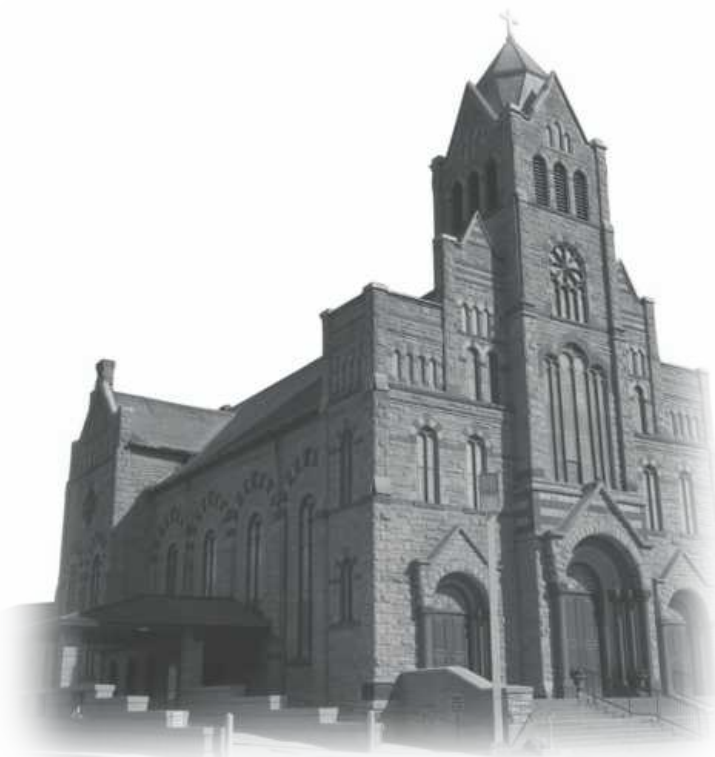




ST. PAUL

THE APOSTLE

Celebrating 150 Years of Blessings
1872 ~ 2022



FROM OUR PASTOR:

Summer! I have spent so many years going to school, both as a youngster and as an adult, and so many years teaching in schools, that I wonder how old I'll be before – actually if I'll ever stop associating summer with a break, a chance to unwind and feel a little freer from the pressures of the day-to-day?

An unanswerable question, that – but what there's no question about is that this summer is going to be far from ordinary, because this summer marks the beginning of our sesquicentennial year – our 150th anniversary, in ordinary English. Our Sesquicentennial Pastoral Council has been busily at work for months now, planning activities for each of the thirteen months that are going to make up this special year (that's special already: most years have only twelve months!) from June 2021 through June 2022. I am very proud of them, and we are all beholden to them – whereas some Pastoral Councils were able to do most of their work analyzing and recommending on a fairly intellectual level, these men and women have had to do large amounts of footwork, making contacts, doing research, securing permissions, reserving dates, lining up volunteers and more. One of our hopes has been that the various subcommittees responsible for these activities would not have to do all the work by themselves, but that they would get other volunteers from our parish membership to help them, especially in the putting-on phase, to make the involvement in our celebration as broad as possible. (As I've said before, I hope, dear reader, that if you are asked to help, you'll lend a hand also – after all, a 150th anniversary doesn't come around every year, and it will be another 149 years before you get the next chance!)

On the next page of this issue Carol Missler, a member of the Council, has a preview of the events lined up for the first three months, those of this summer. What I would like to do is write once again – for the third time, if memory serves – on one of the non-event type initiatives we are undertaking to mark this special year, and that is the "AWE Initiative." The acronym stands for "Affirming (showing Appreciation), Welcoming, and Engaging" efforts. It's a conscious and purposeful attempt to Welcome people to become part of our parish community, finding meaningful ways they can be Engaged in our parish through opportunities to use their skills, abilities, and interests in the service of our parish, and Affirming them – showing them that we value them, that we're happy that they are part of us.

This too is an important part of our sesquicentennial effort – the object of our celebration is not merely to rejoice over God's blessings in the past but to rededicate ourselves to his work in the future. These simple efforts are designed to spread and encourage others to share with us the power and beauty of our Catholic faith and to re-ignite participation in it among those who have been part of us but who in recent years (and now especially as a consequence of the COVID plague) have drifted away. One analysis has found that in most Catholic parishes in the United States these days, only 30% of the people on the parish membership rolls are actually active in the parish. Another 40% are "passively involved" – they come to Mass a couple of times a year or when they need something (a child baptized or making their First Communion, for marriages and funerals, etc.) but otherwise are not involved, and a last 30% are "actively disengaged," i.e., they are just names on the roster but for all practical purposes are no more involved with us than anyone else off the street. To be strong and vital for the next 150 years – indeed, simply to do the work the Lord has established us as a parish to do – we need to improve those percentages.

