



THE LINK

"God loves us...Share His love with everyone!"

stpaulnky.org

ST. PAUL CHURCH IN FLORENCE, KY

MAY 2021

St. Paul
Summer
Festival

**MARK YOUR
CALENDARS!**

Friday, August 27
Saturday, August 28
Sunday, August 29

Plan on joining us for a fun-filled weekend! If conditions do not allow for our festival to take place in August, the decision will be made to host the event virtually. If you would like to help in any way, please email festival@stpaulnky.org.



May is the Month of the Blessed Virgin Mary

By Father Jason Bertke

May is traditionally known as the month of Mary. We also associate May with springtime. Nature is in full bloom as the darkness of winter clears away and makes room for new life. In the history of salvation, we see that Mary plays the exact same role. The world was lost in the darkness of sin and in need of salvation. Mary's "yes" to God allowed the savior of the world to take on human flesh in her womb. Because of this willingness to serve the Lord, she is called the New Eve. Through the disobedience of Eve, sin came into the world. But through the obedience of Mary, salvation came into the world. Jesus Christ is the light of the world who brings forth new life after man had fallen into the darkness of sin. The sin of Adam brought about suffering and death, but Christ (the New Adam) brings redemption.

Devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary is an important part of our Catholic Tradition. St. Louis de Montfort said that Mary is the quickest and easiest way to Christ. Mary is the greatest saint of all. She is the Queen of Heaven and Earth. The motherly love that she showed to the infant Jesus is extended to us as well. Her intercession is extremely powerful. It was through her intercession that Jesus performed his first public Miracle at the Wedding Feast of Cana. Our Lady continues to pray for us so that we may know her Son. Many graces are granted to us because of her prayers.

As we begin the month of May, it is important for us to show devotion to the Blessed Mother. On May 13, 1917, Mary first appeared to the three shepherd children of Fatima. She encouraged them to pray and do penance for sinners. She told the children that many souls go to hell because there is no one to pray and do penance for them. She also told them to pray the rosary every day. The advice that Our Lady gave to the children of Fatima remains good advice for us today. We are invited to develop a deeper devotion to Mary, who wants nothing more than for us to turn away from sin and accept the salvation that her Son has won for us. As we celebrate the month of Mary, we strive to imitate her love for the Lord as we seek her intercession. O Mary, conceived without sin, pray for us who have recourse to Thee.



Accreditation Success! By Joanne Nesmith, Principal

It is with excitement and pride that I share with you an excerpt from an email that I received from the Director of Accreditation Services from Cognia:

"We hope this email finds you and your family, your students, parents, and staff in good health. Based on the findings and recommendation of the Cognia Engagement Review Team and Cognia Accreditation Office, a five-year accreditation term was approved and conferred by the Cognia Global Commission on March 31, 2021. Congratulations!"



In order to earn Cognia accreditation, education providers must meet the accreditation performance standards, assurances and policies; demonstrate quality assurance through internal and engagement reviews and engage in continuous improvement. A five-year accreditation term is the maximum term allowed by this accreditation company.

During the site visit in November, the Engagement Review Team commented on the sense of community of St. Paul School; the strong academics provided to our students; the excellent return rates of parent, student and staff surveys; the strong volunteer base within our school, Parent Teacher Organization, Booster Organization and Finance Committee; the commitment of our staff to the mission of St. Paul School and the traditions established by a school approaching its 100th anniversary.

I want to thank everyone who participated in our Engagement Review in November of 2020. This is an exciting day for the St. Paul School community!

BEST WISHES, MRS. ENGLAND!



After a successful fifty year teaching career, Mrs. England has decided to retire from the profession at the end of this school year. Mrs. England has been a Junior High Science teacher for ten years at our school, and prior to her time here she taught for ten years at Villa Madonna Academy, twenty-nine years at Beechgrove Elementary and one year at Florence Elementary. In her fifty year career, she has impacted many lives and has always brought a love of learning to her students. We will miss her energy, her enthusiasm and her commitment to her students. We wish her all the best as she begins her retirement years!



Thank you for supporting our St. Paul Spring Flower Sale! We hope to see you again in September for our Fall Flower Sale!

Blessings,
St. Paul Flower Sale Committee



Our First Communion Candidates received their First Communion on April 17 and 18. Please continue to pray for these young disciples of God. May the Lord continue to bless them and guide them.

Confirmation 2021



Our Confirmandi who have completed preparation for Confirmation, will receive this Sacrament on Monday, May 10 at the Cathedral. Please keep them in your prayers.



