

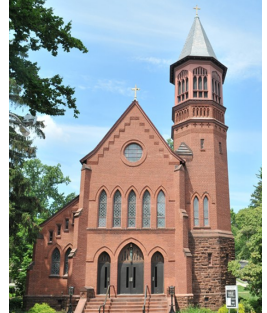


# Welcome to the Parish of St. Paul - St. Ann



Church of St. Paul  
82 Lake Road West  
Congers, NY 10920

Church of St. Ann  
16 Jefferson Street  
Nyack, NY 10960



Pastor@spasaparish.org  
Parish Office:  
82 Lake Road West, Congers, NY 10920  
Phone: (845) 268-4464/-4465 Fax: -6790  
Current Email: office@spasaparish.org  
Websites: Stann-nyack.org, spasaparish.org

## Rev. Vladimir Chripko, C.O. Pastor

Rev. **Roman** Dominik Palecko, C.O. Assistant Pastor

Rev. **Arogya** Raju Narisetty, Parochial Vicar • Rev. **Peter** Bujdos, Parochial Vicar

Rev. Maniraguha **Jean Paul** Ruriho, Assistant

Rev. **George** Torok, C.O., Provost—Weekend Assistant

♦♦ ST. PAUL ♦♦		♦♦ ST. ANN ♦♦
<b>Deacons</b>	<b>Dominic</b> Buonocore <b>Mark</b> Czerwinski, Director RCIA	<b>Luke</b> Conroy, Director RCIA <b>Charles</b> DeGroat <b>Gerald</b> Fenton, Liturgy Coordinator
<b>Parish Office Hours</b>	9:00 am-3:00 pm Monday-Friday	11:00 am-12:00 pm Mon, Tues, Wed & Thurs.
<b>Cemetery/Assistant to Pastor</b>	<b>Lisette</b> Diaz Lisette.sor3@gmail.com	
<b>Religious Education Program</b>	<b>Mariana</b> Dalsass (845-268-5442) Email: religiouseducation@spasaparish.org Carmen Hernandez Thomas H. Sullivan	
<b>St. Paul Regional School</b>	<b>Mrs. Michelle Pitot</b> (845-268-6506)	
<b>Music Ministry</b>	<b>James</b> Russell	<b>Vincent</b> Green
<b>Sunday Masses</b>	<b>Saturday</b> 5:00 pm <b>Sunday</b> 7:30 & 10 am, 12:00 & 6:00 pm 2 <sup>nd</sup> & 4 <sup>th</sup> Sundays of month: Spanish mass at 7:30 pm	<b>Saturday</b> 5:30 pm <b>Sunday</b> 8:45, 11:30 am
<b>Weekday Masses</b>	Monday—Friday 6:30 & 9:00 am Saturday 7:30 am & 9:00 am	Monday—Friday 7:30 am & 12:10 pm Saturday 9:00 am
<b>Morning Prayer</b>	Monday—Saturday 8:45 am	
<b>Rosary</b>	Following Weekday 9 am Mass	Before 12:10 Mass
<b>Confessions</b>	Saturdays 4:00-4:45 pm Anytime by request.	Saturdays 4:30-5:15 pm Anytime by request.

### Sacrament of Baptism

Baptisms are normally celebrated at St. Ann's Church on the first and third Sundays of the month and at St. Paul's Church on the second & fourth Sundays. For a Baptism at St. Paul's contact Deacon Dominic at the Rectory (845-268-4464); at St. Ann's, call Deacon Luke (845-323-5669). First-time parents of child to be baptized must register for a Baptismal instruction class, held in the Rectory, normally on the last Thursday of the month at 7 pm. Please direct all inquiries to Deacon Dominic.

### Sacrament of Marriage

Engaged couples should contact the Rectory at least six months in advance in order to arrange for their participation in the marriage preparation program. Please email assistantpastor@spasaparish.org.

### Anointing of the Sick

If someone is homebound or in the hospital, please notify the Rectory. Arrangements can be made for the sick person to receive the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick. Holy Communion is brought to the homebound by our Ministers of Holy Communion.

