

February 25, 2024

Second Sunday *of* Lent

I will walk before the Lord, in the land of the living.
- Psalm 116

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

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

JOSEPHUA 24:15

320 South Washington Street,
Park Ridge, Illinois, 60068

February 25th, 2024

SECOND 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

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

Theora Rose Kelliher

Daughter of Matthew
Kelliher and Lauren
Schonberg

Emilia Ann Olund

Daughter of Dan Olund
and Rachel Kamienski

Michael James Farrell

Son of James Michael
Farrell and Allyson Nora
Ingles

Roland R. Farris

Son of Eugene R. Farris
and Allyson Nora Ingles

Pray for our Sick

Names Stay in Bulletin for 2 months

Julie Benedetto-Wilcox
Ray Benedetto
Stanislaw Kazmierczak

In Loving Memory

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

Thomas Burian
Angela Skwarski
Angela Catania
Annie Kemp
Fr. Dan Smilanec
John Gibbel

Wedding Banns

III Vincent Notaro
&
Grace Graziano

About the Cover Artist

Ann Vidovic is a member of the
Ministry of Care. Ann enjoys oil
painting and mosaic art. Ann and
her husband, Chris, have been
members of St. Paul of the Cross
for 35 years.

Stewardship Report

WEEKLY OFFERING (February 11th - 17th)

Envelopes	\$14,188.00
Loose	\$12,62.60
Electronic Giving	\$10,469.87
Total Weekly Offering	\$37,290.47

ADDITIONAL COLLECTION (through Feb 17th)

Church in Latin America	\$3,347.55
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ADDITIONAL FINANCIAL DATA

Sunday Giving FY24 Year to Date (July 1st through February 17th)	\$1,155,173.39
Sunday Giving FY24 vs Budget (July 1st through December 31th)	+\$22,355.94

Readings for the Week

Sunday: Gn 22:1-2, 9a, 10-13, 15-18/Ps 116:10, 15, 16-17, 18-19 (116:9)/Rom 8:31b-34/Mk 9:2-10

Monday: Dn 9:4b-10/Ps 79:8, 9, 11 and 13/Lk 6:36-38

Tuesday: Is 1:10, 16-20/Ps 50:8-9, 16bc-17, 21 and 23/Mt 23:1-12

Wednesday: Jer 18:18-20/Ps 31:5-6, 14, 15-16/Mt 20:17-28

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

Friday: Gn 37:3-4, 12-13a, 17b-28a/Ps 105:16-17, 18-19, 20-21/Mt 21:33-43, 45-46

Saturday: Mi 7:14-15, 18-20/Ps 103:1-2, 3-4, 9-10, 11-12/Lk 15:1-3, 11-32

Next 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

Letter from a Pastor to his People



Dear Parishioners,

Have you ever had the experience where you were the outsider in a conversation? Where you were “out of your league”? I remember when I first met the pope (Benedict XVI at the time) when I was a seminarian. I was with Cardinal Francis George, who was the Archbishop of Chicago at the time.

The Cardinal and the Pope were standing there talking about something in the papal palace, and I was just hanging there. Should I say something or keep silent? I wondered agonizingly to myself. Should I contribute to the conversation, should I make a joke, should I nod like I’m following along?

I ended up just keeping silent. The Holy Spirit guided me on that one. I might not be here today if I tried to make a joke (or, frankly, any comment at all).

If that was one end of the spectrum, the other end of the spectrum was recently when I happened upon a group of high school students at a sports game. “Hey, guys,” I said with a smile, “what’s going on?” Silence. “So, how about Taylor Swift?” Silence. (The students now looking at me like I have a second head.) “Okay! Well, then, I’m just gonna go stand over there now. Bye bye.”

Peter felt like he was the outsider in the Transfiguration. This is why he felt the need to say something. “Rabbi, it is good that we are here! Let us make three tents...”

The thing is, Peter wasn’t an outsider in the Transfiguration conversation. He belonged. Jesus specifically invited him, along with James and John, to Mount Tabor. He wanted the three to witness this. Yes, the three couldn’t contribute to the conversation between Jesus, Moses, and Elijah, but that didn’t mean they shouldn’t be present. Jesus wanted the three to overhear what they were saying; wanted the three to witness this glorious sight.

