



# ST. PAUL CATHEDRAL

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*“St. Paul Cathedral Parish is a diverse body of Catholic people whom God calls by name, given a mission by Jesus Christ to be a faithful sign, a realistic foretaste and an instrument of the Kingdom of God. As Cathedral Parishioners, we recognize our responsibility to show leadership by example and to provide service to God’s people.”*

My Dear Parishioners:

We are finally reaching, I hope, the end of the installation of our elevator in the school building, which will make our building, especially our Cathedral Center on the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor, accessible to all without trepidation or fear of ascending or descending. It’s been a lengthy journey, but now we can embrace the updating & functionality of the upper floors of our building.

What’s ahead for us as the parish family of St. Paul Cathedral?

1. Enclosed you will find devotional booklets to assist in the home observance of the great Season of Lent, a God given opportunity each year to draw closer to the Lord. I hope these booklets will assist you during this special time in the Church Year.
2. Next Wednesday is Ash Wednesday, the beginning of Lent. Masses with imposition of the sacred ashes, a symbol of our entering into & embracing the season and its penitential meaning, will be offered in our Cathedral at 7:00AM, 12:07PM, 5:30PM and 7:00PM (Spanish) for your convenience. Join your fellow parishioners to insure & initiate a great beginning of the Lenten Season.
3. Sunday, March 10<sup>th</sup> is the first Sunday of Lent and we celebrate for our Catechumens & Candidates participating in the RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults) the “Rite of Sending Forth” at the 11:00AM Mass and The Rite of Election for our “Elect” at 3:00PM at Holy Family Church. Again we encourage you to pray for these special people in our parish who are nearing the end of their spiritual journey to join us in full communion at the Easter Vigil.
4. Our Lenten Observances:
  - A. Beginning the First Week of Lent Monday March 11<sup>th</sup> we again initiate Sung Lenten Evening Prayer at 5:30PM & remaining through the Season of Lent-EACH MONDAY AT 5:30PM-Chapel.
  - B. On Tuesdays & Thursdays we shall have special evening Masses at 5:30PM (except for the Chrism Mass on Tuesday April 9<sup>th</sup> and the Communal Penance service here on Thursday April 11<sup>th</sup> at 7:00PM).
  - C. With the assistance of our Knights of Columbus, we shall also have our Traditional “Soup, Sandwich & Video” on the Tuesdays of Lent (except April 9<sup>th</sup>) in the cafeteria in our school building, following the 5:30PM Chapel Evening Mass, a time for bodily & spiritual nourishment and enrichment. Signup sheets will be available in the Cathedral each preceding weekend. Although there is no cost (donations accepted), we need to know how many to prepare for. Please plan to join us. Next month’s letter will define these occasions once again.
  - D. On Wednesdays of Lent (except for April 10<sup>th</sup>) we shall have Stations of the Cross at 5:30 PM in English – also in our chapel (in Spanish on Fridays at 5:00PM).

5. Our series of Masses for special groups will also be offered by our Bishop-all at 5:30PM in our Chapel.
  - A. Tuesday, March 12<sup>th</sup>: White Mass for our Medical Professionals: doctors, nurses, dentists and those involved in the healing professions.
  - B. Tuesday, March 19<sup>th</sup>: The Feast of St. Joseph-Blue Mass for our police, firefighters, first responders and all involved in protecting our community.
  - C. Tuesday, March 26<sup>th</sup>: Red Mass for our lawyers and judges and all in the legal profession.

PLEASE GET THE WORD OUT TO YOUR FAMILY, FRIENDS, AND NEIGHBORS ABOUT THESE SPECIAL CELEBRATIONS HONORING & PRAYING FOR THESE SPECIAL PEOPLE IN OUR COMMUNITY, TO WHOM WE OWE SO MUCH.

6. In union without Holy Father, the Dioceses of the United States & the World, our Bishop will offer a special Penitential Reconciliation Mass for healing of & in our Catholic Church for the victims of sexual abuse by clergy, parish employees, & volunteers and for all victims of this sinful crime in homes & public institutions & societies on SUNDAY, MARCH 17<sup>TH</sup> at 11:00AM. PLEASE JOIN US!!
7. Our Lenten Celebrations of Reconciliation (Communal Penance Services) with opportunity for individual confessions will be held in all our city parishes on Wednesday and Thursday, April 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup>, the “Holies” on Wednesday & “Saints” on Thursday-more to come in next month’s letter & bulletins.
8. Our continuing thanks and admiration to & for Emma Mendoza and her dedicated crew for providing religious education to our public grade school children (& older); to Shawn Exner for guiding our young people in middle & high school & to his team; to Colette Sattler & our RCIA Team & Jerry Kaminski, our multi-talented parish musician in his striving for excellence & to Felip Holbrook who has shared his talents forever(?); to our choirs and hospitality folks, our acolytes, lectors, Mass servers, our ushers and greeters; our maintenance & cleaning crews especially Ray Melki, Carla Adams & Maria Penaloza who clean up after us behind the scenes; to Todd Rettig, Anna Rice & our Life Teen Band & choir; Denny Canales, Heriberto Torres & the Spanish Choir Members; and to all who help to make our parish run efficiently and smoothly as a welcoming parish family and to our Office Manager Denny and those who work behind the scenes (Val) and so many who share their talents and time here & at the Haven (Anju Jason) and visit our shut-ins, nursing and convalescent facilities. And of course, to Father Jesús Alatorre my co-worker in the Lord. We owe so much to so many here in our parish family.

MAY WE TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THIS UPCOMING GREAT OPPORTUNITY FOR GROWTH IN HOLINESS AND CLOSENESS TO THE LORD-THE HOLY SEASON OF LENT-and not forget those in our parish & community who are hurting; the sick & infirm, the dying, the homeless & those worried about their immigration status, marriages that are struggling and our young people who are trying to mature & grow up in these difficult times through which we are passing. Remember: NOTHING IS IMPOSSIBLE WITH & FOR GOD-and FOR EVERY LENT THERE’S ALWAYS AN EASTER!!

God bless and keep you safe from harm.

In Christ,



Rev. Msgr. John A. Ecker – VG  
Pastor

P.S. Thank you especially to our own Ed Carroll for installing a safety railing in our Cathedral sanctuary.