

ST. PAUL'S MONASTERY NEWSLETTER

November 2021



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Donate throughout the
month of November!*

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WELCOME LETTER

Sister Jacqueline Leiter, OSB

Every November, we have a special day set aside to be thankful. Our tradition is rooted in the tradition and practice of ancient Israel, where gratitude was not once a year, but a part of daily life. Many of the psalms we pray today show the people's remembrance of God's blessings not only in their own lives, but also throughout creation and in the lives of their ancestors who had come before them. They remembered God's action and presence in their lives and all the gifts they had by God's grace and love.

Psalm 136 proclaims: "Give thanks to the God of heaven, for his steadfast love endures forever." The psalm and goes on to remember God's many works in creating our beautiful world, the waters, and all the great lights in the sky. The psalmist remembers and reflects on how God delivered the people of Israel from slavery in Egypt, guarded and journeyed with them in the wilderness, brought them into a new land, and remembered the people in their lowliness, rescuing them in steadfast love. God remembered the people, and we also reflect and remember God's steadfast love with gratitude. Mary's Magnificat prayer, which Benedictines pray every evening, is rooted in this tradition of remembering and offering thanks when she prayed: "I praise you, O God, with my whole being. My spirit delights in you, God of Blessing."

Many Jewish people today continue this biblical tradition by offering 100 blessings to God with the phrase, "Baruch atah Adonai" (Blessed are you, Lord), followed by whatever they are offering thanks for, perhaps family and loved ones, home, or even something as ordinary as drinking a glass of water, or upon seeing a bolt of lightning or a fruit tree. These biblical prayers and traditions model for us a way that we too can reflect on our lives and bless and thank God.

At St. Paul's Monastery, we are grateful for the many blessings in our lives:

Give thanks to the God of heaven,
whose steadfast love endures forever,
who has blessed us with friends, oblates, associates,
and supporters to journey with us.
Who has blessed us with opportunities to minister and share God's love
within and beyond our Monastery.
Give thanks to the God of heaven,
whose steadfast love endures forever.





SISTERS' WORDS OF WISDOM

Sisters Andrine & Andriette Schommer, OSB

Sisters Andrine and Andriette Schommer were born in Munich, North Dakota, in a family of nine children of German heritage. As identical twins, they shared everything. Twins ran in their family on their father's side. When asked what's life like as a twin, they respond by saying "What's life like not being a twin? We've never known it any other way!"

The sisters moved at three years old to Jordan, Minnesota, in support of their father's (Henry) new painting job. This was a career their brother, Mark, followed in. The seven girls and second brother shared a passion for community, and all pursued teaching careers. The entire family – including aunts, cousins, godmother and older sister Rosella – followed the Benedictine rule. The twin sisters were naturally drawn to the Benedictine order. They signed up as novices in 1949. It was at that time they gained the honorary title of being part of the 49ers.

Both twins graduated from the College of St. Catherine with degrees in elementary education. Sister Andriette taught elementary grades for forty-two years at schools in St Paul, Chanhassen, Minneapolis, St. Bonifacius and Robbinsdale. Sister Andrine taught first and second grades for forty-nine years at schools in St. Paul, St. Bonifacius, Victoria and Minneapolis. Thirty of those years, Sister Andrine taught at Visitation School in Minneapolis. As dedicated teachers, they continued to assist at Maple Tree Childcare Center after their retirement where they were dedicated to the care and feeding of the children.

The Sisters express found memories of their childhood where they were able to dress alike since there were a pair of twins across the street and sets of clothes were handed down for them to enjoy. Later, they wore uniforms for the remainder of their high school years. The twins were both gifted with playing the organ and were avid roller skaters. A favorite shared memory from their childhood is going across the street to ride the neighbor's prized bike and share a pint of maple nut ice cream (which is still their favorite). Reflecting on their days as Benedictine aspirants, they enjoyed French braid Friday nights. As novices, they enjoyed singing and adding new words to songs that resembled their lifestyle.



Andrine and Andriette are seen here in their second grade photo at St. John the Baptist Elementary in Jordan, MN.

[Read the rest of Sisters Andrine & Andriette's story here.](#)

CHRISTMAS

AT THE MONASTERY

Virtual Gala



2021 VIRTUAL GALA

ONLINE MARKETPLACE | DECEMBER 6-12, 2021

SILENT AUCTION | DECEMBER 6-12, 2021

LIVE RAFFLE DRAWING | DECEMBER 11, 10:00 A.M.

VIRTUAL SOCIAL HOUR WITH THE SISTERS | DECEMBER 11, 3:00-4:30 P.M.

The Sisters of St. Benedict of St. Paul's Monastery look forward to our 14th annual Christmas at the Monastery fundraiser event, which is scheduled for the week of December 6-12. Christmas at the Monastery is our largest Community event, and we are so grateful for your support over the years.