I often think we feel like outsiders around Catholicism. We go to a Bible study and everyone seems to know the details while we’re totally clueless. We go to Mass and are distracted while the guy sitting in front of us seems to be praying intensely and knowing exactly what he’s doing. Folks flock to the Adoration Chapel and we’re like, “um, what’s Adoration?”

You belong. Don’t ever feel like you don’t. The Lord has chosen you to be here. True, you might not know what’s going on, but that’s okay.

I still don’t know what’s going on! But seriously, the invitation isn’t to flee. The invitation is to hang around and listen.

Peter panicked and said something. I guess it was better than him leaving the mountain. But he might have been better off either staying silent or, if he had to say something, asking Jesus, “why is this happening?”

Peter would go on to become the first pope. The man who was “out of his league” was now the man. So too will you be one day.

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A reminder that during Lent we will have **Stations of the Cross** every Friday at 7pm. This week’s Stations will be hosted by the Apostolate of Women. There are also **daily Lenten reflections** that you can find each week in the bulletin, as well as online. And save the date for the **Friday Fish Fry**: Friday, March 15th.

Our **Wednesday Scripture Seminar** this week, February 28th, will be at 9am in the Holy Family Chapel.

Thank you to all who have contributed to the **Annual Catholic Appeal** for the Archdiocese of Chicago, helping us reach our goal of \$145,569. Your contribution not only allows the Archdiocese to support struggling parishes and schools, but allows us to fulfill our needs and continue our mission.

Please pray for the repose of the soul of **Fr. Dan Smilanic**, who died this past Tuesday. Father Smilanic was a long-time resident here at Saint Paul of the Cross while serving as a canon lawyer for the Archdiocese of Chicago. Please check the parish office for details about the day and time of the funeral. May Father Smilanic rest in peace.

Finally, as I mentioned last week, you’ll by now have noticed our **redesigned bulletin**. This is part of our effort to rebrand our image and reach out to even more folks. We are also in the process of redesigning our website. We are looking to give the bulletin a name. Decades ago SPC’s bulletin was called “The Chimes.” If you have any suggestions, feel free to email them to me. Other ideas are “The Passionist,” “The Pew Report,” “The SPC Chronicle.”

Yours in Christ,

Fr. James Wallace

Community Reflections



A few years ago I came across an article regarding this week’s readings which I’d like to share with you.

“Not many people look forward to taking tests. That is quite normal. Even when we feel that we are well prepared there is that heightened anxiety, even dread. Remember the anticipation for your driver’s license exam? Perhaps my heart beats faster, the palms of my hands perspire, I might be easily startled. I become thirsty. Some people even get physically ill. Then there are some who try to fake illness to avoid taking a test. That doesn’t usually help. It only delays the matter. The drama doesn’t help! What helps best, according to the experts, is to be well rested and well prepared over time. In other words, steady, consistent preparation, not “cramming.” Some say that the dread we feel before a test is but a glimpse of our own mortality. Sounds dramatic, but I think there is something to that. One of the more famous tests in the Bible is the one that Abraham faced, which is described in our first reading from the Book of Genesis, chapter 22. Abraham was a very good man, a man of faith. After Abraham had demonstrated his willingness to give all to God, God interrupts the action and Isaac’s life is spared. A ram is provided to be the sacrifice.

Good teachers and good study habits will help us be prepared for tests. How often have you heard a teacher say, “If you have been studying all along, you have nothing to fear on the test.” Jesus is the best of teachers. In taking Peter, James and John up the mountain to witness His Transfiguration, He was preparing them for their tests. Jesus let them see a glimpse of future that awaits. What they saw was so extraordinary and overwhelming they would have liked to have remained there and in that condition. However, that would be like skipping the test and somehow making the grade without it. It doesn’t work that way. They had yet to endure the test of Jesus’s own death on the cross and resurrection from the dead and their own personal passage through death to eternal life. So they did and so will we. Jesus’s Transfiguration was not only for their benefit, but for ours, too.”

