ST. PAUL CATHOLIC CHURCH December 26th & January 2nd



"For today in the city of David a savior has been born for you who is Christ and Lord." - Lk 2:11

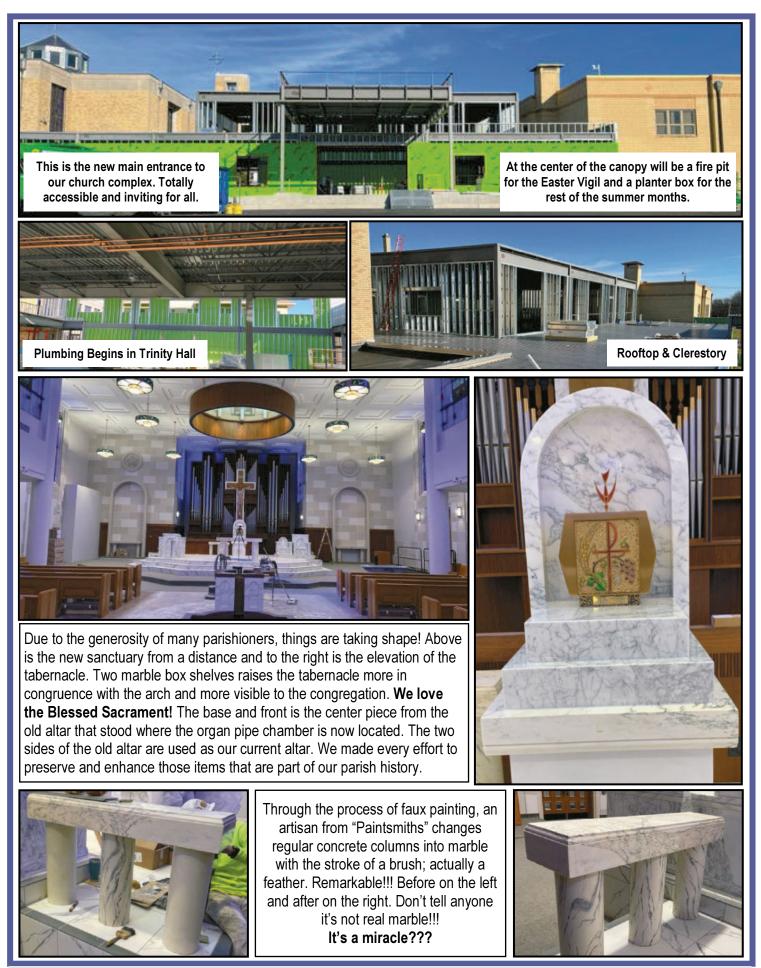
Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD

THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD "Since from you shall come a ruler, who is to shepherd my people Israel." - Mt 2:6b

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCL

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Temporary containment walls during construction of Trinity Hall



Another Secret: Under the organ pipe chamber are panels that look like they have been there forever, but that's not the case. They are new cabinets for choir hymnals and other storage. Nobody will ever know!!!



PARISH CAMPUS BUILD 2021-2022

Our parish is experiencing a revitalization of all of our campus facilities, as a result of the efforts of our parishioners. This is evidenced by the funding donated to meet our needs to continue to bring everyone closer to Our Lord. The tremendous outpouring of helping hands, the expertise of the dedicated craftsmen and volunteers pitching in, even before they are asked. All along, the intent of the Campus Growth Team has been to create a safe, inviting and spacious worship environment by upgrading and expanding our campus to enable the parish family to have the resources to be "One in Our Lord".

In gratitude and Merry Christmas, Terry Zeisset & The Campus Growth Team

Dear St. Paul Family,

As 2021 comes to a close, I reflect on all of the blessings that God has bestowed on me so abundantly this year. I am grateful to be able to call so many of you friends and family. I have enjoyed sharing God's Word with the students of both St. Paul School and our PSR

program. And I am encouraged and proud of the success of the newly formed altar server group. I pray that this group continues to grow!

