



*Be merciful,
O Lord,
for we have sinned.*



ST. PAUL PARISH • FEBRUARY 22, 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 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

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Yani Reyes RECEPTION
frontdesk@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 2/7-2/8

\$24,000

Budget

\$7,469

Identifiable Gifts

\$3,828

Loose Cash

\$14,029

Online Giving

\$25,326

2025-2026 YTD

\$768,000

Budget

\$406,313

Envelopes/Loose Cash

\$378,730

Online Giving

\$785,043

102.2%

2024-2025 YTD

\$768,000

Budget

\$382,199

Envelopes/Loose Cash

\$350,358

Online Giving

\$732,557

95.4%



At St. Paul Parish, we are deeply committed to creating a safe, welcoming environment for all children and youth. In partnership with the Diocese of Trenton, we follow *the Charter for the Protection of Children and Young 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.

A COMMUNITY OF PRAYER

MASS INTENTIONS

5:30pm William Coyer | Leo & Kate Stinson

Sunday / 1st Sunday of Lent

8:30am Rosemarie Cotter | Karlene Marchese

10:00am George Evanovich | Intartaglia Family -Andre, Donna, Olivia, and Anna

11:30am Joanne & Robert Ellis | Stephen Ellis

1:00pm Spanish Intentions

5:00pm The People of the Parish

Monday

8:15am Stanley Stys | Danuta Buzdygan

12:10pm Alba Cuomo | Teresa Cuomo Pietrefesa

Tuesday

8:15am Virginia Seery | Eva Gossman

12:10pm Patricia McGraw | Lee & Linda Brennan

Wednesday

8:15am Charlotte Bodziak | Faller Family

12:10pm Diane Hoehn | Phyllis Coyer

Thursday

8:15am William H. Young | Laura McCune

12:10pm Steven D. Voorhees | Joe & Linda Luther

Friday

8:15am Mariam Puthenpura | Matthew Varkey

12:10pm Greg Harvey | Lee & Linda Brennan

Saturday

8:15am Katherine Butler | McCorry Family
Patrick Mc Guinness | McGuinness & Family

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

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.

PILGRIMAGE MASSES

at the Station Churches of Mercer County

This Lent, many Catholic churches throughout Mercer County will participate in a program inspired by the Station Churches of Rome. You are invited to make a pilgrimage across our county by attending special Lenten Masses at participating parishes, gathering in prayer while experiencing the beauty and history of our local Church.



St. Paul Parish will be a pilgrimage stop on Tues., Mar. 10 at 7:00pm and will host the pilgrimage Mass on Tues., Mar. 31 at 7:00pm. We encourage you to take part in this Lenten journey of faith.

Mon., Feb. 23 | 7:00pm | St. John, Allentown
Tues., Feb. 24 | 7:00pm | St. Alphonsus, Hopewell
Thurs., Feb. 26 | 7:00pm (Spanish) | St. Mary Cathedral, Trenton

Wed., Mar. 4 | 6:00pm | St. Anthony of Padua, Hightstown
Thurs., Mar. 5 | 7:00pm | Our Lady of Sorrows, Hamilton
Fri., Mar. 6 | 8:00pm (Korean) | St. Michael, Trenton

Mon., Mar. 9 | 7:00pm | St. Gregory the Great, Hamilton Square
Tues., Mar. 10 | 7:00pm | St. Paul Parish, Princeton
Thurs., Mar. 12 | 7:00pm | Sacred Heart, Trenton
Fri., Mar. 13 | 6:00pm | Our Lady of Good Counsel, West Trenton

Wed., Mar. 18 | 7:00pm (Creole) | St. Anthony, Trenton
Thurs., Mar. 19 | 6:30pm | St. Raphael, Hamilton
Fri., Mar. 20 | 7:00pm | St. Joseph, Trenton

Mon., Mar. 23 | 7:00pm | St. David the King, Princeton Junction
Tues., Mar. 24 | 7:00pm | Incarnation, Ewing
Wed., Mar. 25 | 7:00pm | St. Ann, Lawrenceville
Thurs., Mar. 26 | 6:00pm Holy Hour; 7:00pm Mass | St. Joachim, Trenton

Mon., Mar. 30 | 7:30pm | Chrism Mass at St. Robert Bellarmine Co-Cathedral, Freehold

WEEKLY WORSHIP

THIS WEEK'S READINGS

Sunday February 22, 2026

Today's readings can be found on page 604 of the hymnal. Please visit the livestream section of our website for more resources about this week's Mass.