*February 11, 2018 6th Sunday in Ordinary Time*

<b><u>ST. PAUL'S CHURCH</u></b>		<b><u>ST. ANN'S CHURCH</u></b>	
<b>Saturday</b>	Feb. 10, 2018	<b>Saturday</b>	Feb. 10, 2018
5:00 PM	Anne & Rocco Mercurio & Family	5:30 PM	Lorraine Ryder Novotny
<b>Sunday</b>	Feb. 11, 2018	<b>Sunday</b>	Feb. 11, 2018
7:30 AM	Robert Michael Sbordone (L)	8:45 AM	Ben Koszyk
10:00 AM	Mary & Micheal Brady	11:30 AM	Maria Scaglione — 1st Anniversary
12:00 PM	Ashley Badenchini		<b>Second Collection for Peter's Pence</b>
6:00 PM	Christopher Ojeda		
<b>Monday</b>	Feb. 12, 2018	<b>Monday</b>	Feb. 12, 2018
6:30 AM	Marjorie & Lawrence Daley	7:30 AM	Dennis L. Coyle
9:00 AM	Patricia Florio	12:10 PM	Christine McDermott
<b>Tuesday</b>	Feb. 13, 2018	<b>Tuesday</b>	Feb. 13, 2018
6:30 AM	Rita Genna	7:30 AM	Violette Vital & Marie Spatano
9:00 AM	Peggy Freeman	12:10 PM	at the discretion of celebrant
<b>Wednesday</b>	Feb. 14, 2018 ASH WEDNESDAY	<b>Wednesday</b>	Feb. 14, 2018 ASH WEDNESDAY
6:30 AM	Stanley Radzevila	7:30 AM	at the discretion of celebrant
9:00 AM	Margaret & Peter Kennedy	12:10 PM	Gertrude Knight
12:00 PM	Madeline & Dominick Geni	7:30 PM	at the discretion of celebrant
4:00 PM	Anne Reynolds		
6:00 PM	at the discretion of celebrant		
8:00 PM	at the discretion of celebrant		
<b>Thursday</b>	Feb. 15, 2018	<b>Thursday</b>	Feb. 15, 2018
6:30 AM	With gratitude to St. Anthony from the Assunta, Giuseppe, & Fecci Family	7:30 AM	Bernard Hines Jr.
9:00 AM	Anne Reynolds	12:10 PM	Junie Girault (L) — 50th Birthday
<b>Friday</b>	Feb. 16, 2018	<b>Friday</b>	Feb. 16, 2018
6:30 AM	James Protus	7:30 AM	Salvatore Pepe
9:00 AM	Barney McCabe	12:10 PM	George Bryant
<b>Saturday</b>	Feb. 17, 2018	<b>Saturday</b>	Feb. 17, 2018
7:30 AM	John McManus & John Kinahan	9:00 AM	at the discretion of celebrant
9:00 AM	Barney & Matty McCabe	5:30 PM	Edward Fabry
5:00 PM	Anne & James Donovan Sarah & John Carroll		
<b>Sunday</b>	Feb. 18, 2018	<b>Sunday</b>	Feb. 18, 2018
7:30 AM	Victoria Abelardo	8:45 AM	at the discretion of celebrant
10:00 AM	Michael Brett	11:30 AM	Marie Marte & Family
12:00 PM	Manuela & Michael Ruiz		<b>Second Collection for the Poor</b>
6:00 PM	Joseph J. Porrovecchio		

These masses are still available. If you would like to schedule a mass to be said for your special intention, please call the Rectory.  
 St. Paul — Feb. 19 (6:30), Feb. 21 (6:30), March 7 (6:30), March 9 (6:30), March 10 (7:30), March 13 (6:30), March 14 (6:30)  
 St. Ann — Feb. 19 (7:30 & 12:10), Feb. 20 (12:10), Feb. 21 (7:30 & 12:10), Feb. 23 (7:30 & 12:10), Feb. 24 (9:00), Feb. 25 (8:45)

