

March 03, 2024

Third Sunday *of* Lent

God so loved the world that he
gave his only Son, so that every-
one who believes in him might
have eternal life.
- John 3:16

WEEKLY MASS SCHEDULE Upper Church

Monday - Friday

6:25 am
8:30 am

Saturday

8:30 am (weekday Mass)
4:30 pm (vigil)

Sunday

7:30 am
9:00 am
10:30 am
12:00 pm

MONTHLY FAMILY MASS

2nd Sunday @ 10:30 am
Holy Family Chapel

UPCOMING TEEN MASS

Sunday, May 19th @ 12:00 pm
Upper Church

CONFESSION Upper Church

Monday - Friday

8:00 am - 8:15 am

Saturday

3:00 pm - 4:00pm

RECTORY OFFICE HOURS

Monday - Friday

9:00 am - 5:00 pm
closed from 12-1 pm

Saturday

9:00 am - 1:00pm

847-825-7605

ST. PAUL OF THE CROSS
AS FOR ME AND MY HOUSE, WE WILL SERVE THE LORD

JOSHUA 24:15

320 South Washington Street,
Park Ridge, Illinois, 60068

March 03, 2024

THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT

Schedule

WEEKLY MASS SCHEDULE

Upper Church

Monday through Friday 6:25 am
8:30 am
Saturday (weekday Mass) 8:30 am
Saturday (vigil) 4:30 pm
Sunday 7:30 am
9:00 am
10:30 am
12:00 pm

MONTHLY FAMILY MASS

Holy Family Chapel

2nd Sunday Family Mass 10:30 am

TEEN MASS (open to the public)

Upper Church

Sunday, May 19th @ 12:00 pm

CONFESSIONS

in vestibule of Upper Church

Monday through Friday 8-8:15 am
Saturday 3-4:00 pm

FUNERALS

Monday through Saturday Morning

WEDDINGS

Friday and Saturday

BAPTISMS

Saturday and Sunday

Baptisms

Santino Porcelli

Son of Alessandro Procelli
and Annalisa Lappo

David James Pericht

Son of James Pericht and
Katherine Nanninga

Scarlett Belle Nalli

Daughter of Anthony Nalli
and Jennifer Degnan

Dermot Frank Reiss

Son of Kyle Reiss and
Siobhan Barrett



Pray for our Sick

Names Stay in Bulletin for 2 months

Delaney Bartz
Julie Benedetto-Wilcox
Ray Benedetto
Julie Finan
Donald Izban
Georgiana T. Glennon
Jaime
Laura
Rose
Stanislaw Kazmierczak
Carole Zachary

In Loving Memory

Please pray for the souls of
the faithful departed in our
SPC community.

Angela Balice
Rev. Daniel Smilanec

About the Cover Artist

Caroline Kurt is a sophomore at
Hillsdale College where she stud-
ies English and Art. In her spare
time, she enjoys reading, trying
new recipes and spending time
with her family.

Stewardship Report

WEEKLY OFFERING (February 18th - 24th)

Envelopes	\$16,887.00
Loose	\$5,602.05
Electronic Giving	\$10,261.18
Total Weekly Offering	\$32,750.23

2024 ANNUAL CATHOLIC APPEAL

Thank you to those who've already made a gift. Data coming soon!

ADDITIONAL FINANCIAL DATA

Sunday Giving FY24 Year to Date (July 1st through February 24th)	\$1,187,923.62
Sunday Giving FY24 vs Budget (July 1st through December 31st)	+\$22,355.94

Readings for the Week

Sunday: Ex 20:1-17 or 20:1-3, 7-8, 12-17/Ps 19:8, 9, 10, 11 (Jn 6:68c)/1 Cor 1:22-25/ Jn 2:13-25
Scrutiny: Ex 17:3-7/Ps 95:1-2, 6-7, 8-9 (8)/
Rom 5:1-2, 5-8/Jn 4:5-42 or 4:5-15, 19b-26, 39a, 40-42

Monday: 2 Kgs 5:1-15ab/Ps 42:2, 3; 43:3,4/Lk 4:24-30

Tuesday: Dn 3:25, 34-43/Ps 25:4-5ab, 6 and 7bc, 8-9/Mt 18:21-35

Wednesday: Jer 7:23-28/Ps 95:1-2, 6-7, 8-9/Lk 11:14-23

Thursday: Jer 17:5-10/Ps 1:1-2, 3, 4 and 6/Lk 16:19-31

Friday: Hos 14:2-10/Ps 81:6c-8a, 8bc-9, 10-11ab, 14 and 17/Mk 12:28-34

Saturday: Hos 6:1-6/Ps 51:3-4, 18-19, 20-21ab/Lk 18:9-14

Next Sunday: 2 Chr 36:14-16, 19-23/Ps 137:1-2, 3, 4-5, 6 (6ab)/Eph 2:4-10/Jn 3:14-21 Scrutiny: 1 Sm 16:1b, 6-7, 10-13a/Ps 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6 (1)/Eph 5:8-14/Jn 9:1-41 or 9:1, 6-9, 13-17, 34-38

LetterS from a Pastor to his People



Dear Parishioners,

When Jesus had finished cleansing the temple, which would have been an incredibly dramatic scene, the people standing around asked him, "What sign can you show us for doing this?" I could imagine Jesus catching his breath amidst fluttering birds with hay, coins, and broken tables scattered on the ground. It

would be like a parent walking into the bedroom of two children having a pillow-fight. A total mess.

The people who question Jesus don't seem to be upset the way a parent would be upset walking into the disaster zone that is their child's bedroom. They don't even want to know why Jesus was doing this. It's like they already understood why Jesus would do this. The Jews themselves accepted the temple was in a corrupt, pitiable state. It needed to be cleaned out. They were probably relieved Jesus took it upon himself to drive out the money changers and animals.

