

Welcome to St. Paul Parish

To register and become a member of St. Paul: Please fill out the registration form online at: stpaulnky.org or call the Parish Office at 859-371-8051.

 \$7301 Dixie Highway, Florence Ky. 41042-2126
\$ Mailing Address: P.O. Box 366, Florence Ky. 41022
\$ www.stpaulnky.org
\$ stpaul@stpaulnky.org
\$ Phone: 859-371-8051
\$ Office Hours: Monday—Thursday 9:30AM-2:30PM
\$ Weekly Bulletin Deadline: Every Tuesday, 9:30AM—send to stpaul@stpaulnky.org

Online Giving: saintpaulflorence.weshareonline.org

Parish Clergy

Pastor: Rev. Fr. Jason Bertke Deacon: Rev. Mr. Nicholas J. Schwartz Deacon: Rev. Mr. Thomas Kathman Deacon: Rev. Mr. Scott Folz

PARISH SCHEDULE

<u>Monday, January 3</u> Mass 8:15AM: JACK ZIEGLER Communal Rosary 8:45AM– Church

Tuesday, January 4

Mass 8:15AM: CHUCK MACHOCK Communal Rosary 8:45AM– Church Walking With Purpose 9:15AM—PC 171 Walking With Purpose 6:30PM—PC 171 RCIA 7PM—PC 173

<u>Wednesday, January 5</u> Mass 8:15AM: JOE CAMPBELL Communal Rosary 8:45AM– Church

<u>Thursday, January 6</u> Mass 8:15AM: ALL SOULS Communal Rosary 8:45AM– Church Holy Hour 6PM—Church

<u>Friday, January 7</u>

Mass 8:15AM: BERNIE LUNNEMANN Communal Rosary 8:45AM– Church Exposition/Blessed Sacrament 9:15AM-12PM

<u>Saturday, January 8</u>

Mass 8:15AM: STEVE ELMLINGER St. Vincent de Paul Meeting 9AM –PC 171 Confessions 3:30-4:30PM—Church Mass 5PM: VIVIAN SWEGMAN

<u>Sunday, January 9</u>

Mass 9AM: FOR THE PEOPLE OF OUR PARISH Adult Choir Practice 10AM—Choir Loft Mass 11AM: RITA RALEY

January 2, 2022 The Epiphany of the Lord

Introductory Rites

During these initial ritual moments, the assembly becomes one in mind, heart, and voice in the worship of the Eternal Triune God.

The Procession and Entrance Hymn

The ministers, Deacon and Priest enter the church. The assembly turns and watches with expectancy as the Word of God enters. When the Deacon and Priest reach the sanctuary, they make a profound reverence toward the tabernacle out of respect and reverence for the sacramental presence of the Lord contained therein. Then, they approach the altar of sacrifice and kiss it, for it is a symbol of Christ himself.

Sign of the Cross

To make the sign of the cross, use your right hand and as the priest says "In the name of the Father," touch your fingertips to your forehead. Then as he says "and of the Son," touch your fingertips of your right hand to the middle of your chest near your heart. Lastly, as he says, "and of the Holy," touch your fingertips to your left shoulder and as he says "Spirit," to your right shoulder. In this manner, we mark ourselves with the sign of the cross upon which our Savior Jesus Christ saved us, we also become more consciously aware that we are in the presence of the Eternal Triune God.

Greeting

The priest greets those assembled using a greeting which echoes the greetings used in Jewish prayer and in the Pauline letters.

Penitential Act

To prepare ourselves to celebrate the sacred mysteries of Jesus Christ and the salvation he gives us, we recall our sins and pray for God's forgiveness to be granted to each and all of us. At times, the litany "Lord have mercy" is prayed in the ancient Greek form "Kyrie, eleison," linking us to our ancestors in faith and reminding ourselves of the universality of God's mercy and of our faith.



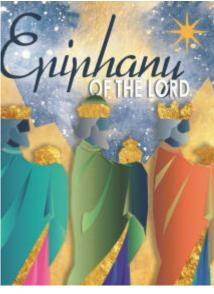
In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. And with your Spirit.

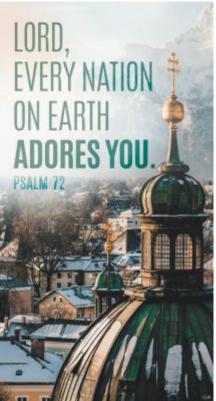
Brothers and sisters, let us acknowledge our sins, and so prepare ourselves to celebrate the sacred mysteries.

