



THE LINK

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

stpaulnky.org

ST. PAUL CHURCH IN FLORENCE, KY

DECEMBER 2021



IMMACULATE CONCEPTION of MARY

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 7

Vigil Mass 7:00 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 8

Mass 8:15 a.m.

Mass 12:10 p.m.

St. Paul School Food Drive for St. Vincent de Paul

St. Paul School accepted donations for the St. Vincent de Paul local and district pantries from November 2 through November 12. Thanks to all of our students and their families for their generosity during our Food Drive. As a school, we collected over 1,360 items. Our contributions were donated to the St. Vincent de Paul food pantries of St. Paul and to the St. Vincent de Paul main distribution center. Special thanks to Mrs. Sheri Turvey, Mrs. Nikole Mahoney and Mrs. Karen Poulos, who coordinated the Food Drive with our Student Council and the St. Vincent de Paul Society.



HOLIDAY OFFICE HOURS

The Parish Office will be closed Wednesday, December 8 and Wednesday, December 22 through Sunday, January 2. For an emergency, call the office at 859-371-8051 and follow the prompts.



Christmas Schedule

Christmas Eve: Friday, December 24
Mass 5:00 p.m.
Mass 7:00 p.m.

Christmas Day: Saturday, December 25
Mass 12:00 a.m. (Midnight)
Mass 9:00 a.m.

*No 5:00 p.m. Sunday Vigil Mass
Sunday, December 26
Mass 9:00 a.m.
Mass 11:00 a.m.

Growing in our Faith Through Formed.org

By Father Jason Bertke

During this time of year, we find ourselves buying gifts for our loved one and putting together our own Christmas lists. But, during this season, we are reminded that the greatest gift that we have is our faith. It is also the greatest gift that we can give. I have been speaking for a while on our need to dive deeper into the faith – to learn more about our tradition and to become more engaged as disciples of Christ. At St. Paul, we have just purchased a parish subscription to formed.org.

Formed.org is a website that is put together by the Augustine Institute as a means of evangelization that will help us learn more about our faith. It has been described as the “Catholic Netflix.” But it is actually so much more! There are a variety of Catholic films, documentaries, Bible studies, and even children’s shows. They also produce a lot of original content. There is a great collection of books and audio books to download. They are constantly adding new things to their already vast library. With our parish subscription, all of our parishioners have free and unlimited access to this library. Please take advantage of this wonderful site!

First, go to formed.org and click “Sign Up.” Then, click “Sign up as a parishioner.” It will ask you to find your parish. Type “St. Paul Parish 7301 Dixie Hwy Florence Ky” and click “next.” Then, it will ask you for your name and email address. Once you fill those in, your account is set up.

Feel free to browse through their library and see what catches your eye. *Search* is an original series that they have put together that challenges us to ask about the deeper meaning of life. *Presence* is an original series that they have put together on the Eucharist and its importance in our lives. Either of these options are great places to start. You can also download audio books to listen to in the car on your drive to work. Find something on there that interests you and take advantage of this wonderful faith formation tool.



Many Gifts, One Nation
A Day of Giving to Catholic Schools

February 1, 2022

Save the date to donate to St. Paul School as a part of Many Gifts, One Nation:
A Day of Giving to Catholic Schools.

or donate now at
saintpaulflorence.weshareonline.org/SecureOurFuture



Our School is in its 97th year of educating students. Opened in 1925 as a two-room schoolhouse run by Benedictine sisters, it was born out of a need for strong faith-based education. For ninety-seven years, our staff has been committed to that mission. St. Paul was recognized as a National Blue Ribbon School in 2014, is accredited with Cognia (formerly Advanced Ed) and continues to produce students ready for the next level rooted in the mission and teachings of Jesus Christ. Now, our building is in desperate need of roof repair, window replacements and an HVAC upgrade. For this year’s Many Gifts, One Nation: A Day of Giving to Catholic Schools on February 1, 2022, we are asking for your financial support to help us make these needed repairs and improvements. In addition to financial support, if you are skilled in any of these areas and could offer your help with these repairs and improvements, please contact me at stpaul1@stpaulnky.org.

