



THE LINK

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

stpaulnky.org

ST. PAUL CHURCH IN FLORENCE, KY

JANUARY 2022

Welcome.
There is **More to Life**

On November 13 and 14, twenty-five men, including Fr. Jason Bertke, participated in the first WELCOME/Christ Renews His Parish weekend in 30 years at St. Paul Catholic Church. The event featured nine men sharing their witness to the presence of God in their lives, small group discussions, prayer, music, rosary, reconciliation and the Eucharist at Mass. The Holy Spirit was alive in all who attended.



The Men of the Welcome 2019 Group would like to thank all those involved in our Welcome Weekend. First, Fr. Jason for his help and for allowing us to put the weekend together.

Our Donors:

- The Boosters for their generous monetary donation.
- Chick-fil-A for our lunch Saturday.
- Cindy Carris and Cathy Lubbers of the Mary Rose Mission for our supper Saturday evening.
- Mary Ann Knaley and the ladies of the Over the Hill Group for the side dishes, desserts and snacks that maintained us throughout the days.
- Terry Kidwell and the Knights of Columbus for our delicious breakfast Sunday morning.
- Piper Pizza for the great lunch provided Sunday.

Our Volunteer Help Who Served Meals and Breaks:

Mary Ann Knaley, Paulene Stambaugh, Kathy Teton, Elise, Claire and Kyla Monahan, Barbra Seiter, Cathy Schuler and Cheryl Piper.

Also, thank you to Bernie Lubbers for organizing the Men's Retreat.

Thanks again for all that was done for us,

- *The 2019 Welcome Group*

One Family's Experience with St. Paul School *By Laurie and Bryan Bailey*

My husband and I stumbled upon St. Paul by accident. We were searching for a school that would allow two working parents to keep drop off and pick up easy for our two young children. When the day care director heard about our transportation needs, she informed us of an open house for St. Paul that was happening that evening and the school was across the street from the day care. Although I was raised Catholic, my husband was not, and attending a Catholic school would not have been our first choice.

When we walked into the open house, we were greeted by several warm and friendly teachers. The principal of the school invited us to the office to discuss our educational wishes and desires for our soon-to-be first grader. My husband and I could not believe that the principal had taken so much time to get to know us and our child while still explaining the nuts and bolts of an education at St. Paul. While walking to our car afterwards, we both noted that it just felt like home and knew that there was no need to look at any other schools. We turned our registration paperwork in the next day. Since then we have had two daughters graduate from St. Paul and move on to Saint Henry District High School. Our third daughter started in the Preschool and is now in the third grade.

Our children have excelled academically. They were both well prepared for high school and had no trouble transitioning to the rigor of high school. Our children had excellent teachers at St. Paul that understood how to push each to excel while fostering creativity and a love for life-long learning. The teachers really got to know our kids both academically and personally.

In addition to academics, St. Paul provided a rich environment for our kids to participate in many activities that they may not have tried in a larger environment. They were able to participate in many athletic teams (volleyball, basketball, and archery), academic teams, science competitions, and drama/music productions. Because of the small size of the school, everyone was encouraged to participate in all activities thereby encouraging the kids to try new things and discover their niche.

Our kids have developed a strong sense of personal responsibility for serving the needs of others. We are not Catholic, but are Christian, and the strong foundation of faith that St. Paul provides allows our kids to embody the commandments to love God and love people. Our children are excited to belong to service organizations and find



St. Paul Catholic School
Open House
Sunday, January 30
1:00-4:00 p.m. by appointment
For new families interested in Preschool to 8th Grade for the 2022-23 school year

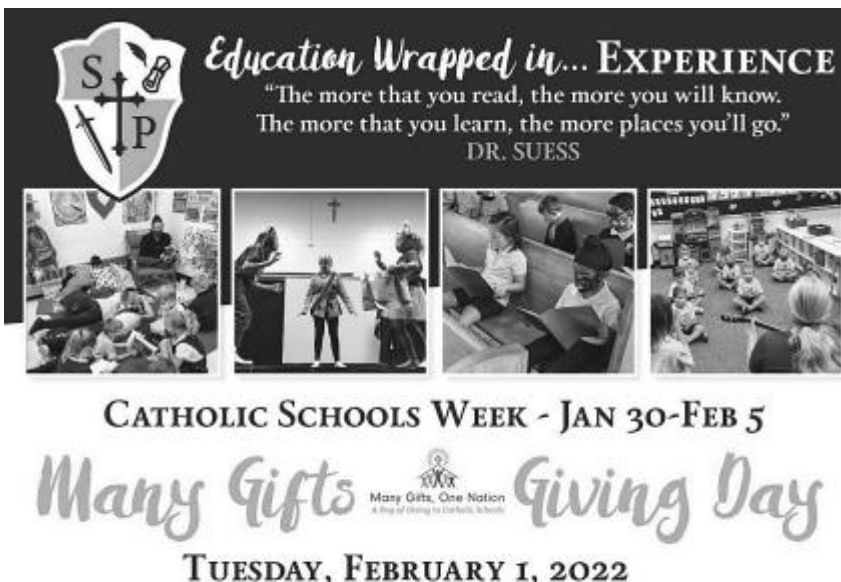
Tour the school, meet the teachers and learn about each grade level

