



ST. PAUL THE APOSTLE

FALL 2022



Mass of Celebration & Gratitude
Thank you, parish benefactors and volunteers!

St. Paul the Apostle Catholic Church
91 East Main Street
Norwalk OH 44857
www.stpaulchurch.org
419-668-6044

Photo courtesy of Jackie Houck



PASTOR'S PEN

FALL 2022 | 2

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

It is a joy to be with you all during this season of Thanksgiving, Advent, and Christmas in my first year as the Pastor of St. Paul the Apostle Catholic Church. I grew up in Napoleon, Ohio at St. Augustine parish. St. Augustine is one of the Doctors of the Church; his intellectual brilliance helped establish much of the theology we take for granted today. I found one of his quotes to be perfect for the holy card for my First Mass celebrated at St. Augustine 13 years ago:

"O venerable dignity of priests, in whose hands, as in the womb of the Blessed Virgin, the Son of God becomes incarnate."

I loved this quote because it spoke of so many aspects of our faith: the priesthood and the Eucharist, the Blessed Virgin Mary, the Incarnation of Jesus, and the dignity of life in the womb. Indeed, all these themes are central to our celebration of Christmas. We invite you to join us for Christmas Mass this year as we celebrate the great mysteries of our faith. As your new pastor, I also encourage you to join us for Mass every Sunday; in this post-Covid era, many have fallen away from the practice of attending Sunday Mass. If you too have fallen out of the practice of weekly Mass, now is the time to return. Our hope is that 2023 will be a year of deepened faith in the Holy Eucharist, the Real Presence of our dear Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

Know that I keep you and all our parishioners in daily prayer, that together we may be a holy people united in faith, worshipping our newborn King, Christ the Lord.

God bless you,

J. Reckin



We honor Our Lady...

OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE

MASS & CELEBRATION

SUNDAY | DECEMBER 4

11:45 AM | INDIAN DANCERS, HOT COCOA & MEXICAN SWEET ROLLS | COURTHOUSE

12:00 PM | PROCESSION & ROSARY TO CHURCH

12:30 PM | REENACTMENT OF THE MIRACLE OF OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE

1:00 PM | MASS

3:00 PM | FIESTA IN THE CONVOCATION CENTER



IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

HOLY DAY MASSES

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 7

7:00 PM

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 8

6:15 AM, 8:30 AM, 10:00 AM

7:00 PM (IN SPANISH)

COMFORT & JOY

ADVENT CONCERT

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 11, 2022, 7 PM
ST. PAUL THE APOSTLE, NORWALK, OH



Steve Angrisano



Sarah Hart

Tickets: Adults \$20
Children (Ages 7-17): \$10
Purchase online using the QR code.
This event will **not** be available via the parish live stream.





From the ordinary to the extraordinary. I suppose that's how you could describe our journey from the many weeks of ordinary time into Advent. People tend to notice the difference, and it's not hard to, really. You can't really miss the fact that Christmas is coming; Hobby Lobby (sincerely my favorite store) has had Christmas décor since September. And so, it begins – the dive into the craziness of the holiday season. It's as if, even though society tends to push Christ aside, they too know that something special is coming. But what is missed is that the something special we are waiting for is always here.

As Fr. Jim Sichko reminded us in our parish mission, we have something extraordinary in front of us every single day - Christ in the Eucharist. That reality never leaves us. It's present at every offered Mass, present in the tabernacle as we pray, present in our Adoration chapel, a gift eternal, offered in the most ordinary, and in the most extraordinary times. A gift with ordinary external appearance and extraordinary grace. If you were able to join us for our parish mission, I hope that you were able to experience this grace as we prayed in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament, sang, laughed, cried, and grew together in faith. I pray that the inspiration shared at the mission, and the grace given to us in the Eucharist, inspires you to share Christ with others and to invite them home to the Catholic Church this Advent!

There are no shortages of amazing things gearing up at the parish this Advent! In what has become tradition, we will bless our Advent wreath, welcome back St. Nick, bring our Bambinelli to church for blessings, honor Our Lady of Guadalupe, and gather again for a reimagined Sip and Shop event! We are also pleased to be hosting the *Comfort and Joy* Advent Tour with Sarah Hart and Steve Angrisano on December 11th. We are blessed with many offerings for all ages here at St. Paul, providing a variety of ways to support personal faith growth and our domestic churches, empowering each of us to evangelize and welcome those who are new and those who have fallen away back to our Church.