Jesus wants us to be as well prepared as Abraham, Peter, James and John. Are you working on it?

In Peace,
Deacon Andy

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

Mass Schedule

FEAST DAY	TIME	PRESIDER	LECTOR	EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS	MASS INTENTIONS
MON, 2/26 Lenten Weekday	6:25 am UC	Fr. Nick			Patrick Haran, Blessings for Idalia Gonzalez, Blessings for Dick Tokar
	8:30 am UC	Fr. James			Michael Jaworski, Cathy Cadwell, Cayden Ingram
TUE, 2/27 Saint Gregory of Narek	6:25 am UC	Fr. James			Birthday Blessings for Matthew Gonzalez
	8:30 am UC	Fr. Nick			Marcella Edwards, Ted, Janina and Vince Zajac, Helen, Elmer and Paul Utesch, Cathy Cadwell, Cayden Ingram
WED, 2/28 Lenten Weekday	6:25 am UC	Fr. James			Healing and Blessings for Dick and Barbara Tokar
	8:30 am UC	Fr. James			Steven Cataudella, Frances LaRoe, Cathy Cadwell, Cayden Ingram
THUR, 2/29 Lenten Weekday	6:25 am UC	Fr. Nick			Isabelle and Charles Veil
	8:30 am UC	Fr. Nick			Robert O'Connor, Cathy Cadwell, Cayden Ingram
FRI, 3/1 World Day of Prayer	6:25 am UC	Fr. Nick			Kathleen Duntemann
	8:30 am UC	Fr. James			Cathy Cadwell, Cayden Ingram, Holy Souls in Purgatory
SAT, 3/2 Lenten Weekday	8:30 am UC	Fr. James			Lee Ann Wozniak, Kate McMahon, Patrick J. Brennan
	4:30 pm UC	Fr. Nick	Jimmy Johnston, Walter Cwik	Mary Fran Cashman, Christopher Buti, Gail Wilkening Patti Nowak	Rosemary Beckman, John Michael, William R. Mooney, Mari-Donna Ekstrom-Roy
SUN, 3/3 Third Sunday of Lent	7:30 am UC	Fr. James	Kirke Machon, Frances Johnson	John Humm, Lisa Orzada, Mark Orzada, Reggie Higgins Reither	People of the Parish
	9:00 am UC	Fr. Nick	John Tallman Jake Zabratanski	Nicolette Vallejo, Kalyn Mahoney, Lisanne Roth, Elly Lamacchia	Maureen McCambridge
	10:30 am UC	Fr. James	Brianna Santucci, Debby Usher	David Dempsey, Philip Spagnolo, Mary Heinz, Cheryl Kaufman	Jose Almendarez, Barbara Emerick, Valeria J. Kaczmarek, Thomas Gebhardt, Dominick and Pat Sharkey, Healing for a friend
	12:00 pm UC	Fr. Nick/BB*	Neda Naum	Susan Clifford, Patricia Thompson, Kevin Wiley, Chris Wiley	Clotilde Corzone, Eugene and Genowefa Piatek
*LEGEND: /BB = Deacon Bob preaching					

Events This Week

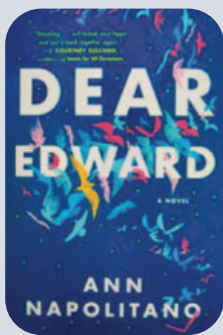
DATE / TIME	LOCATION	EVENT
Sunday, February 25th after Mass	Upper Church	Uncle Pete's Meal Collection
Monday, February 26th @ 7:30 pm	Parish Life Center AB Room	Book Club
Wednesday, February 28th @ 9:00 am	Holy Family Chapel	Scripture Seminar with Father James
Thursday, February 29th @ 7:30 pm	Kinane Center	Praying with Scripture (Lectio Divina)
Friday, March 1st @ 7:00 pm	Upper Church	Stations of the Cross

Opportunities at St. Paul of the Cross

BOOK CLUB

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 26th
7:30 pm
Parish Life Center AB Room

Please join us for our next book club meeting where we will discuss **DEAR EDWARD** by Ann Napolitano



All are welcome!

