

NEWSLETTER



916 E. Rusholme Street
Davenport, IA 52803

April 2021

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Who could have imagined?

We began last year's Ash Wednesday not knowing that it would be the start of a year-long pandemic? Who would have imagined that as we started this year's Lent that we would still be fasting from our freedoms? Giving up a thousand things we take for granted, but would never think that we would have to "give up" for so long a period? But there is hope.

Last Palm Sunday there were no palms, this year the palms are back. While on Holy Thursday there is still no feet to wash and on Good Friday, there is still no kissing of the cross, but unlike last year, we are now able to attend this year's Easter Liturgies.

But, think of this! We cannot know in this world what is next, but as believers in Christ, we do know that the Resurrection cannot be stopped! We do know that HOPE is here, FAITH is here, and as we adjust to whatever this unforeseen future holds, LOVE is here, and waiting for us.

At St. Paul the Apostle we have so much to celebrate. While Mass is not

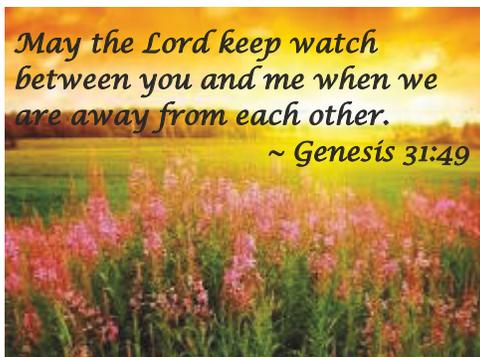
like it used to be, we made it through a year-long pandemic! Our school, under the leadership of Dr. Julie Delaney, and through the dedication of our teachers and staff, and to the delight of parents, has survived in-school learning. We have been creative in the ways we have celebrated the Sacraments...and while not perfect, we got to celebrate the Sacraments!

So during this Easter Season, let's continue to work together and to stay together, even in being apart. Let's love and care for one another, even through cyberspace. By God, let's have an Easter to remember, even if it can only be in our hearts, because, as we know, that is where it truly happens anyway.

We wish that through all of this, that you have a blessed Easter. Know that we are holding you in prayer and we ask in your kindness, that you remember us in yours.

Gratefully yours in Christ,

Fr. Bruce DeRammelaere



May the Lord keep watch between you and me when we are away from each other.
~ Genesis 31:49

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The Nearness of God

*"I am convinced that neither death nor life,
neither angels nor demons,
neither the present nor the future, nor any powers,
neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation,
will be able to separate us
from the love of God
that is in Christ Jesus our Lord."
Romans 8:38-39*

We all have experienced "the tomb" – darkness, uncertainty, isolation, even death. The global pandemic has given us a somber reminder of the fragility and emptiness of life without *nearness*. We long for closeness and connection. We miss being together. This "holy longing" reflects the very DNA of our being – we were *made* for relationship.

This Easter season we celebrate the victory of God's nearness. He is indeed close to us. As St. Augustine once said, God is closer to us than we are to ourselves. Jesus broke out of the tomb in spectacular fashion, breaking down the barrier of sin and death and championing the nearness of God forever.

"God draws near to our lives, he is moved to compassion because of the fate of wounded humanity and comes to break down every barrier that prevents us from being in relationship with him," Pope Francis said. God is drawing near to you. Right now, at this very moment, God is near. You are not alone. He is so close. The stone has been rolled away. This Easter season God beckons us to come out of our tombs once again. Will you come out to greet him?

~ Michael Havercamp



Being Called By Name

After being on a bus for multiple hours, and leaving SUPER early in the morning, we can often arrive at YoungLife camp every summer with a mixture of emotions and feelings. We're usually a little bit tired. Yet excited with anticipation for the week to come. We're pumped to be with our friends. Yet at the same time missing our family back home, and our cell phones, which connect us to them! We're thrilled to get away and try something new for the week, yet feeling the weight of all that burdens us back home in daily life.

And then our bus pulls up to camp. There are literally dozens and dozens and dozens of people lining the street and yelling in excitement as we meander down to the drop-off site. Music is playing. Two people dressed in funny costumes are on a stage yelling into a microphone "Welcome to camp! We're soooo glad you are here!" We get off the bus, run through the tunnel of people, and gather around the stage for instructions. I can't tell you how big the smiles are on both kids' and adults' faces as we're welcomed to camp.