Rather, the authorities wanted to know what approval Jesus had for doing this, for he wasn't the chief priest, nor was he in charge of the temple. They're missing the point. The temple has been cleansed. The goal of proper worship has been achieved! This is something Jews would have been looking forward to for decades. Now that it's here, why trifle over how it got done? Why not just go forward with a new temple and a new era of worship?

Jesus comes periodically into our heart, into our home, and into our church to whip us into shape. We read or hear something and we realize we need to change. Or, something out of the ordinary happens in our home—an illness, a spouse leaving, a flooded basement—and we realize the way we're operating at home needs to change. Or, we get a new priest or a new pope or whoever who shakes us up, and the Church realizes it needs to be attentive to something new (see Pope Francis). All of these happenings are Jesus coming in with his bullwhip.

While we know innately the shakeup was needed for we were not happy with the way things had been going, we generally resist the change. We don't want to take a risk and would rather go back to the old, mediocre, joyless routine.

Pay attention to little changes in your life. Ask God for the grace to take advantage of the

moment and go forward with your new setting. Generally it's our Lord's attempt to make our lives better. He cleansed the temple not because he was a neat freak, but because he wanted to help the Jewish people.

+

Many of our teens will be away this weekend on the annual **CRUX Overnight Retreat**. Please keep them in your prayers, as well as the adult team leaders. May this be a profound experience of Jesus for them all.

If you missed last week's bulletin, please pray for the repose of **Fr. Dan Smilanic**, who passed away on Tuesday, February 20th. God bless Father Smilanic and his many years of service as a priest.

Our **Wednesday morning Scripture Seminar** will be at 9am in the Holy Family Chapel this week. All are welcome to discuss the upcoming Sunday readings. **Stations of the Cross** will be this Friday at 7pm in the Church.

Thank you to those who have contributed to our annual Lenten **Almsgiving Project**. Next weekend we will be hearing from our seminarian Lee Noel about his experience in the Diocese of Cheyenne, Wyoming, the area we are supporting this year. You can find donation envelopes and flyers about the effort in the church.

Finally, we are looking to begin a new ministry here in the parish: **Wedding Mentor Couples**. This would be a married couple here in the parish who works with an engaged couple preparing for the Sacrament of Marriage at Saint Paul of the Cross. These mentor couples are different from the wedding coordinators, who run the rehearsal and attend to the bridal party on the day of the wedding. The mentor couple would work with the couple in the months leading up to the wedding day, giving them advice and wisdom about marriage, life in the church, prayer, and so on. The mentor couple might also check in after the wedding with the newlyweds, helping get them plugged into the church. If you are interested in being a mentor couple, please reach out to Nick Testa (nicktesta@spc-church.org) in the parish office. This would be a great service to our parish and to our young married couples, and it might also be helpful for your own marriage!

Yours in Christ,

Fr. James Wallace

Community Reflections

The Merciful Anger of Jesus



Watch your fellow churchgoers today as the priest or deacon reads the story of Jesus raising hell (or perhaps he’s raising heaven?) in the temple square. Dollars to donuts, they’ll be squirming.

As Catholics, we have become very uncomfortable with Angry Jesus. He makes us cringe in the same way that the Old Testament God does when He calls Himself “jealous” and talks about punishment. That level of intensity makes us recoil. If it were present in a human relationship, it would be toxic and abusive, because in humanity, fierceness and love rarely coexist in a healthy way.

But what a tragedy it would be for us to mistake our relationship with God for our relationship with our spouse, our best friend, or even our human father. Because we cannot see clearly, we would mistake His zeal for anger and His law for diktat.

The strong and sure movement of a wave against a rocky cliff will, over time, erode its surface, just as an overabundance of raindrops will flood a city. We do not call the water callous and cruel. We still luxuriate in its coolness and refreshment. Its destructive powers don’t negate the life-giving properties of water. We do not demand that water apologize to us for being strong.

Fierce, uncompromising — but also, soft and merciful. How can God — and God’s law — be both, at the same time? How can Christ cast a whip at someone’s foot, overturn a table and scatter coins? How can the law of God be perfect, as the Psalm says, and refresh the soul — while demanding so much of it?

All I can say is, thank God for Angry Jesus. We need his fierceness and thank God it does not wane because it confuses us. Thank God his mercy does not decrease because we doubt it.

“For the foolishness of God is wiser than human wisdom, and the weakness of God is stronger than human strength.” — 1 Corinthians 1:25 on it?

By Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman
©LPi

Adoration Chapel

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION CHAPEL

COME SPEND SOME TIME WITH JESUS!

Our Adoration Chapel is open from 5 am until 11 pm.

Our current adorer schedule is pictured below. Red boxes indicate where there are no committed adorers. We need at least two committed adorers for each slot before we can reopen during the night. Yellow slots are when we have only one committed adorer; additional commitments are needed to fortify the schedule. Green indicates two or more adorers are present.

If you would like to sign up for a timeslot, please call the parish office at 847-825-7605 or email adorationchapel@spc-church.org.

	Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
12:00 AM							
1:00 AM							
2:00 AM							
3:00 AM							
4:00 AM							
5:00 AM							
6:00 AM		clean		clean		clean	
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10:00 PM							
11:00 PM							

