

*Your light
must shine
before others*



ST. PAUL PARISH · FEBRUARY 8, 2026

216 NASSAU STREET · PRINCETON, NJ · 08542 · 609-924-1743 · WWW.SPP.CHURCH

WELCOME HOME



PASTOR
FR. CHRIS DAYTON
pastor@stpaulsofprinceton.org



PAROCHIAL VICAR
FR. KERLY FRANÇOIS
kfrancois@stpaulsofprinceton.org



COORD. OF OCIA
DCN. FRANK CRIVELLO
fcrivello@stpaulsofprinceton.org



PARISH MINISTRY
DCN. JOHN ITALIA
jitalia@stpaulsofprinceton.org

CONNECT WITH US

OUR PARISH MISSION

We, the Catholic Community of Saint Paul in Princeton, honor our tradition of welcoming God's sons and daughters from different cultures and backgrounds to hear and live the Good News of Our Lord Jesus Christ.

Baptized and formed into the people of God, we continue to grow in the Apostolic tradition of worship, word, and service: Worship through our participation in the Eucharist and celebration of sacraments; Word, in our commitment to Catholic identity through Scripture and catechesis; and Service through living as disciples who share God's love with all by working together for peace and justice to advance the coming of the Kingdom of God.



WEBSITE/LIVE STREAM
stpaulsofprinceton.org



FACEBOOK
[@spp.church.princeton](https://www.facebook.com/spp.church.princeton)



INSTAGRAM
[@spp.church](https://www.instagram.com/spp.church)



FLOCKNOTE
sppchurch.flocknote.com/ThisWeekStPaul



609-924-1743
Office Phone



609-924-7510
Office Fax

RECEPTION HOURS

MON, WED-FRI: 9:00am-4:00pm*
TUE: 10:30am-4:00pm*

**Closed for lunch 12:00pm-12:45pm*

REGISTER AT OUR PARISH



MASS TIMES

DAILY (MON-SAT) 8:15am*
(MON-FRI) 12:10pm

SATURDAY 5:30pm

SUNDAY 8:30am, 10:00am*
11:30am, 5:00pm
1:00pm en español

**INDICATES A LIVE STREAMED MASS*

DAILY ROSARY

MON-SAT 9:00am

FOLLOWING 8:15AM MASS IN CHURCH
OR VIA ZOOM (SCAN TO JOIN)



RECONCILIATION

SATURDAY 4:00pm

AND BY PRIVATE APPOINTMENT

ANOINTING OF THE SICK

The Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick is available by scheduling an appointment.

Please contact Monica Heucke:
mheucke@stpaulsofprinceton.org

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

SATURDAYS 7:00am-8:00am

FIRST FRIDAYS 9:00am-12:00pm

Bulletin Section
of Website

Scan here to visit our Weekly Bulletin site which includes our Mass Intentions, sacrament celebrations, and more!



ADMINISTRATION

PARISH STAFF

Rich Albanese BUSINESS MANAGER
ralbanese@stpaulsofprinceton.org

Ernie Andreoli MUSIC MINISTRY
eandreoli@stpaulsofprinceton.org

Mynor Arriola FACILITIES
mynor@stpaulsofprinceton.org

Jaime Gostkowski RELIGIOUS EDUCATION
jgostkowski@stpaulsofprinceton.org

Monica Heucke PARISH ADMIN. ASSISTANT
mheucke@stpaulsofprinceton.org

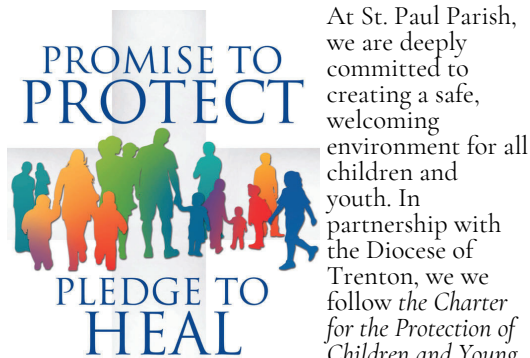
Nancy Jackson FINANCE ADMIN. ASSISTANT
njackson@stpaulsofprinceton.org

Kait Mayer MARKETING & COMMUNICATIONS
kmayer@stpaulsofprinceton.org

Gina Merendino PARISH ACCOUNTANT
gmerendino@stpaulsofprinceton.org

Laura Sarubbi FAMILY MINISTRY
lsarubbi@stpaulsofprinceton.org

Yani Reyes RECEPTION
frontdesk@stpaulsofprinceton.org



People by requiring background checks and VIRTUS training for all clergy, staff, and volunteers. If you are new to a parish ministry or feel called to serve, we would love to have you join us! Together, we can keep our parish a place where every child feels safe and supported. To get started with the VIRTUS process, please email Jaime at SafeSpace@stpaulsofprinceton.org.

Interested in getting involved in a parish ministry? Please be sure to check the website or browse the bulletin for the right ministry head or staff member to reach out to. Become a part of our parish's flourishing!

