



THE LINK

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

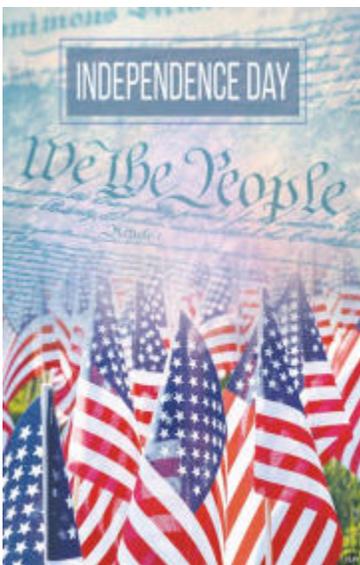
stpaulnky.org

ST. PAUL CHURCH IN FLORENCE, KY

JULY 2021

Welcome

We would like to extend a warm welcome to our newest staff member, John Gedney. John will be in charge of maintenance at the church and school. Many of you probably already know him as he is a longtime parishioner and already involved in various ministries at St. Paul. We thank John for taking on this responsibility and we welcome him in his new role.



The Importance of Sunday Mass *by Father Jason Bertke*

As the dispensation regarding Mass attendance has been lifted, it may be a good time for us to reflect on the importance of Mass. First, we will take a look at what the Catechism of the Catholic Church has to say regarding the Sunday Obligation:

On Sundays and other holy days of obligation, the faithful are bound to participate in the Mass. The precept of participating in the Mass is satisfied by assistance at a Mass which is celebrated anywhere in a Catholic rite either on the holy day or on the evening of the preceding day. The Sunday Eucharist is the foundation and confirmation of all Christian practice. For this reason, the faithful are obliged to participate in the Eucharist on days of obligation, unless excused for a serious reason (for example, illness, the care of infants) or dispensed by their own pastor. Those who deliberately fail in this obligation commit a grave sin. Participation in the communal celebration of the Sunday Eucharist is a testimony of belonging and of being faithful to Christ and to his Church. The faithful give witness by this to their communion in faith and charity. Together they testify to God's holiness and their hope of salvation. They strengthen one another under the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

-Catechism of the Catholic Church 2180-2182.

Having been dispensed from our obligation for over a year, it may be challenging for many of us to re-establish this habit. We may also be finding ourselves asking if regular Mass attendance is truly necessary. Why should we go? What do we get out of it?

The Holy Mass is a sacrifice. It is an offering to God. We are there to give him worship. There are many misconceptions as to what we are celebrating during Mass. Many have been led to believe that Mass is a reenactment of the Last Supper or that it's merely a communal meal. This, however, is not correct. During the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass, Christ's sacrifice on Calvary is made present on the altar and offered to the Father in expiation for our sins. That being said, we do actually get something out of it due to God's extreme generosity. We are able to receive Jesus Christ who is truly present in the Blessed Sacrament. There is truly no greater gift! Out of his great love for us, our Lord laid down his life in order to save us. By remaining faithful to him, we may share in his resurrection. What more could we want?

This past year has been difficult for everyone. But let us not forget the many great things that God has done for us. We are invited once again to take part in the Sunday Mass to show our gratitude to God and give him the worship that he deserves.

Mark Your
Calendar!

St. Paul Parish SUMMER FESTIVAL

FRIDAY, AUGUST 27
SATURDAY, AUGUST 28
SUNDAY, AUGUST 29

If conditions do not allow for our festival to take place in August,
the decision will be made to host the event virtually.

CHECK OUT THE BAND EACH DAY!

FRIDAY, AUGUST 27—KARATE GIRLS

SATURDAY, AUGUST 28—SWAN

SUNDAY, AUGUST 29—MARTY CONNER BAND



VOLUNTEER



If you would like to help in any way,
please email festival@stpaulnky.org.

LESS THAN 15 DUCKS LEFT!!!

DUCK SEASON & THE ST. PAUL FESTIVAL



It is time to think about purchasing your duck
for the Ducky Downs 2021 races. You may
purchase a duck for \$100.00 to have a chance
to win one of our high money races, which will
payout a total of \$2,000. Only 100 ducks will be

sold. Ducks are available for purchase online at [https://
saintpaulflorenc.weshareonline.org/](https://saintpaulflorenc.weshareonline.org/). For additional
information, contact Kevin Collins at 513-532-2036.