Mass Schedule

FEAST DAY	TIME	PRESIDER	LECTOR	EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS	MASS INTENTIONS
MON, 3/4 Saint Casimir	6:25 am UC	Fr. James			Wanda Debicki
	8:30 am UC	Fr. Nick			Max Diaz, J. J. Bittenbinder, Thomas Horner, Daniel Heneghan, Fr. Dan Smilanic
TUE, 3/5 Lenten Weekday	6:25 am UC	Fr. Nick			Joseph Seno
	8:30 am UC	Fr. James			Adelaide Semelmann, Dave Geis, Judith Maness, Jolanta Bialobrzewski, Jan Bialobrzewski, Carrie Sassenick, Stefanie DiCristofano
WED, 3/6 Lenten Weekday	6:25 am UC	Fr. James			Catherine Jarzombek
	8:30 am UC	Fr. James			Louis Sottile
THUR, 3/7 Saints Perpetua and Felicity	6:25 am UC	Fr. Nick			Louise Fanchi
	8:30 am UC	Fr. Nick			John A. Slowiak, Birthday Blessings for Jim Lynch
FRI, 3/8 Saint John of God	6:25 am UC	Fr. James			Salvatore Gumina
	8:30 am UC	Fr. Nick			Holy Souls in Purgatory
SAT, 3/9 Saint Frances of Rome	8:30 am UC	Fr. Nick			Patrick Connelly
	4:30 pm UC	Fr. James	Mary Grace Oliver, Kerry Plencner	Geri Weissmann, Joseph Feeney, Joanne Cichon-Feeney, Carol Welton	William R. Mooney, William Bradna, Mari-Donna Ekstrom-Roy, Joseph Nowak, Therese Hennessy, Elisabeth Butterwegge
SUN, 3/10 Fourth Sunday of Lent	7:30 am UC	Fr. Nick	Kirke Machon, Frances Johnson	Michael Angelini, Kathy Jarosch, Eugene Cooney, Patty Bacci	People of the Parish
	9:00 am UC	Fr. James	Vincent Santucci, Anne Scialabba	Bill Kesler, Patricia Thomson	Madeline Nast
	10:30 am HFC	Fr. James			Paula Kobel
	10:30 am UC	Fr. Nick*/MN	Susan Davis, David Dempsey	Virginia Underwood, Patty Beaudet-Frances, Mary Nicalau, Gloria Peisker	Bridget Madden, Louise and Louis Mergoni, Betty Mailander, Una McGlew
	12:00 pm UC	Fr. James	Chris Paoelli, Izabella Stachowicz	Katie Johnston	Ervin and Caterina Palacz
*LEGEND: /MN = Deacon Martin Nyberg preaching					

Events This Week

DATE / TIME	LOCATION	EVENT
Sunday, March 3rd @ 8:30 pm	Morello Parish Life Center Gym	Pick Up Basketball
Monday, March 4th @ 7:30 pm	Kinane Center	That Man is You
Wednesday, March 6th @ 9:00 am	Holy Family Chapel	Scripture Seminar with Father James
Thursday, March 7th @ 7:30 pm	Kinane Center	Praying with Scripture (Lectio Divina)
Friday, March 8th @ 7:00 pm	Upper Church	Stations of the Cross

Opportunities at St. Paul of the Cross

HIRING MAINTENANCE WORKER

St. Paul of the Cross is looking for someone to fill a full-time Custodian/Maintenance Worker position. Primary responsibilities include cleaning, snow removal, and room setup and tear downs.

This job calls for demanding physical labor, including heavy lifting.

If interested, please contact:
Nick Testa, Campus Manager

847-825-7605, x2250
nicktesta@spc-church.org

SCRIPTURE SEMINAR with FATHER JAMES

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 6, 2024.
9:00 am
Holy Family Chapel

Please join Fr. James at the next
SCRIPTURE SEMINAR
on Wednesday, March 6th at
9:00 am in the Holy Family
Chapel.

The group will discuss and pray over a scripture passage, and try to use the sacred text to deal with some questions we all may have. Sessions are not dependent on one another, so attend at your leisure. No fee or registration or prior knowledge of the Bible required.

Uncle Pete's Meal Collection



Thank you to all that participated and volunteered time for the collection of Uncle Pete's this weekend. If you weren't able to donate lunches and still want to make a donation, please visit their site at <https://www.osbchicago.org/unclepeteministries>.

St Paul of the Cross Blood Drive 2024 - Palm Sunday

March 24, 2024 from
8AM-2PM
Morello Parish Life Center

Appointments ensure appropriate staffing and quicker donations!

Walk-ins are welcome, but may have to wait.

Call the help desk with medical or travel questions (877) 258-4825 option #1

Please contact Christine Perille, 847-494-5150 or Eileen Kaczmarek, 847-533-7952 with questions or to make an appointment. Or visit <https://www.vitalant.org/> and use code ORDORG08 for St. Paul of the Cross.

**YOU'RE
SOMEBODY'S
TYPE**

Announcements

Uncle Pete's Meal Collection (continued)

How awesome are the people of St. Paul of the Cross! This past weekend, 1030 meals were collected before the masses. The sacks were taken to Franciscan Outreach at 2715 W Harrison, an overnight shelter offering food and support services for homeless men and women.

Additionally, sacks were also taken to Our Lady of Angels Food Pantry and outreach programs at 824 N Hamlin. These ministries serve the needs of the youth, seniors, and the homeless of their surrounding communities.

The recipients are very grateful for all your efforts. The many volunteers did a wonderful job with planning, communicating, preparing the meals, and collecting the sacks for distribution. We are indeed thankful to all who reached out to those in need.

God Bless,
Uncle Pete Ministries

PARSIH PASTORAL COUNCIL PARISH-WIDE DISCUSSION ON SYNODALITY MONDAY, MARCH 11, 2024 6:30 P.M. HFC

Pope Francis had given the Church an extraordinary opportunity to hear from the faithful when he introduced the Synodal process in 2023 and 2024. The Synod held in Rome in October, 2023, was the culmination of countless listening sessions held throughout the world.

As a run-up to the October, 2024, Synod session, we have been asked to answer one question: How can we be a synodal Church in mission?

Co-responsibility for the mission seems to be at the heart of synodality. It means coming together in communion to participate together in moving the mission forward. Furthermore, this shared responsibility for mission shapes every level of Church life. It means listening to each other, working together, challenging one another, and encouraging each other. (Fr. Lou Cameli, America, January 12, 2024)

With the goal of truly listening and engaging in a Conversation in the Spirit, the Parish Pastoral Council will lead discussion with parishioners about "what is the mission of the Church?" so that SPC can participate and be included in the national statement that will be submitted for the October 2024 Synod meeting.

WE LOOK FORWARD TO WELCOMING ALL PARISHIONERS! If you are unable to participate in person, please send your input/comments to: pattinowak56@gmail.com.

