MASS TIMES

St. Paul Church, 485 Alling St., Kensington Saturday 4pm Vigil Sunday 7:30am, 9:00am, 10:30am & 12pm

Sacred Heart Church, 48 Cottage St., E. Berlin Sunday 9:30am

Weekday Mass at St. Paul Church

Monday-Friday 7am & 5pm

All Masses are live streamed

CONFESSION

Saturdays 8:30am-9:30am and 3:00-4:00pm

HOLY HOUR

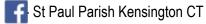
Tuesdays 4:00-5:00pm

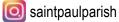
Baptisms: 1st and 3rd Sundays of the month Baptismal Instruction: Last Tuesday of the month

PARISH OFFICE

Monday-Friday 9am-4pm #860 828-0331 Email: ourchurch@stpaulkensington.org Mailing Address:

467 Alling St, Kensington CT 06037





Website: https://stpaulkensington.org



FRANCISCAN FRIARS & DEACONS



Fr. Joseph Benicewicz, OFM Conv. Pastor frioseph@stpaulkensington.org



Fr. Michael Englert, OFM Conv. Parochial Vicar & Guardian frmichael@stpaulkensington.org



Fr. Martin Kobos, OFM Conv. Parochial Vicar frmartin@stpaulkensington.org



Fr. Raymond Borkowski, OFM Conv. In Residence frraymond@stpaulkensington.org



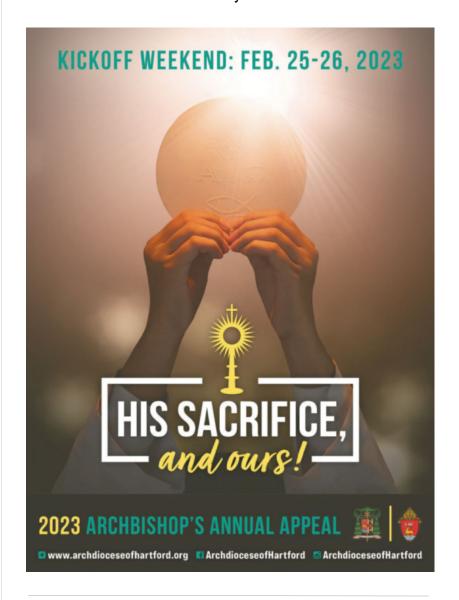
Deacon Don Philip deacondon@stpaulkensington.org

† St. Paul Catholic Parish

A Franciscan Family of Faith

St. Paul Church - 485 Alling St, Kensington CT 06037 Sacred Heart Church - 48 Cottage St, East Berlin CT 06023

> February 26, 2023 1st Sunday of Lent



"Let the Church always be a place of MERCY and HOPE, where EVERYONE is WELCOMED. LOVED and FORGIVEN."

2023 Archbishop's Annual Appeal: His Sacrifice, and ours! The Archbishop's Annual Appeal (AAA), whose theme this year is **His Sacrifice**, and ours!, begins today. As part of the

HIS SACRIFICE, and ours!

kickoff for this year's AAA Archbishop Blair has prepared a homily that we will watch and listen to this weekend. Archbishop Blair in his letter wrote: "His Sacrifice, and ours!

reminds us that it is His sacrifice on the cross which inspires us to make sacrifices of our own in order to help others whose need is greater than ours."

While it is true that we as a parish have many outreaches to the less fortunate, we also know that there are far greater needs than we can provide as an individual parish. By combining our generosity with over 31,000 other donors across the Archdiocese great things can be accomplished in the name of Christ and the Church of Hartford. About 10% of what is raised each year through the AAA is distributed to local charities. I am happy to say that the Town of Berlin's Food Pantry was the recipient of one of those grants last year in the amount of \$1,375. Our school received \$25,000 in tuition assistance grants and another grant for \$1,500.

Last year 571 parishioners made gifts and pledges totaling \$122,750.61 thereby surpassing our goal of \$108,000 by over 13%. This was 26 fewer donors than 2021 and \$5,374 less than our 2021 total of \$128,124. The average gift remained at \$214. Thank you to all who donated! If you have not already received a packet of information, you will shortly. I am hopeful that, while our goal for 2023 has remained at \$108,000, we as a parish will be as generous as we were last year and maybe we can even get back to our 2021 total.

Prayer for Vocations - Back in November Archbishop Blair instructed that he was instituting an initiative to more actively pray for priestly vocations noting that the Archdiocese was ordaining no one this year as a priest. (The Friars have just one priesthood ordination this year.) The Archbishop's emphasis was on priestly vocations, and I concur with that need, for without priests we do not have Mass and most other sacraments. At the same time, as a Franciscan Friar, I know that we also need vocations some of which could be as a brother and surely the religious sisters are in need of vocations as well and the Archbishop acknowledged that in his letter. So beginning today at each weekend Mass, we join together in praying a Prayer for Vocations. Throughout Lent we will use it as the concluding prayer for the Intercessions at Mass. Our faithful missal crew has placed them in the front flap of each missal. (Please do not remove these cards.) After Lent we will continue to pray it, but possibly at different times. In putting the Prayer for Vocations in place, the Archbishop withdrew the St. Michael prayer from recitation after Mass which was instituted during the pandemic.

