

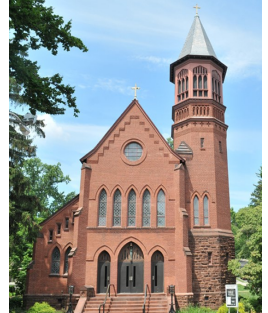


Welcome to the Parish of St. Paul - St. Ann



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
Website: spasaparish.org

Rev. Vladimir Chripko, C.O. Pastor

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

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

Feb. 17, 2019 6th Sunday in Ordinary Time

| <u>ST. PAUL'S CHURCH</u> | | <u>ST. ANN'S CHURCH</u> | |
|--------------------------|--|-------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Saturday | Feb. 16, 2019 | Saturday | Feb. 16, 2019 |
| 5:00 PM | Joseph J. Porrovecchio | 5:30 PM | At the discretion of the celebrant |
| Sunday | Feb. 17, 2019 | Sunday | Feb. 17, 2019 |
| 7:30 AM | Assunta Cecere Sbordone, William Thomas & William James Sbordone | 8:45 AM | At the discretion of the celebrant |
| 10:00 AM | Vince, Frank, Rochina & Maria Giocobbi | 11:30 AM | Robert Brady |
| 12:00 PM | Dominick Cardone | | |
| 6:00 PM | Living & deceased members of the Mathew family | | Second Collection for the Poor |
| Monday | Feb. 18, 2019 | Monday | Feb. 18, 2019 |
| 6:30 AM | Victoria Abelardo | 7:30 AM | Peter H. Sinnott |
| 9:00 AM | Michael Brett | 12:10 PM | At the discretion of the celebrant |
| Tuesday | Feb. 19, 2019 | Tuesday | Feb. 19, 2019 |
| 6:30 AM | Prisila Vibar — Living | 7:30 AM | Joan Ferrara |
| 9:00 AM | Michael Royce | 12:10 AM | At the discretion of the celebrant |
| Wednesday | Feb. 20, 2019 | Wednesday | Feb. 20, 2019 |
| 6:30 AM | John Liska | 7:30 AM | Vincent Colorell |
| 9:00 AM | Walter Geary | 12:10 PM | Max Etienne |
| Thursday | Feb. 21, 2019 | Thursday | Feb. 21, 2019 |
| 6:30 AM | Agustina Conde | 7:30 AM | Anna Mae Taylor |
| 9:00 AM | Anthony Esposito | 12:10 PM | George Bryant |
| Friday | Feb. 22, 2019 | Friday | Feb. 22, 2019 |
| 6:30 AM | At the discretion of the celebrant | 7:30 AM | James C. Taylor |
| 9:00 AM | Ann Nolan | 12:10 PM | At the discretion of the celebrant |
| Saturday | Feb. 23, 2019 | Saturday | Feb. 23, 2019 |
| 7:30 AM | Mary & Peter Nicholson | 9:00 AM | At the discretion of the celebrant |
| 9:00 AM | James McLaughlin | 5:30 PM | For the People of the Parish |
| 5:00 PM | Rosemary & Edward Rigney | | |
| Sunday | Feb. 24, 2019 | Sunday | Feb. 24, 2019 |
| 7:30 AM | Anna Reife | 8:45 AM | At the discretion of the celebrant |
| 10:00 AM | Nancy McMenimon | 11:30 AM | Phyllis Fumoso |
| 12:00 PM | Fred Cifuni (8th Anniversary) & Helen Cifuni (1st Anniversary) | | |
| 6:00 PM | William Murphy | | Second Collection for the Poor |

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. 25 (6:30), Feb. 26 (6:30), Feb. 27 (6:30), Feb. 28 (6:30), Mar. 6 (evening), Mar. 7 (6:30), Mar. 9 (7:30)
 St. Ann — Feb. 25 (12:10), Feb. 26 (12:10), Feb. 27 (7:30 & 12:10), Mar. 1 (12:10), Mar. 2 (9:00), Mar. 4 (7:30 & 12:10)

PARISH NEWS & UPCOMING EVENTS

LENTEN RETREAT

I am crucified with Christ...it is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me.