St. Paul School offers a quality education with dedicated teachers and staff members. Please help us continue this tradition in a building that gets a “refresh” so we can continue our strong faith-based education “for this generation and many more to come.” If you are able to make a donation during the National Catholic Education Association (NCEA) Many Gifts, One Nation: A Day of Giving to Catholic Schools on February 1, 2022 our school community would be grateful! Thank you for your consideration in supporting our mission!

- Joanne Nesmith, St. Paul School Principal

“For the straying of the naive kills them, the smugness of fools destroys them.” Proverbs 1:32

Complacency

By Deacon Scott Folz

I’m currently working at an industrial manufacturing facility. As with most companies, they say safety is their priority. Unfortunately, accidents happen all too frequently. Depending on who performed the study, it is believed accidents are between 99% and 100% preventable. Each incident investigation reveals elements of a person’s actions that contributed to the incident; if he or she had done things differently, and especially according to the documented procedure, the incident would not have occurred. So why do the employees do what they shouldn’t do or don’t do what they should? Why take the risk?

Sometimes, it’s a sincere (but wrong) effort to do the job more efficiently by taking short cuts. Other times, it’s due to lack of training. But most of the time, it is due to complacency. Complacency happens when employees stop paying attention to what they are doing and put themselves at risk.

Recently, in October, an accidental gun fatality occurred on a movie set in New Mexico. Local authorities said that they think there was “complacency” on the set. It appears that the established safety protocols were not followed.

The Oxford Dictionary defines complacency as “a feeling of smug or uncritical satisfaction with oneself or one’s achievements.” Dictionary.com defines complacency as “a feeling of quiet pleasure of security.” In both definitions, we get a sense of ‘sitting on our laurels.’ Think of the Sadducees and Pharisees; they considered themselves better than those around them because of what they had achieved. Jesus chastised them for this attitude. And, he encourages us to produce good fruits. Good fruits can only be reaped when the soil is tilled, the seed is planted, and the plant is tended. This takes effort – the right kind of effort. Good work produces good fruit. Complacency results in no work and produces no fruit or, at best, bad fruit.

We, as Christians, know what to do in our lives; we’ve been ‘trained.’ We know “You shall love the Lord, your God, with all your heart, with all your being, with all your strength, and with all your mind, and your neighbor as yourself.” Luke 10:27. We know to go to Mass every Sunday. We know to frequent the Sacraments. We know to pray, for ourselves and for each other. We know to do good works.

Yet, we still occasionally fail and fall into sin. Why? Do we take short cuts or suffer from lack of training? What about complacency? Do we stop to smell the roses? Do we stop to thank God for that next breath? Do we go about our daily lives with such repetition that we forget where we are and what we are doing? Do we watch movies, television or streaming entertainment that pours evil into our thoughts? Do we spend too much time on our phones or scanning social media? Do we focus our thoughts on the headline news of the day? Do our habits lead us to good choices? I’m not saying these things are bad, unless we allow them to be so.

Lao Tzu said, “Watch your thoughts, they become your words; watch your words, they become your actions; watch your actions, they become your habits; watch your habits, they become your character; watch your character, it becomes your destiny.”

We can only produce good fruit when we tend ourselves. We feed our minds with good things. We make good choices that lead to good activities. It is up to each of us to recognize those choices we make that do not lead to good results. It is up to each of us to identify those times when we feel complacent and do something about it. It isn’t easy; it takes work. And it takes the help of those who love us.

Don’t let complacency allow us to sit on our laurels. We can pray, fervently and unceasingly. Remember to ask for help, from those around us and those we can pray to. “By their fruits you will know them... every good tree bears good fruit, and a rotten tree bears bad fruit.” Matthew 7:16-17

St. Paul Parish 2021-2022 1st Quarter Financial Report

Our Parishioners of St. Paul Parish,

We have made great strides in the financial health of St. Paul Parish and School. This is a result of a very successful Festival, active PTO and Booster Organizations, generous donations of our Parish community, federal grant funding and the prayers of our community. Please help us continue with this momentum as we move forward with plans to get our facilities in good physical health while maintaining and improving the financial standing of the Parish.

