

# Saint Paul Catholic Church & Preschool

## Advent Highlights 2018

### O Come, O Come Emmanuel!



What image comes to your mind when you think of Advent? For many Catholics it is the gentle glow of an Advent wreath, the excitement of a child opening an Advent calendar, the profound beauty of a Jesse Tree, delighting in the company of family and friends, and reaching out to help those most in need. Advent truly is a season of joyful hope, pregnant expectation, and wondrous love. It is a time to enjoy quality time with those we love and reach out to those in need as we prepare to celebrate the birth of Christ our Savior, eagerly await His return in glory, and bask in His presence among us now.

I would like to share seven things which will really help you to grow closer to the Lord:

- 1) Pray. If you are not already doing so, pray every day, even if only for a few minutes.
- 2) Read the Bible. Prayerfully meditate on a chapter of the Bible each and every day.
- 3) Go to Mass. If you are not already attending every weekend, do so! If you are, make a commitment to come to daily Mass, at least a couple of times a week.
- 4) Adore the Lord. We are blessed to have Eucharistic Adoration every weekday from 8am through 8:30pm and 24 hours on Friday. Pledge to adore the Lord each and every week ... God will certainly bless you!
- 5) Go to confession. We offer the Sacrament of Reconciliation every weekday at 11:30am and Saturdays at 10 and 4pm. There is no better way to prepare a place in your heart for baby Jesus!
- 6) Read. Pick up a copy of Matthew Kelly's new book "The Biggest Lie in the History of Christianity" in the church (also available in Spanish). Read a few pages each and every day. It will change your life.
- 7) Help those in need. You will find that you receive far more than you give. Likewise, don't forget your parish in your end of the year charitable giving! We are counting on you!

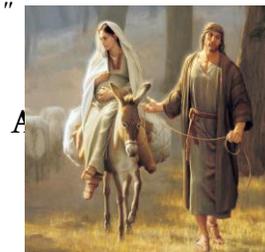
St. Paul offers many opportunities for us to grow in faith ... from our Advent Mission to our Christmas Concert, from the Children's Christmas Festival to Breakfast with Santa, from our Advent Gathering to our Reconciliation Services, from our Giving Tree to our assistance to the poor living in our area. Please look over this year's Advent Highlights. Circle the events which interest you and invite friends, neighbors, coworkers, and classmates to join you. Better yet, arrange to pick them up and bring them with you. Let's share the joy of Christ!

On behalf of the clergy, religious, staff, and faithful volunteers of St. Paul Catholic Church and Preschool, I would like to wish you and your loved ones a most holy and blessed Advent Season. May you faithfully follow the star of Bethlehem, attentively listen to the voice of the angels, and marvel at the wonder of the Christ Child. In His peace!

*Formed by Word and Sacrament, we, the people of St. Paul Catholic Church, are a Spirit-led, Eucharist-centered, vibrant multicultural Christian community of faith, living our love for God and neighbor while growing together as disciples of Christ."*

*Fr. Bill*

Friday, November 30



Come and join us for a special evening of music, dance, story-telling and delicious food! Our annual Advent Gathering begins at 6:30pm in our Pavilion and is a fun, multicultural, intergenerational evening which celebrates Advent! What a beautiful way to begin our preparations for the coming of Christ in history, mystery, and glory! Please bring your favorite finger food which reminds you of Advent to share!



## Weekend, December 1-2

## First Sunday of Advent: Hope

**Advent Wreath Blessing.** An advent wreath is a wonderful way to mark our Advent journey. Bring your Advent wreaths from home and place them by the Advent wreath in our sanctuary to be blessed at the start of Mass.

**“Giving Tree.”** Christmas is about helping those in need. Please share the true spirit of Christmas - contribute to our poor box and take at least one ornament from our Giving Tree. Return the suggested gift by Sunday, December 16. Be sure the ornament is attached so the Council of Catholic Women will know who to give it to. Thank you and may God bless you!