Registration for specific times required with appointments beginning at 1:00 p.m. All Covid-19 safety protocols followed.

Register by January 27 at 859-647-4070 or stpaul1@stpaulnky.org.

opportunities to serve others and give back to their community because this type of behavior was encouraged at St. Paul.

Finally, there is a strong sense of community at the school. Neither my husband nor I grew up in the Greater Cincinnati area, and the St. Paul community quickly made us one of their own. Parents are encouraged to volunteer and get involved in fun activities that support the school and the students. Our best friends are the parents of kids from St. Paul that we met at athletic games, social events, fundraisers, and volunteering. St. Paul doesn't require participation, but we wanted to be part of the energy, the connectedness, and the family of St. Paul. So, although we may have stumbled upon St. Paul by accident, we are glad that we landed there and would choose it again if given the chance.



Education Wrapped in... EXPERIENCE
"The more that you read, the more you will know.
The more that you learn, the more places you'll go."
DR. SUESS

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK - JAN 30-FEB 5
Many Gifts Giving Day
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 2022

Visit the "Many Gifts" link on 2/1/22 - factsmgtdadmin.com/give/appeal/kG6jriB7Y

STUDENT TEACHER RATIO



21:1



St. Paul Parish **147** years old

St. Paul School **97** years old

FACULTY & STAFF

Over **211** years invested at St. Paul School

92% K-8 have a Master's degree or higher

89% female  **11%** male 

MAP SCORES



59% of our median scores are higher than the mean scores in the Diocese.

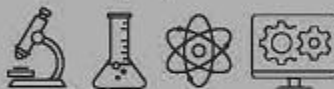
8th Grade Science Fair participants have excelled at state and local level.

DUKE TIP INVITEES

STEM LAB

NGSS Curriculum Standards

- Multi-touch flat screen
- Hovercast center stage & pilot
- 3D printer



HIGH SCHOOL PREPARATORY SCHOOL

Catholic high schools say our students are academically prepared and good stewards of their faith. We have produced multiple Governor Scholars and Valedictorians.

75% of 2020 graduates achieved Diocese high school Honor Roll

CELEBRATION OF MASS & SACRAMENTS

- * Weekly Mass
- * Monthly Adoration
- * Sacrament Preparation



83% of 2020 graduating class attend catholic high school



SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES



- St. Vincent de Paul Food Drive
- Mary Rose Mission Service Hours
- Sponsor a child in Guatemala
- Buddy Program for First grade
- Giving Tree



**NATIONAL BLUE
RIBBON SCHOOL**

**ST. PAUL PRESCHOOL VOTED
2020 BEST OF NKY**

EXTRACURRICULAR PROGRAMS

ART CLUB
ACADEMIC TEAM
STUDENT COUNCIL

ARCHERY
CROSS COUNTRY
BASKETBALL

MIDDLE SCHOOL BAND
VOLLEYBALL
GOLF

St. Paul School focuses on the academic, moral and social-emotional development of each child. Literature shows that academic, attention to task and social-emotional skills, in the elementary years, contribute to academic success in young adulthood.



By Deacon Scott Folz

Happy 2022! Welcome to the New Year! January 1st always brings a sentiment of a fresh start, a new beginning, a chance to turn over a new leaf. History tells us the Babylonians made promises to the gods in hopes they'd earn good favor in the coming year and often resolved to get out of debt and return any borrowed objects. (Pruitt S. 12/21/2020 <https://www.history.com/news/the-history-of-new-years-resolutions>)

We Catholics are also bound to the calendar in many ways. The liturgical year is well defined. The seasons are clearly marked between Advent, Christmas, Lent, Easter and Ordinary Time. The scripture readings for Mass are divided into a three-year cycle for Sundays and a two-year cycle for daily Mass.

Our Rosary devotionals are identified by the days of the week; The Glorious Mysteries on Sundays and Wednesdays, the Joyful Mysteries on Mondays and Saturdays, the Sorrowful Mysteries on Tuesdays and Fridays and the Luminous Mysteries on Thursdays.

