



# ST. PAUL'S MONASTERY

## E-NEWSLETTER

April 2021

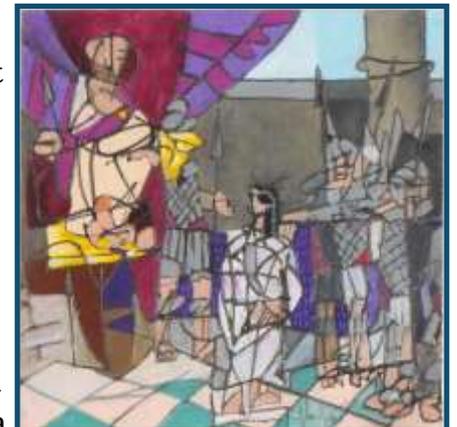


### *Way of the Cross*

It has been over a year now since COVID-19 led to the world's sudden and prolonged shut down. This past year has been a journey of challenges, causing us to see anew the world around us as we have never seen before. We have often felt isolated, but Saint Benedict reminds us that a journey is not taken alone. God is with us, and we are with each other: "See how God's love shows us the way of life" (*Rule*, Prologue: 20). "Prefer nothing whatever to Christ, and may he bring us all together to everlasting life" (*Rule*, Chapter 72: 11-12).

At the Monastery, our journey in the past year has been blessed by the art of John Ilg. John's exhibit was hung only a few days before the Monastery was shut down, and has remained with us since then. The exhibit creates a quiet, yet beautiful presence, hallowing our home.

The images of John's Stations of the Cross are encountered on the wall to the left and right of our chapel doors. Christians have been praying the Way of the Cross—or Stations—for hundreds of years. The practice goes back to pilgrims in the Holy Land praying along the *Via Dolorosa*, the road Jesus had taken on his way to Calvary. Each of the 14 Stations focuses on a moment of Jesus' last day, beginning with his condemnation and taking up the cross, and leading to his crucifixion, death, and burial. Today, the Stations of the Cross provides a sort of mini-pilgrimage in place, with each of Stations inviting us to prayer and reflection.



"Station One: Jesus is Condemned to Death" by John Ilg.

As I consider the past year of COVID-19 as a journey, I realize that John's Stations of the Cross have been with us this whole time, calling us to make this journey a pilgrimage in place. The images of the Stations encourage us to reflect on Christ's suffering and love. In our world's pandemic journey this past year we have seen much suffering and injustice, yet we have also seen beauty in the compassion, mercy, and love shown by people helping one another. In these last few days before Easter, we at the Monastery invite you on a pilgrimage with the Stations of the Cross. Take some time to gaze on each image and allow it to gaze back at you.

### [VIEW JOHN ILG'S STATIONS OF THE CROSS](#)

Please know that you are in our hearts, and we share your pilgrim journey.

Jacqueline Leiter, OSB



**“May Christ bring us all together to everlasting life.”**

*Rule of St. Benedict, Chapter 72: 12*

Sister Mary Joanne Lusk was born on August 15, 1933, to Joseph and Ann (Bilek) in New Prague, Minnesota, the eldest daughter in a family of two children. Her younger brother, John, died shortly after birth. She was baptized and confirmed at Holy Redeemer parish in Montgomery, MN. In 1951, Sister Mary Joanne entered the scholasticate at St. Paul’s Priory. She entered the novitiate on June 16, 1952, made her First Profession of Vows on December 19, 1953, and was given the name Gertrude. She later returned to the name of Mary

Joanne (in honor of her father and mother). She attended the College of St. Catherine, earning a BA degree in Elementary Education and Sociology in 1961. Her teaching career spanned 56 years, teaching elementary school at St. Bernard’s, St. Paul; Immaculate Heart of Mary, St. Paul; St. Anne’s, Minneapolis; St. Boniface, St. Bonifacius; and at her home parish of Holy Redeemer where she also served in pastoral ministry. Sister Mary Joanne is remembered fondly by her students and former co-workers for her loving disposition and kindness.