Father James' Lenten Reflections

The Third Sunday of Lent

"I tell you, look up and see the fields ripe for the harvest."
John 4:35

The Samaritan woman at the well first experiences a personal conversion and then goes out and shares her story with the town. The residents, because of her, experience their own conversion. Sychar in Samaria thus becomes the first city in the Kingdom of God. And it all happened because of authentic dialogue.

Jesus and the Samaritan woman speak. Jesus tells the woman she is thirsting and that he has the water that will quench her thirst; a kind of water greater than H₂O. They then discuss her marital history. This is the pivotal point in the conversation. Mentioning the five husbands unlocks the woman's heart. No longer speaking in theory about water, the woman is vulnerable before Christ and is able to be touched by his compassion. She is healed. She experiences real love for Jesus. And this is what she went and shared with the people, who, in turn, would be healed and fall in love.

We are called to speak about Christ to others. We can't speak unless we've first had that authentic conversation with Jesus. It is a conversation where

we are vulnerable before the Lord and bring to him our most acute struggle. Healed and in love with Christ, we will then naturally reflect him to others.

Directed Prayer: Lord, authentic conversation is a lost art in our age. I choose, at least for this day, to put away the meaningless conversation through text messages, email, and social media. Please put someone on my heart with whom I should speak. Give me the grace to call them and love them.

Monday of the Third Week of Lent

"Amen, I say to you, no prophet is accepted in his own native place."
Luke 4:24

Confidence is an essential characteristic in the prophet. He has to preach a difficult message and he can only do so if he is assured the message is God's. If the prophet doubts God, doubts himself, or doubts the efficacy of the mission, he will not undergo his task. The people will miss out on hearing the Word of God. They will continue in their ways and fall farther away from salvation.

A small ego is another characteristic of the prophet. If the prophet is seeking to be popular, seeking to make friends, seeking to feel good about himself, he is in the wrong line of work. The message

Father James' Lenten Reflections (continued)

of God will often run contrary to the will of the people, and the prophet will find himself in a position of unpopularity. Yes, the messenger will be shot. But the prophet still needs to convey the message.

Priests are meant to be prophets. So too are parents, politicians, and any other individual in some position of authority. All are called to be self-disposed. All are called to a level of confidence so they can assist God in serving his flock.

Directed Prayer: Jesus, I thank you for the prophets in my life, the prophets in our church and in our age. They have challenged me and I didn't appreciate it at first, but I am grateful for them now. Please help me be like them and inspire others to love you and one another.

Tuesday of the Third Week of Lent

"With contrite heart and humble spirit let us be received; as though it were burnt offerings of rams and bullocks, or thousands of fat lambs, so let our sacrifice be in your presence today as we follow you unreservedly."
Daniel 3:39-40

The Jews, in the time of the prophet Daniel, were scattered throughout the Mediterranean. The nation of Israel had been conquered and the city of Jerusalem, along with the temple, destroyed. There was a dilemma, thus, of how the people were to offer worship to God. Worship had been based around sacrificing animals, burning incense, and making monetary offerings in the temple, and now there was no temple to do all of this.

Azariah, a companion of Daniel living in Babylon, proposed that worship of God could still take place. It wouldn't be on the external level of actual offerings, but on the internal level of a contrite heart.

Christ supported this proposal. He affirmed it when he said, "So will my heavenly Father do to you, unless each of you forgives your brother from your heart." No more sacrifice of rams. Just forgiveness, mercy, charity.

External worship ceased when churches were closed during the COVID-19 shutdown several years ago. But there wasn't a general dispensation from being a Christian. To love God we had to move to the level of the heart. We've returned to church. Hopefully we're still in the heart.

Directed Prayer: Jesus, I worship you and adore you. You are all good and deserving of all my love. You don't require me to do anything or even to say this. I choose now to ask for the grace to forgive someone who has hurt me. May I love them as you love them, and cherish their existence.

Wednesday of the Third Week of Lent

"Whoever obeys and teaches these commandments will be called greatest in the Kingdom of heaven."
Matthew 5:19

The law is not meant to stifle us, but to aid our flourishing. We could act arbitrarily and do whatever we want, but we will be miserable. The natural law is such that we are designed a specific way and follow-

ing that design means we function well. Law leads to happiness. This is why Moses remarked before the people, "what great nation has statutes and decrees that are as just as this whole law which I am setting before you today?" The law is a gift. Christ has come "not to abolish the law and prophets, but to fulfill."

The law also serves us by putting us in relationship to one another. To disregard the law and do whatever we want is to make ourselves independent, an island unto ourselves. In determining our path we are isolated and self-reliant. In following the law of another, we are bound to the society. The law fosters communion. Hell is isolation. Heaven is relationship.

Saint Patrick's Day fell on a Friday in Lent in 2023. In the Archdiocese of Chicago a dispensation from meat was not granted. Corned-beef could not be consumed. This was not an attempt of the Church to exude power or stifle joy, but to break people out of a hellish individualism. Heaven is far better than corned beef. Saint Patrick would have agreed.

Directed Prayer: Lord, I claim to be an obedient Christian, but I know there are areas where I cut corners, where I make myself the legislator. Little lies, small acts of the theft, speeding, arriving late or leaving early. I repent of this. Help me die to my ego and live only for you.

Thursday of the Third Week of Lent

"This is the nation that does not listen to the voice of the LORD, its God, or take correction."
Jeremiah 7:28

The call isn't to be perfect. The call is to be able to be corrected. We all sin and we all make mistakes. We fall short. That is fine. The Lord doesn't demand absolute flawlessness from us. The question is how we react when we do fall short and are made aware of it. Do we justify our behavior? Do we grow angry at the prophet who corrected us? Do we ignore the wisdom and double-down on our errors? Or, do we take our broken heart to the Lord and place it in his hands?

Notice also with this last option (the correct one), we don't ask the Lord to fix us. We simply put ourselves before God. We simply pray. The Lord will correct us in his way and in his time, which is always more gentle than our way. It is also more deliberate and takes longer than our way too.

