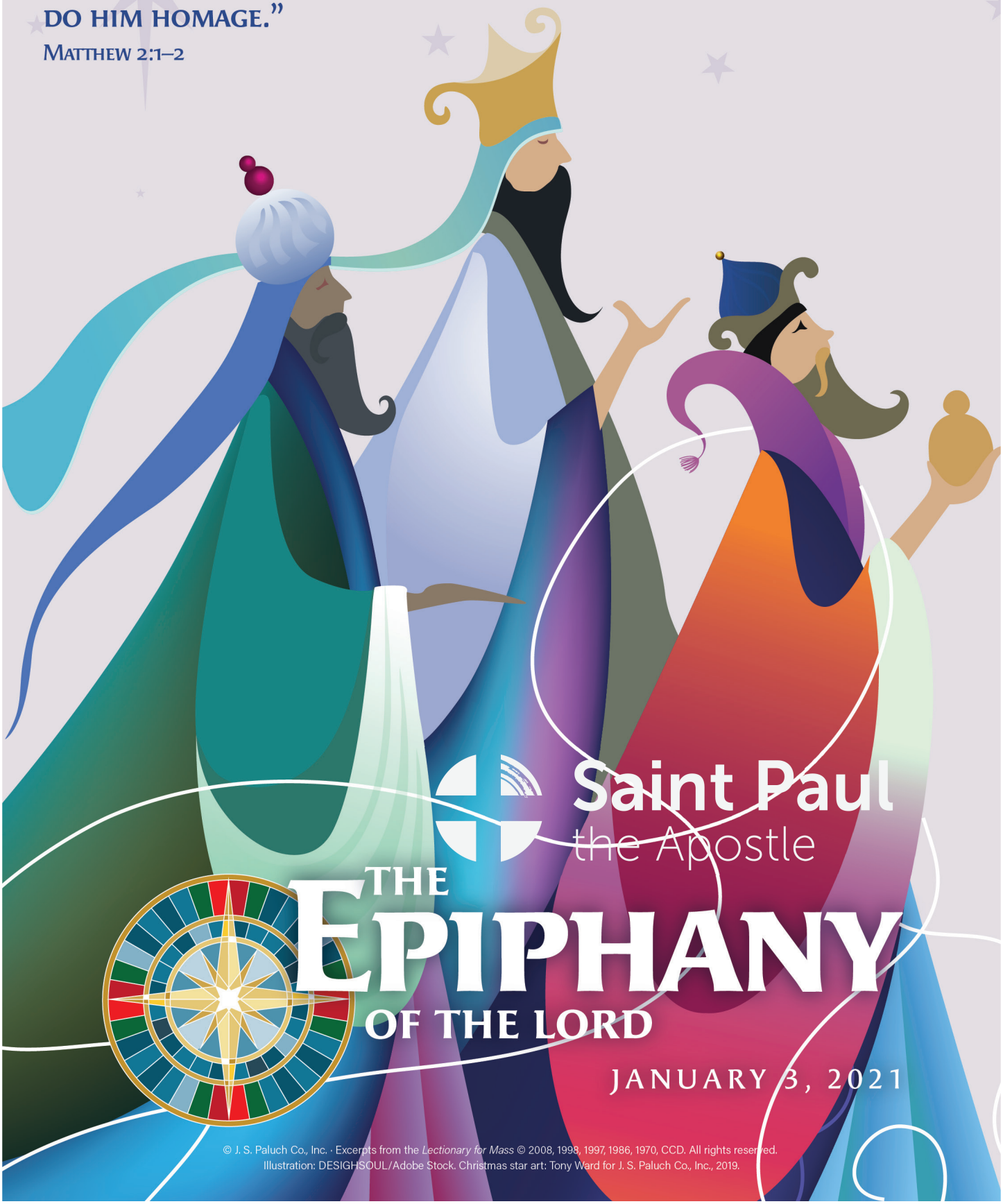
MAGI FROM THE EAST ARRIVED IN JERUSALEM, SAYING,
"WHERE IS THE NEWBORN KING OF THE JEWS?
WE SAW HIS STAR AT ITS RISING AND HAVE COME TO
DO HIM HOMAGE."