-Gal 2:20



St Paul-St Ann Parish

Saturday, February 23, 2019, 1-5 pm

St Paul's Church-Parish Center

82 Lake Road, Congers, NY

Contact: Parish Rectory, 845-268-4464



Members of the public pay their respects the evening of Dec. 3, 2018, at the casket of former President George H. W. Bush lying in state in the Rotunda of the U.S. Capitol in Washington, D.C. (Official White House Photo by Joyce N. Boghosian)

A THOUGHT FOR PRESIDENTS' DAY— Feb. 18, 2019

In his eulogy for his father, former Pres. George W. Bush quoted from his father's first Inauguration speech in 1989. Like most presidents, the elder Bush delivered a speech filled with patriotism, pledges, and calls to action. But he ended it with a hopeful humility. Each president's unique way of viewing the world will to some extent determine the future for all of us. Here is what George H.W. Bush had to say as he began his presidency 30 years ago.

"... And I do not mistrust the future. I do not fear what is ahead. For our problems are large, but our heart is larger. Our challenges are great, but our will is greater. And if our flaws are endless, God's love is truly boundless.

"Some see leadership as high drama and the sound of trumpets calling, and sometimes it is that. But I see history as a book with many pages, and each day we fill a page with acts of hopefulness and meaning. The new breeze blows, a page turns, the story unfolds. And so, today a chapter begins, a small and stately story of our unity, diversity, and generosity — shared and written together."

EXPOSITION OF SACRED RELICS

Treasures of the Church

St. Paul & St. Ann Parish welcomes you to a teaching and exposition of Sacred Relics. Over 150 relics will be present, some as old as 2,000 years.

Among the treasures will be relics of St. Maria Goretti, St. Thérèse of Lisieux (the "Little Flower"), St. Francis of Assisi, St. Anthony of Padua, St. Thomas Aquinas, and St. Faustina Kowalska.

In addition, there will also be present a piece of a veil which belonged to Our Lady and one of the largest remaining pieces of the True Cross in the world.

**At St. Ann's
Church in Nyack**



presented by Father Carlos Martins of the Companions of the Cross

HELD IN THE CHURCH ON

FRIDAY MARCH 1 AT 7:00 PM

See www.treasuresofthechurch.com for more information

Those in attendance will be able to examine and venerate each relic. In the Church's history many miracles and healings have been worked in the presence of relics, and many have been healed through this ministry.

Please do not miss this opportunity.

You are encouraged to bring your articles of devotion (such as rosaries, holy cards, etc.) and pictures of ill friends/family members, which you will be able to touch to the reliquaries as a means of intercession.

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 2019**.

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. 24 bulletin — deadline Friday, Feb. 15

March 3 bulletin — deadline Friday, Feb. 22

PARISH WEBSITE

For more detailed information about our parish:
Spasaparish.org

MEMORIAL INTENTIONS — WEEK OF FEB. 17

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:

Justine Marco, Jason Mazzacone,
Carolyn Pagliuca,
Michael Doria, Noah Diaz,
Manuel Tucay

Please 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.

FORMED Free Catholic movies, e-books, audios, and programs. Go to *Formed.org* and use our parish code **X74FWM**. You can download a free Formed app.



\$1,241,500

\$1,146,678



RENEW + REBUILD

284 families have pledged
as of Feb. 11, 2019

\$98,634

100%

92.4%

7.9%

GOAL

PLEDGED

PAID TO
DATE

300 CLUB WINNERS

Congratulations to the Lucky Winners
of our JANUARY Drawing!

