



# ST. PAUL ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

200 WYCKOFF AVENUE - RAMSEY, NEW JERSEY 07446

the *amazing* parish

A ROMAN CATHOLIC COMMUNITY OF FAITH

## December 18, 2016

## Fourth Sunday of Advent



### 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

Served by

Rev. John Gabriel, Pastor

Rev. Paul Houlis, Parochial Vicar

Rev. Stefano Hong, Parochial Vicar

Mr. Tom Flanagan, Deacon

Mr. Jeremiah K. Rehse, Deacon

Gail Ritchie, School Principal

John Nunziata, Pastoral Associate

Colleen Jagde, Director of Faith Formation

Kristin Dabaghian, Director of Music Ministry & Liturgy

Donna Schifano, Director of Outreach

Eric Erler, Director of Youth Ministry

John Weiss, Business Manager

### Parish Center:

193 Wyckoff Avenue // Ramsey, NJ 07446

Phone: 201.327.0976 // Fax: 201.327.6197

[www.stpaulrcchurch.org](http://www.stpaulrcchurch.org)

<https://www.facebook.com/stpaulrcchurch.org>

### Faith Formation Grades K-8

201.327.8010 // [faithformation@stpaulrcchurch.org](mailto:faithformation@stpaulrcchurch.org)

School: 201.327.1108 // [www.academyofstpaul.org](http://www.academyofstpaul.org)

Youth Office: 201.825.9199

### 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.*

**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.



Mass Intentions for the Week of December 18th



**MONDAY, Dec. 19** - Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a; Lk 1:5-25 ((195)  
 7:30 **Novena of Masses**  
 12:00 **Dolores Joaquin**; Req by Leo & Cory Egan

**TUESDAY, Dec. 20** - Is 7:10-14; Lk 1:26-38 (196)  
 7:30 **Theresa Sileo**; Req by The Sileo Family  
 12:00 **Hector Gallardo**; Req by The Schifano Family

**WEDNESDAY, Dec. 21** - Sg 2:8-14 or Zep 3:14-18a; Lk 1:39-45 (197)  
 7:30 **Brett Kaprowski**; Req by Kathy & Ken Kaprowski  
 12:00 **James Kinney**; Req by The Schifano Family

**THURSDAY, Dec. 22** - 1 Sm 1:24-28; Lk 1:46-56 (198)  
 7:30 **Lila & Jim Magennis**; Req by The Magennis  
 12:00 **Ellie Hanson**; Req by The Losos Family

**FRIDAY, Dec. 23** - Mal 3:1-4, 23-34; Lk 1:57-66 (199)  
 7:30 **Natalie Marella**; Req by Vincent Marella  
 12:00 **Eugene Hotz**; Req by Nancy Barone

**SATURDAY, Dec. 24** -Morning 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16; Lk 1:67-79 (200)  
 9:00 **John Flynn**; Req by Diane & Brian Flynn  
 4:00 **People of the Parish**  
 4:15 **People of the Parish**  
 6:30 **People of the Parish**  
 Midnight **People of the Parish**

**SUNDAY, Dec. 25** - The Nativity of the Lord  
**Vigil:** Is 62:1-5/Acts 13:16-17, 22-25; Mt 1:1-25 or 18-25 (13)  
**Night:** Is 9:1-6/Ti 2:11-14 (14); Lk 2:1-14  
**Dawn:** Is 62:11-12/Ti 3:4-7; Lk 2:15-20 (15)  
**Day:** Is 52:7-10/Heb 1:1-6; Jn 1:1-18 or 1:1-5, 9-14 (16)  
 9:00 **People of the Parish**  
 10:30 **People of the Parish**  
 12:00 **People of the Parish**



IN YOUR PRAYERS PLEASE REMEMBER

all the women & men who serve in our armed forces;

THE SICK, ESPECIALLY:

- Genny Huss
- Jim Roth
- Jimmy Lanza

FOR THOSE NAMES THAT ARE LISTED ON THE ALTAR;

and THE DECEASED:

- Marie Maimone
- Marguerite Martinelli



This week's ALTAR BREADS and ALTAR WINE are donated in memory of Griffin & Byrne Families requested by Marilyn Bryne.

