

St. Paul Parish Newsletter

November 2023



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From the Desk of Father Mark:

This is a brief summary of events and historical moments that have led up to the most recent attack by Hamas upon Israel.

In early October 2023, war broke out between Israel and Hamas, the militant Islamist group that has controlled Gaza since 2006. Hamas fired over 3,000 rockets into Israel, and breached securities, storming southern cities, killing over 1,000 Israelis, and kidnapping about 200 persons.

As the war escalates, Israel defense forces have determined to pursue a complete siege of Gaza. Over 1 million Palestinian civilians in northern Gaza have been ordered to move out prior to a ground assault.

This conflict has a recent history to 1947, When the United Nations sought to divide the area into Arab and Jewish states. On May 14, 1948, the State of Israel was formally created, sparking the "first" war. Israel was victorious the following year, and 750,000 Palestinians were displaced. The territory was divided into three parts: the State of Israel, the West Bank (of the Jordan River), and the Gaza Strip.

Tensions have been high in the region off and on ever since, particularly between Israel and Egypt, Jordan, and Syria.

Hamas won authority of Palestine in 2006, gaining control over the Gaza Strip. In 2014 Hamas clashed over territories with Israel and launched nearly 3,000 missals. Israel retaliated with a major offensive in Gaza. A cease fire deal was brokered by Egypt toward the end of August 2014. Violence broke out again between Israel and Palestine the following year, and again in 2018 as militants in Gaza fired over 100 rockets into Israel. Israel responded demonstrably once again, striking over 50 targets in Gaza in a 24-hour period.

With failed attempts at a two-state solution since the 1990s. In 2001, Israel began to evict Palestinians from their homes in Jerusalem. On May 10, 2021, violence broke out in Jerusalem causing harm and death in both territories. On May 21st, Israel and Hamas agreed to a cease fire. 72,000 Palestinians were displaced as a result of the fighting.

In recent developments, it is unclear as of this day (Oct. 21, 2023) as to who gave support to Hamas, but all eyes are on Iran. Hamas is attempting to gain support to surround Israel, and Israel is looking for support from the rest of the world. The United States is tied with Israel, but have no plans to enter this war.

While the United States stands with Israel, so does our St. Paul Parish. We hope and pray that God guides the State of Israel with wisdom and provides the necessary protection of its peoples. We especially pray for all the souls of lives lost and for the victims that have been kidnapped by Hamas. We also pray for the same protections over the citizens of Gaza that have not been a part of the attack. We pray for God's swift judgement and resolution, so that whatever solutions are reached, they establish a long-term peace. May we here in our beloved country not give rise to bigotry and hatred throughout, but instead, offer our love to one another here with the hope of healing the divisions that still fester within our own borders.

We pray to Almighty God with the face that all things are possible with Him. May His Son, our Lord, Jesus Christ be the light that shines in the darkness of this war. May we carry this light in our hearts and lead in His direction. May our prayers be counted as sweet incense, carried by the angel that serves the Lord at His heavenly altar.

May God forgive us all. Amen



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



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 \$15 per meal, with an additional option to have your seafood pan seared. Try one of our amazing, great portioned, homemade desserts from our Adoration Society for just \$2. Word is getting out about how terrific our Fish Frys are, so please 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

The next YMS of R meeting will be Thursday, November 16th at 12:00 noon in the social hall following the bible study class at 11:00am and lunch afterwards 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.

YSM of R members and their guests meet the 2nd Tuesday of each month at 5pm for a casual get together at the Mancave. Usually pizza or burgers. Open to all men of the parish. For any questions please see or contact Mark Gilbert at (410) 419-0821.



Let us thank the Lord for his many blessings on our Society and our great success.

November is a busy month as we plan and prepare for our Christmas activities and fundraising.



Cookie Tray raffle tickets will go on sale Sunday, November 26th. The drawing will be Saturday, December 16th. Father Mark will pull the winning tickets. Last year we had 24 winners. These trays are magnificent. Tickets are \$2.00 for 1, \$5.00 for 3 and \$10.00 for 15. These delicious cookie trays are filled with fresh homemade cookies by the ladies of our Parish.

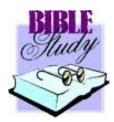


Just a heads up, Retreat 2024 will be January 25th thru the 27th at the Lake Yale Conference Center in Leesburg. Double room cost will be \$184 for 2 nights and 5 meals. Single room cost will be \$234 for 2 nights and 5 meals. Retreat 24 is open to all ladies of the parish and friends. If you are interested or have any questions please contact me (352) 233-9961.

On behalf of our Adoration Society, I wish you all a blessed and happy Thanksgiving. In His Service, *Dori Canfield*, President Adoration Society



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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.



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.



Birthdays

1st Jean Bailey

2nd Al Becker

3rd Donna Sauer

5th Rita Carbone

12th Esther Charney-Irvine

14th Carmine Ferraro

15th Father Mark Niznik

Vera Pitel

19th Cindy Kloiber Butch Maces

22nd Roger Sindelar

24th Terry Stuck

26th John Kirby



Anniversaries

8th Fernando & Susan Varela

13th Ray & Lynn Kubacki

17th Mark & Melissa Gilbert

22nd Tom & Mary Jeffery

30th Charley & Charlotte Stoykovich

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

Blessing of the Animals



On September 30th, Father Mark conducted The Blessing of the Animals, commemorating the feast day of St. Francis of Assisi. St. Francis is the patron saint to the poor and suffering, and to the animals. This year there was 1 cat and 8 dogs of various ages and size that came with their parents.