I would like to thank Fr. Pat, Seminarian Stefan, and the parish staff for all of the help they have given me this past year. I would also like to thank all of the parishioners who have supported me and for their faithfulness and willingness to do God's work. Finally I am grateful that Seminarian Stefan's mom and my mom decided to come for Christmas despite the pandemic and all of the travel restrictions that have been imposed as a result. Please pray for their health and safety during their visit and as they make their return trip to Poland on January 7th. I pray that I may return home to Poland for a visit in the New Year.

With a view towards the New Year, I will endeavor to take more time to listen to God and be more responsive to serve His people. It is my wish that you all have a very blessed Christmas season and a most peaceful and joy-filled 2022.

May God bless us all, Fr. Piotr Kosk, Parochial Vicar

Dear Parishioners,

Merry Christmas!

While this past year has been incredibly difficult for me, not just because of COVID, but also because of all of the adjustments - the transfer to



a new diocese, a new parish, and a new seminary - please know that I am deeply grateful to all of you. Most of all thank you for making me feel that I am home here at St. Paul Parish. A special thanks to Father Pat and Father Kosk for all they have done for me during this time of adjustment too!

During this special time of Christmas and with a view to the New Year, it is my wish for you and yours that you may know peace and never lose hope, for it is she who gives us the strength to fight and endure adversities. May the newborn king bless us!

Love and be loved,

Seminarian Stefan Kaniewski





CHRISTMAS GREETINGS

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Blessings of the New Born King! It's not easy to know where to begin after such a remarkable year of Growing Our Family and Growing Our Faith. I offer this letter as a "2021 Year in Review" counting our blessings, affirming each other in our goodness and generosity and looking ahead with hope for 2022. Today's bulletin covers two weekends; Christmas & New Years weekends.

Looking back over the year there were losses and gains. We are still fighting the virus and have lost people through death, but they have gained eternal life. Various sicknesses have fallen upon us but, there is the hope of getting better. Prices on everything have skyrocketed but, we can still be generous. There have been setbacks on construction and other things in our lives, due to back ordered items, but we have learned patience. We are still socially restricted but, we can still spend time with family and friends. Even with restrictions we can still pray. Water heaters, boiler pumps and compressors needed replaced. Pipes busted, water damage happened and lots of repairs were needed on our aging facilities, but there were more gains than losses because God is so good. We have accomplished so much because God continues to give success to the work of our hands.

So much has been accomplished both materially and spiritually. St. Paul Parishioners are remarkable people, with an eye on faith. You truly inspire me and offer kind and heartfelt affirmations to me and each other. Your cards, emails, texts and notes encourage me regularly. It's amazing how you often see the glass half full. Your positivity is inspirational, for sure!

As I stand with you at the threshold of a new year, the thing I hope for most of all, is a growth in harmony among parishioners and all people. Seems Covid 19 has driven a wedge between many folks with differing opinions. I know we can do this through tolerance and healing. We can all take the higher road and know that all things are in God's hands. This is what our faith tells us!

The prince of peace is born into our hearts and lives! I am forever grateful for all you do. You have touched my heart. As your shepherd, I want to gather what has been scattered and put all of us together in unity, especially at the Eucharistic Table.

Merry Christmas, Fr. Pat

FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY MASSES

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 267:00amSt. Paul Church8:30amSt. Paul Church10:00amSt. Paul Church

SOLEMNITY OF MARY, THE MOTHER OF GOD MASSES

Friday, Dec. 31, 2021; 4:00pm Saturday, Jan. 1, 2022; 8:30am Church Church

Church

THE EPIPHANY OF OUR LORD MASSESSaturday, Jan. 1, 2022; 4:00pmChurch

Sun., Jan. 2, 2022; 7:00am, 8:30am, 10:00am

<u>THE BAPTISM OF OUR LORD MA</u>	SSES
Saturday, Jan. 8, 2022; 4:00pm	Church
Sun., Jan. 9, 2022; 7:00am, 8:30am, 10:00am	Church

10:00AM MASSES ARE LIVE-STREAMED The Masses above are obligatory except for the Solemnity of Mary that falls on Saturday.

