

December, 2025



A Ministry of the Dominican Friars of the Province of St. Albert the Great
The Newman Center at Indiana University

hoosiercatholic.org · (812) 339-5561 · 1413 E. 17th St., Bloomington, Indiana 47408

LET US GO *Joyfully* TO MEET THE
LORD



A Note from Fr. Ben, O.P.

What a month of December. We get Advent, this time of preparation for the coming of Jesus into the world as a child, for His coming into our hearts each day, and for the second coming of Jesus at the end of time. We get the Immaculate Conception. We get Christmas, the feast celebrating God actually becoming human and being born into the world. We get a beautiful week of feasts after Christmas with St. Stephen, St. John the Apostle, the Holy Family, and then we get to flow into the feast of Mary the Mother of God on the first of January.

As we sit with all that the Church is giving us this month, one thing that is striking me is the intentionality of God. We are preparing for the coming of Jesus into the world in Advent, and the way that God prepared was beautiful. He didn't just let everything unfold and then say, okay I think I will show up tomorrow. No, He knew when He was going to enter into the world and spent a generation preparing for it. He probably was working intentionally in the hearts of Ann and Joachim, preparing them with trials and consolations. Then when the time was right, He allowed Mary to be conceived immaculately. He wanted her to have never experienced the stain of original sin. To be perfect, to be loving, but also to be free. It wasn't that Mary didn't have the capacity to sin. Eve was also created without sin. Mary chose each day to live so deeply immersed in the love of God, that I imagine, sin wasn't even in the question.

I love to wonder what her life was like as a child. There are different stories from saints about how she grew up in the temple and learned and studied. I just wonder what life looked like each day. How did she grow in her prayer life and learn to love those around her, especially those who were annoying? I imagine there had to be people in the temple who were a little annoying or were not always loving. The Lord probably allowed all of these trials to continue to draw His mother into a deeper love, to form her into an even more beautiful tabernacle for Him to enter the world through. The Lord was just so intentional.

It is not only with our Blessed Mother that our Lord is intentional. He is intentional with you and me too. He created you intentionally. He placed you in a family. He has loved you and allowed you to be in situations that draw you closer to Him. He has allowed the annoying people or those who are not always loving to be in your life to help you have the capacity to love when it is not easy. None of us were conceived without sin or free from original sin, but the Lord has still been intentional in creating us. He is drawing us into deeper union with Him and continually preparing our hearts for the ultimate encounter with Him at the end of time or the moment of our death.

This Advent and Christmas Season, we have a beautiful opportunity to reflect on how the Lord has been intentional in our lives. How He has allowed the bad things because He knew He could bring about a greater good and draw us into deeper union with Him. He has blessed us with the joyful moments to remind us how much and how tenderly He loves us. It is also a great opportunity to really sit with the question of how He is calling us to be more intentional with Him. How are we being called deeper? How are we being called to prepare our hearts for that Encounter with the One?



Prayer & Worship

Mass, Confession, & Eucharistic Adoration

Weekend Mass

Saturday Vigil: 4:30pm

Sunday: 8:30am, 10:30am, 12:30pm (Bi-lingual),
5:30pm, 9:00pm (when IU is in session)

Weekday Mass

Monday-Friday: 12:15pm

Monday, Wednesday, Friday: 5:30pm

Tuesday, Thursday: 9:00pm (when IU is in session)

Confession

Monday-Friday: 11:45am-12:15pm

Monday, Wednesday, Friday: 4:30pm-5:30pm

Tuesday, Thursday: 8:00-9:00pm (when IU is in session)

30 minutes before all Sunday Masses
(an hour before the 5:30pm Mass)

Eucharistic Adoration

Monday-Friday: 11:15am-12:15pm

Monday-Thursday: 6pm-9pm

Fridays: 12:45pm-5:30pm

Parish Office Hours

Monday-Thursday: 9:00am-6:00pm

Friday: 10:00am-4pm

Liturgy of the Hours

Everyone has an open invitation to join the Dominican friars in praying and chanting the Liturgy of the Hours. Morning Prayer is at 8:30am and Vespers at 6:15pm, Monday-Friday in the back chapel of the church.

