



## Celebrating 96 Years

### St. Paul Catholic School

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### Mission Statement

Inspired by the charism of the Franciscan Sisters of Allegany, the mission of St. Paul Catholic School is to provide students with a foundation for life through faith, academics, and service and to assist students in developing their gifts and talents, so that they may fulfill the plan God has for their lives.

# St. Paul Catholic School

## Eagle Update

Deeply Rooted in Knowledge, Faith, and Family

December 12, 2025



The Third Sunday of Advent invites us to something simple yet spiritually courageous, **JOY**. The rose candle tells us that the waiting is nearly over. Christ is drawing close. We are called to rejoice—not because life is perfect, but because **God is faithful**. Joy is not a feeling we manufacture—it is a gift that rises within us when we recognize God's presence in our lives.

In the Gospel for Sunday, John the Baptist appears not pointing to himself but urging others to “make straight the way of the Lord.” John’s mission is clear and humble: to help others recognize the One already in their midst. His example teaches us that joy grows when we step out of the way and allow Christ to shine through our actions, our kindness, and our readiness to serve.

As we move toward Christmas, may we open our hearts to this unmistakable joy. Let us look for God in the quiet moments, in the faces of those we meet, and say, **Rejoice, the Lord is near!** May our joy be a light for others, reminding them that God walks with us, now and always.

### HELP! DECORATE THE CHURCH FOR CHRISTMAS

As we prepare our hearts and homes for Christmas, we also prepare our church for this beautiful feast. The St. Paul’s Women’s Ministry is looking for volunteers to help decorate the church on **Monday, Dec. 22nd at 9AM & Tuesday, December 23rd at 9:00 AM**. All are welcome, men, women, and teen students. Any amount of time that you can give on either or both of these days, will be greatly appreciated. For more information please contact the parish office at 727-744-223481. Thank you.



### SANTA PANCAKE BREAKFAST

The Knights of Columbus will hold their annual Christmas Pancake Breakfast with Santa on Sunday, December 14th after the 7:30 and 9:30 AM Masses. All are invited to enjoy the most delicious pancakes in all of St. Petersburg, and have their picture taken with Santa. We are grateful to the Knights for their continued support of our school.

### THANK YOU, MRS. FREITAS

We are deeply grateful to Mrs. Freitas, our Music Director, for the two outstanding Christmas Concerts that she conducted this week with students in grades EC 3 thru grade 4. She worked tirelessly and with lots of energy, and commitment to making these concerts a joyful blessing for our entire school community. On Tuesday evening, December 16th, we look forward to the middle school Christmas pageant that will take place in the church at 6:30 PM. Prior to the concert the rosary will be prayed in church at 6:15PM. All are encouraged to join in praying this rosary for peace in the world and in our families.



**Monday  
January 5  
Classes Resume**

**Monday  
January 12  
Registration New  
Families & Re-  
Registration for  
2026-2027**

**Tuesday  
January 13  
Home & School  
PDQ Spirit Night  
(4526 4th St. N)**

**Wednesday  
January 14  
8th Grade Individual  
Formal Pictures  
8:30AM**

**Monday  
January 19  
NO SCHOOL  
Martin Luther King  
Holiday**

**Wednesday  
January 21  
Mass for Moms  
8:15AM  
Light reception to  
follow in cafeteria**

**Friday  
January 23  
Class T- Shirt  
Spirit Wear**

**Scholastic Book Fair  
January 25-30  
Cafeteria**

## **LORD, MAKE US INSTRUMENTS OF YOUR PEACE!**

### **Pilgrimage Information from Msgr. Gibbons**

*Just in time for a Christmas gift for yourself or that special person in your life.*

Thirteen (13) people have already registered for the group pilgrimage that Msgr. Gibbons will lead October 20-29, 2026, to the Mediterranean islands of Sicily and Malta. He will host an Information Meeting on Tuesday, January 13th, at 6:00 p.m. for those interested in learning more about the pilgrimage. The meeting will be held in the Franciscan Room of the St. Paul's Parish Center. Detailed information on pricing, on what is included, the daily itinerary, and list of hotels can also be found at [www.206tours.com/msgrgibbons/sicily](http://www.206tours.com/msgrgibbons/sicily). Save \$200 per person if you register by Dec. 31st. Promo Code: Gibbons2026



Let us pray for an increase in vocations to the priesthood and religious life remembering in a special way our alum, Kevin Buete, who is currently studying for the priesthood; and healing for our sick relatives, friends, and benefactors especially Barry Foust, brother of Mrs. Julie Volpe, office secretary; Millie Price, school volunteer, Nino Cicioni, father of Cecelia Johnson, Kindergarten teacher assistant and grandfather of Sofia, Alessia, and Emilia Johnson; Carol Chenot, sister-in-law of Yadira Emery, EC 4 and Ext. Day assistant; Maria Teresa Palazzo, grandmother of Jane & Julia Buti; Lynn Thomas, great grandmother of Jacob and Charlotte Goodbread; and Mary Jensen, grandmother of Jacob and

Theo Jensen. We ask the Lord to lay His healing hands on these our loved ones. We pray also for our departed relatives, friends and benefactors. May their souls and all the souls of the faithful departed rest in peace. Amen.



### **PRAYER FOR 3rd SUNDAY IN ADVENT**

*Lord Jesus, You are the light in our darkness and the hope of all the world. Bless our family as we prepare for Your coming. Make our home a place of patience, kindness, and joy. Help us to notice the good in one another, to encourage each other, and to share Your love with those who are lonely or in need. Jesus, help us bring joy to others by our smiles, our words, and our good deeds. Amen.*