It is painful to be made aware of our faults and be corrected. It is humbling. But it is a grace if it puts us in touch with God. If we stay in our heads and take the correction as a way to improve ourselves, then we are not in touch with God. The cycle of shame and ignorance and poor behavior will continue. But if we can sit still before the Lord in our sackcloth, we will be healed.

Directed Prayer: Jesus, don't let me be arrogant or intractable. I've made mistakes. I'm human and weak. I choose not to feel shame. I choose instead to unite myself to you, who were made weak. I choose to love and serve others.

Friday of the Third Week of Lent

"One of the scribes came to Jesus and asked him, "Which is the first of all the commandments?"

Mark 12:28

This scribe wasn't trying to trap Jesus as the others were. He had no ill intent with his question. This scribe had been listening to the dialogue between the Lord and the elders in the temple. Mark notes the man "saw how well Jesus answered them." And so the scribe asked this softball question. He wanted Jesus to not just answer a question, but to preach the truth. Jesus delivered.

The scribe had witnessed Jesus' character in dealing with the other scribes and Pharisees in the temple. He could see holiness and goodness in the man. The simple question, which anyone could have answered, even a child, allowed the goodness and holiness to come out. The scribe truly had understanding.

If we're looking for answers from our Lord, we might start with a "softball question" and not something more complicated. For instance, if we are struggling to pray and want more out of our spiritual life, we might simply ask the Lord, as the disciples did, "teach me to pray." If we are struggling with a sin or with a sense of low self-worth, instead of asking "why would you make me this or allow such suffering in my life?" we might just say, "Lord, remember me when you come into your kingdom."

The goal isn't to get answers. The goal is to be with Jesus. That's why this scribe "was not far from the kingdom."

Directed Prayer: Jesus, the party has run out of wine. Jesus, the crowd is in a deserted place with no food. Jesus, my servant is suffering dreadfully. Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.

Saturday of the Third Week of Lent

"But the tax collector stood off at a distance and would not even raise his eyes to heaven but beat his breast and prayed, 'O God, be merciful to me a sinner.'" Luke 18:13

We are at or just past the half-way point of Lent. How has it been going for you so far? Has it been prayerful and have you been keeping up with your disciplines? Or has it been a struggle?

If it's been a struggle, then let the image of the tax collector who beat his breast in the temple be your guide. The tax collector had slipped up in his life. He was like the Catholic who ate meat on a Friday or indulged the chocolate he had forsaken. But he didn't continue on sinning. He moved himself to the temple, and he repented. He started anew. He began a fresh second half. For those watching basketball these days in 'March Madness', the second half is always more exciting than the first half.

Don't throw up your hands and wait until next Lent to once again try praying more or practicing the discipline. Start again today. Make this Saturday your new Ash Wednesday. Not everyone can fast and not everyone can tithe, like the Pharisee in the temple did. But everyone can beat their breast and pray for help.

We'll see, then, that our slip-ups are actually tremendous graces, for they put us back in touch with God and allow us to beg for the mercy he is only too eager to give.

Directed Prayer: Lord, Lent has been beautiful thus far. Or, it has been a struggle. If it has been beautiful, I thank and beg you humbly to help me go deeper. If it has been rough,

please, with your grace, may I start anew today. I don't judge myself. I trust in your mercy.

EXCURSUS: Saint Joseph

"Isn't this the carpenter's son?" Matthew 13:55

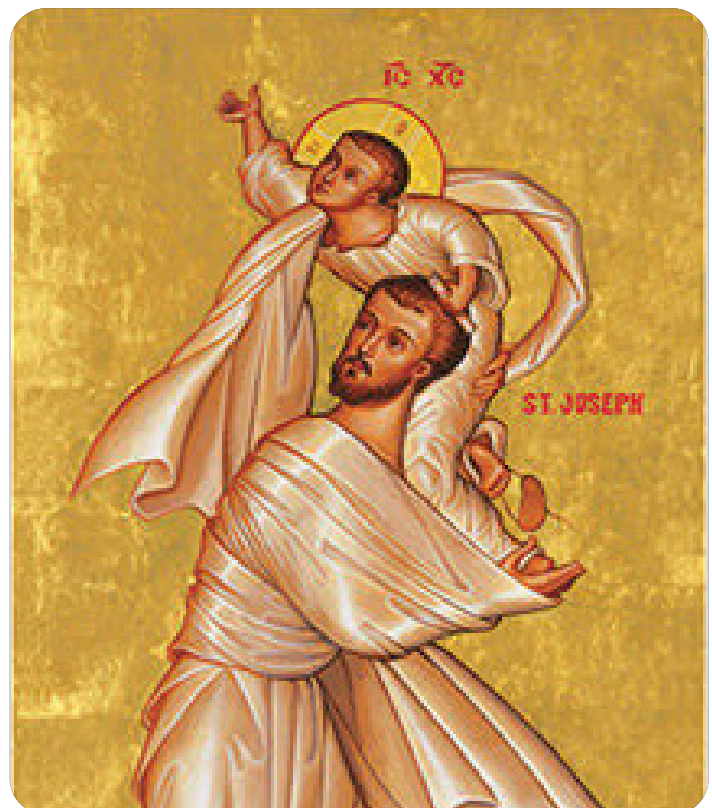
Icons of Saint Joseph typically portray him holding a lily, carpentry tools, or the child Jesus in his lap. This icon has Joseph raising the child on his shoulders. Jesus reaches up for something.

The first image we can recall is that of Adam. Adam reached upwards, grasping at the fruit. It was not meant for him to have. He reached out by himself, with no help, and apart from God. Jesus, with the assistance of his father, does not cling to what is inessential. He reaches up for the real fruit: union with God the Father. When we find ourselves grasping at knowledge, comfort, power, honor, may Joseph redirect our efforts and take us upward to God.