Low Gluten Hosts

At every Mass, the celebrant has a pyx with low-gluten hosts for those who require them. If you require a low-gluten host, please go to the celebrant's line. When you come forward to receive Holy Communion, please tell him that you require a low-gluten host.

Our Mission

St. Paul Catholic Center serves as the Newman Center and Catholic Parish for the Indiana University community. We bear witness to the Gospel of Jesus Christ, celebrate the Sacraments, foster spiritual formation, evangelize, and serve those in need.

Prayers for the Sick of Our Parish

Jo Gilbertson, Joanna Polynice, Kevin Conway, Ed Ripley, Tracey Neumann, Pat Meier, Kathryn Faith Marszalek, Ida Bouvier, Suzanne Bouvier, John William & Patty Greenbaum, Katie Suarez, Nancy Tosick, Brian Dougherty, Pat Car, Mary Ann & John Evans, Bill & Barbara Schnorr, Michael Mooney, Wendy Kerwin & family, Ann Marie Kinnell, Charlie & Marianne Warthan, Scott Curry, Dudley Deppe, Michael & Jennifer Faris, Diana Zook Stanley, Charlene Miller, Sr. Lucia Christi, Kreed Dabney, Mary Hickman, Judy O'Callaghan

From Death to Life

Jim Alling

Please send all prayer requests to bulletin@hoosiercatholic.org to receive names in bulletin.

October Collections

Actual Collection	\$51,749
Budget	\$62,000
Difference	\$10,251
% Change	16.53%

Fiscal Year to Date

Actual Collection	\$212,363
Budget	\$238,000
Difference	\$25,637
% Change	10.77%

Consider Making a Gift

www.hoosiercatholic.org/donate



Mass Intentions

If you would like to schedule a Mass intention, please visit hoosiercatholic.org > About Us > Schedule a Mass Intention. You may also call the parish office at (812) 339-5561 or email office@hoosiercatholic.org.

Holiday Updates

Christmas Mass Times

CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES

December 24th (Christmas Eve)

5:30 PM 7:30 PM 11:00 PM

December 25th (Christmas Day)

10:30 AM 12:30 PM *(bilingual)*

The parish office will be closed Dec. 24-Jan. 5. The priests will be gone for the FOCUS conference January 1-5.



Christmas Concert

Saint Paul's Christmas Concert

JOURNEY OF PROMISES

December 12 @ 7pm
At Saint Paul's



Christmas Tree Giving

We are very thankful to those who supported all forty seven families in the Bloomington community in this year's Christmas Giving Tree. As the Saint Paul's community, it is beautiful to give back annually to those in need and celebrate our Savior's birth and second coming! Thank you for continuing to support Saint Paul's ministry in this way. Now, many families will have gifts to open on Christmas Day. Your efforts matter and are seen, thank you.



Holy Days of Obligation

Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception

December 8th

7:00 AM 12:15 PM 5:30 PM 9:00 PM

Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God

December 31st January 1st

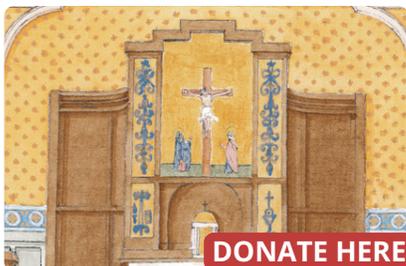
5:30 PM 11:00 PM 12:00 AM 10:30 AM
(Eucharistic Adoration)



Capital Campaign

Consider an End-of-Year RMD Gift to St. Paul's

If aged 73 or older, a gift of your Required Minimum Distribution from your retirement account through a Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD) allows you to direct your RMD tax free to St. Paul's, whether you itemize or not. A QCD is not subject to federal income taxes - it is excluded from your taxable income. Your retirement plan custodian directly sends all or a portion of your RMD to St. Paul's. You can't transfer the RMD to you, and then forward to the parish; it must be sent directly to us from the plan custodian. Check with your tax adviser if a QCD could lower your Social Security benefits and/or Medicare premium. For more information, contact Director of Mission Advancement Tom Recker.