Parish Center Office Hours

CHRISTMAS

**Closing at Noon** – Friday, December 23  
**Closed** – Saturday, December 24 through Monday December 26  
**Re-opening** – Tuesday, December 27 at 9:00 am

NEW YEAR'S DAY

**Closing at Noon** – Friday, December 30  
**Closed** – Saturday, December 31 through Monday, January 2  
**Re-opening** – Tuesday, January 3 at 9:00 am

From  
the  
Pastor 

Dear Parish Family,

As the old song goes: "Its beginning to look a lot like Christmas, everywhere you go!" And indeed it is, and the joyful excitement continues to grow as we approach this beautiful feast of the Incarnation. For the Church, the season of Advent until now has been somewhat restrained. Refusing to give in totally to the retail idea of Christmas (that begins selling Christmas in September and, by Christmas Day itself, is already stocking the shelves with Valentine's Day cards) the Church has presented us on the preceding Sunday's of Advent the necessity of preparing for an adult Christ to come again during the end times. But liturgically speaking all of that change around December 17<sup>th</sup> when the sense of Advent shifts to a contemplation of the Son of God born in time and laid in a Bethlehem manger. *The Sourcebook for Sundays and Seasons* says it this way: "Advent has two parts, the days before December 17, and the final weeks, from December 17<sup>th</sup> until Christmas Eve. Liturgical poets have written romantically about these final days of the season- if Advent is like the night, now are the last moments before dawn; if Advent is like a courtship, now is the betrothal; if Advent is like a pregnancy, now the child is kicking in the womb. During these final days of Advent the Church begins to tell perhaps its favorite gospel stories about the coming of the reign of God. The characters are familiar and beloved- Elizabeth and Zechariah, Mary and Joseph- and there are angels as well, who more than anyone come bursting into Advent's darkness and silence to announce: 'Fear not.' In the Gospels, these are crazy words to their hearers, who want to know, 'How can this be?'"

For me, my first Advent here at St. Paul Church has been a time of beauty (mixed in with a little bit of exhaustion). The parties, gatherings and prayer experiences have all shown once again the living faith and spirit of celebration and family of the people of this parish. As these begin to wind down, we will now enter into these holy days of Christmas itself when all other business and busy-ness will fade away at least for a time and our connection with family (parish family, biological family, and those friends who are like family to us) will take center stage. The cookies are baked, the trees decorated, the presents wrapped- lets be sure we take time to breathe, and to enjoy God's presence and action during these holy days. Spend some quiet time before your home Nativity sets (perhaps you had the Child Jesus figures blessed here in Church during last Sunday's Bambinelli Sunday). Reflect on the scripture readings you will hear at Holy Mass. Enter into these last days of Advent in a spirit of prayer, gratitude and hope.

It is my hope that 2017 will find our parish family embarking more deeply on a conversation about the *New Evangelization*: how can St. Paul Church welcome others into our family, how can we encourage those who have been away from the practice of their faith to re-commit themselves to Christ and His Church. This week can be a great time for all of us to invite someone who has been away from Church to Christmas Mass (no, the roof will not fall in!). Be sure to know and memorize if you can the parish schedule of Masses so that you can easily and naturally invite someone to join you. A new addition to the Mass schedule this year is a 4:15 overflow Mass to be held in school gym on Christmas Eve. Although I was not present, I've been told that the numbers of people present at the 4 p.m. Christmas Eve Mass last year was so large, there were fire and other safety concerns. So, this year the parish staff thought it best to offer another Mass at 4:15 in the gym in addition to the 4 p.m. Mass in Church. We assure you that those who go to the gym will also have a beautiful experience of Christmas Mass complete with decorations and great music! Yes, its beginning to look a lot like Christmas! May we open our hearts to the Christ who wants to be born again within us!