When I think of hospitality, this is what usually comes to mind. Being greeted by people, in an atmosphere that is not only high energy, but where people are genuinely excited to see me. It's creating an atmosphere that is made with me in mind, and helps me to leave all the worries, emotions, and struggles behind so that I can truly be present for whatever is coming my way. It's the first impression. It's how we should welcome one another.

While this is an important part of hospitality, I want to take it a step further, just as they do every year at camp. After instructions are given while we're crowding around the stage, one of the volunteers greets EVERY SINGLE KID. They're asked their name. They're asked questions about how was their drive and what they're looking forward to most during camp. They're assisted in carrying their bags and shown the way to their cabin. They have the opportunity to ask questions.

But, it all starts with a name. I believe there is real power in calling someone by name. Names make us approachable. Names help us to be connected. Names give us dignity. Names keep it personal. Names show us that we matter. Names help us to be known!

Luke 19:5 tells us that "When Jesus came by He looked up to Zaccheus and called Him by name." When I think about radical hospitality; yes, welcoming people is important and we must do that. However, let us also follow Jesus' example and call our people, especially our young people, by name. Let us ask others how they're doing. Let's help them with their needs. And let us show them the way.

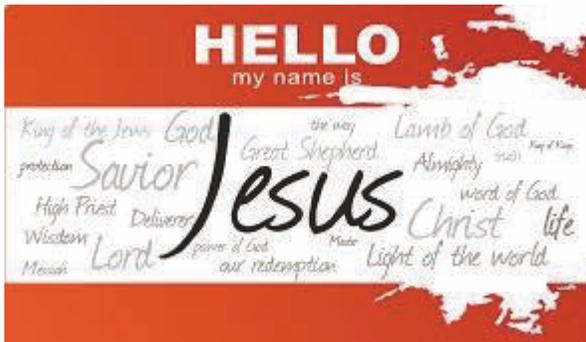
Next time you're at Mass, look around and search for one person who is between ages 13-18. Ask them their name or call them by name if you know it. Get to know them. Let's all do our part to build a culture of radical hospitality at St. Paul's where all are not only welcomed, but are accepted, safe, and known by name. I'm grateful to be in this ministry with you all.

~ Luke Ebener



Our Nametag Initiative is Back!

During the month of April, we will once again be pulling out the nametags for weekend Masses. Please consider putting on a nametag when you arrive at church! It's a great opportunity to say hello to the people we haven't seen in awhile, greet the person who has dyed their hair and you don't recognize behind a mask, or introduce yourself to someone new.



Hospitality Committee Forming!

Our newly formed Hospitality Committee is discerning ways to provide radical hospitality at St. Paul's. In the coming weeks, we will be introducing some new initiatives to help strengthen relationships in our parish. Just one example is the new Hospitality Ministers who open doors and offer greetings before and after weekend Masses. Our goal is to make sure that everyone feels invited, seen, known, and missed. If you'd like to join us as we brainstorm and implement ways to practice hospitality here at St. Paul's, contact Tasha at thavercamp@gmail.com.



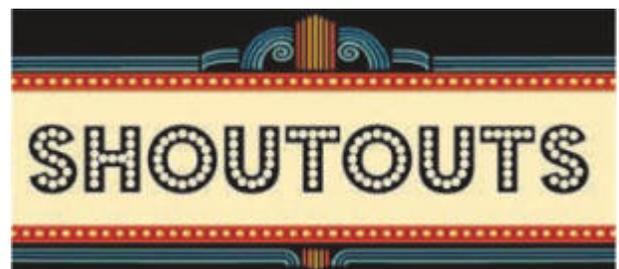
Adult Confirmation Opportunity

Are you an adult who has never been confirmed? Have you been practicing your Catholic faith and want to complete your initiation into the faith through the Sacrament of Confirmation? Each year we offer the chance for our parishioners to discern this possibility during the celebration of Pentecost. If this is you and you'd like more information, please contact Tasha Havercamp! We'd love to walk you through the process.



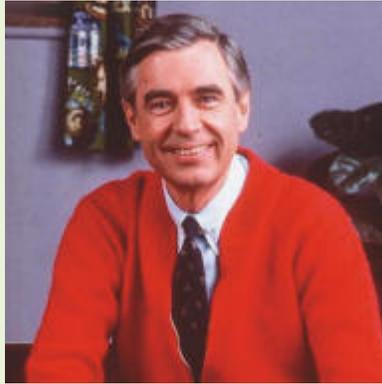
Shout Outs Coming Soon!!!

