



Mass Intentions Of The Week

Monday, March 9th

7:00 A.M. Intentions of the Blessed Mother

Tuesday, March 10th

7:00 A.M. Prayer for Vocations

Wednesday, March 11th

7:00 A.M. Madeline Smyth

8:15 A.M. Intentions of Msgr. Robert C. Gibbons

Thursday, March 12th

7:00 A.M. Donald Ladouceur

Friday, March 13th

7:00 A.M. Prayer for Vocations

Saturday, March 14th

8:30 A.M. Living and Deceased Members of the O'Brien and Thornton Families

5:30 P.M. Edward Senger

Sunday, March 15th

7:30 A.M. John C. Baggett Jr.

9:30 A.M. Intentions of St. Paul Parishioners

11:30 A.M. Bernard Misner

6:00 P.M. Joan Tobin



God said,

*"Take your son, Isaac,
your only one, whom you love,
and go to the land of Moriah.*

*There you shall offer him up as a holocaust."
(Genesis 22:2)*

In the Genesis account often called "The Binding of Isaac," the boy escapes death. The Lord's messenger, an angel, holds Abraham's arm, just as he is about to slaughter the boy with the knife.

The 20th century Yiddish poet, Jacob Glatstein, reflecting on the Nazi Holocaust, wrote *My Father Isaac*. Isaac is now an old man, tired, wiser, no longer the naïve *lad from Genesis*. Facing the Holocaust, *he knew that there would be no lamb* to take his place as victim. He knew death was inevitable. He realized that *God will not interrupt this slaughter*. This time, *no good angel came flying to rescue him*.

When I first read the poem, I found it terribly bleak, certainly not a celebration of God's love. How difficult it is, I thought, to come to terms with God's action or inaction in the Holocaust.

But then I read again the last lines:

[Isaac] called out in a tired voice:

"Here I am---prepared to be your ram."

In Genesis, the *lad* Isaac had been oblivious to what was about to happen to him. The old Isaac of the poem, though, is an active participant, ready to offer himself in sacrifice if that's what God wants. It's not a poem about incomprehensible slaughter. It's a poem about trust in God in every circumstance, no matter how bleak it may seem.

Msgr. Robert C. Gibbons, Pastor

PARISH MISSION. We invite you to join our parish family on Monday and Tuesday, March 9th and 10th, as we celebrate the Jubilee Year of St. Paul in a two-night parish mission. The mission will focus on the life and teachings of St. Paul and how we can carry his message to the world today. Fr. Timothy Sherwood will be the key presenter on Monday, March 9. Fr. Thomas Spillett will be the key presenter on Tuesday, March 10. Both evening programs will be held in the church from 7:00 p.m. until 8:30 p.m. All are welcome and encouraged to attend – bring a friend!

Festival is coming!!! March 19 - 22. Set up will start on Sunday, March 15, after the 11:30 Mass. The Festival committee is looking for some helping hands to prepare for this parish-wide event. Discounted ride tickets and wristbands are on sale NOW through March 18 in the parish office from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday thru Friday or thru the school brown envelope. Tickets are \$10 per sheet and wristbands for unlimited rides are \$75.



St. Paul Says



Is what I do after I say "I believe"...

Offertory for Sunday, March 2, 2009:

310 Envelopes.....	\$	10,711.25
Loose.....	\$	2,041.94
AOP (debit).....	\$	8,640.33
AOP (credit).....	\$	0.00
Total.....	\$	21,393.52

*God did not spare his own Son,
but handed him over for us all.
(Romans 8:32)*

Our generous sharing of time, talent, & treasure expresses our gratitude to God.

Please remember to include St. Paul's Church in your estate planning.

- Websitestpaulstpete.com
- Parish Offices.....727-822-3481
- Pastoral Associate.....Annamaria Dickhaus
- Admin. Assistants.....Charie Wassmer & Mary Carney
- Outreach Ministry.....Sr. Kathleen Stagnaro, OSF
- Youth Ministry.....ext. 12
- Organist & Choir Director.....Paul Dixon
- St. Vincent de Paul Societyext. 50
- Children's Center.....Valerie Gervais, ext. 18
- Prayer Team.....727-894-8846 or jhdmary@aol.com
- School.....Mrs. Elizabeth Fulham, Principal
727-823-6144
- Counseling Ministry.....Mary Ann Holtz, LMHC
727-327-5045

‘...If God is for us, who can be against us?’

Romans 8: 31

Lillian Thurline	Frederick Stagnaro	Rose Groth
Mike Cushman	Margaret Macking	Alma Geary
Dee Eilerman	Joe McCourt	Marianne Teska

O.B.I.C. HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH NEWS

March 8th - Consumed: Which Sacrament is the "source and summit" of who we are as Catholics? Come learn more about this powerful Sacrament and watch as Jesse arrives at the party!