The second image the icon evokes is the temptation by Satan in the desert. When a child is in a crowd and unable to see, the father will put the child on his shoulders. Held up by Joseph, Jesus is able to see over the noise, the distractions, the pollution. Satan lifted Jesus up to see all the kingdoms of the world so as to possess and control them. Joseph raises the Lord to see the souls in the world, and the beauty in each soul.

If you struggle to see beauty in yourself or in another, may Joseph raise you up.

Directed Prayer: Jesus, raise me up as you raised your son. May I be obedient and trusting as you were. May I be calm and strong as you were. May I be a father and a saint as you were.



Lenten Almsgiving

You can make a big difference by helping the missionary priests and parish communities. Let's be a part of God's grace working in the faithful people in Wyoming.

In partnership with Catholic Extension Society, St. Paul of the Cross is helping the missionary priests and parish communities in Wyoming. One of those future missionary priests is Seminarian, Lee Noel, Diocese of Cheyenne, WY. Before entering seminary, Lee studied entomology in graduate school at the University of Wyoming and worked as a research scientist for two years in Colorado.

When Lee first arrived in Laramie, WY he was urged to get involved at St. Paul's Newman Center, the Catholic Church which serves the students at UW. Lee reflects on how the St. Paul's Newman Center impacted him –

"Before I knew it, I was signed up for a weekend retreat at the Newman Center, and that 48-hour experience set the trajectory for how I eventually ended up in seminary. During that retreat, I went to the Sacrament of Reconciliation for the first time in a while, and when I felt an overwhelming sense of mercy, like a golden wave of joy flow over me, I knew that I wanted to go to the source of that peace, which is the Trinitarian God fully at work at the Newman Center in Laramie. The campus ministry team there helped me get signed up to be a leader on that same retreat two more times in the years that followed, and they also got me involved in daily Mass, our brotherhood prayer group of male students, and the ministry of delivering the Eucharist to the homebound, all of which were powerful opportunities to encounter Christ in the people around me. Experiencing the presence of Jesus while praying together or simply visiting residents in nursing homes, seeing the smile on their face and realizing that we are all members of the Body of Christ really lit a fire in my heart to want to serve the people in the Diocese of Cheyenne, since that is where I have had very tangible experiences of God and His personal love for us. Those encounters began with the help of the campus ministry team at the Newman Center, and I am confident they will continue when I am a priest for the Diocese of Cheyenne hopefully by mid-2025.

As a priest, I am looking forward to bringing people the sacraments, whether at city parishes or out on the ranches of rural Wyoming, so that parishioners can have a tangible encounter with Jesus Who will bring a peace only He can bring, hopefully bringing us all closer together as a community and closer to God through the Holy Spirit and Mary's intercession."

Thank you for your support and generosity!



Fish Fry

Co-Sponsored by

**Knights of Columbus, Maria Council #4836
and St. Paul of the Cross' Apostolate of Women**
at St. Paul of the Cross Church's Parish Life Center
320 S. Washington Street, Park Ridge
Friday, March 15th, from 5:30 - 8:30 p.m.

Join us for a delicious meal of fresh hand-battered cod (we use trans fat-free canola oil), cole-sl原因, French fries, dinner rolls, and dessert. Shrimp available for purchase. Cheese pizza for the kids. Free lemonade and coffee! Soda, beer, and wine will be available for purchase. Carry out meals available!

Please consider bringing soaps, shampoos, toothbrushes, toothpaste, baby wipes, and/or diapers (sizes: newborn - 6 mos.) for **donation to The Women's Center of Greater Chicagoland**.

Cost:

Note: **Proceeds to benefit local Seminarian/Novitiate education and SPC's AOW**

Adults \$14 each if pre-order received by 3/9/24 (\$16 at the door)

Seniors: \$12 if pre-order received by 3/9/24 (\$14 at the door)

Children: \$6 (children under 3 are free)

Add \$4 to any ticket to add 3 pieces of shrimp to your meal

Questions? Contact Robbie Gawronski at kofcmaria4836@gmail.com

Purchase Tickets:

Deliver your completed order form below with payment (cash or check) to SPC's rectory by noon on Sunday, March 10th. To pay by credit card, email your order to kofcmaria4836@gmail.com, and a link will be emailed to you for payment on-line.

Please make checks payable to "K of C – Maria Council 4836" (write SPC Fish Fry on the memo line).

Order Form for March 15th Fish Fry at St. Paul of the Cross

Name: _____

Total Check Amount: \$ _____

Phone #: _____

Check here if carryout: _____
(fish or pizza only)

_____ # of Adults @ \$14 each* _____ # of Seniors @ \$12 each* _____ # of Kids (4-12) at \$6 each
Kids 3 & under are FREE

_____ Add 3 Shrimp for \$4 _____ Add 3 Shrimp for \$4 _____ # of Kids above who want pizza

* The price of Adult and Senior meals ordered after 3/10/24 will increase to \$16 and \$14, respectively

Social Service Ministry Corner

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Leni Duffy, SSM

GRIEF SHARE BEGINNING SOON ST. PAUL OF THE CROSS

Tuesdays, 6:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.
March 19 thru June 11, 2024

This program features biblical, Christ-centered teaching that focuses on grief topics associated with the death of a loved one.

A \$30.00 donation is appreciated to cover the cost of the workbook and operating expenses.

Please contact Kathy O'Toole Nowicki with questions or to register at irish1chgo@gmail.com or call our rectory at 847-825-7605. You may also go to www.griefshare.org for more information and to register online.

PANTRY NEEDS THIS WEEK

- * Salad dressing
- * Mustard
- * Spaghetti noodles
- * Paper towels



Thank you!

We are grateful to everyone who has made a gift to our **2024 Annual Catholic Appeal**, an occasion to bridge our efforts to support parish life, Catholic schools, programs of religious education, and various other initiatives across the Archdiocese of Chicago. As we come "**Together at the Table**," we join in a unified sense of purpose.

There is still time to make a gift if you have not already done so.

See the various giving options below or scan the QR code to the right to make your gift online today!