There are so many people here at St. Paul's that give of themselves in wonderful ways, but often go unnoticed or unrecognized. Is there someone you know that has been going above and beyond? Would you like to extend gratitude or praise to someone special? Look for opportunities to submit their name so that we can thank them in our new section in the bulletin and on our website called Shout Outs.



Love Your Neighbor as Yourself

The best advice comes in simple terms...



All we're ever asked to do in this life is to treat our neighbor exactly as we would hope to be treated ourselves. That's our ultimate responsibility.
~Fred Rogers

If you've had the opportunity to read or watch anything about Fred Rogers, you know that he is a kind man. His kindness stems from a personal story of devout faith, personal struggle, and having people in his life whom he admired, cared for and that he learned wonderful lessons from. Whether he was creating educational television for children that pushed boundaries on topics of mental health and social issues, or if he was taking a moment to simply get to know someone he was meeting for the first time, his ability to be present, of "neighboring" was truly unique.

Do you find it challenging to be still? Do you have a hard time seeing eye to eye with others... especially someone who, in your experience, is difficult? In a world that gets busier by the day, faster by the minute, and more digital by the second, it's easy to lose sight of what's important, what's simple and what really feeds your personal health. Mr. Roger's advice isn't much different than the words of another great Man, who we all know.

Hearing that Jesus had silenced the Sadducees, the Pharisees got together. One of them, an expert in the law tested him with this question:
"Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?"
Jesus replied: " 'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your mind.' This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: "Love your neighbor as yourself."
Matthew 22:34-39

If the events of the last year have you scrambled, if you're looking to get back on track: a few moments of simplicity a day might be just what you need. If you aren't sure where to start, church might be a good place, We miss you! And if it's something else, maybe a comfy chair in your house and a moment of prayer, or maybe a "hello" to your neighbor with whom you don't speak much might be the solution. Whatever it is, as Mr. Rogers would say, " I encourage you to look for the good where you are and **EMBRACE** it.

~ Jen Brooke

St. Paul School Blessings

Alleluia! Christ is Risen!

This Easter Season has an extremely special feel to it! As a parish and school, we made it through a year of COVID. Last year at this time, we were isolated from each other, unable to attend Mass and school and unable to gather as Christ's disciples.

We celebrate Christ's Resurrection with joy and the added hope of the ability to gather again as Christ's people. At St. Paul the Apostle School we were able to continue all school year providing in person learning! It has been a blessing for our families, students, faculty and staff. We have also welcomed 23 new students this school year!

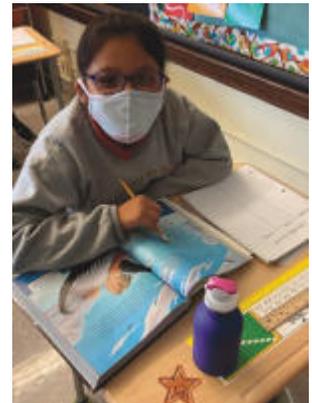
As this year of challenges has progressed, we have found so many bright spots and have come to appreciate things we took for granted. COVID forced us to evaluate some of our practices and make changes to accommodate the 2020-2021 school year. Many of those changes we will keep, because they helped us to operate more smoothly. Out of every challenge comes good!

Looking to the 2021-2022 school year, we hope the good news of St. Paul's school continues in the community and we are able to draw more families to the parish and school. Please share with your friends and families about our excellent faith-based education and our incredible faculty and staff.

Blessings of the year include:

- Being able to keep our students in school for learning and socialization.
- While being a 1:1 technology device school was never a priority, the pandemic caused us to implement a 1:1 device program in grades 3-8.
- A deeper appreciation of being able to gather as a school community for Mass. We are looking forward to the day we can have an all school Mass, but greatly appreciate the ability to gather as small groups for the Eucharist.
- Faculty and staff whose love and dedication for our students has kept us going this year.
- The appreciation of our families for the hard work of our faculty and staff.
- The presence of Fr. Bruce and Dominic in the school sharing our faith and Catholic traditions!
- Our greatest blessings are the gift of our faith to carry us through the challenges of the year and the gift of joy to celebrate God's love and protection!!

