



1836

St. Paul Parish

Established 1839

December 24, 2023
Fourth Sunday of Advent



1846

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Have a most blessed and Joyful Christmas! As we celebrate Christ's birth again we celebrate his deciding to enter into our lives and into not only our joy but our suffering as well. His yes, and Mary's yes, to God the Father, elevates our lives. Our lives are mingled with the divine. God becomes human so that we can become like God. He offers to us eternal life, life with God forever. A life is given to us to praise him forever. I remember thinking as a child that forever is a very long time and how would I be able to live that long without getting bored! Funny as that is, it shows the mind of a child who does not trust in the grace of God. God's grace is sufficient for every moment and if we make it a point of our lives here on earth to praise and glorify God, we shall have sufficient practice to do it forever in heaven. Let us now not be embarrassed to recognize the grace of God in our midst and what he has done, does now, and will continue to do for those who believe in him, praise him and glorify him! God is good and as the first reading says he rejoices in us a bridegroom rejoices in his bride. May we live with him forever who has come into our lives. –Fr. Scott Baier

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 24, 2023

Mass Intentions for December 24-December 31, 2023

12/24	Sun	9:00 AM	People of the Parish
12/24	Sun	5:00 PM	People of the Parish
12/25	Mon	9:00 AM	+Marie Schloer
12/26	Tue	6:00 PM	+Jamie Matthern
12/27	Wed	8:30 AM	+Fr. Jerome Young
12/27	Wed	7:00 PM	+Fr. Tom Hosinski
12/28	Thu	8:30 AM	+John Freschette
12/29	Fri		NO MASS
12/30	Sat	8:30 AM	+Fritz Koch
12/30	Sat	6:00 PM	+Oscar Baier
12/31	Sun	9:00 AM	People of the Parish

**Collections:
December 24, 2023
\$4891.00**

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

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 Fr. Jacques Phillippe.

Questions? Please contact Kelly Mullen, 503-507-5904 or Gwen Owens, 500-800-1191

The parish is supporting two Easter preparation groups that will begin on January 1. **Exodus 90** for men. And **Magnify 90** for women. Both these groups journey together in asceticism, prayer, and communion as they prepare for 90 days for the coming of Easter. If you are interested please visit exodus90.com or mag90.com to learn more. If you are still interested please contact Fr. Scott Baier via sbaier@archdpx.org to express your interest. **This starts January 1.** There is an app available on your phone to guide you through the 90 days and you will meet once a week either virtually or in person to check in on the journey either with Fr. Baier, for those men in Exodus 90, or with a woman leader, for those doing Magnify 90.

From the Magnify 90 website: "Men and women are complementary partners. We don't seek to be opposed to each other, nor the same as each other. We strive for the perfect union as Adam & Eve had before the fall; and this helps us *both* strive for the perfect union with God. We have *one* human nature, yet two unique identities as man and woman. Exodus 90 gives men a way to root out attachments while fostering brotherhood that promotes them being spiritual leaders, that is, Christ to their (future/current) family/parish. Magnify 90 seeks to foster the complementary nature that God intended for men and women. If women want a more-perfect freedom, we must complement our male counterparts—not seek to meld into one identity. Catholic women want equality and affirmation of our own dignity, not to take on the dignity of men. This is good! We are equal in dignity, so if we want to support men doing Exodus 90, the best thing we can do is find our own way to practice asceticism."

From the desk of Father Baier...

Reflection 9 - The Eucharistic Prayer, Part I

Every single moment of the Christian life is meant to bring us to an eventual personal encounter with Christ. That means that when Mass begins, we start to take the first steps toward a real encounter with the person of Jesus. Until now in the Mass, we have sensed Christ's presence in subtle ways, even acknowledging his presence through the Word, but now we have reached the moment in which our encounter with him becomes physical, tangible, and complete.

Every moment of our Christian life leads us to *this* specific moment of the Mass. Because this is the most important moment of the Mass and the Source and Summit of the Christian Life, it will require a deep and extensive analysis. So, for this reflection, we will focus on the first part of the Eucharistic prayer.

It begins with a moment of community participation that starts with the repeating call-and-response found throughout the Mass: "The Lord be with you—and with your Spirit". God is truly present here with us. Then, we say: "Lift up your hearts—we lift them up to the Lord" While the priest has his hands extended in the ancient *orans* position praying in the person of Christ, we as a congregation emulate the interior petition that is most often found in artistic depictions of Mary; instead of having her hands outstretched when addressing God, she keeps them close to her heart with her eyes raised to the Heavens, treasuring all these things in her heart (Luke 2:51).

Finally, we say, "Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God—it is right and just." With this final response, the priest speaks to God on our behalf that it is truly right and just, our duty, to give Him thanks because it is due to Him. This prayer is called the Preface, and it proclaims the greatness of God that is found throughout history, the history we have been reliving throughout the Mass, and in our own lives. The Preface ends with the Priest calling upon us to repeat the words uttered by the choirs of Angels in Heaven.

The Sanctus begins with "Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of Hosts..." Because the Mass is inherently biblical and is based entirely on what can be found in Scripture, we receive these words from both the Old Testament in Isaiah and the New Testament in the book of Revelation. These are the words uttered by the purest beings in the immediate presence of God in Heaven. This is a *big* deal. It reveals to us that at this exact moment in the Mass, and *only* in the Mass, we are receiving a glimpse of Heaven itself.

The glimpse of Heaven is not because of the community of the priest or even the beauty of the church. It is the eventual presentation of the Eucharist. Combined with these words is the salutation that Jesus was greeted with upon entering Jerusalem for the last time before his death on the cross, further emphasizing that Christ's sacrifice is the Heavenly vision.

The congregation now kneels. We kneel because we are about to experience something monumental. This is not "celebratory" in the way other moments of the Mass are when we stand together. Neither is this moment passive to that we may sit while this is happening. Kneeling indicated that something is going on that requires us to humble ourselves to understand it.

Some of the first words uttered by the Priest when we kneel are called the Epiclesis-invoking the Holy Spirit to come down upon the gifts made by human hands so that they may become the body and blood of our Lord, Jesus Christ, at whose command we celebrate these mysteries. The priest extends his hands over the gifts in the same way the Temple priest would extend his hands over the sacrifices that were presented on the altar in ancient Judaism.

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	WED 9:30 AM—11:30 AM THURS 9:30AM-NOON 20217 Christie Street NE P O Box 454 St Paul, Oregon 97137 (503) 633-4611 (503) 804-3123 (Emergencies) stpaulparish@stpauzel.com www.stpaulparishweb.org										
PARISH PASTORAL TEAM	*****										
<table> <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
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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: _____

- New Parishioner New Address New Phone Visitor I would like Father to call me
- Interested in parish ministries I would like weekly offertory envelopes