The members of the finance committee and parish administration met on November 9, 2021 to review the first quarter financial reports. The committee would like to make the following observations regarding the financials:

1. The first quarter bottom line: +\$21,631. Thanks to the success of the August 2021 Festival, the parish is showing a positive bottom line. Due to how tuition is reported, 10 months over August to May, the parish planned a deficit for the first quarter. At the time the 2021-22 budget was drafted, the 2021 Festival was scheduled for June. Removing the festival income to compare against the budget, the parish continued to do better than budgeted.
2. This report contains an unbudgeted capital expense: replacing a portion of the school roof. Additional maintenance expenses for cleanup and repairs as a result of the roof leak were incurred. This replacement was overdue and a second one is expected in the second quarter. Concern for the parish's aging facilities is an ongoing conversation. The parish administration is researching the estimated costs for these capital improvements. If you can help through either business connections or resources, please contact Facilities Manager John Gedney at jgedney@stpaulnky.org or Business Manager Judine Hooker at businessoffice@stpaulnky.org.
3. The number of families enrolling in WeShare for online giving continues to grow. If you would like to make online contributions, please use the following link: <https://saintpaulflorence.weshareonline.org/>
4. Specified donations and services continue to make a difference in providing tools/improvements the school and parish need to be successful. A special thank you to all our donors for their generosity of time, treasure, and talents.
5. A special thank you to the St. Paul School PTO and Boosters. Their contributions to the parish continue to be more than is seen on this report. The PTO is contributing toward school workbooks and school staff professional development and is planning for new textbook series and a Carlin Center awning. The Boosters make sure the extracurricular school sports and activities have what they need. Both organizations continue to provide resources, both monetarily, equipment and time.
6. As of 9/30/2021, St. Paul Parish received 2021 DPAA rebates totaling \$28,350. To make an online DPAA pledge, please go to <https://covdio.org/> and scroll down to the Donate Now button. Be sure to identify St. Paul Church as your parish. You may also send DPAA donations in an envelope with the Sunday collections or via mail.
7. In addition to the DPAA, other opportunities are available for parishioners to participate in to further the work of the parish's mission of worship and education. These include the Secure Our Future, the February Day of Giving campaign and the St. Paul Boosters and St. Paul PTO's fundraising activities. Look for more communications on these upcoming opportunities and how you can participate.
8. The school and preschool are taking advantage of federal and state grant opportunities that are available in response to COVID-19. Through the Emergency Assistance to Nonpublic Schools (EANS), the school made technology upgrades. Each student has a Chromebook to use and each K-8 classroom has a Clear Touch board. The network server has been upgraded to support the increased use of technology. A new science series has been procured through EANS. Preschool has grants awarded for payroll, fixed expenses and cleaning that allowed preschool to use tuition for classroom and playground improvements. All these funds and expenses are reported as extraordinary income/expenses.

Respectfully submitted,

Fr. Jason Bertke, Pastor

Finance Committee: Chris Courtney, Mike Deckert, Mike Riegler, and Melissa Tally

Judine M. Hooker, Business Manager

Joanne Nesmith, St. Paul School Principal

St. Paul Parish 2021-2022 1st Quarter Financial Report

ORDINARY INCOME

July 2021 – Sept 2021

Offertory Collections – Sundays and Holy Days	\$ 161,012
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School Fees/School Donations	
Tuition and Fees	\$ 192,032
Preschool Fees	\$ 58,326
School Donations	\$ 1,812
Boosters/PTO Contributions	\$ 8,496
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Other Fees – Rel. Ed, Even Exchange	\$ 4,558
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Fund Raising (after expenses)	
Festival/Gaming	\$ 59,481
Secure Our Future/Day of Giving Campaign/Other Gaming	\$ 3,924
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Diocesan Collections - Represents 6 yearly and any special collections	\$ 6,329
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Interest Earned - Checking acct, Savings acct, CD's, etc.	\$ 45
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DPAA Rebates	\$ 28,350
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Specified/Restricted Funds/Bequests/Insurance Refunds	\$ 8,437
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TOTAL ORDINARY INCOME	\$ 532,802