SILENT AUCTION



We are looking for donations for the Silent
Auction. Check your closets, garage, under the
beds, etc. Any new or very gently but clean
item will be greatly appreciated. Items you find
on clearance and would like to purchase and

donate. Items can be dropped off in the St. Paul Gathering
Space or contact Judy Kidwell at 859-393-5601 and she will
be more than happy to come pick it up.

WHEELBARROW OF CHEER TICKETS



Purchase your \$5.00 Wheelbarrow of
Cheer tickets for a chance to win a new
wheelbarrow and all the cheer inside.

Must be 21 or older to buy a ticket. Wheelbarrow of Cheer
Tickets are sold online at
<https://saintpaulflorenc.weshareonline.org/>.

GRAND PRIZE RAFFLE TICKETS

Grand Prize tickets are \$25.00 with a possible chance
to win \$20,000. Tickets are sold online at
<https://saintpaulflorenc.weshareonline.org/>.

St. Paul Parish Summer Festival
August 27, 28 & 29, 2021
Grand Raffle, Cost \$25.00
Prize award depends on number of tickets sold
Two prizes will be awarded as follows:
Tickets sold 1-1,000: 1st place \$5,000, 2nd place \$500
Tickets sold 1,001-1,500: 1st place \$10,000, 2nd place \$1,000
Tickets sold 1,501-2,000: 1st place \$15,000, 2nd place \$1,500
Tickets sold 2,001+: 1st place \$20,000, 2nd place \$2,000
Drawing at 9:00pm, Sunday, August 29th
Need not be present to win. Winners responsible for tax liability.
St. Paul Church #ORG0000145 7301 Dixie Hwy., Florence, KY 41042

RIEGLER BLACKTOP

BRM

GIFT CARDS NEEDED FOR PRIZES

The Festival Committee is in need of
gift cards to be used as prizes in the
Gift Card Booth. \$25.00 gift cards for
restaurants, gas, hardware stores,
grocery stores, department stores, etc.



The more variety we have to offer the
winners the better. Please drop the gift cards off at
the Parish Office or place them in the collection
basket marked – Festival Gift Card Booth. If you have
any questions, contact June Cahill at 859-630-1679.
Thanks so much!

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE ST. PAUL CLASS OF 2021

By Joanne Nesmith, Principal

On Friday, May 21, the eighth grade class and their families gathered at St. Paul Church for a Prayer Service, followed by the Awards and Graduation Ceremony. We would like to congratulate the following eighth graders on meeting this milestone:

Ryan Burden, Isabella Carota, Cody Crowder, Sophia Desch, Benjamin Dunham, Patrick Elmlinger, Braeden Francis, Audrey Froelicher, Chloe Hurm, Kosi Iloegbunam, Kaleb Janiszewski, Nicholas Leming, William McElheney, Benjamin McEvoy, Bryan Miller, Jackson Popil, Claire Schild, Macianne Schlueter, Brianna Sorrell, Jonah Tally, Jackson Theus, Joseph Todd and Christopher Walz.

Our eighth graders will be going in many directions next year including Boone County High School, Covington Catholic High School, Holy Cross High School, Notre Dame Academy and St. Henry District High School. We wish them all the best in their future endeavors.



TIME TO REVIEW YOUR VIRTUS ACCOUNT

All volunteers of St. Paul Parish and School that will work/volunteer at St. Paul in any way that involves children/students are required to be Virtus compliant. Summer is a good time to review your account for the following:

- Make sure you can still log in. If not, click the link for “need login information?” under the password box.
- Make sure that the email address is one you frequently check so you are notified of bulletins. Your email is on the General tab.
- Old background checks are only good for 5 years. If your background is from 2013 or older, you must submit a new one under the Toolbox tab, follow Selection.com link.
- If you find you are locked out of your account, please email the School Office at stpaul1@stpaulnky.org.

Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion for the Homebound

By Deacon Scott Folz

Jesus said to them, "Unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink His blood, you have no life in you." (John 6:53).

The Catechism of the Catholic Church states that the Eucharist is "the source and summit of the Christian life. The other sacraments, and indeed all ecclesiastical ministries and works of the apostolate, are bound up with the Eucharist and are oriented toward it. For in the blessed Eucharist is contained the whole spiritual good of the Church, namely Christ himself, our Pasch."