As you leave Mass today, you will receive a prayer card to take home. I am inviting every parishioner to pray this prayer every day throughout Lent. We will also pray this prayer at the weekday Masses. On the front of the prayer card are two QR codes that will take you to information about being a priest for the Archdiocese or a Franciscan Friar. As we pray for more vocations, I also ask you to consider what you do to encourage a young person to be priest, brother or sister beginning in your own family. Overwhelmingly those who respond to the Lord's call speak of the support or affirmation they received from friends, relatives and fellow parishioners. If you think someone has the qualities to be a good priest or brother or sister or deacon, do not be afraid to share that with them. Let us earnestly "ask the Master of the harvest to send out laborers for His harvest."

Lent - Liturgy and the Worship Space - To help us pray and enter into the season of Lent, our liturgies are to reflect the spirituality of the season. For this reason the organ and other musical instruments are only used to assist the singing of songs. Therefore, no music is played without singing. The Alleluia is not said or sung during Lent. In its place there is a Gospel acclamation.

Our weekend liturgies during Lent will employ two options that are not always used. For the penitential rite at the beginning of Mass, we will pray together the "Confiteor" that is the prayer that begins "I confess to almighty God." In place of the Nicene Creed, we will pray the Apostles' Creed. The Apostles' Creed is so called because it is rightly considered to be a faithful summary of the apostles' faith. The Apostles' Creed can be found on page 78 in the Missalette.

Lastly, the worship space is also to speak to us about this season of penance. Altars are not to be decorated with flowers. The liturgical color for the season is purple and thus some purple cloth will be used to set the tone in the sanctuary.

Mercy Mondays - Beginning February 27th, the six Mondays during Lent will once again be Mercy Mondays. All four friarpriests will be available from 7 to 8 pm to hear confessions. Mercy Mondays are throughout the Archdiocese with many parishes offering confessions from 6 to 7 pm. It is always best to check with the parish to see which church building and time. Pope Francis in his 2016 Lenten Message for the Jubilee Year of Mercy wrote: "God shows himself ever rich in mercy, ever ready to treat his people with deep tenderness and compassion..." As priests hearing your confession, we will do our absolute best to be His ministers of that deep tenderness and compassion.

INTENTIONS

Blessed Mother Candles will burn this week for

†Dino Zovich by Theresa and family

†Sheila Labickas

Birthday Remembrance by daughter Wendy and family

†Agnes McDougall

Birthday Remembrance by Debbie and Foster Zucchi

Sanctuary Candles will burn this week for

†Maria Teresa Gionfriddo

54th Birthday Remembrance by mom and dad with love

†Greta Stifel 3rd Anniversary by sisters

†Nell Misteri 6 Month Anniversary by family



†Jonathan Christopher Jahn

Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. May their souls and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace.

Reminder: Our friars will be happy to visit you or your loved one in the hospital if you kindly send us a request. Call 860-828-0331 or email ourchurch@stpaulkensington.org.

To make a prayer request through our **Daughters of Jairus Prayer Line**, call Terry 860-828-6667 or Gloria 860-828-1525 with your confidential request. Please give the first name of the person to be prayed for and the intention.



Saint Michael the Archangel,

Defend us in battle.

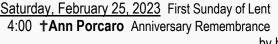
Be our defense against the wickedness and snares of the Devil. May God rebuke him, we humbly pray, and do thou.

O Prince of the heavenly hosts, by the power of God,

thrust into hell Satan,

and all the evil spirits.

who prowl about the world seeking the ruin of souls.



by husband Joseph

Sunday, February 26, 2023 First Sunday of Lent

7:30 Parishioners of Saint Paul Parish

9:00 **†Paul Miano** by DiMartino and Miano families

9:30 **†Deceased Members of the Woja Family** by family

10:30 **+Alfred Simon** by Mr. and Mrs. Gordon Simon

12:00 **†Dino Zovich** by Theresa and family

Monday, February 27, 2023 St. Gregory of Narek

7:00 **†All Souls in Purgatory** by Sandra

5:00 **†Kathryn LaVette** by Terry Zovich

Tuesday, February 28, 2023 Lenten Weekday

7:00 **†Gerard Probulis** by Emilie Albert and family

tlsaia Tee by son

Chasse and Belmont Families

by Doris and Rich Chasse

8:45 **†Raymond Moscaritolo** 1st Anniversary by daughter

5:00 †Deceased Friars, Families, Friends and

Benefactors of the Friars

Wednesday, March 1, 2023 Lenten Weekday

7:00 **†John G. Hubbard** Birthday Remembrance by family

5:00 **†Nell Misteri** 6 Month Anniversary by Misteri family

Thursday, March 2, 2023 Lenten Weekday

7:00 **†Ines Tee** by brother

5:00 +Greta Stifel 3rd Anniversary by sisters

+Paul Moscaritolo 4th Anniversary by sister Lisa

John Nappi, Jr. by wife

+Souls in Purgatory by John and Linda Nappi, Jr.

