

*Welcome! We hope to know you and invite you to serve with us.*

# St. Paul The Apostle Roman Catholic Church

346 West Main Street, Hancock, New York 13783 Ph: 607-637-2571 e-mail: [stpauls@hancock.net](mailto:stpauls@hancock.net)

*Weekend Masses are broadcast live on St. Paul's Facebook page*



## Mass for The Sabbath

Saturday 6:30 PM

Sunday 8:00 AM

Daily Service:

As scheduled in Bulletin

**Fourth Sunday  
in Advent  
December 22, 2024**

## Our Mission:

We are a Roman Catholic Christian Community whose mission is :

- ✦ to worship God through the Eucharist, the Holy Scriptures and prayer
- ✦ to proclaim the reconciling love of God in Christ by word, deed and evangelization
- ✦ to mature spiritually through the challenge and guidance of the Holy Spirit
- ✦ to welcome and serve others-even the littlest and the weakest-in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ.

## Sacrament of Reconciliation

Saturday after 6:30 PM Mass

Other times by appointment.

## Low gluten

Those suffering from an intolerance to gluten are advised that St. Paul's keeps Low Gluten Hosts on hand for those who need them. Simply check in with an usher to arrange for one.

## Sacrament of Baptism

Because of the importance of the celebration of the sacrament of baptism, please consider carefully the man or woman of faith you chose to inspire and educate your child in the ways of our faith for the entirety of their lives. We suggest calling the church office during your pregnancy so that a more thorough preparation may take place. Godparents must be practicing Catholics and submit a certificate of eligibility from their parish prior to the Baptism. Baptisms will normally take place at a parish weekend Mass. Date and time will be scheduled by the pastor.

## Sacrament of Matrimony

For adequate preparation, arrangements should be made at least 6 months in advance.

## Sacrament of Anointing

Please let the parish office know if someone is seriously ill. If you know of anyone who is unable to get to Mass, we would be glad to help arrange transportation.

## Membership in our Catholic Community

New members are warmly welcomed and may register by calling the parish office or online. If you move out of the area or change your address, please notify the parish office.

## Pastor

Rev. Dr. Bernard Osei Ampong

## Parish Secretary

Kelly Cutler 607-637-2571

## Bookkeeper

Mike Argiros 607-637-2571

## Religious Education

Kristy White 607-637-2571

## Parish Trustees

Rebecca Sander 607-637-2571

Kevin Caramore 607-637-2571

## Cemetery

Jerrie VanMater 607-637-3533

## Custodian

Lawrence Ligas 607-637-2571

## Catholic Daughters of The Americas

Barb Christian 607-637-2571

## Communion for the Home Bound Ministry

Mary Ann Hunter 607-637-2571

## Bethany Ministry

Ginny Gotthardt 607-637-2414

Karen White 607-637-2467

## Pre-School 607-637-3146

Lorena Soccodato Teacher

## Director Music Ministry

Cathy Van Mater 607-637-3533

## Men's Group

Kevin Caramore 607-637-2571

## RCIA

Kevin Caramore 607-637-2571

Charlene Caramore 607-637-2571

## Bulletin Concerns

Paul Bartholomew 607-637-5409

## Respect Life Ministry

Cathy Haugen 607-727- 4755

## St. Paul's Sainly Sweepers Sacristan

Maureen Hunt 607-637-2571

## Hospitality Team

Call 607-637-2571

## MASS INTENTIONS

**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 21** St. Peter Canisius

6:30 P.M. Florence Vitale  
By Fredo/Dennis Family

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 22** Fourth Sunday of Advent