SUPPORT ST. PAUL PARISH

The fastest and most secure way to give online is through Parish Giving. Autopay options ensure you never need to remember your envelopes again! Not enrolled yet? Scan the QR code here to set up your account:



Are you visiting St. Paul Parish this weekend? We are so thrilled to worship with you! Interested in making a one-time gift? Scan the QR code here:



STEWARDSHIP REPORT

GIVING 1/24-1/25

\$24,000

Budget

\$4,658

Identifiable Gifts

\$1,413

Loose Cash

\$9,513

Online Giving

\$15,584

2025-2026 YTD

\$720,000

Budget

\$382,279

Envelopes/Loose Cash

\$355,459

Online Giving

\$737,738

102.5%

2024-2025 YTD

\$720,000

Budget

\$361,091

Envelopes/Loose Cash

\$327,838

Online Giving

\$688,929

95.7%

AN UPDATE ON LAST YEAR'S ACA *the 2025 Annual Catholic Appeal*

Thanks to the extraordinary generosity of our parishioners, St. Paul Parish has once again met and exceeded our Annual Catholic Appeal goal, reaching our target by the early deadline and increasing parish participation by 5 percent over last year. Because of this strong response, our parish has secured a rebate of more than \$100,000 from the Diocese, funds that will directly support our own ministries and pastoral needs. The Annual Catholic Appeal not only sustains the Bishop's initiatives to grow and strengthen the faith throughout the Catholic heart of New Jersey, but also returns vital resources to our parish community. We are deeply grateful to all who gave so generously and made this achievement possible.

A COMMUNITY OF PRAYER

MASS INTENTIONS

5:30pm Cecilia Coyle | Michael & Ryan Coyle

Sunday / 5th Sunday in Ordinary Time

8:30am Lydia Manfredonia | Janet & John Italia

10:00am Concetta & Joseph Garuccio | M/M Carmelo Emilio

11:30am Thomas Edward Geherty, Jr. | Jill and Scott Petrozzini & Family

1:00pm *Spanish Intentions*

5:00pm The People of the Parish

Monday

8:15am Christine Buzdygan Kelly | Danuta Buzdygan Bohdan Paczynski | Hanna Paczynska

12:10pm Angelina Massi | Hansen Family

Tuesday / Mem. of St. Scholastica

8:15am Father D. Perumpanani | Matthew Varkey

12:10pm Ethel Strieby | Laura McCune

Wednesday

8:15am Living and Deceased members of the Princeton Knights of Columbus Council 636 | KoC

12:10pm Howard F. Grauel | Sonal Shah Carl Ruppert | Marliss McGuinness & Family

Thursday

8:15am Shirley Chambers | Mark & Nancy Jackson & Family

12:10pm Charles Jackson | Mark & Nancy Jackson & Family

Friday

8:15am Kevin J. Moore | Carole Moore Carmelo & Antonietta A. Di Donato | Anthony & Franco Di Donato & Family

12:10pm Philip De Cillis | Laura & Denise De Cillis

Saturday / Mem. of Sts. Cyril, Monk, & Methodius

8:15am Giuseppina Tamasi | Ermelinda Carnevale

OUR SICK

Bob | Judith Akers | Molly Carter | Chrissy DeLuca | Eileen Dormouth | Dick Graham | Rob Ingram | Fidelis Machado | Colette McGregor | Ann Menendez | Hanna Paczynska | Doris Paetow | Mary Agnes Procaccini | Anna Marie Revilla | Dan Roach | Annmarie Sabb | Christopher Joseph Stull

**If you would like your loved one added to the sick list, please email bulletin@stpaulsofprinceton.org*

FEB. WEDDINGS

Juliana Castronovo & Vincent Sanzone
Kristina Scheckel & Timothy James Yuhas

APR. WEDDINGS

Anne Elizabeth Woolley & Thomas Michael Devlin

INTENTIONS OF POPE LEO

For children with incurable diseases

Let us pray that children suffering from incurable diseases and their families receive the necessary medical care and support, never losing strength and hope.

COMMUNION HYMN

Make Us True Servants



1. Make us true serv - ants to all those in need,
2. Lord, make us proph - ets to cry out the way,
3. Lord, make us heal - ers of bod - y and mind;

1. Filled with com - pas - sion in thought, word, and deed;
2. Tell - ing the na - tions of mer - cy's new day,
3. Give us your pow'r to bring sight to the blind;

1. Lov - ing our neigh - bor, what - ev - er the cost,
2. Let us break bar - riers of ha - tred and scorn,
3. Love to the love - less and glad - ness for pain,

1. Feed - ing the hun - gry and find - ing the lost.
2. Speak - ing of hope to all peo - ple for - lorn.
3. Fill - ing all hearts with the joy of your name.

WEEKLY WORSHIP

THIS WEEK'S READINGS

Sunday February 8, 2026

Today's readings can be found on page 661 of the hymnal. Please visit the livestream section of our website for more resources about this week's Mass.