# PARISH NEWS & UPCOMING EVENTS



## How Do You Count the 40 Days of Lent?

In Lent we imitate Jesus, who spent 40 Days fasting and praying in the desert. But if you count the calendar days between Ash Wednesday and Easter, it comes to 46. Here's how Lent is calculated. **Ash Wednesday through the following Saturday is four days. Then six weeks of Lent minus the Sundays (never days of penance) are 36 days. So  $4 + 36 = 40$ .**

Actually, Lent, which is the *period of preparation* for Jesus' Passion, Death and Resurrection, officially comes to an end at sunset on Holy Thursday — when we begin to celebrate these mysteries in the Easter Triduum. However, since we still continue to fast and do penance on Good Friday and Holy Saturday, those two days are counted into the 40.

A graphic for Ash Wednesday featuring a large black cross at the top. Below the cross, the text reads: "ASH WEDNESDAY" and "FEBRUARY 14".

**SCHEDULE OF MASSES**  
**ST. PAUL'S CHURCH**  
6:30 am, 9:00 am, noon  
4:00 pm, 6:00 pm & 8:00 pm  
**ST. ANN'S CHURCH**  
7:30 am, 12:10 pm, 7:30 pm



## STATIONS OF THE CROSS DURING LENT

**St. Paul's — Fridays, 7:30 pm**

**St. Ann's — Fridays, 11:30 am and 7:30 pm**

**PENITENTIAL RULES  
FOR ASH WEDNESDAY**  
**FASTING (ages 21 through 59)**

- ♦ One full meal allowed — along with two smaller meals which, together, do not equal a full meal.
- ♦ No snacking in between meals.

**ABSTINENCE (ages 14 and up)**

- ♦ No meat or soups made with meat.

## SIGN OF PEACE DURING THE FLU SEASON

During this particularly bad flu season, a friendly gesture **without shaking hands** may be a good idea, even if you don't feel sick or the person next to you doesn't appear to be sick either. Since we can be contagious before experiencing any symptoms, a wave or smile might be the more prudent way to wish each other peace at this time.

## Today the Second Collection is for Peter's Pence

The Peter's Pence Collection derives its name from an ancient custom. In ninth-century England, King Alfred the Great collected money, a "pence," from landowners as financial support for the Pope. Today, the Peter's Pence Collection supports the Pope's philanthropy by giving the Holy Father the means to provide emergency assistance to those in need because of natural disaster, war, oppression, and disease.



# FROM the RECTORY

## MASS BOOK & MEMORIALS

The **Mass Book** is open at both churches. Please call the Parish Office to reserve a mass at St. Ann's or St. Paul's through June 2018.

If you'd like to bring up the Gifts at a mass for which you've scheduled an announced intention, please tell the usher.

You may also request that the '**Sanctuary Lamp**' in either church or the St. Ann's Chapel be lit for your special intention or in memory of a loved one. The candle burns for 1 week. Donation is \$25.

## EMAIL FOR THE PASTOR

Pastor@spasaparish.org

## BULLETIN ANNOUNCEMENTS

Deadline is Friday, the week before publication  
Send to: Bulletin@spasaparish.org

**Feb. 18 bulletin — deadline Friday, Feb. 9**

**Feb. 25 bulletin — deadline Friday, Feb. 16**

## PARISH WEBSITES

For more detailed information about our parish:

**Spasaparish.org**

**Stann-nyack.org**

## MEMORIAL INTENTIONS — WEEK OF FEB. 11

**Sanctuary Lamp (St. Paul)**

**Sanctuary Lamp (St. Ann)**

**Chapel (St. Ann)**



## St. Paul & St. Ann PRAYER FOR THE SICK

*We pray that the sick of our parish, our relatives, and friends will experience God's healing love, especially:*

Bonnie L. Taylor, Patrick O'Donnell  
Mary Hillery, Ann Nieuwenhuisen  
Joseph & Mary Salvemini

Call the rectory (268-4464) to be placed on the list of those who need prayers in time of illness, or call with the names of any sick family members or friends. The name will remain on the list for 3 weeks and then be removed unless we hear from you that the person still needs our prayers.