- ... Kyrie eleison (Lord have Mercy)
- Christe eleison (Christ have Mercy)
- Kyrie eleison (Lord have Mercy)
- Kyrie eleison (Lord have Mercy). Christe eleison (Christ have Mercy). Kyrie eleison (Lord have Mercy).

May Almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us our sins, and bring us to everlasting life. **Amen.**







Collect

The priest says "Let us pray" and a brief silence is observed so that all may become more conscious of being in God's presence and allowing each one time to call to mind the intentions each has brought to this holy liturgy. Then, the priest gathering, as it were, all the intentions, offers the collect of the day.

Let us pray.

O God, who on this day revealed your Only Begotten Son to the nations by the guidance of a star, grant in your mercy, that we, who know you already by faith, may be brought to behold the beauty of your sublime glory. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Liturgy of the Word

This is the first of the two major parts of the Mass, Divine Lituray or Eucharistic Liturgy. It is during this part of the celebration that the proclamation of the Word of God takes place. The readings for the Sunday Mass are structured in a three year cycle. Thus the vast majority of the entire Bible is proclaimed to the Sunday assembly every three years.

First Reading

The first reading normally comes from the Old Testament and is thematically paired to the Gospel proclaimed on the same day.

Responsorial Psalm

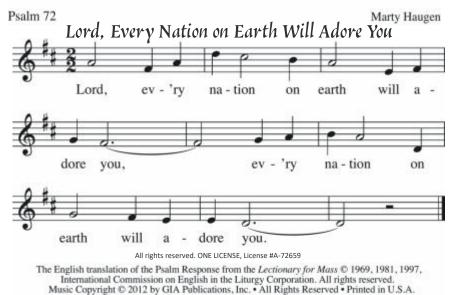
Having heard of God's deeds in the proclamation of the first reading, the assembly responds normally by singing one of the psalms.

A reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah

Isaiah 60:1-6

Rise up in splendor, Jerusalem! Your light has come, the glory of the Lord shines upon you. See, darkness covers the earth, and thick clouds cover the peoples; but upon you the LORD shines, and over you appears his glory. Nations shall walk by your light, and kings by your shining radiance. Raise your eyes and look about; they all gather and come to you: your sons come from afar, and your daughters in the arms of their nurses. Then you shall be radiant at what you see, your heart shall throb and overflow, for the riches of the sea shall be emptied out before you, the wealth of nations shall be brought to you. Caravans of camels shall fill you, dromedaries from Midian and Ephah; all from Sheba shall come bearing gold and frankincense, and proclaiming the praises of the LORD. The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.



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A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Ephesians

Ephesians 3:2-3*a*, 5-6

Thanks be to God.

Second Reading

The second reading comes from one of the epistles. These readings are read in a semi-continuous way. This means that a few versus of a given epistle is proclaimed and then stopped. The next Sunday the proclamation continues where the previous Sunday left off.

Gospel Acclamation

Through this acclamation, the assembly welcomes and greets the Lord who speaks to the assembly in the Gospel.

Brothers and sisters: You have heard of the stewardship of God's grace that was given to me for your benefit, namely, that the mystery was made known to me by revelation. It was not made known to people in other generations as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit: that the Gentiles are coheirs, members of the same body, and copartners in the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel.

The word of the Lord.



The Lord be with you. A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

And with your spirit. Glory to you, O Lord. Matthew 2:1-12

When Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, in the days of King Herod, behold, magi from the east arrived in Jerusalem, saying, "Where is the newborn king of the Jews? We saw his star at its rising and have come to do him homage." When King Herod heard this, he was greatly troubled, and all Jerusalem with him. Assembling all the chief priests and the scribes of the people, He inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. They said to him, "In Bethlehem of Judea, for thus it has been written through the prophet: And you, Bethlehem, land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; since from you shall come a ruler, who is to shepherd my people Israel." Then Herod called the magi secretly and ascertained from them the time of the star's appearance. He sent them to Bethlehem and said, "Go and search diligently for the child. When you have found him, bring me word, that I too may go and do him homage." After their audience with the king they set out. And behold, the star that they had seen at its rising preceded them, until it came and stopped over the place where the child was. They were overjoyed at seeing the star, and on entering the house they saw the child with Mary his mother. They prostrated themselves and did him homage. Then they opened their treasures and offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed for their country by another way. The Gospel of the Lord. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Gospel

The Gospel is announced. All take their thumb and trace the cross signing the forehead, mouth and heart, praying as they do so: "May the Word of the Lord be in my mind, on my lips and in my heart." This comes to us from a Jewish custom honoring the scriptures. A section of one of the Gospels is proclaimed and the assembly listens attentively to the voice of the Lord. Across the three year cycle of readings for Sunday Mass, Matthew, Mark or Luke's Gospel is highlighted. John is read in all three years.

