

2609 Park St., Jacksonville, FL 32204



Reverend Leonard T. Chuwa, Pastor



FEBRUARY 18th, 2024—FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

OUR MISSION: We are the temple of the living God, transformed by the Spirit into sacred vessels for the treasure of Christ. Like the monstrance, we present the love and light of Christ for all to see. Together, we become the dwelling place of God.

SACRAMENTS

HOLY MASS

Monday to Friday: 8:00 a.m.
Saturday (Sunday Vigil): 4:00 p.m.
Sunday: 9:00, 11:00 a.m., 7:00 p.m.

CONFESSION

Saturday 3:00 - 3:45 p.m.
Sunday 6:00 - 6:45 p.m.

ADORATION

Thursday 8:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
Saturday 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

BAPTISM

Classes offered on an *ad hoc* basis
Registration requested—call parish office

PARISH STAFF

Rev. Leonard Chuwa, Ph.D., B.C.C. | Pastor
frleonard@spsjax.org

Dcn. Mike Elison | Deacon and Chancellor
chancellor@dosaf1.com

Dcn. Steve Arnold | Deacon
smarnold71@gmail.com

Will Strassberger | Pastoral Associate
will.strassberger@spsjax.org

Onie Lee | Director of Youth Ministry & Formation
onie.lee@spsjax.org

Kim Repper | St. Paul's Catholic School Principal
kim.repper@spsjax.org
Front Office: (904) 387-2841

Registration for the 2024-2025 academic year
is now open, please call for inquiries.

Phone: (904) 387-2554

• **Email:** parishoffice@spsjax.org

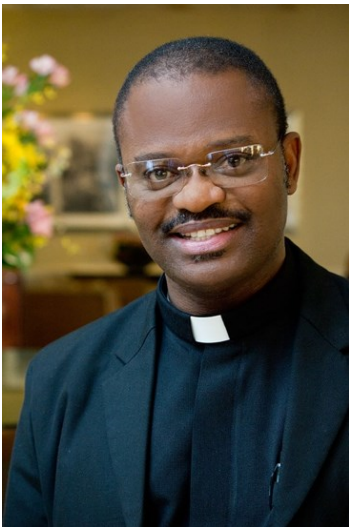
• **Website:** www.stpaulsjax.org



FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT



PASTOR'S CORNER



Rev. Leonard Chuwa

A priest was greeting parishioners after Sunday Mass when a man came up to him with a problem. "Father, I was resetting the kneelers after Mass and I found this wallet full of cash." The priest was alarmed, "We need to check the I.D. and return this wallet to its rightful owner." "Woah, woah, woah, Father," said the man, "let's not be hasty. I mean, let's discern if this is a temptation from the devil or a gift from God!"

Have you ever been challenged with making a polarizing decision? Is it sometimes not clear what God is asking of you? For example, you might pray for a better job, but when a new position comes along it might require you to compromise your Christian morals for a higher paycheck. Or perhaps your friends are engaging in shady behavior and you feel conflicted about addressing their wrongdoing, lest you become an outcast. It would certainly be a huge help to receive divine guidance on these matters when our human wisdom fails us. But even then we must discern the source.

When angels appear to people in the Bible, they always begin by saying, "Do not be afraid". The Lord and his messengers are mighty, but they do not abuse their power to scare us nor incite terror—those are the acts of evil spirits. The devil is cunning, even resorting to disguising himself and his doings as righteous alternatives to gain your trust. Beware! These are tricks designed to lure you in and harm your soul. So how is one supposed to tell the difference between right and wrong, good and evil, angel or devil? Well, the only thing the devil cannot imitate is the peace of the Lord. So when you are confronted with an impossible choice, the option that will lead closer to Christ is the one that brings you the most peace.

In today's Gospel, Jesus is tempted by the devil in the desert. While the devil offers Jesus lots of material luxuries, Jesus is clearly able to recognize his falsehoods and dismiss the evil spirit. Full reliance on God is paramount for living a spiritually enriching life.