FOCUS ON THE READINGS

5th Sunday in Ordinary Time

In the Lord's name, the prophet Isaiah exhorts the people to address the needs of the downtrodden, for it is then that the Lord will answer when they call. Paul writes to the Corinthians that he resolved to know nothing ...except Jesus Christ, and him crucified. In the Gospel, Jesus tells his disciples they are the salt of the earth and the light of the world.

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

A message from Fr. Chris Dayton

This weekend we celebrate the Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time, and the Gospel gives us words we know well—but perhaps hear too easily: “You are the salt of the earth... You are the light of the world.”

Jesus does not say, “Try to become” salt and light. He says, you are. In other words, discipleship is not an optional upgrade for a few spiritually gifted people; it is the identity of every baptized Christian.

Salt does not exist for itself. It only makes sense when it touches food. Light is pointless if it is hidden or shut away. In the same way, our faith is never meant to be private, cautious, or kept at a safe distance from real life. Faith that never reaches the kitchen table, the workplace, the classroom, or the neighborhood eventually loses its flavor.

In the first reading from Isaiah, the prophet is blunt. God is not impressed by empty religious gestures. What God desires is faith that shows up in concrete ways: feeding the hungry, sheltering the homeless, caring for the poor, and refusing to turn away from one another. When that happens, Isaiah tells us, “your light shall break forth like the dawn.” Light comes not from perfection, but from love put into action.

St. Paul, writing to the Corinthians, reminds us that

this light does not come from clever arguments or impressive speeches. It comes from the quiet power of God working through ordinary people. That should be good news for all of us. Jesus is not asking us to be extraordinary—only faithful.

This Sunday's readings invite us to examine how our faith is lived, not just believed. Where is God calling you to add flavor? Where is your light needed most right now—at home, at work, in a strained relationship, or in a simple act of kindness no one else will see?

I would also like to thank our entire parish for the warm welcome you extended to our seminarian, Hunter Clark. Though he was with us for only two weeks, your support and encouragement meant a great deal to him. We continue to pray for more vocations to the priesthood and religious life from our parish in service to our diocese.

Thank you for the countless ways you already live this Gospel—through generosity, service, prayer, patience, and care for one another. May this week be an opportunity to let the light Christ has placed within you shine a little more brightly.

Be assured of my prayers for you and your families.

I hope everyone has a great week and always know of my prayers for each of you.

In His peace,

Fr. Chris Dayton
Pastor

PARISH LIFE

COFFEE & DONUTS

Following Sunday morning Masses

Following all Sunday morning Masses on February 8, parishioners are invited to the Spiritual Center for coffee and donuts. Please join us for complimentary refreshments and an opportunity to connect with fellow members of our parish community.

WEDNESDAYS WITH

Msgr. Nolan - February 11

Join us on Wednesday, February 11, for a time of formation and fellowship with our beloved pastor emeritus, Msgr. Nolan. Following the 12:10pm Mass, Msgr. Nolan will offer a period of catechesis and conversation, inviting parishioners to deepen their faith while building relationships within our parish community. All are welcome, and we hope you will join us for this enriching opportunity.

HOLY HOUR FOR PEACE

Hosted by St. Paul School with the Bishop

In response to a call from the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, parishes and dioceses across the country are being invited to host a Holy Hour for peace.

St. Paul School will host Bishop O'Connell as he leads us in a time of prayer in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament on Thursday, February 12 at 9:30am in the church. All are welcome to join us for this Holy Hour as we unite in prayer for peace.

In order to ensure the safety of our students, advanced registration is requested; please sign up by visiting the school website (spsprinceton.org). You may RSVP until 8:00am Thursday morning, February 12th.

ST. PAUL PRESENTS:

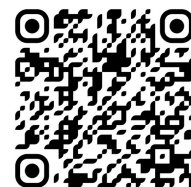
Mary Elizabeth Sperry

St. Paul Parish invites all parishioners and friends to St. Paul Presents, an ongoing speaker series designed to enrich our faith, deepen our sense of community,

and encourage thoughtful reflection on the life of the Church. Throughout the year, we welcome engaging speakers who offer unique perspectives on faith, prayer, and Christian life.

On Wednesday, February 25, we are pleased to welcome Mary Elizabeth Sperry for an evening entitled *Living in the Joy of the Gospel: The Bible in the Life and Mission of the Church*. Mary will explore what Catholics believe about Sacred Scripture, how the Bible is used in worship and teaching, and how to read and pray the Scriptures with the mind and heart of the Church, inviting participants to encounter the Risen Lord through God's Word.

Mary Elizabeth Sperry holds a master's degree in liturgical studies from The Catholic University of America and a master's degree in political science from the University of California, Los Angeles. She has served with the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops since 1994 and currently leads the Office of the Biblical Apostolate. She is the author of six books, with a seventh forthcoming, and is the first woman and first American to serve as Moderator of the Executive Committee of the Catholic Biblical Federation.