8:00 A.M. Deceased Members  
of St. Paul's Parish

**MONDAY, DECEMBER 23** St. John of Kanty

9:00 A.M. Rosary

**TUESDAY, DECEMBER 24** Christmas Eve

7:00 P.M. Christmas Vigil Mass  
Deceased Members  
of St. Paul's Parish

**WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 25** The Nativity of the Lord

8:00 A.M. Christmas Day Mass  
Deceased Members  
of St. Paul's Parish

**THURSDAY, DECEMBER 26** St. Stephen

9:00 A.M. Rosary/Communion Service

**FRIDAY, DECEMBER 27** St. John, Apostle

9:00 A.M. Rosary

**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 28** The Holy Innocents

6:30 P.M. Deceased Members  
of St. Paul's Parish

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 29** The Holy Family of Jesus,  
Mary and Joseph

8:00 A.M. Florence Vitale  
by Evan & Margaret Hall



**LECTORS for December 28/29**

6:30 P.M. C. Haugen

8:00 A.M. P. Esolen

**EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS for Dec. 28/29**

6:30 P.M. B. Sander

8:00 A.M. S. Drake

**ALTAR SERVERS for December 28/29**

6:30 P.M. K. Caramore

8:00 A.M. O. Esolen, X. Esolen

## TAKE NOTE

**The Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ** refers to the accounts of the Birth of Jesus. This is based primarily on the two accounts in the Gospels of Luke and Matthew. The Canonical Gospels of Luke and Matthew describe Jesus being born in Bethlehem, in Judea, to a Virgin Mother named Mary. Luke features the Christmas story, in which Joseph and Mary, as part of a census, travel to Bethlehem. It is there, that Jesus is born in a manger. Angels proclaim him a savior for all people, and shepherds come to adore him. In Matthew, wise men follow a star to Bethlehem to bring gifts to Jesus, born the "King of the Jews". King Herod orders the massacre of all the toddler boys in Bethlehem, in an attempt to kill Jesus, but the holy family flees to Egypt and later settles in Nazareth. The main religious celebration among members of the Catholic Church is the Church Service on Christmas Eve, generally midnight Mass, or on the morning of Christmas Day. During the forty days leading up to Christmas, we begin observing the liturgical season of Advent, four Sundays before Christmas. This is a time of spiritual cleansing, recollection and renewal to prepare for the celebration of the Birth of Jesus. The Nativity of Jesus shows the Incarnation of Jesus as God made Man, in fulfillment of the Divine Will of God, undoing the damage caused by the fall of the first man, Adam. Artistic depiction of the Nativity has been a major subject for Christian artists since the 4th century. The Nativity scene has emphasized the humility of Jesus, and has been celebrated since the 13th century. The accounts of the Nativity of Jesus in the New Testament appear in only two of the four Canonical Gospels, namely the Gospel of Luke and the Gospel of Matthew. Luke's story takes place mostly before the birth of Jesus and centers on Mary, while Matthew's story takes place mostly after the birth of Jesus and centers on Joseph. The other Canonical Gospels, the Gospel of Mark and the Gospel of John, begin their narratives of Jesus's life in his adulthood. Both mention him coming out of Galilee and John mentions the name of Jesus's father, but neither John or Mark give any other details of His life prior to adulthood. The betrothal of Joseph and Mary and the birth of Jesus in Bethlehem appear in both Matthew and Luke. Luke includes several events prior to the birth of Jesus that do not appear in Matthew; the trip from Nazareth to Bethlehem, while Matthew alone discusses the Flight to Egypt after his birth. The Nativity accounts in the New Testament are generally viewed as ending with "Finding Jesus in the Temple" several years later, after the family has returned to Galilee.

Christmas has been celebrated in the United States since it's founding. Today, most Catholic Families celebrate by decorating a Christmas Tree, and wrap gifts to give to family and friends. It is generally centered around the family gathering for a meal and celebration on Christmas Eve or Christmas Day. It is a Holy Day of Obligation for Catholics to attend Mass on either Christmas Eve or Christmas Day.