As we ponder the gift of God becoming man this Advent, I invite you to use this time to invite someone (or yourself) home to the Catholic Church, to rediscover the extraordinary, wonder, and mystery of the Catholic faith. As we sat at the final night of the parish mission, with everyone singing as the organ music and incense filled the air of a church filled to capacity, my 7-year-old said to me "Everyone is here!". Remember that the Mass and our community isn't the same without you!

See you at Mass!



den



RITE OF WELCOME

Our parish second graders who are preparing for the Sacraments of Reconciliation and First Holy Communion and our teens who are preparing for Confirmation were enrolled in the Rite of Welcome the weekend of October 29 & 30. Please keep these young people and their families in your prayers!



BELONGING & BELIEVING

FALL 2022 | 4



LITTLE FLOWERS GIRLS' CLUB

At their October meeting, the girls in our parish Little Flowers Girls' Club rolled their own beeswax candles to go along with the virtue of *eutrapelia* and the joy or pleasantness that can be associated with lighting candles!



OKTOBERFEST

An abundance of German food and desserts was enjoyed at our parish Oktoberfest in September!



RELICS

At our Meet & Eat Luncheon in October, Fr. Recker shared with us about his personal relics and our parish relics. Our parish relics are of St. John Bosco, St. Gerard Majella, St. John Vianney and St. Francis Xavier.



TRUNK OR TREAT

Young and older alike enjoyed the treats and costumes at our 4th Annual Trunk or Treat! Ministry groups and parish families joined in the fun of decorating a vehicle and passing out treats!



LECTOR COMMISSIONING

Current lectors recently completed their annual formation and were commissioned at Masses the weekend of October 29 & 30. Thank you for proclaiming His Word for us at Mass!



**MEET & EAT LUNCHEON**

Continuing to celebrate the Saints, a group of Norwalk Catholic students dressed as Saints and shared about their Saints' lives at our November luncheon.

Mark your calendars for our December luncheon - Thursday, December 1 at noon in the Gathering Space. Wear a Christmas sweater or tie and be ready to sing some carols!

**MASS OF REMEMBRANCE**

On the Feast of All Souls, we remembered our parishioners who died during this last year. Their names are written in our parish *Book of Life*. May we continue to pray for them and their families.

PARISH MISSION - 60 MINUTES FOR JESUS!

Energized, bold, joyful, faith-filled, passionate, compassionate... how would you describe Fr. Jim Sichko to others? How did your time at our parish mission change and enrich you, your prayer life, your faith?



CELEBRATING OUR CATHOLIC FAITH

FALL 2022 | 6

FROM THE ST. PAUL LITURGY COMMITTEE

Greetings from the Liturgy Committee!

Over the next few months, we will explore the various roles of ministry within the Church. However, the most important role in the Church is the Ministry of the Assembly... YOU! Whenever we gather in church and participate actively, consciously, and fully in the Eucharistic Mystery, we become Christ's Body through the power of the Holy Spirit. We, the Church, form Christ's body on Earth and make Christ physically present to the world. Every time we participate through prayer, song, and celebration of these Sacred Mysteries, we are supporting and encouraging one another and strengthening each other's faith thus in turn, strengthening the Body, the Church. Did you know that all ministers, including the presider, are members of the assembly? As we begin to explore various ministries within our church, we invite you to prayerfully reflect on how you are being called to serve as members of the Body of Christ.



FROM THE ST. PAUL EUCHARISTIC MINISTER LEADERSHIP TEAM

An exciting year ahead! Revival's in the Air!

Our world is hurting. We all need healing, yet many of us are separated from the very source of our strength. Jesus Christ invites us to return to the source and summit of our faith: his Real Presence in the Eucharist. The National Eucharistic Revival is a movement by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops to restore understanding and devotion to this great sacrament of the Holy Eucharist in the United States.

Launched on the Solemnity of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ, or Corpus Christi, the first year invites diocesan staff, bishops, and priests to what Pope Francis has described as "a renewed personal encounter with Jesus Christ"—particularly the transforming power and mercy of Jesus in the Holy Eucharist. Each Diocese will offer events that encourage the faithful to grow in their understanding and devotion to Christ in the Eucharist, complemented by online formation and resources (eucharisticrevival.org) that will raise up Eucharistic Missionaries at all levels of the Church! Please join us in prayer for the renewal and healing of the United States as we answer this historic call to revival. USCCB, eucharisticrevival.org.

