



Rev. Fr. Mark J. Niznik - Pastor
Masses: Saturdays 4pm
Sundays 10am
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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 December 2, 2018.

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.



Christmas Masses

Christmas Eve
Monday, Dec. 24th
Masses will be at 7:00pm.

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

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.



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 or Bob Canfield 352-454-8673 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 Sunday, December 16th at 9:00am inside of the social hall. All men of 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 4:00pm for practice.



Ladies Adoration Society



Ribbons bought, trays arrived, wrapping paper ready. We now need as many bakers as we can get to bake cookies, lots of them to help us fill these beautiful trays. Baked cookies can be dropped off in the Social Hall on December 15th between 9:00am and 11:00am.

Cookie Tray Raffle Tickets are now on sale. The drawing will be December 15th. Fr. Mark will draw the winning tickets, Last year we had 24 winners of these huge delicious trays of cookies. The proceeds are used for the upkeep of our Altar and Father Mark's vestments. Tickets will be sold in the Social Hall after all Masses. Tickets are 1 for \$2.00, 3 for \$5.00 and 15 for \$10.00.



Santa's Shopping Spree:

Saturday, 5:00pm to 7:00pm, December 1st back by popular demand, Jessie Ann Boutique's will have a Santa's Shopping Spree. That cute little Boutique is across the street from the church with exceptional prices and the cutest clothes. They will have a whole new line of clothing along with Christmas specials, great Christmas gift ideas, gift certificates, wish list cards for your husband (always a good idea), giveaways and delicious refreshments. Everyone is welcome.

On behalf of our Adoration Society, we thank you for your never ending support and wish you Christ's choicest blessings and a joyful and Happy Christmas Season.



Father Mark's bible study class meets every Thursday morning 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
- 7th Brian Clark
- 8th Deb Williams
- 10th Bette McGuire
- 11th Vic Dunphy
- 13th Harry Moebs
Debbie Niznik
- 17th Carol Matla
- 19th Lydia Kowalski Cane
- 22nd Mary-Ellen Rezzonico
- 27th Frances Salzman
- 31st Kathy Lazenby



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.

Offering Envelopes



The 2019 Offering Envelopes will be available around the middle of December.



Anniversaries

- 1st John & Pat Kirby
- 5th Bob & Mary-Ellen Rezzonico
- 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

*For to us a child is born, to us
a son is given, and the government
will be on his shoulders.*

*And he will be called Wonderful Counselor,
Mighty God, Everlasting Father,
Prince of Peace.*

Isaiah 9:6 NIV

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!



Stuffed Animals

St. Paul Parish member, Lydia Kowalski Cane would like to thank everyone who donated new and barely used stuffed animals in the month of November. Lydia brought the stuffed animals to children at local hospitals where she lives in Gainesville, Florida.

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