WEEKDAY MASS STILL AT MERIDITH F.H. Construction and noise will continue, even after we move back into the church. As a result, weekday Masses will be at Meridith Funeral Home through January, so the workers can start their day at the usual early time. School and weekend Masses will be held in the church. Wednesday morning Mass will be at the Hosp. Chapel. We thank Meridiths for their generosity and hospitality!

KCs & HACSM STILL NEED DONATIONS It's not too late! If you didn't get the message, we will still be collecting paper towels, toilet paper, Kleenex, body wash, deodorant, shampoo and toothpaste to help the KCs help our Highland Food Pantry. The need is great!!! Place these items in the west devotional niche by Sunday, January 2nd. Thank you so much!

THE BEST DINNER/AUCTION EVER!!! Our annual dinner auction has suffered greatly the past 2 years. We are praying that this year will make up for it. Please support this event to be held on Sat., January 22 at the Knights of Columbus Hall. We can make a difference in the lives of our St. Paul School children.





Parochial Vicar Fr. Piotr Kosk

Dear Brothers and Sisters!

The time of Advent, our waiting, and the Vigil in the dimension of the Liturgical Year has ended. Christmas came. And I look at my life, at my heart, and I ask if Jesus can stay in me today, as in the Grotto of Bethlehem. Do I greet my Lord with joy? Is Mary and Joseph's love that surrounded the Child Jesus present in me? Does your heart long to sing "Glory to God in the highest" like the angels? Do I kneel before the Child in the manger with the faith of the shepherds? The heart says it is still not enough! Jesus was born in Bethlehem over 2,000 years ago, but today He also comes to me, ALIVE AND TRUE!

St. Mother Teresa of Calcutta once said:

Then it is Christmas.

Whenever you smile at your brother, and you stretch out your hands to him,

it is Christmas.

Whenever you go silent to listen,

it is Christmas.

Whenever you give up the rules which oppress people like an iron hoop, in their loneliness,

it is Christmas.

Whenever you give a little hope to the "prisoners," those who are overwhelmed by their physical burden, moral and spiritual poverty,

it is Christmas.

Whenever you recognize in humility, how negligible your options are and how great is your weakness, it is Christmas. Whenever you let God love others because of you, always then

it is Christmas.

Is my heart ready for this Christmas? I do not want to enjoy only the festive mood, gatherings with loved ones, tasty dishes, and beautiful decorations. I want to experience deep joy, BECAUSE THE EARTH SAW ITS SAVIOR, BECAUSE MY HEART HAS SEEN AND MET ITS SAVIOR!

The writer of the Book of Hebrews says today, "Long ago God spoke to our ancestors in many and various ways by the prophets, but in these last days He has spoken to us by a Son." (Hbr 1, 1-6)

How do I experience meeting the Savior? Do I allow Him to speak to my heart? Do I allow Him to reign in my life and ask Him what to do at the moment? What is His will?

If I am following this path, and even though I stumble sometimes, I can say today with the evangelist: "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through Him, and without Him, not one thing came into being. And the Word became flesh and lived among us."

Dear Brother! Dear Sister!

ON THIS HOLY DAY, LET US GO TO WELCOME THE LORD, BECAUSE A GREAT LIGHT HAS COME TO EARTH TODAY.

I wish for all of you, as well as myself:

That our hearts will break with love, and not our stomachs from overeating; that the straw protrudes from our hearts, which has become a manger, and not only from shoes, so that the Vigil does not end with Advent, but that it lasts, that with burning hearts and smiles on our faces, we may greet the Lord coming not to us, but for us.



Whether you are a visitor who has come a long way to be with us during the Christmas season or a member of our family who has been away for awhile...we are SO glad you are here!

