



Mass
Intentions
Of The Week

Monday, December 8th

7:00 A.M. Intentions of the Blessed Mother
8:30 A.M. Leo Wassmer
6:00 P.M. Carmen Perez

Tuesday, December 9th

7:00 A.M. Peggy Aldrich

Wednesday, December 10th

7:00 A.M. Anna Regeski

Thursday, December 11th

7:00 A.M. Intentions of Edward Wyrwas

Friday, December 12th

7:00 A.M. Intentions of Joseph Wyrwas

Saturday, December 13th

8:30 A.M. Intentions of Tom Carney
5:30 P.M. Albert Burst

Sunday, December 14th

7:30 A.M. Joseph Glim
9:30 A.M. Intentions of St. Paul Parishioners
11:30 A.M. Leonard Bronikowski
6:00 P.M. Alicia Alves



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

Offertory for Sunday, November 23, 2008:

279 Envelopes.....	\$	8,755.25
Loose.....	\$	2,535.00
AOP (debit).....	\$	2,136.00
AOP (credit).....	\$	0.00
Total.....	\$	13,426.25

Offertory for Sunday, November 30, 2008:

251 Envelopes.....	\$	7,488.50
Loose.....	\$	2,434.00
AOP (debit).....	\$	1,871.00
AOP (credit).....	\$	0.00
Total.....	\$	11,793.50

Through our Advent stewardship, we show gratitude for the Lord's greatest gift, his only Son.

Please remember St. Paul's Church in your Christmas giving.

Website	stpaulstpete.com
Parish Offices	727-822-3481
Pastoral Associate	Annamaria Dickhaus
Admin. Assistants	Charie Wassmer & Mary Carney
Outreach Ministry	Sr. Kathleen Stagnaro, OSF
Youth Ministry	Gail Marinari
Organist & Choir Director	Paul Dixon
St. Vincent de Paul Society	ext. 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



*Do not ignore this one fact, beloved,
that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years,
and a thousand years like one day.
(2 Peter 3:8)*

Advent is a time for a new beginning, for a change in perspective, for exchanging our way of looking at things for God's way. It's a time for meditating on an insight from Isaiah, the great prophet of Advent: *For my thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways my ways, says the Lord. (55:8)*

Often we devote much time and energy to things that don't last. To wealth and material possessions, for example. Yet, as we've learned watching the markets during the last few months, these material treasures can disappear in a flash. Yet we're still alive and kicking. Maybe those things aren't so vital after all.

Often we place great emphasis on appearances, on the superficial. Advent, on the other hand, holds up as a hero John the Baptist. He wasn't worried about what people thought. He lived in the desert, *clothed in camels' hair*, content to feed *on locusts and wild honey*. He found his joy not in fancy clothes or rich food or the esteem of others, but in *preparing the way of the Lord*. Maybe that's how we could find joy too.

Often we're so worried about tomorrow that we fail to notice and savor the blessings of today. What God is concerned about is today. He is the great *I am*. For the person with an Advent perspective, God is coming today.

Msgr. Robert C. Gibbons, Pastor

Feast of the Immaculate Conception will be celebrated **tomorrow**, Monday, December 8th. This is a holyday of obligation, and Catholics are obliged to attend Mass. Masses will be at **7 a.m., 8:30 a.m., and 6:00 p.m.** Mary, under the title of the Immaculate Conception, is patroness of the United States. *Hail, Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with you; blessed are you among women.*

The 2008 Advent Meditation Books are available in the back of the church. Please take one per family.

Outreach Ministry. The SACRAMENT OF THE ANOINTING OF THE SICK will be offered at all Masses this weekend, Dec. 6-7. The front row pews will be designated for all those who wish to receive spiritual and physical strength through the anointing with Holy Oils and the Laying on of Hands.

New Parishioner Registration meeting is TODAY, Dec. 7, after the 9:30 a.m. Mass in the Rectory. Current parishioners and staff members will be present to welcome newcomers and answer questions about parish services and activities. These meetings are held on the first Sunday of every month.

The Men's Christ Renews His Parish monthly alumni meeting is Tuesday, December 9, at 7 p.m. in the parish center. For more information call Don Thornton at 459.5755.



St. Paul Says

Brothers and Sisters:
“Rejoice always.
Pray without ceasing. In all
circumstances give thanks.”

1 Thessalonians 5:16

O.B.I.C. YOUTH NEWS

Middle School: Dec. 10th - The First Noel
Dec. 17th - Christmas Party -- wear your favorite wacky
Christmas attire!

High School: Dec. 7th - Preparing the Stable
Dec. 14th - Christmas Party -- wear your favorite wacky
Christmas attire! And bring a wrapped gift, either costing less
than \$5 or re-gifted (a White Elephant gift).

St. Vincent De Paul Giving Tree is in the church with tags
representing gift requests taken by St. Paul Vincentians during
home visits. Please take a tag or two and return the wrapped
gifts with the tag to the Church before December 21st. Your
generosity is greatly appreciated.

