

St. Paul Cathedral
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January 19, 2012

“St. Paul Cathedral Parish is a diverse body of Catholic people whom God calls by name, given a mission by Jesus Christ to be a faithful sign, a realistic foretaste and an instrument of the Kingdom of God. As Cathedral parishioners, we recognize our responsibility to show leadership by example and to provide service to God’s people.”

My Dear Parishioners:

A brand new year to begin again our efforts to bring Christ more visibly and forcefully to our city and community. Again, our sincere thanks to all who contributed so generously by sharing time, talent and treasure with our parish during 2011.

1. Coinciding with the New Year is our new beginning of the RCIA process, which began last Monday. Even though it has been going for a week, it is not too late to join in. Our dedicated team for the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adult Process is eager to share Faith with all-comers. This also provides a challenge for all of us to really exercise our ministry as Apostles of Jesus Christ. An apostle is: “one who is sent to bring the Good News to others.” When was the last time you invited someone, family, friend or fellow worker or student to come and see.” This new series of inquiry sessions, which began last Monday and continues weekly on Mondays at 7:00 p.m. in the Cathedral Center (3rd floor of our school, East entrance and elevator to the 3rd floor) provides an opportunity not only for those seeking the truth in the spiritual journey, but also to all others to become involved as sponsors, god parents, support team, etc. Call Colette Sattler at 457-4717, Mary Evenson at 453-6142 or Rick Pinnell at 961-2420 for information and the opening of opportunities for involvement. **INVITE SOMEONE TO ATTEND THE NEXT SESSION ON MONDAY EVENING AT 7:00 P.M. IN THE CATHEDRAL CENTER WITH YOU!**
2. Mass for Life
Bishop Tyson, our Ordinary invites all of you to join him for a special MASS FOR LIFE, this next Monday evening at 6:00 p.m. in our Cathedral. “On this day following the anniversary of the Supreme Court decision ‘Roe vs. Wade,’ we are directed that ALL DIOCESES OF THE UNITED STATES shall observe a Day of Prayer for the Legal Protection of Unborn Children.” In response to this directive – **YOU ARE NOT ONLY INVITED, BUT STRONGLY ENCOURAGED** to join us this special celebration as PRO-LIFE PEOPLE, which we are a Catholic Christians – a wonderful way to reaffirm our conviction of the value and dignity of all human life.
3. Wednesday is the Feast of the Conversion of St. Paul, our parish patron. We, as this Cathedral Parish of St. Paul, turn to him and ask that through his example and intercession, our parish family be kept safe from danger and inspired to imitate his fearlessness in proclaiming the truths of our Catholic Faith. We end our Christian Unity Octave with this great feast! Keep praying for unity among the followers of Jesus!!
4. By the way, our Bishop Emeritus, Carlos A. Sevilla, S.J., observes the 23rd anniversary of his Episcopal Ordination on that same day, the Feast of the Conversion of St. Paul. If you would like to congratulate and remember him on that day, greetings can be sent to him at 5301-A Tieton Drive, Yakima, 98908 (and on February 17th he marks his 15th Anniversary of Installation as the sixth Bishop of Yakima).
5. The week of January 29th – February 4th is Catholic Schools’ Week. We are especially blessed to have such a fine school as our own St. Paul Cathedral School as an essential part of our parish. With its fine principal dedicated and competent teachers and staff, it is a major and important part of our community of Faith here at St. Paul’s.
In addition, we are enriched by the other Catholic Schools of our city and neighborhood: St. Joseph/Marquette and LaSalle High School. Together our schools give witness to the sacrifices and generosity of our people.
The 9:00 a.m. Mass in our Cathedral on Sunday, January 19th will be a special observance to honor our school; students, faculty, staff, and alumni and will serve as the kick-off for Catholic Schools’ Week. The combined schools will gather at Holy Family Church on Friday, February 3rd for the traditional all-schools Mass at 8:30 a.m. Come, join us, and rejoice in the rich heritage and presence of vibrant Catholic education in our community!!
6. On Friday, February 3rd, I give special thanks to God for my own gift of priesthood as I observe my 54th Anniversary of Ordination. Thirty-two years of those 54, I have been privileged to serve here at our Cathedral Parish and for this I give special thanks!!
7. On Sunday, February 12th, the Sunday nearest to Valentines’ Day, we shall offer the Renewal of Marriage

Vows and Blessing of Families, usually celebrated on the Feast of the Holy Family (which this year, because of Christmas falling on Sunday was observed on a weekday).

8. Well, by the time I send another missive, we will be anticipating another Lenten Season, a special Season of Grace. "Times goes so fast, when we are having fun.

May God continues to bless and keep you and yours.

Devotedly in Christ,

Rev. Msgr. John A. Ecker
Pastor