SCRIPTURE

SEMINAR *with*

FATHER JAMES

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 28TH.
9:00 am
Holy Family Chapel

Please join Fr. James at the next **SCRIPTURE SEMINAR** on Wednesday, February 28th 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.

PANTRY NEEDS

THIS WEEK

- * Spaghetti noodles
- * Ketchup
- * Cans of tuna

Uncle Pete's Meal Collection

COLLECTION of sack lunch/dinners will be before all Masses on February 25th.

We will have volunteers at all entrances prior to each Mass to collect.

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

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL NEW MEMBER



Fr. James welcomes Debby Usher as a member of the Parish Pastoral Council. Debby has been an active SPC volunteer and leader for several years. Debby has served as past President and Vice President of the AOW; has held several officer positions in the St. Therese the Little Flower Guild; Capital Campaign for PLC member; Mass volunteer during COVID; and currently serves as a lector. She brings a wealth of talent, experience and energy to the Council.

Welcome Debby!

NEW WEDDING MINISTRY NEEDS VOLUNTEERS

We are thrilled to announce a wonderful opportunity for a married couple to share the gift of love and wisdom with an engaged couple preparing for the Sacrament of Marriage at Saint Paul of the Cross!

Are you a happily married couple looking to make a lasting impact on the lives of others? Become vital guides for a soon-to-be-wedded pair by joining our unique Marriage Mentor Program. Your experiences, insights, and faith will play a crucial role in helping couples build a strong foundation for a lifetime of love.

Contact Nick Testa for more info: (nicktesta@spc-church.org)

Father James' Lenten Reflections

The Second Sunday of Lent

"Then Peter said to Jesus in reply, 'Lord, it is good that we are here. If you wish, I will make three tents here, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah.'" Matthew 17:4

Peter generally gets a bad rap in the Gospel accounts, especially in the season of Lent. No such thing will ever happen to you...Get behind me Satan. I will die with you...you will deny me three times. No one will arrest you...sheathe your sword!

The Transfiguration is not, in my mind, one of those lowlights. True, Jesus doesn't respond to Peter's comment about making three tents, but he also doesn't rebuke him. There is a desire in Peter to savor the glorious moment, to remain atop Tabor. How many of us, with a beautiful experience, race on to the next thing? The invitation is to enjoy what is before us.

Peter also says something many of us struggle to say: "It is good that we are here." How many of us feel cursed in our job, in our marriage, in our body, in our city, in our life? We

are not happy and we wish we weren't here. But it is not true. We are blessed. We should be here. Even though we may not instinctively feel it, if we pray what Peter said, we will see God's blessing in our lives. The darkness in our minds will break through like that radiance from the Lord atop Tabor broke through sleepy eyes of the apostles.

Directed Prayer: Lord, it is good that I am here. It is good that we are here. Yes, this life has its pains. But I choose to focus on the beauty. I choose to believe that you are by my side. And with you by my side, all is well.

Monday of the Second Week of Lent

"Stop judging and you will not be judged." Luke 6:37

We as humans make temporary judgments all the time: messages to answer, particular items to buy, proposals to accept or reject. The judgment to which our Lord is referring when he says 'stop judging' is final judgment. This is the type of judgment that concludes and decides the person or situation irrevocably. The verdict, so to speak, has been established, the sentence imposed, and

Father James' Lenten Reflections (continued)

the guilty is ushered away.

When we make a final judgment on a person, we cut them off in our mind. They cannot be redeemed. They have offended us and there is nothing good we can receive from them. They are weird, we think, and cannot offer us anything.

But this is a mistaken approach. That person is still a son or daughter of God. They can still be a grace to us. We are called not to judge them, but to help and love them.

If we are struggling with final judgment, then perhaps we can say the opening prayer from today's Mass: O God, who have taught us to chasten our bodies for the healing of our souls, enable us, we pray, to abstain from all sins, and strengthen our hearts to carry out your loving commands.