†Piotr Grzybowski by Miroslaw Szczygla and family

Friday, March 3, 2023 St. Katharine A Drexel

7:00 **†Robert J. Fitzsimmons** by wife Anita and family

5:00 **†Cirila Gomes** by family

Saturday, March 4, 2023 Second Sunday of Lent

4:00 **†Marie Tirinzoni** 4th Anniversary by children

Sunday, March 5, 2023 Second Sunday of Lent

7:30 **†Elizabeth Lackey** by Ed and Gloria

9:00 Parishioners of Saint Paul Parish

9:30 **†Maureen Guite** by friends of Maureen

10:30 **†Paul Miano** by the Corrigan family

12:00 †Domenica Lopreiato

by daughter Maria Siciliano and family

Parish Collection

Feb 14-20, 2023

In Church SP	\$ 7,546
Office	\$ 3,026
In Church SH	\$ 496
Online Giving	\$ 5,446
Total	\$ 16,514

To receive the St. Paul Parish bulletin in your email inbox every week, please complete our simple online form at https://stpaulkensington.org/our-bulletin.

PASTOR'S COLUMN (continued)

New Parish Lay Trustee - Each year the Archdiocese of Hartford requires the pastor to appoint two lay trustees for the parish. The appointments are then approved by the Archbishop and the Vicar General of the Archdiocese. Since 2017, when Sacred Heart Parish was folded back into St. Paul Parish from which it was originally created, one of those trustees has been Dan Sabia. Recently when I asked Dan if he was willing to continue to serve in this role he indicated that he thought it was time for him to step down from this role. Dan has faithfully attended Pastoral Council meetings and parish Finance Council meetings. He did not think that he could continue to meet those obligations given his own limitations and the needs of his wife, May. I want to thank



Dan for his service as a trustee these past six years and for being such a good and kind man and valuable member of both the Finance and Pastoral Councils. Dan will continue to serve as a Reader at Sacred Heart.

Ed Janik has agreed to continue in the role of Trustee. Joining him in this role is Maura Chasse. Maura and her husband Mark have been parishioners since 1984. They raised their three children here and are now the grandparents of seven. Maura brings a wealth of experience to her role as a trustee.

She was a lawyer for the Hartford law firm of Cooney, Scully and Dowling for 15 years, during which time she represented the Archdiocese and served on the Archdiocesan Finance Council. Over the years, Maura has been active in the Renew program, the



Thanksgiving Food Drive, and volunteered as Religious Ed instructor, Scripture Study and worked on several St. Paul Capital Campaigns including *Forward With Faith* last fall. I am grateful that she accepted the position.

Parish trustees are charged with reviewing the official financial paperwork of the parish and to make sure that the pastor employs a budget to run the parish. The lay trustees, who are members of the Parish Finance Council, attest to the fact that the pastor has followed the instructions of the archdiocese and completed the fiscal documents which they and the other members of the Finance Council then sign prior to their submission to the Archdiocese. In addition, one of the lay trustees is an ex-officio member of the Pastoral Council. Maura will replace Dan Sabia on the Pastoral Council while Ed Janik will continue to serve on the school's Facilities Committee.

Finance Council - The parish Finance Council along with the Parish Trustees met on Wednesday, February 8th to review the parish's financial statements for FY 22 which ended on December 31 and to review the proposed budget for the current year. This was in advance of submitting these same documents to the Archdiocese by February 15th. I am grateful

for the work of Julio Maturana, our Parish Manager, in helping prepare the budget as well as the work of the Finance Council. John Roman, chairperson of the Finance Council, has prepared a summary report that you can read on page x. Thanks to your ongoing support, the parish continues to enjoy a positive financial bottom line while also tending to the spiritual and temporal needs of the parish. The other members of the Finance Council are Rick Dighello, Colleen Lynch, Jim Newman, and Corey Whiteside.

Update from the Technology Advisory Committee (TAC) - I have spoken a few times in this space about our TAC that was formed in 2021 and began their work in earnest in early 2022. Bill Richards, Ed Schmitt, and Chuck Tenza, who serves as the Chair, have worked diligently to help the parish address its technology needs. After much research and deliberation, major steps have been undertaken to address deficiencies and advance our capabilities in this area. On page 5 of this bulletin, the TAC has provided an update on their work and what is being accomplished. This initial phase of upgrades will cost about \$67,000 and is a shared expense with the school. No payment is due until the work is complete and done to our satisfaction which the TAC will ensure. The very generous sharing of their collective experience and time is really priceless to the parish.