We hope that you have found our parish home and family to be warm and welcoming. We have just completed (a week ago, so the paint may still be wet!) a major renovation of our church. We are thrilled with the results and hope you are too! We also pray that you have experienced God's love, not only through celebrating the sacraments but through *us*, as the Body of Christ.

Although Christmas may be different for all of us this year, one thing is eternally the same...Christ came to bring salvation to all of us. As we celebrate His human birth, may you be surrounded by His love.

If you have simply been away for awhile, especially during the Covid pandemic, we **REJOICE** that you have come today. We pray that while you were here, you found a reason to come back. We look forward to seeing you again!

Merry Christmas And a Blessed New Year!



IT'S SAFE. IT'S SIMPLE. IT'S CONVENIENT

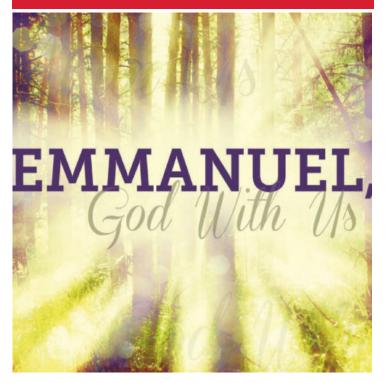
Support St. Paul Parish today using your debit or credit card or checking or savings account. Scan this QR code to be immediately connected to our WeShare Online Giving Site.



Your generosity is appreciated!



The Parish Office will be closed from December 24 thru 31.





Business Office

Dineen Czar Executive Manager

Laurie Scott Accountant



This Week's Buzz from our Business Office:

With everyone a-BUZZ these days with holiday activities, we just wanted to send a happy reminder to all that online giving is a quick and hasslefree way to schedule your donations for our regular weekly



collections or special collections, which can be set up as recurring transactions or as a onetime transaction, using your debit or credit card or as an ACH transaction (automatic withdrawal from your bank account).

Our online donation provider, WeShare, can be accessed either on our Parish website (stpaulhighland.org) or via the WeShare website (stpaulhighland.weshareonline.org). If you have any questions about setting up your profile to get started with online giving, please feel free to call Laurie Scott or me at the Parish Office, or email us at Iscott@style.org or <u>dczar@stpaulhighland.org</u>.

We are here to help and are happy to do so! Making your donations to St. Paul Parish via online giving through WeShare is more efficient than conventional envelopes, which gives you more time to. . .SHINE ON, not only during the holiday season but all throughout the New Year!! The Business Office wishes you and yours a blessed Christmas season and a very Happy (and shiny!) New Year!!



The financial stewardship contributions from December 18/19 and 24/25/26/27 weekends were not available at the time of print. They will

be included in the next possible bulletin. Thank you!



Our doors welcomed students with the Christmas spirit!



The Holy Family & The Epiphany of the Lord 7

CONFIRMATION FOR ADULTS – We want to ensure that any adult – **high-school age and older** – who is not yet

Confirmed has the opportunity to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation. Some adults "missed" this Sacrament if their family moved or changed schools at a time when formation was offered.



On Sunday, January 9, from 11a.m.-12:30p.m. we will offer a preparation session at St. Paul for those adults who wish to be **Confirmed on Saturday, Feb. 5, 10 a.m. at the Cathedral of Immaculate Conception in Springfield.**

In the Sacrament of Confirmation, "the baptized person is 'sealed with the gift of the Holy Spirit' and is strengthened for service to the Body of Christ" (*United States Catholic Catechism for Adults, page 203*). This Sacrament strongly helps us as individuals and as a community as we live out Baptismal promises.

Pease e-mail Molly Korte at mkorte@stpaulhighland.org or Lorraine Senci at lsenci@stpaulhighland.org_or call the Parish Office, 654-2339, if you would like to register for the Confirmation for Adults session that will be **Sunday, January 9, from 11a.m.-12:30p.m.**





The Diocese of Springfield in Illinois invites you to join us for a diocesan-wide pro-life Mass and march event on Friday, January 21, in Springfield at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception. We will begin with Mass at 10:00 am followed by an 11:00 am march to the Illinois

Capital. Like last year, the diocese has decided to forego a trip to Washington, D.C., and focus on a local march. The Mass and march are intended for 7th-12th graders, college students, and adults.

