

WEEKLY LITURGY SCHEDULE

Monday 12/6	St. Nicholas, Bishop Is 35:1-10; PS 85:9-14; Lk 5:17-26 12:15 pm MASS (IT): <i>Bishop Gruss</i>
Tuesday 12/7	St. Ambrose, Bishop Is 40:1-11; Ps 96:1-3,10-13; Mt 18:12-14 5:00 pm CONFESSION/ADORATION (PE) 6:00 pm HDO VIGIL MASS (PE): + <i>Melvin Wieber</i>
Wednesday 12/8	The Immaculate Conception Gn 3:9-15,20; Ps 98:1-4; Eph 1:3-6,11,12; Lk 1:26-38 8:00 am HDO MASS (IT): <i>pro populo</i> 5:30 pm CONFESSIONS (IT) 6:00 pm MASS (IT): <i>1st penitents</i>
Thursday 12/9	St. Juan Diego Is 41:13-20; Ps 145:1,9,10-13ab; Mt 11:11-15 10 am – 8 pm ADORATION (IT)
Friday 12/10	Our Lady of Loreto Is 48:17-19; Ps 1:1-4,6; Mt 11:16-19 9:00 AM MASS(PE): <i>For the deceased members of the Raynold Miller Family</i>
Saturday 12/11	St. Damasus I, Pope Sir 48:1-4,9-11; Ps 80:2ac,3b,15,16,18,19; Mt 17:9-13 5:00 pm CONFESSIONS (IT) 6:00 pm MASS (IT): + <i>Holy Souls in Purgatory</i>
Sunday 12/12	3rd Sunday of Advent Zep 3:14-18a; Is 12:2-6; Phil 4:4-7; Lk 3:10-18 9:00 am MASS (PE): <i>pro populo</i> 11:00 am MASS (IT): <i>pro populo</i>

MINISTERS OF THE WORD

Sat., December 11, 6:00 pm Mass (IT):	Sarah Mikulka
Sun., December 12, 9:00 am Mass (PE):	John Pohl
Sun., December 12, 11:00 am Mass (IT):	Chuck Wieferich Tony Huntoon

USHERS

Sat., December 11, 6:00 pm Mass (IT):	Maureen Murphy John Franich
Sun., December 12, 9:00 am Mass (PE):	Terry Donohue
Sun., December 12, 11:00 am Mass (IT):	Chuck Wieferich Mark Barrows

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

Dear Parish Family,

This weekend we light our second Advent candle as we grow in anticipation for the arrival of Christ all the more in our own hearts.

Candles have been used throughout the history of the Church, but not just for the pragmatics of lighting a building before the age of electricity. Candles have a strong symbolism, and I'd like to briefly explain that.

The light of a candle is symbolic of Christ as the light of the world. As the candle helps us see in the darkness of night, so Christ helps us see the truth in the darkness of a sinful and errant world.

The wax of the candle is symbolic of the Body of Christ. The medievalists believed that bees reproduced virginally and came to see them as symbolic of the Virgin Mother from whom the Son of God received his human nature. Furthermore, the queen bee was representative of the queenship of Mary.

The wick is symbolic of the soul of Christ. This soul then burns with great love for mankind and sheds its warmth, and its light across the aforementioned darkness. As the wick burns the wax melts. The wax, in a certain sense, sacrifices itself to provide light as Christ sacrificed his body to bring us the light of salvation.

This is why candles remain an important part of our worship, and our devotions both at the church, and in our homes. They remind us of the loving sacrifice of our Lord and call us to imitate that love. We have a special blessing of candles on Feb. 2, but I am happy to bless the candles you use in your homes all year long.

prayers,

Rev. Edwin C. Dwyer, JCL

Parish Priest, St. Paul the Apostle Parish

CHRISTMAS BREAKFAST

The Christmas Breakfast at St. Martin's is on December 12th this year! **Mark your calendars!** The sign-up sheet for the breakfast is in the front foyer at St. Martin's. Thank you!

CCW POTLUCK

Our St. Paul CCW December potluck will be Dec. 14, 6:00 p.m. at the Ithaca Parish Hall. Bring a dish to pass and a \$10.00 gift if you'd like to participate in the gift exchange. Signup sheet is in the vestibule.

**NO GIFT IS TOO SMALL OR TOO GREAT
WHEN GIVEN FROM THE HEART**
ST PAUL PARISH: 11/14/2021: \$5,269.00
LET US PRAY FOR ... THE SICK OF OUR PARISH
... THE RECENTLY DECEASED
Rob Quinlan | 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



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 \$3,070.00. **Our current balance is \$30,616.00.**

CHRISTMAS DINNERS

St. Martin Christmas Dinners – St. Martin is sponsoring two families as in the past. Please drop off non-perishable food in the baskets in the back of church by the 19th of December.

CCW Christmas Dinners – Baskets are in the vestibule. Items needed: canned fruit, corn, green beans, cream of mushroom soup; French fried onions, and gravy. **Donations needed by December 19.** Cash for perishables can be put in an envelope marked Christmas Baskets and put in the offertory basket. The **KNIGHTS of COLUMBUS** will be providing the ham for the dinners for both churches.

WHOLE FAMILY CATECHESIS

This weekend was our last WFC for the year 2021. We truly hope this is enriching your family's faith life. God has blessed us with wonderful leaders and a good program. The next WFC lesson is scheduled for January 2, 2022! Please be sure to attend. As always, if there is anything you need, please reach out to the office. Someone is always willing to help!

SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION

Pray for Us! This week, three of our children will receive the sacrament of First Reconciliation. Please pray for them to feel the full power of love and mercy embodied in this beautiful moment. First Reconciliation Retreat December 8th Our FR Retreat will begin with Mass at 6pm at St. Paul as we celebrate a most special day in our Church year, the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary. First Holy Communion classes will begin in January! St. Martin and St. Paul, pray for us! Mark Your Calendars! Wed, Dec. 8 - First Reconciliation Retreat and Sacrament - 6pm St. Paul
Mark Your Calendars!
Wed., Dec. 8 - First Reconciliation Retreat and Sacrament - Ithaca

ADVENT ADORATION/PENANCE IN PERRINTON

On the four Tuesdays in Advent, the St. Martin Altar Society will be assisting Father Dwyer in an hour of adoration as he hears confessions from 5:00 – 6:00 p.m.

KEEP CHRIST IN CHRISTMAS SIGNS

The Ithaca Knights of Columbus will be handing out signs after Masses at both locations. Please only take one per family this first weekend to make sure we have enough for everyone. Thank you, Knights, for offering us this gift for evangelization!

GIVING TREES

The CCW and the St. Martin Altar Society are sponsoring giving trees at both church locations. Please take a tag from the tree and return the gift indicated **wrapped and with the tag attached by Sunday, December 19th**. The gifts will be distributed that week.

CHRISTMAS MASSES FOR NATIVITY IN ALMA

For your information here are the Mass times for Nativity of the Lord (All Masses are at the Mount St. Joseph Church in St. Louis):
Christmas Eve: 4:30 pm and 7:00 pm
Christmas Day: 10:00 am

WREATHS

The St. Martin Altar Society wreaths will be delivered to St. Paul on **December 12th**.