*In His love,  
Father John*



*READING THE SCRIPTURE  
REFLECTING ON THE MEANING  
RESPONDING THROUGH PRAYER  
RESTING IN GOD  
RESPONDING IN ACTION  
December 19 & 21*

**WE INVITE YOU TO JOIN  
FR. JOHN GABRIEL  
FROM 6:30-7:15 AM  
BEFORE THE FIREPLACE  
IN THE RECTORY  
DURING ADVENT  
[rsvp@stpaulrcchurch.org](mailto:rsvp@stpaulrcchurch.org)**



**Candles and Carols**

Please join the Saint Paul Music Ministry on Wednesday, December 21st at 7pm in church for a musical presentation of Candles and Carols. A wonderful performance including the Adult, Hosanna, and Children's Choir. Come join us in song in preparation of the birth of Jesus.



**Christmas Schedule 2016**

**Christmas Masses:**

Carols will be sung 15 minutes before each Mass

- Christmas Eve, Saturday, December 24*
- 4:00 PM Children's Choir
- 4:15PM Mass in the Parish Gymnasium
- 6:30 PM Hosanna Choir
- Midnight Adult Choir

*Christmas Day, Sunday, December 25*  
9:00 AM, 10:30 AM, Noon

**Solemnity of Mary,  
Holy Mother of God  
New Year's Masses:**

- Saturday, December 31*  
5:00 PM Vigil Mass
- Sunday, January 1*  
7:30 AM, 9:00 AM, 10:30 AM, Noon

**St. Paul's Young Adult Ministry Presents:**

*Sip n' Paint with a Saint*



**Ages 21 – 39**

**Tuesday, January 3, 2017**

**7:30 – 9:30 (Doors Open at 7:00 PM)**

**at**

**Pinot's Palette, Ridgewood, NJ**

**\$35 person (Desserts/Snacks are Included)  
BYOB (Glasses, Ice, and Ice Buckets Provided)**

**Register Soon, Space is Limited:**

**[www.pinotpalette.com/ridgewood/event/137909](http://www.pinotpalette.com/ridgewood/event/137909)**

### Men of St. Paul "Retreat" to St. Edmund's Enders Island

Under the direction of Father Paul Houlis, Deacon Tom Flanagan and Pastoral Associate John Nunziata, men of the parish experienced a wonderful spiritual and reflective weekend retreat at St. Edmund's Retreat House on Enders Island, Mystic, Connecticut. This private island provided an environment in which the men could pray, share and reflect on what it means to be a strong Catholic man in these changing, secular times. All men of the parish are encouraged to join us October 6-8, 2017 when we host our 4<sup>th</sup> Annual "Come to the Water" retreat on Enders Island. For information on the retreat and the other broad scope of opportunities in St. Paul Men's Ministry contact John Nunziata (jnunziata@stpaulrcchurch.org).



### Consider Signing Up for Faith Direct this Advent Season

In this season of Advent, we are continuously preparing ourselves for the celebration of Christ's birth. Why not help our own parish prepare for the coming new year by signing up with Faith Direct? By supporting St. Paul Church through Faith Direct, both you and our parish can save some time and peace of mind this holiday season. Already using Faith Direct? Don't forget to add your Christmas or End-of-Year contributions to your account.

Visit [www.faithdirect.net](http://www.faithdirect.net) and use our church code: NJ654.

Thank you for your continued support of our parish family!

### 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 Elieen Wimberger at 201-825-0413.

**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 Sat., Dec 23<sup>rd</sup>. If you are able to help, call Debbie at 201-825-7856.