\* \* \*

**Christmas Schedule:**

Christmas Eve: Tuesday, December 24, 7:00 PM Vigil Mass  
 Christmas Day: Wednesday, December 25, 8:00 AM Mass  
 New Years Day: Wednesday, January 1, 2025, 8:00 AM Mass

\* \* \*

**Saint Stephen's Story** - "As the number of disciples continued to grow, the Greek-speaking Christians complained against the Hebrew-speaking Christians, saying that their widows were being neglected in the daily distribution. So the Twelve called together the community of the disciples and said, 'It is not right for us to neglect the word of God to serve at table. Brothers, select from among you seven reputable men, filled with the Spirit and wisdom, whom we shall appoint to this task, whereas we shall devote ourselves to prayer and to the ministry of the word.' The proposal was acceptable to the whole community, so they chose Stephen, a man filled with faith and the Holy Spirit..." (Acts 6:1-5). Acts of the Apostles says that Stephen was a man filled with grace and power, who worked great wonders among the people. Certain Jews, members of the Synagogue of Roman Freedmen, debated with Stephen, but proved no match for the wisdom and spirit with which he spoke. They persuaded others to make the charge of blasphemy against him. He was seized and carried before the Sanhedrin. In his speech, Stephen recalled God's guidance through Israel's history, as well as Israel's idolatry and disobedience. He then claimed that his persecutors were showing this same spirit. "...you always oppose the holy Spirit; you are just like your ancestors" (Acts 7:51b). Stephen's speech brought anger from the crowd. "But he, filled with the holy Spirit, looked up intently to heaven and saw the glory of God and Jesus standing at the right hand of God, and he said, 'Behold, I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God.' ...They threw him out of the city, and began to stone him. ...As they were stoning Stephen, he called out, 'Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.' ...'Lord, do not hold this sin against them'" (Acts 7:55-56, 58a, 59, 60b). **Reflection** - Stephen died as Jesus did: falsely accused, brought to unjust condemnation because he spoke the truth fearlessly. He died with his eyes trustfully fixed on God, and with a prayer of forgiveness on his lips. A "happy" death is one that finds us in the same spirit, whether our dying is as quiet as Joseph's or as violent as Stephen's: dying with courage, total trust and forgiving love.

**MONTHLY FOOD PANTRY NEEDS:**

Week of 12/22 Cereal  
 Week of 12/29 Tuna fish  
 Coffee, Tea and Sugar are welcomed anytime.  
 Please drop off items at the church doors. Thank you for your generosity.

\* \* \*

The next **Men's Group** will be Thursday, January 9, at 7 PM in the DeSerio Ctr.

\* \* \*

**This week's spotlight for the businesses that support St. Paul's by advertising in the bulletin**

Galloping Horse Graphics 917-538-9754  
 Gales Boat Storage 570-616-7951

Remember to support those that support St. Paul's.

**STEWARDSHIP**

**SACRIFICIAL GIVING December 14/15**

Number of regular collection envelopes.....	
Loose cash and checks.....	\$665.00
Regular envelope collection.....	\$1,293.00
Total.....	\$1,958.00
Holy Day collection.....	\$340.00

**Additional Offerings**

Votive candles.....	\$63.00
Books.....	\$26.00

**Attendance December 14/15**

Saturday: 6:30 PM Church.....	30
Sunday: 8:00 AM Church.....	53
Saturday: Facebook Live.....	2
Sunday: Facebook Live.....	3
Total.....	83

**THE WEEK AHEAD**

**Monday, December 23**

(Office Closed)

**Tuesday, December 24**

(Office Closed)

**Wednesday, December 25**

(Office Closed)

**Friday, December 27**

7:00 PM Alcoholics Anonymous - Hall

Cleaning Group # 1: M. Reyes, M. Hall, L. Ligas

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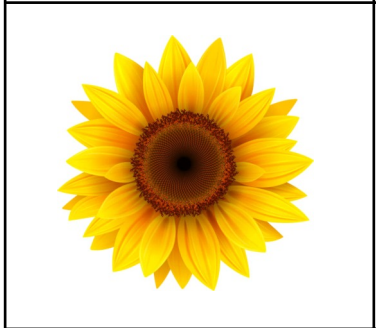
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