

Parish Profile

St. Paul's Church by-the-Lake



June 2026

7100 N. Ashland Blvd.
Chicago, IL 60626
stpaulsbythelake.org

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Our Faith Community

St. Paul's Church by-the-Lake is a close-knit multigenerational faith family headed by a priestly *pater familias*. Nearly three-fourths of our congregants have been coming to St. Paul's for more than ten years and over half have been with us for over twenty years. We are both a spiritual and a literal family. Some of the children of our long-time members are independent adults who are now lay leaders within our congregation.

Two-thirds of our attendees were brought up in Sacramental Christian traditions. Only one in six is a "cradle Episcopalian" and another one in seven was brought up Roman Catholic or Greek Orthodox. A significant majority of the rest of these were born and raised as Anglicans in Africa or the Caribbean. Our remaining congregants come to us from Protestant backgrounds, attracted by our creedal theology and sacramental worship.

Given our existing familial ties and long history together, there might be concern that visitors find it difficult to fully integrate into our community. However, new congregants have found us both welcoming and hospitable as confirmed by the fact that almost one out of ten of our regular attendees have been with us a year or less. Our newer members tend to drive from significant distances to join us every Sunday. Many of those who join us from afar are drawn by our traditional beliefs, preaching which fully explores the deep truths found in our Scripture readings, and our Anglo-Catholic liturgy. Our expanded adult "Rector's Study" which focuses on exploring the established beliefs of the church throughout history is also popular with some of our recent congregants. Together we find peace and shelter from the frenetic pace of changes in this modern world in the company of our faith family as we kneel to bear witness to the Paschal Mystery each week.

Our congregation holds conservative theological views relating to such issues as the nature of Scripture and our relationship to the historical declarations of the church. We have a pronounced preference to stay close to the established ways of doing things as we strive to remain loyal to God and biblical truth during these times of widespread spiritual decline. Our congregants are willing to make changes in the way we go about our ministry but only if our parish family is convinced that there are well-defined reasons to do so. As a closely-knit faith family, we seek to prioritize the care of our family members in times of need. Our older Christians stand ready to provide new converts with the support, discipleship, and community they need to thrive in life-long faith. Meanwhile, we wait and pray for their arrival since we are committed to leaving no "lost sheep" behind.

Demographics – 2026 CAT Parish Profile

Age –	4% ≤ 34	22% 34-44	18% 45-54	14% 55-64	43% ≥ 65
Tenure --	8% < 1 yr	2% 1-4 yrs	19% 5-10 yrs	17% 11-20 yrs	55% > 20 yrs
Distance --	40% within 2 miles of SPBL and half of those within 8 blocks 48% ≥ 5 miles away with almost half of those ≥ 10 miles away				
Attendance --	82% ≥ 3X /month with almost two-thirds of those attending every week				
Ethnic Background --	33% African American	52% White	2% Hispanic	2% Asian	10% Multi-Ethnic
Education --	83% have a college degree with half of those having a graduate degree				



Our Worship

Worshipping the Lord in the sacrament of the Holy Eucharist is the essence of our identity. We worship with our priest facing the altar as we face God together to commemorate the mystery of Christ's sacrifice.

Our liturgical practice is traditional and reverent. There are two English Masses on Sundays: a spoken Low Mass at 8 am and a Sung High Mass at 10:30 am with choir to chant the minor propers and lead the congregation in singing the Ordinary. The 10:30 service transitions to a Solemn High Mass when deacon and subdeacon are available. Our clergy has access to an extensive collection of vintage Eucharistic Vestments. High Mass includes a thurifer with incense. The tower bell is rung in tandem with the Sanctus Bells during this Mass. Songs from the Hymnal 1940 are woven throughout this service. Laity participate in our worship as altar servers, chalice bearers, musicians, lectors, intercessors, and ushers. Both Masses are followed by a "coffee hour" where clergy and congregants can casually chat over a cuppa or some joe. Foods from the diverse cultures and tastes of our parish frequently follow the 10:30 Mass.

