

# St. Paul Parish Newsletter

December 2013



Rev. Fr. Mark J. Niznik - Pastor  
Masses: Saturdays 4pm & Sundays 9 & 11am  
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## Parish News



Congratulations to FORTE on their recent album which made Amazon's top selling album in November. You can find FORTE'S album at Amazon.com, Barnes and Noble.com and also at Walmart.com.



## Another Evening With Father Mark and Friends

On January 10, 2014 at 7pm, Father Mark will kick off his annual variety show entitled, "Another Evening With Father Mark and Friends." This year's show is at The Savannah Center in The Villages and benefits the Clean Kids Backpack Program and our church. Obtaining a ticket to the show is a wonderful way of contributing to such a great cause - and having a blast, enjoying some great entertainment in the process!

Tickets can be purchased on line or at the Villages Box Offices. The donation is \$22 for Villages Residents and \$27 for non-residents. This might offer a great way of becoming friends with someone from our parish who lives in The Villages, who can save you \$5 per ticket!

Please remember to wear your name badges that evening and please get some business cards from Father Mark, so when you speak with someone that evening, you can hand them a card. This is the most important outreach program our parish performs, so please attend this event and support our parish.

May Jesus be praised as we look to serve his most vulnerable children that are homeless and in our localities.

Thank you,  
Father Mark

## 1080 Items collected for Clean Kids Backpack Program - May to October



## Christmas Masses

On **Christmas Eve**,  
(Tuesday, Dec. 24th)  
there will be only one  
Mass at 7:00pm.

On **Christmas Day**,  
(Wednesday, Dec. 25th)  
Mass will be at 10:00am.

## Sunday Coupon Flyers

At the November 3rd Parish Committee meeting, Debbie Niznik had a display table of 1080 free items that she had been able to obtain from May to October 2013 for the Clean Kids Backpack Program using the coupons in the flyers that church members donated each week. Debbie wants to thank all of you for your continued support and asks that you keep bringing in the flyers. **Total items collected in one year were 1582.**

## Spaghetti Dinners



Come and bring your friends to our weekly all you can eat spaghetti dinners on Fridays 4:00-7:00pm. Dinners include salad, roll & butter and your choice of a free beverage, either coffee, iced tea or lemonade. Adults are just \$5.00 and Children 12yrs and younger are FREE. There are also homemade desserts from our Ladies ANS Society for only \$1.00 each. If you are bringing a large group, please contact Bob Canfield at 352-454-8763 and let him know how many in your party and what time you will arrive, and he will reserve your table(s) for you.

## YMS of R Men's Group

The next YMS of R meeting will be held on Wednesday, December 11th at 9:00am at Cal's Restaurant in Belleview. All men from the parish are encouraged to attend. If you are new to the parish, this is a good opportunity for you to meet some of the men of our parish.



## St. Paul Choir

We have a fantastic, spirited choir here at St. Paul's, under the direction of Charley Stoykovich. We are still looking for singers for our Saturday Mass. Anyone interested in joining the choir can meet here at the church on Tuesdays at 6:00pm for practice.



## Ladies Adoration Society

We thank you Holy Father for all your blessings and our Society's great success this year.

During this holy and joyful time I would like to express my heartfelt thanks to our church family for the never ending support for our fundraising efforts. It is through these efforts that we are able to maintain and keep our Altar and Father Mark's vestments in elegant and pristine condition to honor our Lord Jesus Christ. With your continued support we will be able to accomplish great things.



"Christmas Cookie Trays" raffle tickets are now on sale thru Friday, December 13th, after all Masses and during the Spaghetti dinners on Fridays. Tickets will be \$2 each, 3 for \$5 and 15 for \$10 for a chance to win a large tray of assorted cookie favorites baked by the ladies of our Adoration Society. Father Mark will announce the winners on December 14th and 15th after all Masses. I promise that you all will have many chances to win these fresh baked favorites to serve or give as gifts for Christmas. Last year we had 18 winners.

On behalf of me and our Adoration Society Sisters, we would like to wish you all God's choicest blessings this Christmas and throughout the new year.

In His Service,

*Dori Canfield*



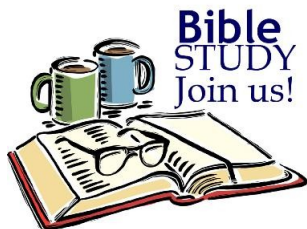
**Reminder!**

Our ANS Christmas Party will be Saturday, December 21st at 12:00 noon at the Nancy Lopez Legacy Restaurant, located in The Villages. All the ladies of the Parish are welcome, just let me know so I can add you to the reservation list 352-233-9961 or [doricandfield@gmail.com](mailto:doricandfield@gmail.com)



We welcome our new members of our church family who have joined in the month of November.

Nancy Kirschenbaum  
Margi Werb



Father Mark is conducting bible class on Thursdays, 10:00am here at St. Paul's social hall. This ongoing class is for everyone interested in finding out more about their faith. Father Mark brings us many pearls of Scripture each week and whether you are a first time bible reader or an astute learned scriptural connoisseur, there's something special in the Word of God for everyone. You are encouraged to bring a friend.



