

WEEKLY LITURGY SCHEDULE

Monday 12/20	4th Monday of Advent IS 7:10-14; Ps 24:1-6; Lk1:26-38 12:15 pm MASS (IT): +Edwin T. Dwyer
Tuesday 12/21	St. Peter Canisius Sg 2:8-14; Ps33:2,3,11,12,20,21; Lk 1:39-45 5:00 pm CONFESSION/ADORATION (PE)
Wednesday 12/22	4th Wednesday of Advent 1Sm 1:24-28; 1Sm 2:1,4-8; Lk 1:46-56 6:00 pm MASS (IT): Sarah Mikulka
Thursday 12/23	St. John of Kanty Mal 3:1-4,23,24; Ps 25:4,5,8-10,14; Lk 1:57-66 10 am – 8 pm ADORATION (IT)
Friday 12/24	Christmas Eve 2Sm 7:1-5,8-12,14a,16; Ps 89:2-5, 27,29; Lk 1:67-79 4:00 p.m. MASS (IT): pro populo 7:00 p.m. MASS (PE): +Walter Donohue
Saturday 12/25	Christmas Day Is 62:1-5; Ps 89:4,5,16,17,27,29; Acts 13:16,17,22-25; Mt 1:1-25 12:01 a.m. MASS (IT): Private Intention 11:00 a.m. MASS (PE): pro populo
Sunday 12/26	The Most Holy Family of Jesus Sir 3:2-6,12-14; Ps 128:19-5; Col 3:12-21; Lk 2:41-52 9:00 a.m. MASS (PE): Flores Family 11:00 am MASS (IT): Pro populo 6:00 p.m. MASS (IT): Parish staff

MINISTERS OF THE WORD

Fri., December 24, 4:00 pm Mass (IT):	Drew Endter Marty McDaid
Fri., December 24, 7:00 pm Mass (PE):	
Sun., December 25, 12:01 am Mass (IT):	Ellie Steinhorst Jamie Huntoon
Sun., December 25, 11:00 am Mass (PE):	Tim Donohue
Sun., December 26, 9:00 am Mass (PE):	Sara Waldron
Sun., December 26 11:00 am Mass (IT):	Courtney Patrick LeeAnn Bellinger
Sun., December 26 6:00 pm Mass (IT):	Ellie Steinhorst

USHERS

Fri., December 24, 4:00 pm Mass (IT):	Greeting Team
Fri., December 24, 7:00 pm Mass (PE):	Greeting Team
Sun., December 25, 12:01 am Mass (IT):	Greeting Team
Sun., December 25, 11:00 am Mass (PE):	Greeting Team
Sun., December 26, 9:00 am Mass (PE):	Todd Waldron
Sun., December 26 11:00 am Mass (IT):	Chuck Wieferich Mark Barrows

[READ TODAY'S DAILY READING HERE](#)

Dear Parish Family,

It's likely we will see a good number of lapsed Catholics, and unchurched at our Christmas liturgies, especially on Dec. 24. Here are a few practical ways we can give them an experience of warmth and kindness, so they may better come to know Christ and his Church.

No jokes: Our attitude when folks return to the Church should never be anything other than joy, and never annoyance at the happy inconvenience of a fuller church. Folks often stay away from church because they're afraid they'll draw attention to themselves, or be judged for their appearances, or ignorance. So, absolutely no jokes about visitors on parish property ever. Little whispers to our loved ones are seen, and hurtful. So, offer a prayer of thanksgiving instead.

Parking: If, and only if you are able, park farther away than usual so newcomers don't feel the stress of finding a spot, and then corralling their children for a long walk across a lot. We recently put-up signs of "parish use only" which is intended for attendees, but newcomers might be confused by them. Let's fill those spots up first with our regulars.

Seating: No matter what pew you choose, choose to sit in its center. This leaves open space on the ends, and newcomers don't need to feel awkward about asking strangers if there is room. If you see a folks looking for a seat, and there is room in your pew, gently invite them to sit with you. Perhaps even give up your seats if it means a large family can then fit in a pew, whereas a party of two could easily change locations.

Be ready for questions: Newcomers might have a good deal of questions and might just ask anybody who looks like a regular about where they can get some water, or change a diaper, or place their coats. So, be prepared to answer, even if that answer is "good question, let me find out for you" with a gentle smile. Then, exercise Christian hospitality, and find out for them.

Come to evangelize: We come to Mass to worship first and foremost, yes. On Christmas, however, we have a remarkable chance to evangelize the unchurched. You don't need a testimony, or a book of apologetics, however. Just bring a warm smile, a warm heart, and a warm greeting to others. If they perceive that we are joyful about their attendance, they will be far more inclined to come back.

