OUR PARISH STAFF

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Michael Larkins, Facilities Manager, (614) 882-2109  mlarkins@stpaulk-8.org

OUR MASS SCHEDULE:

Saturday Vigil Mass: 4:00 p.m.

Sunday Masses are celebrated at: 7:30 a.m.,
9:00 a.m., 10:30 a.m., 12:15 p.m. & 5:00 p.m.
Monday–Thursday Masses: 6:40 a.m. & 8:30 a.m.
Friday Masses: 6:40 a.m. & 8:15 a.m.
Eucharistic Adoration following the 8:30 a.m. Mass on Thursday;
Benediction at 6:45 p.m. unless otherwise noted.
Saturday Morning Mass is at 8:30 a.m.
Confessions are heard on Thursday after the 8:30 a.m. Mass and at 2:30 p.m. on Saturday;
other times by appointment.
The church is open from 6:00 a.m. - 9:30 p.m. for prayer. Spend some time with the Lord!

PARISH OFFICE
8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. Monday – Friday
(614) 882-2109
313 N. State St., Westerville OH 43082-8825
www.stpaulcatholicchurch.org
stpaulchurch@stpacc.org

PARISH REGISTRATION

If you will regularly be worshipping with us, we certainly welcome you and encourage you to register online at www.stpaulcatholicchurch.org or visit our Parish Office any time Monday through Friday between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m.

BAPTISMS

Parents must be registered in the parish and are required to complete a Pre-Baptism Workshop before having their child baptized. The workshop is regularly held from 1:45 - 3:00 p.m. in Lower Level Room 3 (located downstairs in the church) on the first Sunday of each month. Godparents are encouraged to attend. There is no need to register for the class. Beginning in December of this year, we will celebrate baptisms on the first and third Sunday of each month after the 12:15 p.m. Mass.

WEDDINGS

Please contact the Parish Office at least six months in advance.

MARIAN GIFT SHOP

Located in the church, the Marian Gift Shop is open 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. on Sundays; 9:15 a.m. to noon on Mondays and Fridays; from 2:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. on Wednesdays; and 2:00 p.m. until 6:00 p.m. on Saturdays. The shop is closed on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

BULLETIN DEADLINE

Articles should be submitted to the Parish Office at stpaulchurch@stpacc.org two weeks in advance.
The Second Sunday of Advent (Cycle A)

Mass Intentions for the Week

Monday, December 9, Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary
Gn. 3:9-15, 20; Ps. 98:1-4; Eph. 1:3-6, 11-12; Lk. 1:26-38
6:40 a.m. Duane Spring
8:30 a.m. Carolyn J. Cox
7:00 p.m. People of St. Paul’s Parish

Tuesday, December 10
Is. 40:1-11; Ps. 96:1-3, 10-13; Mt. 18:12-14
6:40 a.m. Jo Anne Curley
8:30 a.m. Eddy Lott

Wednesday, December 11, Saint Damasus I, Pope
Is. 40:25-31; Ps. 103:1-4, 8, 10; Mt. 11:28-30
6:40 a.m. Robert L. Harris
8:30 a.m. Deborah Waggoner

Thursday, December 12, Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe
Zec. 2:14-17 or Rv. 11:19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab; Jdt. 13:18-19; Lk. 1:26-38 or Lk 1:39-47
6:40 a.m. Special Intentions for the Angel and John Fox Family
8:30 a.m. Jean Craven

Friday, December 13, Memorial of Saint Lucy, Virgin and Martyr
Is. 48:17-19; Ps. 1:1-4, 6; Mt. 11:16-19
6:40 a.m. Susan Sparks
8:15 a.m. Francis T. Bum, Jr.

Saturday, December 14, Memorial of Saint John of the Cross, Priest and Doctor of the Church
Sir. 48:1-4, 9-11; Ps. 80:2ac, 3b, 15-16, 18-19; Mt. 17:9a, 10-13
8:30 a.m. James and Mary Ruddy
Vigil Mass for The Third Sunday of Advent
4:00 p.m. James Borda

Sunday, December 15, The Third Sunday of Advent
Is. 35:1-6a, 10; Ps. 146:6-10; Jas. 5:7-10; Mt. 11:2-11
7:30 a.m. Chris Cudnik
9:00 a.m. Joan Burwell
10:30 a.m. People of St. Paul’s Parish
12:15 p.m. Agnes Ziemba
5:00 p.m. Joe and Elois Cua
Rosary & Litany: Daily following the 8:30 a.m. and 9:15 a.m. Masses. An ASL Interpreter is regularly at our 12:15 Mass.