The Diocese of Toledo Just announced their first initiative in our celebration of this revival. It is a contest for young people to reflect on the question: *What does the Eucharist mean to me?* Children and teens may find directions and a place to submit their work at toledodiocese.org/eucharist.

The following year, starting June 11, 2023, is the year of Parish Revival and the third year is the National Eucharistic Congress. At this historic event, more than 80,000 Catholics of all ages will gather in Indianapolis to worship our Risen Lord in His humble disguise. The Holy Spirit will enkindle a missionary fire in the heart of our nation as we reconsecrate ourselves to the source and summit of our faith. You might want to put that on your calendar now and make plans to attend on July 17-21, 2024!!

During this first year of the National Eucharistic Revival, let each of us spend time praying in front of the tabernacle and attending Mass to receive the Holy Sacrament with a most deep devotion to the Eucharist.





PRAISE & WORSHIP NIGHT ~ Reflecting on God's Grace

This past summer, our praise and worship music group attended the concert by Matt Maher at the Huron County Fair. He is a Catholic Christian musician whom many admire, and he has beautiful songs that speak right to your soul. At his concert, he said, "Music has a beautiful way of taking the emotions we are feeling and putting them into words." And I couldn't have felt that more. Music can take emotions and turn them into beautiful prayers, not because God needs to hear our words; He already knows, but so that we can feel God in our prayers. We felt so much of God's presence at that concert that we wanted to take our gifts and share them with our community - through a Praise & Worship evening.

During our first Praise & Worship night on October 23rd, we encouraged everyone to come exactly as they are and to experience God's grace. It can be so tempting to think that you have to have it all together to worship God. Yet, what I love about scripture is that God didn't work with the people who had it all together; in fact, he often picked the people with very messy lives. St. Paul, our patron Saint, persecuted Christians, and God looked at him and saw someone who could do great things, once he was in a relationship with Him.

God gave St. Paul grace. We see this in 2nd Corinthians: 12. God says to him, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness". St. Paul replies, "Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me. That is why, for Christ's sake, I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties. For when I am weak, then I am strong."

In our weaknesses, God has the power to get all the glory. If God's grace is enough for St. Paul, it's certainly enough for you. You have been given this grace abundantly, not because of anything you've done, but because you are a child of God.

We had a beautiful night opening our hearts to God, giving thanks for His grace, and fueling our souls so that we could go out and be His light in the places that life takes us. We are so blessed to share music and Jesus with all of you. We hope to see you at our next praise and worship night.

~ Ashley Schoen

Interested in learning more about our Praise & Worship music group? Please contact Kathleen Sigsworth (419-656-8097). Vocalists and instrumentalists welcome!





Prayer

Prayer is our relationship with God. The most important prayer of all is the Mass, in which we hear God's word and receive Jesus in the Eucharist. Prayer also can be that of thanksgiving, praise, petition or forgiveness. The purpose is to stay connected to God so as to do His divine will.

"Prayer is my continuous dialogue throughout the day with one whom I love and one who loves me, God himself. Everything I am and all that I have (spouse, family, health, work, home) are gifts from Him. I give him praise, thanksgiving and my love. We chat, joke around, and seriously communicate during all the day's activities. This helps me to remain open to God's will for me with attentiveness, perseverance, patience and humility."

'Jesus be my all; I am entirely thine.'"
~ Val French

Service

Everyone has been given special gifts from God, and each of these gifts is valuable in carrying out God's plan.

"Serving Jesus by volunteering at our Parish has been very rewarding and filled with so many blessings. You can never out-give God. He always gives back so much more than you can possibly give."

~ Jerry Hettel

Sharing

The Church is one of the gifts God has given to us. As stewards, we show our thanks for this gift by sharing a meaningful portion of our treasure. Our giving demonstrates our faith and trust that our Lord will take care of us.

"Giving is a privilege, not an obligation, and we are in fact the ones who are blessed by it."

~ Debbie Scavuzzo

Interested in learning more about our parish Stewardship Ministry and/or joining our team? Please contact Sue Riley (419-541-1912) or Lisa Hedrick (419-668-6044).