Directed Prayer: Come, Holy Spirit, give me love. Give me a heroic charity to not judge this person who has hurt me or who is different from me. This person is good. This person, like me, is an imperfect individual who can and will grow. Please heal and help both of us.

Tuesday of the Second Week of Lent

"Do and observe all things whatsoever the Pharisees tell you, but do not follow their example."
Matthew 23:4

Jesus challenged the Pharisees, but he wasn't 'anti-institution.' He recognized the authenticity of the "chair of Moses" upon which the Pharisees sat, hence the people were to follow their instruction. It was the personal witness of the Pharisees that the people were not to heed. The Pharisees did not practice what they preached. They looked for honor. They did not assist the needy.

Christ has replaced the chair of Moses with the chair of Peter. We are to listen to what the occupants of that chair tell us. But we are also to scrutinize carefully their behavior--how they follow the message they preach. This is why the personal life of the preacher is essential to the faith. A public defendant or prosecutor might not believe personally in what they are litigating. It cannot be so with the preacher. The effectiveness of our words depends on our character.

There might be a principal chair of Peter, but there are also many chairs around the table. The laity sit on those chairs. The priest must be holy; the layperson, also called to preach, must be holy as well. When we give our exhortations, we must be ready to help those fulfill the commands. We must carry the burdens for our loved ones.

Directed Prayer: Jesus, you have called me to preach. I accept this humbly, for I know I am a sinner and I don't have it all figured out. All I can do is pray for as-

sistance and trust in the Holy Spirit speaking through me. May my words help others know you and love you.

Wednesday of the Second Week of Lent

"Command that these two sons of mine sit, one at your right and the other at your left, in your kingdom."
Matthew 20:21

Command. The mother of the sons of Zebedee uses the same word as Satan did in the desert: "Command these stones unto bread." Jesus had the ability to do the things Mrs. Zebedee and Satan asked. He multiplied the loaves and fishes miraculously and he gave Peter the keys to the Kingdom. But what he could not do was separate himself from God the Father. This was the temptation in both instances: not the action per se, but for Jesus to act independently of the Father. Jesus acted when the Father drew him, not when someone drove him.

Are we driven by the enemy to our actions? Or are we drawn by God the Father? God is not a slave-driver. He is gentle. We should follow God's voice, not the devil's.

Do we drive God to actions or do we gently invite him? We can be very much like the mother of James and John. We plead forcefully with Jesus for something. We bargain with him and perhaps even threaten him. Recall Mary's approach at the Wedding at Cana. She simply stated the situation. She trusted Jesus would do what was right. May we have our Blessed Mother's approach.

Directed Prayer: Lord, there is so much I want. I am not satisfied in my life. Please give me joy. And if you fulfill some or all of my desires, may it be only so that I can serve others more effectively.

Thursday of the Second Week of Lent

"If they will not listen to Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded if someone should rise from the dead."
Luke 16:31

Obliviousness is the vice for the day to ponder. The rich man in the parable was oblivious of Lazarus begging outside of his home. He was oblivious to love and the meaning of heaven.

Pieter Brueghel's 1564 painting, Christ Carrying the Cross shows the scene from the average spectator's perspective. It is what the oblivious person would have seen on Good Friday. In the painting, people flock to Calvary to witness the spectacle. They seek entertainment the way the Romans flocked to the Coliseum or Americans to a stadium. The Savior of the World undergoes the greatest act of love for all mankind and meanwhile people come and go, children play and dogs run, business is exchanged.

Twentieth century author Aldous Huxley appreciated Brueghel's depiction of Calvary because other depictions, he remarked, "erase the brutishness and stupidity of the crowd." Classical illustrations of Calvary, with Christ gloriously in the center as divine hero of the tragedy, "affect and transform all the other facts, justifying, in a sense, the horror of the drama and ranging all that surrounds the central figure in an ordered hierarchy of good and evil."

Brueghel's painting can serve as the reminder for us to care; to love our God who loved us.

Directed Prayer: Lord, show me who I have been ignoring lately. Show me who is silently reaching out for love and attention. I first give you my love and attention, and then I ask to be able to love this person in my life.

