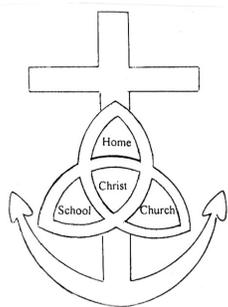


# ST. PAUL EV. LUTHERAN CHURCH

December 2022



Building Relationships  
in Christ  
Now and Forever

## St Paul Ev Lutheran Church

1415 Tenth Ave  
Rochelle IL 61068  
Ph: 815-562-2744

Church Email:  
stpaul2@rochelle.net

Website: stpaulev.org  
Greg Hoffmann, Pastor  
After hours: 562-6155  
Marcia Schnorr, CLM  
Parish Nurse  
After hours: 562-6823

## St. Paul Lutheran School

Ph: 815-562-6323

Steve Hall, Principal  
School Email:  
stpaul@rochelle.net  
Website:  
stpaulrochelleil.org

## JOIN US!

In person at  
6:00pm Saturday  
or 9:00am Sunday



OR

FacebookLive  
At 9:00 am

OR

WRHL Radio  
1060AM  
At 10:00 am  
Or  
93.5 FM

## CELEBRATE CHRISTMAS

What is Christmas Day (Christ's mass) all about? Judging by our society it has little religious or significant meaning. For the first 300 years of Christianity, it wasn't even observed. When was Christmas first celebrated? In an old list of Roman bishops, compiled in A. D. 354 these words appear for A.D. 336: "25 Dec.: natus Christus in Betleem Judeae." December 25th, Christ born in Bethlehem, Judea. This day, December 25, 336, is the first recorded celebration of Christmas.

For the first three hundred years of the church's existence, birthdays were not given much emphasis--not even the birth of Christ. The day on which a saint died was considered more significant than his or her birth, as it ushered him into the kingdom of heaven.

No one knows for sure on what day Christ was born. How did Christmas come to be celebrated on December 25th? Cultures around the Mediterranean and across Europe observed feasts on or around December 25th, marking the winter solstice. The Jews had a festival of lights. Germans had a yule festival. Celtic legends connected the solstice with Balder, the Scandinavian sun god who was struck down by a mistletoe arrow. At the pagan festival of Saturnalia, Romans feasted and gave gifts to the poor. Drinking was closely connected with these pagan feasts. At some point, a Christian bishop may have adopted the day to keep his people from indulging in the old pagan festival.

Many of the pagan customs became associated with Christmas. But over the years, gift exchanges became connected with the name of St. Nicholas, a real but legendary pastor of 4th century Lycia (a province of Asia). A charitable man, he threw gifts into windows of homes.

Around the thirteenth century, Christians added one of the most pleasant touches of all to Christmas celebration when they began to sing Christmas carols. By the end of the sixteenth century, Christmas trees were common in Germany. It is believed that Luther cut the first, took it home, and decked it with candles to represent the stars.

Bethlehem was identified as the birthplace of the Messiah. (**see Micah 5:2 / Luke 2:1-7**). For generations following, when visitors came looking for where the Messiah was born, the residents of Bethlehem knew and pointed where. The Church of the Holy Nativity is one of the most attested and verifiable historical/archeological sites in the Holy Land. By God's Word we travel to Bethlehem to worship, give thanks and be awed by His Love and Grace, as **"The Word became flesh and dwelt among us."**

Whatever the ins and outs of Christmas, we are still unwrapping the gift of God's Son—His Grace and Love to share and celebrate together. Let's CELEBRATE !

A Blessed and Peace-filled Christmas!

( + Colossians 2:2 + )

## O, COME LET US

### WORSHIP HIM

We have been blessed that in God's Word and by His Spirit, we are given this wonderful Gift of Jesus as Savior. As the Holy Couple, those in the stable, the shepherds and later the wise men, we can kneel in wonder at this Baby, God in the flesh and worship Him.

We will have opportunities to draw close and invite others to see, sing and share this Messiah who loves us. Plan on making worship the center of your Christmas celebrations. Join in worshipping Him.