Each day of the week brings a special remembrance for personal devotions; Sundays – the Trinity, Mondays – the Angels; Tuesdays – the Apostles; Wednesdays – St. Joseph; Thursdays – Priests; Fridays – His Passion; Saturdays – The Virgin Mary.

Even our months are guided by Special Devotions: January – the Holy Name of Jesus; February – the Holy Family; March – St. Joseph; April – the Eucharist & the Holy Spirit; May – the Blessed Virgin Mary; June – the Sacred Heart of Jesus; July – the Precious Blood of Our Lord; August – the Blessed Sacrament; September – the Seven Sorrows of Mary; October – the Holy Rosary; November – Poor Souls in Purgatory; December – Advent & the Coming of Jesus.

Every day we are encouraged to begin with morning prayer. This is a reminder for us to keep God in our lives from the moment we open our eyes and get out of bed. We praise God for His wonderful creation. We thank God for His gifts to us. And we petition God for our needs.

This, to me, is the key to a New Year's resolution: keep God in our thoughts, in our hearts and in our needs. And we have that opportunity every day, each morning as we begin our day. Everything we do, we do one day at a time, one hour at a time, one minute at a time.

When we encounter challenges in or address areas of our lives that we need to improve, we resolve to do better. We can resolve to do better at the beginning of the year, the month, the week, and especially the day. We resolve to listen more, eat less, drink less, volunteer more, spend less, save more. And when we begin with God, when we include Him on this journey of self-improvement, the efforts are easier and more successful; God makes all things better.

Beginning the New Year is exciting because it represents a fresh start, a change to begin again anew, the desire to make things better.

Maybe, if we treat each new day the same way, we can better keep God in our lives and begin anew.

Happy New Day!

Church Improvement Updates *By Judine Hooker, Business Manager*

A few months ago, the Elmlinger family approached St. Paul about using the memorial funds for Steve Elmlinger to elevate the Tabernacle. Trinity Church Supplies will be completing the project and the marble is being cut now. The latest they expect to complete the project is January 2022.

To further enhance the sound quality in the church, St. Paul consulted with American Sound & Electronics Inc. about updating the sound system. Their recommendations include updating the speakers to a digital system which would allow consistent sound pressure throughout the church, new wireless microphones and Listen Technologies, a hearing impairment system that is loop designed. Targeted installation is April 2022. The sound system quote comes in at \$30,000. Thanks to the Knights of Columbus and other additional funds, the parish is halfway to this goal. If you'd like to contribute toward the new sound system for the Church, please include a note with your donation. Checks should be made out to St. Paul Church and please note in the memo section "Church Sound System."

EANS 2 – St. Paul School has been awarded \$603,541! *By Joanne Nesmith, Principal*

In the spring of 2021, St. Paul School applied for and received funding through the Emergency Assistance to Non-Public Schools (EANS) grant. The amount of the award was \$198,000 and all items purchased were shared with our families via the school newsletter and The Link.

In the fall of 2021, we learned the federal government was releasing a second round of funding to non-public schools, with the title EANS 2. At the first webinar, it was announced that, in order to qualify, a non-public school had to showcase a 20% poverty rate as evidenced by their free and reduced lunch numbers. Since St. Paul School does not meet that threshold, I realized that we would not qualify for this second round of funding. At a second webinar on November 18, some principals expressed concern that the established qualifier meant fewer non-public schools would qualify for the second round of funding. Listening to our concerns, the Kentucky Department of Education (KDE) sent a follow-up email on Friday, November 19, announcing another avenue to try and reach the 20% poverty rate threshold. To determine the percentage, the addresses of all students who attended St. Paul School during 2019-2020 were aligned with the public school they would have attended if not enrolled at St. Paul School. If that public school was a Title 1 school, our student counted toward the poverty threshold percentage at the same percentage rate as the public school they would have attended. By the time all student addresses were matched up to the designated public school, St. Paul exceeded the threshold of 20%, reaching 28%, making us eligible to apply for the second round of EANS funding! The intent to participate was due by midnight on Monday, November 22 – St. Paul School submitted our intent to participate at 3:30 p.m. on that date.

On Tuesday, November 30, St. Paul School was notified by KDE that the data submission did qualify for participation in EANS 2 funding. Due to the fewer number of schools who submitted applications and due to the decreased number of schools who qualified, St. Paul School was awarded \$603,541!! With that good news in hand, we were notified that our draft budget, aligning with the guidelines of the grant, had to be submitted by Tuesday, December 7 at 5:00 p.m.

