He said:
"I am the voice of one crying out in the desert, 'make straight the way of the Lord,'" as Isaiah the prophet said.

Jn 1:6-8, 19-28

DECEMBER 17, 2017

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

193 Wyckoff Avenue, Ramsey, NJ 07446
Parish Center: 201.327.0976 // Fax: 201.327.6197

Schedule of Masses
Saturday: 9 am
Saturday Eve: 5 pm (Sunday Obligation)
Sunday: 7:30 am, 9 am, 10:30 am, & 12 pm
Weekdays: Monday-Friday 7:30 am & 12 pm
Holy Days: 7:30 am, Noon & 7:30 pm
National Holidays: 9:00 am
Spanish Mass: 7:00 pm,
Second Saturday Each Month

The Parish is Served by
Rev. John Gabriel, Pastor
Rev. Paul Houlis, Parochial Vicar
Rev. Stefano Hong, Parochial Vicar
Rev. Patrick Adikwu, In-Residence
Mr. Tom Flanagan, Deacon
Mr. Jeremiah K. Rehse, Deacon
www.stpaulrcchurch.org

Christmas Masses:
Carols will be sung 15 minutes before each Mass
Christmas Eve, Sunday, December 24
4:00 PM Children’s Choir
4:15 PM Mass in the Parish Gymnasium
Hosanna Choir
6:30 PM Organist and Cantor
Midnight Traditional Choir

Christmas Day, Monday, December 25
7:30 AM, 9:00 AM, 10:30 AM, Noon

Solemnity of Mary, Holy Mother of God
New Year’s Masses:
Sunday, December 31
5:00 PM – Vigil
Monday, January 1
7:30 AM, 9:00 AM, 10:30 AM, Noon

Sunday, December 24 and December 31
7:30 AM, 9:00 AM, 10:30 AM, Noon

Images Courtesy of Bing.com
**WEEKLY MASS INTENTIONS**

**MONDAY, Dec. 18**  
7:30AM  Eugene Holtz ~ Tonia Holtz  
12:00PM  Josephine DeBellis ~ The Family  

**TUESDAY, Dec. 19**  
7:30AM  Theresa Sileo ~ The Sileo Family  
12:00PM  Tom Skrobala, Jr. ~ Ed & Rosemarie Finn  

**WEDNESDAY, Dec. 20**  
7:30AM  Don Markey ~ The Schifano Family  
12:00PM  Novena of Masses  

**THURSDAY, Dec. 21**  
7:30AM  Brett Michael Kaprowski ~ Mom & Dad  
12:00PM  Carmen Hidalgo ~ Cory & Leo Egan  

**FRIDAY, Dec. 22**  
7:30AM  Lila & Jim Magennis ~ The Magennis Family  
12:00PM  Novena of Masses  

**SATURDAY, Dec. 23**  
9:00AM  Deceases Members of the Griffin & Byrne Families ~ Marilyn Byrne  
5:00PM  Don Giovanni Ghilardi ~ Zelinda Martinelli  

**SUNDAY, Dec. 24 ~ Fourth Sunday of Advent**  
7:30AM  John Flynn ~ Diane Flynn  
9:00AM  People of the Parish  
10:30AM  Brett & BK Kaprowski ~ Mom & Dad  
12:00PM  Carmella & Edward Bilotti ~ The Family  

*Christmas Eve Masses*  
4:00PM  People of the Parish  
4:15PM  People of the Parish (School Gym)  
6:30PM  People of the Parish  
Midnight  People of the Parish  

**EUCHARISTIC ADORATION**  
"Be still, and know that I am God"  Psalm 46:11  
Eucharistic Adoration will be held in the Church on **Monday, Dec. 18th following the noon mass through 7:30 pm**. The Eucharist is the summit of our faith, in which the entire story of our salvation is made real in a miraculous and powerful way. Include in your Christmas preparation special time for praise and prayer to God.  
All are invited to stop in the church to visit Our Eucharistic Lord! Please join us . . .  