Fr. Chris will host a VIP Meet & Greet at the rectory at 6:00pm (ticketed). The presentation will begin at 7:30pm in the Spiritual Center, followed by time for questions and conversation. All are welcome.

MARIAN DEVOTION

Our Lady of Lourdes

Parishioner Leah Reigle is sharing a cherished statue of Our Lady of Lourdes with our parish family. Brought home from the Philippines in 1995, the statue has since been welcomed into many homes and churches, including St. Paul Parish. With her feast day approaching, the statue will be displayed near the Blessed Mother altar for prayer and the offering of flowers. Details will be shared soon.

GOT BURNT OFFERINGS?

Bring 'em to the parish!

As we prepare for the season of Lent, parishioners

are invited to return blessed palms from previous years for proper disposal. Palms may be brought to St. Paul Parish and placed in the designated collection area in the vestibule. These palms will be burned and used in the preparation of ashes for Ash Wednesday. Thank you for helping us observe this tradition with reverence and care.

WALKING WITH PURPOSE

Friendship and Fellowship for Women

Meetings are held in the Spiritual Center, Rooms 1 and 2, on the second and fourth weeks of each month. Women are welcome to join at any time. For more information, please email Laura Sarubbi at lsarubbi@stpaulsofprinceton.org.

Wednesdays: 7:30pm–9:00pm; Keeping in Balance
Fridays: 10:30am–12:00pm: Grounded in Hope

All women are welcome to join in whenever you'd like to begin!

LENT PRAY₄₀

Hallow + St. Paul Parish Partnership

This Lent, our parish invites you to join Hallow's Lent Pray₄₀ prayer challenge, beginning on Ash Wednesday, February 18. Available on our parish page in the Hallow app — with or without a subscription — Lent Pray₄₀ is an opportunity for our entire parish community to journey together in daily prayer and reflection throughout Lent.

A Kids' Lent Challenge will also be available on our parish page starting on Ash Wednesday, offering families with children an engaging and meaningful way to experience Lent together.

More details about this year's Lent Pray₄₀ theme — including the special guides who will walk with us each day — will be released soon. The Lent Pray₄₀ waitlist is available now on our Hallow parish page.

As a parish partnered with Hallow, our parish page is a place to join prayer challenges, share prayer intentions, and connect more deeply with our parish family. Join us as we walk together into Lent, alongside Fr. Chris and the whole community.

BECOME A STEWARD

of St. Paul Parish through Charitable Giving

During this season of Advent, we are filled with gratitude for the many individuals and families who have supported our parish over the years, helping to make it the vibrant and welcoming community it is today. Your generosity has been a true blessing, sustaining our mission and enriching our shared faith journey. As we reflect on all we've been given, this is also a time when many consider how to use their blessings wisely, exploring financial strategies that can benefit their community and church while leaving a lasting impact. With that in mind, we've summarized a few smart charitable giving options below for your consideration.

- **Required Minimum Distributions (RMDs):** Anyone over age 73 can use a Qualified Charitable Donation (QCD) to satisfy the required minimum distribution they must take from their IRA retirement account. Using this strategy, someone can give up to \$100,000 to the church tax-free (\$200,000 if married). *Example: Mary has a Required Minimum Distribution (RMD) of \$40,000 this year. At a 30% tax rate, Mary would owe \$12,000 in taxes. As a result, Mary decides to donate her RMD to the church and pays no taxes while still satisfying her RMD. Mary can also choose to only donate a portion of her RMD rather than the full amount to reduce her taxes proportionately.*
- **Stock Donation:** Anyone can donate stock from an investment account to avoid paying capital gains tax. *Example: Mary owns \$100,000 in Nvidia stock in her portfolio. The stock has done very well since she bought it over a year ago, resulting in an unrealized gain of \$80,000. If she sells the stock, she will pay capital gains tax (for example, up to \$16,000). If Mary instead decides to donate the stock to St. Paul Parish, the parish will never need to pay taxes on the gains. Mary can also choose to donate only a portion of her Nvidia stock rather than all of it, thereby reducing her taxes proportionately.*
- **Planned Estate Bequest:** Anyone can designate St. Paul Parish as a beneficiary in their will by specifying a specific dollar amount or percentage of their estate that goes to the church after they pass away.

Please feel free to contact Steve Loughran, our Parish Financial Advisor, Merrill Lynch, Pierce, Fenner and Smith, Inc., (609) 243-6813.

FAMILY LIFE

A HOME FOR FAMILIES

A Message from Laura Sarubbi

Super Bowl Weekend has arrived! This is always a fun weekend in the Sarubbi house. Like many families, sports play a big role in our daily lives.

I've spent some time recently reflecting on the place athletics hold in our children's lives. Sports have become a significant investment—of time, effort, and resources. Many parents spend countless hours watching games, driving their children to and from practices, and investing thousands of dollars in equipment, often with the hope that their child might one day play a Division I sport in college. Yet according to the NCAA, only about 2% of high school athletes receive college athletic scholarships. And that doesn't even begin to address the behavior we sometimes see in the stands.