New Date for the Parish Picnic - When the Berlin Fair changed their dates a few years ago, the parish moved the Parish Picnic from September to the first weekend of October. At the recommendation of the Picnic Committee, we are going to try holding it in the beginning of summer on the last weekend of June following the 4 pm Saturday Mass which will be held on the Parish Green. Sunday could act as a rain date if the details can be worked out. The Pastoral Council concurred at this week's meeting. So save the date and plan on joining us on June 24th!!

Little Rock Scripture Group - See page 8 of the bulletin for more information about our Scripture Group including details about the Information Night on Thursday, March 2nd at 7 pm in the St. Paul Church Hall. The next series of meetings will begin the week of March 13 and will be held bi-weekly for five (5) sessions concluding in May. In these sessions they will delve into the second half of the Book of Genesis. You can be part of these sessions without having participated in the sessions that covered the first half of Genesis. Mark Chasse, who gives leadership to the Scripture Study Group, can be contacted for more information at mchasse1@comcast.net.

Final Thoughts - Spring Training is underway, but we have to focus on getting our Lenten training off to a good start so we can make good use of these 40 days. Have a blessed Lent everyone. - Fr. Joe



READINGS FOR NEXT WEEK, MARCH 5, 2023

For readings online, visit https://bible.usccb.org/bible/readings/030523.cfm

First Reading: Genesis 12:1-4a

Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 33:4-5, 18-19, 20, 22. Lord, let your mercy be on us, as we place our trust in you.

Second Reading: 2 Timothy 1:8b-10

Verse Before the Gospel: Cf. Matthew 17:5

From the shining cloud the Father's voice is heard:

This is my beloved Son, hear him.

Gospel: Matthew 17:1-9

Jesus took Peter, James, and John his brother, and led them up a high mountain by themselves. And he was transfigured before them; his face shone like the sun and his clothes became white as light. And behold, Moses and Elijah appeared to them, conversing with him. 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." While he was still speaking, behold, a bright cloud cast a shadow over them, then from the cloud came a voice that said. "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased: listen to him." When the disciples heard this, they fell prostrate and were very much afraid. But Jesus came and touched them, saying, "Rise, and do not be afraid." And when the disciples raised their eyes, they saw no one else but Jesus alone. As they were coming down from the mountain, Jesus charged them, "Do not tell the vision to anyone until the Son of Man has been raised from the dead."

Available Masses for March/April are listed below. To reserve a Mass, please call the parish office 860-828-0331, Monday-Friday, 9am-4pm.

- Tuesday, March 21 8:45am
- Thursday, March 23 7:00am
- Monday, March 27 7:00am
- Tuesday, March 28 8:45am
- Tuesday, April 18 8:45am
- Thursday, April 27 7:00am

Adult Confirmation-Program begins March 16 - Adults who never received the Sacrament of Confirmation and who would like to be Confirmed in the Spring of 2023 are invited to participate in our six week Adult Confirmation Program (ACP) Those who are asked to be a godparent for Baptism or to be a Sponsor at Confirmation must have received the Sacrament of Confirmation in order to take on those responsibilities. Visit our website for more details. Registration deadline is March 6. To register email Dan Tome at d.tome@stpaulkensington.org or call the parish office 860-828-0331 or complete our simple online form at https://stpaulkensington.org/adult-confirmation-rcia. If you have any questions please contact Dan or one of the Friars.

A Note from our Technology Advisory Committee (TAC):

TECH UPDATE

In early 2022 a Technology Advisory Committee was established to assist in

the evaluation of the parish's use of technology and ongoing technological needs. Since then, a group of volunteer parishioners has made progress towards this goal. We have engaged in a partnership with a local business to provide daily and ongoing technical support for the Parish. Through this partnership, we have identified areas of technology that no longer provide the level of service the Parish requires to grow and function efficiently.

Recently, we invested in the replacement of older computer equipment in the School, Parish Center, Friary and Church. As a result of this investment, the school staff and students will experience improved wireless and network performance while using learning and educational technology each school day. The Parish office staff will see benefits from more reliable network and phone systems, enabling better use of Parish applications that support our Church and Ministries. Our Religious Education Programs and its instructors will benefit from these improvements to serve our young parishioners on their journey of faith. The Friars will have a much improved level of wireless and phone service in the Friary supporting their needs in ministering to St Paul Parish. Finally, the Parish Green and Church Hall will also see expanded WIFI coverage allowing more productive use of this space by our Parish community.

-Bill Richards, Ed Schmitt, and Chuck Tenza

FOODSHARE ST. CLARE FOOD PANTRY & MOBILE FOODSHARE

Volunteers will be needed on Thursday, March 2 at **9:30am** to transport food from St. Paul to Sacred Heart and to set up for distribution. Volunteers are also needed on Friday, March 3 at **11am** at Sacred Heart Church to help with distribution. For transportation to FoodShare at Sacred Heart, call the Berlin Senior Center 860-828-7006.

For information regarding the St. Clare Pantry or Food-Share including volunteering, contact Nancy at 860-601-7866 or n.timbrell@stpaulkensington.org.

Thank you to all who continue to support this ministry!