**"WELCOME THE DAWN: ADVENT LECTIO DIVINA"**  
Join Fr. John each Monday morning at 6:30 a.m. before the fireplace in the rectory Living Room to reflect on the Sunday Gospels of Advent. We will meet on December 18th. All are invited! This is a great way to make some quiet time for Christ in this hectic time of year!  

**DEVOTIONS AND MEMORIALS**  
**To have a loved one remembered please call**  
the Parish Center  
Sanctuary Lamp ~ Bread and Wine  

**ALTAR BREADS**  
DeBellis Family ~ The Zury Family  

**ALTAR WINE**  
~  

**SANCTUARY LAMP**  
Pedro Angel Bonilla ~ Irma & Family  

**PRAYER REQUESTS**  
**Military**  
All the women & men who serve in our armed forces.  

**Sick**  
Kenneth Kase, Tara Sullivan-Via, Joseph and Ann De, Heather Sebella, Ava Richardson, Dave Columbia, Tommy Fitzpatrick  
For those names that are listed on the altar.  

**Deceased**  
David Ascencio Maravilla  

**PARISH CENTER OFFICE HOURS**  
**CHRISTMAS**  
Closing at Noon: Friday, December 22  
Closed: Saturday, December 23 through Tuesday December 26  
Re-opening: Wednesday, December 27 at 9:00 am  

**NEW YEAR**  
Closing at Noon: Friday, December 29  
Closed: Saturday, December 30 through Tuesday, January 2  
Re-opening: Wednesday, January 3 at 9:00 am
FROM THE PASTOR

Dear Parish Family,

“Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice! Indeed, the Lord is near.” These words from St. Paul’s letter to the Philippians give this Sunday, the Third Sunday of Advent, its name. Gaudate Sunday (from the Latin word for Rejoice) is the Sunday we light the rose colored candle on our Advent wreath as a sign of special rejoicing, so near is Christ! This year, the third week of Advent is essentially the last week of Advent since next Sunday is the Fourth Sunday of Advent as well as Christmas eve (effectively turning the Fourth Week of Advent into literally just a few hours long). Remember, next weekend the Church invites us not to forget the Fourth Sunday of Advent or just roll it into Christmas Eve- to get the full experience of our Advent journey and the full opportunity to prepare for Christmas and all the graces available to us, it’s necessary that we be attentive to the scriptures and prayers of the Fourth Sunday of Advent. The temptation will be to go to Mass on Sunday afternoon or evening (Christmas Eve) and allow that to “count” for the Fourth Sunday of Advent. For those who are not looking to cut corners with God, we will have our regular schedule of Holy Mass for the Fourth Sunday of Advent including 5 p.m. on Saturday evening and our usual four Masses on Sunday morning. Once we’ve given God His due, then we fully immerse ourselves into the beauty of Christmas! Elsewhere in this bulletin you can find the schedule of Christmas Masses, and we hope you will spread the word and invite others to attend in joyful celebration. This year we will have a special surprise in the form of some very special visitors who will be with us throughout all of our Christmas Masses- be sure to check the parish Nativity set on the plaza in front of the Church!

Also, we hope you have the Baby Jesus figures from your home Nativity sets with you- this is Bambinelli Sunday when we will bless these figures at all of our Sunday Masses. And, we hope to see many of you back this Sunday afternoon for our Music Ministry Christmas Concert at 5 p.m. followed by an outdoor Sing-a-Long and some hot chocolate! This is the season for music and children and (parish) family, and we hope many of you will join together in celebration.