Sister Mary Joanne was afflicted with partial loss of her eyesight in retirement, but she always had a clear focus on the face of Jesus and radiant love for her Risen Savior. Sister Mary Joanne passed away on March 17, 2021, at the age of 87, having lived as a professed Benedictine for 67 years. She is survived by her Benedictine Sisters of St. Paul’s Monastery, Oblates, Associates, cousins, and friends. May Jesus welcome her to her eternal home.

Service of Christian Burial was on March 22, 2021, at 11:00 a.m. at St. Paul’s Monastery and interment was at the Monastery Cemetery. Memorials and donations are preferred to St. Paul’s Monastery. Please [donate here](#).



## Sister Mary Joanne Lusk, OSB

**Born: August 15, 1933**

**Professed: December 19, 1953**

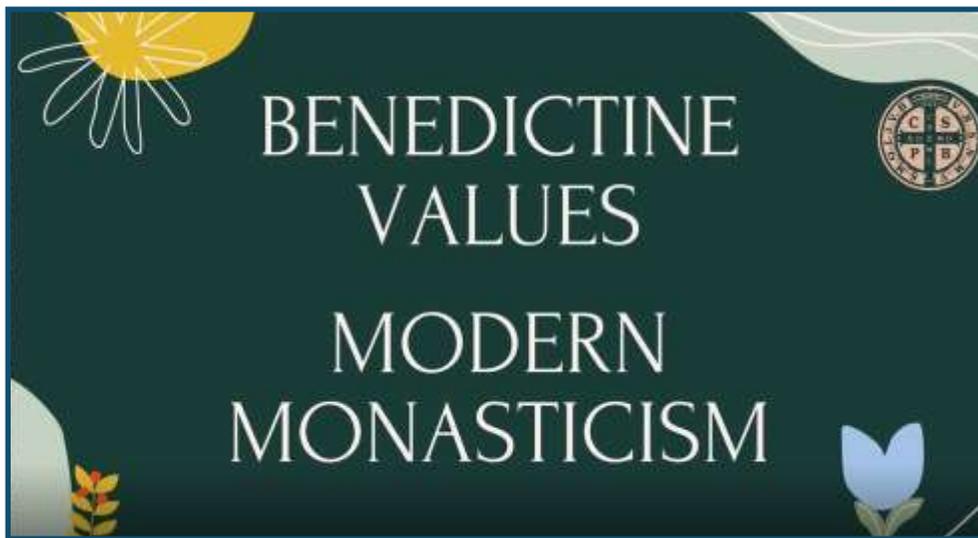
**Died: March 17, 2021**

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## “Benedictine Values, Modern Monasticism”

by Mission Advancement

“[Benedictine Values, Modern Monasticism](#)” premiered on March 8, 2021, the first day of Catholic Sisters Week. This collaborative video project between 21 Monasteries from around the United States features the beautiful grounds of St. Paul’s Monastery, the iconic art of our galleries, and several of the Sisters of St. Benedict of St. Paul’s Monastery. We invite you to [watch the video](#) now to see if you can spot glimpses of Sisters Linda Soler, Monica Raway, Catherine Nehotte, and the late Joan Utecht as they demonstrate many of the values and virtues of Benedictine Monasticism.



Go to [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com)

and choose

“St. Paul’s Monastery”

Your account will appear as normal but you’ll see “Supporting: St Paul’s Monastery” right under the search bar, and **0.5% of your purchase will come back to us every quarter. Every little bit helps, and we are so grateful for your support!**

## Catholic Sisters Week

by Mission Advancement

Catholic Sisters Week is a celebration of the lives and legacies of Catholic Sisters that occurs every year from March 8-14 as part of National Women’s History Month. To celebrate this year, we shared quotes on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#) from the Sisters of St. Benedict of St. Paul’s Monastery about life as a woman religious—and the challenges and joys they have experienced in the past year.

Like Sister Eleanor Wartman, many of the Sisters have found joy in the pause the pandemic has caused through a deepening of prayer and contemplative practices. To read more of their inspiring quotes [jump to page 10](#), or visit our [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#) pages to see them all.