The whole church, especially our diocese and certainly our own parish, has suffered greatly over the past 15 months. Finally, by the Grace of God, we have seen the restrictive protocols lifted that have left us feeling alone and lonely. We won't truly know the impact this time has inflicted for years, but what we do know is that God is with us always. It may not seem like it at times, as the world around us may seem to be getting, not better, but worse, but Jesus still comes to us in Word and Sacrament for those who seek Him.

For those who are able to return to Mass, welcome back! It's good to see your face – and especially your smile. If you or someone you know are ill or otherwise unable to come to Mass, please let us know by calling the Parish Office at 859-371-8051 to set up a visit for Holy Communion and/or Absolution.

Jesus said, "The harvest is abundant, but the laborers are few; so ask the master of the harvest to send out laborers for his harvest."

As the bishop has lifted the protocols, Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion are now allowed to return to this marvelous ministry of bringing our Lord to the sick and homebound. And we need you. If you are already active, please reach out to those you know would be great in this ministry and invite them to join us. If you previously helped but are currently inactive, please consider re-joining the action.

If you are new to this ministry or are interested in learning more, please contact the Parish Office at 859-371-8051, Gil Foltz at gfolzt@fioptics.com or 859-304-0501 or me at Scottfolz@gmail.com or 859-283-2422. Or ask one of the many Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion currently enjoying this ministry. Becoming an EMHC is simple and doesn't require any cost to you other than your time and a willingness to answer God's Call. Diocesan training is the first of two steps; check the Messenger for the next scheduled diocesan training. Parish training is the second step; check the bulletin or future issues of the Link for the next training session.

Psalm 16:11 tells us, "You will show me the path to life, abounding joy in your presence, the delights at your right hand forever." We can know no greater joy than being in God's presence. And we cannot be any closer to God on this earth than in the Real Presence of Jesus in the Sacrament. And what greater joy can there be than to share that joy with our brothers and sisters. We are called to be one with God and one another. We do that by coming to Mass and, if we are able, sharing Jesus with those who are unable to attend Mass in person through Holy Communion as an Extraordinary Minister.



Welcome to our New Staff Members at St. Paul School!

By Joanne Nesmith, Principal

Please join me in welcoming the following staff members to St. Paul School:

MRS. NIKOLE MAHONEY – Mrs. Mahoney will be joining us as the mathematics teacher for 6th, 7th and 8th grades. Mrs. Mahoney has been teaching mathematics for ten years, with the last nine of those years at Walton-Verona High School. During her time at Walton-Verona High School, she served as the Mathematics Department Chairperson, served on Site-Based Council and was recognized as a 2019 Florence Rotary Teacher of the Year. Mrs. Mahoney resides in Union, KY with her husband Charlie and four children Maddie, Ally, Trenton and Hayden.

MS. SHANNON SWIKERT – Ms. Swikert will be joining us as the Science teacher for 6th, 7th and 8th grades. Ms. Swikert has a Bachelor of Science Degree in Biochemistry and Molecular Biology and a PhD in Neuroscience. After completion of her PhD, she moved back home to Florence, KY where she began substitute teaching at St. Henry District High School. Ms. Swikert is a member of St. Paul Parish and is the daughter of Dennis and Terri Swikert.

MS. HELEN NORTH – We are excited to announce that Ms. North will be returning to St. Paul School as our Music Teacher and Mass leader! Ms. North retired in August 2020 after teaching at St. Paul for twenty-three years, but is able to return this year!



SAINT PAUL PARISH
EDUCATION WRAPPED IN FAITH

Cafeteria Volunteers

St. Paul School is seeking cafeteria volunteers who would be willing to commit one day a week or one day every other week to supervise the school children while they eat lunch, then help with light cleaning details as the students leave. The children love to see their parents, grandparents and neighbors at school! The time of this commitment runs from 10:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. and a St. Paul School staff member will be with you for the shift. All volunteers must be VIRTUS trained and there will be VIRTUS sessions hosted this summer to welcome new adults to this volunteer opportunity. If you would be able to volunteer for this area of need, please contact Joanne Nesmith, Principal at stpaul1@stpaulnky.org. Thank you for your consideration.