March 15th - The "Other" Party: Huh? There's *another* party? This one is MUCH different than the Sacraments party...

Looking for the perfect gift for First Communion, Confirmation, RCIA, or Mother's Day? Our youth group will be selling hand-made rosaries, Catholic medals, crucifixes, and other Christian jewelry after all Masses, March 7th & 8th and March 14th & 15th. Please stop by their table and take a look at these great items! All proceeds will go toward their trip to Covecrest Catholic summer camp. *Thank you for your support!*

That Man Is You! for all men of the parish, has a special Lenten focus. Meets every Wednesday at 5:30 a.m. in the Cafeteria, and the program concludes by 7 a.m.

RCIA. CONGRATULATIONS to 17 adults and 2 children of our parish who are part of 1,057 people declared "The Elect" during the Rite of Election by Bishop Robert N. Lynch of the Diocese of St. Petersburg at St. Jude's Cathedral on March 1, 2009. It was an awesome experience celebrating the Rite in the context of Evening Prayer. May God bless "The Elect" as they continue their journey towards reception of the Sacraments of initiation and full communion into Catholic Church at Easter.

Knights of Columbus Lenten Fish Fry Friday, Mar. 13th, served between 5 - 7 p.m. in the cafeteria. Cost \$10/adult \$5/Child. Tickets at Parish Office or purchase at the door.

The men's monthly Christ Renews His Parish (CRHP) will meet Wednesday, March 11th, at 7 p.m. in the parish center. For more info call Don Thornton at 459.5755.

The Children's Center is having an Open House and accepting applications for enrollment for children ages 2 months to young 3s on March 11th, from 9:30 – 11:30 a.m.

Health, Human Rights & Globalization will be the topic of a presentation by David Walton, M.D., at USF St. Pete on Tuesday, March 10, at 6:15 p.m. Campus Activities Center, 2nd St. S. & 6th Ave. S. Free admission and parking. Dr. Walton divides his time between Boston and Haiti, where he is an expert on the treatment and prevention of HIV/AIDS and tuberculosis. For more info, call 727.873.4872.

Please Pray for the healing of the sick and the consolation of the afflicted, especially:
 Patrick Burns Marlene Connelly Gary L'Eon
 Gerry Howe Dennis Stajkowski Tom Geary

New Website Job Board. Due to the difficult economic times, many parishioners have found themselves out of work. As a parish community we would like to do what we can to help these parishioners in their job search. One way to do this is to start a job posting web page for parishioners on the St. Paul website. Available positions with job descriptions as well as skills of parishioners seeking employment would be posted here. Parishioner names and contact information would not be posted on the website, but would be available by emailing the parish office. If you have available positions or are seeking employment and would like to participate in the job board, please email or mail the information to the parish office.

5th Annual Medical Mission to Haiti. During Lent, Partners with Haiti is conducting an appeal to support the upcoming medical mission to Haiti. As in previous years, our ability to provide badly needed medical care to our twin parish depends on your generosity. Specially marked donation envelopes are in the pews. They may be returned to the collection boxes at the church entrances, in the offertory, or to the parish office. On behalf of our struggling brothers and sisters in Haiti, we thank you.

Partners With Haiti Window Display. If you are interested in purchasing any of the Haitian crafts displayed in the Church, please contact Mary-Jane Smith at 525.3640.

Your APA pledge supports many ministries of the Diocese of St. Petersburg, including the Office of Worship. This office prepares and arranges all the diocesan ceremonies, such as last Sunday's Rite of Election at the Cathedral for those who are preparing to become Catholics at Easter. They were welcomed individually by the Bishop in the context of a beautiful sung Evening Prayer. You may pledge to the APA on-line at www.diostpete.com/apa/. Make sure, on the "please select a parish" line, that you select "St. Paul – St. Petersburg."

Annual Pastoral Appeal 2009	
Diocese of St Petersburg	
as of 2/26/2009	
Our parish's assessment.....	\$169,022.00
Total pledged as of 2/26/09.....	\$16,745.25
Number of pledges.....	82
Average pledge	\$204.21
<i>Over 300 St. Paul's families made pledges to last year's Annual Pastoral Appeal. Please prayerfully consider making a pledge or gift to the APA for 2009. Envelopes for this purpose are in your monthly envelope packet, or you may pledge on-line at www.diostpete.com/apa/.</i>	
Green Team. This Easter Season our parish will be joining in the national Catholic Climate Covenant and the St. Francis Pledge to Protect Creation and the Poor. http://www.catholicsandclimatechange.org/pdf/Covenant_flyer.pdf This project is in response to a growing desire by the Catholic community to respond, in faith, to climate change. It will also be a demonstration of a common Catholic commitment to care for God's creation and to	

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stand with the poor and vulnerable people in our nation and around the world who face the impacts of a changing climate. Watch this space for more info.