Congratulations to the following children who recently
joined our faith through the Sacrament of Baptism:

Lillian Rose Borchardt
Marlaina Glenn Verhine
Willem Thomas Dericks

ST. PAUL SENIOR CLUB thanks all for the generous support
of the Bake/Craft Sale and Quilt Raffle. The proceeds, \$1325
and \$400 respectively, will be presented to St Paul School.
Congratulations to **Cheryl Landwehr**, winner of the quilt.

Advent Penance Services

Monday, Dec. 15, at St. Paul Catholic Church
Tuesday, Dec. 16, at Holy Family Church, 200 - 78th Ave. NE
Wednesday, Dec. 17, at Transfiguration, 4000 - 43rd St. N
(All Penance Services are at 7 p.m.
and include opportunity for individual confessions)
Confessions are heard regularly on Saturdays, 4:30-5:15 p.m.

Women's CRHP Holiday Reunion & Christmas Party!
Please join your St. Paul's CRHP sisters for fun, frolic and food
on Wed., Dec. 10, at the Parish Center Blue Room at 7:00
p.m. Bring your frosty beverage of choice, a simple hors
d'oeuvre or dessert to share, and a non-perishable food item
for St. Vincent dePaul's food bank. Have an unwanted, useless
or ugly gift left over from last year? Bring that too, for the Silly
Santa Swap! Call Laurie Jaworski 417.2636 or Lori Russell
525.1936 by Dec. 8 to RSVP.

That Man Is You! will have its final gathering of the semester
on Wed., Dec. 10th, at 5:30 a.m. in the cafeteria. Over 70 men
have consistently been in attendance on Wed. morning. What
a testament to their dedication and to the appeal of the
program. The program will begin its spring semester on
January 21st. Contact wmtska@yahoo.com for information.

This evening we welcome Fr. John Tapp, pastor of Holy
Family Parish, who is celebrating the 6 p.m. Mass here. Now
that St. Paul's and Holy Family have a joint youth ministry
program, the pastors have agreed to celebrate Mass
occasionally in the other's parish, emphasizing the unity of the
two parishes in our outreach to youth and their families. Msgr.
Gibbons is celebrating the 9 a.m. Mass this morning at Holy
Family Church.

Registration for Confirmation Classes will start next
weekend, December 13-14.

Advent Day of Recollection for St. Paul's women on Wed.,
December 17, from 9:00 a.m. - 2:30 p.m., at The Franciscan
Center in Tampa. At this time of great noise around and
within us, Sister Kathleen has planned a quiet space for you to
prepare for Christmas. The day begins with a continental
breakfast followed by Father Sam Vaccarella's presentation
and then some time for reflection on the peaceful grounds of
the Center. Lunch and Liturgy included. All this for \$35. Call
the parish office ASAP to register.

The Diocese of St. Petersburg requires that all parish and
Catholic school employees and volunteers entrusted with the
care, responsibility, or supervision of children, youth, or
vulnerable adults comply with fingerprint policy for background
screening. The Diocese has also established safe environment
training programs for parish and school employees and
volunteers. Anyone who has been harmed by someone
serving in ministry is encouraged to contact law enforcement,
the Florida Abuse Hotline at 800.962.2873, or the diocesan
victim assistance minister at 866.407.4505.

From the Green Team: if you missed our screening of **The
Story of Stuff** view it at <http://www.storyofstuff.com/>. To find
Alternative Christmas gifts: Catholic Relief Services Fair Trade
<http://www.crsfairtrade.org/> or Alternative Gifts Internat'l
<http://www.altgifts.org/>.

Wedding Anniversary Jubilee Mass will take place at the
Cathedral of St. Jude on Sunday, January 11, at 3:00 p.m.
Bishop Robert Lynch will be the principal celebrant at a Mass
honoring all couples in the diocese who will celebrate their
silver anniversary, or 50 or more years of marriage, during
2009. You must pre-register by contacting the parish office no
later than **December 18**.

Financial Peace University is returning to St Paul's. The
class will begin on January 25. Orientations will be scheduled
for January 4th and the 11th. More detail will follow. This 13
week video based small study group teaches families and
individuals how to beat debt, build wealth and give like never
before. Contact Tom at tbaggett@pscufs.com with questions.

SMILE! Lifetouch Photography will be here in February to
capture parishioner portraits for our St. Paul Parish 2009 Photo
Directory. While portraits will be available for purchase, no
purchase is necessary to have your portrait included in the
directory. Go to www.stpaulstpete.com and click on the
Lifetouch @ St. Paul link to view the session calendar and
choose a time slot. If you have any questions, contact Mary
Rachel Dudley at 433.1887. Please email any ministry or
parish-related photos to marykins777@tampabay.rr.com for
inclusion. We would like every ministry to be represented.