MINISTRIES & CONTACTS

Priest in Residence: Rev. Jay Kersten

Finance Council: Kelly Wood
kwood@ntplastics.com

Parish Council: Stephen Turner
sjt7541@gmail.com

Music Ministry: Sandra Sapinski
doublebarline@gmail.com

Knights of Columbus: Mike Lyons
mdklyons@gmail.com

St. Paul's Guild/Council of Catholic Women:
Jennifer Prive, mapjen@yahoo.com

St. Vincent de Paul Society: John Roberts
stvdelpaulriverside@gmail.com

Respect Life Ministry: Bill & Patsy O'Brien
pbjobrien@hotmail.com

GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

- The Parish Office will be closed on Monday, February 19th in observance of Presidents Day.
- If you need envelopes, please contact the Parish Office.
- Mr. Ed Ray, (904) 210-8148, is selling two burial plots at Jacksonville Memorial Gardens. Please call him if you are interested or have any inquiries.

RECURRING EVENTS

Sunday	Rosary Before 11:00 a.m. & 7:00 p.m. Mass <i>Led by Chuck and Joan Wingfield</i>
Sunday	Adult Choir Practice After 11:00 a.m. Mass
Thursday	Solemn Adoration 8:30 a.m.-3:00 p.m. in the Church Chaplet of Divine Mercy 3:00 p.m. in the Church
Saturday	Solemn Adoration 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. in the Church
First Tues.	St. Paul's Guild/ Council of Catholic Women 6:00 p.m. Meeting
Second Wed.	Knights of Columbus Meeting 6:45 p.m. in the Lower Parish Hall
Ad hoc	Baptismal Classes Call (904) 387-2554

DID YOU KNOW?

The Chair of Saint Peter has two meanings: 1. an actual chair located in the Vatican, and 2. the authority of St. Peter and his papal successors. The physical chair is ancient, dating back to the time of St. Peter; over the centuries it has been damaged and weathered. In the Middle Ages, the popes were enthroned atop the chair. In the Renaissance, Pope Alexander VI commissioned Bernini to design a new home for it. The chair is now enshrined atop an ornate bronze sculpture in the apse of St. Peter's Basilica. The spiritual authority of the pope is not contingent on the chair itself; when the pope speaks *ex cathedra*, he does so as the successor of St. Peter, not as one who is physically sitting on the ancient chair.

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday	February 17th, 2024 4:00 p.m.: †Thomas H. Rushmore, Jr. <i>Requested by Joann Bellas</i>
Sunday	February 18th, 2024 9:00 a.m.: Parishioners of St. Paul's 11:00 a.m.: †Rose Wilkerson <i>Requested by Patty Howell</i> 7:00 p.m.: Rev. Leonard Chuwa <i>Requested by Mary Jo Krumwiede</i>
Monday	February 19th, 2024 8:00 a.m.: Barbara Crissman <i>Requested by Ann Staley</i>
Tuesday	February 20th, 2024 8:00 a.m.: Michael Sanders <i>Requested by Phil Sanders</i>
Wednesday	February 21st, 2024 8:00 a.m.: Donnie Moran, III
Thursday	February 22nd, 2024 8:00 a.m.: †Elizabeth Dresser <i>Requested by David & Marischele Dresser</i>
Friday	February 23rd, 2024 8:00 a.m.: †Rebecca Padilla <i>Requested by David & Marischelle Dresser</i>
Saturday	February 24th, 2024 4:00 p.m.: †Scott Prive <i>Requested by Mike & Madeleine Sheridan</i>
Sunday	February 25th, 2024 9:00 a.m.: †Carlene Staffaoni <i>Requested by Bill & Patsy O'Brien</i> 11:00 a.m.: †Augerio Mago <i>Requested by Jeanette Tolentino</i> 7:00 p.m.: Parishioners of St. Paul's

DAILY READINGS

Sunday	First Sunday of Lent Gn 9:8-15; Ps 25:4-9; 1 Pt 3:18-22; Mk 1:12-15
Monday	of the First Week of Lent Lv 19:1-2, 11-18; Ps 19:8-10, 15; Mt 25:31-46
Tuesday	of the First Week of Lent Is 55:10-11; Ps 34:4-7, 16-19; Mt 6:7-15
Wednesday	of the First Week of Lent Jon 3:1-10; Ps 51:3-4, 12-13, 18-19; Lk 11:29-32
Thursday	The Chair of Saint Peter the Apostle 1 Pt 5:1-4; Ps 23:1-6; Mt 16:13-19
Friday	of the First Week of Lent Ez 18:21-28; Ps 130:1-8; Mt 5:20-26
Saturday	of the First Week of Lent Dt 26:16-19; Ps 119:1-2, 4-5, 7-8; Mt 5:43-48
Sunday	Second Sunday of Lent Gn 22:1-2, 9a, 10-13, 15-18; Ps 116:10, 15-19; Rom 8:31b-34; Mk 9:2-10

"Pray without ceasing." - 1 Thessalonians 5:17



POPE'S INTENTION

For the terminally ill. We pray that those with a terminal illness, and their families, receive the necessary physical and spiritual care and accompaniment.