Stewardship: A Way of Life

November is traditionally a time of giving thanks and counting our many blessings. Stewardship acknowledges that God is the source of all our gifts and talents and that we are the caretakers - year-round. According to the pastoral letter "Stewardship: A Disciple's Response" (USCCB, 2002), stewards do these four things:

- Receive God's gifts gratefully
- Nurture God's gifts responsibly
- Share God's gifts justly & charitably
- Return those gifts to God abundantly

Gratitude is the "state of being grateful" as defined by Merriam-Webster. It is the cornerstone of Stewardship. In good times it is often easier to be grateful, but as our parish patron St. Paul wrote: "In all circumstances give thanks, for this is the will of God for you in Christ Jesus." 1 Thessalonians 5:18

While gratitude is essential, we are called to respond further. Fr. Thomas J. Connery explains in *The Heart That Gives*, that "Generosity is putting our faith into practice."¹ Our many blessings are "not just for our satisfaction, but are given so that we may do good with them."² We are called to express our gratitude by a life of generosity - in prayer, service, and sharing - in love and service to God and others.

St. Paul Parish is alive with your generosity - in your prayers, your ministry work, and your financial support of our parish!

Thank you, Faithful Stewards!

St. Paul Stewardship Team

Lisa Hedrick, Sue Riley, Marcia Roth, Frank Van Dresser, Sr.

The Heart That Gives, Fr. Thomas J. Connery. 2013 Creative Communications for the Parish. 1. p 17; 2. p 7.

Copies of *The Heart That Gives* can be found in the back of church. Please take one!



As you reflect on your many blessings, we invite you to complete the form below as a guide for your personal stewardship goals in the coming year.

Prayer

I will strengthen my prayer life by: _____

Service

I will serve others by: _____

Sharing

I will give to the work of St. Paul Parish and the Diocese of Toledo:

Sunday Offering/ Online Giving: _____

Annual Catholic Appeal: _____

Living Christ Campaign: _____



FROM THE ST. PAUL CEMETERY BOARD

During this month of November, when we celebrate All Saints' Day and All Souls' Day, and remember all those who have died, it seems fitting to share some information regarding the Church's perspective on death, the appropriate disposal of remains, and how we can be of service to you in settling your end-of-life plans.

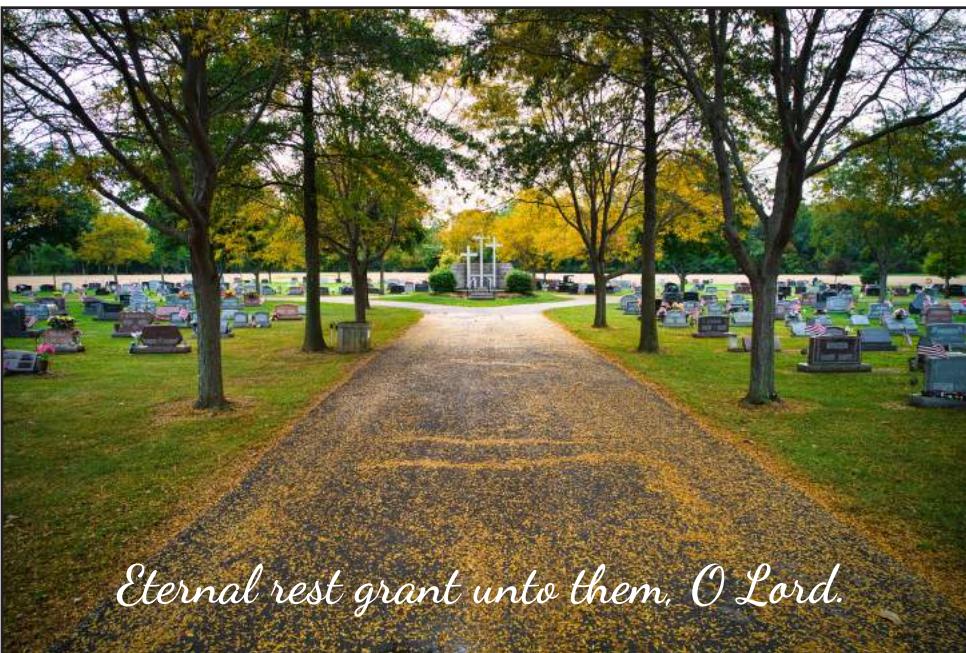
Death, as seen through the eyes of a Christian, is not the end; it is simply a natural passageway to a changed life with God. When we are baptized, we are brought to a sacred place, a Catholic Church, and baptized into the mystery of Christ's death and resurrection – thus giving us the promise of eternal life. When one of our loved ones dies, we may celebrate a funeral liturgy and take their remains to the sacred grounds of a Catholic cemetery while they await the resurrection of the dead and the promise of eternal life. Burial in a Catholic cemetery is a statement of continued belief in that everlasting life, even in death. Cemeteries hold the earthly remains of our family members and friends who have shared their love, fellowship, and faith with us. Although a grave may evoke sadness, a grave in a Catholic cemetery is also a sign of hope in God and His promise of everlasting life.

