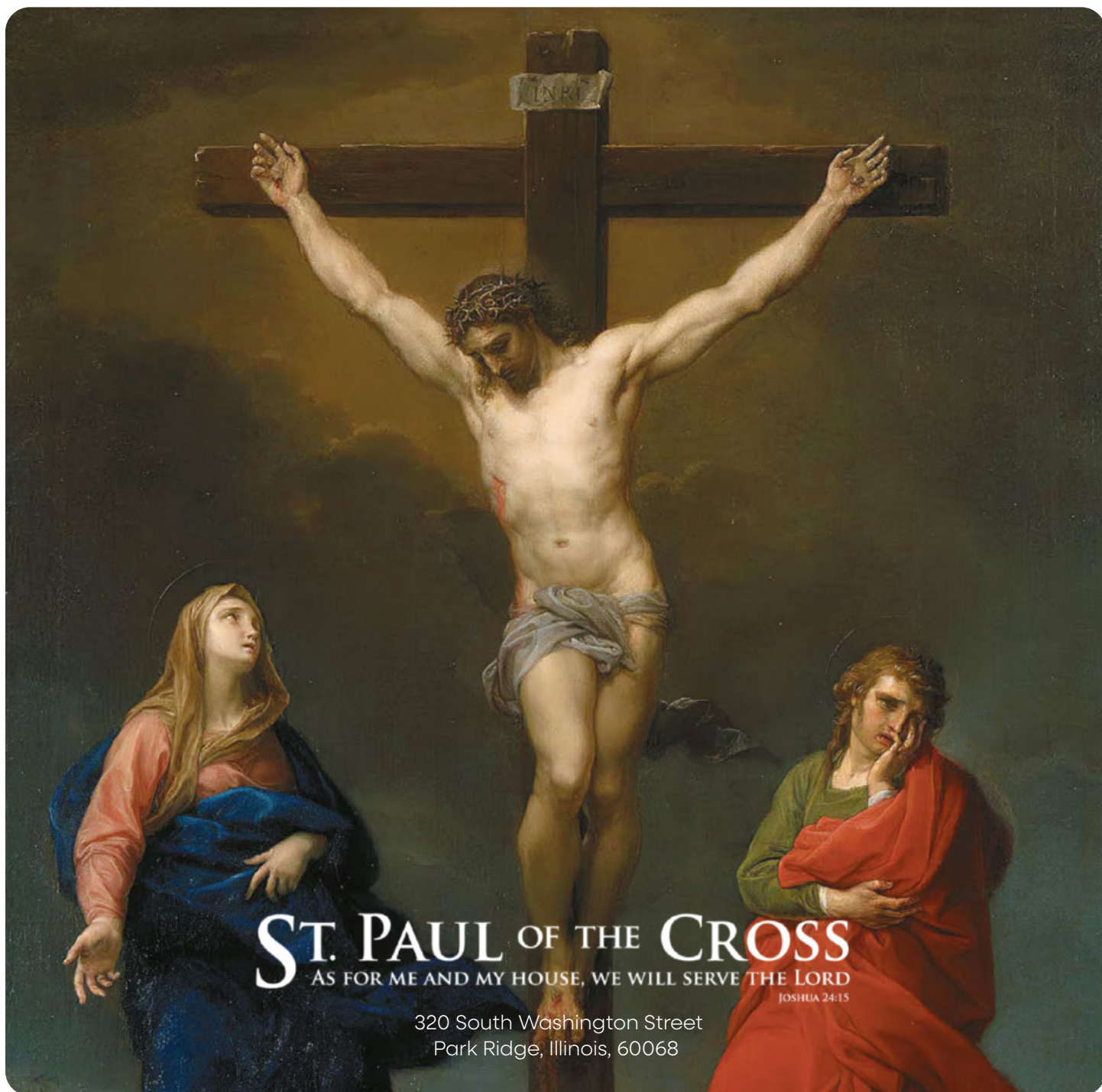


MARCH 24, 2024

CRUCIS

PALM SUNDAY OF THE LORD'S PASSION



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

Palm Sunday of the Lord's Passion

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

Daniel Edward Platt

Son of Timothy J. Platt and
Lauren M. Bachusz

Liam Frank Miastkowski

Son of Jerome Miastkowski
and Mariallisa Zoida

Matteo Felipe Robateau

Son of Henry Robateau and
Catia Giannini

Harper Dorothy Boyle

Daughter of Liam Boyle and
Carly Derec

Lucas James Rizzo

Son of Jonathan Kesselring
and Tina Rizzo

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

Laura

Stanislaw Kazmierczak

Vince Ross

Carole Zachary

In Loving Memory

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

Margaret Jones

Joseph Ultimo

Charlene Widmaier

Wedding Banns

I Jesse Racine

&

Joanna Nagle



Stewardship Report

WEEKLY OFFERING (March 10th - March 16th)

Envelopes	\$11,767.00
Loose	\$7,086.80
Electronic Giving	\$11,008.00
Total Weekly Offering	\$29,861.80

LENTEN ALMSGIVING

Through March 16th	\$40,662.75
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ADDITIONAL FINANCIAL DATA