EXPENSES

Pastoral Service – Salaries, supplies, equipment	\$ 39,201
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Worship - Salaries, supplies, equipment, music	\$ 14,397
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Religious Education – Salaries, supplies	\$ 4,155
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School - Teachers/Administrative and support salaries, preschool, supplies, cafeteria	\$ 306,836
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Christian Service & Outreach -- Bereavement, R.C.I.A., Faith Formation	\$ 0
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Rectory - Salaries, supplies, equipment	\$ 928
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Youth - Salaries, supplies, equipment	\$ 0
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Parish Plant and Maintenance	
Salaries, utilities, insurance, repairs (church expense)	\$ 18,451
Salaries, utilities, insurance, repairs (school expense)	\$ 44,727
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Diocesan Collections - Represents 6 yearly and any special collections	\$ 6,329
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Diocesan and Secondary School Assessment	
Money paid to Diocese based on <u>parish income</u> (church expense)	\$ 22,042
Money paid to Diocese based on <u>tuition income</u> (school expense)	\$ 19,921
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Other –Capital expenses (including depreciation) and Specified Donation Expenses	\$ 34,364
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TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 511,171

—Net Income before Extraordinary Income/Expense \$21,631—

EXTRAORDINARY INCOME:	
COVID-19 Donations/Stipends/Grants/EANS Reimbursements	\$ 109,238
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EXTRAORDINARY EXPENSES:	
COVID-19 Expenses	\$ 109,238

—Net Income after Extraordinary Income/Expense \$21,631—

St. Paul Families for Life

By Marla Kelly

St. Joseph, defender of Life,
pray for us



40 DAYS FOR LIFE FALL CAMPAIGN: A LIFE SAVED IN CINCINNATI

Another 40 Days for Life campaign is in the books and we know of 588 babies saved from abortion--with reports continuing to come in! Also recently, in the western United States, the 223rd abortion worker quit her job with the support and encouragement of the local 40 Days for Life team. (from *40 Days for Life*)

One of these babies was saved at the Cincinnati Planned Parenthood (PP). When we arrived at PP, there were a couple others there, one being a Sidewalk Advocate. We began to pray our rosary, walking back and forth in front of the facility. At one point, a car stopped and a woman got out and headed towards the opened gate. The advocate was able to stop and talk with her for about 5 minutes. Looking up from my prayers, I saw her walking to the entrance in the back of the facility. That was sad and I stepped up my prayers. It did not seem to be much later when I looked up and again saw the woman was back and talking with the advocate. I was able to get the attention of one of the people standing by them and he told me the woman had decided not to get an abortion. It was a wonderful feeling. We both stood there and praised God. The group called for an Uber driver to take her to the local pregnancy center. Once she left, the young man and woman there decided to go to the center to make sure she would be okay. For several days after I got home, I shared with everyone I could. It was the first-time for me and I thank God for the wonderful experience.

BITS OF NEWS:

MARCH FOR LIFE – EQUALITY BEGINS IN THE WOMB

The March for Life in Washington, DC is scheduled for Friday, January 21, 2022. The rally begins at 12:00 p.m. on the National Mall, followed immediately by the march, usually around 1:00. This year, our diocese is planning on flying to Washington. Direct flight leaves on 1/20 at noon arriving in DC at 1:30, one night at the hotel and return flight on 1/21 leaves DC at 7:10 p.m.-arrives in Cincinnati 8:50 p.m. Approximate cost for double room is \$375-\$400 per person. For more information, contact the Diocese Pro-Life Office.

MISSING ALEXIS - Since 2008, the Missing Alexis Foundation has prided itself on community outreach to families who have experienced the loss of a baby, and those who support them. From delivering memory boxes, hosting the monthly HEARTS support group, sponsoring the annual NKY Walk to Remember, and the annual Angel Ball Gala, they are deeply committed to promoting pregnancy and infant loss awareness, and serving grieving families right here in our own community. Check out their site at <https://missingalexis.org/>.

“WOMAN HEALTH PROTECTION ACT” - The House of Representatives voted to pass the most radical abortion bill ever. The so-called Women’s Health Protection Act, H.R. 3755 would:

- Allow abortion on demand nationwide throughout EVERY STAGE of pregnancy
- BAN pro-life laws in every state and local government
- Force Americans to support abortions with their tax dollars
- Likely eliminate conscience protections for doctors—among other extreme actions

Please contact your Senator strongly urging them to vote against the Senate version of this bill, S. 1975.