Friday of the Second Week of Lent

"The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone."
Matthew 21:42

Hitting rock-bottom is a blessing. One cannot go any lower, by definition, and so death or conversion are the two paths forward. It is the descent to rock-bottom that is hell.

The situation with Jacob's sons had hit rock bottom. The brothers of Joseph were envious, hateful, and greedy. When they attempt to kill the dreamer by throwing him into the cistern--where he literally hits rock-bottom--and then sell him as a slave, they have turned the corner. It will take many years, but the family will be restored. The brothers, by the time they encounter Joseph in Egypt, are changed men. No longer angry or bitter, they show compassion and love. All because of the rock-bottom.

In the parable of the wicked tenants, the vineyard hits rock-bottom when the son of the owner is finally killed, after all the other servants had been rejected and killed. Now the master will intervene and restore the vineyard, making it fruitful and productive once more.

The enemy tells us not to hit rock-bottom. He tells us the slow movement of descent into further sin is much better than the stagnation of rock-bottom. But this is a lie. For in this lowest of places we encounter the stone that the builders rejected. He will raise us up and construct a new edifice for us.

Directed Prayer: Lord, I am weak and lowly. There are things I just cannot handle on my own will-power. You are all powerful. You can perform the miraculous. You can help me and others. I surrender to you. And I surrender the people I know to you.

Saturday of the Second Week of Lent

"Shepherd your people with your staff, the flock of your inheritance, that dwells apart

in a woodland, in the midst of Carmel."
Micah 7:14

Carmel and the area in Israel along the Mediterranean coast to the north, towards Lebanon, was considered beautiful countryside. The woodland, the beautiful green mountains, the verdant pastures in between, all made this a desirable location. Micah the prophet was told by the Lord to take the people to this beautiful area. Not necessarily literally, but spiritually.

Our current setting might be drab, but when we pray and enter our souls in union with God, it can be as if we are in the delightful locale.

The prodigal son wondered off to a distant country. He did not go westward to Carmel. He went east into the desert. He wanted more than his home had to offer and choose only greater bleakness in looking for an actual material comfort. Beauty was to be had in Carmel--the Carmel of the heart. That hill can be climbed when we pray.

St. John the Cross, St. Teresa of Avila, St. Thérèse of Lisieux, and so many other Carmelites went into this woodland. That is, they went into the depths of prayer. They didn't travel physically far, especially Thérèse, but they went somewhere incredible.

Directed Prayer: Jesus, I breathe deeply, close my eyes, and imagine myself in the most beautiful setting. It is the woods, a mountain, the desert, a beach. You are by my side. I open my heart. Please allow me to accept that heaven is not a place, but you.



(Christ Carrying the Cross, Pieter Brueghel, 1564)

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. On the website for the Diocese of Cheyenne, they introduce themselves by saying: "Our state is a land of wide-open spaces and sparsely populated towns, but our people are faith-filled and tightly-knit, bound together by a love of God, country, community, and a Western spirit unique to this special place." That adequately describes the cluster of four parishes in Riverton, WY. The sacraments are very important to these faith-filled Catholics. Whenever we talk about an active Catholic Community, we look at their experience of the Eucharist. The members of this cluster have a great love for the Eucharist, but they also have a great love for the sacrament of Penance. Each week in the main church confessions are scheduled at least twice a week for an hour. Every single time the priest is there longer than the time allotted. During their Lenten Penance service, a priest from the neighboring parish that serves Native Americans comes to help because the church is almost as full as the main Sunday Mass.

When the kids of the parish have their First Holy Communion the whole parish attends. A parish community member commented on how it is always so moving to see the older members of the community come out to make the day grander for the children even though they are not related by blood.

These cluster parishes rely on the time and talent people give to the church to make these little, rural parishes prosper. The laity do everything possible to make their church alive, happening, and welcoming. They not only open the churches and close them but they serve as lectors, singers, musicians, sacristans, altar servers, catechists, cleaners, and cooks. The altar servers at the parish in Riverton are three sisters, one of whom is a bull-riding champ.