(Please be seated)

Homily

The Priest, or from time to time a Deacon, explains and *expounds upon the mystery* laid before the assembly this Sunday.

Profession of Faith

The assembly responds to the Word of God proclaimed with the ancient profession of faith to honor and confess the great mysteries of the faith. Normally the Nicene Creed is prayed which expresses the mysteries and rule of faith and comes from the Ecumenical Council at Nicea in 325 AD and the First Ecumenical Council at Constantinople in 381 AD.

(Prayers of the Faithful or **Bidding Prayers**) The faithful, exercising their baptismal priesthood, offer prayers to God for the Lord hear our prayer. salvation and benefit of all.

....We pray to the Lord.

(Please stand)

I believe in one God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible. I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, the Only Begotten Son of God, born of the Father before all ages. God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father; through him all things were made. For us men and for our salvation he came down from heaven and (Bow) by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary, and became man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate, he suffered death and was buried, and rose again on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead and his kingdom will have no end. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is adored and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church. I The Universal Prayer confess one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

The Liturgy of the Eucharist

This is the second major part of the Mass. A collection is made for the support of the parish and its charitable works. This collection as well as the bread and wine to be offered are brought in procession to the altar. At the Last Supper, Christ instituted the Paschal Sacrifice and banquet, by which the Sacrifice of the Cross is continuously made present in the Church whenever the Priest, representing Christ the Lord, carries out what the Lord himself did and handed over to his disciples to be done in his memory. For Christ took the bread and the chalice, gave thanks, broke the bread and gave it to his disciples saying: Take, eat, this is my body and gave the chalice to his disciples saying: Take, drink, this is my blood. Do this in memory of me. Not a nostalgic remembrance but a dynamic living memorial in the power of God. Such, that, that which is remembered, becomes present to those who are celebrating the sacred mystery of salvation, who is Jesus Christ.

The Prayer Over the Offerings

NEED HEALING?

As the source and summit of our faith, the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass is the greatest wellspring of healing that the Lord Jesus has given us. A Mass designated as 'healing' offers additional specific focus on personal healing. The **Covington Diocese's** Charismatic Renewal, the Mustard Seed Community, now sponsors a First Friday Healing Mass at St Joseph Church, Crescent Springs. All are welcome! Jan 7, 7:00 p.m. Praise music, 7:30 p.m. Mass followed by individual healing prayer.

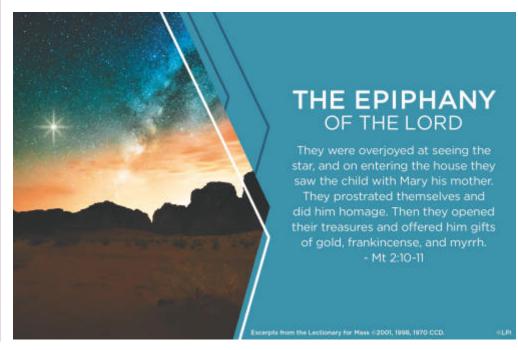


(Please stand)

Pray brethren (or other address of the assembly), that my sacrifice and yours may be acceptable to God, the almighty Father.

May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands for the praise and glory of his name, for our good and the good of all his holy Church.

Look with favor, Lord, we pray, on these gifts of your Church, in which are offered now not gold or frankincense or myrrh, but he who by them is proclaimed, sacrificed and received, Jesus Christ. Who lives and reigns for ever and ever. **Amen.**



The Lord be with you. Lift up your hearts. Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

And with your spirit. We lift them up to the Lord. It is right and just.



At the Savior's command and formed by divine teaching, we dare to say: Our Father, Who art in Heaven, hallowed be Thy name; Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in Heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

Deliver us, Lord, we pray, from every evil, graciously grant peace in our days, that, by the help of your mercy, we may be always free from sin and safe from all distress, as we await the blessed hope and the coming of our Savior, Jesus Christ.