The Week Ahead in Our Parish

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 8
Please select a tag from the Jesse Tree.
Nursery Services during the 9:00 and 10:30 a.m. Masses
Children’s Liturgy of the Word during the 9:00 & 10:30 a.m. Masses
PSR Sunday Preschool during the 9:00 and 10:30 am. Masses
RCIA Dismissal at 9:00 a.m. Mass
AA “Big Book” Recovery Mtg., Rm. 2 (Parish Office), 6:00 p.m.
Men of St. Paul: Come, Meet the Pastor, Klinger Center, 7:00 p.m.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 9
Please select a tag from the Jesse Tree.
Nar-Anon, Room 1 (Parish Office), 7:00 p.m.
Sword of the Spirit Charismatic Christmas Party, St. Peter Rm., 7:00 p.m.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 10
Please select a tag from the Jesse Tree.
Walking with Purpose, LL Room 3 (Church), 9:15 a.m.
Middle School Girls Bible Study, Youth Ministry Center, 2:45 p.m.
PSR Classes (Grades K-8), School, 4:45 p.m.
Extraordinary Eucharistic Ministry Retraining, Church, 7:00 p.m.
RCIA, LL Room 3 (Church), 7:00 p.m.
Employment Ministry, Room 1 (Parish Office), 7:00 p.m.
Alcoholics Anonymous, Room 3 (Parish Office), 8:00 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 11
Please select a tag from the Jesse Tree.
Prayer Shawl Ministry, Room 3 (Parish Office), 1:30 p.m.
PSR Classes (Grades 1-8), School, 6:30 p.m.
HS Youth Ministry, YM Center, 6:30 p.m.
Eucharistic Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, 7:00 p.m.
Advent Penance Service, Church, 7:00 p.m.
Overeaters Anonymous, Room 2 (Parish Office), 7:00 p.m.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 12
Please select a tag from the Jesse Tree.
Eucharistic Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament following the 8:30 a.m. Mass; Benediction at 5:00 p.m.
(Confessions regularly heard after the Thurs. 8:30 a.m. Mass)
Middle School Boys Bible Study, Youth Ministry Center, 2:45 p.m.
Spanish Mass for Our Lady of Guadalupe, Church, 8:00 p.m.
K of C First Degree, St. Peter Room, 6:30 p.m.
Al Anon for Men, Room 1 (Parish Office), 7:30 p.m.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 13
Please select a tag from the Jesse Tree.
Altar Server Retraining, Church, 7:00 p.m.
Alcoholics Anonymous, Room 2 (Parish Office), 7:30 p.m.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 14
Please select a tag from the Jesse Tree. Items needed tomorrow.
Altar Server Retraining, Church, 9:30 a.m.
Men’s Prayer Group, LL Room 2 (Church), 7:30 a.m.
(Confessions regularly heard at 2:30 p.m.)
Cost & Blanket Drive (Look for truck in front of church until 5:30 p.m.)
Bridge Group, LL Room 3 (Church), 5:30 p.m.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 15
Donations for Jesse Tree needed today. Thank you!
Cost & Blanket Drive (Look for truck in front of church until 2:00 p.m.)
RCIA Dismissal at 9:00 a.m. Mass
Nursery Services during the 9:00 and 10:30 a.m. Masses
Children’s Liturgy of the Word during the 9:00 & 10:30 a.m. Masses
PSR Sunday Preschool during the 9:00 and 10:30 am. Masses
Baptisms celebrated after the 12:30 Mass
AA “Big Book” Recovery Mtg., Rm. 2 (Parish Office), 6:00 p.m.
Middle School Youth Ministry, YM Center, 6:00 p.m.
Altar Server Retraining, Church, 6:30 p.m.
Please call the Parish Office (614-882-2100) for information about upcoming events, parish ministries and opportunities to serve and grow in your faith!
Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

**Men's and Women's Meetings:** I'm looking forward to meeting with the men of the parish on Sunday evening (December 8) at 7:00 p.m. in the Klinger Center. I also wish to invite all of the women of the parish to a special meeting on Sunday, January 12, also at 7:00 p.m. in the Klinger Center. The goal of both gatherings will be to promote the Columbus Catholic Men's and Women's Conferences and explore ways in which we can grow in our faith and strengthen our families here at Saint Paul parish.

**Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception:** Because December 8 falls on a Sunday this year, the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary is transferred to Monday, December 9. While it is not a Holy Day of Obligation this year, I invite you to attend Mass on Monday in honor of Our Lady. We will have our usual 6:40 a.m. and 8:30 a.m. Masses in addition to a special 7:00 p.m. Mass on Monday evening.

**Advent Confessions:** In addition to our regularly scheduled opportunities for confession (Thursdays following the 8:30 a.m. Mass and at 2:30 p.m. on Saturdays), we will have two additional confession times during Advent: Wednesday, December 11 at 7:00 p.m. and Wednesday, December 18 at 7:00 p.m.

**Attention All Altar Servers:** I want to thank our dedicated altar servers who bring such dignity to our prayer and provide a necessary and important service. We are in the process of re-training all those who currently are altar servers and attend Saint Paul School or PSR. There will be three opportunities for the re-training of all other altar servers on Friday, December 13 at 7:00 p.m., Saturday, December 14 at 9:30 a.m. and on Sunday, December 15 at 6:30 p.m. Altar servers need only attend one session. The new standard for our altar servers will take effect on the Fourth Sunday of Advent.

**Share the Warmth Coat and Blanket Drive:** Next weekend our Youth Ministry and St. Vincent DePaul Society will be orchestrating their 10th annual Share the Warmth Coat and Blanket Drive. Donations of new and gently used blankets, bed linens, winter apparel, canned goods and monetary gifts will go to families in need. Your donations can be brought to the truck that will be parked in front of the church after the 4:00 p.m. Mass until 5:30 p.m. on Saturday, December 14 and from 8:15 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. on Sunday, December 15.

**Jesse Tree:** Please consider selecting a tag from one of the Jesse Trees in the Gathering Space for our sister parish Holy Rosary/St. John and the Community Kitchen. Please return the gifts this week at your convenience but no later than next Sunday, December 15. Thank you for your generosity.

In Christ,

*Fr. Wilson*
LIGHT THE ADVENT WREATH

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit ... Come Lord Jesus, be our light! Help our lives bear good fruit.

READ THE GOSPEL for the Second Sunday of Advent (Cycle A)
Matthew 3:1-12

“Therefore every tree that does not bear good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire.”

REFLECT WITH A STORY

It sounds like John was having a bad day. The Pharisees and Sadducees arrive on the scene and John nearly loses it. He calls them a brood of vipers, compares them to stones and then tells them that if they don’t change their sinful ways, they’ll be cut down like dead trees. He says, “Every tree that does not bear good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire.”

It’s a harsh image and one that might be difficult for us to relate to. Why would we destroy trees that don’t bear good fruit? But farmers around the world today who depend on their fruit trees for their income know that one, bad tree can hurt their entire crop.

Take Fidencio, for example. He is a coffee farmer who lives in Narino. Fidencio and his family’s well-being depends on his ability to continue to produce good fruit. To do that, he has to pay close attention to the coffee trees that do not bear good fruit, and make sure they do not affect the rest of the crop. This is a very real concern for farmers like Fidencio, because many coffee trees where he lives are infected with a deadly fungus called leaf rust that can spread to other trees. Sometimes the farmers have to cut down infected trees to save the rest of the crop.

Just as Fidencio must rid his coffee farm of disease that will damage his trees, we must prune our lives of the things that damage our relationship with God, ourselves and others. By doing so, we can bear the good fruit John the Baptist talks about.

PRAY

Creator God, you are the master gardener. Help me to bear good fruit in my life—for myself, for my family and for my community. Amen.