MINISTRY SCHEDULE

Saturday	February 24th, 2024 4:00 p.m.
Sacristan:	Louie Soule
Lector:	Nick Tichy
EMHC:	Deacon, John Lippincott
Sunday	February 25th, 2024 9:00 a.m.
Sacristan:	Gia Donnalley
Lector:	Sidney Simmons, Youth Reader
EMHC:	Deacon, Jeanette Bruce
Sunday	February 25th, 2024 11:00 a.m.
Sacristan:	Toni Finger
Lectors:	Terry McGee
EMHC:	Deacon, Midge Daniell
Sunday	February 25th, 2024 7:00 p.m.
Sacristan:	Georgia Gill and Bret Wilkinson
Lectors:	Paul Sulzbacher
EMHC:	Deacon, Laura Dodson

OFFERTORY | FEBRUARY 10th–11th

OFFERTORY	BUILDING	TOTAL
\$7,259.00	\$818.00	\$8,077.00*

Thank you for supporting St. Paul's Catholic Church!

*These numbers do not take into account the entirety of online and automatic giving. We hope to reflect those offerings on a routine basis soon.

PRAYER LIST

Ill and Healing

Carol Thompson, Donald Jordan Thompson, Mariel Rose Henn, Kevin Nolan, Linda Cate & Tim Cate, Liz Ulrich, Jack DeClemente, Becky Scheller, Barb Crissman, Paul Staley, Glenn Andrews, Jean Schott

Deceased

†James A. Pasticci, †Rosemary Condie, †Ron Guzman, †Joan Kennedy Dent, †Galena Roberts, †Vera Boyle-Benjamin, †Frank Rossi

Military Service

Drew Baker and company, Johnathan Neufville, USN, Alex Ondina, USN, Shelby Wood, USAF, Michael Palaski, USN, Justin Moredock, USAF, Allen Watkins, USN, Romeo Antolini, USN

Expectant and New Mothers

Jacqueline Edwards, Alicia Moya, Olivia Kerrigan Taylor

Recently Baptized

Ezio Stone, Molly McGowan, Lucy McGowan, Martin Edwards, Kai Koonce, Adeline Goldsborough

ALTAR FLOWERS

Last weekend's altar flowers were donated by Susan Masucci in memory of Ron Masucci. To sponsor a weekend of flowers, contact the Parish Office at (904) 387-2554, ext.101 or email parishoffice@spsjax.org. Please note the altar will be not have flowers during Lent.



YOUTUBE CHANNEL

We livestream our 9:00 a.m. Mass every week! If you have friends and family who live around the world or are otherwise unable to worship with us in person, make sure they subscribe to the YouTube channel: www.youtube.com/@stpaulsjax.

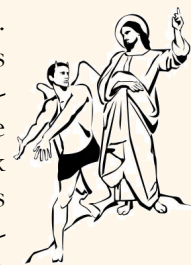


PHOTO CREDIT

"Temptations of Christ", by Sandro Botticelli (1445-1510), fresco, 1481-1482, Sistine Chapel. We see the devil tempting Jesus in various scenes, e.g. on the parapet of the Temple, on the cliff, etc.

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY

Jesus went out into the desert to be alone. He is on the brink of inaugurating his public ministry. Something new and important is about to happen. He does the natural thing: goes off alone to think things through and confront the demons that would dissuade him from his mission. Then he goes to Galilee to proclaim the gospel of God. This defines in a nutshell what Lent is all about: we, too, spend extra time by ourselves during Lent so that we can come to the Easter celebration better able to proclaim the gospel. (*Living Liturgy*, p.74)



Is there a family you know who needs assistance? Please call the Society of St. Vincent de Paul so that together we can help the suffering and poor, (904) 553-7644. All calls are confidential.

TAX NOTICE



If you are in need of a tax letter for your 2023 contributions to St. Paul's, please call the Parish Office at (904) 387-2554 or email parishoffice@spsjax.org. We will be more than happy to provide a statement for you!

ST. PAUL'S CHOIR

Qui cantat bis orat

"He who sings prays twice."

