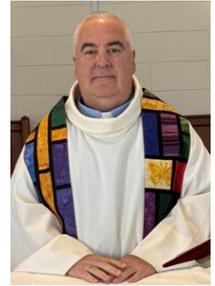


# St. Paul Parish Newsletter

August 2025



Rev. Fr. Mark J. Niznik - Pastor  
Masses: Sunday 9:00am & 11:00am  
5245 SE 112th Street  
Bellevue, FL 34420  
(352) 245-2061  
Email: [fathermark1@gmail.com](mailto:fathermark1@gmail.com)  
Website: [stpaulfl.com](http://stpaulfl.com)



## St. Paul Parish History

In 1944 many Polish-Americans began to settle in the Florida town of Bellevue. 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 Parish.

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. Seeing the fervor of the Polish National Catholics to worship God, the *Methodist Congregation of Bellevue* offered their church for services. This arrangement lasted until 1951 when St. Paul Parish built its own church facility on the property it had 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 Bellevue*. 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 Parish 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 20 years of his leadership, the parish grew in membership and 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 Bellevue community. Through his efforts and those of parishioner *John Makowski*, St. Paul Parish'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.

After *Fr. Blyn's* retirement in 1974, St. Paul Parish was served by a succession of pastors: the Reverends *Marek Barski*, *John Siembida*, *Leszek Sokolowski*, *Zygmunt Medrek*, *Wlodzimirz 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. (Please check out our website: [stpaulfl.com](http://stpaulfl.com))



Dine in or Take out from 4 - 7pm each Friday for an amazing New England seafood style meal! Order either the Haddock or Shrimp or Chicken, that comes with sides of coleslaw, potato waves and the veggie of the day! There's also complimentary tea, lemonade and coffee! The donation is \$20 per meal. We now have Ipswich Clams. These are freshly fried when ordered. You will get the complete meal of 1/2 pound of fried Clams, along with the potatoes, coleslaw, vegetable and drink for \$25. If you'd like to plate share, there is a \$10 add on. Try one of our amazing, great portioned, homemade desserts from our Adoration Society for just \$3. Word is getting out about how terrific our Fish Frys are, so please

## The Young Men's Society of Resurrection (YMS of R)



The next YMS of R meeting will be Thursday, August 21st at 12:00 noon in the social hall after the Holy Thursday Mass at 11:00am. 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.

YSM of R members and their guests meet the 2nd Tuesday, August 12th at 5pm for a casual get together at the Man-cave. Usually pizza or burgers. Open to all men of the parish. For any questions please see or contact Mark Gilbert at: (410) 419-0321.

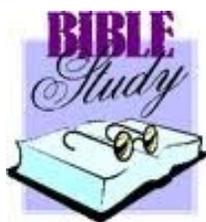
keep supporting the efforts of our Christ-centered volunteers! If you'd like to join in the fun, any amount of time you can give is greatly appreciated! Even just one Friday every other month would be great! Please contact our volunteer coordinator, Bob Canfield for details (352) 454-8677

## School Supplies

Schools will be back in session starting in August, 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. This year we have a short list of the items most needed. The school supplies are for the 6th, 7th and 8th grade students. 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
- Dry erase markers
- Dry marker erasers
- Composition Notebooks
- Disinfectant wipes (Lysol or Clorox)





Father Mark's bible study class meets every Thursday morning at 11:00am 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

- 1st Cheryl Chrisco
- 7th Cathie Smith
- 9th Frances Petrick
- 11th JoAnne Caiazza
- 15th Mark Gilbert
- 16th Brandy McNeill
- 17th Ruth Sarnowski
- 22nd Bill Derkowski
- 25th Jeanette Brown  
Kathy Thorpe
- 26th Nancy Charlebois  
Jack Davis  
Chrissie Woodward
- 31st Caroline Hoffmann



## Anniversaries

- 14th James & Christine Kurlapski
- 17th Bruce & Beth Russell
- 19th Tom & Cathy Bluemling
- 21st Robert & Kathleen Smith
- 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.



## Clean Kids Back Pack 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.

## 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.

### Words for Thought

*I call on you, O God,  
for you will answer me; give ear  
to me and hear my prayer.  
Show the wonder of your great love....  
Keep me as the apple of your eye,  
hide me in the shadow of your wings.*

**PSALM 17:6-8 NIV**

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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!