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# St Paul <sup>THE</sup> Apostle

CATHOLIC COMMUNITY  
A MINISTRY OF THE  
PAULIST FATHERS

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## Celebrate Advent Traditions: Jesse Tree



*A shoot will spring forth from the stump of Jesse, and a branch out of his roots.*      **Isaiah 11:1**

The Jesse Tree gets its name from Jesse, the father of King David and the line from which Jesus descended. The branches of the Jesse Tree are a biblical sign of newness out of discouragement.

Jesse Trees are an Advent tradition at St. Paul's. There are two bare-branched trees. One tree is for giving opportunities. Take an ornament, and discover an opportunity for a donation or good deed. The second tree allows us to ask for spiritual support from the community. Write a prayer request on a blank ornament and add it to the tree. You can make a prayer request on your own behalf or that of someone you know. [And yes, you can take a prayer request from the tree, include the intentions in your prayers, and return the ornament at the end of Advent.]

### Magnificat Advent Companion

Pick up a copy of the Magnificat Advent Companion 2017. Live advent to the full with daily Gospel readings and meditations plus poems, the O Antiphons and other special features. Pocket sized [4.3x6.7"] so you can carry it with you. Available in the church while supplies last.

### Advent Calendar

Enjoy a daily surprise from the Busted Halo advent calendar, on line at [www.bustedhalo.com/advent](http://www.bustedhalo.com/advent). Free and fun.

### Advent Wreath Festival

**Sunday, Dec. 3, 8:30 until 11:30  
a.m., Upper Social Hall**

Prepare for the Christmas season! Come on your own or with family or friends.

We'll have all the basics – wreath rings, evergreens and Advent candles – plus advice and encouragement.

Advent is a time of joyful anticipation. Start your Christmas season in a special way with the Advent Wreath Festival. \$10 donation requested to help cover materials cost.

## Reconciliation

**Tuesday, Dec. 5, 7 p.m.**

The community penitential rite includes scripture readings, meditative music and periods of silence for reflection. Afterwards, there is ample time for individual confession, in the reconciliation room or at stations throughout the church.

## Feast of the Immaculate Conception

**Friday, Dec. 8**

Masses on this Holy Day will be offered at 6:30 a.m. and in the evening at 5:30 and 7:30 p.m. There will be music at both evening Masses.

## Interfaith Christmas Concert

**Saturday, Dec. 9, 7 p.m.**

Hear choirs of all denominations including our Cathedral's Spanish Choir and our own New Schola Cantorum.

## Mass of Healing

The Sacrament of the Sick will be celebrated at one of the Sunday Masses in Advent. Anointing with oil is an ancient Church tradition, offering solace to those in need of physical, mental or emotional healing. See the bulletin for date and time.

## Flower Donations

It is a long-time custom to remember your loved ones at Christmas with a donation for Christmas flowers and décor. Please use the envelopes in the pews marked "Flower Offering" and clearly print your loved one's name.



## Virgin of Guadalupe, Mother of the Americas

**Monday, Dec. 11, 7 p.m. Mass**

The traditional date of this feast is Dec. 12. This year we will celebrate on the vigil.

Come early and offer a rose to Our Lady. Mass begins at 7 p.m. It will be celebrated in English, with special touches including an Aztec dance troupe.

Following the Mass, at about 8 p.m., gather in the JCPC for Mexican folklorico music, a raffle and traditional tamales.

Experience the fellowship of a fiesta at a celebration to bring us all together.

## Sandwich Builders

Friday, Dec. 15, 6 to 8 p.m., JCPC

Feed the hungry: help make 1,000 lunches for shelters throughout the city.

Bring the whole family! Sandwich-making begins at 6 p.m. [high school and older], bagging at 7 p.m. [smaller children welcome]. Check [www.sp-apostle.org](http://www.sp-apostle.org) for information and food donations needed.



## Christmas Tree Blessing

Lord our God,  
we praise you for the light of creation:  
the sun, the moon, and the stars of the night.

We praise you for the light of Israel:  
the Law, the prophets, and the wisdom of the Scriptures.

We praise you for Jesus Christ, your Son:  
he is Emmanuel, God-with-us, the Prince of Peace, who fills us with the wonder of your love.

Lord God,  
let your blessing come upon us  
as we illumine this tree.  
May the light and cheer it gives  
be a sign of the joy that fills our hearts.  
May all who delight in this tree  
come to the knowledge and joy of salvation.  
We ask this through Christ our Lord.

*Excerpted from [www.usccb.org](http://www.usccb.org)*

## Festival of Christmas Lessons & Carols

Sunday, Dec. 17, 3 p.m.  
in the Church

Hear the Christmas story beautifully proclaimed. Sing your favorite carols. Delight in festive Christmas music by the Caritas Chorus, the New Schola Cantorum and the Children's Christmas Choir.

Skip the mall and treat yourself to an afternoon of Christmas readings and music. Lessons & Carols will restore your Christmas spirit!

Reception follows in the JCPC, with traditional 'English Tea & Mince Pies.'



# MASSES OF CHRISTMAS

This year December 24 is both the Fourth Sunday of Advent and the Vigil of Christmas. The morning Masses on December 24 will celebrate the Fourth Sunday of Advent at 7:30, 9:30 and 11:30 a.m., as will the vigil Mass at 5 p.m. on December 23.

## Christmas Eve

### Sunday, December 24

- ✠ **4 p.m. Family Mass**  
Children's Christmas Choir [concert begins at 3:40]
- ✠ **7 p.m. Evening Mass**  
St. Paul's Christmas Carolers [carols begin at 6:40]
- ✠ **10 p.m. Night Mass**  
Glorious music by the New Schola Cantorum. Carols begin at 9:30. Carols, choral arrangements and organ music

## Christmas Day

### Monday, December 25

- ✠ **9:30 a.m. Christmas Morning Mass**  
with music by the Caritas Chorus [carols begin at 9:10]
- ✠ **11:30 a.m. Christmas Day Mass**  
with music by the New Schola Cantorum. Carols beginning at 11 a.m. – carols, choral arrangements and glorious organ music
- ✠ Please note: there is no 7:30 a.m. or 5 p.m. Mass on Christmas Day

