFFICE
 FRIDAY 12:30-3

Saint Paul Parish - December 17, 2023

Mass Intentions for December 17-December 25, 2023

12/17	Sun	9:00 AM	People of the Parish
12/18	Mon	NO MASS	
12/19	Tue	6:00 PM	+ Ed & Edna Murphy
12/20	Wed	8:30 AM	
12/20	Wed	6:30 PM	Advent Penance Service
12/21	Thu	8:30 AM	+ Cheryl LeDoux
12/22	Fri	8:30 AM	
12/23	Sat	8:30 AM	
12/23	Sat	6:00 PM	
12/24	Sun	9:00 AM	People of the Parish
12/24	Sun	5:00 PM	Christmas Eve—Children's Mass
12/25	Mon	9:00 AM	Christmas Day

**Collections:
December 10, 2023
\$3001.00**

**December 8, 2023
Immaculate Conception
\$498.00**

*If you would like something
included in the bulletin please
suggest it by noon
on Tuesday.
(503) 633-4611
stpaulparish@stpaultel.com*

Youth group recent trip to The Grotto.



From the desk of Father Baier...

Reflection 8 - The Liturgy of the Eucharist, Part II

When the altar is ready and prepared for the sacrifice of the Mass, the priest has already prepared *himself* to be worthy of offering the Sacrifice. We have collectively asked God to accept our sacrifice for our good and the good of all God's holy Church. Occasionally, the priest will incense the gifts, the cross, and the altar itself (which, again, models the rituals of the Temple priests). The incense evokes the image of the burnt offerings on the Temple that would rise up to God in their smoke for him to accept. Incense also uses the sense of smell, further emphasizing that Christ is present among us through every one of our senses at the Mass. The deacon will then incense the priest because the priest will be offering the sacrifice for us.

The role of the priest is extremely important for the Mass, beyond what we in the congregation see. He must go through an extensive method of preparation in order to be made worthy of offering the Sacrifice. Many of these things are details that we do not see, and this preparation takes place even before the Mass begins.

Every part of the priest's participation in the Mass is intentional. Something as simple as vesting, or "getting dressed" for Mass takes on profound theological meaning for a priest. Before the priest vests for Mass, he will wash his hands and even this simple action might be accompanied by a traditional prayer that asks God for the strength to be interiorly clean in mind and heart for what he is about to do on behalf of the church.

The garments that a priest puts on are also very important. The role of a priest is not passive or insignificant; he will be performing the most important act a human person can, and just like the priests of the Temple in the Old Testament, their garments should signify this. God Himself instructed Moses exactly how a priest should be vested for offering sacrifices (you can find this in chapter 28 of Exodus), and we continue to use God's instruction for Mass. Every layer the priest puts on can involve a specific prayer, further indicating that *nothing* involving the Mass is done frivolously.

The priest is not celebrating the Mass by himself; Christ is celebrating the Mass through the priest. Therefore, the garments that a priest wears in a way take the focus away from the human being and bring our focus back to Christ, the one who offers the sacrifice of the Mass.

The final act of preparation a priest undergoes before offering the Sacrifice occurs at the altar. It recalls all the preparation he went through to get to this point by washing his hands at the altar while saying a prayer silently (Psalm 51:2): "Lord, wash away my iniquities, cleanse me from my sins".

The fact that so many of these reverent and intentional acts are done away from the public eye reminds us that the Mass is not being "performed", nor is it a spectacle for human eyes. It is done for God, and what we do away from the public eye is the purest expression of who we truly are. It also tells us that the Mass is not something that can be done frivolously. The role of a priest is necessary and incredibly special - as humans, we are blessed to have among us men who have accepted this solemn calling. But this does not mean we sit by and watch them from the sidelines; we have prepared the priest as a community in every moment outside of the Mass so that he is ready when his priestly duties are needed for the Mass. He offers this Sacrifice on our behalf.

SPPS Spotlight

YOUR GIFT GOES TWICE AS FAR!

Through the wonderful generosity of the Weston Grant, St. Paul Parochial School once again has the opportunity to obtain matching tuition assistance funds in the amount of \$45,000 for the 2023-2024 school year! Mr. Weston through the OCF Joseph E. Weston Public Foundation will match the tuition assistance donation of every dollar donated to St. Paul Parochial School.

Last year, we reached our matching goal of \$40,000 and were able to provide tuition assistance to our school families. These families often contribute their time and energy to the school, but because of circumstances are not able to contribute the full amount of tuition.

Your gift (both large and small) helps make it possible for these students to attend SPPS, and provides a way for SPPS to continue to meet the needs of all of our students.

Thank you for your generosity. You are making a huge difference in the lives of these students and families!

Sincerely,
Amanda Davidson
Principal

To take part in this matching donation opportunity, please mail your donation indicating "Tuition Assistance" on the check to PO Box 188 St. Paul, OR 97137 or drop off your gift to the school office. Your donation is tax deductible.

SACRAMENTS	PARISH OFFICE										
BAPTISM, MARRIAGE, ANOINTING OF THE SICK, FUNERAL	OPEN WED & THURS 9-12 AND FRIDAY 12:30-3 20217 Christie Street NE P O Box 454 St Paul, Oregon 97137 (503) 633-4611 (503) 804-3123 (Emergencies) stpaulparish@stpaultel.com www.stpaulparishweb.org										
PARISH PASTORAL TEAM	*****										
<table border="0"> <tr><td>Pastor</td><td>Father Scott Baier</td></tr> <tr><td>Sec/Bookkeeper</td><td>Theresa Wolf</td></tr> <tr><td>Finance Council</td><td>Bryan Hockett, Chair</td></tr> <tr><td>Pastoral Council</td><td>Andrea Britten, Chair</td></tr> <tr><td>Development</td><td>Laurie Nicklous</td></tr> </table>	Pastor	Father Scott Baier	Sec/Bookkeeper	Theresa Wolf	Finance Council	Bryan Hockett, Chair	Pastoral Council	Andrea Britten, Chair	Development	Laurie Nicklous	ST. PAUL PAROCHIAL SCHOOL OFFICE 20327 Christie Street NE P O Box 188 St Paul, Oregon 97137 503-633-4622
Pastor	Father Scott Baier										
Sec/Bookkeeper	Theresa Wolf										
Finance Council	Bryan Hockett, Chair										
Pastoral Council	Andrea Britten, Chair										
Development	Laurie Nicklous										
ST PAUL PAROCHIAL SCHOOL											
<table border="0"> <tr><td>Principal</td><td>Amanda Davidson</td></tr> <tr><td>School Advisory Chair</td><td>Ken Wolf</td></tr> </table>	Principal	Amanda Davidson	School Advisory Chair	Ken Wolf							
Principal	Amanda Davidson										
School Advisory Chair	Ken Wolf										

Welcome to St. Paul Parish. We extend our hearts and hands in Christian fellowship to you here celebrating with us, whether long-time residents or newly arrived in the parish. We thank God you are with us. To become part of our parish family, or if you have updated information, please fill out this form and place it in the collection basket or mail to the Parish Office.

Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Email Address: _____ Phone: _____