



Rev. Fr. Mark J. Niznik - Pastor
Masses: Saturdays 4pm
Sundays 8am & 11am
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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 30th, 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 November 27, 2016.

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.



Christmas Masses

Christmas Eve
Saturday, Dec. 24th
There will be only one
Mass at 4:00pm.

Christmas Day
Sunday, Dec. 25th
Masses will be at
8:00am and 11:00am

2017 Offering Envelopes



The 2017 Offering Envelopes for St. Paul Parish members will be available on December 1st inside the social hall on the information table under the bulletin board near the restrooms.

YMS of R Men's Group

The next YMS of R meeting will be held on Wednesday, December 21st 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 and Sunday Masses. Anyone interested in joining the choir can meet here at the church on Tuesdays at 6:00pm for practice.



Ladies Adoration Society

Thank you Dear Lord for Your many blessings on our Society.



We are starting to make plans for our busy holiday season starting Sunday, November 27th with the sale of our cookie tray raffle tickets. Tickets are \$2 each, 3 for \$5 and 15 for \$10. The drawing will be on Saturday, December 17th for these beautiful large trays of cookies bake by the ladies of our Adoration Society. On December 17th & 18th the winners will be announced at the Saturday and Sundays Masses. Last year we had 22 happy winners.



Just a reminder that retreat money is due on December 1st. The cost for 2 nights and 5 meals are: double room \$144 each and single room \$194. Make checks payable to: *St. Paul Adoration Society*. You can give the checks to Clara Smith, our treasurer, or me. We still have a few rooms available. The dates of the retreat are January, 12th, 13th & 14th if you might like to go. Again, all the ladies of the parish are welcome. If you have any questions you can reach me at 352-233-9961 or doricanfield@gmail.com. I would love to speak with you.

On behalf of myself and all the ladies of our Adoration Society, I would like to wish you and your family a most blessed and Merry Christmas.

In His service, Dori Canfield

President, The Adoration Society



Father Mark's bible study class meet at 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.

Golf League



Our church golf league meets each Tuesday of every month at 8:30am at Spruce Creek Del Webb in Summerfield. Golfers are paired into groups of 4 players in scramble format. If any men or women are interested in joining our fun league, please contact Susan Hilt at 352-307-2129. Bring your friends. All are welcome. Sign up sheets will be posted in the social hall.



Birthdays

- 5th Judy Mierzwiak
- 6th Norma Pais
- 10th Better McGuire
- 11th Marilyn DeWitt
Vic Dunphy
- 13th Debbie Niznik
- 17th Carol Matla
- 19th Lydia Kowalski Cane
- 20th Andy Pallotto
- 22nd Mary-Ellen Rezzonico
- 26th Helen Berdechowski
- 27th Frances Salzman
- 31st Kathy Lazenby
Ron Mierzwiak



Backpack Program

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



Anniversaries

- 5th Bob & Mary-Ellen Rezzonico
- 17th Matthew & Mary MacMillan
- 21st Jack & Diane Adinolfi
- 28th Ben & Dorothy Boogaard
- 30th Louis & Irene Torresin

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

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.

Spaghetti Dinners



Come and bring your friends to our weekly all-you-can-eat spaghetti dinners on Fridays from 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 \$6.00 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 352-454-8673. Please let him know how many are in your party and what time you will arrive, and he will reserve your table(s) for you.

Words for Thought

Creator of heaven and earth, He was born on earth under heaven. Unspeakably wise, He is wisely speechless. Filling the world, He lies in a manger... He is both great in the nature of God, and small in the form of a servant.

Augustine

Finding Peace in the Face of Loss Support Group

Loss is never easy and somehow the effects of losses are more keenly apparent throughout the holiday season. Loss has many faces - the passing of a loved one, the loved one who is still present but incapacitated through trauma or disease, personal changes in your own ability to participate in life as you once did due to illness or other circumstances, and loss of family or loved one's presence due to moving, imprisonment, or addictions. It is also present in the feeling of helplessness with the loss of employment and the subsequent impact and anxiety of the financial stresses that ensue. These are just a few of the circumstances in life that leaves us struggling to find the peace and strength to move forward.

In response to folks desiring better understanding and to help foster a more peaceful spirit, Father Mark has approved the establishment of a support group here at St. Paul's. The next meeting for the *Finding Peace in the Face of Loss Support Group* will meet inside the social hall on Saturday, December 10th following the 10:00am Anointing of the Sick & Intentions for Departed Mass.

Sunday Breakfast Buffet



Come join our Sunday morning Breakfast Buffet in our social hall from 9am to 1pm. Enjoy a spectacular all-you-can-eat buffet filled with lots of different breakfast items to select. Pancakes will be made to order at the kitchen window and the buffet includes: French toast, farm fresh scrambled eggs, bacon, sausage, corned beef hash, home fries, fresh fruit, bagels & cream cheese, cereals, along with Complimentary coffee, milk and iced tea. All for only \$10! Children 9 & under are only \$5! Now, here's the other really cool part: If you are a customer at our Friday night spaghetti dinner, you will receive a \$2 discount coupon to that Sunday's Breakfast Buffet!