- St. Augustine

Sundays at 9:00 a.m. | Youth Chorus
Any child/young adult is welcome to sing

Sundays at 11:00 a.m. | Adult Chorus
Practice at Noon after Mass

Cantors for Sat. 4:00 p.m.
and Sun. 7:00 p.m. Masses
are also welcome.

We have made great progress by moving to the choir loft, now help us grow even more!

Please contact the Parish Office at parishoffice@spsjax.org to join.

If the Lord has blessed you with a beautiful voice,
sing and give it back to the Lord.
If you have not been blessed with a beautiful voice,
sing and give it back to the Lord.

HONOR ROLL

Congratulations to these amazing students and the teachers who prepared them for academic excellence!

Bishop John Snyder High School

Isabelle Newkirk	First Honors	Senior
Julia Newkirk	Second Honors	Senior

WEDDING PREPARATIONS



If you are a newly engaged couple searching for a beautiful church and a welcoming congregation, look no further than St. Paul's! It can seem daunting to prepare for a Catholic wedding, so call the Parish Office and schedule a consultation at your convenience. We will walk you through the timeline and keep track of your progress to make sure everything is completed for the big day. Please make sure to give yourselves adequate time to prepare for your wedding, no sooner than eight months is advised.

CARNIVAL FUN FAIR

St. Paul's Riverside Spring Carnival
Saturday, March 23, 2024
5:00–9:00 p.m.

Community event includes music, games, food, drinks, and FUN!

Bid on our Virtual Auction between March 18th and 23rd.
The auction closes at 8:00 p.m. ([link to follow](#))



Now accepting
auction donations!

Reserve a spot in our market
place \$20 a table.

Text Victoria (904) 894-9600
for more info.

WE NEED SACRISTANS

We are so grateful for the hard work of our sacristans! They do so much for our parish and we are looking to grow this ministry. The duty of a sacristan involves setting up for Mass and ensuring everything goes well behind the scenes. This is a skilled position for volunteers and training will be provided. Please pray on this need in our church and reach out to the Parish Office if the Lord is calling you to serve in this ministry.



BISHOP'S ANNUAL STEWARDSHIP APPEAL

Last week, we shared a video message from Bishop Pohlmeier at all Masses. This week, we are participating in Follow-Up Weekend for parishioners who may not have been with us last week. We hope you will make a prayerful decision to pledge a gift to the 2024 Bishop's Annual Stewardship Appeal. If you have not pledged to the appeal, we invite you to participate in this worthy mission by making a gift using the in-pew envelope provided at Mass or online at www.dosafl.com/bishopsappeal. Your participation truly makes a significant difference in the lives of so many in need within our diocese.

FUNERAL PREPARATIONS

Whether you are planning for a loved one or curious about making arrangements for yourself, you can call the Parish Office for guidance anytime. We will walk through the entire funeral preparation process, from selecting readings and music to working with funeral homes and cemeteries.

**Send your child to a
private school with
the help of a Step Up
scholarship.**

**Learn more
at SUFS.org**



OPEN ENROLLMENT

ST. PAUL'S CATHOLIC SCHOOL

St. Paul's Catholic School is now accepting applications for the 2024-2025 school year. We would love to welcome your family. Begin your enrollment packet today as space is limited! Visit <https://spl-fl.client.renweb.com/oa/?memberid=4320> or scan the QR code below.



St. Paul's Catholic School
Pre-K3 - 8th Grade
Kim Repper, *Principal*
(904) 387-2841





FAITH FORMATION & YOUTH MINISTRY



A FAMILY OF FAITH

*Family Catechesis
for Our Parish*

Our next parent meeting will be on Sunday, March 3, 2024, at 10:00 a.m. in the rectory dining room. February's lesson focuses on the Hail Mary. A Family of Faith, aims to encourage and equip parents to live and teach their children the Catholic Faith at home. With one monthly family meeting, the program gives parents the knowledge and tools to bring their children up in the Faith. If you have not registered or want more information, please call Onie Lee.

HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH GROUP



**Our next Meeting will be on February 25th
at 5:00 pm in the Rectory Dining Room.**

**Register
Now**



ASHES TO ASHES

Mr. Will burns last year's Palm Sunday fons with the help of the seventh grade students of St. Paul's Catholic School. The ashes from this burning were used on Ash Wednesday this past week.