#205 Donna McNerey
#128 Dennis Neuberger
#294 Mr. & Mrs. Muggeo
#289 Mr. & Mrs. Martini

JANUARY 2019 COLLECTIONS

| | 01/01/19 New Year | 01/06/19 | 01/13/19 | 01/20/19 Snow | 01/27/19 |
|--|----------------------|----------|----------|------------------|----------|
| St. Paul and St. Ann | 5,402 | 14,368 | 12,858 | 8,778 | 12,669 |
| St. Paul and St. Ann Parish Giving & We share | 2,888 + 7,740 | | | | |

CHURCH of ST. ANN



St. Ann's LITURGY MINISTERS for Feb. 24, 2019



| TIME | LECTORS | EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS | ALTAR SERVERS | USHERS |
|----------|-------------|----------------------------|-------------------------------------|---|
| 5:30 PM | B. Garrison | D. Oswald, C. Stokes | J. Dangler, N. Duffy B. Sanchez | Joe A., Frank G., Ric A Tom F., Logan S. |
| 8:45 AM | J. Fenton | G. Nelson, H. Pierson | K. Lusaria C. & M. Sambevski | James C., Ken W. Tom S. |
| 11:30 AM | B. VanCura | R. Campodonico, H.M. Daghi | T. Ryder, G. Tangredi A. VanCura | Ed T., Rob C., Jean L. James B. |

DEVOTIONS Rosary Monday through Friday 11:45 am (11:30 am, First Friday)
 Divine Mercy Chaplet Monday through Friday after 12:10 pm Mass
 Rosary & Divine Mercy Saturday after 9 am Mass

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

SCHOLARSHIP FOR INCOMING FRESHMEN

The Heather Leigh Colon Scholarship is available for 8th grade CYO basketball players who are planning on attending a Catholic high school in the fall of 2019. For more information contact Barbara or Mark Colon at (914) 447-5962.



2nd Annual Gala

St. Paul & St. Ann

PLEASE JOIN US FOR AN EVENING OF OPEN BAR, SIT DOWN DINNER AND DANCING!

FRIDAY APRIL 26, 2019 AT 7:00 PM
 TOWN & COUNTRY
 923 S. ROUTE 9 W | CONGERS, NY

\$80 PER PERSON

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT
 THE RECTORY AT 845-268-4464

H.A.N.D.S. BEREAVEMENT GROUP — FEB. 19

H.A.N.D.S. (Healing and Nurturing Distraught Survivors) sponsors a bereavement support group for parents who have lost a child. It is facilitated by Ann Carucci. Meets from 6:30 to 8:00 pm at 9 Scott Drive, New City. Services are free of charge. Ann is also available for personal, one-on-one counseling sessions. Call 845-634-6706.

Spring is just around the corner, and soon you can help the team of gardeners at the **GARDEN OF FAITH** who produce over 2,000 lbs. of fresh vegetables each summer for the hungry of our community. No experience necessary. In fact, it's a great place to learn about gardening. More information will be coming soon.

You Are Invited To Join **Father Ravi**

on a 14-day
 Catholic Pilgrimage Tour to
 Switzerland, Italy & Vatican City



Including:

Zurich, Lucerne, the Black Forest, Basel, Einsiedeln, Bern, Mount Titlis, Milan, Padua, Venice, Pisa, Florence, Assisi, Rome & the Vatican.

May 18 - 31, 2019

\$4249.00

All-inclusive from
 Newark, NJ

CATHOLIC PILGRIMAGE TOUR TO
 SWITZERLAND, ITALY & ROME



CATHEDRAL OF MILAN, ITALY

For more information:

Please call Martina Collins at
 914-320-8412 or e-mail at
 jackben1412@gmail.com

CHURCH of ST. PAUL



St. Paul's LITURGY MINISTERS for Feb. 24, 2019



| TIME | LECTORS | EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS | ALTAR SERVERS | USHERS |
|----------|---------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|--|
| 5:00 PM | J. Cardone | J. Amodio, H. Baumann | C. & M. Sambevski A. Castillo | V. Panzo, W. Rodriguez, G. Holland |
| 7:30 AM | D. Paoli | T. Ryan, R. Sbordone | B. & H. Sopin A. Francois | A. Smith, V. Czajkowski, T. Totor, M. McKenna |
| 10:00 AM | K. Begley | L. Rockhill, P. Thomas | M. Gill, M. Katigbak | G. Spinney, H. Caceres, M. Katigbak W. Kelder, K. McAleer, S. Reynolds S. Leto, V. Alfieri, A. Diaz |
| 12:00 PM | E. Minoza | Sr. Stephen Gerard J. Ventola | R. Adriano, M. Martucci | W. Hartl, P. Dudgeon, A. Dibianco, M. Reilly, F. Cifuni, H. O'Boyle, K. Clifford |
| 6:00 PM | A.M. Favorito | D. Zinna, E. Pellegrino | J. Viducich, E. Opiola | C. Linen, J. Cerreta, R. Aberion |

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS

Homebound — J. Peters, K. Hartl, E. Indyk

Nyack Manor — E. & A. Hage

Tolstoy — M. DiSalvo

| | | | |
|------------------|--|--|---|
| 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 |
|------------------|--|--|---|

NEED A RIDE TO CHURCH?

A volunteer has offered to drive persons who need a ride to and from Sunday mass at St. Paul's. Please call the rectory to make arrangements.

ST. PAUL'S WOMEN'S CANCER SUPPORT

Meets 7 pm this Tuesday, Feb. 19, at St. Paul School in Valley Cottage, and every third Tuesday of the month. This group provides a shoulder to lean on, an ear to listen, and an opportunity to find hope in a time that can be dark and lonely. Please call Susan (917-509-9260) for more information.

GETHSEMANE CEMETERY SPRING CLEAN-UP

Please be sure to remove any MEMENTOS and KEEP-SAKES from the cemetery by MARCH 1. We will have spring clean-up throughout the month of March (weather permitting). All decorations along with statues, artificial flowers, flags, rocks, fencing, and any loose objects will be removed and discarded. EVERYTHING IS BEING REMOVED. The cemetery will not be responsible for any property placed on the gravesite or headstone. **Only liturgical candles and bronze flag holders will be permitted alongside the headstones.** For any questions regarding cemetery rules please contact the parish office at 845-268-4464.



St. Paul's Prayer Shawl Ministry will be hosting

An Indoor tag/craft sale at

St. Paul's Parish Center

82 Lake Road, Congers

Saturday, March 23

10 AM – 3 PM



Spaces are \$35 and include a table and chairs. We also ask for a \$15-\$20 raffle table prize, wrapped. Proceeds of tables and raffles go to the Dana-Farber Cancer Research. Please contact Eileen to reserve your table: 845-268-1249 or eileencella12@gmail.com.

WEEKLY at ST. PAUL'S

| | |
|------------------|--|
| <i>Monday</i> | Prayer Group, 7:45 pm (school) K of C, 7:30 pm, 2nd & 4th |
| <i>Tuesday</i> | Bible Study, 7 to 8:30 pm (school) |
| <i>Wednesday</i> | (see 'Devotions' on pg. 6) |
| <i>Thursday</i> | Shawl making, 10 am (Parish Center) |
| <i>Saturday</i> | Spanish Prayer Group (Parish Center) |

MORE PARISH & COMMUNITY EVENTS

PILGRIMAGE TO IRELAND — AUG. 12 to 21, 2019

SPIRITUAL DIRECTORS

Msgr. Emmet Nevin **Msgr. Kevin Nelan**

Pastor, Saint Aedan, Pearl River *Pastor, Imm. Conception, NYC*
Dean of Rockland *Dean of South Manhattan*

Come join us for an exciting **pilgrimage** to beautiful Ireland this August. Our **pilgrimage** will include Holy Mass every day and other spiritual activities. We have designed this experience in a way which allows you to relax and enjoy your trip. Everything from start to finish will be taken care of for you by our spiritual directors, personal tour director, and local Catholic guides. The price is \$3,699.

