

Saint Paul Parish

*Saint Paul Church
Kensington, CT*

*Sacred Heart Church
East Berlin, CT*

8 December 2018

My Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

Christmas will be here in a few weeks. As you make your plans for celebrating Christmas this year I invite you to spend some time reflecting on the "reason for the season." The coming Feast of Christmas is a time to remember that Jesus, who was God from all time, was born in time in the flesh of the Virgin Mary. Let us welcome Him to our homes and to our celebrations, remembering that, as Christians, we celebrate Christmas as a proclamation of our faith that God so loved the world that He sent His only Son to us.

It was in 1223 that the future saint, Francis of Assisi, had the people of the little town of Greccio in Italy re-enact the first Christmas that had taken place in another little town, Bethlehem. He said, "I wish to do something that will recall to memory the little Child who was born in Bethlehem and set before our bodily eyes in some way the inconveniences of his infant needs, how he lay in a manger, how, with an ox and an ass standing by, he lay upon the hay where he had been placed." (1 Celano)

I invite you to recall these wondrous mysteries of our faith by joining us here at St. Paul or Sacred Heart churches for our celebration of Christmas, God with us. If you have been away for what ever reason I invite you to join us, the Franciscan Friars and the entire parish community to once again have your heart feel the love God has for you.

I echo the words of Pope Francis who has said: "Let the Church always be a place of mercy and hope, where everyone is welcomed, loved and forgiven." I say to you there is nothing that need keep you away from the Church, and in particular this parish. We would be honored if you joined us for one of our Christmas Masses (see the reverse side). Listed there too are opportunities to experience God's forgiveness in the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Or you could just call and or come in to talk with one of the Friars. Of course we would love it if you would join us every weekend for Mass.

Take pause this day and if you feel the chill of a winter's day on your face let it remind you of the conditions of the Savior's birth in the manger in Bethlehem. May that chill warm your heart and soul with a reminder of how much your God loves you. May the love of God fill your heart this Christmas season with His peace. Be assured that you are in our prayers and thoughts in this holy season and throughout the New Year.

Peace and All Good,

Fr. Joseph Benicewicz, OFM Conv.
Pastor

(See the Reverse Side for our Christmas Season Schedule)

St. Paul Parish
(Sacred Heart & St. Paul Churches)

Liturgical Schedule
Christmas Season 2018



Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confessions)

Regular Schedule: Saturdays from 3:00 – 4:00 p.m.

Mercy Mondays during Advent: December 3, 10 & 17 from 7:00 – 8:00 p.m.

No Confessions Christmas Eve - December 24th

Regular Weekend Mass Schedule:

Saturday Vigil Mass at St. Paul's Church - 4 p.m.

Sunday Masses at St. Paul's Church - 7:30 a.m., 9:00 a.m. 10:30 a.m. & 12 Noon

Sunday Mass at Sacred Heart Church – 9:30 a.m.

Christmas Eve – Monday, December 24th (Morning Mass – 7 a.m.)

Christmas Vigil Masses at St. Paul's Church – 4 p.m., 6 p.m. & 10 p.m.

Christmas Day – Tuesday, December 25th

Masses at St. Paul's Church - 9:00 a.m., 10:30 a.m. & 12 Noon

Mass at Sacred Heart Church – 9:30 a.m.

Feast of the Holy Family – Sat., Dec 29 & Sun., Dec 30

Regular Weekend Schedule (see above)

Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God – Holy Day of Obligation

New Year's Eve – Mon., Dec. 31st

Vigil Mass at St. Paul's Church – 4 p.m.

New Year's Day – Tues., Jan. 1st

Masses at St. Paul's Church – 8:00 a.m., 10:00 a.m. & 12 Noon

The Parish Offices will be closed on December 24, 25, 26, 31 and January 1

"Let the Church always be a place of Mercy and Hope,
where everyone is Welcomed, Loved and Forgiven." (Pope Francis)

Wishing everyone a Blessed and Joyous Christmas and New Year!