DOBBS V. JACKSON WOMEN'S HEALTH - On December 1, the Supreme Court will hear arguments for *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health*, the case that could overturn *Roe v. Wade*. This case is our best chance to reverse *Roe* in decades! Please continue to pray for the Holy Spirit to enlighten and guide the Justices in making the decision to respect and protect life.

May you and your family have a
Merry Christmas and
Blessed Holiday Season



THANK YOU!!!

Have you noticed our new lane dismissal signs? Special thanks to Stan Hellmann for designing and making these state of the art signs! Special thanks to Mrs. Turvey and her 8th grade class for painting the bases and adding the Panther paws!



St. Vincent de Paul News

By Claudia Diehl

What do Vincentians do?

There is no set rule for what we do but below are some typical examples. Spirituality, friendship and service are part of our membership. Opportunities are provided for spiritual growth and formation as well as training to help us reach our fullest potential. Training helps us develop the practical skills and knowledge needed in order to be effective. Training and formation are essential for healthy conferences. When ready, we pair our newest members with an experienced member to visit our neighbors in need and provide direct service, most often through visiting people in their homes. Other members help collect food and keep our pantry in order, help with Thanksgiving and Christmas meals and help with the Giving Tree.

If this sounds interesting and something you want to find out more about, you are welcome to attend our next meeting on Saturday, December 11 in the Parish Center (under the church) at 9:00 a.m.

We visit neighbors who find themselves in a financial crisis and go to a payday loan store thinking this will get them by in the short run. Most often, they find themselves enslaved to this monthly transaction due to the astronomical fees and interest. We try to help them get out of these situations by offering financial assistance or referring them to our microloan program. We also have clients who purchase cars at used car lots that do the same thing. They pay far more than the car is worth and the interest and car payments are shocking. We visited a couple who live on Social Security after they purchased an older car and secured car payments of \$540 monthly. They still had 3 years to pay on the car. We suggested that they give the car back and, then, apply for a low interest microloan to purchase another car. They are still struggling with this idea because they do not want to be without a car. Say a prayer for all those who are victims of the businesses that take advantage of people in desperate situations.

SVDP TREASURER REPORT FOR SEPTEMBER 2021

- 41 calls serving 78 people and 83 hours of Vincentians' time
- Conference-funded Aid: \$9,108 (\$7653 for rent, \$876 for utilities, \$400 for medical, \$120 for food, and \$60 for bed)
- In-Kind Goods: \$1,930 (\$650 pantry food, \$840 furniture vouchers, \$330 clothing vouchers, \$110 other household vouchers)
- Total Receipts/Income: \$4,284.27

SVDP TREASURER REPORT FOR OCTOBER 2021

- 34 calls serving 68 people and 156 hours of Vincentians' time
- Conference-funded Aid: \$5,192 (\$1,974 for rent, \$2,132 for utilities, \$768 for food, and \$318 for transportation)
- In-Kind Goods: \$3,055 (\$720 pantry food, \$505 furniture vouchers, \$170 clothing vouchers, \$135 other household vouchers, \$1,525 SVDP Holiday programs)
- Total Receipts/Income: \$4,296



BAPTISMS

- Hudson Lee Montgomery
Son of Travis and Brooke Warning-Montgomery
- Kaylee Rose Hedrick
Daughter of Charles and Kimberly Hedrick
- Henry Sebastian Hedrick
Son of Charles and Kimberly Hedrick

DEATHS

- William James Geers (October 24)



A special thank you to the members of the new 2021 St. Jude's Crew - Bill Stevie, Stan Hellman, Jack Cahil, Gil

Folz and Bernie Luebbers- for their efforts and expertise installing 10 new, large, heavy duty, dry erase whiteboards in 5 school



classrooms. Replaced were several damaged or outdated chalkboards.

In another project, Bill Stevie was able to squeeze into the church ventilation system to free a stuck damper that helped control church temperature. His gallant efforts greatly improved the operating system of the church boiler. The St. Jude's Crew saved the school a significant cost by not having to hire contractors. Anyone interested in joining the group for future projects around church and school, please contact John Gedney at 859-638-2197.





SAINT PAUL PARISH
MAKING & STRENGTHENING CHRISTIANS

P.O. Box 366
Florence KY 41022

Change Service Requested

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



MERRY
Christmas



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