Your donations will make this a very successful Community event. This year, we need your help more than ever as we reinvent the event with the Christmas at the Monastery Virtual Gala. Along with our fantastic silent auction, we will have an online marketplace, and the Sisters will be live during a Virtual Social hour on December 11.

Thank you for your continued generosity and consideration. Your gift makes a difference at St. Paul's Monastery, in our ministries, to the surrounding community, and in the lives of the Sisters.

SPONSORSHIPS DETAILS

Platinum Level: \$10,000

Gold Level: \$5,000

Silver Level: \$2,500

Bronze Level: \$1,000

[Donate Here](#)



MAPLE TREE CHILDCARE CENTER

Jennie Schlauch, Maple Tree Childcare Center



On September 29, Maplewood police officers and firefighters paid a visit to the Maple Tree Monastery Childcare Center. The children loved seeing the vehicles and hearing the officers speak to them using their PA system. One firefighter donned his gear as the children timed him. Mission accomplished in less than one minute! Each child was given a firefighter's hat as a souvenir of the day.



OBLATE NEWS



The Oblate candidates came together on October 21 to begin their journey to become Oblates. Seen here are (front row, l-r) Julie Taylor, Diem Pham, Jennifer Jara, Ann Bechtell, (back row, l-r) Kathleen Matter, Ann Schommer, Karen Dickson, and Teresa Knutson.

During Evening Prayer on October 21, the Monastic Community welcomed eight women who are enrolled as Oblate Candidates. This marked the beginning of their year of formation as they journey to become Oblates of St. Paul's Monastery.

During the ritual, they were presented with a copy of the Rule of St. Benedict as the Prioress, Sister Catherine Nehotte, OSB, said: "Please accept this copy of the Rule of Benedict which has been handed down to us through the centuries and forms the basis of our Benedictine Life." During the year of formation, the Oblate Candidates will study the Rule and how to live Benedictine values in their ordinary lives. Let us pray for these women as they listen and discern God's call.



DONATE THIS NOVEMBER!

LEARN ABOUT THIS ONCE-A-YEAR OPPORTUNITY

ABOUT GIVEMN

GiveMN ignites generosity and grows giving. Using creative ideas and innovative technology, GiveMN connects more people with more causes than ever before.

GiveMN envisions an unparalleled state of giving — a Minnesota where innovative technology and creative ideas help each person's generosity soar to its full potential.

ST. PAUL'S MONASTERY

The Sisters of St. Paul's Monastery is a community of Sisters who live the rule of St. Benedict based on Gospel values.

Through liturgical life and wise stewardship, the Sisters of St. Benedict of St. Paul's Monastery create sacred space from which they respond to the needs and challenges of church and society.



St. Paul's Monastery
www.stpaulsmonastery.org
651-777-8181



Liturgy Matters

KARIN BARRETT, LITURGIST



The story of the road to Emmaus is a story of hope, which invites us to see the offer and the promise of Jesus, to walk with us and to be present with us, despite death and suffering, in and through the ordinary rhythm of our days. Together with Jesus and like the travelers on the dusty road, we are invited to trust that absence can be a new form of presence. Just like our friends in the story, it is in remembering something about the ones we love, like they remembered Jesus' table ritual and recognized him, that we celebrate our loved ones, present and extraordinary!

In November, the church gives us a way to consider this presence in the celebrations of All Saints and All Souls. Founded on an understanding of the "cloud of witnesses" from our Hebrew roots, the Communion of Saints is a way of understanding the continuing presence of those who have died. November provides an invitation to turn aside and to behold the beauty of the present moment where we can reflect on those whom we love who are present in a new way to us. November gives us the same nudge that the travelers on the road to Emmaus responded to, that made them ask Jesus to come with them. They wanted to spend more time in that moment, in his presence, to be reminded of the scripture, to be confident of his love. Even in his absence, they recognized with joy, God's promise of resurrection and the larger truth of Jesus' presence with them on the road, at the table, and back on the road.

In the gospel (Luke 24:13-35), Jesus wished to share a new kind of presence with his friends on the road. The gospel says that he drew near but the people were prevented from recognizing him. He must have been "different...but the same" somehow, or how did the travelers in the gospel fail to recognize him? Was his body changed?

Is that not also true of us as well? "Life has changed, not ended" our Eucharistic Prayer at the funeral liturgy says.... A change, not an end. How true this is! How is it that your loved ones are still present with you? What reminds you of them? Routines? Everyday conversation? Beauty of nature? How are we open to seeing this new presence as God's gift to us?

ALL SOULS' DAY REMEMBRANCES

Each spring and on All Soul's Day, we stop to remember those we have lost in the past six months with a special heartfelt pause. We send prayers to all missing a loved one.

Sister Monica Raway passed away on June 25, 2021 at St. Paul's Monastery. She was born on November 26, 1925 in Miesville, Minnesota, one of five children born to Louis and Barbara (Eckart) Raway. To read her entire obituary, [click here](#).