## CARDINAL'S ANNUAL STEWARDSHIP APPEAL UPDATE

**We have reached our goal for the 2017 Cardinal's Stewardship Appeal!! The goal for our parish was \$153,000 and we've received pledges for \$153,319 — a total of 495 gifts.** Because of your generosity, the Cardinal's Annual Stewardship Appeal will be able to continue to make God's love visible to all through the programs and services it provides throughout the Archdiocese of New York. Your donations make this possible. Thank you, and God bless you!



## WE'D LIKE TO CONNECT WITH YOU!

Sign up for important updates from the parish via email or text.

www.flocknote.com/STANNNYACK or /STPAULS

Or text SACC or STPC to 84576 from your phone

**IF YOU NEED A CONTRIBUTION STATEMENT  
FOR YOUR 2017 TAX FILING, PLEASE CONTACT  
THE PARISH OFFICE 845-286-4464**

## DONATING TO OUR PARISH ONLINE

Currently, we have two programs for donating online.

Our new program is called **PARISH GIVING**. You can register online at either of our parish websites, [stann-nyack.org](http://stann-nyack.org) or [spasaparish.org](http://spasaparish.org).

The original program, which many of you are enrolled in, is called **WESHARE** (used to be called **PARISH PAY**). It still exists, and if you are satisfied with it, you may keep it. If not, we suggest you switch to Parish Giving. The WeShare link is also on our websites, or you can call them at 800-950-9952, option 1. You may experience a wait.

## JANUARY 2018 COLLECTIONS

	01/01/18	01/07/18	01/14/18	01/21/18	01/28/18
<b>St. Paul collection</b>	3,781	9,235	8,954	9,445	9,254
<b>St Ann collection</b>	1,160	4,650	4,412	4,239	4,101
<b>St. Paul and St Ann Parish Giving</b>	<b>12,095</b>				
<b>St. Ann Capital campaign</b>	<b>5,151</b>				



# CHURCH of ST. ANN



## St. Ann's LITURGY MINISTERS for Feb. 18, 2018



TIME	LECTORS	EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS	ALTAR SERVERS	USHERS
5:30 PM	B. Garrison	M. Crisafi, B. Lynch	B. Vital, M. Brosius	Joe Arl, George B., Guy
8:45 AM	K. Lynch	M. Cracovia, M.A. Partridge	J. Dangler, G. DelloRusso	James C., Tom S., Ken W.
11:30 AM	B. VanCura	M.J. Joseph, V. Leone	M. & N. Camitan J. Gannon	Ed T., Rob C., Jean L. Jean V.

### DEVOTIONS

Rosary  
Divine Mercy Chaplet  
Rosary & Divine Mercy

Monday through Friday  
Monday through Friday  
Saturday

11:45 am  
after 12:10 pm Mass  
after 9 am Mass



**First Friday** 7:30 am Mass; 8:00 am to 11:50 Exposition of Blessed Sacrament; 8:15 Morning Prayer, 11:15 Rosary; 11:50 Benediction; 12:10 Mass; 12:40 pm Chaplet of Divine Mercy; 7:30 pm to 8:30 pm Holy Hour, Exposition, Benediction.



### HOLY LAND PILGRIMAGE WITH THE ORATORIANs

A few places are still available. April 11-23, \$3,300 all inclusive; Amman, Israel, Palestine, Dubai. Call the rectory for more information or to make reservations.

### HELPING HANDS SAFE HAVEN UPDATE

Thanks to all who helped this past weekend when St. Paul-St. Ann's team hosted at the Helping Hands' new Warming Center. This new program provides shelter for as many as 75 adults during the winter months at Rockland County's Health and Social Services complex in Pomona. Transportation is provided each evening by vans which pick up in Haverstraw, Nyack, and Spring Valley. A hot meal, laundry, and showers are provided.