Sunday Giving FY24 Year to Date (July 1st through March 16th)	\$1,337,612.59
Sunday Giving FY24 vs Budget (July 1st through January 31st)	+\$45,566.00

Readings for the Week

Sunday:	Mk 11:1-10 or Jn 12:12-16/Is 50:4-7/Ps 22:8-9, 17-18, 19-20, 23-24 (2a)/Phil 2:6-11/Mk 14:1—15:47 or 15:1-39
Monday:	Is 42:1-7/Ps 27:1, 2, 3, 13-14/Jn 12:1-11
Tuesday:	Is 49:1-6/Ps 71:1-2, 3-4a, 5ab-6ab, 15 and 17/Jn 13:21-33, 36-38
Wednesday:	Is 50:4-9a/Ps 69:8-10, 21-22, 31 and 33-34/Mt 26:14-25
Thursday:	Chrism Mass: Is 61:1-3a, 6a, 8b-9/Ps 89:21-22, 25 and 27/Rv 1:5-8/Lk 4:16-21 Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper: Ex 12:1-8, 11-14/Ps 116:12-13, 15-16bc, 17-18 (see 1 Cor 10:16)/1 Cor 11:23-26/Jn 13:1-15
Friday:	Is 52:13—53:12/Ps 31:2, 6, 12-13, 15-16, 17, 25 (Lk 23:46)/Heb 4:14-16; 5:7-9/Jn 18:1—19:42
Saturday:	Easter Vigil: Gn 1:1—2:2 or 1:1, 26-31a/Ps 104:1-2, 5-6, 10, 12, 13-14, 24, 35 (30) or Ps 33:4-5, 6-7, 12-13, 20-22 (5b)/Gn 22:1-18 or 22:1-2, 9a, 10-13, 15-18/Ps 16:5, 8, 9-10, 11 (1)/Ex 14:15—15:1/ Ex 15:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 17-18 (1b)/Is 54:5-14/Ps 30:2, 4, 5-6, 11-12, 13 (2a)/Is 55:1-11/Is 12:2-3, 4, 5-6 (3)/Bar 3:9-15, 32—4:4/Ps 19:8, 9, 10, 11 (Jn 6:68c)/Ez 36:16-17a, 18-28/Ps 42:3, 5; 43:3, 4 (42:2)/Rom 6:3-11/Mk 16:1-7

Letters from a Pastor to his People



Dear Parishioners,

I was doing Stations of the Cross a couple weeks ago with our Religious Education classes, and one of the 4th graders asked me how Jesus was able to hang on the cross. I told the student that the nails fixed him in place: one in each hand and one through his feet. Then the student asked if ropes were used to hold

Jesus in place. I said the Roman soldiers might have used ropes around his wrists, but we're not sure. We know they used nails.

When I was walking back to the rectory afterwards that simple question stuck with me. It made me recall something I read recently in one of St. Catherine of Siena's letters (I've been reading five thick volumes of her letters lately). In fact, Catherine mentions many times throughout her letters to different individuals—to popes, priests, nuns, laypeople—that it was not the nails that actually held Jesus to the cross but love. For instance, she wrote in February 1372 to Neri de Landoccio Pagliaresi, a young Sienese nobleman and poet: "Love held [Jesus] fast. As the saints say, neither cross nor nails could have held him, were it not for the bond of divine charity."

Catherine of Siena would have smiled at this student's question! And she would have smacked me in the back of the head for such a quick, dismissive response.

Some scholars think Jesus wouldn't have actually been nailed through his palms, since there's no way nails through the palms could have held the weight of his body. They say, instead, he would have been nailed through the wrists. And you might even see some depictions of the crucifixion with nails through the wrist.

Notwithstanding the fact that Jesus specifically showed Thomas, after the Resurrection, his hands and his side (not to mention the Shroud of Turin and many other arguments in favor of the nailing into the hands), to Catherine of Siena and that 4th grader's point, Jesus didn't need to be held up by nails, be they in the hands or wrist. He was held up by his love for us and his desire to die for each one of us.

Catherine of Siena goes on in her letter: "It is here on the cross then that I want you to gaze. Let the eye of your understanding rest here always. Here you will discover and fall in love..."

The cross is the focus this week. Look at it

in our church. Look at it on the walls of your home. Look at it on the rosary in your hand. Jesus gave himself for you. May we give ourselves for him.

+

Today marks the beginning of **Holy Week**. Please be sure to check the Triduum schedule in the bulletin and note that our Passion of the Lord service with the Veneration of the Cross on Good Friday will be at 3pm this year.

This Sunday is the **Blood Drive** in the gym. And on Monday evening we will have the **Candle-light Rosary**.