For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours now and forever.

Lord Jesus Christ, who said to your Apostles: Peace I leave you, my peace I give you, look not on our sins, but on the faith of your Church, and graciously grant her peace and unity in accordance with your will. Who live and reign for ever and ever. **Amen.**

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

And with your spirit.

The Eucharistic Prayer

Now the center and high point of the entire celebration begins, the Eucharistic Prayer, the prayer of thanksgiving and sanctification. The Priest offers the prayer in the name of the whole community to God the Father through Jesus Christ in the Holy Spirit.





We are looking for one or two more Eucharistic Ministers for Homebound parishioners. Many of these individuals you have probably seen at Mass over the years, but can no longer attend. This will require one Sunday morning a month visiting 4 to 5 individuals in the Florence area. Training will be provided. You must be vaccinated and must provide your own transportation. This is a wonderful ministry you will enjoy. Please contact Deacon Scott Folz (Scottfolz@gmail.com, 859-283-2422) or Gil Foltz (859-304-0501, gfoltz@fioptics.com) or the Parish Office at 859-371-8051.

PROJECT RACHEL

Help after an abortion experience. projectrachel@covdio.org or (859) 392-1547 All correspondence is confidential.

The Communion Rite

The faithful prepare themselves to receive the presence of the Lord Jesus Christ in Holy Communion. They do this using various prayers and by praying for the coming of the Kingdom in the words Jesus taught.

Agnus Dei

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us. Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us. Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, grant us peace.

2021 WEDDING ANNIVERSARY COUPLES VESPERS CELEBRATION

Bishop John C. Iffert will celebrate Vespers at Cathedral Basilica of the Assumption, Covington, to honor couples who celebrated significant Wedding Anniversaries in 2021. Married couples who celebrated their 1st, 25th, 50th, or 60+ Wedding Anniversary in 2021 are invited to a Vespers celebration on Sunday, February 6, 2022, at 2:00 p.m. Anniversary couples please RSVP by January 11, 2022, at covdio.org/ wedding-vespers/ or contact Lisa Taylor at 859-392-1533 to register. Reservations are only required for Anniversary couples; family members and guests are welcome to attend.



If you or someone you know is curious about becoming Catholic, St. Paul Parish would like to invite you to come explore your questions. Deacon Nick Schwartz is available to meet with you to discuss and answer any questions you might have about what Catholics are all about. It's very informal, and there is no obligation. You can contact Deacon Nick at (859) 371-8051 ext. 240 or nschwartz@stpaulnky.org.

Reception of Holy Communion

Since the celebration of the Eucharist is the Paschal Banquet, it is desirable that in accordance with the Lord's command his Body and Blood should be received as spiritual food by those faithful who are properly disposed.

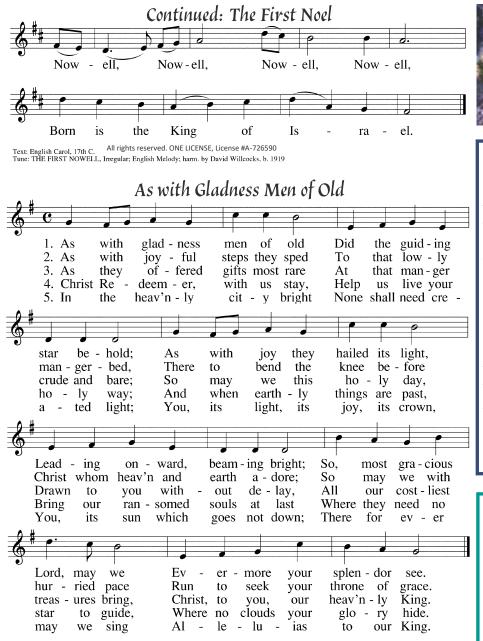


(Please kneel)

Behold the Lamb of God, behold him who takes away the sins of the world. Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb.

Lord, I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof, but only say the word and my soul shall be healed.





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Text: William C. Dix, 1837-1898 Tune: DIX, 77 77 77; arr. from Conrad Kocher, 1786-1872, by William H. Monk, 1823-1889

Go before us with heavenly light, O Lord, always and everywhere, that we may perceive with clear sight and revere with true affection the mystery in which you have willed us to participate. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Lord be with you.

And with your Spirit.

