



THE LINK

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

stpaulnky.org

ST. PAUL CHURCH IN FLORENCE, KY

MAY 2022

Welcome
FR. ERIC ANDRIOT

Bishop Iffert has appointed Fr. Eric Andriot as Parochial Vicar at St. Paul Parish.

We are excited to have Fr. Andriot join us. Please keep him in your prayers and offer him your support as he joins our parish.



Confirmation Retreat

By Joanne Nesmith, Principal

On Friday, April 1, thirty-eight students from the Religious Education and School programs attended a Confirmation Retreat at Camp River Ridge in Indiana. Mrs. Theresa Buchanan, Religious Education Coordinator, and Mr. Chris Flowers, 8th Grade Religion Teacher, attended the retreat with the students.

The students left school at 9:00 a.m. and returned at 10:00 p.m. To give an accurate account of the impact of the retreat, I decided to ask the students. Here is a sampling of the responses to the questions I asked them:



What Was Your Favorite Part About the Retreat?

- ◇ Mixing the learning of our Religion with fun group activities.
- ◇ Getting to explore a new place and learning more about my Religion while having fun.
- ◇ Spending quality time with God.
- ◇ Getting to do the activities and having some freedom with it.
- ◇ My favorite part was hanging out with my classmates in a non-school environment.
- ◇ When we all got together in the gym and all played games together.
- ◇ My favorite part about the retreat was being able to go to Confession with a priest that I wouldn't see anymore.
- ◇ My favorite part of the retreat was asking Fr. Lucio questions in the chapel.
- ◇ Adoration.

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One Thing I Learned About My Faith While on the Retreat Was...

- ◇ One thing I have learned about my faith was God will always be with me and watch me and my faith grow.
- ◇ God will always be there for me and there is always time for God – I just have to want and do it.
- ◇ That I really enjoy church.
- ◇ Learning about your faith doesn't have to be boring.
- ◇ That God will always forgive us.
- ◇ That we should go to Confession more often. I felt relieved after I did go to Confession.
- ◇ What the anointed oil does to your soul during Confirmation.
- ◇ More about Confirmation and what it will do for me.



One Thing I Learned About Myself While on Retreat Was...

- ◇ I really enjoy Church.
- ◇ I truly enjoy time in Adoration just talking to God.
- ◇ I am able to talk with many people without it being weird, and that I am able to talk to people without using a phone.
- ◇ I'm more interested in my Religion than I thought.
- ◇ I still have room to improve.
- ◇ I love being Catholic and I hope to pass this faith on to my future children.
- ◇ I can do everything through God if I believe and trust in Him.
- ◇ I have a deeper appreciation for my faith than I thought.
- ◇ I need to participate more in the faith.
- ◇ I like going to church. The church there was small, but I felt that is what made it feel more inviting.
- ◇ It is nice to give yourself to God, to tell God everything and to talk to Him about things that are sins. I learned to respect myself and others a lot more.
- ◇ I am ready for Confirmation.
- ◇ I really want Confirmation.



Something I Would Like to Share About the Retreat:

- ◇ It was a fun place to learn and grow closer to God.
- ◇ Ft. Lucio was the nicest, funniest priest I have ever met and I hope to see him again. He was very understanding and easy to talk to.
- ◇ I was never bored during the retreat. I think they did a great job of teaching us a lot about our Catholic faith, while also giving us time to exercise and have fun. I felt very connected to my faith, and I'm really happy that I went through this experience.
- ◇ It was nice to be able to do it with other kids and get to know them.
- ◇ I loved that we were always busy, but also had some time to enjoy ourselves.
- ◇ I would like to share how organized it was. They knew the exact amount of time that everything would take.
- ◇ It was a great opportunity to bond with my classmates and God.
- ◇ All of the activities at this retreat do a good job of explaining the gifts of the Holy Spirit and what Confirmation does to us.
- ◇ I would like to share when the whole group went to adoration. Adoration was a very peaceful and respectful time. It was a very special moment between the class and the Lord. I hope that our class can share another special moment like that together.
- ◇ I liked the question and answer time with the Priest.