## Birthdays

- 5th Judy Mierzwiak
- 6th Norma Pais
- 7th Toby Riedel
- 13th Marilyn Guerin  
Debbie Niznik
- 14th Rene Gadbois
- 17th Carol Matla
- 19th Lydia Kowalski Cane
- 20th Andy Pallotto
- 26th Helen Berdechowski
- 27th Mary Florio  
Judy Pereyo
- 28th Paul Lonsdorf
- 30th Neil Keegstra
- 31st Kathy Lazenby  
Ron Mierzwiak

Offering Envelopes for 2014 will be available in the social hall around the middle of December.



## Anniversaries

- 3rd Neil & Loretta Keegstra
- 17th Matthew & Mary MacMillan
- 21st Al & Ellie Nemeth
- 28th Ben & Dorothy Boogaard  
Gene & Kathryn DalPino
- 31st Vern & Gail Shukoski

\* Members, if your birthday or anniversary is not listed, please inform Debbie Niznik.

## Communion Class

First Holy Communion Classes are now being held in the social hall following the 9:00am Mass on Sundays. Students not yet baptized are welcome to begin attending as they will undergo instruction and preparation for baptism as well.

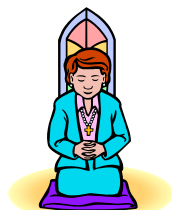


## Backpack Program



Our mainstay charitable program provides local homeless school children personal care/hygiene items all year round. Please drop off items anytime on the rectory porch or at church on Sundays, in the bins in the back of the church.

## Women's Prayer Group



The Ladies Prayer Group will meet on Wednesday, December 4th and 18th.  
Rosary at 3:00pm  
Prayer Group at 3:30pm.  
All the ladies of the parish are welcome.

## Special Offering

### Envelopes



For December, there is an envelope entitled: *Christmas Decorations*. This is used for the poinsettias and other decorations for the Christmas Season.

The month of December is designated for the *Seminary Fund*. Parish members can donate to this fund by using their Seminary Fund envelope. Also, if you are not a member and would like to donate to this fund, please use a Love Offering envelope found in the church pews and mark it "*Seminary Fund*". This fund is used to help promote vocations and assist seminarians in their formation to the diaconate and priesthood. Thank you for your considerations.

## Words for Thought

*For to us a child is born, to us  
a son is given, and the government  
will be on his shoulders.  
And he will be called Wonderful  
Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting  
Father, Prince of Peace.*

*Isaiah 9:6 NIV*

## Annual Meeting



Mark your calendars for Sunday, February 16, 2014. This is the date of our annual meeting. It will be in the social hall following the 11:00am Mass. All members are encouraged to attend this meeting.



### Christmas Toy Drive for Underprivileged Kids

Our own Joe Apichella has organized a Christmas toy collection for underprivileged children at our adopted elementary school, Wyomina Park Elementary in Ocala this year and there are two ways to give if you choose.

One is that you can buy a new toy or toys for children **K through 5th grade**. Or if you don't know what to give, you can make a check out to our backpack program and the money will be earmarked for Christmas toys for the kids. Please make out any checks you write to "**Backpack**" and write "**Christmas**" in the memo line for our accounting purposes.

The advantage of going through our church's backpack program is that we can purchase items at wholesale prices, tax free and you get to use it as a charitable donation on your income taxes. We are also reaching out to the community, because there are over 600 children we are hoping to provide for.

Joe has set up a box inside of the church for those who wish to do their own shopping. Please remember it's **K through 5th grade (5-10yrs old)** and that the toys must be new and in their original packaging undamaged in order for them to be distributed through the school system. No toy weapons of any kind can be accepted also.

Again, checks payable to "**Backpack**" and write "**Christmas**" on the memo line. Thank you for your considerations.

## The Advent Season in the Church



Advent marks the start of the Christmas season and the new year in the Church. It begins on the Sunday nearest November 30<sup>th</sup>, the feast day of St. Andrew the Apostle, and lasts four Sundays. The date it begins changes from year to year. As a result, so does the length of each Advent season. This year the first Sunday in Advent is December 1, 2013.

The word *advent*, from Latin, means “the coming.” It is a time of spiritual reflection. We look to experience penitential as well as cheerful anticipation.

An Advent wreath is made from green to symbolize continuous life and contains four candles -- three purple and one rose. Often a fifth candle (white) is added to the center of the wreath for lighting on Christmas Eve, in celebration of the birth of Jesus.

The progressive weekly lighting of the candles symbolizes the expectation and hope surrounding our Lord’s first coming in to the world and the anticipation of His second coming to judge the living and the dead.

### **First Sunday of Advent: Hope**

One purple candle is lit to symbolize Hope.

### **Second Sunday: Peace**

Two purple candles are lit - Hope & Peace

### **Third Sunday (Gaudete Sunday): Joy**

Two purple candles (Hope & Peace) and one rose is lit to symbolize Joy.

### **Fourth Sunday: Love**

All four candles are lit - Hope, Peace, Joy and Love.

### **Christmas Eve:**

We light all four candles and add the fifth white candle which represents the light of Christ.

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