Last weekend we celebrated the first Sunday afternoon Mass for Special Needs families. It was a terrific celebration and we hope to do it on a regular basis throughout the year. As I mentioned to those who gathered, our Christmas wreaths and trees can be more than just decorations for us. They can be real places of prayer in our homes! This year, why not gather your family around your Christmas Tree and pray a special blessing. The evergreen pine of the tree are perfect reminders of the eternal love of God, the lights of the tree evoke within our homes the reality that Christ is the Light of the World, and we are His reflection. If you want to bless your tree at home, a good resource can be found at the website of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (www.usccb.org) where you will find a Blessing of a Christmas Tree. For those who do not use the internet, this prayer can be used: “Lord our God, we praise you for the light of creation: the sun, the moon and the stars of the night. We praise you for the light of Israel: the Law, the prophets, and the wisdom of the Scriptures. We praise you for Jesus Christ, your Son: he is Emmanuel, God-with-us, the Prince of Peace, who fills us with the wonder of your love. Let your blessing come upon us as we light this tree. May the light and cheer it gives be a sign of the joy that fills our hearts. May all who delight in this tree come to the knowledge and joy of salvation. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.” Remember, this week is STILL NOT CHRISTMAS- it’s Advent! There is still time for spiritual preparation for Christ to come. In some important ways, our entire lives should be one long Advent, one long preparation for Christ to come into our world and into our lives. Soon enough we will put away the trees and wreaths, but the preparation that comes through our living in love and faith is a constant task, a constant hope, a constant joy. Rejoice! The Lord is Near! We need to look for Him each and every day all year long!

In His Love,
Father John
Saint Paul’s
7th Annual Men’s Christmas Party ~ 2017

All Saint Paul Men Invited & Encouraged To Attend

Wednesday, December 20th @ 7:00PM
Knights of Columbus Hall
Mechanic Street, Ramsey

This is our 7th Annual gathering
A wonderful social evening of friends and fellowship

No Charge ~ Optional Free Will Offering at the door

For information call or text or email
John Nunziata, Pastoral Associate
201-988-6988 or jjnunziata@verizon.net
**MARCH FOR LIFE**

**JANUARY 19, 2018 / WASHINGTON DC**

The March for Life is the world’s largest pro-life rally.

St. Paul Church will join with St. Elizabeth Church, Wyckoff and 7+ other parishes in our area (Only) two buses will depart from St. Elizabeth Church

**Seating is limited – Sign up soon!**

**WHEN:** Friday, January 19, 2018

**WHERE:** Departing from and Returning to St. Elizabeth Church, 700 Wyckoff Ave., Wyckoff

**TIME:** Leaving for Washington DC after 6am mass celebrated at St. Elizabeth Church
(Bagels and coffee will be served in the morning, and a box lunch provided on bus)

**COST:** Bus transportation, Breakfast and Lunch: $40

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**REGISTRATION FOR MARCH FOR LIFE RALLY, Washington, DC on 1/19/18**

Submit your registration and payment at St. Elizabeth Church Parish Center (cash or check payable to Church of St. Elizabeth)

**NAME:**
**PHONE:**
**EMAIL ADDRESS:**

**TOTAL # TICKETS:**

**CIRCLE:** Cash Check

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**TACKLE KIDS CANCER**

St. Paul Sisterhood has recently partnered with Tackle Kids Cancer (part of Hackensack University Medical Center Foundation, Hackensack Meridian Health) - we will be sending out our first group of "Sisters" to wrap Christmas gifts for the patients families in December. Thank you to all those who volunteered. To learn more about Tackle Kids Cancer you can visit tacklekidscancer.org

If you would like more information on the Sisterhood or how you can get involved, please email dschifano@stpaulrccchurch.org or call the parish office at 201-327-0976.

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**ALTAR SERVER ADVENT PARTY**

The Ramsey Knights of Columbus invites the Altar Servers of St. Paul Church and their families to a dinner party to celebrate together during the Christmas season.

**Date:** Tuesday, December 19, 2017

**Time:** 5:00 to 7:00 pm

**Location:** 48 Mechanic Street, Ramsey, NJ 07446

The evening will include dinner and fun for all.