St. Paul-St. Ann's team will be again hosting at the Warming Center the weekends of February 23-25 and April 6-8. **New members are welcome!** We help serve a catered dinner (6:30-9:30 pm) and bring a welcoming smile to those sheltering overnight at the Warming Center. We carpool from Nyack and Congers. Please contact either Regina Kelly (358-4353) or Deacon Jerry Fenton (353-0793) if you are interested in joining us or have questions about this ministry.

For those who may not be able to come to Pomona, donations of laundry detergent, juice, water, granola bars, and other packaged snacks are welcome. Please contact Regina or Deacon Jerry to arrange a dropoff in Nyack.

### MARYDELL — OVER 90 YEARS — SERVING, CARING

Don't miss this remarkable exhibit of photos and memorabilia, tracing the history of Marydell and the sisters from the restoration of a derelict farm property in 1924 to a summer camp for immigrants from the city, to today's Faith and Life Center in Upper Nyack. Saturdays, 1 to 4 pm, through January & February at the Historical Society of the Nyacks, 50 Piermont Ave., Nyack (Depew House, behind the library).

### MARYKNOLL SISTERS' CHARITY CONCERT

The 45-member Hudson Valley Symphonic Wind Ensemble will perform at the annual concert to benefit the Sisters' various worldwide missions. March 4, 3 pm, at the Maryknoll Sisters Center, 10 Pinesbridge Rd., Ossining, NY, 10562. Tickets \$30 online at [maryknollsisters.org/concert](http://maryknollsisters.org/concert), or call 1-866-662-9900, or at the door on the day of the event.

# CHURCH of ST. PAUL



St. Paul's LITURGY MINISTERS for Feb. 18, 2018



TIME	LECTORS	EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS	ALTAR SERVERS	USHERS
5:00 PM	R. Aberion	C. & E. Skiba	A. Sawal, A. Zil S. Byrne	G. Enriquez, V. Panzo, W. Rodriguez J. Galeta, G. Holland
7:30 AM	R. Festa	J. Salerno, R. Sbordone	A. Francois B. & H. Sopin	A. Smith, V. Czajkowski, T. Totor P. Bencivengo
10:00 AM	J. Diaz	G. Buonocore, L. Terminello	H. Caceres, E. Diaz	G. Spinney, H. Caceres, M. Katigbak W. Kelder, K. McAleer, S. Reynolds S. Leto, V. Alfieri, A. Diaz
12:00 PM	M. Allgor	M. & J. Leighton	G. Kopf, J. Viducich R. Adriano	J. Granata, W. Hartl, W. Kelder P. Dudgeon, A. Reale, A. Dibianco R. Vivas, M. Reilly, E. Lockhart F. Cifuni
6:00 PM	A.M. Favorito	J. Holmes, D. Zinna	C. & M. Sambevski	C. Linen, J. Cerreta, R. Aberion

## EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS

**Homebound** — J. Ventola, M. Raboy, J. Granata

**Nyack Manor** — E. & A. Hage

**Tolstoy** — A. & R. Blackwood

## DEVOTIONS

Morning Prayer

Holy Rosary

Eucharistic Adoration

Our Lady of Fatima Novena

Chaplet of Divine Mercy

Daily

Daily

Wednesday

Wednesday

Friday

8:45 am

after 9:00 am Mass

noon to 6:00 pm, Benediction at 6:00 pm

6:00 pm

after 9:00 am Mass



## Attention All Romantics

Valentine's Day, Feb. 14, falls on ASH WEDNESDAY this year.

This is a solemn day of FAST and ABSTINENCE for devout Catholics.

Please plan ahead and make dinner reservations for Tuesday evening, Feb. 13. This would also be a great way to observe *Mardi Gras*!

And . . . please save the candy for Thursday. Or, better yet, inform your significant other that you plan on giving up candy for Lent and suggest, instead, some flowers or a modest gift.

## DOMINICAN COLLEGE OPEN HOUSE

Saturday, Feb. 17, from 10 am to 1 pm at Hennessy Center, Western Highway, Orangeburg. Tour campus, meet faculty and students, learn about Honors Program and generous scholarships and grant programs that offer up to \$20,000 per year. More info at [www.dc.edu](http://www.dc.edu).