I want to thank Mrs. Buchanan and Mr. Flowers for taking the students to this retreat opportunity. Based on the feedback from the students, it was a worthwhile and impactful day. These students will be confirmed on Thursday, May 5, at St. Paul Church by Bishop Iffert. Please keep them in your prayers.

Stop and Smell the Roses

By Deacon Scott Folz

They that hope in the LORD will renew their strength, they will soar on eagles' wings; They will run and not grow weary, walk and not grow faint. Isaiah 40:31

Thomas Tusser in *A Hundred Good Points of Husbandry*, 1557, first mentioned the observational cause and effect of precipitation and growth, "Sweet April showers Do spring May flowers."

The sentiment indicates the trails before the treasures we all endure in life. Lent, for example, is the penance we embrace before the glory of the Easter Resurrection. Also, we look at our lives as a pilgrimage, a pathway of struggle onto eternal happiness and glory; we live here, but we are not destined to stay here.

Even our calendar expresses this concept of struggle and joy. Our weeks are mired in toil and then we rest on Sunday; we look forward to the weekend. Wednesday is "hump day," the half-way point to the weekend.

God designed His creation this way; He created for six days and on the seventh He rested. As we are made in the image and likeness of God, we, too, rest on the seventh day. We come together to praise God and then we feast on the Sunday Meal.

The seasons of the year reflect this sentiment. We plant in the spring and we harvest in the fall. The leaves drop off in October and the trees and grass spring back to life in April.

Our own lives reflect this sentiment. We are born and we die; we start school and we graduate; we begin a new sport season and we conclude and (hopefully) celebrate with the championship. We came close, so close, this year in the NFL, but it wasn't meant to be, again. But that's another story for another day.

God made us to be one with Him. He longs to be with us with a perfect love and wants us to love Him and each other. And at the same time, He knows we are fallen because of original sin; we are born with a fractured and disordered human nature.

Because of this, we have seasons of repentance and seasons of celebration; we prepare for Christ's coming during Lent with almsgiving, prayer and fasting. We prepare for Christ's coming during Advent with prayer and anticipation. We examine our conscience before going to confession, reflecting on all the ways we have fallen short and not loved God fully. Then we celebrate; we celebrate the Resurrection during the Easter Season; we celebrate the Incarnation during the Christmas Season; we celebrate God's love and mercy when we receive absolution in the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

It's during these times of celebration that we take time to reflect on all our blessings. We remember God's unending love, compassion, and forgiveness. We celebrate the victories in our lives like new life, both in birth and in Baptism; we celebrate graduations; we celebrate our team's victory (but not this year – maybe next year). It's in these times of celebration and victory that we stop to smell the roses, count our blessings, remember those around us who love us, appreciate the many gifts given us, the beauty of the world around us.

The world has many troubles, but the same world gives us many wonderful and stunning sights that stir marvel and delight in our hearts. It's in these times we recall the beauty all around us. We take time because it refreshes our hearts, our minds and our souls.

Yes, there's a time to address the struggles we must endure. But there is a time to embrace the allure and peace that exists in our lives. It is in these times of quiet reflection that we recognize that God is in control, and we can rest in His loving arms. We must stop to smell the roses, let the sunshine on our face, look at the colorful sunset, hug a loved one, listen to the night sounds and smile at the knowledge that all this was made for us. This is the time to be glad and thankful, to be in the moment to appreciate that God made us and all that is around us. He made us and the whole world good.