These mission Churches play a big part in people's lives, that is why the cluster of parishes in Riverton, WY have highlighted the need for improved technology at all four parishes – internet and phone services. Your support this Lent can help improve the technology needs at the cluster of parishes in Riverton, WY so the parish community can continue their social outreach and evangelization. **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-slaw, 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

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. The DVD seminar features nationally respected grief experts and real-life stories of people, followed by a small group discussion about what was viewed. Past participants have said how helpful the information and follow-up discussions were to them.

Many grieving people find they are only beginning the work of healing when friends or families have returned to their daily life routines. Too often people, including Christians, tend to stuff their grief instead of allowing it to do the God-given work for which it is intended. Confidentiality is a big part of this program.

Your bereavement experience may be recent or not so recent. You will find encouragement, comfort, and help in grieving the death of a spouse, child, parent, sibling, other family member, or friend. This is an opportunity to be around people who understand what you are feeling and going through. You will learn how to recognize the symptoms of being stuck in grief and how to move through the process. You will learn valuable information about facing your new normal in life and renewing your hope for the future.

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.

A SHARED MEAL EVERY SUNDAY NIGHT

4:00 - 5:00 PM

The Dining Room is open from 4:00pm - 5:00pm on Sundays for a shared meal, no questions asked. Guests are encouraged to come at the beginning of dinner service.

Location:

**Main Entrance (Delphia Ave)
Park Ridge Presbyterian Church
1300 W. Crescent Ave. Park Ridge, IL**



"Share with the Lord's people who are in need. Practice hospitality." - Romans 12:13

While our nation was getting ready for Super Bowl Sunday, we had our SPC team of volunteers prep and serve a wonderful meal at Sunday Night Suppers (SNS)!

Thank you to Kathy and her superstar team!

Leni Duffy, SSM

2024 Annual Catholic Appeal

Together at the table



annualcatholicappeal.com

For our parishes, schools, ministries and communities throughout Cook and Lake counties.

The Archdiocese of Chicago proclaims the gospel of Jesus Christ and carries on his mission through our parishes, schools and ministries. The Annual Catholic Appeal supports low-income parishes and their schools, religious education classes and other outreach programs, Catholic Relief Services and the development of our priests, among other worthy programs and initiatives.

Moved by Christ's call to live as disciples, we come together at the table through the Annual Catholic Appeal to care for our Church and each other. As parishes meet their ACA goal, proceeds return to the parish to carry out the healing mission in their own local community.

With Heartfelt Gratitude

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

We have faced many challenges in our world—from diseases and social upheavals to climate disasters and economic uncertainty. Still, we hope, because the Lord has walked with us, and we have walked with each other. The Lord's table has sustained us. This year's Annual Catholic Appeal echoes these experiences.



This year, our theme is *Together at the table*. It evokes the Last Supper and the story of the two disciples on the way to Emmaus who are together at the table with the Lord. In these images, we know ourselves as gathered together, as fed by the Eucharist, and as missionary disciples sent into the world. Closely connected to this is Pope Francis' call for a synodal Church, that is, a Church "on the road together." When we are *together at the table*, the altar of the Lord's sacrifice, we find the true means that sustain us on our shared journey homeward.

Please consider joining me to support this year's Appeal, so that together we can be instruments of God's grace. Your generous contribution—I can assure you—will be a source of blessing for many people and for you yourself and your loved ones. Thank you.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Blase Cupic
Archbishop of Chicago

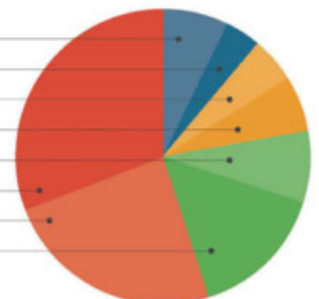
2024 Annual Catholic Appeal

HOW YOUR GIFT WILL BE USED

These projections are based on anticipated needs and are subject to change. The list below is meant to summarize the far-reaching impact of the Appeal, and so is not a comprehensive list of all the archdiocese's ministries.