I wanted to give you a quick update on our **maintenance efforts** these past few weeks. We have very old buildings, so, as you can imagine, our boiler and heat carrier units are constantly breaking. Here's what we've done...In the Early Grade (EGC) building we fixed our heating and cooling units that had been leaking. One of the boiler pumps in the rectory broke, meaning half the rectory was cold for several days, but we repaired that. The Kinane Center heating units that had been malfunctioning were corrected. The pump on the boiler in the church, which is the oldest unit on the campus, has been replaced, and we have plans to make significant repairs to this boiler, which will be costly. We also have plans to repair the roof HVAC and heating carriers in the Upper Grade Center (UGC). Finally, even in our newest building, the food pantry, we had a leak in the heating unit, which was repaired. Our maintenance team is doing an admirable job keeping up with all of these repairs. One of the biggest struggles we face is not so much the breakdown of the unit, but the delay in receiving the replacement parts. For instance, there is a 2-year lead time for the boiler and cooling system parts in the upper church. This makes it very difficult to time when the parts will come in/when the unit will break, not to mention budget for it. All of this is to say, thank you for your continued contributions to the parish, particularly to our Sunday collection. These repairs and replacements have been (and will continue to be) significant expenses, but we are making them thanks to your generosity.

Yours in Christ,

Fr. James Wallace

Community Reflections



The reading of the Passion narratives on Palm Sunday and Good Friday vividly reminds me of the pilgrimage Kathy and I took to the Holy Land. Early one morning, we were in the old city of Jerusalem and, with a group of parishioners, walked the Via Dolorosa, the actual Stations of the Cross that Jesus Himself walked.

When you walk the Via Dolorosa, which means the “the way of suffering,” each group receives its own large wooden cross to carry. As we each took turns carrying the cross, it occurred to me that all of us carry our personal crosses, in our own way.

The path of the stations winds through a busy corridor of shops, merchants, and vendors. It reminded me that we often allow our work, family, and distractions to keep us from our sacred journey.

The actual stations themselves are hard to find. They are marked with a brass disc that identifies the location of a station in Roman numerals. But there are so many streets and alleys and the way is so poorly marked that without a good guide, you would easily get lost. How often have I wandered aimlessly in my faith life, ignoring the One who is “the Way,” Jesus Himself?

Walking the Via Dolorosa is difficult. The streets are paved with old cobblestones. The surface is uneven and often slippery. The roads dip and then rise. You are walking uphill all along the way. In the same way, living the Christian life is not easy. Temptations, materialism, disappointments, anger can cause us to lose our footing.

The stations end at the Holy Sepulcher, the sacred tomb.

The opening is so small that to enter you must bend over very low. In truth, only a humble person can enter this place. And then you finally enter the tomb. And the tomb is empty. After all this walking, we venerate an empty space. Of course we do. We walk by faith and not by sight as St Paul wrote. Christ is not there, he has risen. He has finished carrying His cross, but will continue to carry ours.

Yours Truly,
Deacon Bob

Adoration Chapel

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION CHAPEL

COME SPEND SOME TIME WITH JESUS!


Our Adoration Chapel is open from 5 am until 11 pm. The adoration chapel will be closed on Holy Thursday, March 28th, at 8 p.m. and will reopen at 1 p.m. on Easter Sunday.

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	
7:00 AM							
8:00 AM							
9:00 AM							
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7:00 PM							
8:00 PM							
9:00 PM							
10:00 PM							
11:00 PM							

Mass Schedule

FEAST DAY	TIME	PRESIDER	LECTOR	EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS	MASS INTENTIONS	
MON, 3/25 Monday of Holy Week	6:25 am UC	Fr. Nick*/MN			Birthday Blessings for Noreen Newell, Healing and Blessings for Nurdan and Rudy Kleiner	
	8:30 am UC	Fr. James			Dominic Morris, Dan Ward, Joan M. Dobbs, Mary Whitney, Dominic Grimaldi, Martin Diskin, Birthday Blessings for Darlene Plencner	
TUE, 3/26 Tuesday of Holy Week	6:25 am UC	Fr. James			Joseph Hickey	
	8:30 am UC	Fr. Nick			Mike Casey, Elizabeth Miniscalco, Holy Souls in Purgatory	
WED, 3/27 Wednesday of Holy Week	6:25 am UC	Fr. James			People of the Parish	
	8:30 am UC	Fr. James*/MN			Dolores Fortune, Victor A. Gust, Joseph Brouder, James Casey, Josephine Crawley, Blessings for Cindy and family, Birthday Blessings for Justin Keane	
THUR, 3/28 Holy Thursday	9:00 am UC Morning Prayer	Dcn. Martin				
	7:30 pm UC Mass of the Lord's Supper	Fr. Nick				
FRI, 3/29 Good Friday	9:00 am UC Morning Prayer	Dcn. Andy				
	3:00 pm UC Passion of the Lord	Fr. James				
SAT, 3/30 Holy Saturday	9:00 am UC Morning Prayer	Dcn. Bob				
	11:00 am UC Easter Basket Blessing					
	7:30 pm UC Easter Vigil	Fr. James*/MN				
SUN, 3/31 Easter Sunday of the Resurrection of the Lord	7:30 am UC	Fr. James				
	9:00 am GYM	Fr. James				
	9:00 am UC	Fr. Nick*/MN				
	10:30 pm GYM	Fr. Nick				
	10:30 am UC	Fr. James				
	12:00 pm UC	Fr. Britto				
*LEGEND: /MN = Deacon Martin Nyberg preaching						