Our congregation appreciates the majesty of traditional Elizabethan English. Over the last decade we have worshipped using the 1928 Book of Common Prayer, the 1979 Book of Common Prayer Rite I, and, under our recent rector, the Anglican Service Book. Our Parish Administrator also prepares an expanded printed bulletin every week with major portions of the service along with a Scripture insert.

Every Sunday at 12:15 pm we welcome our Sudanese Episcopalian friends to share our sanctuary space for prayer services in the Dinka language. Our Rector joins them once a month to celebrate Mass.

Weekday services include Low Masses on Wednesday at 10:30 am and Thursday at 6:15 pm. And we have begun adding weekday celebration of feast days which don't fall on our regularly scheduled mass days. On Friday nights during Lent we walk the Stations of the Cross followed by Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament.

St. Paul's has a small but active cell of the Society of Our Lady of Walsingham which meets quarterly for Mass with Rosary. During Advent and Lent, the Women's Study Group hosts a Saturday morning Rosary followed by Morning Prayer.



Weekday Masses are held in the Lady Chapel



Our 8:00 am Sunday Congregation

2025 Year-End Statistical Report

Church Assessment Roll	246
Our Avg Sunday Mass Attendance	73
The Avg Dinka Service Attendance	15
Total Avg Weekly Attendance	114
Givers of Record	47



Our 10:30 am Sunday Congregation



The 12:15 pm Sunday Sudanese Episcopalian Congregation
(Our Rector joins them once a month to celebrate Mass.)

Music

St. Paul's Church by-the-Lake has a long history of musical worship in the Anglican tradition dating back to a large boys' choir in the middle of the 20th century. These days a small but dedicated volunteer choir under the direction of our Organist/Choirmaster supplies the musical foundation of the sung liturgy for the Solemn Eucharist on Sundays at 10:30 am and provides musical support for seasonal celebrations around Christmas and Easter. The choir chants the minor propers of the English Gradual and leads the congregation in singing the Ordinary and traditional hymns from the Hymnal 1940. They also perform special anthems, solos, small group vocals, and instrumental pieces to enhance our worship experience when appropriate. On major feast days and special occasions the choir is sometimes augmented with a few paid singers and other musicians. The choir usually sings a Choral Evensong once or twice a year.

St. Paul's is fortunate to have two pipe organs in our Nave, a recently restored 1920 Reuter Pipe Organ in the choir loft and a 1994 Bradford Tracker-Action Organ in the back balcony. These organs are electronically paired and tuned so that one can be preprogrammed to perform in concert with the other.

††† Our beloved OCM Mark Law unexpectedly passed away in January of this year. He had anchored our musical worship for over ten years. The congregation and most especially the choir mourns his passing. The search for his successor has begun.



Parish Staff and Elected Lay Leadership

St Paul's by-the-Lake relies both on part-time paid employees* and willing volunteers to keep the operations of the church humming along during the absence of a rector. All are consummate professionals as well as faithful congregants. The church is blessed to be the beneficiary of their devoted service.



Laura Nordell
Parish Administrator*



David Mattocks
Sexton*



David Roeder
Treasurer



Tina Kemp
Senior Warden



Koji Torihara
Junior Warden

The Vestry of St. Paul's Church by-the-Lake is comprised of nine members, with three members elected to 3-year terms at the Annual Meeting each year plus the Senior and Junior Wardens with 2-year terms elected on alternate years. The Senior Warden is nominated by the Rector and the Junior Warden is nominated by the Vestry. Our Treasurer is nominated and confirmed by a vote of the Vestry.

Outreach Ministries
Refugee Outreach Ministry

YESTERDAY

Sudanese Refugees

Sudanese men began to arrive in Chicago in the late twentieth century after civil war broke out in their home country. By the 2000s, many of the so-called “Lost Boys of Sudan” had settled in Rogers Park and nearby Edgewater, creating an enclave of the strongly Anglican-identifying immigrant families. These were given weekly access to St. Paul’s Church by-the-Lake for group meets. The boys that came to us then are now adults with families. Those who stayed in Chicago return to us on Sundays to congregate and praise God in a Dinkan Prayer Service. Once a month our Rector joins them to celebrate Mass.



