



Mass  
Intentions  
Of The Week

**Monday, December 22<sup>nd</sup>**

7:00 A.M. John Connelly Jr.

**Tuesday, December 23<sup>rd</sup>**

7:00 A.M. Max Hevron

**Wednesday, December 24<sup>th</sup>**

7:00 A.M. Intentions of St. Paul Parishioners  
4:00 P.M. Intentions of St. Paul Parishioners  
6:00 P.M. Intentions of St. Paul Parishioners  
12:00 Intentions of St. Paul Parishioners  
midnight

**Thursday, December 25<sup>th</sup>**

9:00 A.M. Intentions of St. Paul Parishioners  
11:00 A.M. Intentions of St. Paul Parishioners

**Friday, December 26<sup>th</sup>**

7:00 A.M. John and Frances Dampf

**Saturday, December 27<sup>th</sup>**

8:30 A.M. John and Anna Dampf  
5:30 P.M. Raymond Thresher

**Sunday, December 28<sup>th</sup>**

7:30 A.M. Intentions of Acenett Joseph  
9:30 A.M. Intentions of St. Paul Parishioners  
11:30 A.M. Bernard Misner  
6:00 P.M. Raymond Hughes



*King David said to Nathan the prophet,  
'Here I am living in a house of cedar,  
while the ark of God dwells in a tent!'  
(2 Samuel 7:2)*

Once King David is finally settled in his palace in Jerusalem, he realizes, with embarrassment, the impropriety of residing in a house built solidly of cedar while the Lord God *dwelled in a tent*.

The embarrassment, though, is not shared by the Lord. The Lord points out that he had never complained about the tent, that he had never asked for a house for himself. He is perfectly content *going about in a tent under cloth*. (vv. 6-7).

The Lord has never been concerned about having a fancy big house. When he was born as one like us in Bethlehem, he was content to be *laid in a manger, for there was no room for them in the inn*. In his public life as an itinerant preacher, he had *nowhere to rest his head*. (Luke 9:58). When he was taken down from the cross in death, he was laid in a tomb that belonged to someone else. (Matthew 27:60).

All he has ever wanted is to dwell in our hearts.

That is my Christmas prayer for all of us, *that Christ may dwell in our hearts through faith, and that we may know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge*. (Ephesians 3:17, 19).

Msgr. Robert C. Gibbons, Pastor

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**Pancake breakfast today.** The Knights of Columbus are preparing a Pancake Breakfast this morning in the cafeteria, after the 7:30 a.m. and 9:30 a.m. Masses. A special visitor from the North Pole is expected following the 9:30 Mass.

**Msgr. Gibbons' mailbox.** A mother whose newborn was recently baptized at St. Paul's wrote afterwards to Msgr. Gibbons, *"I am thrilled that my children will be able to experience the nurturing environment that St. Paul's has to offer. It is truly an awesome church. We are so fortunate!"* Thanks to all the parishioners who help create this nurturing environment here for the young.

**Thanks to everyone** who is participating in the **2008 Giving Tree**. Please return your gifts wrapped, with the tag attached, to the bins located in the church. Please return the gifts no later than Dec. 21<sup>st</sup>. Gifts will be distributed to families in need on Dec. 22<sup>nd</sup>.



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

**Offertory for Sunday, December 14, 2008:**

307 Envelopes.....	\$	8,002.75
Loose.....	\$	2,590.00
AOP (debit).....	\$	1,871.00
AOP (credit).....	\$	0.00
<b>Total.....</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>12,463.75</b>

*The Virgin Mary placed her life  
at the service of God's plan.*

(Opening Prayer for Mass, 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent)

Good stewards give their time, talent, and treasure  
to help build the Kingdom of God.