Our Church Family

NEW PARISHIONERS

Mr. and Mrs. Tanner Bates and Family
Mr. and Mrs. Bell Nkodia and Family
Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Duncan and Family
Mr. and Mrs. Papy Mazina and Family
Mr. Brandon Suhr
Ms. Amanda Kohls

DEATHS

Steven Albert Elmlinger
(May 22)

BAPTISMS

Lyla Eileen Barry
Daughter of Timothy & Kristina Barry
Nora Kirstina Barry
Daughter of Timothy & Kristina Barry
Oakley Sage Bates
Daughter of Tanner Bates & Caitlin Dunnaway
Louis John Aylor
Son of Joseph & Brooke Aylor

EXPOSITION/ BLESSED SACRAMENT

Exposition/Blessed Sacrament will be open to the public on Friday, July 2 and Friday, August 6 from 9:15AM—12PM in the Church.



St. Paul Families for Life

By Marla Kelly

Live the
Gospel of *Life*

Vive el
Evangelio de la *Vida*

BABY BOTTLE CAMPAIGN

Thank you for participating in this campaign.

BITS OF NEWS:

WALKING WITH MOMS IN NEED

In March of 2020, the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops launched a nationwide effort called *Walking with Moms in Needs*. Due to the Coronavirus pandemic, the Diocese of Covington adjusted the timeline of launching this ministry in order to be more effective in reaching more and more people with the return of in-person Masses. *Walking with Moms in Need* was initiated in order to help woman and families in our community, who may be facing a difficult or unplanned pregnancy, see the Church as a safe place to turn to in a time of crisis. *Walking with Moms in Need* is a time of service in which Catholic parishes and communities "walk in the shoes" of local pregnant and parenting women in need. *Everyone* should know how to help moms in difficult circumstances.

The Northern KY area is blessed with many agencies offering help and hope to mothers and fathers with such needs. Just a few are: Care Net, Catholic Charities, New Hope Center, Pinnacle, Rose Garden Home Mission. Project Rachel helps men and women with post abortion healing. Most services are free and provide material needs as well as mental and spiritual support.

One of the first initiatives with *Walking With Moms In Need* is the support for mom from local parishes – ie; St. Paul Parish. As I went through the list of ideas for a parish, we have and continue to support Moms with our recent Baby Bottle Campaign. This money provides Care Net the capability to help women with pregnancy testing and ultrasounds and parenting classes for moms and dads. Many moms will call the SVdP Call Center and, because of your donations to the parish's conference, Vincentians are able to lend an ear and provide food and information on the above-mentioned agencies.

As we move forward, more information and ideas will be provided but you can check out this program at www.walkingwithmoms.com.

USCCB SPRING GENERAL ASSEMBLY - JUST MY THOUGHTS....

At the recent USCCB Spring General Assembly held June 16 – 18, a vote was taken and passed that approved the Committee on Doctrine to continue with a statement on the meaning of the Eucharist. This topic sparked a lot of emotions prior to, during and after the assembly. The controversy surrounded the possible implication it may have on denying Catholics the Eucharist due to their support for abortion. Although society laughingly tells the Catholic Church to "get with the times" and "get passed the abortion issue," it is no laughing matter and neither is the reception of the Eucharist. The Church holds abortion of preeminent moral concern and to participate or support an abortion is morally wrong. (See Catechism of the Catholic Church, 1415, 2271 & 2272). As imagined, I was pleased the majority of our bishops spoke up and supported to continue the drafting of the statement. Not because of the implication of Catholics and their support of abortion, but to enlighten all Catholics, especially the over 70% who do not believe the host we are so blessed to receive is the Body and Blood of Our Lord Jesus Christ. And, as Catholics, we bear the responsibility to ensure we are not of grave sin.