## Monday, December 3 - Tuesday, December 11

**Our Lady of Guadalupe Novena.** Please join us each evening for the next nine evenings in our Santo Niño Shrine as we offer a special novena in honor of Our Lady of Guadalupe, Patroness of the Americas. What a beautiful way to prepare for the Birth of Christ! We will begin after the Mission or evening Masses ... or at 7:30pm!

## Monday, December 3 - Wednesday, December 5

**Advent Mission.** This year Deacon Bill Ditewig has graciously accepted our invitation to lead us in our annual parish Advent Mission. Deacon Bill is a gifted speaker, noted author, and professor. The focus of the mission will be Christ our Light.

## Advent Mission



Each day, Deacon Bill will offer two sessions beginning at 11am and 7pm on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday. On Monday night, our American Heritage Girls and Faith Formation team will offer a special Advent Retreat for children beginning at 7pm. This way the entire family can come for an evening of spiritual enrichment!

After the Monday and Wednesday night session there will be Eucharistic Adoration and Benediction and a reception. After the Tuesday night session there will be a communal Reconciliation Service. Our nursery is also open all three nights for children aged 1-3. Come and bring a friend!



## Friday, December 7

## First Friday / Vigil Immaculate Conception

Not only is today the First Friday, but it is also the vigil of the Immaculate Conception, a **Holy Day of Obligation!** Masses for the Feast are at 5:30pm and at 7pm we will begin with a Rosary and novena to Santo Niño followed by the special trilingual Mass at 7:30pm. After the Mass, those who have prepared for the past 33 days, will complete their total consecration to Jesus through Mary. A reception featuring delicious Filipino food will follow.

## Saturday, December 8

## Immaculate Conception

Today we honor our Blessed Mother, conceived without sin. It is a **Holy Day of Obligation.** Catholics are obliged to participate in the Holy Mass either on the Vigil or at 7:30am or 12:15pm. Sorry, the 5:30pm and 7:30pm Masses do not fulfill the obligation for the feast day.

## Sunday, December 9

## Second Sunday of Advent: Peace

**Children's Christmas Festival.** You are invited to a special Children's Christmas Festival sponsored by the Amor de Jesus Prayer Group following the 2pm Mass. The children will perform the traditional Posada and there will be lots of food and drink for all. Admission is a toy for a child at St. Michael Catholic Church in Wauchula, Florida. What a wonderful way to enjoy the Christmas Spirit with your family and to make a difference in the life of a child!



## Wednesday, December 12 Guadalupe

## Our Lady of

Come for a special celebration in honor of Our Lady of Guadalupe, Patroness of the Americas. We will begin at 6pm with the Rosary. At 7pm we will celebrate a wondrous bilingual Mass honoring our Blessed Mother. Afterwards, Mariachis will lead us in a candlelight procession to the Family Center where there will be a reception featuring homemade Mexican food. Celebremos esta Fiesta!



### Friday, December 14

### Lessons and Carols

**Lessons and Carols - Story of Our Faith.** At 7:30pm, we are sure to get into the Christmas spirit as our music ministry presents an inspirational concert of music and readings of the season. This is one holiday event you won't want to miss! Invite all of your friends, neighbors, classmates, and coworkers and come prepared to be inspired!



### Saturday, December 15

### Anointing of the Sick

**Anointing of the Sick.** Come experience the healing touch of Christ! The Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick is for those who are gravely ill or advanced in age. If you would like to be anointed, come to the 8:10am Morning Prayer and 8:30am Mass.

### Sunday, December 16

### Third Sunday of Advent: Joy

**Children's Baby Jesus Blessing.** This is *Gaudete* Sunday. We light the rose candle on our wreath as we rejoice that the birthday of our Savior draws near. Please bring your Baby Jesus from your Christmas Creche to Mass today. At the close of each Mass, we will invite all the children to come forward with their Baby Jesus for a special blessing.



**Breakfast with Santa.** St. Paul Knights of Columbus invites you to bring your children to enjoy a delicious pancake breakfast and photos with Santa after the 7:30, 9, and 10:45am Masses. Everyone is most welcome!