Don't block paths: This is a simple communication trick, but many businesses use it. If you find yourself talking to a newcomer, make sure you are not blocking a path to an exit. This has been proven in studies to make folks feel more comfortable in a new environment as they subconsciously perceive freedom of movement. It seems silly, but it's quite true, and effective.

These might seem like surface level things, but they are real things that do prevent folks from returning to Mass. We must prepare the way of the Lord for their own hearts, and that **does** include the physical obstacles along with the spiritual ones. I believe we can do this, because I know you can be this warm. So, let's pray to be so for the sake of the salvation of souls, and the glory of Christ.

prayers,
Rev. Edwin C. Dwyer, JCL

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

ST PAUL PARISH: 12/5/2021: \$4,044.00
LET US PRAY FOR... THE SICK OF OUR PARISH
... THE RECENTLY DECEASED

David Wright | Barbara Donohue

... THE MILITARY:

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

PARISH SCHEDULE

Sun 12/5	Whole Family Catechesis 10:00 a.m. Ithaca Room 2 Consecration to St. Joseph 2:30 pm Mt. St. Joseph 6:00 pm Ithaca Room 4
Mon 12/6	St. Martin Altar Soc. Christmas Party At the home of Carol Anderson
Tues 12/7	Consecration to St. Joseph 9:00 am Ithaca Room 4
Wed 12/8	First Reconciliation Retreat Receiving sacrament at Ithaca
Sun 12/12	Christmas Breakfast at Perrinton After Mass in the lower level Coffee & Donuts in Ithaca (K of C) After Mass in the Ithaca parish hall K of C Business Meeting 7:00 pm in the Ithaca parish hall
Tues 12/14	CCW Potluck 6:00 p.m. Ithaca Parish Hall
Mon 12/20	Parish Council Meeting 6:30 p.m. in the lower level in Perrinton



Our goal this year is **\$33,686.00**. Please send your pledges and contributions directly to the Diocese of Saginaw in the envelopes provided. Since the launch in October, we have received \$8,255.00. **Our current balance is \$25,431.00.**

CHRISTMAS MASSES ST. PAUL PARISH

Christmas Eve: 4:00 pm Ithaca
7:00 pm Perrinton
Christmas Day: 12:01 a.m. in Ithaca
11:00 a.m. in Perrinton

HOLIDAY OFFICE HOURS:

The week after Christmas the office will be closed. Messages and emails will be checked. If there is an emergency, please feel free to reach out. Liturgy schedule remains the same.

WHOLE FAMILY CATECHESIS

How cozy are those manglers we made in November? As we are swiftly moving through this month, the Christmas celebrations at your homes are beginning to take shape. In the same manner, it is our prayer that your family's spiritual celebration will be shaping into a blessed, holy, and important part of your celebrations. May God bless you all in this joyful season.

SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION

First Holy Communion classes will begin Thursday, January 27, 2022! St. Martin and St. Paul, pray for us! In your domestic church, your home, having a designated prayer space shows that your faith life is a priority - it's part of who you are. The Advent and Christmas seasons offer some unique ways to make that space interactive in a special way. Try this...put an empty "manger" on the table, mantle, or cabinet in your family prayer place. This could be any kind of box or rectangular container of any size. Next to it place another container with pieces of straw in it. (Don't have any? Rip strips of yellow and brown construction paper or color white paper and rip it up into strips.) Then, for every time you intentionally do something to bless or serve someone else in your day, add a piece of straw to the manger. Jesus came and showed us how to love and serve others. As you do acts of service and kindness during this most wonderful time of the year, you will be preparing a cozy place for the baby Jesus to lay his sweet head!

Mark Your Calendars!

Thur, Jan. 27 – 1st Eucharist class begins - 6pm St. Paul

CHRISTMAS DECORATING AT PERRINTON

We will be decorating St. Martin's for Christmas this Sunday, after mass and all who would like to help are welcome to join.

CHRISTMAS CAROLS

A half an hour before all Christmas liturgies, there will be some reflective Christmas carols. The music ministers have been working on these with extra practice and they are doing a beautiful job. Please come and be blessed.

MASS TIMES SHIFTED

There will not be a Mass in Perrinton on the 31st at 9:00 a.m.. The Mother of God Holy Day Mass will be offered on Friday at 6:00 p.m. in Perrinton.

SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS

Please notice in the Liturgy schedule that there is an extra 6:00 p.m. evening Mass in Ithaca to satisfy your Sunday obligation since there will not be a Saturday evening Mass on Christmas Day.