~ Julie Delaney



Year To Date Financials

As we pass the one-year mark for the pandemic, I can't help but look back and reflect. We all know that a church is more than just a building, but this past year has made "St. Paul's beyond the walls" so much more visible.

While the challenges of the past year have brought pain, loss and isolation; they have also been an impetus for innovation and growth. When we first got the word from the diocese that we were closing the church building, we took a step back and said, "Now what do we do?" However, that initial reaction was quickly followed by a commitment to do whatever was necessary to continue to worship God and serve others within this new environment.

I have been so impressed with the energy, creativity, leadership, perseverance and love our priests, church and school staff, teachers and parish members have displayed throughout this past year. We have progressed a long way from that first Sunday Mass broadcast with an iPhone and Facebook live. Not only have there been livestream Masses, there have also been online witness talks, rosaries and Religious Ed classes. Volunteers and staff members called parishioners to check in and offer assistance. Youth ministry team members dropped off care packages at homes to celebrate birthdays and to let our young people know that they are valued. Parishioners have shared their faith in a deeper way through Emmaus groups. We have celebrated weddings, funerals, Baptisms, First Communions and Confirmations.

The current financial statement shows a large net income due to two bequests that were received earlier in the fiscal year. These funds are being invested in an endowment for the long term financial health of the parish. While the church is more than a building, your donations to the church and school are the fuel that drives our mission forward and allows us to innovate, grow, and to touch peoples' lives. Thank you for all that you have done to keep St. Paul's a wonderful, vibrant, faith community! Your continued financial support will allow St. Paul's to continue making a difference no matter what the future holds.

God bless,

Michelle Herrington

July 2020 - February 2021

Total Ordinary Income	\$ 783,850
<i>(Envelopes, Offertory, Religious Ed, Flower Fund, etc.)</i>	
Other Income	\$ 321,854
<i>(Auxiliary Income & Memorials, etc.)</i>	

Total Church Income \$ 1,105,704

School Income	\$ 1,158,678
<i>(Tuition, Fees, Donations, Grants)</i>	
Other School Income	\$ 406,148
<i>(Parish Subsidy, Daycare, Aftercare, School Lunch, etc.)</i>	

Total School Income \$1,564,826

Total Income - Church & School \$2,670,530

Church Administration Expense	\$ 304,139
<i>(Wages, Benefits, Taxes, Insurance, Utilities, Bldg. Mtce. etc.)</i>	
St. Paul School Subsidy	\$ 225,637
Assumption High School Assessment	\$ 88,916
Other Church Expenses	\$ 137,282
<i>(Pastoral Care, Evangelization, Faith Formation, Youth Ministry)</i>	

Total Church Expense \$ 755,974

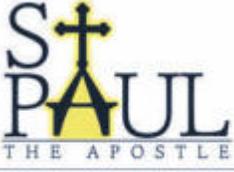
School Salary Expense	\$1,319,720
<i>(Wages, Benefits, Taxes)</i>	
Other School Expense	\$ 365,294
<i>(Admin Expense, Instructional Expense, Plant Operations)</i>	

Total School Expense \$1,685,014

Total Expense - Church & School \$2,440,988

Net Income \$ 229,542





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Join us for our Faith Opportunities

MASS SCHEDULE

WEEKEND MASSES

Saturday: 4:30pm Vigil Mass
Sunday: 8:30am & 11:30am

DAILY MASSES

Monday & Friday: 6:30am
Tuesday & Thursday: 8:30am
Wednesday: 6:00pm
First Saturday of the Month: 8:30am

ALL SCHOOL MASS

12:45pm Wednesday
(During Covid, we ask that only students attend)

We are currently taking reservation for our weekend Masses, please call the parish office, 322-7994 or email davstpaul@diodav.org.

We Live stream all of our Masses on our Facebook page

If you would like to receive our weekend update, email davstpaul@diodav.org to sign up today.

Stay posted for more opportunities!

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

9:30am-10:30am Saturdays

ROSARY

6:00am Monday – Friday

Monday Morning Rosary - after morning drop off at school in the Gathering Space

Thursday Circle of Love Prayer group - 7 pm in the Gathering Space

VBS - Vacation Bible School - June 21 - 26

Bookmark our websites
www.stpaulcatholicparish.org &
www.stpaulcatholic-school.org

Follow us on Facebook @stpauldisciples; Twitter @stpauldav