Sports should be so much more. I often write about keeping our priorities straight—ensuring that God remains at the center of our lives and remembering that everything we receive is a gift from Him. When we apply this lens to youth sports, it changes everything. If God is truly our primary focus, then our actions should reflect His presence. Athletes should compete with humility, winning and losing with grace. Fans should cheer respectfully, mindful that impressionable young eyes are always watching. Professional athletes, too, have an opportunity to serve as role models through their dedication, hard work, service, and humility.

When Fernando Mendoza, the Indiana University quarterback and this year's Heisman Trophy winner, was recently interviewed, he shared these words: "First, I want to thank God for giving me the opportunity to chase a dream that once felt a world away... Building that faith throughout college and now being able to share it with my teammates and this community of faith—always praising Jesus Christ—it's incredible. I want every kid out there who feels overlooked or underestimated to know I was you. I was that kid. You don't need the most stars, hype, or rankings. You need discipline, heart, and people who believe in you—and you need to believe in yourself. I hope this moment shows you that chasing your dreams is worth it, no matter how big or impossible they seem."

A photo later appeared on Instagram showing Fernando holding the Heisman Trophy. The caption simply read: "God did." God did, indeed.

EARLY CHILDHOOD

Little Hearts Playgroup and More!

Families with young children are invited to gather in the Spiritual Center for connection, shared experiences, and support in the joys and challenges of raising little ones. For more information, please contact Sara Fremin at saracweill@gmail.com, Emily Rossino at emilyc8@gmail.com, or lsarubbi@stpaulsofprinceton.org.

- Sundays 9:30-10:30am
- Fridays 10:00-11:00am

Catechesis of the Good Shepherd

Catechesis of the Good Shepherd for children ages 3–6 meets in the Atrium of the Spiritual Center on Sundays from 9:45–11:00am. Upcoming dates include February 8, 15, and 22.

LENTEN PARISH MISSION

with Luigi Manente

We are pleased to announce that St. Paul Parish will host a Lenten Parish Mission this Lent as part of our parish partnership with Hallow. A parish mission offers a dedicated time for prayer, reflection, and renewal during Lent, inviting our parish community to step away from daily routines and grow together in faith while deepening our personal relationships with Jesus.

Our mission will be led by Luigi Manente, a nationally recognized Catholic speaker and a contributor to Hallow. Luigi currently serves as Director of Diocesan Guilds for the Diocese of Bridgeport, where he supports faith formation, discipleship, and community life among the lay faithful. He previously served for many years in parish and diocesan ministry in the Archdiocese of New York and holds a master's degree in Catechetics and Evangelization from Franciscan University of Steubenville. His ministry is marked by an engaging and approachable style that connects prayer, daily life, and the call to live the Gospel.

The mission will take place March 1–3. More details regarding the mission theme and the schedule of offerings will be shared in the coming weeks. All parishioners are warmly encouraged to take part in this Lenten opportunity for spiritual renewal.

ST. PAUL SCHOOL

FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK

A message from Mrs. Kim Clauss

Congratulations to all students who participated in our annual Spelling Bee, and a special thank-you to Mr. Bardar for coordinating this event.

Congratulations to our winners:

7th–8th Grade

1st Place: Ethan Gregory

2nd Place: Anna Ruel

3rd Place: Erin Irungu

6th Grade & Under Finalists

Joseph Mangone

Finn Melnick

Sherlock Dee



Our top speller, Ethan, has been entered into the next round of the Scripps National Spelling Bee. All 7th–8th Grade finalists will compete in the Varsity CYO Spelling Bee, and our 6th Grade & Under finalists will represent SPS in the JV CYO Spelling Bee. We are so proud of all our participants!

Thank you to Janice Hutchinson and her team for treating our faculty to a wonderful luncheon last Friday. The care and generosity that went into planning this event were truly felt. I would also like to thank all of our parents for your continued support during Catholic Schools Week and throughout the year. We are incredibly proud of this community.

St. Paul School will host Bishop O'Connell as he leads us in a Holy Hour for Peace on Thursday, February 12, at 9:30am in the church. All are welcome to join us for this time of prayer in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament. Registration is requested; please RSVP by 8:00am on Thursday, February 12.

Please note that Monday, February 9, is a Pastor's Holiday. In addition, the St. Paul Children's Choir is looking for more volunteers—please contact Mrs. Carole Moore for more details.

I hope you enjoy the long weekend. And if you're still deciding who to cheer for in the Super Bowl, I'm happy to offer a suggestion: Go Pats!