In recent years we have seen an increase in the number of cremation burials. The Order of Christian Funerals states, "Although cremation is now permitted by the church, it does not enjoy the same value as burial of the body. The body of a deceased Catholic Christian is also the body once washed in baptism, anointed with the oil of salvation, and fed with the Bread of Life. Thus, care should be taken to prepare the bodies of the deceased for a burial that befits their dignity, in expectation of their final resurrection in the Lord. The cremated remains of a body should be treated with the same respect given to the human body from which they come. This includes the use of a worthy vessel to contain the ashes, the manner in which they are carried, and the care and attention to appropriate placement and transport, and the final disposition. The cremated remains should be buried in a grave or entombed in a mausoleum or columbarium. The practice of scattering cremated remains on the sea, from the air, or on the ground, or keeping cremated remains in the home of a relative or friend of the deceased are not the reverent disposition that the Church requires." (Nos. 412, 413, 417)

We are pleased that we were able to install a columbarium in our cemetery last year. It is just one of the options we offer for the proper disposition of cremains.

We strongly encourage you to pre-plan for your funeral/burial. When you pass, your loved ones will be grieving and may not feel sure of your wishes; this can make it difficult for them to make decisions on your behalf. Choosing your type and place of burial, as well as choosing the readings and music for your funeral liturgy, will ensure your wishes are honored, as well as giving your loved ones peace of mind.

To purchase a burial lot or a columbarium niche in advance, please contact Kate McKinney at 419-668-9587 or katem@stpaulchurch.org. For immediate need at the time of death, the funeral director at the funeral home of your choice will work directly with our office to assist with arrangements for the Funeral Mass and burial. To pre-plan your funeral liturgy, please contact Ruth Weisenberger at raweisenberger82@gmail.com or call the parish office.





ANNUAL PARISH REPORT

FALL 2022 | 10

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

This annual report is an indication of your great care and stewardship of our parish. Thank you for your sacrificial gifts that have helped our parish and school maintain a high level of excellence and spiritual enrichment.

May God bless you and your families.

J. Reckn

Annual Report to the Parish 2021-2022

Parishioner Gifts

Weekly Offerings	\$1,369,900
Christmas and Easter	\$122,798
Bequests and Unrestricted Gifts	\$164,340
Other Receipts	\$90,671
	<u>\$1,747,710</u>

Gifts at Work in Our Parish

Norwalk Catholic School	\$980,000
Staffing	\$330,262
Diocesan Assessments	\$91,289
Ministries	\$122,049
Facilities	\$64,734

Statement of Financial Position

As At June 30, 2022

Cash	\$78,609
Saving Accounts	\$258,171
Chauvin Funds	\$275,609
Weisenberger Investment Fund	\$594,721
Endowment Fund	\$835,710
	\$2,042,820
Total Liabilities	(\$8,172)
Net Assets	\$2,050,992

Chauvin and Missler Investment Funds

Balance at June 30, 2021	\$411,859
Earnings and Fund Appreciation	(\$136,250)
Balance at June 30, 2022	\$275,609

Robert & Leona Weisenberger Investment Funds

Balance at June 30, 2021	\$668,754
Earnings and Fund Appreciation	(\$74,033)
Balance at June 30, 2022	\$594,721

St. Paul Endowment Fund

Balance at June 30, 2021	\$979,958
Principal Additions	\$100
Earnings and Fund Appreciation	(\$144,348)
Balance at June 30, 2022	\$835,710

St. Paul Cemetery as At June 30, 2022

Cash	\$44,352
Long-Term Investments	\$159,482
Net Assets	\$203,834

Thank you for your support
of our parish mission!



Society of St. Vincent de Paul (SVdP)

Norwalk St. Paul Conference

Annual fiscal report October 1, 2021 to September 30, 2022 (12 Months)

Reported 10/26/2022

Rent	\$ 46,097
Electric	\$ 18,399
Gas	\$ 3,830
Propane	\$ 1,259
Water	\$ 5,121
Food (1)	\$ 7,425
Gasoline	\$ 970
Community/SVDP (2)	\$ 23,400
Office Expense	\$ 740
Other	<u>\$ 7,280</u>
Total	\$114,521

Adults assisted - 325
Children assisted - 249
Total applications - 240

(1) Large portions of this line item are regular help to the Norwalk Area Food Bank (NAFB). While we direct some aid in the form of food vouchers, most of our food needs are referred to NAFB. NAFB supplies food products directly to people in need.