MATTHEW 2:1–2



Saint Paul
the Apostle

THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

JANUARY 3, 2021

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Dear Saint Paul the Apostle Family,

Isaiah had foretold that "*all the ends of the earth will behold the salvation of our God*."

Now, on the Epiphany, the light from the skies is strengthened a hundred, a thousand fold and the prophecy of Isaiah is fulfilled that "*nations shall walk by your light, and kings by your shining radiance*."

To the amazement of all in that region, there come foreign camels bearing foreign scholars – wise men – kings! Caspar, Melchior, and Balthasar, with gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh!

What courage and perseverance those strangers have shown, to brave the dangers of travel, skepticism, and political intrigue. But they found what they were looking for.

That star gave trustworthy guidance and now triumphantly shines as guard over the lowly dwelling wherein rests the child who possesses all meaning.

They fall to their knees in homage, for their learning has made them humble, and their wisdom leads them to recognize the Divine in the fragile flesh of a child.

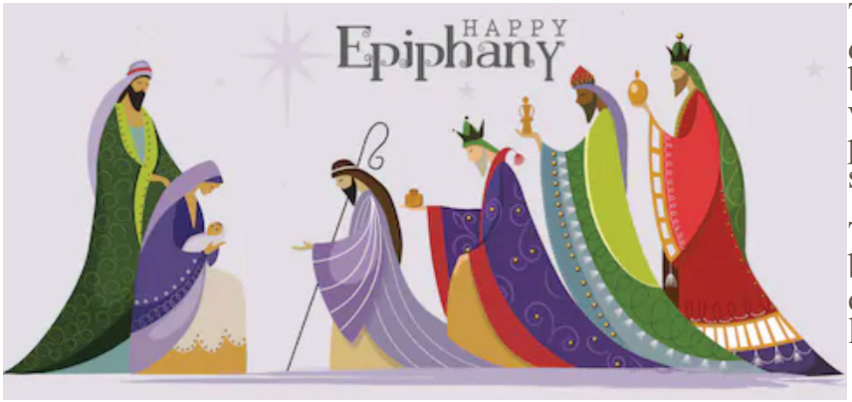
What a silent Adoration! What loving glances they exchange with Mary and Joseph!

But for all their simple faith, their wisdom is sharp enough to detect the sham delight and murderous intentions of the wily Herod. And so they pay their respects, leave their gifts, and modestly depart for their homeland, sorrowfully aware of the terrible price justice must pay for Peace.

Their role in history has been accomplished – to teach us all to follow the guidance of the Almighty, to accept our own role as Bearers of the Light, and to follow this Christ into His Mission, to partake of His Passion, and to join the millions through the ages who will preach His Gospel of universal salvation.

The Son of God is the one Judge and Arbiter of Truth and the one Source of Light, but we are all called to be "epiphanies," providing glimpses of that Truth, showing the way in our own small spots of time and circumstance to a larger plan and destiny.

O princely Child make of us all, wise men, courageous women, obedient children who will follow wherever You lead us.



That means being faithful to prayer, diligently reading articles and booklets about our faith, sharing what we learn with others, taking part when possible in prayer and study groups.

This is the way for us to be light-bearers, lighting up the darkness and confusion in the world in which we live.

Have a blessed weekend,
Fr. Chris D. Ciaston

DONATIONS FOR THE MONTH OF DECEMBER

Sunday - $48,918
Online Sunday - $35,688
Christmas - $13,911
Christmas Flowers - $1,349
Sharing - $525
Online Sharing - $2,037
St. Vincent de Paul - $2,221
Online SVdP - $1,921
Retirement Fund for Religious - $3,239
Simbang Gabi - $2,170

Prayer Shawl Request

Are you or a loved one in need of a prayer shawl? Please complete the following information and place in the collection box at any of St. Pauls' weekend masses. You will be contacted regarding pickup/delivery of the shawl.

Name: _____

Phone: _____

eMail: _____

The prayer shawl is for __ me __another parishioner/friend

Shawl recipient is a ___male ___female

SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT- KEEP LOVE'S FIRE BURNING!

