



Rev. Fr. Mark J. Niznik - Pastor
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Message from Bishop Jerry Rafalko

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ Jesus
Members of the Polish National Catholic Church

What a year it has been, and it is not even over yet! This year has been challenging on so many levels for so many people. I am susceptible to the grief and loss that many of you have experienced this year. Neither of us has ever seen anything like this. The pandemic has interrupted our lives, which has been hard for all of us.

However, these challenging times have also provided us with the opportunity to exercise our faith. We have witnessed acts of profound kindness and creative ingenuity that remind us of the better angels within us. We have helped and taken care of each other, and we have proved ourselves to be incredibly adaptable, flexible, and resilient. In many parishes, our staff and leaders have worked long hours and creatively provided digital resources and ministry to all our people.

I understand it is sometimes difficult to see the good when we feel so overwhelmed by despair, but Christmas reminds us of something critical to keep in our minds, "The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it" (John 1:5).

My friends, there are many reasons to be grateful and filled with hope because of our faith. God has and will continue to help us see all of this through. Therefore, I want to remind us that we are Christmas people and that Jesus is incarnated in every act of love and kindness we extend to one another. God can reach us beyond all the barriers the world can create and revive us by giving us

strength in times of great distress. So, we can do this, and we will overcome because we are the Church, the body of the risen Christ!

I am privileged to be your Bishop, and I feel incredibly blessed and honored to be with you. My prayers are with you always.

May you be filled with the wonder of Mary, the obedience of Joseph, the joy of the angels, the eagerness of the shepherds, the determination of the magi, and the peace of the Christ child.

Almighty God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit bless you now and forever. Amen.

Merry Christmas!

Wesołych Świąt Bożego Narodzenia!

¡Feliz Navidad!

Peace, love, and joy are what the Christmas season brings.

Our job is to keep it alive all year long.
Merry Christmas and Happy New Year

from Bishop Jerry Rafalko
and Leslie.



Bishop Jerry Rafalko

Membership Drive

It's that time again for our annual membership drive for 2022. Now is a great time to join the church if you have been a visitor and feel like this is your church home. Please see Father Mark after Mass and he will handle your membership. If you are a new member or already a member of St. Paul Parish, Diocesan and General membership dues for the year 2022 are **\$125.00** per person or **\$250.00** for a couple or family. (\$25.00 for Diocesan dues and \$100.00 for General dues) Please remember that these dues do not stay with the parish and are submitted to the diocese. There is a special offering envelope for your 2022 membership. Please make your check payable to: **St. Paul Parish**. On the memo line of your check write: **2022 Membership**. By being a member of St. Paul Parish, you will have a voice and vote. Let's strive to make this our most successful year ever! Members, if you have not yet picked up your 2022 offering envelopes you can find them inside of the social hall.



YMS of R Men's Group

The next YMS of R meeting will be Thursday, January 20th at 11:30 am in the social hall. A lunch will follow the meeting at Pasta Faire. All gentlemen of the parish are invited and encouraged to join us in fellowship. If your are new to the parish, this is a good opportunity for you to meet some of the men of our parish.



St. Paul Choir

Choir practice has been cancelled until further notice..



Ladies Adoration Society

The Ladies Adoration Society want to thank everyone that baked cookies for their Christmas Cookie Tray Raffle. It was a huge success! After spending many hours baking dozens of delicious cookies, we all gathered in the social hall in great fellowship as we filled the beautiful trays. There were 34 winners. Pictures below.

COOKIES



AND MORE COOKIES





Father Mark's bible study class has been cancelled until further notice.



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.



Birthdays

- 2nd Jan Nowak
Ron Thompson
- 5th Gerri Gagliano
- 7th Barney Madden
- 9th Denise Kafer
- 13th Tom DeFoe
- 14th Sandy Harris
- 17th James Kurlapski
Susan Varela
- 20th Deb Moebs
- 21st Mary Jeffery
- 22nd Bernie Schaler
- 24th Cindy Wozniak
- 26th Richard Wdowiak
- 29th Kevin Sarnowski



Anniversaries

- 26th Bob & Vera Pitel

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

Special Offering Envelopes



The month of January is designated for the **Music Scholarship Fund**. Parish members are encouraged to donate to this fund by using your Music Scholarship envelope. If you are not a member and would like to donate to this fund, please use a Love Offering envelope that are in the church pews and mark it **"Music Scholarship Fund."** This fund is used for giving scholarships to PNCC members who pursue music education.

Parish Dinner Night Out

Mark your calendars for Tuesday, January 18th for a Parish Dinner Night Out, co-sponsored by St. Paul's Ladies ANS Group and the Men's YMS of R Group. The dinner will be held at Pasta Faire in Belleview, FL at 5:00pm. There will be a sign up sheet in the social. If you are new to the parish, this will be a good opportunity to meet other members and have a great time of fellowship and good food. And don't forget to wear your name badges.

Words for Thought

"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."

Jeremiah 29:11 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!