### 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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Know someone thinking about priesthood?  
Invite them to our

### Monthly Holy Hours & Discernment Group:

Spring 2017: Jan. 11, Feb. 8, Mar. 8, Apr 19\*

A time for prayer, discussion, and fraternity for men thinking about a call to serve as a Diocesan Priest in the Archdiocese of Newark.

During the academic year (September-April) we meet on the second Wednesday of the month from 7:00pm-9:00pm at Immaculate Conception Seminary, Seton Hall University.

Registration suggested: 201-327-0976 Fr. Stefano or e-mail shong@stpaulrchurch.org.

*\*April 2017 falls on the 3rd Wednesday of the month.*



To all the ladies who took the time to organize the Ladies Tea. It was a beautiful way to begin the Advent Season.

To all those who helped make the Open House on December 11 a success. You all worked very hard and I think we would all agree it was a wonderful morning spent with our Parish Family.

### Social Media Outlets

Please follow St. Paul's Young Adult Ministry on social media. Find us on Facebook at "St Paul Young Adult Ramsey", and on Twitter at "youngadultspc". Soon to come..."Instagram".

**The STEWARDSHIP TREASURE for the WEEKEND of December 10-11 is \$22,306.00 which includes \$6,188.00 from Faith Direct. We are grateful for your ongoing generosity.**

## Birth Parents Must Take Action to Preserve Their Privacy

For well over a century, the Catholic Church in New Jersey has provided adoption services. Throughout all those years, the Church promised to honor the privacy of birth parents and adoptees. That promise of privacy also was assured by law and affirmed by the State Superior Court. Those promises can no longer be kept. On May 27, 2014, a new law took effect that will allow adoptees and certain relatives to request and obtain the names of their biological parents beginning **January 1, 2017**.

Any birth parents who wish to preserve their privacy must submit a *Redaction Request Form* to the New Jersey Department of Health no later than **December 31, 2016**. By filing this form, birth parents will be able to keep their names off any documents provided by the State to adoptees or anyone else. The State made the *Redaction Request Form* public on August 3, 2015. The form can be downloaded at <http://nj.gov/health/forms/reg-36c.pdf>.

If you know a person who placed a child in adoption, please tell them that if they do not file a *Redaction Request Form*, their name and other information could be given to the adoptee.

Anyone needing assistance can call a HELPLINE AT **609-989-4809**.

# MARCH FOR LIFE / 2017

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

Thousands of Americans make their way to Washington, D.C. every January to remember the more than 50 million American children who have been lost to abortion.

We march with the vision of a culture of life, one where every child is welcomed into life and protected by the law. We march, in remembrance of – and with great sensitivity to – the Moms and Dads who have suffered from the pain of abortion.

St. Paul parish will join with St. Elizabeth Church, Wyckoff and Our Lady of Mount Carmel, Ridgewood for bus transportation, departing from St. Elizabeth Church, Wyckoff.

**\*\*Seating is on a on a  
first-come, first-served basis. \*\***

**WHEN:** Friday, January 27, 2017

**WHERE:** Departing from and Returning to St. Elizabeth Church, Wyckoff (parking Lot)

**TIME:** Leaving for Washington, D.C. 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 and Lunch: \$50

**Questions:** Contact Diane Flynn: the3flynns@aol.com / (201) 891-9237.

REGISTRATION FOR MARCH FOR LIFE RALLY, Washington, D.C. on 1/27/17

(Submit to St. Paul Parish Center: Registration, cash or check payable to St. Elizabeth Church)

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

TOTAL # TICKETS: \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$50.00 PER PERSON

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ ENCLOSED

CIRCLE:

Cash

Check



## Youth Group News

### **Journey**

*January 6 - 8*

Journey is a weekend retreat aimed at leaving Ramsey behind and spending a few days alone together as a group exploring our faith, family, friends, and lives. The Journey Retreat is the flagship of the youth ministry program and is the most looked-forward-to event of the year. Activities include exciting icebreakers, talks, small & large group discussion, meals together, free time, reflection, Sunday mass, and group bonding. The weekend culminates back in St. Paul's church where participants reunite with family and friends, share fond memories from the weekend, and watch images captured during the retreat. Registration fee and form to be submitted by December 20. For more information attend youth group meetings.