God bless,
Kim Clauss



SCHOOL STAFF

Mrs. Kim O. Clauss PRINCIPAL
kclauss@spsprinceton.org

Mrs. Shannon Rooney VICE PRINCIPAL
srooney@spsprinceton.org

Mrs. Michele Cano ADMISSIONS & ADVANCEMENT
mcano@spsprinceton.org

Mrs. Karen DelleFave ADMIN. ASSISTANT
kdellefave@spsprinceton.org

Mrs. Mary Beth Wells BOARD CHAIR
spsboardchair@gmail.com

Mrs. Megan Melnick & Mrs. Jackie Franciscus PTA CO-PRESIDENTS
ptapresident@spsprinceton.org

CONNECT WITH US

 **WEBSITE**
spsprinceton.org

 **FACEBOOK**
facebook.com/spsprinceton

 **INSTAGRAM**
[@spsprinceton](https://www.instagram.com/spsprinceton)

PHONE NUMBERS

SCHOOL OFFICE 609–921–7587

SCHOOL FAX 609–921–0264



A DIOCESE OF TRENTON SCHOOL OF EXCELLENCE

OUR YOUNG CHURCH

FROM THE DRE'S DESK

A message from Mrs. Jaime Gostkowski

In today's Gospel, Jesus tells us that we are called to be the salt of the earth and the light of the world. Salt makes food taste better and helps preserve it. Light helps us see and keeps us from being afraid in the dark. In Jesus' time, both were very valuable - and they still are today!

Jesus is teaching us that our lives should make a positive difference in the world. When we are kind, honest, forgiving, and helpful, we are being salt and light to others. Simple actions - like helping someone who is sad, sharing with those in need, or standing up for what is right - can shine God's love in powerful ways.

As families and as a Church community, we are called to live out this mission together. When we care for others and practice the Works of Mercy, we become a "city on a hill," showing the world what God's love looks like in action.

Many blessings,
Mrs. Jaime Gostkowski

ACTS OF FAITH

Passport Opportunities

Please remember that all students are expected to participate in our Acts of Faith Passport program. This applies to PREP students, Summer Academy students, and all students preparing for sacraments. For families' convenience, here are the upcoming opportunities for the coming weeks:

Wednesday, Feb. 18 - Ash Wednesday Mass/Service (Liturgical)

Friday, Feb 20 - Stations of the Cross (Liturgical)

Friday, Feb. 27 - Children & Teens Stations of the Cross (Liturgical)

Sunday, Mar. 1 - Children's Mass (Liturgical) with Children's Choir & Children's Liturgy of the Word (Service for 5-8 grade students)

VACATION BIBLE CAMP

For children in PreK-2nd Grade

Each summer, we offer a morning program for children in PreK-Grade 2 designed to help our youngest parishioners grow in faith and friendship. By popular request, we will be offering two separate weeks of VBC this year.

This program provides children with a joyful opportunity to grow in their relationship with Jesus while building community with their peers. Registration will open at the end of February 2026.

Program Dates and Times:

June 22-June 26, 9:00am-12:00pm

July 6-July 10, 9:00am-12:00pm

SUMMER ACADEMY PREP

For students in 3rd-8th Grade

Our full-year Religious Education program is condensed into one intensive week and is open to students entering grades 3 through 8. It's a wonderful option for families who prefer to prioritize catechesis during the summer while remaining active in the parish throughout the year.

Students will attend full-day catechesis during the week of July 6-10 from 9:00am-3:00pm. Attendance is mandatory each day due to the intensive nature of the curriculum.

Registration will open in February 2026.

SPY (ST. PAUL YOUTH)

SPY 4:12 (8th grade Confirmation ONLY)

Our next 8th-grade SPY 4:12 session led by Mrs. Anne Marie Calderon, will take place on **Sunday, February 22**, following the 5:00pm Teen Mass in the Spiritual Center, and will conclude at 7:30pm. All 8th-grade students are asked to attend and to watch this section of the bulletin for future sessions and updates.

PREP REMINDER
No PREP Feb. 15

Reminder: There will be no in-person PREP on Sunday, February 15 due to the Monday holiday. Please check your email for the home-study materials to complete during this brief break. We look forward to seeing everyone back on February 22!

FRIENDS OF ST. PAUL

THE AQUINAS INSTITUTE *Princeton University Catholic Campus Ministry*

We provide Princeton University students with Mass & confession on campus, small group bible studies, formation in Catholic life and thought, and vibrant student community! Check out princetoncatholic.org for more details and for upcoming events.