Low-income parishes and schools	31%	Support for parishes and schools serving financially challenged communities
Parish-based incentives	24%	After a parish reaches goal, donated funds return to the parish for local use
Archdiocesan ministries	15%	Outreach initiatives for young adults, families, children and others
Spiritual renewal efforts	8%	Transforming parishes to share our faith in new and creative ways
Priest formation	6%	Education and development for seminarians and priests in the Archdiocese of Chicago
Scholarships	5%	Tuition assistance for disadvantaged Catholic school families
Catholic Relief Services	4%	Support for those suffering from natural disasters around the world
Cost of the Appeal	7%	Printing, postage, processing costs for the Appeal

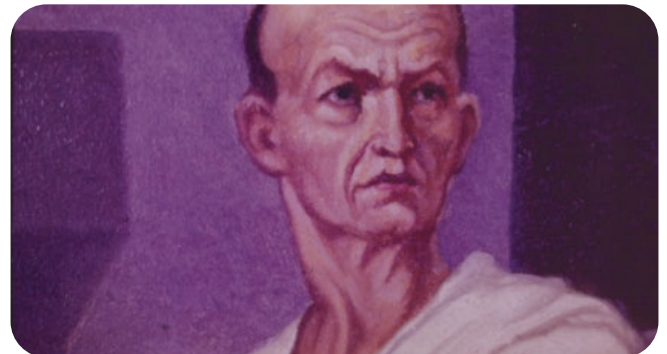
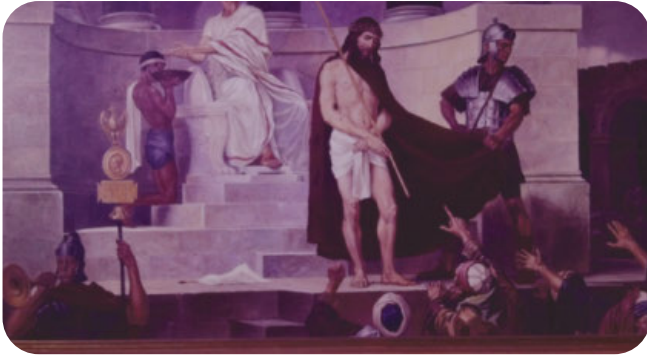
Cost of the Appeal	7%
Catholic Relief Services	4%
Scholarships	5%
Priest formation	6%
Spiritual renewal efforts	8%
Low-income parishes and schools	31%
Parish-based incentives	24%
Archdiocesan ministries	15%



To make a gift to the 2024 Annual Catholic Appeal and for information on how Appeal funds are spent, visit annualcatholicappeal.com or scan QR code.

Archive Corner with Mark Miller

This week's Archive Corner features the beautiful stations of the cross inside our upper church. Pictured below are close-ups of the first and second stations: Jesus is Condemned to Death and Jesus Bears His Cross.



IN MEMORIAM

Reverend Daniel A. Smilanic



Born into Life ~ 1947
Ordained a Priest of Jesus Christ ~ 1973
Born into Eternal Life ~ 2024

“Eternal rest grant unto him, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon him.”

Ministry Corner

Arts and Environment Ministry



The Holy Mass is the heart of the community here at St. Paul of the Cross. We stand at the precipice of the heavenly realm and give God rightful thanks and praise during the Divine Liturgy. The church is the Lord's house and we do right by him ensuring the environment is beautifully adorned. We bring our gifts to the altar to be consecrated and transformed into lifesaving food. The decorations function in a similar way wherein we utilize the gifts of art and creativity and return it to him for his glory. During Lent the altar is emptied of flowers and decoration which fits the penitential character of the season. How dramatic it will be when our team prepares this altar for the celebration of Easter. I am so grateful for all those who have invested in our ministry; because all that will be designed is meant to enhance the spirit of prayer and foster beauty as a way to worship God who is our creator and sustains our gift of life. If you would like to join our ministry reach out and let's talk.

Fr. Nick.

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 WWMINISTRIES

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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(847) 825-7605 x2250

DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS

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847-825-7605 x2245 / www.spc-church.org

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

RCIA

rcia@spc-church.org

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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

March 3rd issue: Friday, February 23rd
March 10th issue: Friday, March 1st

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