Opportunities at St. Paul of the Cross

HOLY WEEK/EASTER SCHEDULE

HOLY THURSDAY, MARCH 28

*note- no morning Mass
9am- Morning Prayer
7:30pm- Mass of the Lord's Supper

GOOD FRIDAY, MARCH 29

*note- no morning Mass
9am- Morning Prayer
12pm- Sacrament of Reconciliation
12pm- Stations of the Cross
3pm- Passion of the Lord Service
with Veneration of the Cross

HOLY SATURDAY, MARCH 30

*note- no Morning Mass
9am- Morning Prayer
11am- Easter Basket Blessing
7:30pm- Easter Vigil Mass

EASTER SUNDAY, MARCH 31

7:30am- Mass in Upper Church
9am- Mass in Upper Church
9am- Mass in Gym
10:30am- Mass in Upper Church
10:30am- Mass in Gym
12pm- Mass in Upper Church

NO SCRIPTURE SEMINAR *with* FATHER JAMES THIS WEEK

WORD ON THE STREET

Tuesday April 23
with Fr James and Fr
Tim Anastos!
Starting at 7:30, but
come early.

See you all there at
the Harp & Fiddle (110
Main St, Park Ridge)

SPC SCHOOL KID'S SUMMER CAMP IS ALMOST HERE

Our summer camp
schedule is as
follows:

JUNE 10-14

JUNE 17-21

JUNE 24-28

USE OUR QR CODE TO
LEARN MORE.



Palm Sunday Blood Drive!

The Holy Family Guild is sponsoring our
Blood Drive TODAY, March 24th
Morello Parish Life Center, from 8 a.m. until 2 p.m.

Come be a hero -- what a fitting way to complete the Lenten journey by giving the gift of life..

Walk-in donors are welcome.

Make sure you have eaten and have a photo ID.

Fill out the Vitalant Fast Track form online to save time (donors.vitalant.org)

Receive a Culver's coupon - "Give a pint, get a pint"

Questions? Call Christine Perille (847) 494-5150 or Eileen Kaczmarek (847) 533-7952. Call (877) 258-4825 option #1 with medical or travel questions.



Announcements

CANDLELIGHT ROSARY

Monday, March 25th
7:30pm - Upper Church



Please join us as we begin Holy Week by praying the Rosary in a beautiful 30-minute service accompanied by music & candlelight. Whether you've never learned the Rosary and would like to be introduced to this peaceful form of prayer, or you pray the Rosary regularly, please come and be inspired!

RESPECT **LiFE** COMMITTEE

OTHER EVENTS THIS WEEK

Pick Up Basketball

Sunday, March 24th @ 8:30 pm
Morello Parish Life Center Gym

That Man is You

Monday, March 25th @ 7:30 pm
Kinane Center

Stations of the Cross

Friday, March 29th @ 12:00 pm
Upper Church

Father James' Lenten Reflections

Palm Sunday

"Let us go to Jerusalem, to the house of the Lord"
Psalm 122:1

King David rode in and out of Jerusalem several times, just as our Lord did. Some of those rides were triumphant, like when David brought the ark of the covenant into the city. On that occasion David danced with abandon and delight before the ark and train of priests to the cheering crowd. Some of David's rides were somber, like when he fled from his son Absalom who had usurped the throne. On that occasion David fled barefoot in sackcloth, while Shimei hurled insults and dirt and rocks at him.

One year Jesus snuck into Jerusalem, as he was a public enemy (see yesterday's Gospel). Another year Jesus rode triumphantly, as he was the long-awaited Messiah.

Whether it was easy or difficult, David and the Son of David always went to and from Jerusalem. Our Church is the new Jerusalem. Our souls are the new Jerusalem. Sometimes we cheer Jesus as he comes, sometimes we shun

him. Sometimes Jesus' parades into our hearts, sometimes he sneaks in. Sometimes we lay palms at his feet, sometimes we hurl stones. None of it matters to the Lord. Jesus belonged to Jerusalem. He belongs to us.

Directed Prayer: Jesus, I lift up the gates of my heart. Rise up and enter within me. Pour your light into me and may it radiate out of my body. May your Precious Blood flow over my heart. May I become a new and eternal Jerusalem.

Monday of Holy Week

"Mary took a liter of costly perfumed oil made from genuine aromatic nard and anointed the feet of Jesus and dried them with her hair; the house was filled with the fragrance of the oil."
John 12:3

We see how Mary and Judas both valued Jesus. Thirty pieces of silver was Judas'. Three hundred days' wages was Mary's. Thirty pieces of silver was the price of a slave. Three hundred days' wages was Mary's livelihood. Judas thought little

Father James' Lenten Reflections (continued)

of Jesus. Mary thought everything of him.

Christ is worth everything. Nothing is more valuable. No pleasure, no food, no amount of sleep, no person is worth more than our relationship with God. If anything holds us back from Jesus, may we break it like that alabaster jar and pour it on the feet of our Lord. It will anoint his feet. It will soothe his being. The whole house will be filled with the fragrance of the oil. That is, the people and Church around us will be blessed by our devotion to God.

Mary's extravagance was unreasonable and foolish in the eyes of the world and of Judas. We all have a little bit of Judas within us. Hold that back from Jesus, we think to ourselves, he doesn't really need it. Correct, he doesn't need it. He wants it. Silence the Judas within you and let the Mary speak.