FRANCIS HOUSE OF PRAYER

Diocesan Spiritual Center & Retreat House

Personal Retreat Day

Wed., Feb. 11 · 9:30am–2:30pm

Come to Francis House for silence, personal prayer, and optional spiritual direction. The day begins and ends with a brief prayer together. Please bring a bag lunch. Donation: \$10; \$40 with spiritual direction · In-person only

Understanding & Befriending Differences

Mon., Feb. 16 · 9:30am–2:30pm

Why is it so difficult to relate to those who are different from us? This day offers understanding and compassion for dealing with challenging personalities, and an opportunity to learn the art of accepting and appreciating people whose personalities differ from our own. Please bring your own lunch. Donation: \$50

Ash Wednesday Retreat

Wed., Feb. 18 · 9:30am–1:30pm / Liturgy at noon

We love beginning Lent together with this retreat at Francis House because it provides a gentle structure for the six-week journey ahead. This year we will use Give Up Worry for Lent by Gary Zimak to help guide our Lenten journey. Liturgy, including the reception of ashes, is part of the day. Donation: \$40, includes lunch and book; Zoom: \$25

Pope Leo's Apostolic Exhortation | *Dilexit Te* ("I Have Loved You")

4 Tuesdays: Feb. 24; March 3, 10 & 17 · 7:00–8:00pm

It is a long-standing tradition to engage in meaningful spiritual reading during Lent. Would you like to get to know our new Pope Leo as part of your Lenten journey this year? Together we will read and reflect on his first Apostolic Exhortation, *I Have Loved You*, which is available online. Donation: \$50 · Zoom only

Please check www.FHOP.org for dates, registration, directions, and for our other offerings!

All programs will be offered online and in person unless otherwise indicated.

VALENTINE'S DAY GIFT *Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend*

Looking for a meaningful Valentine's Day gift for your spouse? A Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend Feb. 13-15, 2026 offers couples the time and tools to enrich their marriage, deepen communication, and renew the spiritual heart of their relationship. Step away from daily routines and strengthen the bond God has blessed. Space is limited. For information or an application, call 1-732-904-9636 (Tom & Ruth DeFalco) or visit www.wwme.org.

CAPE MAY MARIANIST *Family Retreat Center*

Young Adult Retreat on *Friday–Sunday, Feb. 13–15, 2026*. Join other young adults ages 22–35, married or single, for a retreat that offers space to step back from the busyness of daily life. Together, we will reflect on our personal faith and our relationships with God, our families, and ourselves. Our time will include prayer experiences, peer group discussions, Eucharist, and moments of joy and renewal. Cost: \$150 per person; Register at www.capemaymarianists.org or call 609-884-3829. This retreat will be held at the Marianist Family Retreat Center, a peaceful seaside sanctuary in Cape May Point, NJ.

YOU'RE NOT ALONE *Walking Through Grief Together*

We invite those who are grieving the loss of a loved one to participate in You're Not Alone: Walking Through Grief Together, a four-week bereavement support series offered in both a morning and an evening format. Morning sessions will meet Mondays from 10:00–11:30am on February 16 and 23 and March 2 and 9, 2026. Evening sessions will meet Mondays from 6:30–8:00pm on April 13, 20, 27, and May 4, 2026. To foster meaningful conversation and sharing,

each session is limited to eight participants. More information about the series may be found at stdavidtheking.com/bereavement.

PRAYERS FOR LEXI

During Rare Disease Month

During the month of February, in recognition of Rare Disease Day, we invite families to join in prayer and support for Lexi Ftikas, the 9-year-old daughter of parishioner Christina and her family. Lexi lives with BPAN, an ultra-rare neurodegenerative disease that causes seizures, mobility challenges, and cognitive impairment. To learn Lexi's full story and find out what her life is like, please visit dontforgetmorgan.org

Thankfully, researchers at Children's Hospital of Philadelphia are actively working toward a treatment that could significantly help Lexi and others living with BPAN. While the funding needed for this research is substantial, grassroots and community support play an important role.

We ask our parish community to please keep Lexi and her family in your prayers, asking God for healing, strength, and hope. We unite our prayers with those of Pope Leo for Lexi and all who suffer rare diseases.

PARENT PARTNERSHIP

Supporting Families Impacted by Addiction

When parents and caregivers recognize that a loved one is struggling with substance use or addiction, it is vital to find support and understanding from those who have "been in our shoes." Parent Partnership meetings are led by volunteers with lived experience and provide a safe, confidential, and welcoming space. You are invited to join once, occasionally, or as often as you'd like—meetings are always friendly and supportive. Parent Partnership meets on Mondays from 7:00–8:15pm in the St. Paul Parish Spiritual Center. For more information: Michelle King at mokingnj@gmail.com or 609-468-8708.

PRO-LIFE MASS

and Morning of Reflection

Holy Innocents Church in Neptune invites parishioners and friends to a pro-life morning of prayer, witness, and education in conjunction with the Spring 40 Days for Life campaign. This event seeks to deepen understanding of the Church's call to uphold the dignity of human life from conception to natural death and to highlight the power of prayer in ending abortion.

The morning will begin with a Pro-Life Mass at 9:00am, celebrated by Fr. Todd Carter, followed by guest speakers. Presentations will include a personal testimony from a Rachel's Vineyard speaker, reflections on spiritual adoption of the unborn, and an overview of pro-life education and outreach offered by LifeNet Education. Light refreshments and pro-life resources will be available.

The event will conclude with encouragement and information on participating in the 2026 40 Days for Life Campaign, which begins on Ash Wednesday, February 18. Participation opportunities are available for all comfort levels, including prayer and support from home.