Sudanese Refugees (2025)

Burmese Refugees

In the fall of 2007 a group of Karen refugees unexpectedly appeared at St Paul’s for early Mass. They spoke no English but had recognized our Anglican signage having been churched by the British in Burma. What began as an effort to supply 24 sets of gloves and mittens to newcomers who had no conception of a Chicago winter turned into over a decade of intense and loving outreach. Most of our Burmese families are gone now. They have moved to the suburbs or other areas of the country to pursue improved employment opportunities. One of our families remains. The parents’ jobs prevent them from joining us on Sundays but the father continues to take a long bus ride from the suburbs every Thursday night to join us for Mass. Their eldest daughter graduated from Middlebury College in Vermont last spring.



Burmese Refugees (2008-2025)

Refugee Outreach Ministry

TODAY

We work to cultivate a spirit of welcome for any and all refugees that arrive in our neighborhood or church. We welcome them in various ways, including gathering 'Welcome to America Packs' in partnership with Exodus World Service and hosting a refugee 'Free Share Store' in our basement. From organizing tutoring, gathering supplies for back-to-school backpacks, providing cooking classes and celebrating holidays together, St. Paul's members are constantly engaged with our new friends and neighbors to help them in practical ways as they adjust to life in America.



TOMORROW

For decades Rogers Park has been one of the top points of entry for refugees arriving from all over the world. This unique feature of our local community has allowed St. Paul's the privilege of responding to incredible opportunities sent to us by Holy Spirit. **We look forward to serving those whom God sends us next!!**

Animal Outreach Ministry



Over the years St Paul's Church by-the-Lake has cared for God's creatures through AniMeals, an independently funded program which provides food, supplies and veterinary care to financially-challenged pet owners and Illinois animal shelters which rehome abandoned dogs and cats.

Formation

Rector's Study

Just as private prayer and study are an essential part of an adult's spiritual life, so is the opportunity to read and learn as part of a community. St. Paul's Church by-the-Lake has been blessed to have rectors who believe in the importance of adult formation and have provided opportunities for parishioners to add to their religious growth. The latest iteration of this has been the Rector's Study on Sunday mornings between the two Mass times and offers adults the chance to broaden their knowledge of Christianity. In the last few years we have read authors like Martin Thornton and C.S. Lewis and lately finished Fr. Fulton Sheen's *Life of Christ*. This is an opportunity to ask questions and discuss the meaning of biblical stories and passages.



During our rector search, Bp. Martins, our Bishop-in-Residence, continues the study group leading us in "Mystagogical Catechesis," a practice grounded in the way Christians in the earliest centuries prepared candidates for baptism at the Easter Vigil. Each Sunday we look at the day's Scripture readings, the prayers of the liturgy and the hymns we sing to tease out what they tell us about what we believe (theology), how we pray (spirituality) and how we behave (conduct).



Women's Book Study

St. Paul's recognizes that women are an important part of both the Bible and early church history. Through the last three years, the Women's group has strengthened their knowledge of both the early church and women's places as saints and disciples. We have read about Jesus in medieval world, Phoebe's trip to Rome, modern saints, and had thoughtful discussions while preparing ourselves for Easter and Christmas. We focus on messages that speak to our souls and discover many times that the words of the writers speak to things in our own lives. This group nourishes faith and offers support to women seeking a deeper understanding.



Children and Youth Formation

Prior to 2020 St. Paul's Church by-the-Lake had a vibrant child formation program which ended with the arrival of COVID. When in-person churching resumed, those children who returned had aged out of the Sunday School and joined our congregation. We also had families who moved during the pandemic which further impacted our numbers. We are hoping with an upswing of new families coming to the church that we can reform our children's programs with a new population.

Right now parents are responsible for the Christian formation of their children. However, members of the church with previous experience churching youngsters are always available for Christian education guidance. We trust that when our child population increases to the point that we can return to Sunday school, the Holy Spirit will move Christian teachers to step forward. Exploratory conversations are currently underway about how to best minister to the children and youth in our midst now and in the future.