FOCUS ON THE READINGS

First Sunday of Lent

In today's first reading from Genesis, God creates man and places him in a garden. Adam and Eve disobey God by eating from the tree of knowledge. In the second reading, Paul compares the disobedience of Adam to Jesus' obedience, transgression to gift. The Gospel recounts Jesus' time in the desert, where he is tempted by the devil.

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

A message from Fr. Chris Dayton

Each year, the First Sunday of Lent brings us into the desert with Jesus. The Gospel presents the familiar scene of the Lord being tempted after forty days of fasting. At first glance, it may feel distant from our daily lives. Most of us are not facing dramatic temptations in a barren wilderness. And yet, the desert is closer than we think.

The desert is any place where we feel stretched, tested, or uncertain — the effort to remain patient, the challenge of forgiveness, or the discipline of prayer when we feel dry or distracted. Lent reminds us that the Christian life is not lived on autopilot, but intentionally, with trust in God.

Jesus does not enter the desert by accident; He is led there by the Spirit. Our own struggles, when united to Christ, can become places of grace. God does not waste them. When we bring them to Him, they become opportunities for growth and deeper faith.

The temptations Jesus faces speak to every human heart: the desire for immediate satisfaction, the urge to put God on our terms, and the temptation to place success or control above fidelity to Him. Jesus chooses trust, humility, and worship. Lent gently asks us to reflect on what truly holds first place in our lives.

The Church gives us three simple practices — prayer, fasting, and almsgiving — not as burdens, but as tools to help us go deeper. Perhaps this year the Lord is inviting us not simply to add something extra, but to become someone renewed.

In that spirit, our parish offers several opportunities to walk this journey together. We begin with St. Paul Presents, welcoming Mary Elizabeth Sperry on February 25, an opportunity to grow in our understanding of Sacred Scripture and rediscover the joy of the Gospel. We will then host our Lenten Mission in partnership with Hallow, led by Luigi Manente from March 1–3. We look forward to welcoming Luigi as he helps us deepen our personal prayer life and draw closer to the Heart of Christ, and we encourage you to invite someone who may benefit from this experience.

Throughout Lent, join us for Stations of the Cross each Friday at 7:00pm, preceded by soup and salad hosted by the Knights of Columbus in the SPS cafeteria, offered free of charge. Each Wednesday evening, Laura will lead 8 Minutes at 8:00pm via Zoom — a brief moment to pause and pray together. We also encourage you to take advantage of our parish partnership with Hallow by praying through the Lenten devotionals and challenges available in the app.

All of these opportunities are simply different ways of entering the desert with Christ. No matter how you gather, worship, or serve this Lent, may we keep before us Christ's sacrifice as we pray, fast, and give alms.

Let us begin these forty days with honesty and hope. The desert is not the final destination. It leads to Easter. It leads to freedom. It leads to new life.

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

8 MINUTES @ 8:00PM

A simple guide during Lent

Not sure where to begin this Lent? Starting on Ash Wednesday, February 18, join Laura Sarubbi online for 8 minutes at 8:00pm for 8 weeks.

Each evening, Laura will offer a brief reflection designed to help you stay focused on what truly matters during this holy season. No pressure—no camera, no microphone, no stress. Simply log on, listen, and pray. When the 8 minutes conclude, you're welcome to log off or remain for a few additional minutes of optional conversation about our Lenten journey.

This is a simple and accessible opportunity for parishioners of all ages to remain centered on what is most important this Lent.



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.

SOUP + SALAD

Friday evenings during Lent

Join the Knights of Columbus for a complimentary dinner of simple, meatless soup and salad on Fridays during Lent at 6:00pm in the SPS Cafeteria. All are welcome to gather in fellowship before heading to Stations of the Cross at 7:00pm in the Church.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Friday evenings during Lent

All parishioners are invited to join us each Friday during Lent at 7:00pm in the Church for Stations of the Cross. Each week, a different parish ministry will host the evening by leading the prayers, readings, and reflections, offering a unique opportunity to pray together as one parish family. Come and meditate on the Way of the Cross as we journey toward Holy Week, drawing closer to Christ through prayer, reflection, and community.

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.

LENT PRAY40

Hallow + St. Paul Parish Partnership

This Lent, St. Paul Parish invites you to take part in Hallow's Lent **Pray40** prayer challenge, beginning on Ash Wednesday, February 18. Available on our parish page in the Hallow app (whether or not you have a subscription), Lent Pray40 offers our entire parish community the opportunity to journey together in daily prayer and reflection throughout the season.