Saturday, February 14, 2026
9:00am–approximately 11:30am
Holy Innocents Church
3455 West Bangs Ave., Neptune, NJ

All are welcome. Families, young adults, and CYO members are especially encouraged to attend.

ORGANIST SHEA VELLOSO

An Afternoon at the Movies

The Society of St. Cecilia at the Oratory Church of St. Anthony of Padua presents An Afternoon at the Movies, an organ concert featuring Shea Velloso, on Sunday, February 15, 2026, at 3:30pm. The concert will take place at the Oratory Church, 27 Oratory Way, Red Bank (Chestnut Street entrance). Admission is a free will offering, and the church is handicapped accessible. For more information, call 732-747-0813.

PASTORAL HISPANA

MENSAJE DEL P. CHRIS *Pastor de San Pablo*

Este fin de semana celebramos el Quinto Domingo del Tiempo Ordinario, y el Evangelio nos ofrece palabras que conocemos bien—quizás demasiado bien: “Ustedes son la sal de la tierra... ustedes son la luz del mundo.”

Jesús no dice: “Intenten llegar a ser” sal y luz. Dice: ustedes son. El discipulado no es una opción para unos pocos; es la identidad de todo cristiano bautizado.

La sal no existe para sí misma; solo tiene sentido cuando da sabor. La luz no sirve si se esconde. Así también, nuestra fe no fue pensada para ser privada o distante de la vida real. Una fe que no llega a la mesa familiar, al trabajo, a la escuela o al vecindario termina perdiendo su sabor.

En la primera lectura, el profeta Isaías es directo. A Dios no le impresionan los gestos religiosos vacíos. Lo que desea es una fe concreta: alimentar al hambriento, acoger al necesitado, cuidar al pobre y no darle la espalda al prójimo. Entonces—dice Isaías—“tu luz brillará como la aurora.” La luz no nace de la perfección, sino del amor en acción.

San Pablo recuerda a los corintios que esta luz no proviene de discursos elocuentes, sino del poder silencioso de Dios actuando en personas sencillas. Esa es una buena noticia para todos. Jesús no nos pide ser extraordinarios, sino fieles.

Las lecturas de este domingo nos invitan a examinar cómo vivimos nuestra fe, no solo cómo la creemos. ¿Dónde te llama Dios a dar sabor? ¿Dónde se necesita más tu luz—en casa, en el trabajo, en una relación difícil o en un gesto sencillo de bondad?

Quiero agradecer también a toda la parroquia por la cálida acogida a nuestro seminarista, Hunter Clark. Aunque estuvo con nosotros solo dos semanas, su apoyo y cercanía fueron muy valiosos. Seguimos orando para que surjan más vocaciones al sacerdocio y a la vida religiosa desde nuestra parroquia al servicio de nuestra diócesis.

Gracias por las muchas maneras en que ya viven este Evangelio—con generosidad, servicio, oración, paciencia y cuidado mutuo. Que esta semana sea una oportunidad para dejar brillar con mayor fuerza la luz que Cristo ha puesto en ustedes.

Tengan la seguridad de mis oraciones por ustedes y por sus familias.

Espero que todos tengan una excelente semana y que siempre sepan de mis oraciones por cada uno de ustedes.

En su paz,
P. Chris Dayton
Pastor

COMUNICADO IMPORTANTE *Requisito de Registro Parroquial para Sacramentos y documentos*

A todos nuestros feligreses:

Deseamos recordarles que cualquier persona interesada en recibir sacramentos —como Bautismo, Primera Comunión, Confirmación o Matrimonio— o en solicitar cartas de elegibilidad para padrinos, deberá estar registrados en nuestra parroquia por un mínimo de tres meses antes de iniciar el proceso o solicitar carta de elegibilidad.

Este requisito nos permite asegurar una adecuada preparación espiritual y administrativa, así como verificar la participación activa dentro de nuestra comunidad de fe.

Agradecemos su comprensión y colaboración para continuar sirviendo de manera ordenada y responsable.

ESFUERZOS DE PROTECCIÓN INFANTIL *Capacitación VIRTUS y de Ambientes Seguros*

En la Parroquia de San Pablo estamos profundamente comprometidos en crear un ambiente seguro y acogedor para todos los niños y jóvenes. En colaboración con la Diócesis de Trenton, seguimos la Carta para la Protección de Niños y Jóvenes, que requiere verificaciones de antecedentes y la capacitación VIRTUS para todo el clero, personal y voluntarios.

Si eres nuevo en un ministerio parroquial o sientes el llamado a servir, ¡nos encantaría que te unas a nosotros! Juntos podemos mantener nuestra parroquia como un lugar donde cada niño se sienta seguro y apoyado.

Para comenzar el proceso de VIRTUS, por favor envía un correo electrónico a Jaime a SafeSpace@stpaulsofprinceton.org.

PASTORAL HISPANA

Informaciones de contacto

Padre Kerly François
kfrancois@stpaulsofprinceton.org