RSVP with a count of family members to the Parish Office: 201-327-0976

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**Christmas Flowers**

We invite you to remember your loved ones and other special intentions by donating towards the Christmas flowers used in the sanctuary. If you’d like to contribute $10 towards the flower fund, fill in the information below, place it in an envelope with your donation and return it to the Parish Center or place in the collection basket.

**Donor’s Name:**
**Address:**

**In Memory of or Special Intention:**

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MINISTRY SCHEDULE: DEC. 23 - 24

Saturday, 5:00PM
Eucharistic Minister: Elizabeth Bradley, Kathy Latz, Andrew Meo, Mary Lou Murphy, Pat Reganato, Denise Smith, Mary Jane Weir, Lisa Zocchio, Lisa Calianese, Linda Meiman
Reader: Angela Criscuoli, James Meiman
Altar Server: Connor Brooks, Harrison Brooks, Daniel Calianese

Sunday 7:30AM
Eucharistic Minister: Gary Gyss, Anne Rubel, Joseph Tredici, Meg Walsh, Mary Zuck, Walter Zuck, Betty Carroll, Campbell MacArthur
Reader: Adam DeAngelis, Donna Miller
Altar Server: James Coster, Liam Coster, Aaron Fisher

Sunday, 9:00AM
Eucharistic Minister: Peter Kilman, James Klein, Mary Klein, Sheila Kulpers, Timothy Larkin, Cathy Losos, Aurea Rios, Nick Mangieri, Ed Linde, David Rockefeller
Reader: Chris Botta, Janet DeSimone
Altar Server: Kyle Surdoval, Molly Ursich, Natalie Ursich

Sunday, 10:30AM
Eucharistic Minister: Blaire Harraka, Maureen Huggins, Rita Iannicelli, Bob Reilly, Martyn Rockefeller, Joe Lynch, Carol Meyers, Frank Meyers, Jennie Tynan, Tom Zanca
Reader: Phil Gonnella, Michelle Makhlouf
Altar Server: Christopher Nunziata, Isabela Pereira, Mia Sorokin

Sunday, 12:00PM
Eucharistic Minister: Laura Bohde, Douglas Doyle, Virginia Fleming, Mary Iorio, Christine Kumentz, Pat Longo, Stephanie Palumbo, Michael Spezzacaten, Richard D’Arminio, Frank DiMola
Reader: Hanora Chapman, Nicholas Schifano
Altar Server: Marissa Albert, Allisa Gamil, Francis Gamil

GIVE the GIFT of FAITH to FAMILY, FRIENDS, YOURSELF!

Check out the KIOSK (books, CDs, DVDs, booklets) at the following location:
DECEMBER 23 - 25 – Main Entrance

JOY TO THE WORLD – Dr. Scott Hahn (Book) – The Story of a Family: Exciting story-telling and penetrating biblical insight the story of a father, a mother, and a child, their relationships, interactions, principles, individual lives, and their life in common this “earthly trinity” - a first glimpse of heaven

SAINTS FOR OUR TIMES – Jerome K. Williams (BOOK – ENGLISH and SPANISH): Dive deeper into the lives of St. Ignatius of Loyola, St. Francis Xavier, St. Teresa of Avila and St. John of the Cross.

Need a reminder of what Christmas is really about? Pop a CD into your car. The Mystery of Christmas- Fr. Larry Richards (CD): How the true joy of Christmas is found in the gift of Jesus Christ, get to the heart of the true meaning of Christmas, better appreciate the immensity of God’s love for us as His children.

Prepare the Way of the King – Dr. Scott Hahn (CD) Reveals what scholars now know about the shepherds, the mysterious Magi, and King Herod, grow in appreciation of the greatest gift ever given to mankind - Jesus Christ.

The True Meaning of Christmas – Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen (CD): Timeless reflections on the meaning of the Incarnation of Jesus, mixed with Gregorian Chant and seasonal music. It is sure to become a family favorite!