FESTIVAL SIGN UP

A festival chairperson will be in the courtyard after all Masses the weekend of May 7th and 8th for you to sign up to join in the festival fun by working a booth or assisting in anyway. The Festival Committee greatly appreciates all helping hands. If you are unable to sign up after Mass, please feel free to contact the Festival Committee by emailing festival@stpaulnky.org

Festival Yard Signs

Festival yard signs are available in the Gathering Space or at the side entrance of the church. Please take a sign and place it in your yard or in a high traffic area close to your home. There are also date stickers available if you still have the sign from last year. We appreciate you advertising our festival. Please return the signs to church after the festival. Thanks so much!

DONATIONS FOR THE SILENT AUCTION

Would you like to help out St Paul Festival? Donate to the Silent Auction! New or very gently used but clean items will be a great help! We are looking to make this our very best year. Items you find on clearance make a fine contribution. Groups: Bunko, Craft, Cricut, or any other are asked to get together and make up a basket. Ask your co-workers to pitch in and create something special for us. I would love to have anything you donate. **Large baskets are also needed.** Your donation can be left in the Gathering Space.



FESTIVAL SETUP AND TEARDOWN

Festival setup begins Sunday, June 5, after 11:00 AM Mass and continues the following Monday through Thursday from approximately 6:00 PM to 9:00 PM. We will gather on Friday, June 10, at 9:00 AM to approximately 4:30 PM.

Festival teardown begins after close of the festival Sunday, June 12, at 9:00 PM and will continue Monday, June 13, at approximately 9:00 AM.

Any questions, call June Cahill at 859.630.1679. All help is appreciated!

SATURDAY, JUNE 11, MASS SCHEDULE AND SHUTTLE SERVICE

Saturday Mass will be at 5:00 PM the weekend of the festival and shuttle service is available from Eagle Finance/Sims Furniture parking lot beginning at 4:30 PM.

2 LITER BOTTLES OF SOFT DRINK AND 32 OUNCE GATORADE / POWERADE NEEDED FOR THE FESTIVAL



The Festival Committee needs 2 liter bottles of soft drinks and 32 ounce Gatorade or Powerade bottles to be used as prizes at the festival. Any number or any kind will be helpful. Please bring the 2 liter bottles and 32 ounce Gatorade/Powerade to church and drop them in the marked containers in the Gathering Space or at the side door. Your contribution will be very much appreciated! If you have any questions, please contact June Cahill at 859-630-1679.

GIFT CARDS NEEDED FOR PRIZES AT THE FESTIVAL

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— 859-630-1679. Thank you!



DISHES NEEDED

The Festival Committee is in need of dishes/glasses for the Dime Toss Booth. Please drop the dishes off at the Parish Office or bring them to Mass and place them in the marked container in the Gathering Space. If you have any questions, contact June Cahill at 859-630-1679.



Bands
 Swan - Friday
 starting at 7:00 PM
 Karate Girls - Saturday
 starting at 7:00 PM
 Marty Connor Band - Sunday
 starting at 4:00 PM

Food
 KoC Holy Donuts
 Pizza
 The Grill
 Kona Ice
 Dreamy Whip Ice Cream

**Judy's Fabulous
 Silent Auction**
 "Dailys" close one hour before
 the festival ends each night.
 All other bidding closes on
 Sunday at 8:00 PM.

**Games and Inflatables
 for Kids**

St. Paul Parish Festival

June 10th 11th 12th
 Fri. - 6-11 pm
 Sat. - 6-11 pm
 Sun. - 4-9 pm

Grand Prize Raffle
Grand Prize up to \$20,000
 \$25.00 Per Ticket
*Coupon on back good for use
 at Stephens Golf Center*

Ducks for Sale!!!!
 \$100 Per Duck
 Name your duck
Nightly Big Race Winners:
 Friday \$500
 Saturday \$500
 Sunday \$1,000

Wheelbarrow of Cheer
 Win the wheelbarrow and the
 "cheer" inside, **\$500 value**
 \$5.00 Per Ticket
*\$5 off Buffalo Bob's coupon on
 back of ticket*

Shuttle
 Pick-ups from Sim's
 Furniture/Eagle Finance during
 all festival hours and for
 Mass on Saturday starting at
 4:30 pm.