This is more than just a trip, it is a **pilgrimage**. You will enjoy all of the beauty of such places as **Dublin, Tipperary, Killarney, Galway** (Cathedral), **Knock** (Shrine), and the wonderful and exciting places along the Irish countryside BUT with a decidedly *spiritual dimension*. Feel free to invite your family members or friends to join us. They will thank you.

Join the Oratory Priests and your fellow parishioners for fellowship and community on a **seven-night RETREAT !!**

Come and enjoy a cruise to beautiful Bermuda!
We set sail on the Summit, Celebrity Cruise Line's premier ship out of Bayonne, NJ on Sunday August 18th, 2019.

Price: (Includes all taxes and port charges, Does NOT include: insurance and round trip transportation between Rockland County and Bayonne NJ and mandatory gratuities* charged directly by the cruise ship)

Inside cabin is \$1,501 (no window) per person/ double occupancy. Outside cabin (window) is \$1,881. If traveling alone, there's a possibility to get a roommate to offset the cost.

**The bookings will CLOSE April 12, 2019.
(We cannot assure a spot in after 4/12/19)**

For more information please contact Oliver Massaro at olivermassaro@gmail.com

ONE TO ONE LEARNING NEEDS VOLUNTEERS

We need you to volunteer at One to One Learning, 640 N. Midland Avenue, Upper Nyack, to teach beginner, intermediate and advanced English, GED, and Citizenship preparation in morning, afternoon, and evening classes. Also, help is needed with children's program while parents are in class. To be prepared for teaching, I will meet with you to explain methods and materials. Please call Sr. Cecilia at 845-512-8176 or email: clpangel59@gmail.com
Website: One2One-Learning.org
Thank you. Sr. Cecilia LaPietra, O.P.

MUSIC FOR THE WORLD — MARCH 3

Come to a concert featuring the Hudson Valley Symphonic Wind Ensemble to benefit the Maryknoll Sisters' Global Outreach Mission on behalf of the world's poor. 3 pm at the Maryknoll Sisters Center, 10 Pinesbridge Rd., Ossining. Tickets \$30.

RETREATS FOR HIGH SCHOOL TEENS

CYFM's Day By Day Agape Retreat, a powerful encounter for and by teens assisted by adult team and friars, inspires participants, deepens faith, and builds strong supportive friendships. Take a break from the noisy and confusing world to connect to the one thing that can help us make sense of everything else — our relationship with God.

Boys' weekend: Mar. 1 – Mar 3 (registration deadline 2/26). Info and application at cyfm.org, or contact our office. Find us on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and Flocknote: CYFM Garrison. Capuchin Youth & Family Ministries, 781 Route 9D, PO Box 192, Garrison, NY (845) 424-3609.

On Feb. 8, **St. Paul School** hosted their annual **"Me & My Guy Dance."** Girls from SPS and the Parish of St. Paul & St. Ann, along with their special dates, danced the night away after enjoying a catered dinner from Bella Vita of Congers. Photos, raffles, and fun! It was a very special evening.





Photos by Elissa Dailey & Mike Standish



Good Deeds and an Old Friend



Fr. Fidelis with Deacon Jerry Fenton and St. Ann's ushers (left to right) Jim Clark, Bill Dailey, and Jack Bozeat.

(Top) Girl Scout Troop 40309 from Nanuet not only donated all the bread distributed at the St. Ann's Food Cupboard on Dec. 29, but also helped serve the guests. Leader Fiona Scarpulla brought the scouts and some friends to volunteer. (Left middle) Fr. Raj was part of Team St. Ann's on Jan. 5 at the annual 4-mile Resolution Run from the Grace Episcopal Church to Hook Mountain and back again to raise money to support groups that feed the hungry in our community. (Above, and bottom left) Fr. Fidelis Ezeani, who served at St. Ann's for several years, came back to concelebrate mass with Fr. Raj on Jan. 6. Fr. Fidelis is now associate pastor at Our Lady of Perpetual Help in Lindenhurst, NY. He is also founder and president of the charity "Moving Around with Us," which helps physically challenged persons. "God is good all the time; all the time God is good," is his motto, and we repeated it after him at every one of his homilies.