Dec. 14 (Wednesday) at 7:00 p.m. for  
"Mid-week Advent Worship"

Dec. 24 (Saturday) at 4:00 p.m. for  
"Family Christmas Worship"

Dec. 24 (Saturday) at 7:00 p.m. for  
"Candlelight Worship"

Dec. 25 (Sunday) at 9:00 a.m. for  
"Christmas Day Worship"

Dec. 31—NO CONTEMPORARY WORSHIP

Jan. 1 (Sunday) at 9:00 a.m. for  
"New Year's Day Worship"



### Time to Get Ready!

The Advent season has begun! Although it is sometimes seen as the time to get ready for Christmas, it is really a time to get ready for Christ's Final Return on the Last Day. He promised to come to our world to provide salvation, and He promised to come to bring us to Himself. This is the theme of Advent. We usually find ourselves making a mixture of Advent and Christmas with being prepared and ready for celebrating both of His Comings.

On **Wednesday, December 14<sup>th</sup>** we will have our only Mid-week Advent worship at **7 p.m.**

In the quiet of the evening we gather to worship and hold on to the promises that the One who came to save us, is coming again to bring us to glory.

## MONTHLY MISSION OFFERING



For the month of December, we will be gathering baby items for our local Crisis Pregnancy Center. Instead of a monetary gift, we are asking all of you to bring items for babies, as

Jesus came as a Baby with needs, so many babies coming into this world need help.

The babies and their mothers are usually in desperate conditions, as the choice to give life brings some hardships. We want to lovingly support and supply these new lives with the necessities of life and offer a good start in life.

For the entire month of December and the first part of January, we will have a bassinette in the back of church where you can drop off your gifts for babies.

There is a need for all kinds of clothing, blankets, disposable diapers, toys, socks and other supplies. Bring them often as you come to church.

We are blessed in being able to take care of and support these new lives and their mothers who have brought them into the world.

## CHRISTMAS IS FOR KIDS!

Come and share the joy of Christmas at our school Christmas Program on **Sunday, December 11<sup>th</sup>** at **4:00 p.m.** Our students have been practicing for many weeks and look forward to sharing the Gift of Jesus with family and friends.



### Christmas Caroling



Join us on Sunday December 19<sup>th</sup> at 3pm for caroling to some of our shut-in members. All ages are welcome to come sing, you just need a willing spirit. It is always a lot of fun for the singers and a joy to our members. Thanks to the Inreach/Outreach Board for organizing.

### Christmas Trees

The Christmas trees will be put up on Sunday, December 4<sup>th</sup> after worship. Please stay if you can help put them up and/or decorate them. Thank you!

## BACK TO WHERE WE WERE

All of our lives were affected and changed in some manner because of the Covid virus. We were certainly blessed here as we only had a few weekends with no face-to-face worship! How wonderful to be able to reach many by our radio broadcast and the new Facebook Live broadcast; each of which are still being shared.

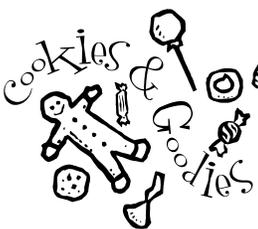
We made some adjustments so people could decide about how they would personally protect themselves, their families and neighbors. There were some changes with hand sanitizing (which continues), social distancing as appropriate, continuous communion, no common cup, offerings received in plates in the back, no fellowship and greeting times.

The Lord truly blessed us, as we took responsibility to care and share.

Beginning January 1, we will get back to where we were in some worship practices. We will keep offering plates in back and bring them forward to the altar. For the Lord's Supper, we will bring communicants to the railing. The distance between communicants is at personal discretion. The chalice / common cup will be offered for those desiring to receive the Blood of Christ at the Altar. Many have requested and truly desired to receive this, and we will offer to those who want it.

We know that we will not ever get back to where we had been, and we have a new normal. But we give thanks that the Gifts of Christ are not changed, altered or compromised as He freely offers them to us for our forgiveness, life and salvation. (These practices have been approved by Pastor and the Board of Elders.)

## Women's Guild Christmas Bake Sale



The Women's Guild will be having their annual Christmas bake sale on Dec. 17 & 18 after church. Anyone wishing to donate baked goods or candies to this event is more than welcome. This will be a free

will offering event and monies received will go towards needs of St. Paul.

## Mite Update

The LWML Ladies Bible Study groups have forwarded \$212.62 to LWML NID for LWML Mission Projects.

