



Rev. Fr. Mark J. Niznik - Pastor  
Masses: Saturdays 4pm  
Sundays 7:30am, 9am & 11am  
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## Parish News

As this year comes to an end, we would like to thank everyone that has volunteered their time and talents to our parish. A big thank you to all that serve at the altar, Father Tom, Deacon Angelo and Cleric Gail and our altar servers, thank you to our choir director, Charley and the choir, to all the vocalists who sang during the year, to our lectors, to those who help with the weekly collection baskets at each Mass, and to those who are greeters. To our Parish Committee and Board of Directors who help make decisions for the growth of our church, we thank you. To the Ladies Adoration Society that hold the candles in church at each Mass and who clean the church each week, we thank you. To the YMS of R Men's group who help out with projects around the church, we thank you. To those who volunteer at our weekly spaghetti dinner, we thank you. To those who volunteered or had fund raisers for our Back Pack Program, we thank you. To those who donated items for our School Supply Drive and Back Pack Program and those who have donated toys for our Christmas for Kids program, we thank you. And finally, we thank you Father Mark for being our spiritual leader for the last 15 years. You guide us in the direction that we need to be in. You teach us the Word of God in your homilies and bible study classes. You visit the sick at home or in the hospital and you help comfort those that have lost a loved one. You are always there to lend a helping hand when needed. You are a living example of how we should live our lives. This parish is so blessed to have you as our pastor. So we say Thank You Father Mark!



## Christmas Masses

**Christmas Eve**  
Thursday, Dec. 24th  
There will be only one  
Mass at 7:00pm.

**Christmas Day**  
Friday, Dec. 25th  
Mass will be at 10:00am.



Our Christmas for Kids program is underway! This year, we are partnering with the Marine Corp League's Toys for Tots with hopes of bringing a brighter Christmas into the homes of our local underprivileged children, ages toddler through 12 years old. Any monies we receive will still be dedicated to Christmas Toys purchased for about 750 underprivileged school children (pre K - 5th grade) at our adopted school, Wyomina Park Elementary School in Ocala, where our first lady of the church, Valda Niznik is School Principal. All physical toys donated will be distributed through Toys for Tots in the Bellevue area, benefiting our local community's underprivileged children. If you purchase toys directly, they must be new, untampered, unwrapped and in their original packaging. We have a drop off box inside of the church. No weapon type toys please. All checks should be payable to "**Backpack Program**" and please write "**Christmas for Kids**" in the memo section. Monetary donations are tax-deductible as permitted by law as the Backpack Program is an outreach ministry program of our church. May God bless all those we seek to help bring a moment of joy into their lives.

*Grace, Father Mark*

## Confirmation Class



The Confirmation Class taught by Father Tom Basta has resumed on Thursday mornings following the Bible Study Class around 11:15am. This class is for those individuals that are 14 yrs old and above.

If you have already made your Confirmation and would like to sit in on the class, you are welcomed to do so. Please bring your bibles. If you have any questions about this class, please see Father Tom or Father Mark.

## YMS of R Men's Group

The next YMS of R meeting will be held on Wednesday, December 16th 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



"Christmas Cookie Trays" raffle tickets are now on sale thru Friday, December 18th, after all Masses and during the Spaghetti dinners on Fridays. Tickets are \$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 and Father Tom will announce the winners on December 19th and 20th 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.



The date for our annual Christmas Luncheon will be Saturday, December 12th at 11:30am at the Nancy Lopez Restaurant in The Villages. All the ladies of the parish are welcome.

Please let Dori Canfield know by December 7th if you will be attending. You can contact Dori at: [doricandfield@gmail.com](mailto:doricandfield@gmail.com) or 352-233-9961.



Just a reminder that retreat money is due December 1st. The cost for 2 nights and 5 meals are: double room \$140 each and single room \$190. Make checks payable to: St. Paul Adoration Society. You can give the checks to Clara Smith, or Dori Canfield. We still have a few rooms available. The dates are January 21st, 22nd & 23rd if you might like to go. Again, all the ladies of the parish are welcome.

On behalf of myself 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*



Father Mark's bible class meet 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.

## Greeting Card Club



The date for the next Greeting Card Club meeting will be announced by Father Mark and an email with the date will also be sent out to everyone. If you haven't had the chance to find out about our greeting card program, please join us that day for a fun and worthwhile outreach project. There's help along the way and you'll be making cards before you know it! The cost is about \$15 per month per person and proceeds benefit our church.



## Birthdays

- 5th** Judy Mierzwiak  
**6th** Norma Pais  
**11th** Marilyn DeWitt  
 Vic Dunphy  
**13th** Debbie Niznik  
**17th** Carol Matla  
**19th** Lydia Kowalski Cane  
**20th** Andy Pallotto  
**26th** Helen Berdechowski  
**27th** Judy Pereyo  
 Frances Salzman  
**31st** Kathy Lazenby  
 Ron Mierzwiak

## Annual Meeting



Mark your calendars for Sunday, February 21, 2016. This is the date of our annual meeting. It will be in the social hall following the 11:00am Mass. All members are encourage to attend this meeting.



## 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.



## Anniversaries

- 17th** Matthew & Mary MacMillan  
**28th** Ben & Dorothy Boogaard

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

## Offering Envelopes



The 2016 Offering Envelopes will be available around the middle of December. (Please do not use these envelopes until January 2016).



## 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.



## 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 \$6.00 (note price change) 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 and let him know how many in your party and what time you will arrive, and he will reserve your table(s) for you.

## 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

*Christmas hath a beauty  
Lovelier than the world can show:  
For Christmas bringeth Jesus,  
Brought for us so low.  
Earth, strike up your music,  
Birds that sing and bells the ring:  
Heaven hath answering music  
For all Angels soon to sing.*

*Christina Rossetti*

## Sunday Coupon Flyers



Debbie Niznik wants to thank all of you for bringing in your Sunday coupon flyers each week. Debbie has been on a mission to get as many free or next to free items for our "Clean Kids" Back Pack Program. If you receive the Sunday newspaper, and you just throw out the Sunday coupon flyers or you just cut out a few coupons and throw the rest of the flyer away, **STOP** and bring the flyers (even if the cut one still has a coupon or two still on it) and put them in the Boxtops & Labels for Education plastic bin drawer inside the church. Debbie has a way of finding free samples online and donates them to our Back Pack Program. When she finds some really good items she sends out emails to everyone, so they too can donate the samples or they can keep them. So let's see how many items Debbie can find with your help. Thank you.



## 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 November 29, 2015.

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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