## Sisters' Words of Wisdom: Sister Monica Raway, OSB

by Mission Advancement



Sister Monica Raway, OSB, jokes and laughs easily as she talks about her life and what her roles have been in Community. “I am a jack of all trades,” she says with a laugh. When asked what this means she mentions that she has worked in housekeeping as head laundress, as a cook, and even spent some time as the official chauffeur for the Monastery. When asked if she was a good driver, she just says “of course” as if she does everything well.

It is not hard to believe that Sister Monica has enjoyed and been good at many things throughout her life in Community at St. Paul’s Monastery. She entered Community at age 26 and made her first Profession on July 11, 1954. She said that she thought about religious life for quite some time and for many years she thought, “I did not think that I could do the work.” Ultimately, she felt the call from God and listened to that call. Community was the right decision for her, she recalls.

Throughout her life, and especially in Community, her ability to connect with others and make others feel special means she has made many friends and always leaves an impression.

Julianna Sandin, close friend to Sister Monica and volunteer at the Monastery, recalls how she met her and the time they have spent together since. “Sister Monica came to my



Sister Monica loves to spend time with human and canine. Here, Julianna Sandin and her dog, Harper Lee, enjoy an afternoon together. At one point Sister Monica said she was afraid of dogs. Julianna and sweet Harper Lee helped her with that fear.

art class at the Monastery and informed me that she was not artistic and couldn't paint or do anything creative. She sat and just watched at first, but then started participating. She grew to be my most loyal follower and budding artist! She always has a funny joke to open a conversation, a smile, and a kind word to say about everyone. She always gave sound advice, thoughtful insight, and over the years we became close friends. She is an inspiration to me, and makes me want to be a better person.”

Sister Monica was born Mary Ellen Raway on November 26, 1925. She grew up in Miesville, MN, a small town just south of Hastings. Her father, Louis, was a farmer. Her mother, Barbara Raway, encouraged Mary Ellen to help her father and brothers in the field. She likely learned her work ethic from those early days. When asked what her parents thought about her entering religious life, “they were very happy for me.”



Sister Monica rolls up her sleeves and jumps right into her head laundress job at St. Paul’s Monastery, 1964.

To continue reading and to see more pictures of Sister Monica, [please see our blog on the website.](#)

## Maple Tree Childcare Updates

by Jennie Schlauch, Maple Tree Monastery Childcare Center



Every March, Lucky the Leprechaun pays a visit to Maple Tree Monastery Childcare Center. He sometimes plays tricks on the children, and is often up to mischief.

In the first picture, Leo is telling Lucky a secret. In the second picture, Audrey is sitting near Lucky. I had suggested that she hold his hand for the photo, but she said no, because that would cause Lucky to lose his magic. We wouldn't want that!

## Benedictine Center Updates

by the Benedictine Center

The Benedictine Center will be taking the opportunity during our current program pause to simplify and focus on the original founding purpose of the Benedictine Center—spiritual direction. In 2021, Benedictine Center spiritual directors will continue to virtually companion those seeking guidance on the path.

### Interested in Spiritual Direction or a Directed Retreat?

Spiritual direction offers a non-judgmental environment for honest sharing about spiritual matters and an improved sense of how God is working in everyday lives. At this time, Benedictine Center spiritual directors are available to meet via phone or via Zoom or Skype. Benedictine Center Spiritual Directors are also willing to work with you to set up a virtual directed retreat (meeting daily for a series of days). Email [info@benedictinecenter.org](mailto:info@benedictinecenter.org) for a free initial consultation or [learn more](#).



A TIME OF RENEWED GROWTH...



**BENEDICTINE  
CENTER** OF ST. PAUL'S  
MONASTERY

A ministry of the Sisters of St. Benedict  
of St. Paul's Monastery

As the hope of Spring lingers in the air, one lesson we can take from nature is that growth—both spiritual and natural—often first happens below the surface. One small seed, hidden in the cold, dark ground, begins to reawaken as the soil around it warms. What will this small seed become? A beautiful flower? A tall, wise oak? More time, water, and nourishment will tell!