The Pantry is currently in need of the following items:

Juice, coffee, tea, hot chocolate, iced tea, and other miscellaneous beverages. Low salt / No salt items have also been requested.

*Items in bold are staples that are always needed.

SAINT PAUL SCHOOL NEWS

SAINT PAUL SCHOOL NOW ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS FOR THE 2023-2024 ACADEMIC YEAR

For more information visit our school website https://ourschool.stpaulkensington.org/ or call 860-828-4343 x113.

To download an application, click on this link: https://bit.ly/3gO2X9J



You may also email our Admissions Director, Kelly Esposito, admissions@stpaulkensington.org.

Registration for SPS Summer Camp is NOW OPEN! Scan the QR code for registration forms or for more information. You may also contact our Camp Director, Jennifer Bradley, at summercamp@sptaulkensington.org.





Our school auction will be on March 25th! Save the date and see the information below:

TICKETS ON SALE NOW!



s40 PER PERSON INCLUDES BEER, WINE AND DINNER

TO PURCHASE TICKETS, A SPONSORSHIP, OR AN AD, PLEASE VISIT:

ourschool.auction/2023SPSWildWildWest



Please consider donating a gift card, a new, unused item, your services (hairdresser, mechanic, lawncare, etc) or purchase a sponsorship or ad to make this the best year ever!

email: juliescalora@stpaulkensington.org

RELIGIOUS ED NEWS

This week we are happy to feature a beautiful drawing of Saint Valentine done by Gianna Diaz, one of our 4th grade students in Gina Kahn's class!



Parents, please remember to send us your pics of your child(ren) and family participating in your chosen Family Faith Activities! Thank you!

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION OFFICE

Monday - Thursday 8am - 2pm Phone 860 828-0331 Website: https://stpaulkensington.org/religious-ed

St Paul Parish Religious Ed Berlin CT
Email: religioused@stpaulkensington.org

Mailing Address: 467 Alling St, Kensington CT 06037



Robin Veronesi, Director of Religious Education (860) 828-1934 ext 320



Christina Norton, Administrative Assistant (860) 828-1934 ext 321

Our St. Paul Parish **CHILDREN'S CHOIR** rehearses on Wednesday evenings in church from 6:00-6:30pm. All are welcome to join! If you would like your child to sing with the choir or if you have any questions, please contact Cheryl Kramer-Tierney 19ch

please contact Cheryl Kramer-Tierney 19ckt64@gmail.com

Our **Children's Rosary** group meets at 10am at Sacred Heart Church on the first Saturday of each month. Next date: March 4th. All are welcome. To learn more, please contact Cheryl Batter at cherylbatter@att.net.



PARISH PRAYER LIST

Bobby Adamowicz Jacob Ahlquist Gilda Alberti John Anderson Elaine Andrews Jose Arcia Donna Baranowski Zulma Barbien Olivia Belfonti Wyatt Bernard Peter Bocompani David Borselle Cheryl Brown Richard Carlson Silas Cipollone Doug Clarke Lorraine Clark Sophie Conti Carol Corriveau Tom Coss Arlene Cotrona Amanda Coyle Janet Crossman Robert Czerwinski Mary Daleski Adeline D'Angelo Ramiro Dagna Uly Dagna Maria DeFazio Michael Frakel Fr. Anthony DeFronzo Bill Dobbs Nicole Donzello Nick Donzello Bernadette Dumond Fannie Farrell Lilia Fernandez Simon Fitzpatrick Helen Flannelly Nancy Fleming Deb Follett Maureen Freemen Rose Garuti Patricia Gebhardt Dominic Gionfriddo Jennifer Gionfriddo Salvatore Gionfriddo Rosemarie Gionfriddo Liz Goryl-Phillips Donna Goulette Frank Grandone Madison Gray **Grochal Family** Pat Haber Linda Hannold Lily Harzewski-Burl Tom Higgins Evan Hill Pat Jahn Barbara Killius Evan Kimmel Sylvia Kratka John G. Kumitis, Sr.

Mary Lamkins

Maria Lauria Mary Leinen Laura Lemke Connie Lombardi Ronald Maldon Lisa Mangiafico Fr. Paul Mangiafico Carol Marold Jackie Martin Robert Mazzaferro Lorraine McCarthy Brandi McWade Luis Mendoza Viola Mercadante Michael Mihalko Tom Modifica Evelyn Modzelewski Sam and Esther Motta Nancy Motulko Cheryl Murphy John Murphy Helen Murphy **Thomas Norris** Arlene O'Neill Esther Ouellette Our Military Service Members Emma Pagano Antoinette Pandolfi Judy Pappalardo Cynthia Paradise Richard Paskiewicz John Pink Marilyn Puopolo Care Rich Frank Rich Mary Rich Rita Richter Randy Ripley Steven Ripley Carlos Rivera Phyllis Rubbo Viola Salonia Joan Schwartz Raul Seipel Guy Simeone Rev. Arkadiusz Skwarek Donald Spilka Kevin Stanowski Sandy Story James Swiatek Gabe Szczygla Julia Szczygla Luke Szul Alfred J. Tee Beverly Veley Brian Veley Scott Veley Tom Vest Louise Webb Thaddeus Wojtusik Mary Ann Watrous Miriam Zacharias Carrie Zangari

Please call the Parish Office if you would like to add someone to our Prayer List. 860-828-0331 (M-F 9am-4pm.) Please also be sure to ask for permission from the person to be added.