Anticipating that we were going to qualify for the second round of funding, we had generated some ideas and some quotes. However, in no way did we ever think we would be awarded that large sum of money!

After consultations with the teachers and staff members, other principals in the area who qualified for the second round of funding, and reviewing EANS 1 budget submissions from many schools across the Diocese, we were able to submit a draft budget by Tuesday's deadline. KDE must review our proposed budget items and will notify us by mid-January what items have been approved for purchase. From that point, St. Paul School will work in conjunction with KDE to purchase the items and secure the services on the proposal. Once we get official word on the items approved, we will be sure to share those details with our school and parish families.

This is an exciting time to be a Panther! If you have any questions about this process or the status of our application, please feel free to contact me at jnesmith@stpaulnky.org.

St. Paul Families for Life

By Marla Kelly

St. Joseph, defender of Life,
pray for us



MARCH FOR LIFE – EQUALITY BEGINS IN THE WOMB

The 49th Annual March for Life in Washington, DC is scheduled for Friday, January 21, 2022. The rally begins at 12:00 pm on the National Mall, followed immediately by the march, usually around 1:00, to the Supreme Court building. The event will be televised on EWTN.

NATIONAL PRAYER VIGIL FOR LIFE: JANUARY 20-21, 2022

The National Prayer Vigil for Life is one small part of the Church's "great prayer for life." It is sponsored by the USCCB Pro-Life Secretariat, the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception, and The Catholic University of America Office of Campus Ministry.

It is an all-night pro-life prayer vigil held on the eve of the March for Life each January at the Basilica in Washington, D.C. The vigil includes the Opening Mass followed by prayers that continue throughout the night with the National Rosary for Life, Night Prayer and Holy Hours for Life. The following morning, the prayer vigil concludes with Morning Prayer, Benediction and the Closing Mass. It is lived streamed on the website (www.usccb.org/national-prayer-events-for-life) and carried on EWTN.

JANUARY 22, DAY OF PRAYER FOR THE LEGAL PROTECTION OF UNBORN CHILDREN

In all the Dioceses of the United States of America, January 22 (or January 23, when January 22 falls on a Sunday) shall be observed as a particular day of prayer for the full restoration of the legal guarantee of the right to life and of penance for violations to the dignity of the human person committed through acts of abortion. (General Instruction of the Roman Missal (GIRM), no. 373)

9 DAYS FOR LIFE NOVENA

The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops invites you to join with them in praying this novena for the protection of human life. The novena begins Wednesday, January 19, 2022 through January 27. You can sign up to receive a daily intention, prayers, short reflection and suggested actions each day of the novena. Go to www.9daysforlife.com and enter your email address. You can also download the entire

novena. Join today as together we pray for the respect and protection of every human life.

BITS OF NEWS:

On December 10, The United States Supreme Court rejected the Biden Administration's challenge to the **Texas Heartbeat Act**, which requires abortionists to screen for a preborn baby's heartbeat and prohibits abortion if a heartbeat can be heard (generally as early as six weeks), with exceptions only for medical emergencies. This ruling allows for the law to remain in effect during the state level lawsuits.

All above information was provide through the *United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, Washington, D.C. All rights reserved.*

St. Paul Giving Tree

Thank you to all who made this event successful, and a blessed Christmas for our friends in need this year! St. Paul School students added to provide extra joy to the children, who have extra special gifts to open, thanks to their giving hearts!



Our Church Family

NEW PARISHIONERS

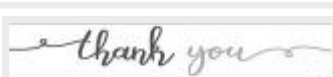
Kathy Davis
Justin and Erin Baynum
Julie Lafferty
Jason and Lisa Tippet and Family

DEATHS

Mary Jane Thomson (November 11)
Joan Donoghue (November 27)
Joseph Hicks (November 28)
Lois Glindmeyer (November 23)
Kenneth Schmitt (December 1)
Lona Friedman (December 8)

BAPTISMS

Jack Michael Joseph Lauer Jr.
Son of Jack Lauber and Sarah Pottorf
Zaiyah Graham
Daughter of Demetrius and Cheyanne Graham
Theodore James Linnstaedter
Son of Travis and Jennifer Linnstaedter
Maria Anne Bogenschutz
Daughter of Mark and Christina Bogenschutz



I wanted to send a huge Thank You for the donated vacuum cleaner!! It is greatly appreciated and will be put to good use! Thank you!!