Please remember St. Paul's 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 jhdmay@aol.com
- School.....Mrs. Elizabeth Fulham, Principal  
727-823-6144
- Counseling Ministry.....Mary Ann Holtz, LMHC  
727-327-5045



## St. Paul Says

**“To him who can strengthen you according to my gospel and the proclamation of Jesus Christ be glory forever and ever.”**

*Romans 16: 25,27*

**St. Petersburg Catholic Singles** will be meeting in the vestibule of St. Raphael's Catholic Church on Snell Isle on December 21 at 5:15 p.m. for the 5:30 p.m. Mass. We will go to Brophy's Bistro after Mass to enjoy a holiday dinner and a card/gift exchange. Singles from all parishes are welcome to join our group. For more information or to RSVP, please e-mail [catholicssingles365@yahoo.com](mailto:catholicssingles365@yahoo.com).

**MARRIED COUPLES:**“We thank God every day that at last there is a positive program to strengthen marriage in the world today, which we can enjoy now and which will help our children to live in a better world”. Register now for a Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend and be counted among those who have chosen to grow closer and more in love with one another each and every day. The next WWME weekend is Jan. 16-18, 2009. For information call (813) 270-7832 or go on-line at [www.wwme-tampabay.org](http://www.wwme-tampabay.org).

**Study program of an enlightening encyclical.** Interested in learning about what the Catholic Church REALLY teaches about the dignity and vocation of women? – In this, the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of JPPII's encyclical, Mulieris Dignitatem, come join the women of St. Paul's and St. Raphael's for some scholarship and fellowship. This 8-wk study will meet on Mondays, from 6:30 -8pm, starting 1/5/09. Cost \$10! Contact Maura Buete at 688.6952 for information and registration.

### O.B.I.C. YOUTH NEWS

**No high school youth night** today, Dec. 21, or Dec. 28<sup>th</sup>!

**No middle school youth night** Wednesday, Dec. 24, or Dec. 31st!

**High School Teen retreat** is Jan. 16<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup>, and 18<sup>th</sup> at the Bethany Center! A weekend away from home, a weekend to build community, to build friendships and enhance your relationship with Jesus! Registration is NOW! Call or email Gail!

**Confirmation classes** will begin Jan. 11th. Registration forms are located on the tables in the church or call the Parish office!

**May your Christmas be filled with love, joy and peace!  
Merry Christmas! From the youth ministry team!**

**E-mail addresses.** We are currently updating our Parish database and would like to include parishioners' e-mail addresses. Please fill out your e-mail address on the appropriate line in the Change of Address & E-mail cards located in the pews and in the back of the church. You can also do this by registering your e-mail on the homepage of our website. Your e-mail address will not be shared and will only be used by St. Paul Catholic Church.

**Jubilee Year of St. Paul Open House.** It is the 2000<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the birth of the great apostle, preacher and teacher. In keeping with the spirit of this great year, a one week “Open House” will be held here at St. Paul's Church. All are welcome to join in this week of “Prayer for Christian Unity.” The church will be open for prayer Monday, January 19, through Friday, January 23, from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. and again from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. A prayer service will be held at 7:00 p.m. each evening.

Want to know more about the Catholic Church's position on climate change? The **Green Team** encourages you to check out this website for more information: <http://www.catholicsandclimatechange.org>. Information is available on the site about climate change and its effect on the poor.

### **Annual Pastoral Appeal 2008 Diocese of St Petersburg**

Our parish's assessment.....	\$177,584.00
Total pledged as of 11/30/08.....	\$56,517.14
Number of pledges.....	302
Average pledge .....	\$187.14

*Please prayerfully consider making a gift to the diocese's Annual Pastoral Appeal. Envelopes for this purpose are in your monthly envelope packet, or you may pledge on-line at [www.diostpete.com/apa](http://www.diostpete.com/apa).  
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### **Parish Capital Campaign Update as of November 30, 2008**

Amount Pledged .....	\$2,318,187.86
Amount Paid .....	\$1,718,934.27
Balance .....	\$ 599,253.59
Number of families pledging .....	673
Average gift .....	\$3,444.56

*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 this 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](mailto:parishoffice@stpaulstpete.com)*

**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 11<sup>th</sup>. 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](mailto:tbaggett@pscufs.com) with questions.

