



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 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 3, 2017.

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**  
Sunday, Dec. 24th  
Masses will be at  
8:00am, 11:00am  
and at 7:00pm.

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



Our Friday Night Spaghetti Dinner and Sunday Breakfast Buffet has been a huge success and now we are in need of more volunteers. If this is something that you can help us out with, please see or contact Father Mark. Even if you can only volunteer once a month it would be greatly appreciated. Thank you!!

## YMS of R Men's Group

The next YMS of R meeting will be held on Wednesday, December 20th 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



### ANS Annual Cookie Tray Raffle

Tickets will go on sale beginning Saturday, November 25th. Their cost: 1 ticket for \$2, 3 for \$5 and 15 for \$10. We will be selling them after each Mass in the social hall. This is a major fund raiser for us. The more tickets we sell the more money we make!! These large trays of delicious homemade cookies, made by the ladies of the church and the ANS Society, are fabulous. They are trayed and wrapped beautifully by the ladies of the ANS Society. The drawing for the cookie trays will be held on Saturday, December 16th. Last year we had 22 happy winners. Father Mark pulls the winning tickets and the winners are announced after each Mass. The proceeds are used for the upkeep of our Altar and Father Mark's vestments.

There are just a few spots left for the ANS Annual Retreat held on January 25 - 27, 2018.. If you have been thinking about going, now is the time to let Dori Canfield know. You can contact her at 352-233-9961.

On behalf of our Adoration Society, I would like to thank you all for your support. God's choicest blessings to you and your family during this Christmas season.

In His service,

*Dori Canfield, President*

*The Adoration Society*





Father Mark's bible study class meets on Thursday's 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.



The 2018 Offering Envelopes will be available around the middle of December.

## 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
- 7th Brian Clark
- 10th Bette 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

*Nothing we can do will make the Father love us less; nothing we do can make Him love us more. He loves us unconditionally with an everlasting love. All He asks of us is that we respond to Him with the free will that He has given to us.*

Nancie Carmichael

## 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!

## YMS of R Raffle



Raffle tickets are now available for the YMS of R Annual Raffle. Tickets are a donation of \$10 each and the drawing will be in the month of March 2018. The tickets are based on the daily numbers lottery, so there will be a winner everyday in the month of March. For tickets and more information, please see Deacon Angelo.

**RMF** ☐☐☐☐

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