Like a dormant seed waiting to emerge in the Spring, the Benedictine Center of St. Paul's Monastery is in a period of resting and renewed growth. We have taken the opportunity offered by our pandemic program pause to simplify and focus on the Center's original founding purpose: spiritual direction, while also planting the seeds for a sustainable future.

Since its founding in 1983, the Benedictine Center has carried forward the values envisioned by the Sisters of St. Benedict of St. Paul's Monastery: reverence for God, reverence for creation, hospitality toward all, beauty and simplicity, silence, and prayer. Your support of the Sisters' Benedictine Center ministry will sustain a legacy of Benedictine Spirituality in the Twin Cities, giving space for those who seek to gain a deeper awareness of God, a greater understanding of self, and a special love for one another and the unity of all persons.

***Your donation today will sow tomorrow's legacy of Benedictine Spirituality.*** Any donation in support of this Ministry is appreciated, but as a special gift for you, we are offering giving levels. When you give a donation of \$1000 or more, you will receive a certificate toward a personal retreat at the Benedictine Center to be used at a future date when the Center re-opens.



### **Seed Level**

*Thank you for a donation of any amount*



### **Garden Level**

**\$1000**

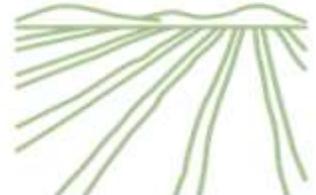
*Receive certificate for 1-night retreat*



### **Orchard Level**

**\$3000**

*Receive certificate for 3-night retreat*



### **Harvest Level**

**\$5000**

*Receive certificate for 5-night retreat*

## Saint Tetta's Invitation

by Sister Jacqueline Leiter, OSB

Little is known about Tetta, an eighth century Anglo-Saxon Benedictine saint and abbess of a double monastery at Wimborne with over 500 nuns. Tetta valued learning, and ensured that the Sisters of her monastery were well educated. When Saint Boniface wrote to her, requesting that she send nuns to Germany, she sent several groups of Sisters, including Saints Leoba and Walburga. The education she had given them equipped them to spread the Gospel and serve as missionaries in a far-off land. Tetta is remembered as a spiritual mother.

**Tetta's invitation:** Remember and be grateful for the people who have gone before you and served as your spiritual mothers or fathers. Remember and be grateful for all those you have cared for and sent off on their own missions, while you remained behind.

Tetta was a gentle and compassionate soul, and taught her followers as much, if not more, by her good deeds than by her words. One of the stories remaining about Tetta tells of an arrogant and unrelenting Sister who was so strict in maintaining the discipline at the monastery that many of the nuns hated her. When this Sister died, the nuns cursed bitterly and stomped on her grave so that it sunk down about six inches.

Tetta was horrified at their behavior and reproved them for their cruelty and lack of forgiveness. Tetta was a woman of mercy and compassion. Rather than punishing the Sisters for their presumption and lack of decorum, she set out to bring peace and reconciliation in her community. Recognizing that the sunken grave of the dead Sister indicated her punishment by God, she implored the Sisters to set aside their bitter resentment. Calling the community together, she led them in prayer and fasting for the soul of the dead Sister. After three days, the grave became level with the land surrounding it, indicating forgiveness for the deceased soul. No doubt, the hearts of many of the formerly aggrieved Sisters were also transformed by love and forgiveness through their prayer.