The blessing was a joyous time and there were no accidents to report. If you are a pet owner, our hope is that you will join us for next year's blessing. May God's blessings descend upon all our beloved pets and the animals of the world.

Words for Thought

The beauty of the sunbeam lies partly in the fact that God does not keep it; He gives it away to us all.



David Swing

(Aug. 23, 1830 – Oct. 3, 1894) He was a United States teacher and clergyman who was the most popular Chicago preacher of his time.



Robert T. "Bob" Roche
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CLEAN KIDS BACKPACK **PROGRAM**

DONATIONS

TOP NEEDED ITEMS







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!

info@cleankidsbackpack.com www.cleankidsbackpack.com

1 352 653 5538



Dine in, Pick up or Delivery

Amen Sandwiches!

So fresh! So good!

352-553-8404 Open Mon, Tues, Wed, 10 am - 2 pm.

Dine in or Take out - ask about our daily specials and party platters!

Pickup Orders: St. Paul Parish 5245 SE 112th St., Belleview, FL 34420

Charitable Proceeds - No Sales Tax. Cash or Credit

Business and organization deliveries available, call for details.

Party Platters available!

Menu

Free delivery on orders over \$300! (up to 30 miles)

Our enormous Sandwiches are made with Artisan Bread and come with one side: Chips or Pasta Salad or Pickled Beets. Complimentary Bottled Water & petite Sweet Treat!

Gluten Free Available



HOT Sandwich Selections

We иве:



Rustica Riot (\$15) - You will rave over our pressed Shredded Chicken, Spinach, Sun Dried Tomato, Red Onion, Provolone, Creamy Garlic Sauce! (substitute Shrimp, add \$2)

Alpine Combo (\$15) - A pressed Ham & Turkey avalanche with Swiss, Honey Mustard!

Primal Screamer (\$18) - Saddle up for a pile of perfect Prime Rib sliced, Grilled Peppers & Onions and oh yes, the very best Mozzarella & Provolone! Somebody, can I get an Amen?!

The Grecian Meltdown (\$15) - Zorba the Greek wept tears of Joy over this pressed veggie combination of Red Onion, Sundried Tomato, Spinach, Provolone, Roasted Red Peppers, Gouda & Feta Spread, House Dressing!

Key West Club (\$16) **(our best seller!)** - Even Hemingway couldn't find the words for how good this Grilled Shrimp, Lettuce, Tomato, Bacon Spread is!

The Haddock Monster (\$16) – This insanely huge, mouthwatering ocean prize from New England is made to order. Lightly Breaded, Lettuce, Tomato, side of Tartar Sauce!

Side Orders Available:

Chips or Pasta Salad or Pickled Beets: \$2.50 ea. Stuffed Grape Leaves (6): \$7.50 Soda: \$2 Bottled Water: \$1 Full Size Sweet Treat of the Day): \$4



Gluten Free Available



COLD Sandwich Selections

Italian Stack (\$15) - A New York favorite with savory Salami, Pepperoni, Ham, Lettuce, Tomato, Onion, Banana Peppers, Provolone, House Dressing!

Veggin' Out (\$15) – Relax for a moment with a plenteous portion of creamy Roasted Red Pepper Hummus, Red Onion, Tomato, Cucumber, Spring Mix, Marinated Peppers, Sprouts, House Dressing!

Mr. Egg Sullivan (\$15) – Put it together for a really big show, featuring Homemade Egg Salad, Lettuce, Tomato with an encore of Bacon Spread or Veggie Spread!

Turkey Twister (\$15) - A Category Yummy! Loaded with Turkey, Lettuce, Tomato, Provolone, and Bacon Spread or Veggie Spread!

Ham it Up (\$15) – Just the way mom made them, except way bigger! Loaded with Ham & American Cheese, Lettuce, Tomato, Mayo!

Gluten Free Available

Our Salad Selections!

Served with Complimentary Bottled Water and petite Sweet Treat!

The Giant Chef (\$15) – Enjoy this bounty of Greens, Ham, Turkey, Hardboiled Egg, Tomato, Cucumber, Onion, Bacon Crumbles, Swiss & American Cheese!

The Greek Mountain (\$15) – An Olympian Classic! Cascade through this majestic combination of Romaine Lettuce, Ham, Tomato, Onion, Cucumber, Greek Olives, Stuffed Grape Leaves, Feta, Greek Dressing!

My Great Aunti (\$15) – Mangia Mangia! Feast on Mixed Greens, Fine Italian Meats & Cheeses, Marinated Peppers, Tomato, Cucumber, Onion, House Dressing and a scoop of Pasta Salad! Somebody, can I get an Amen?!

The Garden of Vegan (s_{15}) – This collection of vegan friendly items is just too long to list! It has a definite WOW factor that will impress everyone around you! Served with our House Dressing!

"Et Tu Brute" (\$15) Caesar died over this salad! An emperor-sized combination of Romaine, Croutons, Fresh Grated Parmesan, House Caesar Dressing, Grilled Chicken! (substitute Shrimp, add \$2)