By: Mary Penich

While searching my computer files for photos, I came across a painting I'd encountered nine years ago. Though this style of artwork isn't normally among my favorites, the story behind this particular image touched my heart. I was introduced to this painting by a dear friend, Father Ludger Moliter. A decade ago, when my husband and I visited his Croatian cousin who served as a priest in Germany, Stjepan happily arranged a luncheon for us with his friend. Ludger had ties to Chicago because he'd participated in a study of parish life between his diocese and the Archdiocese of Chicago. Mike's cousin rightly determined that we and Ludger would have a good deal to talk about and we became fast friends. We've been in touch ever since. Ludger reads my daily reflections (see www.marypenich.com) and shares his thoughts regarding current events and his favorite homilies. In the midst of all of this, Ludger shared this painting and highlights from the homily which it inspired...

I'm drawn to the details of Ludger's message and this painting because both offer fitting inspiration as we embrace New Year 2021. The artwork is a fifteenth century effort by Konrad von Soest entitled *Christi Geburt* or *Birth of Christ*. It depicts Mary holding the newborn Jesus. Mary is completely enamored by her child. At the same time, Joseph bends over a small fire on the floor. The poor man's cheeks are puffed up to capacity as he prepares to fan the fire's flames with his breath. Honestly, though this scene appears almost comical in the painting, it depicts the significance of Joseph's efforts quite beautifully. If Joseph hadn't seen to it that Jesus was kept warm, he and Mary might not have had to worry about Herod's eventual threats. If little Jesus hadn't been protected from the night's cold, he might not have survived his birth day, much less the days and years which followed. Ludger's homily explained that, yes, we need to adore and to appreciate God's presence among us and God's gifts. At the same time, however, Ludger added that we must also appreciate our responsibility to do what needs to be done to care for one another. Like Joseph, it's up to us to keep the fire burning for those we've been given to love.

Ludger's words offered a vivid reminder of the realities of Jesus' birth. Though the crèches in our churches and homes indicate otherwise, there wasn't much beauty or comfort to be found in overcrowded Bethlehem. Mary's impending delivery likely left the preparation of their quarters entirely to Joseph. Imagine the poor man running between Mary and the innkeeper as he attempted to secure what they needed. Imagine Joseph spreading a blanket and perhaps his own cloak to fashion a bed for Mary. Imagine Joseph searching for the fabric Mary had packed to swaddle their baby upon his arrival. Imagine Joseph glancing at Mary every few seconds, watching as her labor progressed and wondering if he was prepared to help her to give birth. And, after all of this, imagine Joseph blowing on that fire with all of his might to keep Mary and Jesus warm. That hectic Christmas night began a lifetime of moments of awe and fire-stoking for both Mary and Joseph. All the while, their love for Jesus never wavered just as the demands of living out that love also never wavered.

As we've discovered during Year 2020 and many years prior, the same is true for all of us who do our best to love God and those God has given us to love. The Magi, whom we celebrate today, offered an amazing example of this commitment. They gambled everything to follow that unique star because the possibility of encountering the king they sought was worth their effort. Though these astrologers eventually fell at Jesus' feet, they didn't leave their troubles there. To spread the news of whom they'd found, the Magi evaded Herod who promised to rid the world of this child-opponent. Still, when the Magi escaped Herod, they didn't escape the lengthy journey back to their homes or the risky business of sharing news of this new king with their contemporaries. The scriptures tell us that those who came afterward to share Jesus' news had a tough time as well. Each one who embraced Jesus' message also embraced the trials and tribulations that came with living out that message of love in a hostile world.

I'm thrilled that I once again found the painting which Father Ludger cited so many years ago because it offers fitting inspiration as we embrace the hope and challenges of New Year 2021. This quaint work reminds us all that we need to take on both Mary's and Joseph's roles as von Soest depicts them. Like Mary, we need to acknowledge the gift of God in our lives. What generous love it is that compels God to care for us so deeply! Like Joseph, that same love fills us up and compels us to love one another with as much of God's generosity and depth as we can muster in the moments at hand. Yes, as my dear friend Ludger observed, every attempt to love one another draws us close to the fire, where we puff up our cheeks and keep the fire of love burning as only we can. Just as Mary's and Joseph's efforts sustained Jesus, our efforts will sustain our sisters and brothers this new year and always!