Our **HELPING HANDS** volunteers address the concerns of our senior parishioners. If you are interested in joining this ministry, we'd love to have you join us. Please contact Mark Duplin: 860-666-0162 or mfduplin@outlook.com.

OUR CRAFTERS & QUILTERS GROUP meets weekly on Thursday mornings from 9 to 11am in the St. Paul Church Hall. Anyone working on another project or who has a different type of craft (origami, jewelry, scrapbook, genealogy, etc.) is welcome to join us!. Please call Barbara with any questions: 860-930-0310.

ST. PAUL PARISH CHOIR: With Lent and the Easter Season upon us, now would be the perfect time to start singing and practicing with our choir as we prepare for the Holy Season. Contact jeffbatter@stpaulkensington.org.

INTERESTED IN JOINING OUR PARISH FAMILY?

Our next Registration Meeting is Monday, March 13th in the St. Paul Church Hall (downstairs) at 7pm.

Please let us know if you plan to attend. Call 860-828-0331 or email ourchurch@stpaulkensington.org.

WORD SEARCH

WILDERNESS TEMPTED DEVIL FASTED			FORTY HUNGRY STONES LOAVES		ANGELS FOOT SATAN WORSHIP				
Т	s	E	N	0	т	s	E	s	E
E	т	н	U	N	G	R	Υ	s	Т
Y	Т	R	0	F	A	s	т	E	D
Р	s	L	E	G	И	A	s	И	E
L	1	A	Z	Т	A	s	E	R	٧
1	L	н	D	E	т	Р	w	E	т
٧	D	1	S	Т	A	L	F	D	1
E	٧	1	L	R	s	0	т	L	L
D	s	E	٧	A	0	L	0	1	E
Т	P	W	E	т	E	w	0	w	L

Foster Zucchi



The foundation of our Catholic faith is in the scriptures. The Bible is the book of the Church. The more we know the Bible, the better we are able to understand the readings at Mass, explain our faith to others, teach it to our children and use it to form our lives.

Our Scripture Study groups use the *Little Rock Scripture Study Program*, an improved way to study the Bible with fellow Catholics, which consists of:

- 1. Personal reading and reflection of scripture.
- 2. Small group meetings of 8 for discussion, sharing and prayer.
- 3. Instructional lectures.
- A wrap-up lecture by Father Michael at the conclusion of our study.

The manner in which this program is designed will appeal to those who have never studied the Bible before, as well as those who have been reading the Bible for quite a while. You do not need to worry if you lack understanding or experience. We will all be learning together and supporting one another in this rewarding adventure.

The next study, *The Book of Genesis (part two)* will begin the week of March 13, 2023 and consist of 5 biweekly meetings plus the wrap-up lecture with Fr. Michael. You can choose between Monday, Tuesday or Wednesday evening meetings which will be either in the St. Paul Parish Center or at Sacred Heart Church Rectory from 7:00pm to 8:30pm.

Join us for an **Information Meeting** on Thursday, March 2 in the Church Hall at 7pm to learn the details, ask questions and register. Email Mark Chasse at mchasse1@comcast.net with any questions. Go to littlerockscripture.org for resources and information on studying the Bible.

LADIES' GUILD MARCH MEETING

NOTE CHANGE OF PROGRAM - The Ladies' Guild will host Robin Evans from the Berlin Social Services Department who will speak about handling stress and other wellness topics. All ladies of the parish are welcome to attend.

We look forward to seeing you on Wednesday March 1st at 6:30 pm in the St. Paul Church Hall

Donation item for the food pantry is paper products

Finance Council Summary - February 2023

The St. Paul Parish Finance Council met on February 8, 2023, for its regularly scheduled quarterly meeting. The Council welcomed Maura Chasse, the new Parish Trustee. As Trustee, Maura will serve as an ex-officio member of the Parish Finance Council. The Council also recognized Dan Sabia for his many years of service to the St. Paul Finance Council. Dan recently retired as a Parish Trustee.

The performance of Parish and School investments were reviewed. The Finance Council's Investment Subcommittee had recently heard a presentation from Bank of America Investment Division which assists the Parish in the management of a portion of its investments. An economic outlook was presented, and the 2022 performance of the Parish and School Investments were reviewed. Parish investment balances totaled \$2.2 million at December 31, 2022 while School Investments totaled \$1.4 million. Due to challenging market conditions combined Parish and School investments experienced a 15.5 % decrease in value during 2022. This decrease was typical of the performance of diversified portfolios in 2022. Our investments are well diversified with 61% invested in stocks and 39% in bonds. Based upon investment balances plus interest and dividends received \$112,000 will be available from investments to fund church operations while \$73,000 will be available from school investments to fund school operations.

