

# Feast of the Conversion of St. Paul

January 25, 2009



## MASS INTENTIONS

### SATURDAY, January 24

5:00 PM **Carmella Nappa**  
r/o Sister

### SUNDAY, January 25

8:00 AM **Ernest Witty**  
r/o Cirone Family

10:30 AM **Dr. William J. Duffy**  
r/o Mary & Phil Koskoff

### MONDAY, January 26

8:30 AM **Dr. William J. Duffy**  
r/o Linda & Sam Damiano

### TUESDAY, January 27

8:30 AM **Chester Verchuk**  
r/o Betty & Jim Karpinski

### WEDNESDAY, January 28

8:30 AM **Dr. William J. Duffy**  
r/o Karl & Rose Strohmaier

### THURSDAY, January 29

8:30 AM **Lewis DiPaola**  
Jim & Eileen Mattison

### FRIDAY, January 30

No Mass

### SATURDAY, January 31

5:00 PM **Catherine Baines**  
r/o Mr. & Mrs. John Kappus

### SUNDAY, February 1

8:00 AM **Craig Bollhorst**  
r/o Family

10:30 AM **Mildred Rizzuto**  
r/o Barbara & Jim Zack

### **\*\*Daily Mass Changes for Feb. 2 through Feb. 5\*\***

Mass will begin at 8:45 a.m. on Feb. 2, 3, 4, and Feb. 5.

### First Friday & First Saturday

9 AM Mass February 6

9 AM Mass February 7

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament will  
follow Mass

Tuesday, February 10 Mass at Warren Haven  
For Anne Russo by Joan L. Mandel

Paul, Apostle of Christ Jesus

Paul was probably born between the years A.D. 5 and 10, just a few years after Jesus. His parents were strictly observant Jews living in the city of Tarsus, the prosperous capital of Cilicia, a province of the Roman Empire in what is now Turkey. His Jewish name was "Saul". The young Paul obviously received a fine education. He could write Greek well and probably knew Hebrew or Aramaic (Jesus' native language) as well. His writing and preaching demonstrated admirable rhetorical skills. The Acts of the Apostles tells us that soon after Jesus' ascension into heaven and the coming of the Spirit at Pentecost, the Church met with hostility, as had Our Lord himself.

On the road to Damascus, the Risen Christ himself showed up, in an appearance so powerful that it knocked Paul to the ground and blinded him. Paul was confronted with the reality that the Man of Nazareth who had been crucified truly was raised from the dead, as His followers claimed. This Man, he came to realize, was in fact the divine Son of God in the flesh, the Christ (or Messiah) long promised to His people. In opposing the Church, Paul had been opposing the God he had wanted to serve. "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting," the Lord told him. Then He gave the trembling man instructions about how he was to begin the radically new life that lay ahead for him.

Paul had become a follower of Christ, called to a new mission to preach the Gospel of his new Lord to the world. Arriving at Damascus, the new "apostle of Christ Jesus" (1 Cor 1:1) obeyed the Lord's instructions, was healed miraculously of his blindness and was baptized. Then he received his first instructions about the Christian life from other believers. As passionate as ever about what he believed, Paul began sharing his new faith right away in the local synagogues of Damascus, where Jewish people gathered to worship.

Paul's extensive travels are traditionally clustered by historians into what they call his "three missionary journeys." In the first, he went to the island of Cyprus, several cities in Asia Minor, back to Antioch, then to Jerusalem and Antioch again. Typically, in each place he preached first in the local Jewish synagogue, then to the Gentiles of the area. In his second journey, Paul returned to the sites in Asia Minor where he had preached before to check up on the new Christian communities he had established. This strategy of planting new local churches, moving on to preach in other cities and then following up again (through visits or letters) became the pattern for his ministry. Paul wrote more books of the Bible than any other author.

Scripture doesn't tell us about St. Paul's death. But an ancient and reliable tradition reports that he was martyred under the Roman emperor Nero, probably sometime after the summer of the year 64 — perhaps in the same persecution of Christians when St. Peter was crucified. Paul was beheaded and then buried on the Via Ostiensis at a place now marked by the basilica of St. Paul-outside-the-Walls (of Rome). Down through the ages, the traditional image of St. Paul has shown him holding an open book of Scripture and a sword. These symbols remind us not only of his courageous labors in planting churches, but also his invaluable role in providing the Church with, as he once called it, "the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God" (Eph 6:17). In this Year of St. Paul, we do well to remember him with gratitude, and to take up that "sword" once more for the spiritual battle that still rages.