The Lent **Pray40** waitlist is open now on our parish page in Hallow.

A **Kids' Lent Challenge** is also available and begins on Ash Wednesday, providing families with an engaging and meaningful way to experience Lent together. You can join that waitlist today as well.

As a parish partnered with Hallow, our parish page is a place to participate in prayer challenges, share intentions, and grow in faith alongside one another. We invite you to join Fr. Chris and the entire St. Paul Parish family as we walk together into Lent.

DO YOU LOVE HALLOW?

Become a Hallow Herald!

Have you enjoyed using the Hallow app? Would you like to help others grow in their prayer life?

We are looking for parishioners of all ages who are willing to serve as Hallow Heralds—sharing their

enthusiasm for Hallow and helping fellow parishioners access the app after Mass and at parish events. No special experience is needed—just a love of Hallow and a desire to encourage others in prayer.

We begin on Ash Wednesday!

If you are interested, please email Laura Sarubbi at lsarubbi@stpaulsofprinceton.org.

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!

FIRST FRIDAY CAFE

March 6 following 12:10pm Mass

First Friday Café continues to be a wonderful success. Join us in the Spiritual Center on the first Friday of each month from 12:45pm–2:00pm (after the 12:10pm Mass) for conversation and community. All are welcome.

A light lunch is provided by Senior Care Services of Greater Princeton, with information available about their important work.

Future dates: May 1 & June 5

ST. PAUL SCHOOL

FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK

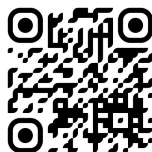
A message from Mrs. Kim Clauss

As we begin the holy season of Lent, I am deeply grateful that our entire student body was able to gather together for a Liturgy of the Word with the Distribution of Ashes. It was a beautiful moment for our school community — a visible sign of faith and a meaningful sacramental open to all, inviting each of us to begin this season with prayerful hearts.

Receiving ashes reminds us of our call to turn back to God through prayer, fasting, and acts of charity. I am thankful for the opportunity we shared to pause together, reflect, and set our intentions for the Lenten journey ahead. May this season be one of growth, kindness, and renewed faith for our students and families.

God bless,
Mrs. Kim Clauss

Please scan here to visit the Gala website for ticketing information, event details, and sponsorship opportunities.



SCHOOL STAFF

Mrs. Kim O. Clauss PRINCIPAL
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Mrs. Michele Cano ADMISSIONS & ADVANCEMENT
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Mrs. Karen DelleFave ADMIN. ASSISTANT
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CONNECT WITH US

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@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 this Sunday's Gospel, we hear how Jesus spent 40 days in the desert fasting and praying, and how He was tempted by the devil. Each time, Jesus resisted temptation by turning to the Word of God and trusting in His Father's plan.

This Gospel reminds us how important it is to listen to God's voice and follow what He asks of us, even when it's difficult. Like Jesus, we are faced with choices every day - to do what is easy, or to do what is right.

As a catechist, there was nothing I enjoyed more than sharing Scripture stories with students and helping them connect those stories to their daily lives. It is in moments like these that our children begin to truly hear God's voice - not just in church, but in their hearts, at school, and at home.

As parents, we play an important role in nurturing this. When we pray together, attend Mass, read Scripture, and talk about our faith, we teach our children to rely on God's Word for guidance.

As we begin the season of Lent, may we encourage our families to grow closer to God, trust in His love, and choose His way each day. Lent is a special time to grow in faith and to help our children discover how God's Word guides us each day.

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:

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*)

Friday, Mar. 6 - Stations of the Cross (*Liturgical*)

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, and families may register for one week or both.

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 Sunday, Feb. 22, following the 5:00pm Teen Mass in the Spiritual Center and will conclude at 7:30pm. All 8th-grade students are to attend and watch this section of the bulletin for future sessions and updates.

PASTORAL HISPANA

MENSAJE DEL P. CHRIS *Pastor de San Pablo*

Cada año, el Primer Domingo de Cuaresma nos lleva al desierto con Jesús. El Evangelio nos presenta la escena familiar del Señor siendo tentado después de cuarenta días de ayuno. A primera vista, puede parecer algo distante de nuestra vida diaria. La mayoría de nosotros no enfrentamos tentaciones dramáticas en un desierto físico. Sin embargo, el desierto está más cerca de lo que pensamos.

El desierto es cualquier lugar donde nos sentimos probados, exigidos o inciertos: el esfuerzo por mantener la paciencia, el desafío de perdonar a alguien que nos ha herido, o la disciplina de permanecer fieles en la oración cuando nos sentimos secos o distraídos. La Cuaresma nos recuerda que la vida cristiana no se vive en piloto automático, sino de manera intencional, confiando en Dios.