**SMILE!** Lifetouch Photography will be here during the month of February capturing parishioner portraits for our next St. Paul Parish 2009 Photo Directory. While portraits will be available for purchase, no purchase is necessary for the session to have your portrait included in the photo directory. To schedule your session date and time, it's easier than you think. Just go to [www.stpaulstpete.com](http://www.stpaulstpete.com) where you'll find "St. Paul Parish 2009 Photo Directory" info. Click on "LifeTouch Appointment Link" where you can view the session calendar and chose the time slot that is most convenient for you. If you have any questions, please contact Mary Rachel Dudley @ 433.1887. Also, if you have any church event or ministry photos you would like to see included in our next directory, please e-mail them to [marykins777@tampabay.rr.com](mailto:marykins777@tampabay.rr.com). We would like to have every ministry represented.

**Register now for the Living Eucharist Conference.**

What? – A diocesan wide conference focusing on Eucharist

When? – Saturday, February 21, 2009

Where? – Tampa Convention Center

Who? – Open for all to attend

How much? - \$30 which includes lunch

Registration *will close on January 1, 2009*. The theme for the day is "Nourished" with emphasis on the second part of the Mass which is the Liturgy of the Eucharist. Doors open at 7a.m. with the conference beginning at 9:00 a.m. The day will end about 4:00pm. For more information and to register for the conference go to [www.livingeucharist.org](http://www.livingeucharist.org). Or call Peter Burns at the Pastoral Center, 727.344.1611, x 472. All are invited! All are welcome to attend!

**The Academy of the Holy Names** Entrance Exam for Grades 1-11 will be held on **Saturday, January 10, 2009 at 8:30 a.m.** The school was founded in 1881 by the Sisters of the Holy Names of Jesus and Mary. The Academy is a Catholic, independent, coeducational elementary school and a college preparatory high school for young women located near downtown Tampa on 10 acres along scenic Bayshore Boulevard. For an application or for more information, please contact the Admissions Office at 813.839.5371 x 307 or visit the website at [www.holynamestpa.org](http://www.holynamestpa.org).

**Advent Discernment Retreat.** Could God be calling you to become a Priest? Prepare your heart for the Lord's coming and see if Diocesan Priesthood is what God has in store for you by coming to a special Advent Discernment Retreat at the Bethany Center, December 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup>, hosted by the St. Petersburg Seminarians. The retreat is open to men of high school age or older, limited space available. Reserve your spot now by contacting Fr. Len Plazewski, Director of Vocations, at 727.345.3452 or email [spvocation@aol.com](mailto:spvocation@aol.com). There will be plenty of time for prayer, discussion, and reflection. Stepping back from the hectic holiday season to ask those most important questions will truly prepare your heart for the coming of Christ. This just might be the best Christmas gift you will ever receive. **GET READY FOR CHRISTMAS BY DISCOVERING WHAT GOD HAS IN STORE FOR YOU!**

**Thanks** to everyone for the generous support of the **Walk for Health in Haiti**. The proceeds, over \$5,000, will benefit the medical and educational needs of our twin parish in Haiti.

**Stewardship reflection.** When he discovered that Mary was with child, Joseph resolved to end their engagement with as little disgrace as possible. But obedient to the voice of God, he changed those plans and became instead the protector of the child Jesus and His mother, Mary. *God grant that I may be as open to the leading of the Holy Spirit.*

**A Retreat for Physically Challenged Adults:** "Challenged by Christ Retreat," is a diocesan retreat for physically challenged adults (18-65) will be held on Saturday, January 10<sup>th</sup>, from 9am until 5:30pm, at St. Jude's Parish Center. Our theme is "Advent of New Hope". We attempt to provide an atmosphere where those who are physically challenged may share their faith comfortably with others who experience similar challenges in life. It is a time to grow in faith, build community and come closer to God in His Church. For more information or applications, please call Sr. Phyllis at 727.347.9702 x 303. RSVP by Jan. 5.



## FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

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**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 sacraments regularly at home by calling the parish Outreach office at 727-822-3481.

**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 8<sup>th</sup> grade. Our children's center provides quality day care for children age 2 and under.

**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.