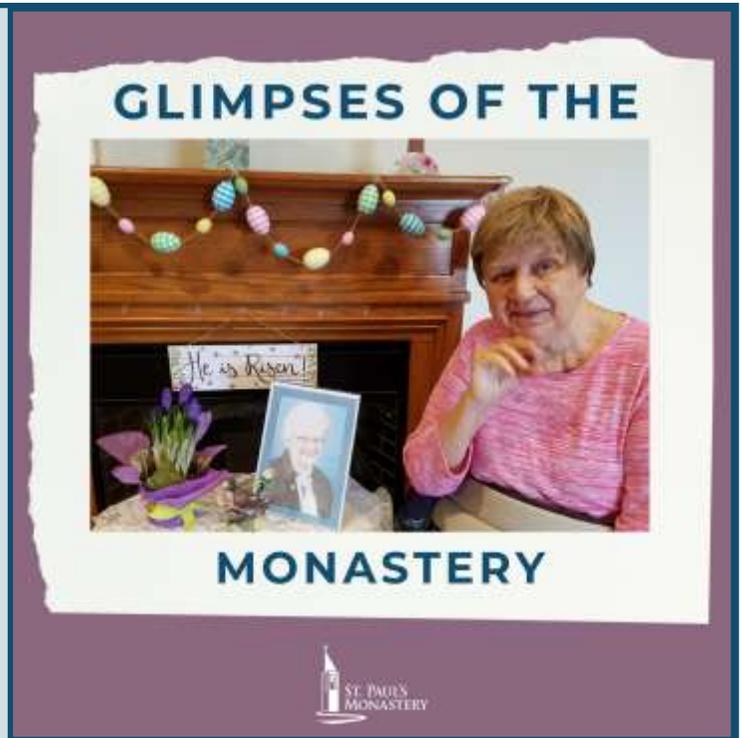
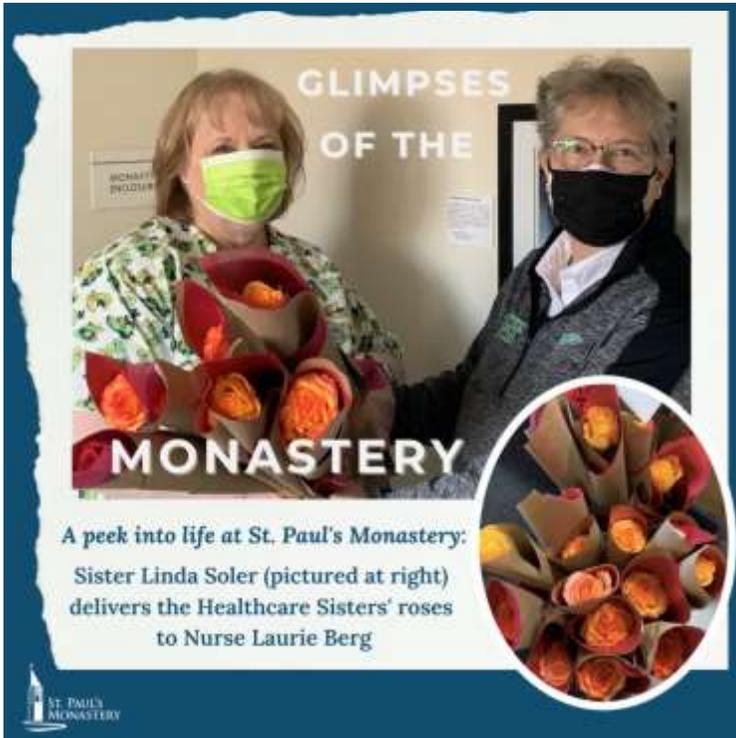
**Tetta's invitation:** God calls us to be loving, forgiving, and peaceful—even with difficult people. When have you received mercy and compassion from others? Is there someone to whom God is inviting you to show love compassion?