Games for Adults

YES! I would like to support St. Paul Parish Festival and have a chance to win!

To purchase a ticket(s) and/or send a donation, fill out voucher and return with payment to St. Paul Festival, P.O. Box 366, Florence, KY 41022 or drop in collection basket by May 31st. Your tickets will be mailed to you. We accept cash or check. You may also purchase tickets or make a donation online by going to <https://saintpaulflorence.weshareonline.org/>. If you have any questions, please call Julie Pegg 859-446-8432 or email jpegg81323@icloud.com.

Name: _____ Phone Number: _____

Address: _____ E-mail: _____

___ Ducky Downs Duck @ \$100 per duck = \$ _____

Duck Name: _____

___ Grand Prize Raffle Ticket(s) @ \$25 each = \$ _____

___ Wheelbarrow of Cheer Raffle Ticket(s) @ \$5 each = \$ _____

___ I am unable to attend, but I would like to make a donation to St. Paul Parish Festival. = \$ _____

TOTAL PAYMENT ENCLOSED TO ST. PAUL CHURCH \$ _____

___ I am including gift card(s) as a donation to St. Paul Parish Festival to be used in the Gift Card Booth.

St. Paul Festival P.O. Box 366 Florence, KY 41022

St. Paul Families for Life

By Marla Kelly



*St. Joseph, defender of Life,
pray for us*

40 DAYS FOR LIFE – 2022 SPRING CAMPAIGN

Another successful campaign with many babies' lives saved and multiple workers quitting their jobs with Planned Parenthood. The following are two stories of workers who quit working and shared their reason with vigil participants. (The following is from 40 Days for Life)

Planned Parenthood in California is down another abortion worker thanks to the prayers of 40 Days for Life volunteers. Vigil participants were wrapping up their shift on the sidewalk when a young woman pulled up in her car to chat. "Now that I don't work here anymore, I'm allowed to talk to you!" she began. "You are doing good work. Keep it up." Vigil participants introduced themselves to the now-former abortion worker, who reported that their peaceful prayer presence disrupts the abortion facility's operations in two key ways:

1. Large numbers of abortion clients cancel their appointments when they see prayer warriors on the sidewalk.
2. "Employees get testy and grumpy and even angry, and it becomes a miserable place to work."

The newly liberated abortion worker was blocking the turn lane, so she had to cut the conversation short and move on...but before she left, she told the campaign volunteers, "I'm so grateful and happy that I don't have to work at that place anymore!"

Western United States: 40 Days for Life volunteers at a vigil in the western United States noticed the local abortion facility appears to be short-staffed. They now know why. "We found out two more Planned Parenthood workers quit!" reported the local campaign leader. One of the staffers who converted had worked at the facility for more than a decade. The other stopped to talk with 40 Days for Life participants after quitting. "She said she quit in response to us," the campaign leader said.

CARE NET & FAMILIES FOR LIFE - BABY BOTTLE CAMPAIGN



The campaign will be held from Mother's Day, May 8, to Father's Day, June 19. Bottles will be available at all Masses on Mother's Day weekend. We ask that you take one (or two) and fill it with your loose change; cash and/or checks and return it on Father's Day. Thank you for participating in this campaign to help Northern KY Care Net Pregnancy Services minister to women and men who are experiencing an unplanned pregnancy.

CROSS THE BRIDGE FOR LIFE IS BACK! The walk this year will once again be held Sunday, June 5 at the Festive Park, Newport (behind the Newport on the Levee). The event begins at 1:00 PM. You are invited to join us for a peaceful prayerful march across the Purple People Bridge to pray for hearts to be open to God's gift of life. Please check the bulletin for updates. The Cross the Bridge for Life is a collaborative event sponsored by Greater Cincinnati and Northern Kentucky Life-affirming communities to raise awareness of the value of all human life.