### **Christmas Eve Luminaria**

*December 24*

Help the youth group spread some Christmas Joy this season by helping to setup the Luminaria on Christmas Eve. Help is needed on December 20 at 5:00pm to get the bags ready and then on December 24 at 4:00pm to set the bags out and light the candles while parishioners attend the 4:00pm mass. Youth interested in helping out with this event must register by December 13. For more information attend youth group meetings.

**NOTE:** In addition to the help needed from our youth "groupies" we will also need assistance from two parent volunteers. If you are a parent of a youth "groupie" and are available to assist in the lighting of the candles on Christmas Eve, please contact Eric.

### **Archdiocesan Ski Retreat**

*February 24-26*

The Ski Trip offers an opportunity for our youth to experience an Archdiocesan community of their peers, to be able to share stories, witness to one another, pray, dance, learn and basically have a good time. The trip includes a Friday Pizza & Pool Party, a youth mass, a dance on Saturday night, and an opportunity to challenge Eric to a skiing contest. Registration fee and form to be submitted January 10. For more information attend youth group meetings

### **Mark Your Calendar**

### **Souper Bowl of Caring Food Drive**

*February 4 & 5*

### **Check Out Our Website!**

Go to [www.StPaulRCChurch.org](http://www.StPaulRCChurch.org), scroll over "Ministries", and click on "Youth Ministry" to get information about meetings, retreats, events, community service, and all the fun activities we do every year!

### **High School Youth Group**

Meetings are scheduled for Tuesdays from 7:30 until 9:00 pm; gather at 7:15 pm.

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## Faith Formation

Mrs. Cronin's 8th grade class held a bake sale during their Monday evening Faith Formation. With the money raised they are helping to feed the hungry. They purchased Shop Rite gift cards for our food pantry.

"Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?' "The King will reply, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.'

**MIKE MANGIONE COMING TO ST. PAUL – JANUARY 13, 2017**

**Save The Date**

**Mike Mangione is a songwriter who through the years has grown in popularity for his unique gift of weaving Americana music with Catholic themes and morality.**

"That's what can make listening to music like this a kind of sacramental or religious experience for people. Its job is to get us in touch with the true, the good, and the beautiful – and Mike Mangione & The Union do so in a way that both haunts and soothes the soul."

- CHRISTOPHER WEST

**MORE INFORMATION TO FOLLOW – MARK YOUR CALENDAR NOW!**



187 Wyckoff Avenue, Ramsey //  
Phone: 201-327-1108 //

Email: [gritchie@academyofstpaul.org](mailto:gritchie@academyofstpaul.org) //  
Website: [www.academyofstpaul.org](http://www.academyofstpaul.org)

Academy of St Paul is our parish school! Make a Catholic education a priority for your family.

Academy of Saint Paul, a 2015 National Blue Ribbon School, provides academic excellence in an atmosphere of love and Catholic Christian values through scholarship, spirituality and service. Our rigorous curriculum and exemplary teachers prepare our students to take their place as faith-filled stewards in the Church and the world. Let us partner with you in your child's school success and in the development of their Catholic identity.

Call 201-327-1108 to arrange a tour. For more information, visit [www.academyofstpaul.org](http://www.academyofstpaul.org).



**Academy Happenings**



Students in grades 3-8 travelled to Immaculate Heart Academy in Washington Township to see the school's fall musical, The Little Mermaid. They had an opportunity to meet characters from the play including "Ariel" herself, St. Paul Class of '13, Megan Roche.

ASP students had the chance to learn about theatre and the Arts programs at the high school level from Kristina Conzo, (Flounder) St. Paul class of '12, during the intermission. Numerous Academy of Saint Paul alumni were in the production.