The Parish and School Balance sheets and Income Statements were reviewed. 2022 Parish operations resulted in net ordinary income of \$54,000 on total income of \$1.3 million. Offertory income in 2022 totaled \$952,000, including special collections and holiday collections. This was a 5% (\$47,000) increase over 2021. Expenses for 2022 totaled \$1.2 million and came in \$10,000 below budget.

School operations for the first two quarters of its 2023 fiscal year are within budget for both income and expense with net ordinary income even for the first six months of the year.

The Parish 2023 Budget was also presented and approved by the Finance Council. For 2023 total offertory income is projected at \$959,000 at 1% increase over 2022. Total Parish expenses are projected at \$1.3 million a 5% increase over 2022. The 2023 budget allows for 20-25% increases in utility costs.

Fr. Joe reported that the Archdiocese will be changing the Fiscal Year end dates of for the Archdiocese and all parishes from a year end of December 31 to June 30. The fiscal year ends for both the parish and school will then coincide.

The status of the *Forward with Faith* Campaign was reviewed. Campaign funds raised are now close to \$1.1 million which exceeded the campaign goal of \$975,000 set by the Archdiocese and just short of our local goal of \$1.2 million. The Parish will be receiving its first allocation of funds based upon pledges paid through December 31, 2022 around June 1, 2023.

John C. Roman Chairman St Paul Parish Finance Council **WOMEN OF FAITH** All women of the parish are invited to attend the next meeting of our Women of Faith group on Thursday, March 9th at 7pm.



Fr. Martin will be leading us in Stations of the Cross in the St. Paul Church Hall. Our Women of Faith group gathers on the 2nd Thursday of each month. Join us as we help each other in Faith, Friendship and Fellowship. Any questions, please email womenofffaith@stpaulkensington.org.



This weekend marks the start of the 2023 Archbishop's Annual Appeal in our parish. If you haven't already, you will soon receive a letter from Archbishop Blair seeking your support. As Catholics

in the Archdiocese of Hartford, we can have a profound impact on our local communities not only in the spiritual realm. but intimately connected to it, the realm of social services and many charities and outreach services performed by, or with help from, our Church. To view some of the wonderful things accomplished through your generosity, the Archbishop's Annual Appeal is continuing the web-series called, The Annual Appeal at Work. The season premiere will be airing on Thursday, March 2nd on all Archdiocesan Social Media sites as well as the Archbishop's Annual Appeal webpage. New episodes will air the first week of each month, for the rest of 2023. Visit https://archdioceseofhartford.org/appeal/ to find a link for each episode. All funds contributed to the AAA are used exclusively for the purposes outlined in the Appeal literature at https://archdioceseofhartford.org/appeal/ peal funds are ever used for legal fees or settlements.

The Connecticut March for Life will take place on Wednesday, March 22 at 12 Noon, preceded by Mass offered by Archbishop Blair at the Cathedral of



Saint Joseph at 9:30am. The Rally website for buses can be viewed at: https://rally.co/ct-march-for-life. All are encouraged to participate in this peaceful gathering to let Connecticut legislators know that life should be protected in our state. Visit: https://marchforlife.org/connecticut-march-for-life/

If you'd like to get involved or learn more about our St. Paul Culture of Life Ministry, please email Ashley at respectlife@stpaulkensington.org.

pregnancy center offering free pregnancy tests and caring and practical support. Please call 1-800-550-4900 for the Birthright nearest you. Training is provided. Spanish speaking volunteers are especially needed. Thank you.

The Social Action Committee's **LENTEN COLLECTION** will continue through **April 2**, **2023**. Please join us in our efforts to help families in crisis and in need by donating to Prudence Crandall or Family Promise. Please leave items at the church entrances. ALL ITEMS MUST BE NEW, UNUSED, NOT EXPIRED, AND IN ORIGINAL PACKAGING.

PRUDENCE CRANDALL WISH LIST: laundry detergent, twin sheets and comforters, standard size pillows, towels (bath, hand, and face), baby wipes and diaper cream, toilet paper, paper towels, hand soap, dish soap, over-the-counter medicine, (ibuprofen, cold and flu, allergy, etc.) shower curtains, bath mats, toilet bowl cleaner & brushes, men's, women's and children's underwear, flatware. Gift cards are also appreciated: Stop & Shop, Aldi, Big Y, Target, and Walmart. (Please put gift cards in an envelope marked Lenten Collection and drop in the collection basket at church or leave them at the parish office.)

FAMILY PROMISE WISH LIST: shampoo. conditioner, bath soap (regular, unscented, sensitive skin), deodorant, body lotion/cream, cocoa butter, Vaseline, hair products, toothbrushes, paper towels, toilet paper, dishwashing liquid, laundry detergent, fabric softener, dryer sheets, Clorox/Lysol wipes, bleach, cleaning supplies.