St. Vincent de Paul News

By Claudia Diehl

Last month's article was about the N. Ky. St. Vincent de Paul Council. This month, I want to share about St. Vincent de Paul, (1581 - 1660) the patron saint of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul. In 1885, Pope Leo XIII named Vincent the patron of all works of charity. Therefore, he is known as the "Apostle of Charity" and the "Father of the Poor." Vincent, born in Pouy, France, was the youngest of six children. His father was a farmer and Vincent worked in the fields. When he was 14, his father sent him to a Franciscan boarding school. He later studied to become a priest and was ordained at the age of 19. Vincent continued his studies and life was good. However, Vincent experienced sadness over his success and promised that, if God would take away the darkness he felt, he would dedicate his life to the service of the poor. Instantly, the anguish left him and Vincent faithfully fulfilled his vow to the poor till the day he died.

Vincent was sent to serve as spiritual advisor to Louise de Marillac, a widow with a 13 year old son. She loved welcoming the poor, hopeless, alienated and abandoned people. Vincent sent her to organize and direct the Confraternities of Charity. She took a small group of women into her home to serve the poor. She trained these Sisters to find Jesus in the poor and to serve with respect, mildness, and compassion.

In Paris, Vincent set his mind to helping the hundreds of children left on the streets. He built houses to care for those abused and neglected street children and Louise formed the Daughter of Charity to serve and love these orphans.

Vincent's ministry kept growing. His followers buried the dead, cared for refugees and orphans, took care of the sick in their homes and in the hospitals and opened schools for the poor children. At 72, Vincent was confined to his room because of illness. He continued to work for the poor. His prayer was to die not in bed, but in battle, fighting for the poor.

Reading about St. Vincent de Paul, I realize that we still have the poor, sick and those that need a helping hand. This week, we are helping a grandmother, Sue, who is helping support her 19 year old daughter and 1 year old grandchild, 2 teen grandchildren and her 20 year old son. At this moment, they are homeless. They have found a house to move into but they need \$3500. Together with Welcome House, the council, other conferences and St. Paul's contribution, we should be able to get them into this house the 1st of the week.

Next month, Saint Louise De Marillac

SVDP TREASURER REPORT FOR MARCH 2021

- 36 calls serving 58 people and 45 hours of Vincentians' time
- Conference-funded Aid: \$5,387 (\$3,946 for rent, \$1,041 for utilities, food \$400)
- In-Kind Goods: \$1,610 (\$685 pantry food, \$700 furniture vouchers, \$110 clothing vouchers, \$115 other)
- Total Receipts/Income: \$7,871

Care Net & Families For Life Baby Bottle Campaign

The campaign will be held from Mother's Day, May 9 to Father's Day, June 20. Bottles will be available at all Masses on Mother's Day weekend. We ask that you take one (or two) and fill it with your loose change, cash and/or checks and return it on Father's Day. Thank you for participating in this campaign to help Northern KY Care Net Pregnancy Services minister to women and men who are experiencing an unplanned pregnancy.



NEW PARISHIERS

Ms. Jacklyn Whitaker-Amos and Family
Mr. and Mrs. Eugene Harsh
Mr. and Mrs. Martin Krastev

DEATHS

Neal Sparks	(March 26)
Harry Thomas Collins	(April 1)
Alice Ruth Helmer	(April 5)
Bud Pieper	(April 15)
John Santavicca	(April 20)

EASTER VIGIL CONFIRMATION (APRIL 3)

Joyce Marie Brewer
Martin Nikolaev Krastev

St. Paul Families for Life

By Marla Kelly

Put on the armor of God so that you may be able to stand firm against the tactics of the devil.

Ephesians 6:11

BITS OF NEWS: There is a lot happening in our government requiring us to put on the armor of God.

SOME GOOD NEWS...

DEFUND PLANNED PARENTHOOD: Congresswoman Vicky Hartzler (MO) introduced the Defund Planned Parenthood Act of 2021 and Senators John Kennedy (LA) and Joni Ernst (Iowa) introduced the Protect Funding for Women's Health Care Act. Both would prevent any taxpayer dollars going to the nation's largest abortion provider, Planned Parenthood. I urge you to check out these bills and contact your Representatives to seek their support.

KENTUCKY GENERAL ASSEMBLY: The 2021 Regular Session has come to an end. Two very important steps were taken on the issue of protecting unborn human life. First, Senate Bill SB 9, the Born Alive Infant Protection Act, was passed in the early days of session and became law. Then, at the end of session, House Bill HB 91 was passed which will place a constitutional amendment on the ballot in the November 2022 election. If approved by voters, the amendment will clarify that there is no right to abortion in the state Constitution and prevent a state-level Roe v. Wade. This will ensure that all of the pro-life bills that have passed in recent years, or that will be in the years to come, will not be struck down by state courts.