**Simbang Gabi Mass.** This is the 1<sup>st</sup> Mass in a novena of Masses held throughout our diocese in preparation for Christmas. In Hispanic cultures it is often called "Misa de Gallo" or Mass at dawn. Here at St. Paul we will begin with the Santo Niño novena at 7pm and follow with Mass at 7:30pm. A reception featuring delicious Filipino cuisine will follow!

### Monday, December 17

Today the Season of Advent changes focus from preparing for the return of Christ at the end of time to preparing for the celebration of the Birth of Christ. The traditional "O Antiphons" sung at Evening Prayer guide us during these last days of Advent.

### Communal Reconciliation Services

One of the best ways to prepare for the coming of Christ is through the Sacrament of Reconciliation. We recommend coming as a family as we all need forgiveness. Please be sure to attend one of the Penance Services in our deanery:

Saturday, December 15	11am	St. Mary Church
Monday, December 17	7pm	Most Holy Redeemer
<b>Tuesday, December 18</b>	<b>7pm</b>	<b>St. Paul Catholic Church</b>
Wednesday, December 19	7pm	Corpus Christi Church
Thursday, December 20	7pm	St. Timothy Church

### Friday, December 21

Today is the 4<sup>th</sup> anniversary of our novena of Masses in honor of Our Lady of Good Health held every third Friday of the month. At 7pm, we will gather by our beautiful Shrine in honor of Our Lady of Good Health for the rosary, novena and Mass. Afterwards there will be a reception featuring delicious Indian cuisine. Come and bring a friend!

## Sunday, December 23

## Fourth Sunday of Advent: Love

With Christmas Eve just hours away, review your list. Have you left anyone out? Think again. How about the Lord? What does He want from you? He wants your love! Come to Mass and join in the celebration of “God With Us!” Remember, it is never too late to give your heart to Jesus!

## Monday, December 24

We will have Mass at 7:30am but not at 12:15pm as we prepare for the celebration of Christmas!

*Note: Parking can be challenging on Christmas. Please come early and if possible, park in the medical lot on the south side of PDQ. Please do not park in our neighbor's yards or close to the stores in Cascades. Thank you for being a good neighbor!*

# Merry Christmas!!!

## Monday, December 24

## Christmas Eve

**Family Masses.** We will celebrate our traditional Family Masses at 4 and 6pm with special Christmas pageants presented by our children in our Church and Family Center.

**Missa em Português.** Por favor, se juntar a nós para a Missa em português em 6pm no Family Center com uma apresentação Infantil de Natal. Não se esqueça de convidar seus amigos, colegas e vizinhos! Feliz Natal!

**LIFE TEEN Mass.** At 8pm in the Church, we will celebrate Christmas with Spirit! Our LIFE TEEN music ministries will lead us in song. Merry Christmas!

**Midnight Mass.** Following the star, we will gather to worship the Christ Child during our Solemn Midnight Mass. Although the Mass will begin at midnight, the choir will lead us in a prelude beginning at 11:15pm. Come early to enjoy our wonderful choir's Christmas music!

## Tuesday, December 25

## Christmas Day

- 7:30am Cantor
  - 9am Family Mass with Christmas pageant
  - 10:45am Choir Mass
  - 12:30pm Contemporary Ensemble
  - 2:00pm **Misa en Español.** Únase a nosotros para la misa en español a las 2pm con un presentación de Nacimiento viviente de niños. Asegúrese de invitar a tus amigos y vecinos! Vamos a compartir con ellos la razón de nuestra alegría! Feliz Navidad!
- Note:** There will NOT be a 5:30pm Mass.



*Please invite your family, friends, neighbors, coworkers, and classmates to join you for the Sacred Liturgy and your family celebration. Let's share His joy! The more the merrier!*

*And on behalf of all the priests, deacons, religious, staff, teachers, and faithful volunteers of St. Paul Catholic Church and Preschool, may God bless you and your loved ones this Christmas with hope, peace, joy, and love!*