golden joy-filled signs  
sprouting anew everywhere  
awaited spring is here

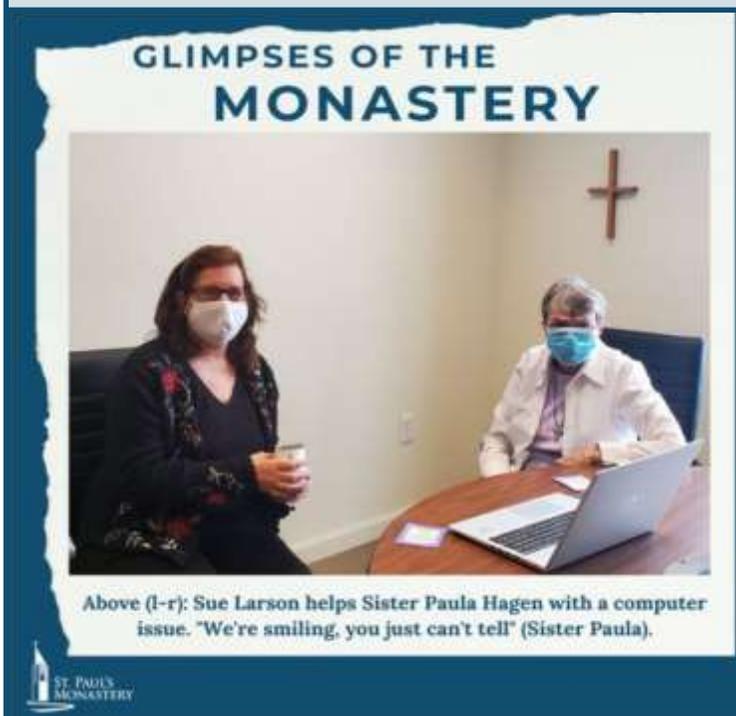
Sister Rose Alice Althoff

# Around the Monastery

by Mission Advancement



**Above left:** A donor sent 26 beautiful long-stem roses to the Sisters of St. Paul's Monastery in honor of Catholic Sisters Week. Pictured here, Sister Linda Soler (at right) delivers the Healthcare Sisters' roses to Nurse Laurie Berg for distribution. The roses were a beautiful bright addition to the Monastery that week. The Sisters loved receiving the them! **Above right:** Sister Carol Rennie sits in Healthcare by the fireplace as she remembers Sister Mary Joanne Lusk (in the picture on the table). Sister Mary Joanne died on March 17 and is remembered lovingly by all the Sisters.



**Left:** Monastery Human Resources Manager Sue Larson also provides technical help when needed. Here Sue (at left) helps Sister Paula Hagen with a computer issue. Says Sue, "I can be really helpful for things like volume control!" As ever, Sue is being modest and is always available to help how she can. Said Sister Paula of this picture, "We're smiling, you just can't tell."

Thank you Sisters and staff for sharing your days at the Monastery with us!

Hildegard of Bingen's  
*Buds*  
and  
**BLOOMS**  
Spring Plant Sale

In honor of Hildegard of Bingen, a Benedictine abbess in the 12th century, we announce our Hildegard of Bingen's Buds and Blooms spring plant fundraiser. Many of Saint Hildegard's writings expressed spirituality through gardening and nature, recognizing the connections between the physical world and our relationship to God. Join in this spirit to add spring plants, flowers, and herbs to your garden while supporting the Sisters of St. Benedict!

St. Paul's Monastery hopes you love to protect and nurture God's greens spaces as well. This plant and garden sale will help you get a good start on your spring planting. *In addition, your purchase today will help us get a jump on our spring fundraising as 30% of the proceeds of any plant and 15% of any gift card sold will directly benefit St. Paul's Monastery.*

We know you will enjoy these great planting ideas from Gerten's Garden Center. Shop **now** and **pick-up** at St. Paul's Monastery in May.

**Details:**

- ◆ Order now through April 22 at [www.gertensfundraising.com](http://www.gertensfundraising.com). Enter store ID code **251** for St. Paul's Monastery.
- ◆ Flowers and plants will be delivered to the Monastery on May 13. We are offering curbside pick-up on May 13 (1:00-3:00 pm) and May 14 (10:00-12:00 pm). No reservation required. For alternative delivery options, please contact us at [development@stpaulsmonastery.org](mailto:development@stpaulsmonastery.org).



There are so many plants, flowers, vegetables, herbs, succulents, and hanging baskets available at Gerten's Garden Center. These are just a few of the options available in the spring fundraiser at St. Paul's Monastery. Order today through April 22 using store ID 251 at the [fundraising website](http://www.gertensfundraising.com).



# Catholic Sisters Week

March 8-14, 2021

## CATHOLIC SISTERS WEEK

Sister Karen Sames, OSB

Benedictine life is a life of moderation, not mediocrity. We strive for a balanced life of work, prayer, and recreation. Community life makes it easier for the Sisters to have regular times and places for communal prayer and individual prayer. There is always someone to share a game of cards, scrabble, or Rummikub, though COVID-19 has put limits on that.



