

LITURGY SCHEDULE		
<b>MON</b>	<b>FEB 15</b>	
12:15 PM	IT	MASS
<i>Mass intention is for +Fr. Paul Megge</i>		
<b>WED</b>	<b>FEB 17</b>	
9:00 am	PE	ASH WEDNESDAY MASS
6:00 PM	IT	LITURGY AND ASHES
<b>THURS</b>	<b>FEB 18</b>	
10:00 AM-8:00 PM	IT	ADORATION
<b>FRI</b>	<b>FEB 19</b>	
9:00 AM	PE	MASS
<i>Mass intention is pro populo</i>		
<b>SAT</b>	<b>FEB 20</b>	
6:00 PM	IT	MASS
<i>Mass intention is for +Spencer Kenny</i>		
<b>SUN</b>	<b>FEB 21</b>	
9:00 AM	PE	MASS
<i>Mass intention is for Mary Weeber</i>		
11:00 am	IT	MASS
<i>Mass intention is pro populo</i>		

**ST PAUL'S ASSIGNMENTS**

SATURDAY, FEB 20	SUNDAY, FEB 21
<b>LECTORS</b>	
Ann Franich	Drew Endter Jamie Huntoon
<b>ALTAR SERVERS</b>	
<b>USHERS</b>	
John Franich Mares Vanderploeg	Brad Harkness Al Ramereiz Mark Barrows Rich Ramereiz

**ST MARTIN'S ASSIGNMENTS**

<b>LECTORS</b>	Joanne Donahue
<b>ALTAR SERVERS</b>	
<b>USHERS</b>	Todd and Sarah Waldron

**PLEASE JOIN US TODAY AFTER 11:00 MASS IN ITHACA FOR A SLOPPY JOE LUNCH AND PACZKI'S!!!**

**Scripture Readings for the Week (2/15-2/21)**

<b>M</b>	Genesis 4:	Ps 50:1,8,16,17,20,21	Mark 8:11-13
<b>TU</b>	Genesis 6:5-8;7:1-5;10	Ps 29:1,2,3,4,3,9c,10	Mark 8:14-21
<b>W</b>	Joel 2:12-18 2 Corinthians 5:50-6:2	Ps 51:3-6ab,12-17	Matthew :1-6,16-18
<b>TH</b>	Deuteronomy 30:15-20	Ps 1:1-4,6	Luke 9:22-25
<b>FR</b>	Isiah 58:1-9a	Ps 51:3-6ab, 18-19	Matthew 9:14-15
<b>ST</b>	Isiah 58:9b-14	Ps 86:1-6	Luke 5:27-32
<b>SN</b>	Genesis 9:8-15 1 Peter 3:18-22	Ps 25:4-9	Mark 1:12-15

Dear Parish Family,

My floormate, and friend from Mundelein seminary, Fr. Josh Miller, wrote the below article, "How to Make an Awesome Confession" the spring of 2011 as he was finishing his rookie year of priesthood. I share his wisdom with you in this bulletin as we head to Lent.

Everybody's looking to improve their game, right? Well, after hearing thousands and thousands of confessions, I thought I'd craft a post on how you can make your next confession even better. I should note before I begin that every confession is great, and that there's no such thing as a "bad" confession as long as you've come to the Sacrament with a contrite heart. So if you read these tips and think to yourself, "I've been making some bad confessions!," fear not: it's pretty hard to do, unless you don't take any of it seriously. I should also note that the first tip largely assume you're in a confessional box — a "sin bin," as I call it — at a designated time, standing in line and waiting for your turn. There is at least one other way to make an awesome confession, which I address near the end of this post.

**Tip #1 – The Devil's In The Details**

The awesome confessions I hear begin something like this: *"Forgive me Father, for I have sinned. It has been two weeks since my last confession. I accuse myself of the following: I lied twice, I hosted uncharitable thoughts against my neighbor six times, I have failed on numerous occasions to be charitable to my husband..."* What's lacking here is the word — indeed, even the sentiment of the word — "because." Whenever you confess, the reasons for your failures aren't pertinent to your confession. However, they are pertinent to the spiritual life; sin, like any other imperfect thought, any other emotion we have, should prompt rational discourse. The "because" matters to us because the ultimate aim is growth in holiness, which is only obtainable if we understand the reasons behind our failure. Strictly speaking, however, the "because" is not important within the context of confession. In fact, I'd even venture so far as to say that the "because" is potentially harmful in confession. When we discuss how we lack charity towards a neighbor, for example, the tendency is to exonerate ourselves, or to lessen our own culpability somehow: *"I lacked charity towards my neighbor because it's just so hard to get along with them when they keep their yard looking like a scene from Animal House."*

The tendency with humankind from the Fall forward has been to scapegoat, to create alibi: "She made me do it!," says Adam. Of course, God sees through the bologna Adam tells himself. Within the context of the Sacrament with our souls laid bare, we should be on guard against the temptation to justify ourselves. Traditionally, this is known as confession by "number and kind." There's something beautiful in a simplistic declaration of guilt. When we list number and kind, we say, "I did this!" and nothing else matters. We escape the temptation to feel sorry for ourselves when we courageously take responsibility for what we've done, the details be damned — literally.