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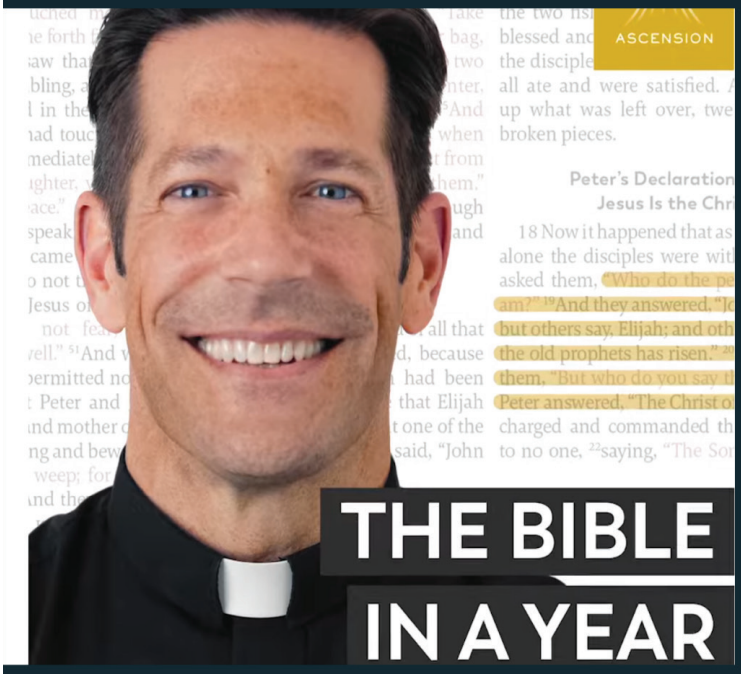
BIBLE IN A YEAR WITH
FR. MIKE SCHMITZ - PODCAST

Discussion Group

Led by Kelly Krueger



Every Tuesday
6:30 - 7:30PM via Zoom

If you've struggled to read the Bible, this podcast is for you. Ascension's Bible in a Year Podcast, hosted by Fr. Mike Schmitz, guides Catholics through the Bible in 365 daily episodes starting January 1st, 2021.

Each 20-25 minute episode includes:
2 to 3 scripture readings
a reflection from Fr. Mike Schmitz
and guided prayer to help you hear God's voice in his Word.

Unlike any other Bible podcast, Ascension's Bible in a Year Podcast for Catholics follows a reading plan inspired by the Great Adventure Bible Timeline® learning system, a groundbreaking approach to understanding Salvation History

Listen to the daily podcast on your own in your favorite space. Join us to share glory stories, and struggles of the week. Talk about the teachings & hold each other accountable.

JOIN THE GROUP: go to http://bit.ly/BibleDiscussion
or email kkrueger@saintpaultheapostle.church

Subscribe to the podcast:
https://ascensionpress.com/pages/biy-registration

Saint Paul
the Apostle

A Year-End Message from Our President:

Dear St. Paul Parishioners,

On behalf of our Saint Vincent de Paul volunteers here at St. Paul's, I wish you a Blessed Christmas and a Joyous, Peaceful New Year. Although our Home Visits this past year were somewhat curtailed by the pandemic, we still were able to reach out and provide "A Christmas Day" to over 150 needy families in our area by conducting Phone Visits -- a new twist to our ministry. Our Fall Dinner Dance cancellation resulted in a somewhat reduction in funding. However, your generous response and contributions to our November Fundraiser Week was overwhelming. Only through your prayers and continuing generous support are we able to provide essential services to the most vulnerable families in our community.

May the good Lord bless you and your loved ones this Christmas Season and throughout the coming New Year.

Peace and Joy, Harry Pulvermacher, President
Saint Vincent de Paul Conference, Saint Paul the Apostle Church

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HEY LADIES! CIRCLE OF WOMEN IS GOING DIGITAL!

Sisters, you are strong, you are wise and you are beautiful! Join us, a community of believers, who carry each other when we are weak and celebrate when we are strong. Let's lean back and let the arms of women's friendships carry us and help us to know ourselves better.