PRAY FOR OUR TEENS

Our youth group is attending the Diocesan Youth Conference at Camp Kulaqua in High Springs this weekend. We will join 300 other students from around the diocese. The conference aims to provide a meaningful experience, encouraging them to deepen their faith and foster unity among their peers. Please remember these teens in your prayers this weekend, asking God's guidance, protection, and wisdom be upon them during this time. Your prayers make a significant difference for our young people. We appreciate your support!



ONIE LEE

DIRECTOR OF FAITH FORMATION
& YOUTH MINISTRY

E: onie.lee@spsjax.org
P: (904) 387-2554 x.102

Onie Lee is the Director of Faith Formation & Youth Ministry at St. Paul Catholic Church. For all inquiries, please contact Onie in the Parish Office. You can reach out if you would like to volunteer for any of the Youth Ministry programs.



DIOCESAN CORNER



FROM THE OFFICE of STEWARDSHIP

The waters of Baptism make us part of the new covenant in Christ. But the bishops' pastoral letter on stewardship reminds us that "there is a fundamental obligation arising from the Sacrament of Baptism...that people place their gifts, their resources – their selves – at God's service in and through the Church."

SAVE THE DATE!

St. Catherine Justice and Peace Ministry Presents a Parish Forum
featuring Heroes of Catholic Social Teaching

**Sunday
Feb 25
1:30pm**



Rev. Leonard Chuwa



Nancy O'Byrne

St. Catherine welcomes Reverend Leonard Chuwa and Nancy O'Byrne for a panel discussion as they share their wit and wisdom, trials and triumphs of decades of fighting for and living out Catholic Social Teaching. Hear their thoughts on Catholic Social Teaching as it relates to the issues facing us all in a world that seems to have turned its back on God.

FREE EVENT! EVERYONE IS WELCOME.
A MEAL WILL BE PROVIDED. Donations appreciated
Registration info available soon.



1564 Kingsley Ave.
Orange Park
www.stcatherineop.com



St. Catherine Of Siena

RELIC TOUR of ST. JUDE THE APOSTLE

Join us for an uplifting and inspiring event, the Relic Tour of St. Jude the Apostle, on March 2 at St. Joseph, 11730 Old St. Augustine Rd, in Jacksonville. A special Mass will be celebrated in St. Jude's honor at 1:00 p.m. Immediately following Mass, the public veneration of Saint Jude's relic will begin until 8:00 p.m. Millions of people have experienced St. Jude's intercession in times of adversity and need. For complete details about the event, please visit apostleoftheimpossible.com.

EUCCHARISTIC MIRACLES EXHIBITION

Experience a fascinating exhibition of Eucharistic miracles in the parish center at St. Matthew parish, 1773 Blanding Blvd. in Jacksonville from March 1-3. The exhibit features over 150 panels describing Eucharistic miracles from 22 countries, showcasing the real presence of Jesus in the Eucharist. The exhibition will be open on Friday, March 1 from 9:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. and 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m., on Saturday, March 2 from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. and 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m., and on Sunday, March 3 from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. and 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. The event is free, so bring your family and friends along! For more information, contact Melissa Merritt at melissa@stmatthewsjax.com.



GIVE SMARTER TO YOUR CHURCH

Did you know you can use your IRA, appreciated stock, or real estate to make a smart gift to your parish, Catholic school, or favorite ministry?

It's easy to make an IRA charitable gift:

» Notify your IRA administrator that you wish to make a "qualified charitable distribution" to your parish, Catholic school or favorite ministry

» Your QCD may fulfill all or part of your required minimum distribution and may avoid taxes

» Get cash for life with a charitable gift annuity funded by your IRA and your church receives any remainder.

**TO LEARN MORE CONTACT
THE CATHOLIC FOUNDATION**
catholicfoundation@dosaf.com
904-262-3200, ext. 139

Catholic Foundation
DIOCESE OF ST. AUGUSTINE
cf.dosaf.com



This information is not intended as tax, legal, or financial advice. Gift results may vary. Contact your personal financial advisor for information specific to your situation.

ABUSE HOTLINE—The Diocese of St. Augustine treats all allegations of sexual misconduct seriously and deals with all allegations in a prompt, confidential and thorough manner. To report abuse, call the police or the Department of Children and Families at (800) 962-2873, or call the Diocesan Victim Assistance Coordinator at (904) 208-6979 or email inquiries@dosaf.com. To report abuse by a bishop, call (800) 276-1562 or visit reportbishopabuse.org.