*Remembering our Beloved
Who have been called Home to God*

PRAY WITH US

SUNDAY

MORNING PRAYER: 10:00AM

EUCCHARIST: 11:00AM

EVENING PRAYER: 5:00PM

MONDAY-SATURDAY

MORNING PRAYER: 8:00AM

MIDDAY PRAYER: 11:30AM

EVENING PRAYER: 5:00PM

Your loved ones will be remembered in our daily prayers this November so that they may receive the joy of the Holy Spirit. As always, we are grateful for your generous support and friendship as we continue to extend our ministry to one another and to those in need.

**MAKE A
DONATION
HERE**





AROUND THE MONASTERY

Front to back: A small woodpecker favoriting a tree at the Monastery outside the window; Archbishop Bernard Hebda paid a visit to the Monastery in early October; Sister Paula Hagen, Sister Louise Inhofer, and volunteer and friend of the Monastery, Carol Heinsch, hold beautiful Monastery-grown flowers; the Mission Advancement team enjoying the sunny outdoors on the grounds of the Monastery; Sister Agnes Trombley, smiling for the camera after receiving a dazzling new haircut; a colorful fall picture taken of the Saint Joseph statue.

employee spotlight

Patrice Peick

In this month's Employee Spotlight, we are featuring Patrice Peick. Patrice joined St. Paul's Monastery in April 2015 and has been working as our Accountant for the past six and a half years.

Patrice earned her bachelor's degree in Finance and Economics from the University of St. Thomas. Prior to joining St. Paul's Monastery, she worked in other fields including banking, medical and non-profit organizations throughout her career. When asked what drew her to St. Paul's Monastery originally, she states that she had been close to the Sisters of Saint Benedict for a very long time. She graduated from Hill-Murray School, as well as all three of her children. She remembers attending Religion class at the old Priory, which is now the Harriet Tubman Center building, and having Sister Pat Collins, OSB for English class.

She comments that "working at the Monastery has been by far the most rewarding" when reflecting on her finance career. When asked to describe the environment of St. Paul's Monastery, Patrice gives the words "Welcoming, calming and peaceful atmosphere." She enjoys the friendly Sisters and staff and "seeing the talkative and smiling faces on the little people at the Maple Tree Childcare Center" as she often drops off checks at that location.

In her personal time, Patrice enjoys spending time with her family. She is also a fitness instructor and teaches Jazzercise classes four times a week. Patrice's husband, Mark, is a Senior IT Manager and they have been married for 34 years. Together they have three children. Their son, Jeff, works as an IT Systems Analyst and his wife, Lauren, is a Teacher. Patrice and Mark also have twin daughters, Danielle, who is a Nurse Practitioner, and Cheryl, who is a Graphic Designer. Her family loves to spend quality time together at their family cabin.

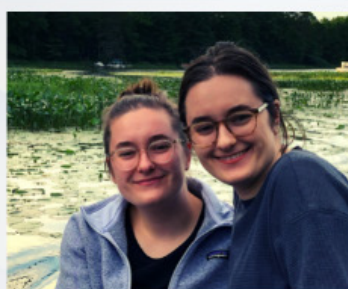
We thank Patrice for her hard work and dedication to St. Paul's Monastery throughout the years.



Patrice's son Jeff and her daughter-in-law, Lauren, also enjoy some family cabin time.



Patrice is seen here with her husband, Mark, at their family cabin.



Patrice has twin daughters, Danielle and Cheryl Peick.



Patrice loves to work out and she is seen here at her Jazzercise studio in Woodbury.

Patrice Peick

COMMEMORATIVE PAVERS SPRING 2022

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 link 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. Thank you and God Bless you!

4x8 Paver

Three lines of text, \$130

8x8 Paver

Six lines of text, \$260

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

Commemorative Pavers Spring 2022

Honoring Those Who Light Our Way

Spring 2022 Installation
Ordering Deadline April 1



PRAYER SCHEDULE

When our doors are closed, we are grateful that you are praying with us in spirit!

“Nothing is to be preferred to the Work of God.”
- Rule of Benedict, Chap. 43



SUNDAY

MORNING PRAYER: 10:00AM

EUCCHARIST: 11:00AM

EVENING PRAYER: 5:00PM

MONDAY-SATURDAY

MORNING PRAYER: 8:00AM

MIDDAY PRAYER: 11:30AM

EVENING PRAYER: 5:00PM

*For further information, call 651-777-8181
or visit us at www.stpaulsmonastery.org.*

Community Prayer Ministry

Here to Serve You in Prayer

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 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.





MISSION STATEMENT

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.

St. Paul's Monastery
2675 Benet Road
Saint Paul, Minnesota 55109
651-777-8181
development@stpaulsmonastery.org

To connect with or support
Community ministries,
visit us at
stpaulsmonastery.org
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