18th, at 6:30 p.m. Chinese Auction and refreshments. Call John 219.0046 or Jerry 541.3970. \$2.00 donation at door.

**Parish Capital Campaign Update
as of January 31, 2009**

Amount Pledged\$2,320,514.82
Amount Paid \$1,761,384.33
Balance \$ 559,130.49
Number of families pledging 673
Average gift\$3,448.02

The campaign has been financing the renovations of our church & school buildings.

With the funds now being paid, we are paying off the cash advance loan that financed last summer's renovation of the south wing of the school.

It's not too late to make a pledge!

*Call the parish office or e-mail
parishoffice@stpaulstpete.com*

New Life Ministry. Diocesan support group for widowed, separated and divorced. Monthly meeting at Sacred Heart Parish Center (80th Ave. and 46th St. No.) on Wed., March

Married Couples: The U.S. Bishops speak of the challenges of married love: "An enduring marriage is more than simply endurance. It is a process of growth into an intimate friendship and a deepening peace. We urge all couples: renew your commitment regularly, seek enrichment often..." Take time to renew and enrich your marriage on a Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend. The next WWME weekend is May 15-17. Call 813.270.7832 or visit www.wwme-tampabay.org.

Foreign Exchange Students Need Host Families. EF Educational Homestay Programs is looking to place high school age students from Spain with volunteer host families for three weeks this summer from July 9-29, 2009. Host families are asked to provide a bed, an extra plate at the table, transportation to and from a strategically placed bus stop, and a warm welcoming environment. For more info contact the local program leader, Mary Elena, at 727.512.9285 or the regional office at 866.480.4089.

**Knights of Columbus Council #13657
in association with St. Paul's Parish Nurses Association presents a**

Cardiovascular Health Fair Screening

March 28, 2009

**St. Paul's Parish Center
appointments start at 8:00 a.m.**

Assess Your Risk!

- Are you at risk for Heart Disease, Stroke, or Aneurysm?
- Do you have a Leaking Heart Valve (Heart Murmur)?
- Early Detection is your Best Protection!
- Call St. Paul's Parish Office to schedule an appointment 727. 822.3481.

Packages:

- Check your Blood Pressure, Cholesterol Profile, E.K.G., Carotid & Abdominal Ultrasound (\$50)
- Echocardiogram only (\$50)
- Complete Package + CERVICAL SPINE EVALUATION by: Jeffrey Raheb DC (\$75)

Name: _____

Phone: _____

Preferred Appointment Time: _____

Sacrament of Baptism: A Parent, who is a practicing Catholic, should prepare for the Baptism of a child by contacting the parish office, preferably before the arrival of the child. Adults seeking Baptism or desiring to join the Catholic Church should call the parish office or contact a parish priest.

Sacrament of Holy Marriage: Couples should contact the parish office at least six months in advance. The Catholic party is expected to be attending Mass regularly.

Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick: Those who are being admitted to a hospital should receive this sacrament at Mass whenever possible. The infirm may receive the

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sacraments regularly at home by calling the parish Outreach office at 727.822.3481.

Parish Membership: Every Catholic household is encouraged to register in the parish. You may register on the first Sunday of the month by attending the information meeting held in the Parish Center after the 9:30 a.m. mass. St. Paul's parishioners strive to be good stewards of God's gifts. Christian stewardship includes a sharing of time, talent and treasure with the parish community. Each household is expected to accept its responsibility for the welfare of the parish and its educational and charitable ministries by participation in Sunday Mass, active involvement in the parish, and by weekly use of the church support envelopes.

St. Paul's Catholic School & St. Paul's Children's Center: Our parochial school provides an outstanding Catholic education for children from pre-kindergarten (beginning at age 3) through 8th grade. Our children's center provides quality day care for children age 2 and under.

Lenten fasting. *To assist in promoting a common observance of penance during the season of Lent, the following Lenten penitential regulations have been issued for the Diocese of St. Petersburg for 2009:*

GOOD FRIDAY is a day of FAST.

On days of fast, one full meal and two lesser meals are allowed. Eating between meals is not permitted. Catholics between the ages of 18 and 59 are bound to fast.

ALL OF THE FRIDAYS OF LENT, including GOOD FRIDAY, are also days of ABSTINENCE.

On days of abstinence, meat may not be taken. The law of abstinence binds all Catholics fourteen years of age or older.

If members of the faithful are unable to observe the fast and abstinence regulations because of ill health or other reasons, they are urged to practice other forms of penance and self-denial suitable to their condition.