(2) This line item is normally comprised of donations to SVdP International Disaster Fund and other SVdP conferences affected by hurricanes, fires, and other disasters. In addition, we regularly refer people in need to other sources of help such as Abigail Pregnancy Services, The Salvation Army, the Non-food Bank and other community organizations, for needs that we cannot provide. For that reason, we also help these organizations with product that is given directly to people in need.

It should be noted that 99% of your donations go directly to people in need.

Over the past 30 months, from March 2020 to September 2022, we have seen some trying times but have also seen a return to a more normal way we are able to conduct our daily lives. However, economic issues are an ever-present issue (e.g., expenses out-pacing income), especially for neighbors who are served by SVdP. In addition, some of the pandemic financial sources that had been available are no longer available. Therefore, we have had an increase in the number and the size of assistance requests. As a result, our assistance is starting to build toward more normal pre-pandemic levels.

The SVdP, Norwalk St Paul Conference provides immediate help with food, rent, utilities, and other related needs. We offer hope to individuals, giving them a chance to recover from their financial problems. In addition, we refer them to other agencies for additional temporary and long-term assistance and guidance, which is also an important part of our mission.

We call ourselves Vincentians in tribute to St. Vincent de Paul. What Vincentians have in common is a desire to serve those who are poor and suffering. In other words, Vincentians embrace the lonely, forgotten and alienated by providing services to anyone in need. Our motto is: *"There is no work of charity that is foreign to the society."*

To respect the wishes of those who donate to us and support our work, we do our best to verify the legitimacy of our clients' claims of need before providing any assistance. We also must keep in mind the spirit of Christ, who leads our ministry, which means we help our neighbors based on need without judging them.

The SVdP, Norwalk St Paul Conference would like to thank our generous parishioners and donors for the financial support you have given us. As an additional show of our appreciation, the SVdP, Norwalk St Paul Conference has a Mass offered every month for the intentions of our donors, the people we serve, and all Vincentians.

Many blessings to you,



Thank you, Ron & Rita Jaworski, for your many years of service to our community as volunteers with the St. Vincent de Paul Society, Norwalk Conference.

Vincentian members
SVdP, Norwalk St. Paul Conference

PARISH FAMILY BLESSINGS



Aislinn Fatima

Daughter of Sidia Hernandez

Wyatt Charles

Son of Justin & Jamie Hoepf

Santiago Elias

Son of Shawn & Ivonne Hughes

Regan Marie

Daughter of Zackary & Krista Miller

Beau Stephen

Son of Stephen & Kimberly Mutchler

Theodore Johann

Son of Johann & Angela Tonnessen

Laney Ilene

Daughter of Travis & Katie Weisenberger

IN MEMORIAM

Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord.

James Ackerman

Helen Boose

Virginia Bungard

Sandra Grosswiler

Benjamin Parker

David Ringholz

Frances Ringlein

Emma Schweizer



Mr. & Mrs. Daniel & Anna (Rospert) Adelman

Mr. & Mrs. Matthew & Gina (Holmes) Van Dootingh

Mr. & Mrs. Greg & Katelyn (Welfle) Patrick

Mr. & Mrs. Keaton & Andrea (Malfara) Wineman

Mr. & Mrs. Jaret & Gabrielle (Mink) Nickoli

Mr. & Mrs. Corey & Emily (Smith) Zelinski



St. Paul the Apostle Catholic Church
91 East Main St.
Norwalk OH 44857

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We wait in joyful expectation...

ADVENT EVENING PRAYER

WEDNESDAYS | 7:00 PM
NOVEMBER 30, DECEMBER 14 & 21

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

DAY OF GRACE | WEDNESDAY | DECEMBER 14
8:00 AM - 8:00 PM
TUESDAY | DECEMBER 20 & THURSDAY | DECEMBER 22
12:00 - 1:00 PM & 6:00 - 7:00 PM

CHRISTMAS LITURGIES

SATURDAY | DECEMBER 24
4:30 PM, 6:30 PM
8:30 PM (IN SPANISH), 11:00 PM
SUNDAY | DECEMBER 25
10:00 AM



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