## Thank You

I would like to thank everyone for their prayers, thoughts and cards as I've been going through this difficult time. A special thank you to the ladies who brought me food while I was unable to cook for myself and to the W.O.W, ladies for coming to my house for our Bible study.

Terri Stover

## 125th ANNIVERSARY

Thank You to All who attended the Mission and Ministry Fair! It was a fun opportunity to learn about various education, service, and fellowship opportunities at St. Paul. We hope that all enjoyed the Exhibition Hall, the Food Court, unGames, and the Grand Stand at the Fair!



***Thank You for Celebrating our past, present, and now we look forward to God's Blessings in our future.***

## 125th Anniversary Bench

A cement bench will be placed at the entrance by the drop off to offer a seat and to acknowledge our 125th anniversary.

A \$10.00 donation "in memory of" or "in honor of" that will be listed in a framed sign and to be hung in the narthex. Forms will be on the table by the anniversary bulletin board during November and December.



Notes

*from the President*

After last Sunday's service I was talking with a few people when one mentioned "It is almost December already. I can't believe how fast this year has gone by!" I'm sure most of us have made the same statement at least one time in our lives. And so it does seem that time is moving faster. Especially now, as many begin the traditional holiday season. Between gift shopping, planning for that special meal, hosting family celebrations, making travel arrangements, etc., it all seems over-

whelming. And it can be if we let it.

Alternatively, we can focus on the reason for the season. We can focus on the birth of Jesus who came to rescue us from this sinful world. And we can focus on family and our family of believers here at St. Paul. As we have been granted peace from our Lord I ask that we all share our peace with each other during this season and beyond.

Have a Blessed Christmas

Bob Mortimer  
(312) 316-6519  
huskingpegfarm@gmail.com

## The Parish Nurse's Notes:

Dear St. Paul Family and Friends,

**“...Where are we to buy bread, so that these people may eat?”** John 6:5b

November through January are difficult on our waist lines due to holiday eating. Eating is a social event, eating (when, what, and how much) is an important part of the management of diabetes. This month I would like to discuss the A1C blood test that is so important in identifying prediabetes, diagnosing diabetes, and monitoring the treatment of diabetes.

It is a simple blood test—but it can tell a lot. It is not an account of your last meal or two. It is an average of your blood sugar for three months. The higher the number, the greater the risk for diabetic complications. Your doctor will tell you how often to have the test. Twice a year is quite common. You may need more often if the doctor is trying to adjust your treatment or if you have not yet hit your goal.

There is no one absolute goal. Much depends upon age and other factors, but the goal for most adults with diabetes is 7%. Results between 5.7-6.4% suggests prediabetes. Results of 6.5 or more indicates diabetes.

Another test that is often done with A1C is eAG (estimated average glucose). This is similar to the blood sugars from home monitoring. The eAG may be higher than the self test because most people do their home monitoring first thing in the morning and/or before meals.

There are several ways to diagnose diabetes, and the tests are usually repeated two days to have a firm diagnosis. Three different tests are usually used. They are the A1C with 6.5% or more. Fasting Blood Glucose (Sugar) in the diabetic is 126 or more. Results of 100-125 indicate prediabetes. Oral Glucose Tolerance Tests are performed 2 hours after drinking a specific sweet drink. A result of 200 or more is obtained in the diabetic. Results of 140-199 indicate prediabetes.

If you have prediabetes, it is possible to lower the risk of getting Type 2. If you have Type 2 diabetes is often possible to manage with diet and exercise (and perhaps an oral medication).

The when, what, and how often we eat is important in regulating blood sugar. Losing 7% of your body weight reduces the risk and helps with management. Even losing 10 pounds makes a big difference. Combining dietary control with exercise (30 minutes a day, five days a week) is an important part of management.

If I can assist you with your health and wellness goals, please feel free to contact me.

In His Service.....Marcy Schnorr, EdD, RN-BC, DCM-  
Parish Nurse

**Parish Nurse Office Hours** remain Monday through Friday mornings 8:00-11:30. You are also welcome to call Marcy's home later in the day (815-562-6823). If no one is home, please leave a message. Your call will be returned at the earliest opportunity.