Religionless Spirituality: Why We Need the Church – Dr. Tim Gray (CD): Make clear the role of the Church as an essential part of God’s plan for salvation, which are sure to help those who have left her, or who mistakenly claim to be “spiritual, but not religious.”

More CDs
Mary Handmaid of the Lord
Power in Prayer
St. Joseph the Patron of the Universal Church

Children/Teens CDs
Meet Kids 4 Jesus
Glory Stories
Being All In – Eric Mahl

If possible, donations of $.50 for pamphlets, $2 for Booklets, $3 for CDs and DVDs and $4 for Books are suggested to help defray the cost of materials and may be placed in the slot at the bottom right of the kiosk.

FAITH FORMATION

There will be a Faith Formation Parent meeting on Wednesday, January 17 at 4 pm or 6 pm for all families with children preparing for First Holy Communion
You can attend either meeting, no need sign up.
It will be held in the Academy Cafeteria.
If you do not have child care, please bring your children!
Materials will be distributed, therefore it is crucial that you child is represented at one of these meetings.
SOCIAL CONCERN

Food Certificate Program – St Paul Food Certificate Program currently aids 50 local families per month by supplementing their incomes with the donation of a food certificate. Donations towards purchasing food certificates are greatly needed as we have seen an increase in need for local families and a decrease in funds for the program. Shoprite of Ramsey offers the Parish a 5% bulk discount when purchasing our monthly allotment of food certificates. Your contribution will help us to continue our efforts in supporting local families in need. Please make checks payable to St Paul Parish and indicate Food Certificate Program in the memo section. If you have any questions regarding this program, please contact Eileen Wimberger at 201-825-0413.

Food Pantry - The St Paul Food Pantry is supported through generous donations from St Paul parishioners. The pantry is located in the front vestibule of the church and is available for all in the community in need. The Food Pantry is open on Tuesday’s from 11:30am – 12:00pm. Please contact the Parish Center at 201-327-0976 if you need to make special arrangements to access the Food Pantry. Place all food donations in the wooden donation boxes located at the side entrances of the church. We are always in need of the following items:

- Juice, Snacks/Cookies/Crackers
- White Rice
- Canned Meat (Tuna, Chicken, Ham)
- Can Fruit (Peaches, Pears, Fruit Cocktail)
- Peanut Butter, Spaghetti Sauce
- Pancake Mix, Syrup, Soup
- Canned Vegetables (No Peas Please)
- Paper Products (Tissues, Toilet Paper, Paper Towels)
- Bath Products (Soap, Shampoo, Deodorant, Toothpaste)
- Coffee and Tea

Please no perishable items...

Harrison House—Twice monthly the committee provides a home cooked meal for eight people with the AIDS virus, who live in a home on the grounds of Bergen Regional Medical Center. Volunteers are needed to prepare and deliver a meal for Fri., Dec. 22. If you are able to help, call Debbie at 201-825-7856.

SAINT PAUL BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT GROUP

Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted. Matthew 5:4

Meetings are held once a month
The Third
Wednesday at 10 -11:30 a.m.
Or
The Third
Thursday at 7:30 – 9 p.m.

Meetings are strictly confidential. They will be held on a continuing basis for support, sharing and encouragement.

Our next meeting will be

Wednesday, December 20 at 10 a.m.
Or
Thursday, December 21 at 7:30 p.m.

Contact Linda Chiappetta 201-970-6548 or E-mail at Bereavement@stpaulrcchurch.org for more information.

Going Through A Difficult Time, Don’t Suffer Alone...

We’re brought up to be strong, self-sufficient, independent people. We tend to think that if we ask for help, it is a sign of weakness. So we try to keep our struggles hidden and are reluctant to ask for help. However, that’s not God’s plan. Galatians 6:2 says, “Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ.” God wants us to care for others—and allow others to care for us in our time of need. If you’re grieving or sad or struggling with a difficult situation in life, don’t suffer alone. Ask for help. Here at St. Paul’s we have a team of Stephen Ministers who are ready to listen, care, encourage, pray, and help you through a tough time while maintaining confidentiality. Find out more about Stephen Ministry by contacting Anne Palladino at annaitalia20@aol.com or calling the Parish Center at (201) 327-0976.