(Please stand)

May almighty God bless you, the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Go in peace glorifying God by your life.

Thanks be to God.

Saint Michael the Archangel, defend us in battle; be our protection against the wickedness and snares of the devil. May God rebuke him, we humbly pray: and do thou, O Prince of the heavenly host, by the power of God, thrust into hell Satan and all the evil spirits who prowl about the world seeking the ruin of souls. Amen.



MORNING OF REFLECTION: WITH FATHER CONOR KUNATH Have you ever wanted to know how to discern God's will in your life? Have you ever wondered if it is possible to learn to be holy? All of this and more will be the topic of a Morning of Reflection on Saturday, January 15, 2022 from 9:30AM - 12:30PM at Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish in Burlington. There will also be Mass, a Holy Hour, and Confessions available to practice what we learn. Whatever your age, sex, or current path - ALL ARE WELCOME! There is absolutely NO CHARGE for this Morning of Reflection, and NO SIGN-UP IS REQUIRED; so, come and be inspired!



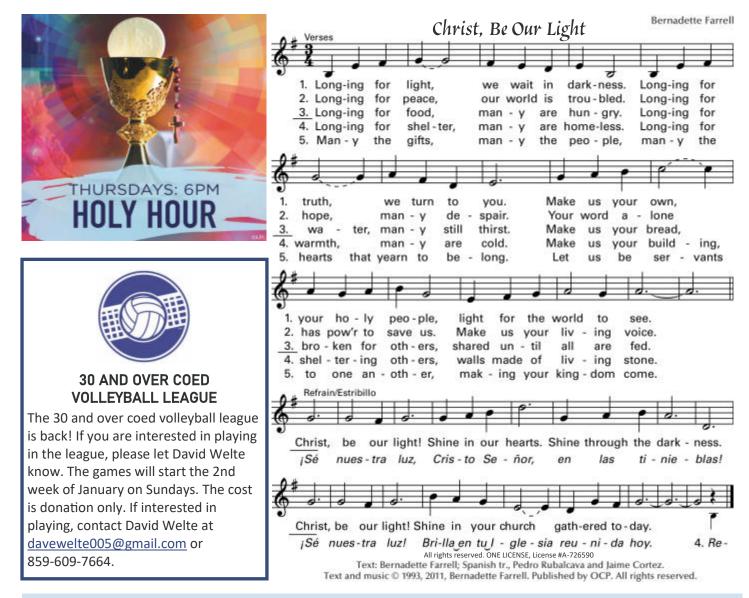
Please offer your sympathy to the family of Mary Ann Thistleton who recently passed away. Eternal rest grant unto her, O Lord, and let your perpetual light shine upon her.

Post Communion Prayer

Concluding Rites

Prayer to St. Michael the Archangel

Bishop Foys has recommended that we pray the Leonine prayer to St. Michael the Archangel at the end of all Masses throughout the Diocese of Covington. "It is apparent that the smoke of Satan has entered the sanctuary," Bishop Foys said. "This prayer which has been prayed since 1886 to obtain help in the battle against the forces of darkness seems exceptionally appropriate at this time in the life of our beloved Church."



ST. PAUL SCHOOL

The week of December 13-17, St. Paul School collected items for the Tornado Relief Efforts. Thank you to everyone for their generosity to help families in Mayfield, Kentucky. The response has been overwhelming. At the time of this bulletin, St. Paul School filled up one classroom with donated items and collected \$1,235 for relief efforts. Special thanks to the 8th graders from Student Council who organized all donations for pick up on Saturday, December 18.





JOIN US FOR WORLD YOUTH DAY AUGUST 1 - 6, 2023 The Diocese of Covington is coordinating a pilgrimage to World Youth Day 2023 in Lisbon, Portugal, for youth and young adults ages 16 and up. Experience the universality of the Catholic Church in the presence of our Holy Father, Pope Francis, alongside millions of young Catholics from around the world. The pilgrimage includes several days spent in service to the local diocese of Lisbon and a day trip to the Sanctuary of Our Lady of Fatima. Our Bishop, John C. Iffert, is hoping to join us along with a few priests from the diocese. The cost is \$3,700 per person and includes roundtrip airfare, transportation, lodging, meals, and tours. Initial payment of \$300 is due by March 31, 2022, with the full amount of \$3,700 paid by Friday, March 31, 2023. If you are interested in attending, leading a group, or making donations to help the youth of our diocese attend this powerful experience, please contact Isaak Abraham Isaak at 859-392-1500, ext. 1529 or iisaak@covdio.org.