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

Trees or Desert Shrubs?

In the First Reading today, the prophet Jeremiah paints two contrasting pictures of where we can place our trust. We can trust in other men and material things, or we can trust in the Lord.

He described those who hope in the Lord as being like a tree planted near a deep, flowing stream. Its roots always give it enough moisture to flourish, even in times of drought.



This is a recurring image in the Bible. It makes me think of the Christmas tree that adorns St. Peter's Square in Rome every year. Two hundred feet high, full, green branches, straight as a pillar, adorned with gorgeous globes and bright lights. It almost shouts for joy.

It also makes me think of those imposing, elegant willow trees that grow in marshy soil. Their branches are laden with thousands of tiny green leaves that rustle and shimmer in the wind. In the summer they are so full of leaves that their branches seem to disappear.

That's an image of what Jesus wants for us — a flourishing, fruitful, healthy life. It comes from rooting ourselves in friendship with Him: He is the flowing stream.

What about those who don't follow the Lord? Jeremiah says they are like a dry shrub in the wilderness.

The Responsorial Psalm paints an even harsher picture. It says these people are like chaff that the wind blows away. Chaff is like the husks of corn, the dried-out stalks of wheat, empty peanut shells. No substance. No value.

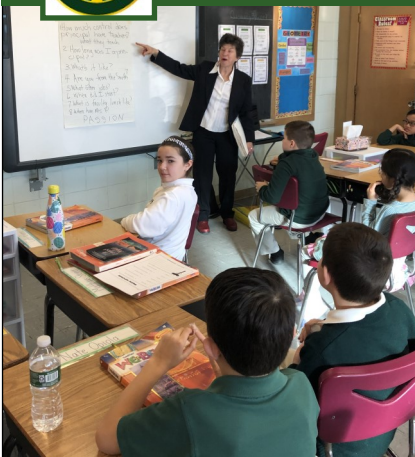
These are frequent biblical images for the person who follows his own path instead of God's path. They make me think of Charlie Brown's Christmas tree. Withered, weak, sad. They make me think of tumbleweeds: rootless, fruitless, brown, dried up, good for nothing.

Jesus is telling us that this is what happens to those who base their happiness on the passing things like money and popularity instead of basing it on friendship with God.

Which would you rather be? A flourishing, fruitful tree, or a barren bush in the desert? Jesus wants us to flourish. He wants us to be blessed.



SPS HAPPENINGS



Career Day was held on Jan. 30. St. Paul School students enjoyed learning about many different career paths. Among the many presenters were doctors, a principal, an occupational therapist, an architect, and a counselor. Providing events like this at SPS encourages our students to contemplate and dream about their own futures.

A letter from presenter Dr. Rachelle Parker:

On Jan. 30, St. Paul School had a very successful and wonderfully organized Career Day program for K-8 students. I was honored to be asked to speak about my career to three classes in grades 4, 5, and 6. As a former public elementary school

(Left) On Career Day, Dr. Rachelle Parker, retired public elementary school teacher, spoke with SPS students about her career as an educator. The event was part of Catholic Schools Week.

principal, I mentored the current principal, Mrs. Michelle Pitot.

So many things about my presentation stood out: The students and teachers were all very welcoming. The students asked incredibly thoughtful questions about my professional experiences and what I did during my career. Each class was unique and I was able to respond differently to each group as I crafted my responses to specific questions. I thought about ideas and activities I hadn't thought about for years. The students were very attentive, polite, and articulate. I hired Mrs. Pitot nearly 20 years ago as a second grade teacher, so I was delighted and thrilled to see her amazing progress as an educator and school administrator! All in all, I congratulate St. Paul School and its principal, Mrs. Pitot, for a terrific Career Day!