## CATHOLIC SISTERS WEEK

Sister Mary Lou Dummer, OSB

I have come to see what a blessing it is to be part of my Benedictine calling and tradition. I am blessed with my Benedictine community. We are never alone, meeting the challenges that bond us together. My community and private prayer helps me think beyond my personal needs, and pray for needs of my family, our friends, our troubled world, and all of God's creation.



## CATHOLIC SISTERS WEEK

Sister Catherine Schoenecker, OSB

Being a Benedictine Sister means that I can serve God all my life in a community that offers me this special opportunity. I am blessed with good health and a long life in order to serve God as a woman religious, as a teacher, principal and supervisor of schools—all these years in education until I retired. And I am never retired from serving God.



## CATHOLIC SISTERS WEEK

Sister Jacqueline Leiter, OSB

My remote teaching ministry has been a surprising source of joy. The students want to connect so much that they keep "chatting" during our virtual lessons—the electronic equivalent of passing notes in class. My job may be to read a book to them, help with a math problem, or help them write a few sentences, but my ministry has been much more. I am present to them, I tell them how smart and wonderful they are, and I show them that they can read the book or do the math problem themselves, without my help. I show them that they are important and good, and that someone cares and is ready to listen. If I can make a difference for a lonely child struggling to learn, than that is enough.



## Commemorative Pavers Summer 2021

*Honoring Those Who Light Our Way*

SUMMER 2021 INSTALLATION  
ORDERING DEADLINE APRIL 30



As part of Founding Day,  
we are doing a special  
Summer 2021 Installation.

Order by April 30 for installation  
on June 22.

Our Gathering Plaza is blessed with pavers engraved with messages from the Sisters, Oblates, relatives, and friends of St. Paul's Monastery. Click on the button below to print the form and create your own paver message to commemorate a special occasion or honor a Sister, your parents, other family members, or friends. The Sisters and those who visit the plaza remember your loved ones in prayer.

4x8 Paver

Three lines of text, \$125

8x8 Paver

Six lines of text, \$250

***Thank You and  
God Bless You!***



[Click here to pay online](#)  
[or print order form](#)

## Prayer Schedule

*Even though our doors are closed temporarily,  
we are grateful that you are praying with us in spirit!*

*“Nothing is to be preferred to the Work of God.”*

*Rule of St. Benedict, Chapter 43: 3*



### **SUNDAY**

Morning Prayer: 10:00  
AM

Eucharist: 11:00 AM

Evening Prayer: 5:00 PM

### **MONDAY–SATURDAY**

Morning Prayer: 8:00 AM

Midday Prayer: 11:30 AM

*For further information, call 651-777-8181 or visit us [www.stpaulsmonastery.org](http://www.stpaulsmonastery.org).*



### **We Would Love to Hear from You**

**Let us, in fellowship, “lay (our) petitions before the Lord God with the utmost humility and sincere devotion”** (*Rule of St. Benedict, Chap. 20*). If you would like to send an online prayer request, the Monastery website has two different ways to do so. You can use the “Prayer Requests” link at the top of our [home page](#). Or you can go to the “Ministries” tab and select “Community Prayer Ministry.” Prayer requests go to all the Sisters who pray daily for these intentions at Evening Praise, during adoration, and during the Rosary. May God bless you and your loved ones.

# St. Paul's Monastery

*We, the Sisters of St. Paul's Monastery,  
are a community that live Gospel values  
as expressed in the Rule of St. Benedict.*

*Through our Monastic life and wise stewardship,  
we nurture contemplative presence  
in service of Church and society.*

## Mission Statement

St. Paul's Monastery  
2675 Benet Road  
Saint Paul, Minnesota 55109  
651-777-8181  
[development@stpaulsmonastery.org](mailto:development@stpaulsmonastery.org)

To connect with or  
support Community  
ministries, visit us at  
[www.stpaulsmonastery.org](http://www.stpaulsmonastery.org)  
[Instagram](#) | [Facebook](#)