Jesús no entra en el desierto por accidente; es guiado allí por el Espíritu. Esto nos enseña que nuestras propias luchas, cuando las unimos a Cristo, pueden convertirse en lugares de gracia. Dios no desperdicia nuestras dificultades. Cuando se las entregamos, se transforman en oportunidades de crecimiento y de una fe más profunda.

Las tentaciones de Jesús hablan también a nuestro propio corazón: la búsqueda de satisfacciones inmediatas, el deseo de poner a Dios a nuestras condiciones y la tentación de colocar el éxito o el control por encima de la fidelidad a Él. Jesús elige la confianza, la humildad y la adoración. La Cuaresma nos invita a preguntarnos con sinceridad qué ocupa el primer lugar en nuestra vida.

La Iglesia nos ofrece tres prácticas sencillas y poderosas — la oración, el ayuno y la limosna — no como cargas, sino como medios para acercarnos más a Dios. Quizás este año el Señor nos invita no solo a hacer algo más, sino a convertirnos en personas renovadas.

Comencemos estos cuarenta días con honestidad y esperanza. El desierto no es el destino final. Nos conduce a la Pascua, a la libertad y a una vida nueva.

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

RETIRO DE CUARESMA *Jesús, Hijo de David, ten misericordia de mí*

Le invitamos a participar en nuestro Retiro de Cuaresma, un tiempo especial de oración, reflexión y encuentro con el Señor mientras caminamos juntos hacia la Pascua. Este retiro será guiado por el Padre Andrés Serna y ofrecerá la oportunidad de renovar el corazón y profundizar en la misericordia de Dios durante este tiempo santo.

Fecha: 14 de marzo de 2026

Horario: 8:30am–2:00pm

Dirige: Padre Andrés Serna

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

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

Lent is underway! During these forty days, we enter into the desert with Jesus through prayer, fasting, and giving as we prepare our hearts for Holy Week, the Triduum, and the joy of Easter.

Thank you to everyone who joined us for our first 8 Minutes at 8:00pm! I warmly invite you to continue joining us each week from now through the first Wednesday of Easter. This is meant to be a very low-pressure gathering — you're welcome to come exactly as you are, with camera and microphone off if you prefer. Although I'm sharing about it on the Family Life page, it is not limited to any particular group or geared specifically toward families. Rather, it's simply an individual opportunity for anyone to pause midweek, pray, and reflect together during Lent. I'll offer a short reflection each week, and anyone who would like to stay afterward to share or chat is welcome to do so. You can find more details about 8 Minutes at 8:00pm on the Parish Life page of the bulletin.

As we continue through this Lenten season, may we allow these small moments of stillness to open our hearts more fully to God's grace. I look forward to journeying through Lent together and pray that these weeks may be a time of renewal, peace, and deeper trust in the Lord.

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
- Tuesdays 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 15, and 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

Sowing Sacred Seeds

Mon., Mar. 2 • 9:30am–1:00pm

This Lenten retreat invites us to reflect on the seeds of love that have been sown in us by others and the seeds of love we ourselves have planted in the lives around us. Participants will receive Vince Gallagher's new book, *Sowing Sacred Seeds*, to accompany their Lenten journey of following Christ more deeply. Good Lenten reading offers consolation and peace — gifts especially needed in this season. Led by Vince Gallagher. Donation: \$25, includes lunch • Zoom: \$20

Lectio Divina

Tue., Mar. 3 • 9:30am–1:00pm

Lectio Divina is an ancient form of prayer that teaches us to listen deeply to the Word of God. By praying slowly with Scripture, allowing a single phrase to rest in our hearts, we learn to carry God's presence with us throughout the day. This prayerful approach helps us recognize how God speaks personally within the ordinary moments of our lives. Donation: \$25, includes lunch • Zoom: \$20

Forgiveness — A Gift of Loving as God Loves

Mon., Mar. 9 • 9:30am–1:00pm

To be loved by God and to love as God loves is our path toward union with God and with one another. Together we will pray with the father of the prodigal son and reflect on Henri Nouwen's *The Return of the Prodigal Son*, contemplating the beauty and promise revealed in Rembrandt's famous painting. Come experience the freedom that flows from choosing forgiveness. Donation: \$25, includes lunch • Zoom: \$20

Examen: A Simple Life-Changing Prayer

Tue., Mar. 10 • 9:30am–1:00pm

The Ignatian Examen is a daily prayer that helps us notice and savor God's presence in everyday life. Through this simple yet profound practice, we grow in gratitude, awareness, and hope as we learn to see where God is at work each day. Many discover that this prayer transforms how they live and pray — it may change things for you as well. Donation: \$35, includes lunch and book • Zoom: \$20

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.