- Ruby Hart, St. Paul School



St. Vincent de Paul News

By Claudia Diehl

TREASURER'S ANNUAL REPORT FOR YEAR ENDED SEPT. 30, 2021

Total receipts \$87,532

(Donations \$55,019, Fundraising \$2,809, Twinning from Council/other SVDP \$29,614)

Total Direct Aid \$88,770

(Rent \$55,720, Utilities \$22,111, Food \$2,920, Temporary Lodging \$2,744, Transportation \$2,513, Twinning to other Conferences \$1,350, Medical \$400, Clothing \$242, Operating Expenses \$144, Miscellaneous \$626)

In Kind Goods \$37,377

(Food from our pantry \$9,412, Furniture from SVDP stores \$11,615, Clothing from SVDP stores \$4,000, Other household items and Giving Tree \$12,350)

The past year shows God's grace to provide for our needs in the most trying of times. The pandemic continues to cause great stress on families. The impacts of being quarantined and disrupting paychecks have caused many families to struggle in making budgets work. Our greatest request is for rent and utility assistance. St. Vincent de Paul is one of the few organizations that assist with these needs. We have been blessed with the success of the St. Vincent de Paul stores through their sales as well as by the generosity shown to us by our parishioners and donors to the Council.

The past 2 years, we changed significantly in membership and area of coverage. Due to retirements, several members passing away, and the increased call volume brought on by the pandemic the area we cover was reduced to help us manage the need. St. Timothy conference and St. Barbara conference stepped up and took some of the previous St. Paul conference area after realizing the volume of calls we received. This re-alignment, and the recruitment of new members, has helped us manage the current needs of our neighbors. We want to invite you to join us at our meetings held the 2nd Saturday of each month at 9:00 a.m. in the Parish Center under the church. Come learn and experience what we do to answer the call to "Love thy neighbor." Feel free to contact us at stpaulconfsvdp@gmail.com for more information.

Our sincere thanks and gratitude to our parishioners who have always been here to support us.

St. Paul Conference

Society of St. Vincent de Paul



What To Watch on Formed.org

By Father Jason Bertke

Please take advantage of our parish subscription to [formed.org](https://www.formed.org). If you haven't set up an account, please do so. There are a number of programs that will help you to grow in faith. You will find bible studies, movies, original programs, children's programs, talks, and books. If you have trouble deciding what to watch, please consider the following recommendations (Note: The movies on this list are quite long. You might want to watch them in parts):

- *Padre Pio Miracle Man* – This is an excellent film about the great saint of the 20th century. Padre Pio was blessed with many supernatural gifts (bilocation, the stigmata, reading souls, and many miracles were worked through him).
- *Saint Rita* – St. Rita is another great saint of the Church. She was born in 1381. St. Rita of Cascia received the partial stigmata – a wound on her forehead that corresponds to Jesus' crown of thorns. Her body remains incorrupt to this day. She is the patron of impossible causes and marital problems and, if you watch this movie, you will see why.
- *St. Guiseppe Moscati: Doctor to the Poor* – This is a movie about a saint that many are probably unfamiliar with. St. Guiseppe Moscati was a doctor who tirelessly worked for the poor in Naples in the early 20th century. It should be noted that this movie is in Italian with English subtitles.
- *The Search* – This is an original series from Formed that deals with the importance of faith in our lives. There is a longing in the human heart that only God can fulfill. This series does an excellent job of driving this point home.
- *Presence* – This is another original series that deals with the source and summit of our faith – the Eucharist. It is a must watch.
- *Our Lady of Good Success* – There is also a talk about Our Lady of Good Success given by Matthew Arnold. The Blessed Virgin Mary appeared to Mother Mariana de Jesus Torres in Quito Ecuador in the early 17th century. This apparition is approved by the Church and is very important for our times. Our Lady prophesied about the second half on the 20th century and the various problems that we would face, both in the world and in the Church. It is very chilling to hear these prophecies that we were warned about centuries in advance. But there is good news. The Blessed Virgin promises that the Church will be purified and restored. Do yourself a favor and listen to this talk.



SAINT PAUL PARISH
MAKING & STRENGTHENING CHRISTIANS

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Florence KY 41022

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PAID
Florence, Kentucky
Permit #9



St. Paul Catholic School *Open House*

Sunday, January 30

1:00-4:00 p.m. by appointment

For new families interested in Preschool to
8th Grade for the 2022-23 school year



Tour the school, meet the teachers and learn about each grade level!

Registration for specific times required with appointments beginning at 1:00 p.m. All Covid-19 safety protocols followed.

Register by January 27
at 859-647-4070 or
stpaul1@stpaulnky.org.



- St. Paul Preschool Voted 2020 Best of NKY

7303 Dixie Highway, Florence, Kentucky 41042
stpaulnky.org/school | stpaul1@stpaulnky.org | 859-647-4070

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