REFLECT

What do I need to stop doing or get rid of in my life in order to bear good fruit?

ACT

This week, prune your life of one or more material items you no longer need and donate them to charity. Oftentimes the clutter of everyday objects prevents us from focusing on what leads us to Christ.

GIVE

Support farmers like Fidencio by purchasing coffee that bears good fruit! Warm your heart this holiday season with coffee from CRS partners. Visit crsfairtrade.org.
CONNECTING THE WORD OF GOD TO OUR LIVES
Adapted from Faith Sharing for Small Church Communities, (ed. Rev. Art Baranowski)

Reflecting on Today’s Gospel...
The Second Sunday of Advent December 8 (Cycle A)

First Reading: Isaiah 11:1-10
Second Reading: Romans 15:4-9
Gospel: Matthew 3:1-12

John tells his followers that the time has come for them to reform their lives. His baptism was a ceremony for followers to express their intention of conversion. And John promised that the one to follow him would baptize with the Holy Spirit and with fire, a baptism that would carry the power of God.

Describe a time when you were “down and feeling poor” and God blessed you with an unexpected gift.

We all know people who lead fruitful lives. Who are those people in your life? In what ways have their lives affected you?

Preparing for Next Sunday...
The Third Sunday of Advent December 15 (Cycle A)

First Reading: Isaiah 35:1-6a, 10
Second Reading: James 5:7-10
Gospel: Matthew 11:2-11

Prophets such as Isaiah brought a message of hope that things could be different. They may have been expecting a “fire and brimstone: preacher who would lead the people out of their oppression. Instead Jesus gives them a completely different image, an image of healing, forgiveness and tender concern for all.

Relate an experience when it was easy for you to recognize God in a person, situation or event – and another time when it was difficult.

What obstacles do you have in your life that keep you from following Christ each day?

Stewardship
Managing God’s Gifts To Us

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Our Stewardship Collection on December 1, 2019</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fiscal Year Offertory Budget per Week $54,375.35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Offertory</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Envelopes (582 Households) $25,203.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| Loose                                         $10,622.11
| Average Auto Withdrawal (498 Households) $25,436.71 |
| Total                                         $61,263.82 |
| Weekly Excess/(Deficit)                       $6,888.47 |
| YTD Offertory Budget                          $1,196,257.70 |
| YTD Actual Offerings                          $1,169,622.86 |
| YTD Deficit                                   $26,634.84 |
| YTD Church Building Fund Collection           $25,325.35 |
| Church Building Fund Loan                     $5,280,145.04 |
| YTD Reaching for Tomorrow Collection          $55,069.28 |
| Reaching for Tomorrow Loan                    $294,247.77 |

Thank you to all those who so generously give of their Time, Talent and Treasure in the Spirit of Stewards. May God bless you and yours!
St. Paul Youth Ministry NCYC 2019 Recap

Many times I have told my teens and other people I know that I have seen and heard it all; that nothing would truly amaze me. Our Youth Ministry recently returned from the National Catholic Youth Conference (NCYC), a three-day retreat in Indianapolis. Going into it I thought I knew what to expect. Without question, I was amazed at what I witnessed.

Of course, the trip was life changing as it always is. Witnessing 20,000 teens in the Lucas Oil Stadium praying at Mass was both inspiring and beautiful. Lives were won for Christ as always, but amongst that something even greater happened this year...

On Friday night there was Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament inside the stadium. During this time there was absolute complete silence—to be amongst so many teens in silence was quite unusual to say the least. Once the Eucharist was exposed, slowly but surely a few of the teens boldly walked up to the stage and fell to their knees in silent prayer. Immediately some of the youth in our group turned to me looking for permission to also move forward. After receiving a simple nod of approval, they too ran down the stadium stairs eager to be closer to our Lord. Within no time, thousands of teens literally ran towards the monstrance on the stage and the field was filled with kids adoring Him! I was in shock. This was something that never had happened before at previous NCYC gatherings. Our teens wanted to be so close to Christ, they literally rushed to be right near Him both physically and emotionally.

So many times, myself and others look at the Church in despair. We know the number of people leaving the faith, especially the youth. We allow ourselves to get discouraged. Too often we say the youth are the “future Church”. I want to tell you that the teens are not the “future Church”, but rather they are the present Church.

