



# St Paul Catholic Center

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Administrator: Suzie Bledsoe Personal Cell 816-806-8317

## SERVICE TIMES

VIGIL MASS: Saturday 6pm

Adoration: Feb 28<sup>th</sup> 7-8p

MASS: Sunday 12:30 pm

Communion Service: Wednesday 9a

Adoration: March 11<sup>th</sup> 9:30-10a

## CONTACT A PRIEST

Saint George Catholic Church  
435-673-2604

Pastor Rev David Bittmenn  
Rev Franklin Minzaki  
Deacon Dan Weber

Communion to the homebound  
Anna Marie McAfee 951-532-8558

## CHURCH MINISTRIES

BIBLE STUDY: Mondays 12:30 pm

Lent Study: Mondays 6 pm

ROSARY: Mondays 2 pm

Knights Roundtable: March 16<sup>th</sup> 3 pm

LADIES Breakfast: March 9<sup>th</sup> 9:30 am  
at River Rock Roasters

## LOOKING AHEAD IN LENT

Every Friday at 5:30p  
Stations of the Cross

St George Penance  
Service  
Thursday March 12 at 7p

Penance at St Pauls  
still to be arranged

Rice Bowls are available  
on the back table

## THE THREE SCRUTINIES OF THE OCIA PROGRAM

In the OCIA program, there is a fascinating moment at Mass on the third, fourth, and fifth Sundays of Lent. The elect—the adult candidates to be received into full communion (Like St Paul's Jody Brinkerhoff) are called forward to undergo what are called the three scrutinies. In the OCIA process, this is the period of purification and enlightenment. The scrutinies follow upon the Gospel readings (from Year A): the Samaritan woman at the well (John 4:5-42), the man born blind (John 9:1-41), and the rising of Lazarus (John 11:1-45). "Their purpose is to deliver the elect from the power of sin and Satan, to help them resist temptations, and to find strength in Christ" (OCIA, para 141).

The theme is deliverance: from thirst, from darkness, from death. We thus learn that catechesis is more than simply knowing what the Church teaches. We must also incorporate the truth into our lives. For the mind to receive the truth, the soul must be pure. And so the elect come forward and kneel or bow, when all the faithful pray for them. Then they receive a prayer of exorcism and the laying on of hands, to cleanse their souls from evil so that the Holy Spirit would enter. The exorcism prayer invokes the three Gospel events – thirsting for the living water, moving from darkness into the light, freedom from the tyranny of death.

The origin of the three scrutinies dates back to the early Church, but these preparatory rites had come to be incorporated into the one rite of baptism itself. It was the Second Vatican Council which called for the restoration of the ancient catechumenate process (including the handing on of the Apostles' Creed and the Lord's Prayer after the third and fifth scrutinies). There is abundant testimony to what this journey encompassed.

St. Cyril's Catechetical Lectures from the mid-fourth century provide an extraordinary perspective on how carefully the examination of conscience was incorporated into the catechetical process. It is important, because the enemy will attack the soul relentlessly, trying to divert him from the path to Christ. Cyril describes that dramatic moment outside the door to the baptistry at the Church of the Holy Sepulchre in Jerusalem. The candidates would face west, extend their hand and declare, "I renounce you, Satan, and all your works." Then they would turn to the east, the place of light, and invoke the Blessed Trinity (Mystagogical Lecture, 1).

... it is the whole community of the faithful who come together in these acts of "spiritual recollection," for the Lord scrutinizes all who follow Him (para 138).



## VENERABLE MARY OF AGREDA - THE BILOCATING, FLYING NUN

Sister María de Jesús of Ágreda had a great zeal for “saving souls for the Lord.” From a young age, God granted her a vision of a soul in sanctifying grace and a soul in mortal sin—an experience that marked her life forever. From that moment, María Coronel Arana was no longer the same. Her spirit sought only to please her Beloved and to belong entirely to Him.

Though the Lord favored her with extraordinary mystical phenomena, these eventually gave way to a deep interior supernatural life. Among the most remarkable events was the phenomenon of bilocation, through which she appeared in the distant lands of New Mexico. It was 1622, and Sister María was only twenty years old.

Missionary work there faced great obstacles: hostility from indigenous tribes, unfamiliar and complex native languages, and vast distances. During this time, the mysterious “Lady in Blue” began appearing, preparing the Native Americans for baptism.