Meanwhile, John Ngugi serves as Catechist for both the St. Paul's and Sudanese congregations. He is available to bring young children through training for First Communion when requested. Additionally, our new Rector will be preparing adolescents and all others who seek confirmation.



Our Finances

INCOME:	2025 Actual	2026 Budget
Pledge	\$152,967	\$165,500
Plate	\$43,270	\$38,000
Investment Proceeds	\$52,000	\$50,000
Other Operating Income	\$17,125	\$14,630
Capital Campaigns	\$2,000	\$15,000
Other Non-Operating Income	<u>\$1,959</u>	<u>\$3,700</u>
TOTAL INCOME	\$269,321	\$286,830
EXPENSE:		
Clergy Pay & Benefits	\$116,337	\$69,802
Lay Employee Pay & Benefits	\$36,970	\$27,728
Insurance & Risk Mitigation	\$35,940	\$38,000
Office & Administration	\$10,121	\$15,000
Buildings & Grounds	\$38,268	\$45,000
Liturgy & Music	\$14,878	\$16,000
Parish Life & Formation	\$2,849	\$4,500
Diocesan Pledge	\$20,110	\$23,000
Operating Fund Reserve	---	\$29,100
Capital Improvements	\$11,506	\$15,000
Missions, Outreach & Discretionary	<u>\$2,974</u>	<u>\$3,700</u>
TOTAL EXPENSE	\$289,953	\$286,830

INVESTMENT FUND 2025 YEAR-END \$1,599,160

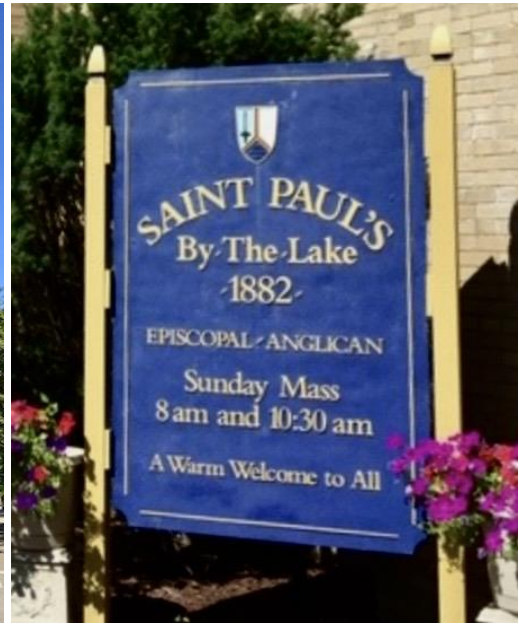


Our Property

Our church is located at the northwest corner of Ashland and Estes in the East Rogers Park neighborhood of Chicago, three blocks from Lake Michigan – hence “by-the-Lake”. It is a neo-English Gothic building built in 1925 with a main entrance accessible via a wheelchair ramp. In 2013, the Sanctuary was restored to the original parish communion-style floor plan. There is a Lady Chapel off to the side of the Nave. Above it is a choir loft with a 1920 Reuter Pipe Organ which was rebuilt in 2016. And there is a balcony at the back of the church with a 1994 Bradford Tracker-Action Organ. These organs are electronically paired and tuned so that they can be preprogrammed to play together. We also have a bell tower. Our bell rings Sundays during High Mass but it also rang out loud and long on November 2, 2016 when the Cubs won the World Series.

Our handicapped-accessible Parish Hall dates from 1915 and houses our administrative offices and fellowship activities. There is a air-conditioned café core common area with restroom facilities on the first floor and a lesser-used dining hall, kitchen and library accessible via a chairlift on the second floor.

The Rectory stands next to our church and connects directly to the church. It is a refurbished farmhouse dating from 1859, one of the oldest in Rogers Park. The building is air-conditioned and it has approximately 2,500 sf of finished space with 4 bedrooms, an office, and 2 full bathrooms. To the west of the Rectory, there is a privacy-fenced landscaped yard, a two-car garage and our church parking lot.