## 300 CLUB WINNERS

Congratulations to the Lucky Winners of our January Drawing!

#31 Mariana Dalsass

#154 Mr. & Mrs. Leonard Russo

#128 Dennis Neuberger

#277 Loretta Bryan

## WEEKLY at ST. PAUL'S

**Monday** Prayer Group, 7:45 pm (school)  
K of C, 7:30 pm, 2nd & 4th

**Tuesday** Bible Study, 7 to 8:30 pm (school)

**Wednesday** (see 'Devotions' on pg. 6)

**Thursday** Shawl making, 10 am (Parish Center)

**Saturday** Spanish Prayer Group (Parish Center)

## MORE PARISH & COUNTY EVENTS

### 40 DAYS FOR LIFE: FEB. 14 THRU MARCH 25

40 Days for Life is a peaceful, highly-focused, non-denominational initiative that focuses on 40 days of prayer and fasting, peaceful public vigil, and educational outreach with the goal of protecting mothers and their children from abortion. To learn more about the 40 Days for Life campaign visit: [www.40daysforlife.com](http://www.40daysforlife.com).

The Rockland 40 Days vigil starts at 3 pm on Ash Wednesday on Perlman Drive in Spring Valley on public property outside the Pascack Plaza Shopping Center where Planned Parenthood is.

For information about participating contact Eileen Peterson (845) 492-6709, [RachelMinister1@aol.com](mailto:RachelMinister1@aol.com).

*"Made richer by the timing of the liturgical season, this year's campaign begins on Ash Wednesday as the Church turns its focus to Jesus' Passion and Death, and concludes on the Feast of the Annunciation — when the Word took Flesh, and nothing again would ever be casual or small."*

Sr. Virginia Joy & Sr. Pia Jude, Sisters of Life  
Respect Life Office  
Archdiocese of New York

### MASS FOR THE BROKENHEARTED

For all whose hearts are burdened due to grief, loss, broken relationships, illness, worry . . . Thursday, Feb. 15, 7 pm, St. Francis Church, 128 Parrott Rd., West Nyack.

### EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION SEMINAR

Friday, Feb. 16, 7pm. St. Joseph's Seminary (Yonkers)  
Presentation by James Monti, author of "Praying in the Presence of Our Lord." More information and registration: [nyliturgy.org/workshops](http://nyliturgy.org/workshops). Contact: [liturgy@archny.org](mailto:liturgy@archny.org) or 914.968.6200, x8177.

### DAY OF RECOLLECTION FOR PARISH MUSICIANS

A day of prayer, reflection, music making, and fellowship for music directors, adult choir members and instrumentalists. Maryknoll Seminary (Ossining), March 3, 10 am to 3 pm. Presenter: Fr. Joel Warden, CO. Fee \$15, to defray cost of lunch. Contact [liturgy@arch.org](mailto:liturgy@arch.org) or call 914-968-6200, x. 8177.

### COME JOIN AMERICAN HERITAGE GIRLS TROOP NY1315

We have girls from grades K-7 from five different parishes and welcome all girls from K-12 interested in a faith-based, service-minded scout organization.

So far this year, girls have baked cookies for CPD & NCFD, made candy-grams for injured soldiers at Walter Reed Medical Center, loaded supplies being sent to animal shelters in Texas after the hurricane, and made blankets for hospice patients.

They are planning a Valentine's party for the Dominican Sisters, will be organizing supplies to feed/warm the homeless, and are doing a clean-up day! The girls have also worked on badges such as Hiking and Cake Decorating and are looking forward to earning Sign Language, Camping, Photography, Our Flag, and Kitchen Science or Engineering! We are having a Mother/Daughter Tea and will be going fishing or bowling with the dads!

We meet about two Friday nights each month at St. Francis of Assisi in West Nyack. To join or visit a meeting, email [kerribennett@optonline.net](mailto:kerribennett@optonline.net) or go to [www.ahgonline.org](http://www.ahgonline.org) and enter 10994 in the "find a troop" box, then scroll down to send a request for information. Come and join the fun!