COMBO VIRTUAL & IN-PERSON EVENTS

Saturday
9:30 - 10:30am

January 9
February 13

RETREAT DETAILS TO BE DETERMINED AT A LATER DATE.

Join us **online** or **in person**! We are planning to keep the standard format with a large group intro to the topic and then split into small groups to discuss.

Please watch for our emails or see the Circle of Women ministry page (under Evangelization & Spiritual Life) for more details! Contact Kelly Krueger with any questions: kkrueger@saintpaultheapostle.church

MASS INTENTIONS

SATURDAY, JANUARY 2, 2021
5:00PM: Bob Stutton | Teresa Ferrer

SUNDAY, JANUARY 3, 2021
7:30AM: Walter Krissek | Paul Suida | The Casis Family
The Cadiena Family
9:30AM: Pat Terry | Tony Kinahan | David Slamar
11:30AM: For the Parish Family

MONDAY, JANUARY 4, 2021
7:30AM: For the Parish Family

TUESDAY, JANUARY 5, 2021
7:30AM: Teresa Ferrer

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 6, 2021
7:30AM: The Doreza Family

THURSDAY, JANUARY 7, 2021
7:30AM: For the Parish Family

FRIDAY, JANUARY 8, 2021
7:30AM: Petrina Smetek

SATURDAY, JANUARY 9, 2021
5:00PM: Oliver Copeland | Susan Smith Horvath

SUNDAY, JANUARY 10, 2021
7:30AM: Neil B. Sheils, Jr. | The Casis Family
9:30AM: Tony Kinahan
11:30AM: Chuck Gresser

TODAY'S READINGS

First Reading — Rise up in splendor, Jerusalem! The Lord shines upon you and the glory of the Lord appears over you (Isaiah 60:1-6).

Psalm — Lord, every nation on earth will adore you (Psalm 72).

Second Reading — The Gentiles are coheirs, copartners in the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel (Ephesians 3:2-3a, 5-6).

Gospel — Magi from the east arrived, looking for the newborn king of the Jews (Matthew 2:1-12).

PRAY FOR THE SICK

Diana Lonergan
Kathy Humann
Keith Lahey
Michelle Lucas Freer
Michele Dulak Beye
Charlie Lucas
Diane Cruz
Aida Levasty
Kurt Lowe
Linda Marie Fote
Ruth Blood
Jorge Sanchez
Frances C Fletcher
Carmie Caluag
Vicki Wilson
Marty Reynolds
The Andrade Family
Bertha Quintero
Guillermo Parreno
Xavier Parreno
Bethany Brosman
Carol McArthur
Maria Rodriguez
Susan Smith Horvath
Robbie Franklin
Keegan Denecke
Jeanette Albamonte

PLEASE KNOW THAT WE PRAY FOR ALL OF THE SICK AT EVERY MASS. HOWEVER, IF YOU WOULD LIKE YOUR NAME OR THAT OF A SICK LOVED ONE TO BE INCLUDED IN THE LIST ABOVE, PLEASE EMAIL OR CALL KERI AT THE PARISH HOUSE.
KSEKANY@SAINTPAULTHEAPOSTLE.CHURCH
847-918-0600

> "The future belongs to those who believe in the beauty of their dreams."
> -Eleanor Roosevelt

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

MONDAY:
1 Jn 3:22 — 4:6
Ps 2:7bc-8, 10-12a
Mt 4:12-17, 23-25

TUESDAY:
1 Jn 4:7-10
Ps 72:1-4, 7-8
Mk 6:34-44

WEDNESDAY:
1 Jn 4:11-18
Ps 72:1-2, 10, 12-13
Mk 6:45-52

THURSDAY:
1 Jn 4:19 — 5:4
Ps 72: 1-2, 14, 15bc, 17
Lk 4:14-22a

FRIDAY:
1 Jn 5:5-13
Ps 147:12-15, 19-20
Lk 5:12-16

SATURDAY:
1 Jn 5:14-21
Ps 149:1-6a, 9b
Jn 3:22-30

SUNDAY:
Is 42:1-4, 6-7
Ps 29:1-4, 3, 9-10
Acts 10:34-38
Mk 1:7-11

KNIGHTS KORNER

CHRISTMAS TREE LOT

The Knights of Columbus Christmas Tree Lot SOLD OUT this year on Sunday 12/13/2020. A BIG thank you to all of the parishioners, family, friends and members of our community who patronized our Christmas Tree Lot and the Knights of Columbus in order to make it such a great success. The proceeds of this effort will go a long way in allowing us to meet our commitments to the ministries and Knights of Columbus Charities we support.