Directed Prayer: Jesus, I break the flask of precious oil that I cling to. I break it and pour the contents over your feet. It is a meager offering, but it shows how much I love you. I know you will use my gift for the day of your burial.

Tuesday of Holy Week

"So Judas took the morsel and left at once."
John 13:30

The difference between Judas and Peter is that Judas left the table and Peter stayed.

Both Judas and Peter betrayed the Lord. In fact, all the apostles in one way or another betrayed the Lord. When the Lord predicted that one of them would betray him, the apostles questioned who it would be. It wasn't obvious that Judas was the betrayer. They all knew they were capable of the sin. But the eleven sinners remained at the table with Jesus, while it was only Judas who stood up and departed. This departure is symbolic of refusing to reach out to the Lord in your brokenness and uncertainty. Judas was unable to remain with Jesus and reach out for help.

After the Lord predicted Peter's denial, he did not tell Peter to leave the table. He left it open for Peter, and the rock remained seated. The rest of the dinner certainly was awkward, as Peter was silenced, but he stayed in the openness of his heart and in contact with God.

We all sin and betray the Lord. It is inevitable. The Lord sees it in our hearts. But he offers us mercy and healing and love. The call for each of us remains the same when we sin. Our Lord doesn't need us to be perfect. He needs us to stay.

Directed Prayer: Jesus, show me my blindspots. I will show to you where I know exactly I am a sinner. Mary and my guardian angel, pray that I may have the grace to stay at the table. May I let go of my pride and per-

fectionism and reach out to our Savior for mercy.

Wednesday of Holy Week

"One of the Twelve, who was called Judas Iscariot, went to the chief priests and said, 'What are you willing to give me if I hand him over to you?'"
Matthew 26:14-15

We have desires that are good. They are given to us by God. Naturally impatient, we want that desire to come to fulfillment as soon as possible. The unfulfilled desire brings suffering, and no one wants to suffer. When we have to wait we begin to think God has forgotten about our desire, or that he is waiting for us to make it come about. So we act. We run ahead of grace and try to bring the desire to completion. This involves us departing the waiting presence of the Lord and going off on our own. And this is when we fall.

Judas' heart was not entirely corrupt. He had an initial calling. He had a desire to love God and be with Jesus. Perhaps some other desire along the way came into Judas' heart. It would have been a good desire: the glory of Israel, the reign of the Kingdom of God, the total acceptance of Jesus of Nazareth, etc. When he saw Jesus rejected and saw Jesus focusing his attention elsewhere, like on the raising of Lazarus or spending time with friends at a meal, he grew restless. He left and betrayed the Lord.

The invitation as we embark on the Triduum is to silence the sense of hurry within us. Love is patient. God will give us what we need when the time is right. It is for simply to be with him right now.

Directed Prayer: Jesus, I am so eager to see these things come to fruition in my life, in the life of others around me, and in the life of the Church. I want to see progress, change, redemption. I breathe deeply and look out of myself and into your eyes. You are before me and you are all I need.

Thursday of Holy Week

"Unless I wash you, you will have no inheritance with me."
John 13:8

There comes a point in our relationship with Jesus where we no longer feel like an outsider looking in. We don't judge our prayer as good or bad. In fact, we don't even see prayer as "prayer," as in one other activity in our day. Guilt or pressure subsides, and we just exist. There is confidence with Jesus. Nothing to achieve, no sort of person to be, no figuring out to do. Like a long-time married couple, who see their partnership as an integral part of their being, like an arm or leg, we are one with God. Nothing can ever break this bond.

This is the inheritance Jesus has given us. We are inheriting him. Not an item, like grace or a position in the church or some special access to blessings. Jesus as our lover is who we have. And we never need to feel like we don't belong. There is great freedom in this inheritance.

Like Peter, this is a bit uncomfortable for us. We want to keep God at a distance. We want to control God. We want God as the fashioned God to whom we pay homage and visit and then breathe a sigh of relief when we make it out alive. Love, on the other hand, takes us beyond our control to a place of risk and vulnerability. It is hard, but there is no better way to live.

Directed Prayer: Jesus, I commit my life to you. I know it will be difficult. You will lead me into challenging situations. I will experience pain and rejection. I will be uncomfortable. But I want you. Having you makes all those crosses nothing, like clouds in a beautiful blue sky.

Good Friday

"Father, into your hands I commend my spirit."
Luke 23:46

We could look at today and tomorrow as days as much about the Father as about Jesus. Yes, Jesus suffered and died for us. But it was the Father who led him to this. And it was to the Father that Jesus was truly giving his life. Jesus accepted fully this day his sonship. The Baptism in the Jordan, the Transfiguration on Tabor were but stepping stones to this day. When he breathed his last, it truly was finished. God the Father was now truly the Father of us all.

There is no debt to be paid to our Father. He has given us everything, and we need not be ashamed. We need not work to please him or feel we need to earn his love. Our holiness he does not need. Our saintly acts he does not require. Christ did that once and for all. We need simply receive the Father's love. We need simply place ourselves silently before God and allow ourselves to be sons and daughters. God does not demand anything of us and his fundamental disposition toward us isn't one of disappointment. We need prove nothing before him. We need merely hang upon the cross as our brother did.