**Nursing Home Christmas Gifts:** A small group will sort out the various donations on Friday, Dec. 2, in preparation for packing and delivering. If you have plastic grocery store bags to spare, please bring to the parish nurse office by the morning of December 2 to facilitate this project. These gifts are given to all nursing home residents in Rochelle. This is always more than 100 and has the potential for 200 depending upon the census at the facilities. The project is coordinated by the Board for Health and Human Care and the Senior Ministry at St. Paul.

**The gifts will be packaged and delivered on Saturday, December 3 (beginning at 9am). Help is always needed.** The more volunteers the quicker the job. With enough help, we are usually finished in about 2 hours. Thanks to Dorothy Schabacker for spending many hours throughout the year pre-wrapping the many tissue boxes.

**1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday** at Hawthorne Inn (10 am) and Lincoln Manor (11 am) are provided by Marcy in collaboration with Christian Senior Ministries. Anyone is welcome to join in this outreach activity. Marcy is sharing a glimpse of some of her world-wide mission and ministry experiences. In December, we will visit Palestine.

**OK Club** will meet at church on Friday, December 9<sup>th</sup> at noon. Carry-out lunch will be carry-outs from the Country School (chicken snack). After lunch, we will put together the Cheer boxes for our known homebound members. This is an act of love from the senior ministry. If you plan to attend, please contact Evelyn Hintzsche (815-562-4668).

**The Board for Health and Human Care will meet at 8:30am immediately before we begin packing the nursing home gifts (Dec. 3).**

**Senior Supper Club** will meet at church on Friday, December 16<sup>th</sup> with carry-outs from Vince's. A small Christmas card project and singing of some carols will be the diversion. If you plan to attend, please contact Dave Stewart at 815-973-4938.

**Thursday Worship Service** will be Thursday, Dec. 22 at 2pm. This service is especially for those for whom health concerns make it difficult to attend regular week-end worship. Pastor Hoffmann will lead a communion service and a time for fellowship will follow. If you need a ride to the service, please contact Marcy or the church office by Tuesday. Every effort will be made to obtain a ride for you.



**OK Club** will meet Friday, December 23 at The Sunrise. If you plan to participate, please contact Evelyn Hintzsche at 815-562-4668.

**December Senior Fellowship** will be a New Year's Eve Afternoon Tea (December 31 at 2pm) at Marcy's home (1225 Springdale Drive)—weather permitting. If you plan to attend, please contact Marcy mornings in the parish nurse office (815-562-2744) or later at her home (815-562-6823).



Do you shop on Amazon.com? Did you know that St. Paul is now set up on Amazon.smile? You shop. Amazon gives. Amazon donates 0.5% of the price of your eligible AmazonSmile purchases to St. Paul. AmazonSmile is the same Amazon you know. Same products, same prices, same service. Support St. Paul by shopping at AmazonSmile. Our unique link is <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/36-2440294> This link will take you directly to St. Paul's page on smile.amazon.com. You won't have to search for us among almost a million other organizations. Amazon pays all expenses of the AmazonSmile Foundation; they are not deducted from the donation amounts generated by purchases on AmazonSmile. Start at <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/36-2440294>

## New Vanco Mobile Giving App

The Vanco Mobile Faith Engagement app is a free mobile giving app that enables you to make one-time or recurring gifts from your smart phone. Visit the App Store or Google Play and search for the Vanco Mobile Faith Engagement app. The app leads you through the various steps, but more detailed instructions are listed below.

1. After downloading the app, open it and search for st paul ev lutheran church and choose the Rochelle St. Paul.
2. You do not have to create a login to give a donation one time. If you would like to use the app often, or set up recurring donations, you may want to have a login to make it more convenient for you.
3. Tap the Give button.
4. Pull up the Give To list. Chose your giving direction.
5. After choosing the fund to donate to, enter the amount you wish.
6. Select the frequency that you wish to donate. (Recurring donations require a login.)
7. Press Add to Basket button or Give Now button. If you want to donate to another account, press Keep Exploring and you can enter additional amount(s) and fund(s).
8. When you are through, press view basket and it will display what you have entered. Press Continue to Payment.
9. Enter contact info and proceed to payment options to enter what bank account or card you would like to the payment to be charged to.
10. If you would like to help cover the processing fee, please touch the button to turn on that option.
11. Press Continue to review. If the information is correct, press Submit. You will receive a confirmation email.

If you have any questions, please give Eileen a call. (815-562-6323 Tues & Thursday 9-3).

