St. Paul's Parish – Summerside, PEI

Third Sunday of Advent
December 14, 2025

"Joy is the infallible sign of the presence of God."
—Pierre Teilhard de Chardin, SJ

Parish Office:

Reception Desk: 902 436-5112
Office Administration: Jackie Gallant: 902 436-5112
Email: office@stpaulsparish.ca
Website: www.stpaulsparish.ca

Parochial Administrator: Fr. John Molina
(Emergencies only 902 628-3147)
Pastoral Ministry: Rev. Ashok Veerabathina:
902 303-6816
Faith Formation: Tawnya Stanus: (1) 647 550-0472

Office Hours:

Monday & Friday: 9:00 AM – 4:00 PM
Tuesday to Thursday: 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM
* *The office will be closed between Christmas & New Year's.*

Worship, Sacraments and Pastoral Care

Mass Times & Intentions

**** Please note that there will be no morning Masses due to the Simbang Gabi novena of Masses.***

Monday, Dec 15
6:00 PM - St. Paul's: Geraldine & Bert Hynes

Tuesday, Dec 16
10:00AM – Intention of the donor
6:00 PM – St. Paul's: Intentions of Sandra Davis, +Doris Thibeau, Sick & Infirm Members of the Knights of Columbus

Wednesday, Dec 17
6:00 PM – St. Paul's: +Alfred Vautour, Intentions of Mike Spin

Thursday, Dec 18
6:00 PM – St. Paul's: Deceased Members of the Knights of Columbus, Souls in Purgatory

Friday, Dec 19
6:00 PM – St. Paul's: +Jackie Praught, +Alfred Moore
10:00 AM – St. John's: Intention of the donor

Saturday, Dec 20
4:00 PM – St. Paul's: +Claude & Ernest Gaudet, +Mary Aitken
6:00 PM - St. Paul's: Linda Yeo
7:00 PM – St. John's: Intentions of Fr. Todd Arsenault

Sunday, Dec 21
9:00 AM – St. Paul's: + Doris Thibeau, +Adrien Gallant
11:00 AM – St. Paul's: Intentions of Parishioners
6:30 PM - St. Paul's: (Simbang Gabi)

- **Baptisms** – Celebrated the first Sunday of every month. Please contact the office to register and arrange preparation.
- **Marriages** – Please contact the pastor **6 months in advance**.
- **Anointing of the Sick** – Available anytime. If at the hospital, ask the nursing staff to contact us.
- **Funeral planning** – Contact your Funeral Home. The parish will assist families with all steps regarding liturgy and spiritual needs.
- **Home Visits & Communion for the Sick** – Call the office.
- **Sacrament of Reconciliation**: By appointment or **Tuesday**: 11:30 AM, **Thursday:** 8:30 AM **& Saturday**: 11:00 AM

Devotion to St Peregrin: Every Thursday Mass at 9:00 AM

Prayer for the Sick:Liz Turner, Betty Gallant, Pat Williams, Jean Murray, Mike Spin, Louise Wedge, Baby Alis, Tim McNulty, Leona MacDonald, Melvin Laviolette, Wilfred & Eva Gallant, Sheila Perry, Gail & Thomas Cybulski, Douglas Gaudet, Barbara Gillis, Jeanette MacKenzie, John Richard, Jeanette Maclellan

CWL Prayer Line: Our CWL Members would be honoured to pray for your intentions. Please call 436-5039 or 436-6135.

Christmas Masses
- **Christmas Eve Masses** 4pm & 9pm St. Paul's & 7pm at St. John the Baptist
- **Christmas Day Masses** 9am St. Paul's & 11am St. John's

Stewardship

Sunday Offering Total:	**$**
Regular Collection:	$**5370.75**
Building Fund:	$117.00
Automatic Debit:	$ 1,677.75
E-Transfers:	$350.00
Cemetery:	$270.00
Stand for Statue (wording?):	$1030.75

<u>50/50 Legacy Fund Fundraiser</u>... Thank you for your support!
As of December 9th, 2025 the total received this month from our 50/50 tickets is **$385.00** (The winner receives half)
Draw will be held after the 11:00 am Mass, in the Parish Centre lounge, on Sunday, December 28th.

Lights of Love Annual fundraiser hosted by the Legacy Fund committee. Tree tag envelopes are available at the church entrance and main office for a donation of $10/ea. Trees will be blessed and our loved ones honoured at all Masses the weekend before Christmas and on Christmas Day.

Envelopes for the new year are here. You can pick them up in the hallway leading to the offices. Thank you.

Update on the Bishop's Dinner: The Diocese of Charlottetown is pleased to report that the inaugural Bishop's Dinner on October 1, 2025 raised **$52,595.72**. These funds, held by the Diocese, will support mission-focused initiatives and charitable outreach across PEI. An advisory committee appointed by Bishop Joseph Dabrowski, CSMA, will meet on December 16 to begin the allocation process, with more details to come in the new year. Thank you to all who supported the Bishop's Dinner.