Dec. 31 -Jan. 1	Friday, 4:00 PM	Saturday, 8:30 AM	
Server	NOT FILLED NOT FILLED NOT FILLED	NOT FILLED NOT FILLED NOT FILLED	
Lector	Bill Wagner NOT FILLED	NOT FILLED NOT FILLED	
EMHC	Derek Kloss Michael Haufler NOT FILLED	Michael Haufler NOT FILLED NOT FILLED	
Hospitality Leader	NOT FILLED	NOT FILLED	MARY, HOLY MOTHE
Hospitality	NOT FILLED NOT FILLED	NOT FILLED NOT FILLED	or you

Help needed with Christmas Masses								
Dec. 24-25	Friday, 4:00 PM Christmas Eve	Friday, 4:15pm <u>KC Hall</u>	Friday, 6:00 PM Christmas Eve	Friday, 11:00pm Christmas Eve	Saturday, 8:30am Christmas Day	Saturday, 10am Christmas Day		
HELPI	Samuel Kukowski NOT FILLED NOT FILLED	Burke Elliott Chloe Elliott Trent Elliott	Jude Hemann James Hemann Andrew Sinnock NOT FILLED NOT FILLED	Clayton Hopfinger NOT FILLED NOT FILLED NOT FILLED	NOT FILLED NOT FILLED NOT FILLED	NOT FILLED NOT FILLED NOT FILLED		
Thurifer				Gregory Venarsky				
Lector	Tom Hill Mary Thole	Jay Czar KC	Ken Krausz NOT FILLED	Laurie Frank Jerry Morence	Tom Gutzler Brooke Quade	Carol Henrichs Bill Wagner		
ЕМНС	Michael Haufler Derek Kloss Judy Shannon	Sharon Klostermann Joe Wetmore KC	Kim Clasquin NOT FILLED NOT FILLED	Frank Lipski Jennifer Miller NOT FILLED	Michael Haufler Jennifer Miller NOT FILLED	Laura Hollenkamp NOT FILLED NOT FILLED		
Hospitality Leader	NOT FILLED	КС	NOT FILLED	NOT FILLED	NOT FILLED	NOT FILLED		
Hospitality Minister	NOT FILLED NOT FILLED	Steve Waller KC KC	NOT FILLED NOT FILLED NOT FILLED	NOT FILLED NOT FILLED NOT FILLED	NOT FILLED NOT FILLED NOT FILLED NOT FILLED	NOT FILLED NOT FILLED NOT FILLED NOT FILLED		



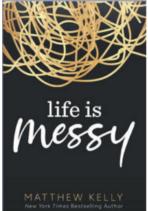
Pastoral Associate for Faith Formation Deanna Harlan



WARM Thanks and *Blessings!!! BLANKET DRIVE 2021*

Blankets, blankets of all colors and sizes! Due to your generosity, <u>approx.</u> <u>188 blankets</u> were collected and distributed between Sts. Peter & Paul Community Services, Caritas Maternity Home, Relevant Pregnancy Options Center, HACSM, Cedarhurst, San Gabriel and Highland Healthcare. We can't possibly overstate the importance of your generous stewardship!

Your gift of love and warmth could literally mean the difference between *life* and *death*!



Christmas Gift

Thanks to the generosity and stewardship of a faithful parishioner, Matthew Kelly's book, "Life is Messy" has been provided as a Christmas gift for parishioners.

Everyone has a *Mess!*

And "Life is Messy" is for anyone with a mess. Born from the three most devastating years of Matthew Kelly's life, it has the power to walk and talk with people in their messes and remind them of their deep spiritual needs.

The books are available at all Mass entrances. Our heartfelt gratitude to our anonymous donor!

Merry Christmas From St. Paul Parish!