Directed Prayer: Lord, into your hands I commend my spirit. Receive me as I am. Forgive my sins and remember me when you come into your Kingdom.

Holy Saturday

"In the night watch just before dawn the LORD cast through the column of the fiery cloud upon the Egyptian force a glance that threw it into a panic; and he so clogged their chariot wheels that they could hardly drive."
Exodus 14:24-25

A very curious phenomenon, in a night full of

phenomena, occurred along the Red Sea coast this day millennia ago. The 600,000 Israelite horde, with Moses at its head, had been led through the desert by a miraculous column of cloud during the day and a blazing ball of fire at night. The cloud and fireball hadn't taken them the direct route northwest to the Promised Land, but, rather, due east straight into the desert, dead-ending at the Red Sea. When the Israelites stopped at the water's edge, apparently lost, the cloud moved to the rear of the camp and hung between the Israelites and Egyptians, who were now pursuing the former slaves. The cloud suddenly "became dark," as the Red Sea parted. It remained dark for a period of time, blocking the view of the Egyptians as the Israelites passed through the sea. When the Israelites were mostly through the trail, the cloud brightened up and beckoned the Egyptians into the parted waterway. Pharaoh and his army followed the cloud.

It was then, we hear, that suddenly a "glance of the Lord" appeared out of the cloud before the Egyptians. This terrified the army and they retreated in panic. Moses, from the other shore, saw this glance and was emboldened. The sea closed around the unbelievers and the Israelites were saved.

We see the glance of the Lord tonight in the cloud. It will not drive us into a panic. It will enflame our hearts with love. May that glance become a gaze, and may that gaze drive us forward to the promised land.

Directed Prayer: God, I've seen your face so many times throughout my life. I saw it when I made my First Holy Communion, when I was confirmed, when I received the other sacraments. I saw it in a moving prayer experience. I saw it in a good friend. I saw it in a beautiful sunset. I am encouraged by your presence and I will go forward to the mission.



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.

Meet Theresa, a young adult leader in the Diocese of Cheyenne, WY, who is establishing youth engagement opportunities in the Diocese. Here is her story -

"I am a cradle Catholic that fell away from the Church in college, but my story is a powerful witness for the healing and mercy of the Lord and how He calls us to himself. I came back to the Church in a big way in 2012 and haven't looked back. I am married to my high school sweetheart, and both through our marriage and service of the Church, I have found the plans and purpose for how and why the Lord created me. I understand how deeply He loves me, and it's also shown me how deeply broken and lost much of the world is. I have felt such a longing to serve and love people so that they might see Christ through me. Because of my story, I am most passionate about serving women, youth, and the field of vocations. I have been very blessed to hold a position centered around youth ministry, and I can't imagine returning to the secular workforce. I plan to continue to serve the Church as generously as possible in the areas the Lord calls."

Theresa is helping invigorate the youth programs by planning and overseeing youth gathering while also cultivating discernment for vocations. Further, her entire upbringing has been in this diocese - it is her home. She wants to see her home diocese grow and thrive. She has experienced her growth in this journey in a very organic way - first working in the secular world only to feel drawn to God's call and become fully engaged within the Church. Theresa fully embraced this call. She is hoping to grow the youth program throughout the Diocese of Cheyenne in areas of evangelization and offering training on different programs to youth leaders. She has also been working to build multicultural competencies among the leaders and very intentionally seeks Hispanic youth representation in leadership roles and opportunities.

She is a woman of consistent prayer, and in everything she does, she does it after serious prayer and discernment. She has started to become a great catalyst for change and progress for the youth of the Church. "The youth of today are incredible," she says. "I think the biggest reason they don't exceed expectations is that no one challenges them. Our youth are far more holy, capable, hungry to learn, and faithful than we all realize. Call them higher and they will step up."

Thank you for your support and generosity!



Roundball 2024

The St. Paul of the Cross Roundball Tournament, co-sponsored by the St Paul of the Cross Men's Club and the St. Paul of the Cross School Alumni Association, kicked off our very own SPC March Madness March 3-9, 2024. The boys' and girls' 6th, 7th, and 8th grade tournaments each took place in double-elimination format, culminating with the exciting championship games on the final night of March 9th. The SPC Alumni currently in high school coach the SPC teams, and this year, we had more than 100 coaches!

Congratulations to the Roundball 2024 Champions: the girls' Golden Eagles and the boys' Fighting Irish! What an incredible championship night and a battle to the finish! Congratulations to the semi-finalists: the girls' Flyers and the boys' Golden Eagles. The standing-room-only crowd enjoyed a thrilling finish to this outstanding week of SPC's March Madness, Roundball 2024!

Congratulations to the tournament individual award winners:
MVP Awards, Chris K and Abby S
Spirit Awards, Ernesto G and Lily D

We are thrilled to congratulate Jimmy Johnston, SPC Class of 2020, on winning the Roundball Alumni Scholarship Award. The \$1,000 scholarship is awarded to a high school senior entering college the following fall, and the recipient is announced during the Roundball Awards Ceremony each year. We wish Jimmy and the SPC Class of 2020 the very best!