STEWARDSHIP TREASURE

WEEKEND of Dec. 9 – 10: $22,105.00
$16,615.00 Collection
$5,490.00 from Faith Direct

Visit www.faithdirect.net and use our church code: NJ654 to sign up for Online Giving.

Thank you for your continued support.

SAVE THE DATE

January 7, 2018 on the Feast of the Epiphany for a wonderful concert featuring the St. Ludovico's Choir (Franciscan Sisters of St. Elizabeth) and Stardust Big Band. Watch the bulletin for more details.
Pictures from Advent Wreath Making/Breakfast with Santa
Second graders at Academy of Saint Paul enjoyed learning about Tony Sarg, a puppeteer who helped design the original balloons for the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade. Students were fascinated to hear how Sarg problem-solved his way from marionette-puppets dangling down on strings, to big balloons held up by sticks, to the extra-large helium-filled balloons used today. Each second grader used the Engineering Design Process to create original balloon ideas. Students learned an idea is simply a dream, until the problems in design are solved and tested numerous times. Only then, does the idea have the possibility of becoming a reality. Second graders were thrilled with their results. Which new balloon idea you want to see in the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade?
PARISH STAFF INFORMATION

Rev. John Gabriel, Pastor  
jgabriel@stpaulrcchurch.org
Rev. Paul Houlis, Parochial Vicar  
phoulis@stpaulrcchurch.org
Rev. Stefano Hong, Parochial Vicar  
shong@stpaulrcchurch.org
Rev. Patrick Adikwu, In-Residence  
Mr. Tom Flanagan, Deacon  
tflanagan@stpaulrcchurch.org
Mr. Jeremiah K. Rehse, Deacon  
John Nunziata, Pastoral Associate  
jnunziata@stpaulrcchurch.org
Kristin Dabaghian, Director of Music Ministry & Liturgy  
kdabaghian@stpaulrcchurch.org
Donna Schifano, Director of Outreach  
dschifano@stpaulrcchurch.org
Craig Jandoli, Director of Youth Ministry  
cjandoli@stpaulrcchurch.org
John Weiss, Business Manager  
jweiss@stpaulrcchurch.org
Joanne Becker, Parish Office Administrative Assistant  
jbecker@stpaulrcchurch.org

SCHOOL OFFICE
187 Wyckoff Avenue, Ramsey, NJ 07446  
Phone: 201-327-1108
Website: www.academyofstpaul.org
Gail Ritchie, School Principal  
gritchie@academyofstpaul.org

FAITH FORMATION OFFICE
faithformation@stpaulrcchurch.org  
Phone: 201-327-8010
Colleen Jagde, Director of Faith Formation  
cjagde@stpaulrcchurch.org
Lisa DeOliveira, Faith Formation Assistant  
ldeoliveira@stpaulrcchurch.org

MISSION STATEMENT

We are Catholic Christians who embrace the plan of God for our salvation. We come together in faith to worship in a loving community. We are moved by the Holy Spirit to witness to the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. We wish to live out the vision of Jesus expressed in the Beatitudes as it unfolds in our daily life, through time, talent and treasure.

SACRAMENT INFORMATION

Baptism
Parents, please contact the Parish Center during the pregnancy, or prior to adoption, to begin preparing for your child’s baptism.

Penance
Saturdays 1:00-2:00 pm or by appointment.

Marriage
Arrangements must be made one year in advance.

Anointing of the Sick
At two special Eucharistic Liturgies in Church during the year. Visitation of the sick at home any time.

Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA)
For those interested in becoming a Catholic. Call the Parish Center for information.