Wishing all mothers and mothers-to-be a Blessed Mother's Day!





St. Vincent de Paul News

By Claudia Diehl

The vocation of a Vincentian is to follow Christ through service to those in need and to bear witness to Christ's compassionate and liberating love. Here is a story shared by Janet and Rob Lunnemann of their commitment to Saint Vincent de Paul. Rob and I were assigned a client, "Chris," who was in need of some food and clothing. I spoke to Chris on the phone to better understand his circumstances and get some basic information. He had been out of work for a while. He was divorced and had a young daughter who stays with him on the weekends. He said he needed clothes so he had something decent to wear when looking for a job. When I found out he didn't have a car but lived close to a bus line, I asked if bus passes would be helpful; he said they would be very appreciated. Rob and I headed over to the food pantry to pack a box for Chris, he said his food supply was very low. We packed the usual items, keeping in mind his visiting daughter might enjoy a fun cereal, crackers, and spaghetti-os. Chris met us in front of his apartment, we set the box of food on the step so we could talk with him. He told us that, after his divorce, his father passed away. Then, three months ago, his mother passed away; he was very close to her. It took a while before Chris was ready to face the world again. He misses his mother terribly. We asked if it was okay to pray with him, he said that would be fine. Rob put his hand on Chris' shoulder and prayed for his situation, for employment, for healing. When Rob asked the Holy Spirit to aid in relieving Chris' grief; tears streamed. He quickly wiped his face, said he didn't know how to thank us, then took his food box, voucher, and bus tickets up the stairs. We are never sure when we go out on a call how it will go but it is always our hope that our visit and prayers will bring the client closer to the Lord. Thanks for allowing us to help our neighbors in need.

SVDP TREASURER REPORT FOR MARCH 2022

- 23 calls serving 47 people and 96 hours of Vincentians' time
- Conference-funded Aid: \$2,861 (\$1,456 for rent, \$305 for utilities, \$710 for food, transportation \$375, medical \$15)
- In-Kind Goods: \$1,296 (\$580 pantry food, \$350 furniture vouchers, \$240 clothing vouchers, \$126 household vouchers)
- Total Receipts/Income: \$5,024

We want to thank St. Henry District High School Student Council for the donation of \$861 for purchases to help supplement our pantry with hamburger, hot dogs, and bread. These are items we buy to supplement the food drive donations provided by the parish.

Submitted by Sara McNay



NEW PARISHIONERS

Andrew and Allison Steffen & Family
 William Ray Jr.
 Chelsea Honaker
 Alex and Ildiko Bustillo
 Robert & Charlene Nightengale & Family

DEATHS

Marcella Holdeman	(March 27)
Sharon Ollier	(March 26)
Charles Robert Denny	(March 28)
Raymond Geier	(March 28)
Frank Droege	(April 1)
JoAnn McCaughan	(April 10)

BAPTISMS

Arabella Biol Ruhlman
 Daughter of Brett Ruhlman and Janis Mullis
 Hypatia Della Josie Clines
 Daughter of Ondria Clines
 Johnathan Louis Ash
 Son of John Ash and Joy Raniero



ST. PAUL SCHOOL
Education Wrapped in...
TEAMWORK

"Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up."
 GALATIANS 6:9



THANK YOU

We are overwhelmed and grateful for all of your support with the 2022 Fish Fry!



SAINT PAUL PARISH
MAKING & STRENGTHENING CHRISTIANS

P.O. Box 366
Florence KY 41022

Change Service Requested

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Florence, Kentucky
Permit #9

St. Paul
summer
Festival

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

Friday, June 10 – Swan

Saturday, June 11 – Karate Girls

Sunday, June 12 – Marty Connor Band

Plan on joining us for a fun-filled weekend with awesome bands each day! We are welcoming new committee members and would love to have anyone interested join our team. If you would like to help in any way, please email festival@stpaulnky.org.

**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