Mary Parsley	12/01
Michelle Metzger	12/03
Danny Johnson	12/03
Brianna Gonnerman	12/04
Steve Cruz	12/05
Ricardo Rosas	12/05
Mary Truckenbrod	12/06
Emily Bueno	12/10
Linette Feltes	12/11
Ruth Furman	12/11
Jodi Sage	12/11
Barry Casey	12/13
Jodi Hayes	12/13
Steven Truckenbrod	12/13
Emma Metzger	12/14
Charles Wagner	12/14
John Albaugh	12/16
Branch Henderson	12/16
Terri Stover	12/17



Henry Bunger	12/19
Eileen Duval	12/19
William Bettner	12/20
Casondra Rowley	12/21
Makenna Henderson	12/21
Amy Seebach	12/22
Dean Sveta	12/22
Laura Kirk	12/25
Trisha Rodeghero	12/25
Michael Casey	12/27
Janet Halsne	12/27
Declan McGee	12/27
Liberty Hayes	12/28

Shepard Hayes	12/28
Mikayla Preston	12/28
Mike Metzger	12/29
Cierra McGinnis	12/30
Julie Cole	12/31
Leni Haedt	12/31
Elijah Metzger	12/31

### Anniversaries

M/M Jeff Casey	12	12/04
M/M Michael Metzger	36	12/06
<b>M/M Charles Wagner</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>12/11</b>
9558 E Marquand Dr		
M/M Tim Ball	33	12/14
<b>M/M Norman Gruben</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>12/16</b>
1884 S White Rock Rd		
M/M Mike Metzger	15	12/21
M/M David Chapman	24	12/24

# St. Paul Lutheran School

*“Putting Faith in Education”*



## *Thoughts from the Principal...*

I wish you a Merry Christmas, and a Happy New Year!

Dear St. Paul Congregation,  
I wanted to take this opportunity to thank you for a few things.

Being that it is the end of 2022 already, I wanted to share with you what you have made possible. First and foremost that is that you continue to provide a Christian Day School for the members of the congregation and for the community of Rochelle. God commands us to teach our children and to make disciples of all nations. That what our school does, through the power of the Holy Spirit, through your generous offerings and donations, through your support of fundraisers, and through your prayers.

Additionally, you have made it possible for an increase in enrollment of sixteen students this year. This would not be possible without the Frieda Pickreign Scholarship fund to which so many of you donate. You gave our wonderful teachers a raise this year. You made so many upgrades on the building and grounds. You supported your principal when he needed it most.

Thank you St. Paul congregation for everything. You have made 2022 a great year for St. Paul Lutheran School. I pray that you continue to support your school ministry, and I know that you will. And, the church needs every single one of its members. Each of you is a precious gift from God.

May God bless you and St. Paul Lutheran Church and School!

Steve Hall; Principal

*Thank  
You*



## School Christmas Program



The Christmas program for grades 1-8 is scheduled for December 11<sup>th</sup> at 4:00pm.

The preschool 3, 4, and kindergarten program will be Monday and Tuesday, 12/12-12/13 during the school day and for chapel on 12/14.

### Preschool Christmas Programs

Monday, December 12th 10am Prek3/Prek4

Monday, December 12th 2pm Prek4/K

Tuesday, December 13th 10am Prek3/K

Wednesday, December 14th chapel Prek3/Prek4



The St. Paul varsity boys basketball team won the championship at the Immanuel, Belvidere Tournament November 18-19. Congratulations to Coach Ryan Haedt and the St. Paul Varsity Boys Basketball Team.



If you are not receiving the weekly school newsletter entitled, “Crusader Corner” and you would like to know what is happening in the school, call the school office (815-562-6323) and give the secretary your email address. We will then send it to you the first school day of each week.

## Pickreign Fund

St. Paul Lutheran School offers scholarships to those who require assistance to attend through the Frieda Pickreign fund. Many of our children could not attend St. Paul without this fund. Please consider a donation to help us provide the funds necessary as we make disciples of all nations!

