

# *St. Paul Parish Newsletter*

*August 2022*



*Rev. Fr. Mark J. Niznik - Pastor*  
*Masses: Sunday 11:00am*  
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## **St. Paul Parish History**

In 1944 many Polish-Americans began to settle in the Florida town of Belleview. They came because of work in industries related to World War II, which was raging at that time. Among these Polish-Americans were Polish National Catholics who desired to continue to worship God in the manner they had chosen and to belong to the Church for which they had sacrificed so much. They petitioned the Right Reverend Leon Grochowski, Bishop Ordinary of the Western Diocese, to send them a priest who could help them to organize a parish to meet their spiritual needs. Bishop Grochowski sent them a very capable and zealous priest, the Reverend John Swierczewski, whom he later named to be the first pastor for the new St. Paul's Polish National Catholic Church.

The first organizational meeting, as well as subsequent meetings took place in the homes of parishioners. The Sajdera, Gawronski and Orzel families were most generous in inviting their fellow parishioners and their pastor to hold these important meetings in their homes. These homes also served as the original chapels where Fr. Swierczewski celebrated Holy Mass for the newly organized parish. Later the Methodist Congregation of Belleview, seeing the fervor of the Polish National Catholics to worship God, offered their church for services. This arrangement lasted until 1951 when St. Paul's Polish National Catholic Church built her own church facility on the property it has received as a gift from Mr. and Mrs. Michael Sajdera on South East 112th Street. Much help in building the church was given by Dan Nikols, Messrs. Tyburski, Placzek, Burnagiel, and others. The pews of the new church were donated by Grace Episcopal Church of Ocala, Florida as a gesture of Christian love and the inter-communion the two Churches enjoyed at that time. Altars were donated as a memorial gift by Edgar Roberts of the Roberts Funeral Home of Ocala and many other gifts came from Hiers Baxley Funeral Home of Belleview. The Right Reverend Leon Grochowski, Bishop Ordinary of the Western Diocese, dedicated the new church in December of 1951.

The first parish committee elected for St. Paul's Polish National Catholic Church was comprised of the following parishioners: Frank Kafara (First Chairman), Mrs. A. Sajdera, Mrs. W. Urzykowski, Mr. J. Burnagiel and Mr. Urzykowski.

The first parish organizations founded for the strengthening of the faith and life of the parish were the Ladies' Aid Society, the Men's Improvement Club, the Folk Dance Group and the Echo Choir.

When Fr. John Swierczewski died suddenly on December 21, 1953, the parish was temporarily served by the Reverend John Siembida, pastor of Holy Cross Parish in Miami, Florida. In 1954 the Reverend Joseph Blyn was appointed and accepted as pastor. In the twenty years of his leadership the parish grew in membership, purchased a rectory and a tract of land next to the first church for possible future expansion. Fr. Blyn worked in many civic organizations in the Belleview community. Through his efforts and those of parishioners John Makowski, St. Paul's parishioners decided to build a new and larger church building. It was dedicated in 1962 by the Right Reverend Francis C. Rowinski, Bishop Ordinary of the Western Diocese.

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After Fr. Blyn's retirement in 1974 St. Paul's was served by a succession of pastors: the Reverends Marek Barski, John Siembida, Leszek Sokolowski, Zygmunt Medrek, Włodzimierz Olkowicz and John A. Sielchan.

In July, 2000, Rev. Fr. Mark J. Niznik was assigned as Pastor of the parish. Rev. Niznik was ordained on June 24, 2000 by the Most Rev. John Swantek, presiding Prime Bishop of the PNCC at the time.

When Father Mark arrived, the parish membership was barely hanging on with 25 members that endured their last four months without a resident priest. As it was summer, the "snowbirds" were up north and 14 people attended Father Mark's first Mass at St. Paul Parish. Over the years, the dynamic preaching ability that God blessed upon Father Mark took root and his passion for Jesus Christ and salvation began reaching more people, one soul at a time. Today, the church membership has surpassed 200 and the life of the parish is strong and active. The presence of the Holy Spirit is palpable as the Sacraments of the Church are administered to an amazing church family, always looking to add a brother or sister in Christ that may be seeking something special. Father Mark has brought a more updated and spirited Mass to the parish and we have found favor with God as our church's music ministry is first rate among the worshipping communities. Father Mark attributes all of our successes to the commitment of glorifying God first and foremost.

## YMS of R Men's Group

The next YMS of R meeting will be Thursday, August 18th at 12:00 noon in the social hall following the bible study class at 11:00am and lunch afterwards at Pasta Faire. All gentlemen of the parish are invited and encouraged to join us in fellowship. If you are new to the parish, this is a good opportunity for you to meet some of the men of our parish.



## School Supplies

Schools will be back in session starting August 10th, and we want to help our sponsored school, Carver Middle School located in Leesburg, FL, where Valda Niznik (Father Mark's wife) is one of two Vice Principals of this school. Below is the school supply list. The school supplies are for the 6th, 7th and 8th grade students so the list is a bit different than we had in the past years. If you can help out by donating any of the items on the list, it will be greatly appreciated. There is a plastic tub inside of the church for your donations which can be brought in at the weekend Masses. Thank you for your support!

- Pencils #2 size
- Blue or Black Ink Pens
- Colored Pencils
- Highlighters (any color)
- Dry erase markers
- Dry marker erasers
- 1-Subject spiral notebooks
- Loose leaf paper
- Graph paper or graph composition notebooks
- Post-It/Sticky Notes (any color)
- Index Cards
- 2" Three Ring Binders
- Pencil Pouch for Three Ring Binders
- Disinfectant wipes (Lysol or Clorox)
- Un-scented hand sanitizer
- Individual Tissue Packets
- Back Pack (Preferably Clear)
- Socks



Father Mark's bible study class meets every Thursday at 11:00am and at 6:00pm 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

- 7th Cathie Smith
- 8th Wally Brosig
- 11th JoAnne Caiazza
- 13th Nancy Hornacek
- 15th Mark Gilbert
- 16th Brandy McNeill
- 17th Ruth Sarnowski
- 22nd Bill Derkowski  
John Gagliano
- 24th Joe Murray
- 25th Kathy Thorpe
- 26th Frank Carbone  
Nancy Charlebois  
Jack Davis
- 31st Caroline Hoffmann



## Anniversaries

- 14th James & Christine Kurlapski
- 17th Bruce & Beth Russell
- 18th Joe & Ann Murray
- 19th Tom & Cathy Bluemling  
Gail & Kathy Lazenby
- 21st Rich & Pat Mason
- 22nd Clyde & Joanne Caiazza
- 27th Tony & Ann Marie Cipriano
- 28th George & Marilyn Clark

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

## Special Offering Envelopes



The month of August is designated for the *National Youth Fund PNCC*. Parish members and non-members can donate to this fund by using a Love Offering envelope that are in the church pews and mark it "*National Youth Fund PNCC*". This fund is used to help keep the cost down for Youth Convocations and camps.



## 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 front of the church.

## Words for Thought

*Someone said to me once  
that we can see the features of  
God in a single smile. Look for the  
smile in the people you meet.*



*Christopher De Vinck*

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CLEAN KIDS BACKPACK PROGRAM

# DONATIONS

## TOP NEEDED ITEMS



No Rinse Shampoo



Deodorant



Dental Care Supplies

### Other important needed items:

- backpacks
- family size tents
- sleeping bags
- sleeping mats
- socks & underwear
- feminine hygiene products
- baby wipes
- diapers (assorted sizes)
- shaving supplies

Please make sure that donations are **new and in original packaging.**

Thank you!