Seminarian Tree

Much like an Angel Tree, we have created **Seminarian Trees.** Our parish is participating in a new diocesan initiative to encourage support of our diocesan seminarians throughout the year.

There are trees located as you enter for Mass at either the gym or KC Hall.

Each tree holds cards for each seminarian in our diocese. Parishioners are asked to pull off a card and commit to praying for that seminarian all year. Additionally, if you wish, you could choose to send them a Christmas card or birthday card. Their birthdates and mailing addresses are included with the card.

GET YOURS TODAY!

Our parish has always been so supportive of and generous with our seminarians. We are counting on your usual generous spirit, showering of love and positive affirmation of the sacrifices these young men are making to serve the Lord in His Church.

THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING OUR DIOCESE OF SPRINGFIELD SEMINARIANS!

Pre Jordan (Baptism class)

Pre Jordan classes are typically held on the first Thursday of every other month, at 6:30 pm in the



second floor All Saints room in the Parish Center. The next class will be: January 6th. Pre Jordan class is required for each child you want to have baptized. You must call Deanna Harlan to register for the class: 654-2339 x217.



Mass Intentions **†**

Monday, December 27 NO 7:00 am Mass

Tuesday, December 28 7:00 am Mass @ Meridith Funeral Home — Healing Mass for Marion Bohnak

Wednesday, December 29 7:00 am Mass @ (St. Joseph Hospital)— †Bernice Wellen

Thursday, December 30 7:00 am Mass @ Meridith Funeral Home — † Bob Vollmer

Friday, December 31 4:00 pm Mass @ (Church)—Healing Mass for Marion Bohnak and †Jeanne Hodge Saturday, January 1 Mary Mother of God 8:30 am Mass at (Church)—† Bill & Marie Stieb

4:00 pm Mass at (Church)—† Adaline Isert

Sunday, January 2 (Church)

Mass — 7:00 am The Parishioners of St. Paul Parish 8:30 am † Mike Wetzel 10:00 am † Will Rozum

Mass Intentions +

Monday, January 3 7:00 am Mass @ Meridith Funeral Home — † Florence Duncan

Tuesday, January 4 7:00 am Mass @ Meridith Funeral Home— † **Buddy Poettker**

Wednesday, January 5 7:00 am Mass @ (St. Joseph Hospital)— † Barb Rakers

Thursday, January 6 7:00 am Mass @ Meridith Funeral Home — † Greg Holthaus 8:20 am All School Mass (Church)— The Parishioners of St. Paul Parish

Friday, January 7 7:00 am Mass @ (Meridith Funeral Home)—† Otto & Mary Weidner

Saturday, January 8 4:00 pm Mass at(Church)—†Ralph Kampwerth

Sunday, January 9 (Church) Mass — 7:00 am † William R. Miller 8:30 am † Jim & Betty Winet 10:00 am † Jean Luitjohan





Rev. Pat Jakel, Pastor pjakel@stpaulhighland.org/ Cell: 618-830-1595

Rev. Piotr Kosk, Parochial Vicar, ext. 205 pkosk@stpaulhighland.org

Dineen Czar, Executive Manager & Liturgical Music Coordinator, ext. 203 dczar@stpaulhighland.org

Laurie Scott, Accountant, ext. 215 lscott@stpaulhighland.org

Jennifer Hilling, Office Manager, ext. 200 jhilling@stpaulhighland.org

Lorraine Senci, Pastoral Associate for Pastoral Care and Spirituality, ext. 202 Isenci@stpaulhighland.org / Cell: 618-604-1891

Deanna Harlan, Pastoral Associate for Faith Formation, ext. 217 dharlan@stpaulhighland.org

Molly Korte, Pastoral Associate for Youth Faith Formation, ext. 210 mkorte@stpaulhighland.org

Haidee Todora, School Principal, ext. 300 htodora@stpaulhighland.org

Renee Mitchell, School Vice Principal, ext. 301 rmitchell@stpaulhighland.org

St. Paul Outreach: 1-573-340-3763

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