## Challenge Begins: February 14<sup>th</sup>

**BROTHERS,**  
**JOIN THE CHALLENGE**  
**THIS LENT.** Let's  
become better men  
together. Now is the  
time. Start living life the  
way it was meant  
to be lived.

More information  
on our parish website  
[stann-nyack.org](http://stann-nyack.org)

# RISE

"If every man took the Rise challenge, we'd see a transformation in our homes and parishes." — Archbishop Charles J. Chaput



VENERABLE  
PIERRE TOUSSAINT  
SCHOLARSHIP FUND

### COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS AVAILABLE

Applications are being accepted for the **Venerable Pierre Toussaint Scholarship Program** — an award of \$2,000 to be used in connection with attendance at a college, university, or for post-secondary education

An applicant must be a senior graduating from a public, private, or Catholic school located within the Archdiocese of New York, a practicing Catholic within an archdiocesan parish or faith community, and obtain a letter from his/her pastor or parish priest verifying such. **Completed applications are due Friday, Feb. 16.** Contact the rectory for more information and materials.



### One Thing At Least

One thing at least I understood  
Practically from the start,  
That loving must be learnt by heart  
If it's to be any good.

It isn't in the flash of thunder  
But in the silent power to give –  
A habit into which we live  
Ourselves, and grow to be a wonder.

Some like me are slow to learn:  
What's plain can be mysterious still.  
Feelings alter, fade, return,

But love stands constant in the will:  
It's not alone the touching, seeing,  
It's how to mean the other's being.

-- James McAuley

Happy  
Valentine's  
Day





# FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

## An Unlikely Football Game

Every human heart needs to know that we are loved even when we may not deserve it. That makes the difference between a meaningful life and an empty life.

A few years ago a high school football game in Texas made that kind of difference. The game was between Gainesville State School and Grapevine Faith Christian School.

Grapevine Faith is a private Christian school. Gainesville State is a high-school prison, a maximum-security state correctional facility for 285 teenage inmates.

Gainesville State lost to Grapevine Faith to finish their season 0-9.

But ever since that game, a sort of miracle has taken place on the Gainesville State campus.

Teacher Chris Styles put it concisely: After that game, he said, "The culture just switched."

Why? Because of how Grapevine Faith hosted the players from the prison: they treated them like real people, not hopeless outcasts.

First, student fans at Grapevine Faith formed a 40-yard spirit line for the Gainesville players to run through before the start of the game. Then, half the Grapevine fans sat behind the Gainesville sideline and cheered them on — by numbers and even names — throughout the game. Grapevine Faith even loaned the Gainesville State Tornadoes their junior high cheerleaders.

Gainesville lost, but they ended up scoring as many touchdowns in that one game as they had in their eight previous games combined.



And Gainesville State is a different place now. "It's like people's hearts have really changed," the superintendent said.

And not just the hearts of the inmates, but area residents too. They think of the correctional facility differently now; they encourage the young men there; they even come out for their games.

All because a group of Christians decided to follow Christ's example and to reach out instead of condemn.



**The Catholic Daughters**  
are having a

**Craft/Tag Sale**

April 14, 10 am to 3 pm

St. Paul's Parish Center

Venders, contact Eileen  
at 268-1249



**ST. PAUL – ST. ANN**

**FAMILY CAMPING ADVENTURE**

**JOIN US FOR A FAMILY WEEKEND AWAY!**

FRIENDS – FAMILIES – GAMES – FOOD- MUSIC – MOVIE NIGHT

WHEN: ARRIVE JULY 13 – RETURN JULY 16\*

WHERE: ALLAIRE STATE PARK – FARMINGDALE, NJ

COST: \$100 PER ADULT/CHILDREN FREE (breakfast & dinner INCLUDED)

Pack your tent/sleeping bag and prepare for a weekend of fun!

**PARENTS MUST ACCOMPANY CHILDREN.** BIG PLUS – 15 minutes from Belmar beach.

Please send in registration form or call 845-268-4464 for more information.

Deadline 02/14/18