The Rector We Seek

St. Paul's Church by-the-Lake has had three Rectors over the last fifty years:

The Rev. Daniel L. Banner	(1970-1992)
The Rev. John Henry Heschle	(1993-2019)
The Rev. John "Trey" Garland, III	(2021-2026)

We begin our search secure in the belief that the individual that we seek is already looking for us. And we pray that God will bless our search and resurrect from us a new parish family with a rector who can faithfully shepherd our religious growth over the next decade. **AMEN**



We seek a spiritual parent who works to know each and every parishioner well and can vigorously rejoice in our successes and compassionately and practically minister to our ailments in times of need. This pastoral care includes visiting the sick and homebound, offering counseling to those requesting and/or requiring it, and supporting members of the flock in crisis or grief.

Our congregation highly values a rector's preaching and teaching abilities. Our recent CAT survey determined that the vast majority of our respondents prefer "expository sermons" which bring out or "expose" the truth that may be hidden beneath the words in sections of Scripture. Meanwhile, the Sunday "study group" led by the Rector between our two Masses has provided additional religious education and inspiration for newcomers and long-time members alike. We eagerly await the spiritual guidance that our next Rector will bring us.

In Chicago's past we were rumored to "vote early and often". This same concept can be extended to the worship of God at St. Paul's Church by-the-Lake. Our Rector will be expected to maintain the current schedule of weekday Masses and seek to expand sacramental worship whenever possible. As heir to our church's "goodly heritage", our Rector is charged with stewarding church property, especially that given in memory of parishioners long gone, with reverence and sensitivity.

It will be the task of our new Rector to oversee the development and implementation of a strategic plan for growing our church. That will be a challenging job because in some ways St. Paul's can be viewed as two divergent churches: 1) a neighborhood parish church and 2) a destination church which has begun to draw regular attendees from well beyond our immediate neighborhood. The latter come because of our long-held reputation for uncompromising traditional theological beliefs, our Anglo-Catholic worship style, and our distinctive preaching and teaching -- all of which set us apart from many Episcopal Churches in Chicago and the North Shore. Together we will need to come up with a plan that 1) attracts local families with children and youth from within our parish boundaries and 2) provides more opportunities for Christian education and spiritual formation for those who travel to worship with us every Sunday.



Our Community

Rogers Park is the northernmost neighborhood of Chicago and shares a border with Evanston, home of Northwestern University. With a population of about 55,000, it is among the most economically and racially diverse neighborhoods in Chicago and often a first U.S. home for immigrants. It sits nine miles from downtown Chicago and is well-served by public transit. Most residents are renters. Their education levels are slightly higher than the citywide average but their household incomes are lower. Loyola University is situated on the southside of Rogers Park. There is a wide choice of public and private schools on the north side of Chicago, many highly rated. The Chicago Public School System has selective enrollment schools at the elementary and secondary levels.



Our Diocese

The Episcopal Diocese of Chicago offers a dynamic and diverse landscape for ministry, stretching across northern Illinois—from the shores of Lake Michigan to the banks of the Mississippi River, from the Wisconsin border to Peoria and beyond. With 112 congregations in urban, suburban, and rural communities, the diocese offers a rich variety of contexts in which to live out one's calling.

Clergy in new calls are supported through the fresh Start program, designed to ease transitions, and foster strong foundations and collegial relationships. Opportunities for connection and renewal, including the annual Clergy Retreat and the Chrism Mass, bring clergy together for worship, fellowship, and shared purpose. The diocese invests in leadership development through the College for Congregational Development, lay leadership programs, and the Certified Church Treasurer initiative—ensuring that clergy and laity are equipped to lead thriving, resilient congregations.

Under the leadership of the Right Reverend Paula E. Clark, the diocese is embracing a strategic planning process that uses data to guide mission focus and resource allocation. Episcopal Charities and diocesan commissions, committees, and taskforces are actively engaged in outreach, education, and advocacy. The diocese is consciously moving toward becoming a more adaptive environment for ministry.



Application Process

To apply for this position, please complete The Clergy Information Form for Transitions from the Diocesan website: episcopalchicago.wufoo.com/forms/m1poxgz40cwsj2w/

Questions about this position should be directed to The Reverend Canon Andrea Mysen, Canon to the Ordinary: amysen@episcopalchicago.org