Fr Zenek, SDS (Society of Divine Savior)

**Plans to Purchase Statue of the Resurrection of Our Lord**



To experience the Resurrection of the Lord in a tangible way, I would like to purchase the above statue for our church to display in the Sanctuary. Contributions toward the cost of the statue (\$600-\$800) would be greatly appreciated and, if interested, please call the Parish Office. Thank you. Fr. Zenek

**National Postcard Campaign to Oppose FOCA**

The US Conference of Catholic Bishops are asking all dioceses to participate in a special campaign to oppose the Freedom of Choice Act (FOCA). This federal legislation aims at the elimination of pro-life legislation already in place. The President of the Bishops' Conference, Francis Cardinal George, has stated that it is the "most aggressive pro-abortion legislation we have ever faced" and that it would be "seen by many as an attack on the free exercise of their religion". Go to [www.usccb.org/prolife/issues/FOCA/index.shtml](http://www.usccb.org/prolife/issues/FOCA/index.shtml). The Diocese of Metuchen is encouraging every parish to participate in a postcard campaign on the weekends of 1/24 and 1/31 to communicate our concerns as practicing Catholics to Congress. Information is available on the national campaign website at [www.nchla.org](http://www.nchla.org).



**Prayers for the Sick**

Margaret Glackin, Leslie Kuhn, Erin Stanton, Jasmine Lee, John Grigalunas, Mrs. Fred Logan, Mrs. Skawinska, Debbie Carmeci

**A Thank You to St. Theodore Parishioners**

The New Jersey Division of Youth & Family Services, Warren Co. office, has extended a "sincere thank you" to our parishioners for their generous donation to the 2008 Christmas *Giving Tree* project and has asked that we share their gratitude with you.

***Did You Know?***

**Altar bread**, the round, flat wafers used in the Eucharistic Liturgy is unleavened bread made of pure wheat flour mixed with water and baked between iron molds.

**Altar wine** used for the Eucharistic Liturgy must be made from grapes, natural and unadulterated, not mixed with any additives. A small quantity of water is mixed with the wine by the priest at Mass is symbolic of the union of Christ with the people of God and the union of the human and divine in Jesus.

**Our Weekly Offering**

January 18 & 19, 2009 \$3, 163.50  
Last Year \$3, 424.36

**\*\*Religious Education Notice for Second Graders\*\***

**Please mark your calendar: Monday, February 9, 6:15 pm**

Second Graders **and their parents** are to meet with Fr. Zenek **in the church** for an instructional session on First Reconciliation and First Communion.



Religious Education Student: Print name on the line, cut section and give to your Religious Education teacher on 1/26/09 For January 24/25, 2009

**St. Theodore Church Welcomes New Member!**

Collin Michael O'Neil, son of Corinne and Brian O'Neil, received the Sacrament of Baptism on January 18, 2009. Welcome to our church!

**MINISTRIES**

**ALTAR SERVERS**

January 31 Sean Flaherty, Luke Gleba  
February 1 Robert & Juliette Capaldo- 8  
Gianna Orecchio, Miranda Vargo, Justin Watt 10:30  
February 7 Carlee Moran, Auston Viotto, Christopher Pollack  
February 8 Mackenzie & Robert Mason- 8  
Kaitlyn Gagliano, Justin Watt, Melody Haag- 10:30

**LECTORS**

January 31 Jeanine Gleba  
February 1 Theresa Lucas- 8  
Helene Picht-10:30  
February 7 Nancy Guerriere  
February 8 Mary Rupell- 8  
Bob Gagliano- 10:30

**EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS**

January 31 Denise Flaherty E, Tim Flaherty C, Charles Shipley C  
February 1 Monica Merkel (C), Bill Supple (C), Joan Capaldo (E) 8  
Jane Labato (C), M. Koskoff (C), Phil Koskoff (E) 10:30  
February 7 Jim Mattison C, Eileen Mattison E, Ray Vonderheide C 8  
February 8 Diane Keggan C, M. Merkel E, Emily Cirone C 10:30