Outreach

Society of St Vincent de Paul (902) 724-3454
Suggested items this week: canned vegetables, juice, coffee, and deodorant. Thank you.
Donations accepted Monday, Wednesday & Friday, 10–12 PM at the Food Bank. All donations are eligible for a tax receipt, for either the donor or the gift recipient.

SSVP will hold a food drive Dec 21st at 4PM during the Nativity at St. Paul's. Non-perishable items or monetary donations are accepted. Come prepare for Christmas with a generous heart.

Give the Gift of Giving This Christmas 🎄
Looking for a meaningful gift for someone who has everything? Make a donation in their name and receive a festive card to give them.
Your continued support of our food bank is truly appreciated. We wish you all the best as you prepare for the Christmas holiday.

Free Christmas Dinner. St. Paul's Community Support Committee invites those who may be alone or facing financial hardship to a Free Christmas Dinner on Christmas Day, 1–3 p.m. To register, call Linda or Wayne Doucette (902-436-4005).

Sisters of the Sacred Heart Would you like the Sisters to visit a loved one? Contact: (902) 436-5386 | sacredheartpei@gmail.com

PEI LIFE: Nominate a new mom of 2025 to receive a *Christmas Stocking4LIFE* as a thank-you for saying "yes" to life. Visit PEILIFE.org to submit a nomination by Dec 15th. You can also support the program by giving a Gift4LIFE. For details, contact Pat at 902-894-5473.

Faith Formation

Catechism Update: December 14th will be our last class for the holidays. Happy Advent to all and we'll see you on January 11th.

Youth Group: Grades 7–12- Next meeting: December 19th

Discipleship

Catholic Women's League (CWL) 🎄 Thank you to all who helped with the success of the Christmas Lottery, Bake & Book Sale this past weekend! Congratulations to the prize winners: 3rd place Susan Perry, 2nd Place Marian Pineau and 1st place Amy Mclean.

PEI Provincial CWL invites Catholic girls and women attending university or college to apply for the **Catholic Girl's Bursary by January 31, 2026.** Applications are available at your church or on our website <u>www.cwlpei.ca</u>.

Knights of Columbus Empowering Catholic men to live their faith. Grand Knight: Garth McKinnon

Community

Nativity: Night of Music - Dec 21st at 4:00PM at St. Paul's and Dec. 22nd at 6:30 at Harbourfront theatre (tickets almost gone!). Bring your whole family. We hope to see you there!

Poinsettias: Every Christmas the Parish decorates the sanctuary with poinsettias. If you would like to offer one in memory of a loved one, please call Karen at 902 439-6451 by December 19th.

Simbang Gabi at St Paul's Dec 15-23 at 6:00PM (6:30 on 21st) is a Filipino Christmas novena of dawn Masses, introduced by Spanish friars in the 1600s as a practical way for farmers to attend Mass before starting work, symbolizing devotion to Mary and a joyful anticipation of Christmas, evolving from early dawn Masses (Misa de Gallo) to include evening services.

Christmas Carol Sing in Rustico: Join us at St. Augustine's Church on Sunday, December 14 at 6:30 PM for seasonal music by local musicians and a Nativity presentation by our youth. Admission is by donation, with proceeds supporting new music for the St. John Paul II Pastoral Unit.

Seeking God's Presence

By Fr. John Molina

"Rejoice!": The Joy that comes from being in God's presence.

On this Third Sunday of Advent, known as *Gaudete* Sunday, the Church invites us to pause and rejoice. The rose candle reminds us that even as we wait, even as we prepare, joy is already present among us. This joy does not come from perfect circumstances or from having everything figured out, but from knowing that the Lord is near.

In today's Gospel, the crowds come to John the Baptist with a question: *"What should we do?"* John does not respond with theories or complicated spiritual exercises. Instead, he points to everyday faithfulness. Share with those who have less. Act honestly. Do not abuse power. Live simply. In other words, if we truly seek God's presence, it must be visible in how we live, how we treat others, and how we make our daily choices.

John teaches us that preparing for the Lord is not only about prayerful words, but about a moral compass shaped by justice and compassion. Our faith becomes credible when it takes flesh in concrete actions—especially toward the poor, the vulnerable, and those who feel forgotten. Joy grows when we live in right relationship with God and with one another.

But John's message is not only about what we do; it is also about who we become. He lives what he preaches. His life of humility and simplicity speaks just as powerfully as his words. He knows who he is—and who he is not. He steps aside so that Christ may be revealed. In this, John shows us the posture of a true disciple: confident in God's call, free from the need to dominate or impress, and rooted in trust.
The prophet Micah beautifully captures this path: *"What does the Lord require of you? To act justly, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God."* This is the rhythm of a joyful Christian life. Justice without mercy becomes harsh. Mercy without humility becomes shallow. But when justice, mercy, and humility walk together, joy takes root.

As we move closer to Christmas, *Gaudete* Sunday invites us to ask ourselves gently: Where is God calling me to act more justly? Whom am I being asked to treat with greater compassion? What might I need to let go of in order to walk more humbly with the Lord?

True joy is not manufactured. It flows from a life aligned with God's heart. As we seek His presence this Advent, may we discover that joy grows where justice is practiced, mercy is loved, and humility leads the way.