# December 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	Prayer Chain Requests: Glennie Eyster 815-761-2782  Parish Nurse Hours 8:30 - 11:30 M-F Marcy  Office - 815-562-2744 Home 815-562-6823  Pastor's After Hours Emergency Number 815-562-6155			<b>1</b>  3:30 PM Esther-Naomi Circle @ Church	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>  8:30 AM H & HC Board  9:00 AM Packing Nursing Home gifts  <b>6:00 PM</b> <b>Contemporary</b> <b>Worship</b>
<b>4</b>  <b>9:00 AM Worship</b> <b>/Communion</b>  10:00 AM Christmas Tree Decorating  10:00 AM Sunday School	<b>5</b>  5:30 PM Dayschool Board	<b>6</b>  7:00 AM Men's Bible Breakfast @ Sunrise  6:00 PM Inreach & Outreach  1st Tuesday 10am Hawthorne Inn 11am Lincoln Manor	<b>7</b>  9:45 AM Women's Bible Study	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>  12:00 PM OK Club @ Church with carryouts from the Country School. Reservations required to Evelyn 815-562-4668	<b>10</b>  <b>6:00 PM</b> <b>Contemporary</b> <b>Worship /</b> <b>Communion</b>
<b>11</b>  <b>9:00 AM Worship</b>  10:00 AM Sunday School  <b>4:00 PM School</b> <b>Christmas Program</b>	<b>12</b>  5:30 PM Elder's Board	<b>13</b>  7:00 AM Men's Bible Breakfast @ Sunrise  11:30 AM Hannah-Tabitha Circle @ Butterfly  6:30 PM WOW Bible Study	<b>14</b>  9:45 AM Women's Bible Study  <b>7:00 PM</b> <b>Advent</b> <b>Worship</b>	<b>15</b>  Newsletter Deadline	<b>16</b>  5:30 PM Sr Supper Club @ the Church with carryouts from Vines'. Reservations to Dave Stewart 815-973-4938	<b>17</b>  <b>6:00 PM</b> <b>Contemporary</b> <b>Worship</b>  Women's Guild Bake Sale and Fellowship
<b>18</b>  <b>9:00 AM Worship</b> <b>/Communion</b>  10:00 AM Sunday School  3:00 PM Christmas Caroling to Shut - Ins  9:00 PM Women's Guild Bake Sale & Fellowship	<b>19</b>  6:00 PM Church Council	<b>20</b>  7:00 AM Men's Bible Breakfast @ Sunrise	<b>21</b>  9:45 AM Women's Bible Study	<b>22</b>  <b>2:00 PM</b> <b>Thursday</b> <b>Fellowship</b> <b>Worship</b>	<b>23</b>  12:00 PM OK Club @ The Sunrise. Reservations to Evelyn 815-562-4668	<b>24</b>  <b>4:00 PM Family</b> <b>Christmas</b> <b>Worship</b>  <b>7:00 PM</b> <b>Christmas</b> <b>Candlelight</b> <b>Worship</b>
<b>25</b>  <b>9:00 AM Worship</b>  <b>CHRISTMAS</b> <i>celebration</i>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>  7:00 AM Men's Bible Breakfast @ Sunrise  1:00 PM Newsletter Mailing  6:30 PM WOW Bible Study	<b>28</b>  9:45 AM Women's Bible Study	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>  <b>NO Worship</b>  Sr. Fellowship - New Year's Tea @ Marcy's 1225 Springdale Dr.

ST PAUL EV LUTHERAN CHURCH  
1415 Tenth Avenue  
Rochelle IL 61068

NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION

U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
ROCHELLE, ILLINOIS 61068  
PERMIT NUMBER 93

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

The mission of St. Paul Ev. Lutheran Church:  
*Building relationships in Christ now and forever.*

**JOIN US!**

**Live in person on Saturday at 6:00pm or Sunday at 9:00am**



**OR**  
9:00 am Facebook Live - St. Paul Lutheran Church Page

**OR**

10:00 am on WRHL Radio 1060AM or 93.5 FM

Rev. Greg Hoffmann, Pastor 562-2744, after hours 562-6155  
Marcia Schnorr, Parish Nurse 562-6823 Steve Hall, Principal 562-6323

Church Office 562-2744, School Office 562-6323,  
Church Office E-Mail Address: [stpaul2@rochelle.net](mailto:stpaul2@rochelle.net) Website: [stpaullev.org](http://stpaullev.org)  
School website: [www.stpaulrochelle.org](http://www.stpaulrochelle.org)