I was filled with an enormous hope for our Church from my experience at NCYC this year. Hope that continued growing stronger after hearing so many of our teens share their feelings about how much a chastity talk changed their perspective and how they all planned to bring the experience home to live day to day. When we bring Christ to our teens, they cling to Him and they do not let go. Christ is their beacon of Hope. Our Church is going to be more than fine if we have disciples like these.

Our teens need Christ. They need to know Jesus, and when they know Him, they will always be running towards Him. We want your teen to journey with us, too. Our high school youth ministry program meets weekly on Wednesday evenings from 6:30-8:00 p.m. and our middle school program meets bi-weekly on Sundays from 6:00-7:30 p.m. Please reach out to me at either 614-882-2537 or bromantic@stpacc.org to learn how we can get your child connected to our Youth Ministry and more about upcoming events. I sincerely look forward to hearing from you!

Brad Romantic
Director of Youth Ministry
**Parish News You Can Use**

**NEXT WEEKEND!**
Our Youth Ministry &
St. Vincent DePaul Society’s

**10th Annual**
**Coat and Blanket Drive**

There will be a truck in front of the church on **Saturday, December 14** after the 4:00 p.m. Vigil Mass until 5:30 p.m. and on **Sunday, December 15** after the 7:30 a.m. Mass until 2:00 p.m. Your donations will be most appreciated by families who have so little.

*A Share the WARMTH!*
**COLLECTING NEW & GENTLY USED:**
- Blankets & Bed Linens
- Winter Coats, Gloves, Scarves, Hats & Clothing (Please no dry clean items)
- Canned Food Items
- Monetary Donations

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**COMING in JANUARY:**
**THE MARRIAGE COURSE**

**THE MARRIAGE COURSE** is a six-session program designed for **ALL** married couples, whether they have been married for only one year or sixty-one years! Couples can expect to enjoy six evenings in a dinner date night format that will allow time to privately reflect on subjects important to all husbands and wives including the **Art of Communication, Resolving Conflict, The Power of Forgiveness, and more.**

**THE MARRIAGE COURSE** will take place from 5:30 until 8:15 p.m. on Saturday evenings beginning in early January: **January 11, January 25, February 8, February 29, March 14 and March 28.** The program fee of just $50 includes dinner, onsite childcare and all course materials. (This program would make a great Christmas gift for your spouse, by the way!) Space is limited. Please register online by referring to the Upcoming Events or WeShare link on our parish website. The deadline for registering is Sunday, January 5.

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**LESSONS & CAROLS Service**

A Wonderful Meditation Gift During Advent for Adults and Teens
**Tuesday, December 17 from 7:00 – 8:00 p.m.**

Come join others in the church for an evening of Advent Lessons and Carols, a service of scripture, reflection, song and prayer. This is such a wonderful meditation as we await Jesus’ coming. Our service is derived from *A Service of Nine Lessons and Carols* originating in the Church of England. There will be five scripture readings interspersed with prayers, carols and choir anthems that will be led by our St. Paul Choir.
Jesse Tree

Please remember to stop by the vestibule of the church to select a tag from the Jesse Tree for our sister parish Holy Rosary/St. John and the Community Kitchen.

Some gift tags will ask for $35 checks for the Community Kitchen to buy food from the Mid-Ohio Food Bank. Other tags will ask for $25 checks made out to the Community Kitchen.

This money will be used to buy food items not available from the Food Bank and cover other operating costs.

We will also have tags for $50 that will cover the cost of utilities for Holy Rosary/St. John church for one Sunday.

Other tags ask for toiletries, blankets, and warm gloves, hats, and socks. Too often, the basic needs of toothpaste, shampoo, soap, and warm clothing go unfilled for those in the neighborhood of Holy Rosary/St. John since food and shelter must be their first priority.

We ask that you wrap the clothing items and tape the tag to the present.

The toiletry items and checks should not be wrapped.

Please return gifts as soon as possible, but no later than December 15.

Thank you very much for your generosity!

“There will come up from the shoot of Jesse, from his roots a branch will bear fruit”.
- Isaiah 11:1:
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