Climb To the Top!



We have hit \$4.25 Million towards our \$5 Million Campaign goal! We only have 15% left to raise! Thank you so much to all of those who have made this possible. If you have not yet made a gift, please prayerfully consider what your role could be in this Campaign. Each and every gift is another step closer to creating "A Sanctuary on Campus".

Tax Forms

Thank you so much for your gifts to St. Paul's throughout 2025! We cannot show our gratitude enough for our donors making our ministries possible. 2025 Tax Forms will be delivered electronically by Jan. 31st. Please contact Danielle Heitkamp (dheitkamp@gmail.com) with any questions.

Parish Information & News

Knights of Columbus

SUPPORT SEMINARIANS AND NOVICES KNIGHTS CHRISTMAS KRINGLE'S

The Knights of Columbus will be taking orders for their Christmas "Kringle" pastry again this year. Knights will be in the Gathering Space after Masses the weekends of November 29/30 and December 6/7. All orders will be available for pick-up in the Gathering Space after the Masses on December 13/14. Kringle price is \$27. The proceeds from the Kringle sales help support Seminarians and women in the novitiate from the Bloomington parishes. Through your previous participation in Kringle sales, the K of C last year gave a total of \$2,000 in support of four individuals. Thank you to all of the many St. Paul's parishioners that have supported this charity over many years!



Serving Sunday Supper



Looking for a meaningful way to give back and connect with the St. Paul Community?

Join us for Sunday Suppers, where we serve free home-cooked meals to IU students every Sunday evening.

We're looking for volunteers to help cook, serve, and welcome students with warm food and friendly faces. Come ready to serve, smile, and share community!



Penance Service

Wednesday,
December 10th
6:00-9:00 PM
at Saint Paul's

PENANCE SERVICE

Hoosier Catholic MERCH Store

MERCH STORE IS HERE!



Get your friends and family a Christmas gift today!



Reach More Small Groups

REACH MORE™

LAY TRAINING SMALL GROUPS EVANGELIZATION

St. Paul's has partnered with Evangelical Catholic to offer parishioners *Reach More*, a 12-week formation experience designed to help you live your faith more intentionally. Hosted weekly in the homes of trained parishioners, *Reach More* offers a supportive, prayerful space to explore how everyday conversations can become opportunities for bringing others closer to Christ. It begins in the fall and all are welcome to join. Contact Michelle Barnette if you are interested: michelledomeyer@gmail.com, or see Fr. Simon.

St. Paul 50+ Gathering- CANCELLED

Our 50+ Christmas Gathering has been cancelled for December. We will meet in January and have a "Christmas in January" event instead. Look for the announcement in next month's St. Paul Bulletin for details. Any questions, please call Debbie or Bob 574-220-2561. Many blessings this Holiday Season!

Campus Ministry

Student Registration

Students! We want to be in touch! Use this QR code to register with us so you can get connected and never miss an event.



Parent Registration

Parents! We want to be in touch with you, too! Scan the QR code to find out what we offer for your student, as well as how you can help support our ministry. Please be assured of our prayers for you and for your student.



Sunday Suppers

Every Sunday there is a free meal after the 5:30pm Mass when IU is in session.



Pastoral Counseling Available for Students

Dr. Nina Castronova is available to students for individual counseling sessions. To set up an appointment, contact Nina directly at ncastronova@hoosiercatholic.org, or pick up one of the Request for Counseling forms by the Welcome Desk.



SEEK 2026

Jan 1-5, Columbus, Ohio

Join us at the biggest catholic student conference in the country. Ask a missionary or visit focus.seek.org for more information!

HOOSIER CATHOLIC CHRISTMAS PARTY
December 13, 7-10PM



Cookie Decorating, Gingerbread House Contest, snacks, and fun!