**Tip #2: Your Sins Are Boring**

I'm as guilty of it as you are: every one of us thinks our sins are the worst in the world. We come in and confess them with a hesitant nervousness, as if what we've done is the worst the priest will ever hear.

I know that feeling as a penitent, even when — on an intellectual level — I know there's nothing extraordinary about how I've sinned. But as a priest, I also know this: sin is boring. It's humdrum. It's the most common thing in the world. There's no sin you could possibly reveal that would cause me to raise an eyebrow, or start throwing things around, or get me angry. In order to do that, I'd have to turn a blind eye to my own sin, and it's always before me.

Nothing you say in that confessional should cause you any anxiety to simply kick out there. I may throw out a challenge for you, but that's always in the form of encouragement rather than me being surprised or moved in any way.

You know what causes my eyebrows to perk up in the confessional? Virtue. Whenever someone mentions how they've made progress in an area, or when they note how they've grown in a certain way, that's extraordinary. That's interesting!

The point here: if you realize that your sins will make me yawn long before they're going to shock or surprise me, then you'll relax and make an awesome confession.

**Tip #3: Make Use Of A Guided, "Spiritual Direction" Confession**

As promised above, I thought I'd talk a little bit about where Tip #1 does not necessarily apply: within the context of a guided, spiritual direction-type confession.

Usually, these are not going to take place within the context of your parish's regular confession times. They're the "by appointment only" types, which every priest should be open to scheduling in addition to the regularly scheduled time he spends in the sin

The purpose of such a confession is to solicit more feedback and spiritual help from the priest, perhaps asking him for tips or areas of guidance in one or more areas. These kind of confessions take longer, but they're extremely helpful when we're facing some kind of spiritual impasse. These confessions allow you to go into the level of detail that just isn't possible during a regularly scheduled confession time. I find them to be personally helpful myself, and take advantage of this form with regularity.

So there you have it: three simple tips to make your confessions awesome. As previously stated, every confession is a wonderful thing, but we can always hope for continued growth!

**NO GIFT IS TOO SMALL OR TOO GREAT WHEN GIVEN FROM THE HEART**

**ST PAUL PARISH: 1/31/2021: \$4245.25**

<b>CMA 2020-21 launched October 24, 2020</b>	
<b>Contribution total through January 2020: \$20,270.54</b>	<b>Target: \$34,517.00</b>
<b>Our parish needs: \$14,246.46</b>	

**ONLINE GIVING FOR CHRIST'S MISSION**

**APPEAL: <https://saginaw.org/donate>**

**Thank you all for your tithes, pledges, and payments!**

**LET US PRAY FOR ... THE SICK**

David Sager | Keith Peters | Stephen Zamarron | Theresa Olszewski

**... THE RECENTLY DECEASED**

Ron Coe | Roxanne Anderson | Julius Remenar | Ruth Diebold  
Mary Gabrion | Eileen Proko | Melvin Wieber

**... THE MILITARY:**

Major Matthew Cary | Tony Belling | Lt. Col. Tom Sager  
*Remember those who have no one to pray for them.*

Please contact the office with any names that you would like to add to a Prayer List

**COFFEE UPDATE**

**Bad news!** Dan's coffee roaster had a mechanical failure.

**Good news!** He should be up and running next month after receiving his new roaster!!

Thanks for your patience as we work through this issue.

**YEAR END GIVING STATEMENTS**

If you are interested in receiving tax statements for your contributions in 2020, please email Kristen Romo, our bookkeeper, at [bookkeeper@stpaulparishmi.org](mailto:bookkeeper@stpaulparishmi.org). She will be emailing them as she receives requests. Please allow her **24 hours** to respond. In years past, not all statements were picked up and confidential information was at risk of being obtained. You may also call Kathy at the office and we can get the message to Kristen.

**ASHES, PALMS AND ASH WEDNESDAY**

Please bring any palms in your possession to either church location starting this week so we can keep the tradition of burning them for use on Ash Wednesday.

**This year ashes will be dropped on the crowns of the heads of the congregants.** This is actually the most common way the rite has been exercised over the centuries and will be employed as a precaution against disease this year.

**PERRINTON LENTEN PENANCE TIMES**

Father Dwyer will be hearing confessions each Monday during lent in Perrinton from 5:30-6:30 p.m. The first date will be February 22<sup>nd</sup> and the last date will be March 29<sup>th</sup>.

**LENTEN SPECIAL**

Why not do something special during Lent this year? Our cohort will be offering the **WISDOM AND WORKS OF MERCY** program during Lent and it will continue through the Easter season. Meeting times will be: **Sundays, 6:00-7:30 p.m. at St. Paul, beginning Feb.21 and Tuesdays, 9:00-10:30 a.m. at St. Paul, beginning Feb. 23.**

**33 DAYS TO MORNING GLORY** will be offered again for those who did not have the opportunity to participate in the past. That program will begin **Wed., April 21, following 6:00 p.m. Mass at St. Paul.** Registration for these programs will be Feb. 13/14 and 20/21. Plan to join other parishioners and grow in your love for Jesus during this Lenten season.

**AREA ASH WEDNESDAY MASS TIMES**

St. Mary Church in Westphalia - 8:15am & 7pm  
St. Cyril Church in Bannister - 9am Mass  
St. Mary Gym in Alma - 9am Mass  
Mt. St. Joseph Church in St. Louis - 6:30pm Mass