FRANCISCAN DAUGHTERS OF MARY

On February 2, 1999, the order was born in the Archdiocese of Newark, NJ. Not being able to find a convent in the area that met all their needs, they sent letters to bishops around the country and graciously accepted Bishop Foy's offer to move to the Diocese of Covington. In September 2004, they occupied the convent at St. Benedict's Church in Covington. In October 2005, they opened the Rose Garden Home Mission on Madison Ave in Covington. Expecting to mostly work with Moms and babies, they saw a greater need in the general community. As a result, the sisters began receiving donations of food and saw the Lord's hand guiding them to feed local families in need. They made a "deal" with God that, as long as He kept sending food, they would keep giving it out. The sisters started two initiatives. The first is Avow Discernment Groups, as promoted by Vianney Vocations for young women discerning God's Will. The second initiative is in partnership with IHM Saints for Life to create the Mary's Pro-Life Boot Camp, a respect life retreat-style camp for High School teens. It helps foster leadership among young people to be pro-life witnesses and encourages them to engage in "Life" issues in a more active way. We are blessed to have the Franciscan Daughters of Mary in our diocese. Please keep them in your prayers.

(From Franciscan Daughters of Mary Newsletter)



St. Vincent de Paul News

By Claudia Diehl

BLESSED FREDERIC OZANAM (1813-1853)

Blessed Frederic is recognized as the prime founder of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul. He was an intellectual genius and he exhibited extraordinary holiness. He was a professor, author, apologist and a defender of the faith, but above all he was a good Samaritan. Both of his parents were devout Catholics who handed on to Frederic a deep love of God and the poor. They taught him to seek Christ in those who bore the burden of human suffering and social injustice.

His first contact with philosophy in Paris challenged his beliefs and filled him with uncertainty. At the height of this crisis of faith, Frederic promised God that he would give his life to the service of truth.

He disliked Paris because of its coldness and corruption. His mentor helped him see Paris in a different light, coming to firmly believe that "Christianity is the only remedy to heal the evils of today's society."

Since childhood, Frederic was affected by the harsh, unfair conditions of the lower social classes. He vigorously denounced the inhumanity of slavery and the widening gap between the powerful and the weak. He wrote, "What divides people are not political structures but social issues."

Frederic and his friends knew they must put their faith into action, not only evangelizing, but by the constant practice of charity. Frederic said "The blessing of the poor is that of God...let us go to the poor."

In 1533, Frederic and five other students established "The Society of St. Vincent de Paul" and dedicated themselves to the poor. Sister Rosalie Rendu, a Daughter of Charity of St. Vincent de Paul helped them find families in need. Their mission was to bring not only bread but friendship to the poor.

Through the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, Frederic came into contact with the world of workers and the real sufferings of the working class. He studied the problem and decided we must take care of the people who have too many needs and not enough rights. He was one of the first to formulate the idea of a "natural salary" unemployment compensation, accident guarantee and pensions for workers. He was known for his actions. He was convinced that personal contact and direct service to the needy were the Society's main responsibilities and the ultimate objective was the spiritual, moral and human development of every person.

The cause for the beatification of Frederic Ozanam began in 1925 in Paris and in 1954 in Rome. On July 6, 1996, Pope John Paul II proclaimed Frederic "Venerable" and beatified him in Paris on Friday, August 22, 1997. His feast day is celebrated September 9th.

Next month, we will learn about Blessed Rosalie Rendu.

We, at St Paul, are actively trying to keep the founders of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul's vision alive in serving the poor. In May, we helped 41 people with food, rent, utilities, furniture and clothing vouchers providing hope to our neighbors in need.

Thank you for partnering with us through your generous donations. Know that we use the items and money you donate to help our neighbors in need.

SVDP TREASURER REPORT FOR MAY 2021

- 28 calls serving 41 people and 48 hours of Vincentians' time
- Conference-funded Aid: \$4,618 (\$2,325 for rent, \$1,863 for utilities, Bed \$80, \$350 Temporary lodging)
- In-Kind Goods: \$1240 (\$340 pantry food, \$855 furniture vouchers, \$45 other)
- Total Receipts/Income: \$7,778

The increase in income is attributable to both funds received from council in the form of grants and a stipend, and the continued blessed generosity of our faithful parishioners.



SAINT PAUL PARISH

MAKING & STRENGTHENING CHRISTIANS

P.O. Box 366
Florence KY 41022

Change Service Requested

NON PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
PAID
Florence, Kentucky
Permit #9

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 with awesome bands each day! 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, email festival@stpaulnky.org.



Friday—Karate Girls

Saturday—Swan

Sunday— Marty Conner Band

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.

7301 Dixie Highway Florence, Kentucky 41042 | stpaulnky.org