Many individuals and families made this possible, starting with co-chairs Joe Haugh and Ryan Fletcher, the SPC Men's Club, Roundball Café organizer Mary Connolly, and all parent and alum parent volunteers.

Thank you to all of our family and corporate sponsors. Thank you to the SPC alums for their time and enthusiasm in coaching the teams. We love to see our alums come back for the week. And, of course, thanks to the Roundball team members for participating in SPC's March Madness!

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Photo Caption

1. Roundball '24 MVPs, Abby S. and Chris K
2. Roundball '24 Spirit Awards, Lili D. and Ernesto G.
3. Alumni Scholarship Award Recipient, Jimmy Johnston
4. Girls' Championship Team, the Golden Eagles
5. Boys' Championship Team, the Fighting Irish

RCIA at St. Paul of the Cross

Since last September, a small group of people has been meeting nearly every Sunday morning to learn more about Jesus Christ, His teachings, and His Church. Along the way, they have been preparing to receive the Sacraments of Initiation and to come into full communion with the Catholic Church as they take part in the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (R.C.I.A.) formation process. They are now beginning their final preparation to receive Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist.

Every year, on the 3rd, 4th, and 5th Sundays of Lent, the RCIA Candidates celebrate the Scrutinies. The Scrutinies are special Rites that entail prayers for spiritual healing, protection, and strength. They help prepare the Candidates to receive the Sacraments of Initiation at the Easter Vigil.

The Scrutiny Rites originated in early Church history. Saints Ambrose and Augustine celebrated them in the fourth and fifth centuries to mark the spiritual progress of those entering the Church. To scrutinize means to “examine closely.” Lent is a period in which we are all called to examine our lives closely and pray for God’s healing and forgiveness in preparation for Easter.

These Rites are celebrated to help deliver the “elect” from the power of sin and Satan, to protect them against temptation, and to give them strength in Christ, who is the Way, the Truth, and the Life. We celebrated the first Scrutiny at the noon mass on the 3rd Sunday of Lent, the second Scrutiny was celebrated at the 10:30 a.m. mass on the 4th Sunday of Lent, and the third Scrutiny at the 9:00 a.m. mass on the 5th Sunday of Lent. The Scripture readings for the Scrutinies come from Cycle A of the Lectionary: the Gospel story of the Samaritan woman at the well for the 1st Scrutiny, the Gospel story of the healing of the man born blind for the 2nd Scrutiny, and the Gospel story of the raising of Lazarus for the 3rd Scrutiny. The celebrations of the Scrutinies also remind the whole parish community of the need to reflect on their own sins and the need for God’s help.

During these rituals, you might have noticed that the RCIA Participants will be dismissed in the middle of the Mass, after the Rite. This will continue until Easter when, at the Easter Vigil, they all will join us at the Table of the Eucharist for the first time. Though they cannot yet come to the table of the Eucharist, our Church still has an obligation to feed those who have entered into a relationship with her through the RCIA process. God’s Word will be their only food during this period. Instead, the participants depart from the Mass with their godparents, sponsors, and the parish sponsors, to discuss the Mass readings for that Sunday and to experience more fully the impact of the Scriptures on their lives. This time is known as “Reflection on the Word.” I hope that you had the opportunity to be part of these beautiful rituals. You might already notice posters of our RCIA Candidates appearing at the entrances to the Church. We also have prayer cards for each one of them, please pick up the prayer cards and keep them in your prayers during the weeks ahead. God Bless!





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!



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- 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

PANTRY NEEDS THIS WEEK

* Crackers

* Cookies

* Strawberry jelly

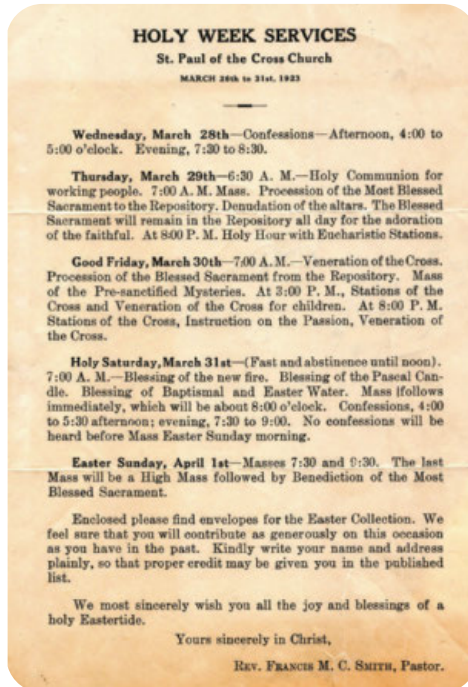
* Shampoo (no bottles of conditioner-only please)

(Please remember that we ask for standard, family sized packages...no jumbo/commercial multi packs please. Thanks!)