Ways to Make ACA Gifts

One-time gifts, pledges, sustaining recurring gifts, as well as gifts made through stock, Donor Advised Funds and IRA distributions can be made by cash, check or credit card through the following methods:

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- Online at annualcatholicappeal.com
- In-pew envelopes (pre-addressed)
- Telephone — Annual Catholic Appeal — 312.534.7959
- Mail to — Annual Catholic Appeal, 835 North Rush Street, Chicago, Illinois 60611-2030
- Charitable Gift Funds — Legal Name: The Catholic Bishop of Chicago, Federal tax ID #36-2170826

THE ANNUAL CATHOLIC APPEAL HELPS SUPPORT

Our faith, which draws us ever closer to God as we work to renew our local Church within a new missionary age. We endeavor to grow as disciples so we might share the love of Jesus Christ in creative ways and strengthen our parish communities to welcome and invite others.

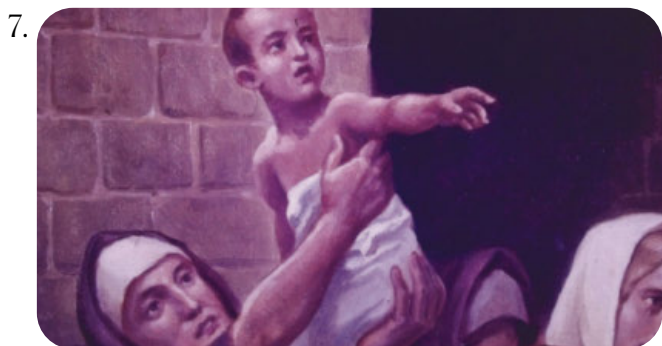
Our parishes, where our faith is lived out. The Annual Catholic Appeal provides significant funding to local parishes through the rebate program as well as support to under-resourced parishes and schools throughout Cook and Lake counties.

Our priests, who deserve our gratitude and support. The Annual Catholic Appeal provides funds for priest and seminarian education and ongoing development, providing our priests with important formation opportunities to best serve their communities.

Our schools, which offer a robust academic education and form a new generation in faith. Scholarships provide critical support to make Catholic education possible and foster our children's relationship with Jesus Christ and the Church.

Archive Corner with Mark Miller

This week we continue with Stations 7 and 8. The Archive Corner is truly grateful to Dave Charewics for providing us with these photos taken in 1974.



7th Station: Jesus falls for the second time.

1,2,3,4,

8th Station: Jesus meets the women of Jerusalem.

5,6,7,8.

Opportunities at St. Paul of the Cross (continued)

MARCH MADNESS THURSDAY, MARCH 21st at 6:00 pm Harp and Fiddle 110 Main Street, Park Ridge

The St. Paul of the Cross Men's Club is hosting our annual March Madness extravaganza. This year's event will be held at Harp and Fiddle on March 21st beginning at 6:00 pm. For \$60 per person, our members will receive 3 HOURS of OPEN BAR, quality food and brotherhood.

One of the goals for the Men's Club in 2024 is to grow enrollment in our highly desired Club. Please grab a buddy and use this event as an entrée for a new member. Let's let others see everything the Men's Club represents — camaraderie, service, faith, tomfoolery, etc.

Please send me your email if you are not on the mailing list or would like more information about becoming a member.

Randy Bull
President, SPC Men's Club, rbull29@gmail.com,
847-644-3111

Introducing Monthly SPC Women's Group Gatherings!

The SPC Women's Group, also known as the Apostolate of Women, will now gather monthly to meet new and old friends and to provide all women of the parish with updates on recent activities of our pillars (Spiritual, Service, and Social) as well as our guilds (small groups). We'll also share opportunities for you to get involved and, most importantly, enjoy each other's fellowship.

You don't have to be a member to attend, although of course we would love you to join the group.

Many women have told us they would love to get involved yet can't commit a lot of time. That's okay – there are plenty of one or two hour service opportunities for you to contribute your time or talent. Don't miss out on our upcoming gatherings (doors open at 7 p.m., meeting starts at 7:30 p.m.):

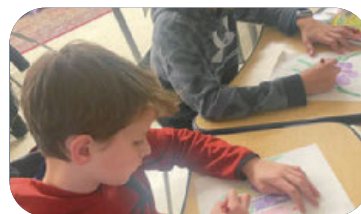
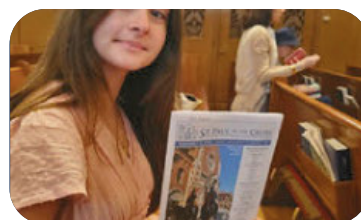
- Tuesday, March 12 in Duffin Hall
- Tuesday, April 9 in the Holy Family Chapel
- Monday, May 6 in the Holy Family Chapel

We look forward to seeing you there! If you have any questions or topics you'd like included in these meetings, please send us an email at aow.spc@gmail.com.

Catechesis Corner

These are some of the happenings in Catechesis - from Confirmation Practice, to our Worship Program, to our Music Class and our Regular Program!

“...teach children the words of life and touch their hearts and their consciences.”
~ St. Madeleine Sophie Barat



Ministry Corner

Wedding Ministry



The mission of the St. Paul of the Cross wedding ministry is twofold:

We assist the priests of St. Paul of the Cross by facilitating wedding rehearsals and getting things organized on the day of the wedding. By doing these things, we also minister to the bride and groom by helping them coordinate their plans for the sacrament of marriage

Our church is blessed to have volunteers who so graciously give of their time, especially on weekends during the busy summer months. Our objective is to help the bride and groom celebrate their love for one another while maintaining the sanctity of the sacrament of marriage.

Those of us who volunteer for this ministry, enjoy working with St. Paul's soon-to-be-married couples. It is both an honor and privilege to help coordinate rehearsals and weddings for them and to celebrate with them.

And we also enjoy the opportunity to keep up with wedding trends!