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

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. *Provided through the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, Washington, D.C. All rights reserved.*

PRO- LIFE DATES TO REMEMBER:

Provided through the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, Washington, D.C. All rights reserved. January 20 & 21 - National Prayer Vigil for Life is an all-night pro-life prayer vigil. The vigil includes the Opening Mass followed by prayers that continues 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 21 - The 49th Annual March for Life in Washington, DC. 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.

January 22 - Day of Prayer for the Legal Protection of Unborn Children is observed in all the Dioceses of the United States of America. A day of prayer and fasting 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.

CHURCH IMPROVEMENT UPDATES

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, and 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."



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





IT'S SAFE. IT'S SIMPLE. IT'S CONVENIENT.

Support our church today using your debit or credit card or checking or savings account.



Visit your church website and click Give Online.

https://saintpaulflorence.weshareonline.org

Set up your account.



Choose a payment option and customize your donation. Contact our Customer Support Team at weshare@4lpi.com

SCHOOL EMPLOYMENT NEEDS

Our Catholic schools have been impacted by the labor shortage. Schools in the Diocese of Covington are seeking to fill a number of immediate openings. These include classroom teachers, counselors, instructional aides, and substitute teachers. Many positions need to be filled beginning in January through the end of the 2021-22 school year. Visit the "Employment" page on the Diocesan website, under "Teacher Openings" and "School-Related Openings" to view the postings and for information on how to apply: www.covdio.org/schools/ employment

GOD BLESS OUR STEWARDSHIP December 20, 2021 \$11,485.50

COLLECTION	ENV	AMOUNT
Regular Collection	146	8,497.50
Loose		270.00
WeShare	49	2,718.00
Emergency Tornado Relief	37 plus	loose 7,142.10
Christmas	3	175.00
Christmas Flowers	9	265.00
Giving Tree (Addt'l)	3	60.00
Immaculate Conception (Ad	dťl) 1	10.00
Adopt-A-Student	3	40.00
St. Vincent de Paul	10	440.00
Worship Supplies	1	750.00
Specified School Donation	2	3,650.00
Retired Religious	13	710.00
DPAA 2021 Rebate (As of Nov	. 30)	\$56,558.65
DPAA 2021 Pledged (As of No	ov. 30)	\$158,420.00
DPAA 2021 Collected (As of	Nov. 30)	\$143,458.65
DPAA 2021 Goal		\$86,900.00

GOD BLESS OUR STEWARDSHIP December 27, 2021

Due to the holiday, the deadline for the bulletin was early so the contribution statement will be in next week's bulletin.

2023 SYNOD ON SYNODALITY: WHY PARTICIPATE?

Synodality is "journeying together" - a way of living out our faith that involves shared responsibility, listening and speaking to one another, and discernment with the Holy Spirit to address the issues facing our Church today. Why should you participate in the current consultation called for by Pope Francis? Because you are a member of the People of God, the Body of Christ! The People of God share a common dignity and vocation through the Sacrament of Baptism. Every member has received the Holy Spirit and the gifts of the Spirit. The Holy Spirit can speak to you and through you! You have something to say that the Church wants and needs to hear! Continue to look for more information in parish communications or on the diocesan website <u>covdio.org/synod</u> on how to share your experience.



Pope Francis has invited the worldwide Church to participate in preparing for the next meeting of the Synod of Bishops in October 2023. The topic? SYNODALITY

Why should I participate in the Synod consultation?

You should participate because you are a member of the People of God, the Body of Christ! The People of God share a common dignity and vocation through the Sacrament of Baptism. Every member has received the Holy Spirit and the gifts of the Spirit. The Holy Spirit can speak to you and through you! You have something to say that the Church wants and needs to hear!

By reflecting together on our journey so far, we will be able to learn from one another's experiences and perspectives. We listen together to the Word of God in Scripture and the Tradition of the Church. Then by listening to one another and to the Holy Spirit in prayer, we can discern what God has to say to his people about the Church's path forward at this time in human history.

This is an exciting and important opportunity! We hope you will be a part of it!

Look for more information on how to participate in the diocesan *Messenger*, in parish communications, on social media, and on the diocesan website, <u>www.covdio.org/synod</u> (Scan the QR code below).