Higgins Hall-Basement of St. Paul's

PANCAKE FLING



Monday, Dec 12th
7pm-10pm

Come study, or have a study break and enjoy some pancakes!

Frassati Fellowship



From "YAGRAD" to "Frassati Fellowship"

We are taking this name to honor the canonization of Pier Giorgio Frassati. Frassati was a third Order Dominican now known as the Dominican Laity. Since St. Paul is staffed by Dominicans, we think this is a fitting name for our Young Adult and graduate student community. Please keep your eyes open for our events and bible studies throughout the year. May God Bless you.

Frassati Fellowship GroupMe

If you are a young adult or grad student, please join our GroupMe by using the QR code to stay up to date on the latest information in the Frassati Fellowship community.



Small Group Bible Studies

St. Paul Catholic Center offers Bible studies to all young adults and grad students. For more information, contact Fr. Simon Felix or scan the QR code.



St. Paul Ministries

Volunteer Opportunities

We are in need of volunteers to help organize and clean our sacristy for an hour or two each week. Flexible scheduling is available. Please contact Fr. Ben, if you are interested.

Music Ministry

Interested in cantoring, singing in one of our choirs, or playing an instrument for Mass? Contact Dr. Tim Gregson at tgregson@hoosiercatholic.org.

Inspired by the Dominican Way?

Does the Dominican way of life and spirituality intrigue you? The Bloomington chapter of Dominican Laity invites you to consider following the example of St. Dominic. If you are interested in learning more, contact Mary Sue Veerkamp-Schwab, OP at msvschwab@gmail.com.

Teams of Our Lady

Teams of Our Lady is a group of couples that meet in their homes to share life news, a potluck meal, and a spiritual study, usually focusing on marriage and family. We are looking for married couples to start a new Team. For further information, contact Kevin and Judy Killigrew at kevinkilligrew@hotmail.com, or call at (765) 346-0617.

Bethany Meals

A Bethany Meal is provided for any family who requests one following a funeral or memorial service at St. Paul's. Volunteers provide a dish and/or help set up, serve, and clean up after a meal. If you are interested in this ministry, contact Anita Park at anipark2004@yahoo.com, or call at (812) 345-9222.

Hospitality Team & Dessert Donations

If you are interested in helping out with Sunday Suppers or in making desserts for the students at the suppers, please contact Father Ben.

Prayer Shawl Ministry

The St. Paul Prayer Shawl ministry consists of parishioners who gather to share fellowship while crocheting or knitting prayer shawls for those in need, as well as white baptismal blankets for newly baptized babies. They meet every second Wednesday of the month from 2:30-4pm, and welcome both those who are experienced or would like to learn these skills. For more information contact Judy Killigrew at jkilligrew@gmail.com.

Parish Directory

**All emails end in @hoosiercatholic.org*

Pastor

Fr. Patrick Hyde, OP frpatrick

Associate Pastor

Fr. Ben Keller, OP frben

Associate Pastor

Fr. Simon Felix Michalski, OP frsimon

Associate Pastor

Fr. Brian Zuelke, OP frbrian

Priest in Residence

Fr. Justus Pokrzewinski, OP frjustusop@gmail.com

Deacon/Outreach Ministry

Ron Reimer deaconron

* * *

Director of Operations

Tim Mercer tmercer

Director of Music Ministry

Dr. Tim Gregson tgregson

Director of Mission Advancement

Tom Recker trecker

Director of Annual Giving

Danielle Heitkamp dheitkamp

Director of Pastoral Counseling

Dr. Nina Castronova ncastronova

Welcome Desk

Office Email office

Finance Council Chair

Renee Petrina

Bulletin email bulletin@hoosiercatholic.org

Website www.hoosiercatholic.org

Facebook @hoosiercatholic.org

**FOCUS Missionaries' emails end in @focus.org*

FOCUS Missionaries

Sophie Zell sophie.zell

Will Basta william.basta

Cori Martin corinne.martin

Caroline Alexander caroline.alexander

Will Patrick william.patrick

Mark Zara mark.zara