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

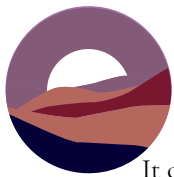
When parents and caregivers recognize that a loved one is struggling with substance use or addiction, it is vital to find support and understanding from those who have "been in our shoes." Parent Partnership meetings are led by volunteers with lived experience and provide a safe, confidential, and welcoming 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.

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY

Serving the Princeton Community

The Society of St. Vincent de Paul serves members of the St. Paul community and our Princeton neighbors who are experiencing need. Volunteers meet personally with those seeking assistance, offering support with confidentiality, dignity, and respect. Assistance may include help with rent, utilities, food, clothing, medical care, or counseling. Donations may be placed in the church poor boxes or mailed to: Society of St. Vincent de Paul, 216 Nassau Street, Princeton, NJ 08542. If you or someone you know needs assistance, please call (609) 924-1743 ext. 250.

LENT 2026



QUADRAGESIMA

Why 40 days for Lent?

It can be easy to lose track of what happens when throughout the life of Jesus. Sometimes, hearing the Gospel stories at Mass makes us take the timeline for granted. Entering into Lent can feel a bit disorienting if we are trying to “follow along” with the life of Christ. At times it seems as though the liturgical calendar simply picked us up out of Ordinary Time and dropped us straight into Lent. So let’s put it in its proper place.

All three of the Synoptic Gospels — Matthew, Mark, and Luke — present the same sequence at the beginning of Jesus’ adult life: John the Baptist foretells His coming, Jesus is baptized by John, the Spirit leads (or, in Mark’s Gospel, “drives”) Him into the desert where He is tempted, and Jesus then returns to Galilee to begin His public ministry. Luke briefly pauses to trace Jesus’ ancestry, but the overall progression remains the same. So what is the significance of this order?

Immediately following His Baptism, Jesus went into the desert. Something profound had just taken place, and He withdrew to spend intentional time with His Father. The desert became a time of preparation for what lay ahead. And **immediately** after those forty days, He began His public ministry.

But why forty days? The number forty appears again and again throughout Scripture: rain fell for forty days in the time of Noah, Israel wandered forty years in the desert, and Elijah fasted for forty days on Mount Horeb. In Scripture, forty often signifies a time of testing, purification, and preparation. Jesus Himself entered into this same pattern — forty days of prayer, fasting, and preparation for His mission and, ultimately, His Passion.

We are invited into that same desert. We, too, have been baptized. We, too, are called to spend intentional time with our Father. During Lent we offer sacrifices, deepen our prayer, and practice generosity as we prepare our hearts for the Passion and Resurrection of the Lord.

“But!” mathematicians and Gregorian-calendar enthusiasts across the parish might protest, “There are forty-six days between Ash Wednesday and Easter Sunday!” And they are correct.

However, Sundays are not counted as part of the Lenten fast. Each Sunday is a celebration of the Resurrection — a “mini-Easter” that offers a glimpse of the joy toward which we are journeying. Longstanding tradition holds that we may relax our personal Lenten sacrifices on Sundays if we choose. Jesus fasted for forty days in the desert, not forty-six. Theologians may debate the finer points, but if you ask me, I say: it’s Sunday... go eat a Snickers.

Happy Lent!

Sat
21

Individual Confessions

every Saturday at 4:00pm

Sun
22

Rite of Sending

11:30am Mass at St. Paul

Sun
22

Rite of Election

3:00pm at the Co-Cathedral
of St. Robert Bellarmine

Mon
23

Pilgrimage Mass

with Mercer Co. Station Churches
7:00pm at St. John, Allentown

Tue
24

Pilgrimage Mass

with Mercer Co. Station Churches
7:00pm at St. Alphonsus, Hopewell

Wed
25

St. Paul Presents:

Mary Sperry; Talk at 7:30pm
VIP Reception at 6:00pm

Thur
25

Pilgrimage Mass

with Mercer Co. Station Churches
7:00pm at St. Mary Cathedral

Fri
27

Soup & Salad Dinner

6:00pm in the SPS Cafeteria

Fri
27

Stations of the Cross

English 7:00pm | Espanol 8:00pm