Between 1622 and 1625, she appeared at least 500 times in the regions of the Quivira and the Jumanos and other areas of present-day New Mexico, Texas, and Arizona. Her growing reputation led her to ask God to withdraw these gifts. The natives called her the “Lady in Blue” because of the sky-blue mantle of the habit of the Conceptionist Order that she wore. She preached the Gospel, endured hardships resembling martyrdom, and urged the people to seek out the Franciscan missionaries so they could receive baptism. The missionaries, astonished to find so many prepared converts, began investigating the identity of the “Lady in Blue.”

In 1630, Alonso Benavides traveled to Spain and reported these events to Bernardino de Sena, Minister General of the Franciscans. He was sent to the Convent of the Immaculate Conception in Ágreda to verify the accounts. Benavides later testified that the “Lady in Blue” was indeed María de Ágreda.

Two Inquisition investigations (1631 and 1650) examined these alleged bilocations. Sister María was not only a missionary herself but also inspired many missionary vocations.

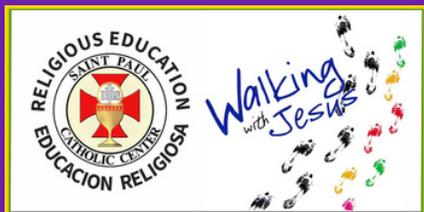
She remains known and loved not merely for extraordinary phenomena, but for the charity with which she proclaimed the Gospel—“the wondrous works of God” (Psalm 106). She is also widely recognized as the author of *Mystical City of God*, a six-volume work recounting revelations on the life of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

## PRAY FOR OUR FAMILY & FRIENDS

Aiden Lanphear, Bianca Abbott, Bob Atchison, Brian Scharrer, Cecelia Hernandez, Cheryl Kartes, Christina Muñoz, Dan McNicholl, David Pope, Don Taylor, Eloy Zaragoza, Fred Hawkes, Gary Hanson, Georgia Dempsey, Gordon Bryson, Irv & Lucille Douroux, Jill Nagrodsky, Jim & Phyllis Carpenter, Jim & Debbi Keys, Joseph Graziano, Julie Hogan, Karen Poelakker, Kitty Woolridge, Laura Fawson, Melanie Vega, Nick Escamilla, Norm Engle, Patricia Flaherty, Patsy Hernandez, Patty Broyles, Phyllis Willame, Raul Reyna, Ray White, Rob Dwyer, Ruth Mounts, Samuel Scarth, Steve Kist, Susan Muñoz, Tom & Carol Porter, Torii Cain, and Tracy Goodin.

## PRAY FOR OUR DEPARTED LOVED ONES TO REST IN PEACE

Annette Smith, Arlene Strupp, Dionesio Briones, Doug Pope, Gabriel Garcia, Hector Garduno, Jean Bourque, Jim Scarth, Judy Lanphear, Kyle Hanson, Larry Mullins, Mary Wallace, Rae Crozier, Richard McAfee, Shaun Rich, Sylvia Romero Martinez, Vincent Guglielmetti Sr, & Wanda Guglielmetti



Religious Ed Coordinator  
Patty Nation 435-218-5849

Next Youth Group:  
Wednesday, March 4<sup>th</sup> at 7 - 8pm

## Religious Education Updates

### ALL CLASSES:

All Classes continue preparing for reconciliation and their sacrament

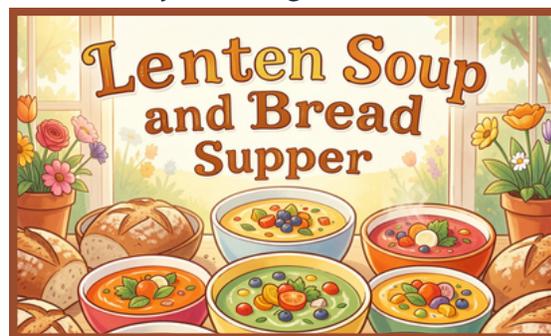
### Religious Education

August 2026-May 2027:

If you have questions, a student age 8-15 or would like to help with our class programs - Please talk to Suzie or Patty Nation

Friday March 27<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm  
after stations of the cross.

Hosted by the Knights of Columbus



*Is not this the kind of fasting I have chosen: to loose the chains of injustice and untie the cords of the yoke, to set the oppressed free and break every yoke? [Isaiah 58:6](#)*