For those of you who would still like to make a monetary Christmas donation to the Knights of Columbus Charities, we have opened our online link from the parish website so you can make a generous Christmas donation to the Knights of Columbus if you are so moved.

COATS FOR KIDS!

Our Coats for kids campaign was also a success this year as we were able to deliver 2 cases of brand-new boys and girls coats (24 total), along with a large garbage back of assorted hats, scarves and gloves that other ministries had collected, to Catholic Charities to be delivered to needy children in Lake County.

Our charities and ministries will be in special need this year. When space allows, I will list all the charities the Knights of Columbus directly or indirectly sponsors or assists, or you can go to the Parish website under Ministries and Parish Life and the Knights of Columbus link and they are all listed.

Thank you in advance for your continued generous contributions to the Knights of Columbus during these very trying times now and in the new year. All of us with the Knights of Columbus and the Divine Mercy Council wish you and your family a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Sincerely, George Behr

Grand Knight, Knights of Columbus – Divine Mercy Council

SOCIETY of ST. VINCENT de PAUL SINCE 1851

847-347-0832

EMERGENCY AND TRANSITIONAL ASSISTANCE, FISCAL SUPPORT, HELP WITH LOCATING AVAILABLE RESOURCES AND OTHER SERVICES AIMED AT ADDRESSING ALL ISSUES A PERSON OR FAMILY MAY BE FACING WITH THE INTENT OF SUPPORTING SUSTAINED POSITIVE CHANGE.

Crisis Support Resources

DOMESTIC ABUSE
A Safe Place Hot line: 847-249-4450
Sexual Abuse: 847-872-7799

PREGNANCY SUPPORT:
Aid for Women: 847-249-2700

POST-ABORTION EMOTIONAL SUPPORT:
Project Rachel: 800-SWE-CARE

EMERGENCY SHELTER:
PADS: 847-698-4357
Catholic Charities: 847-782-4000

COUNSELING:
Holbrook Center: 312-655-7725

SUICIDE PREVENTION
Emergency: 911
800-411-0103
440-953-8255

FOOD PANTRIES:
Avon Township: 847-546-1446
Holy Family: 847-782-4166
Saint Anastasia: 847-623-2112
Warren Township: 847-244-1101
Saint Vincent dePaul: 847-347-0832

Saint Paul
the Apostle

847-918-0600
6401 GAGES LAKE RD
GURNEE, IL 60031

PARISH OFFICE

HOURS: 9:00AM - 5:00PM
MONDAY THROUGH FRIDAY
847-918-0600

KERI SEKANY | OFFICE MANAGER
INFO@SAINTPAULTHEAPOSTLE.CHURCH

BUSINESS OFFICE

HOURS: 9:00AM - 5:00PM
MONDAY, WEDNESDAY, FRIDAY
847-918-0600

BOB SEKANY | BUSINESS MANAGER
BUSINESS@SAINTPAULTHEAPOSTLE.CHURCH

FAITH FORMATION & CATECHESIS

HOURS: 8:30AM - 3:00PM
MONDAY THROUGH FRIDAY
847-816-8677

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RICH PLAGE | FACILITIES MANAGER
RPLAGE@SAINTPAULTHEAPOSTLE.CHURCH

MASS SCHEDULE

WEEKDAY MASS:
TUESDAY AND THURSDAY
7:30AM

SATURDAY EVENING:
5:00PM

SUNDAY:
7:30 | 9:30 | 11:30AM

ADORATION

TUESDAY/THURSDAY MORNINGS
8:00AM

RECONCILIATION

SATURDAYS IN THE BLESSED SACRAMENT CHAPEL
11:00AM