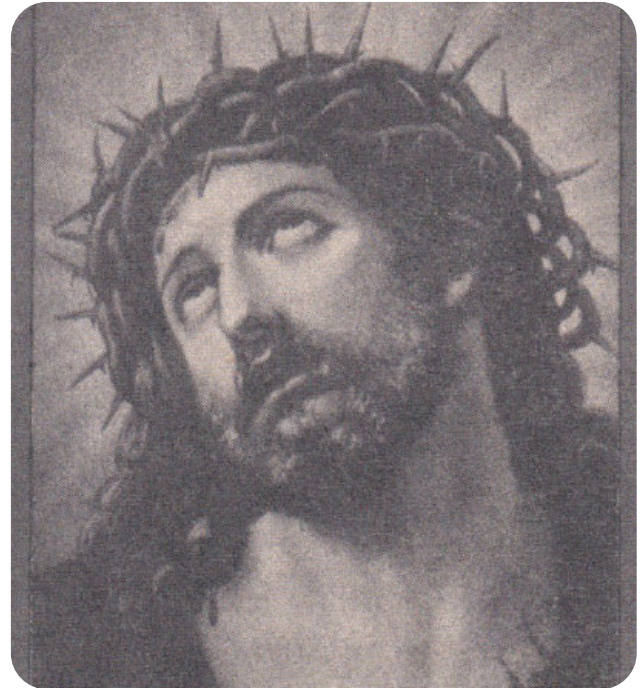
Archive Corner with Mark Miller

As we embark on this year's Holy Week, the Archive Corner would like to share the Services of that week from 1923. It is interesting to note that Easter was just one day off from the celebration of Easter this year. This was probably Father Smith's (our third Pastor) first year as our Pastor. His tenure lasted for 34 years. Recently, a parishioner contributed a true treasure: Father Smith's Mass Card.

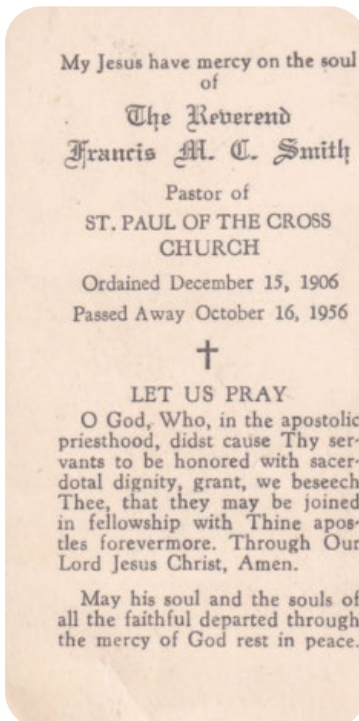
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Photo Captions

1. Holy Week Services 1923
2. Father Smith's Mass Card front
3. Father Smith's Mass Card Back
4. A rare color photo of Father Smith showing the interior of the First Church (1952).

St. Paul's Vacation Bible School

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When: June 17 through June 21 - 9:00 am to 11:00 am

Where: St. Paul of the Cross Campus

Cost: This adventure is \$65 for one child / \$95 for two children / \$105 for three or more children

Who: Students entering 4 year old Preschool through 5th grade this coming school year 2024-2025

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CHILD'S NAME: _____

GRADE in FALL: _____

CHILD'S NAME: _____

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Ministry Corner

Domestic Abuse Awareness Group



Domestic violence awareness is the recognition of the prevalence and impact of abuse in intimate partner relationships. It involves educating the community about the warning signs, types, and options of domestic violence. It also encourages people to take action to promote social change and support survivors.

Domestic violence awareness is observed in October as National Domestic Violence Awareness Month. As a parish, we demonstrate awareness through special prayer services, decorating our church campus with banners, and purple ribbons tied around the trees; we dedicate the full month to this cause by posting articles on domestic violence in our weekly parish bulletin. Most of these articles posted are from the Archdiocese of Chicago Domestic Violence Outreach (ACDVO) mission. They include testimonies from survivors, or domestic violence studies such as "How witnessing domestic violence affects children", "How to prevent domestic violence", and "How common is domestic violence?". ACDVO mission runs an annual fundraiser in March, called "Annual Benefit Gala" where donations and proceeds are used to continue its three-fold mission of Awareness, Services & Prevention.

Leni Duffy, SSM

Leni Duffy

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

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 Music Ministries—Ed Eicker—edwardeicker@spc-church.org
 Ushers—Steve Bozek—sbozek@sbcglobal.net

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 Fun, Faith & Music—Anna Mae Parkhill—annamaeparkhill@spc-church.org
 Wedding Ministry—Joyce Johnson—jmj323@comcast.net

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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
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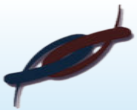
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(847) 692-6767

DIRECTOR OF MUSIC

Edward J. Eicker: edwardeicker@spc-church.org
(847) 825-7605 x2253

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF MUSIC

Andrea Bartolomeo: andreabartolomeo@spc-church.org

ST. PAUL OF THE CROSS SCHOOL PRINCIPAL

Erika Mickelburgh: emickelburgh@spc-school.net
(847) 825-6366 / www.spc-school.net

RCIA

rcia@spc-church.org

CAMPUS SPACE RESERVATIONS

calendars@spc-church.org

VIRTUS

virtus@spc-church.org

LITURGICAL MINISTERS SCHEDULING

schedule@spc-church.org

BULLETIN EDITOR

spcbulletin@spc-church.org
UPCOMING BULLETIN CONTENT DEADLINES
April 7th issue: Friday, March 29th
April 14th issue: Friday, April 5th

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, May 19th, 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