THE UNDERGROUND NEW ENGLAND: The Social Action Committee is also accepting gift cards from Walmart and Stop & Shop for The Underground New England, a faith-based initiative dedicated to ending sex trafficking and sexual exploitation throughout Connecticut and New England.

Adult Literacy Ministry Enrich your life by spending one hour a week with an adult who needs to learn to read, write, and speak English. The Siena Learning Center will supply all the materials. If you are interested contact Nancy Rodriguez, Director at 860-348-0622. This adult literacy ministry is supported by the Dominican Sisters of Peace.

A Missing Peace Men's Retreat at Holy Family Passionist Retreat Center - March 17-19, 2023 For information visit https://www.holyfamilyretreat.org or call 860.760.9705. Learn more about this retreat as a gift to yourself - a way to step aside from everyday concerns to relax and care for your soul.

Calling All Young Adults!

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Join other young adults from

across the state for a "weekend away" of rest, rejuvenation, and exploring the faith! The Crossroads 4 Christ Young Adult Retreat will take place on March 10th-12th at the Immaculate Conception Center in Putnam, CT. Enjoy inspiring talks, small groups, social time, Mass, Adoration, and opportunities for Confession. Cost: \$150 per person. Open to young adults, ages 18-39. Check out http://crossroads4christ.org.

Saturday, February 25

6:30am TMIY Men's Group SPH

8:30am Confessions

10:00am Funeral +Jahn

3:00pm Confessions

Sunday, February 26

7:45am Gr. 1-8 Rel Ed Session 1-SPS

9:00am RCIA SPH

9:15am Gr. 1-8 Rel Ed Session 2-SPS

10:45am Gr. 1-8 Rel Ed Session 3-SPS

1:00pm Baptism - SPC

2:30pm 2nd Yr Conf retreat-SG/SPC

Monday, February 27

8:45am Parish Staff Meeting

3:00pm Girls JV Basketball Practice

3:00pm Robotics - SP Church Hall

4:30pm Boys JVB Basketball Practice

6:00pm Boys Varsity Basketball Practice

6:00pm Third Grade Parent Meeting

7:00pm Mercy Monday Confessions - SPC

Tuesday, February 28

8:45am School Mass: Gr K-2

3:00pm Drama Club

4:00pm Holy Hour Adoration

4:30pm Boys JVA Basketball Practice

6:00pm Girls Varsity Basketball Practice)

6:00pm Facilities Sub-Board meeting SC

6:30pm Choir Rehearsal - PC-LL

6:30pm Baptism Prep Lesson PC1

6:45pm Gr. 4-8 Confessions-SPC

Wednesday, March 1

3:00pm Cheer Practice (Gr 1-8)

3:00pm Drama Club SPH

3:15pm Mock Trial practice

4:30pm Boys JVB Basketball Practice

6:00pm Boys Varsity Basketball Practice

6:00pm Rosarv at Sacred Heart

6:00pm Children's choir rehearsal-SPC

6:30pm Ladies Guild SPH

Thursday, March 2

10:00am First Thursday Calls

3:00pm Girls JV Basketball Practice

3:00pm Drama Club

4:30pm Boys JVA Basketball Practice

PARISH

CALENDAR

7:00pm Scripture Study Registration SPH

6:00pm Girls Varsity Basketball Practice

6:30pm Catechist class (Gr. 10)-SL

6:30pm Snow Date: 1st Communion Parent session - SPC

Bible Study

Information

Session

Friday, March 3

9:00am First Friday Calls

7:00pm RCIA - PC-1

Thursday, March 2 (continued)

11:45am FoodShare SHC

2:00pm Stations of the Cross: Gr 3-5

3:00pm CoEd JVC Red Basketball Practice

4:30pm CoEd JVC Gold Basketball Practice

7:00pm Stations of the Cross - SPC

7:30pm AA Meeting - SPH

Saturday, March 4

6:30am TMIY Men's Group SPH

8:30am Confessions

10:00am Children's Rosary

3:00pm Confessions

Sunday, March 5

9:00am RCIA SPH

9:00am 1st & 2nd Yr Confirmation classes-SPS

1:15pm Baptisms

4:00pm 1st Yr Conf Confessions-SPC

Holy Hour Tuesdays 4-5pm

Lenten

"Mercy Monday"

7-8pm



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Mary Hoffman from LPi, our bulletin printer, will be securing new ads for our church in the coming weeks. As a valuable member of the business community, we invite you to expand your reach and grow your business with a print ad in our bulletin and/or a digital ad featured on ParishesOnline.com.

Mary will be in the parish office on Tuesday, March 14



LET'S GROW YOUR BUSINESS Place Your Ad Here and Support Our Parish!

CONTACT ME Mary Hoffman

mhoffman@4LPi.com • (800) 477-4574 x6340







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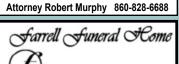


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