

FROM FATHER BILL: Today we celebrate the Feast of the HOLY FAMILY. *We were truly a HOLY FAMILY THIS PAST WEEK on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day.* We celebrated a magnificent Christmas in our parishes. Many came to Church to welcome the Newborn Savior. Thank you to all who worked so hard to help us to help each other to celebrate the Birthday of Jesus: our Church cleaners and Decorators; our Organists, Choir Directors and Choirs; our Soloists; our Altar Servers, Lectors ad Eucharistic Ministers and Ushers. Thank you to Cristina, Denise, Mike and Jerry, Al and our special Decorators and cleaners, the St. Peter's Ladies Group; Helen Lettko and her St. Paul's Ladies Group; our Money Counters and all of our parishioners who came to Christmas Masses and who contributed to our Christmas Collection; to our St. Paul's Mom's who oversaw our multitude of servers at the Notty Pine and the 4 pm Christmas Eve Mass. Everyone, parishioners and visitors, spoke of the magnificent beauty of our Churches decorated for our Savior. *I thank all of our parishioners who were so kind in sending me Christmas cards and giving me all sorts of lovely gifts. How very thoughtful of you.* I was deeply moved, in a spiritual sense, at our Joint Parish Advent Communal Penance service at St. Paul's on December 18. 44 people, such Holiness and Humility, everyone being forgiven by a very kind God! A sense of God's Peace filled the Church as the Christmas Lights were turned on for the service. It was like being in Heaven. *NOW*, we begin a New Year of Grace – 2009. **HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL OF YOU.** Let us start by living out the joy, peace, faith, hope and charity we took away from the manger. It's time to Hope and Dream once again; to trust God, ourselves and others because our God is always with us. We begin on New Years' Eve and Day, all joining with Christ and letting go of our fears and walking in His Light, guided by the Star of Bethlehem. May many blessings, good health and prosperity be yours in the NEW YEAR. **OH DEAR GOD, PEACE ON EARTH in 2009!**

NEW YEAR'S SCHEDULE of MASSES - HOLYDAY of OBLIGATION

NEW YEAR'S EVE MASS

Wednesday, December 31

4:00 PM at St. Paul's

NEW YEAR'S DAY MASSES

Thursday, January 1, 2009

9:00 AM at St. Paul's

10:30 AM and NOON (Latin) at St. Peter's

CHURCH ENVELOPES: Please have all of your 2008 Envelopes into the basket by Sunday January 4, 2009. This is essential so that you will be given proper credit for your 2008 offerings.

DURING THIS CHRISTMAS SEASON, remember the members of our ARMED FORCES. The Holiday Season is a lonely time for them. I remember! Pray for their safety!!

ST. PAUL SPIRITUAL STATISTICS FOR 2008:

Baptisms - 12

First Communions - 1

Confirmations – 2

Weddings - 2

2 Joint Parish Communal Penance Services – 106 (combined total)

Joint Sacrament of the Sick – 136 (includes hospitals)

Funerals – 8

ST. PETER SPIRITUAL STATISTICS FOR 2008:
Baptisms - 2
First Communion - 5
Confirmations - 0
Weddings - 2
Communal Penance Services - 106 (combined total)
Joint Sacrament of the Sick – 136 (includes hospitals)
Funerals - 8

THE CHRISTMAS MEMORIAL FLOWER LIST of NAMES will be printed in next week's bulletin.

PARISHIONERS ARE INVITED to take POINSIETTAS home with them following the Masses next weekend, the Feast of the Epiphany. Please bring a plastic or paper bag to church with you next weekend so that the plants will not freeze as you ride or walk home.

The CHRISTMAS COLLECTION TOTAL will be announced in next weeks Bulletin.

St. Peter's Church, Troy, NY celebrates its 185th Anniversary as a Parish in 2009. Special Events are being planned to celebrate this wonderful ANNIVERSARY of our Church. Jim Canfield chairs the Anniversary Committee.

FROM OUR LATIN PARISHIONERS: ALL ST. PETER'S PARISHIONERS (English and Latin) are invited to attend the 12 Noon Latin Tridentine Mass on Sunday, January 18, 2009. Our English Mass parishioners will have an opportunity to appreciate the beauty of the Latin Tridentine Mass by attending this special Mass. A Luncheon will follow in the Lyceum.

Pray for the soul of Elizabeth M. Cullen – God grant her Eternal Life.

Parish Mission Statement:

St. Paul's, St. Peter's, and our Latin Tridentine Community established by Bishop Hubbard are a Roman Catholic Community working together in union with the Vicar of Christ on Earth. As followers of Jesus, we choose to be instruments of peace, healing and a visible sign of hope to one another and to all our neighborhoods. We profess our Faith in God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit and therefore strive to have charity toward all and animosity toward none while performing our daily duties according to the will of God.

***ICE & SNOW STORMS – 2008* – Let's continue to pray for those whose lives were disrupted in anyway because of these severe storms these past two weeks. Many of our own parishioners suffered because of the ice damage!!**

THIS WEEK - ST. PAUL'S 8:00 am WEKKDAY MASSES on Monday, December 29 and Tuesday, December 30 will be held in the "UPPER CHURCH".

EVANGELIZATION: Happy New Year!..... Feliz Ano Nuevo!