- From Diocese of Covington Pro-Life

SOME NOT SO GOOD NEWS.....

HYDE AMENDMENT: A serious effort is underway in Congress to force all taxpayers to pay for elective abortions. The Hyde Amendment and other similar laws have long protected taxpayers from funding elective abortions. Now, some members of Congress want to get rid of these laws, which have been supported by both Democrats and Republicans for 45 years. Without the Hyde

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Vive el
Evangelio de la *Vida*

Amendment and related policies, billions of taxpayer dollars could be used to pay for abortion in the United States and throughout the world. Don't let our government make you pay for the taking of innocent human life. Contact Congress and tell them to keep the Hyde Amendment and related policies and to oppose any bill that expands taxpayer funding of abortion. To find out more, go to www.notaxpayerabortion.com/learn or www.usccb.org/resources/background-er-hyde-amendment-and-related-policies.

- Provided by USCCB Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities

BORN-ALIVE ABORTION SURVIVORS PROTECTION ACT:

On April 14, Republicans in the US House of Representatives initiated a "discharge petition" to bring about a vote on the Born-Alive Abortion Survivors Protection Act. The bill would not restrict abortion, but simply protect those who survive it. The bill has yet to be up for a vote. Urge your Representative: Protect Children from Infanticide.

- From Priests for Life

MAIL-ORDER ABORTIONS: The Food and Drug Administration dropped restrictions on webcam and mail-order abortions, allowing Planned Parenthood to dispense deadly abortion pills to women who never see a physician or get a physical exam.

- From 40 Days for Life

FUNDING FOR ABORTION SALES AGENCIES: The Biden Administration announced plans to resume federally funding organizations that refer for abortions.

- From 40 Days for Life

PACKING THE COURT: Pro-abortion members of Congress introduced a bill that would expand the Supreme Court to 13 members--all appointed by President Biden--to preserve Roe v. Wade and to advance other abortion industry priorities.

- From 40 Days for Life



Happy Mother's Day!

CONGRATULATIONS TO STEPHANIE ERWIN, FLORENCE ROTARY CLUB TEACHER OF THE YEAR!

Congratulations to Stephanie Erwin, Kindergarten teacher at St. Paul School, who has been recognized as a 2021 Florence Rotary Club Teacher of the Year! To be considered for this award, the Florence Rotary Club had the following criteria:

- Teachers who inspire students to learn.
- Teachers who have the respect and admiration of students, parents, and colleagues.
- Teachers who play an active and useful role in the community as well as in the school.
- Teachers who are poised, articulate, and possess the energy to withstand a taxing schedule.
- Teachers who exemplify the “Service above Self” standard of the Florence Rotary Club organization in his or her professional and community environment.



In the nomination, Mrs. Erwin was recognized for her work with the Parent Teacher Organization, her organization of Trivia Nights, her volunteer efforts at the Fish Fry, the coordination of the school community to support the St. Vincent de Paul Giving Tree, her sponsorship of Advent Angels with staff members and the assistance she gives to younger staff members, as well as teachers, in the preschool program. Her nomination included support letters from colleagues regarding her involvement and impact on the school community, parent support letters recognizing the impact she has had on their children and thoughts from her current kindergarten students describing how Mrs. Erwin inspires them to learn.

St. Paul School community celebrated this award before leaving for Spring Break. Mrs. Erwin will be recognized as a 2021 Florence Rotary Club Teacher of the Year at an awards luncheon on Monday, April 26. In addition to receiving this prestigious award, Mrs. Erwin will also receive a check for \$250 for a charity of her choice. Congratulations Mrs. Erwin!

By Joanne Nesmith, Principal

2021-22 St. Paul School Registration

Priority registration for our school families was held during the month of February with new family registration opening on March 1st. Currently, we have 193 students enrolled in Kindergarten through 8th grade for the 2021-22 school year, just two shy of our current school enrollment.

If you know of any families interested in sending their child to St. Paul School for the 2021-22 school year, please encourage them to call the school office at (859) 647-4070 or email stpaul1@stpaulinky.org. We will be happy to get a registration packet to them and, if they would like, schedule a tour. Our third grade class is full for the 2021-22 school year and we have started a waiting list for that grade. We do have openings in all other grades and Preschool at this time for any interested new families. We'd love to welcome new students and their families to our Panther community!



SAINT PAUL PARISH

MAKING & STRENGTHENING CHRISTIANS

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HOLY HOUR

SPEND TIME WITH OUR LORD IN
EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

THURSDAYS AT 6PM IN THE CHURCH

To submit articles to The Link, please email your information to TheLink@stpaulnky.org.
If you are unable to send via email, please drop off a copy at the Parish Office.
The deadline to submit articles is the 3rd Monday of each month.

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