Wedding Ministry Coordinator

Joyce Johnson

FAITH FORMATION MINISTRIES

Bible Study—George and Sue Kirkland—george@georgesue.com
 Book Club—Dawn Golembiewski—golembiewski.dawn.renee@gmail.com
 Catechesis—Anna Mae Parkhill—annamaeparkhill@spc-church.org
 Disciples in Mission—Susan Clifford and Sue Feldman—disciplesinmission@spc-church.org
 Evangelization—Nick Testa—nicktesta@spc-church.org
 Perpetual Eucharistic Adoration Chapel—Ben Paoelli—adorationchapel@spc-church.org
 Praying with Scripture—Beshar Bahjat—beshare@hotmail.com
 RCIA—Beshar Bahjat—beshare@hotmail.com
 That Man is You!—Will Gohl—wmgohl@gmail.com
 Vacation Bible School—Anna Mae Parkhill—annamaeparkhill@spc-church.org
 Vocation Ministry—Jerry White—jerrywhite56@gmail.com
 Walking with Purpose—Megan McLaughlin—walkingwithpurposespc@gmail.com

LITURGICAL MINISTRIES

Altar Servers, Arts and Environment, Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion,
 Lectors, Sacristans—Fr. Nick—frnick@spc-church.org

Bereavement—Margaret Teich—mfteich@yahoo.com
 Liturgy Committee—Deacon Andy—andycameron@spc-church.org
 Ministers of Care—Ann Vidovic—viddesign4@yahoo.com
 Music Ministries—Ed Eicker—edwardeicker@spc-church.org
 Ushers—Steve Bozek—sbozek@sbcglobal.net

MARRIAGE AND FAMILY MINISTRIES

Baptismal Preparation Class—Deacon Andy—andycameron@spc-church.org
 Fun, Faith & Music—Anna Mae Parkhill—annamaeparkhill@spc-church.org
 Wedding Ministry—Joyce Johnson—jmj323@comcast.net

PARISH SERVICE MINISTRIES

Altar Linens, Mass Intentions—Donna Ebert—donnaebert@spc-church.org
 Apostolate of Women—Melissa Poindexter and Jessica Armour—aow.spc@gmail.com
 Collection Counters—Mike Angelini—angelinimike9@gmail.com
 Home and School Association—Dr. Erika Mickelburgh—emickelburgh@spc-school.net
 Inclusion Committee—Debbie Russo—russonet@sbcglobal.net
 Knights of Columbus—Robert Gawronski—kofcmaria4836@gmail.com
 Men's Club—Randy Bull—rbull29@gmail.com
 New Parishioner Welcome—Maria Mehl—msmehl@gmail.com
 Parish Finance Council—Robb Armour—rarmour123@gmail.com
 Parish Pastoral Council—Patti Nowak—pattinowak56@gmail.com
 Parish Records—Marianne Armstrong—mariannearmstrong@spc-church.org
 Respect Life Committee—Cecilia Klein—cmklein817@gmail.com

SOCIAL SERVICE MINISTRIES

Centennial Garden, Domestic Abuse Awareness Group (DAAG), Food Pantry,
 General Assistance, GriefShare, Holiday Outreach, Lenten Almsgiving,
 Our Lady of the Angels Mission, Sharing Parish/St. Benedict the African,
 Sunday Night Supper—Leni Duffy—leniduffy@spc-church.org

YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULT MINISTRIES

Boy Scouts—Steve Knapp—knapp1415@gmail.com
 Cub Scouts—Ken Kulas—kulasken@gmail.com; Ken Kapst—kapstk@aol.com
 Girl Scouts—Karen Huber—hubekar@gmail.com
 School Athletic Board—Kelly Spanos—kspanos@spc-school.net
 Young Adult Ministry—Beshar Bahjat—beshare@hotmail.com



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Park Ridge, IL 60068
phone: 847-825-7605**

RECTORY OFFICE HOURS

Monday through Friday 9:00 am - 5:00 pm*
* closed from 12:00pm—1:00 pm
Saturday 9:00 am - 1:00 pm
Sunday Closed

DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS

Nick Testa: nicktesta@spc-church.org
(847) 825-7605 x2250

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VIRTUS

virtus@spc-church.org

LITURGICAL MINISTERS SCHEDULING

schedule@spc-church.org

BULLETIN EDITOR

spcbulletin@spc-church.org
UPCOMING BULLETIN CONTENT DEADLINES
March 10th issue: Friday, March 1st
March 17th issue: Friday, March 8th

WEEKLY MASS SCHEDULE

(Upper Church)

Monday through Friday 6:25 am - 8:30 am*
Saturday 8:30 am* - daily Mass
4:30 pm* - vigil
Sunday 7:30 am
9:00 am
10:30 am*
12:00 pm

* Livestreamed services. Our 10:30 am Sunday Mass is also simulcast to our Upper Church vestibule and Holy Family Chapel

MONTHLY FAMILY MASS

(Holy Family Chapel)

2nd Sunday Family Mass 10:30 am

TEEN MASS (open to the public)

(Upper Church)

Sunday, February 18, 2024 12:00 pm

ADORATION

Adoration Chapel open 5:00 am until 11:00 pm daily
email adorationchapel@spc-church.org to register

CONFESSION

(Upper Church vestibule)

Monday through Friday 8:00 am to 8:15 am
Saturday 3:00 pm to 4:00 pm

FUNERALS

Monday through Saturday Morning

WEDDINGS

Friday and Saturday

Call rectory office at least 6 months in advance

BAPTISMS

Saturday and Sunday

If this is your first child, baptism prep class is required and provided on the fourth Thursday every month at 7:00 pm. Please contact the parish office at 847-825-7605 to register.

NEW PARISHIONER REGISTRATION

(8:30 am - 12:00 pm)

and

DONUT SUNDAY

(after 9:00 am and 10:30 am Masses)

First Sunday of Every Month (unless advertised otherwise)

ANOINTING OF THE SICK

Call rectory office at 847-825-7605

COMMUNION FOR THE HOMEBOUND

Call rectory office at 847-825-7605

ROSARY

After 8:30 am Daily Mass