Our AWE core team has been active for months now and the area that they have chosen to focus on first of all is how visitors to our parish are welcomed when they come to Mass with us. The experience of one new family has been particularly seared into my mind – the husband said that they came to Mass and they went home from Mass for three weeks before the first person said anything to them! They saw other groups of people having great conversations in the church and on the steps after Mass, but nobody said anything to them. It's not surprising that their first impression of St. Paul's was that we were cold and cliquish. Now that they have many friends here, they have a different perspective, but we're lucky that they kept coming back. With many others, we would not have gotten a second chance.

This is something we can all help with, over and above and through and in between all the individual events of this special year. How about if we all made it our goal – not just leadership or parish greeters or staff but *all of us* – to do everything we can so that St. Paul would be perceived as a very warm and welcoming parish, eager to serve others, looking out for them, making them feel glad that they had come to us. That would be a terrific first step on our way to our next sesquicentennial!!



St. Paul the Apostle, pray for us!

LET THE CELEBRATION BEGIN!

Starting this June, and in every month until June 2022, there will be various events and activities planned to mark our St. Paul Sesquicentennial. A specially formed pastoral council of volunteers has been meeting over the last several months to plan. The council is proceeding as if Covid restrictions will lessen in the coming year, but will remain cognizant and flexible of changes.

Pastor Msgr. Ken Morman said the council tried to look for a broad range of activities – historical, educational, spiritual, liturgical, service, outreach – so there will be something for everyone. "Originally, we had modestly thought of one activity or event per month from June of this year through June of next year, but it seemed as if at almost every meeting, more ideas would be suggested," he said.

The Sesquicentennial kickoff will be this June. Beginning June 9, the Angelus bells will ring twice a day throughout the Norwalk community and there will be bunting on the front church doors to express our gratitude for 150 years of God's blessings on the parish. On Wednesday, June 9, there will be an outdoor Mass at 7:00 pm at the Shrine of the Sorrowful Mother on West Main Street, followed by an ice cream social and a presentation by local historian Henry Timman on the early German history of St. Paul Church. A new English-made banner of St. Paul will be unveiled at this event. The banner has the image of St. Paul with his name and the parish founding date - 1872 - in German. The image also will appear on holy cards that will be available to parishioners. An RSVP for this Mass will be required. Volunteers will shuttle people to and from nearby parking lots. Inclement weather will move the location to the church and Gathering Space. Tri-folds and "Save the Date" magnets with the future sesquicentennial activities will be passed out at the kick-off.

July's events will include a float in the city's Fourth of July parade! Adoration Under the Stars is planned for Saturday, July 24 at Contractors Field, with bilingual praise and worship music. Bring the family! There will be an opportunity for the Sacrament of Reconciliation with multiple confessors available.

Bring your appetite to the St. Paul campus on August 7 when our Hispanic parishioners will host a fiesta in the Convo parking lot. "This is special because they wanted to do this as a way of saying thanks to our parish for all we have done to help their community," Msgr. Ken said.

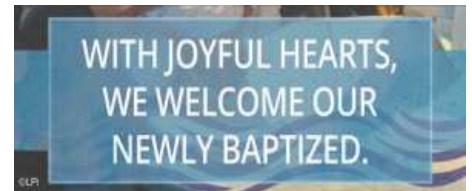
Other events throughout this year of celebration include: an Oktoberfest with German foods and music on September 25, a combined Parish Mission & Eucharistic Devotions with Fr. Eric Schild, the Ecumenical Thanksgiving service, a community outreach meal, a concert of the parish's music ministries, landscape updates, and a school program. A committee is also working on a commemorative Christmas ornament. A t-shirt is also being designed; parishioners may purchase and wear theirs throughout the year!

The climactic closing of the year will be a Mass with Bishop Daniel Thomas and a banquet on Sunday, June 26, 2022. Former pastors, associate pastors and religious will be invited to attend. Volunteers will be needed. Anyone wanting to pitch in is asked to please call the parish office.

Lastly, there also is an "AWE Team." Its goal is to make sure we are warmly *Welcoming* new and old parishioners, *Engaging* all our members in parish work, and *Affirming* them for all that they do, so that as Msgr. Ken said, "Our next 150 years will be, if anything, even more stellar than the first 150!"

~ Carol Missler, Sesquicentennial Pastoral Council

PARISH FAMILY BLESSINGS



Jace

Son of Joseph & Kaylee Andrews

Bennett

Son of Marcus & Isabella Bess

Eleanor

Daughter of Justin & Gelsey Ewell

Camden, Kylie & Cora

Children of Daniel & Jennifer Greenwell

Myla

Daughter of Hogan & Haley Hite

Heidi

Daughter of Brian & Bethany Lynch

Rosalie

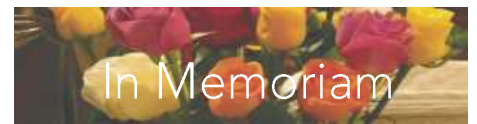
Daughter of Juan & Rocío Martínez

Caleb

Son of Geoffrey & Brittany McGuckin

Richelle

Daughter of Ardith Shtaway



We remember and pray for those who have gone before us in faith:

Ronald Atkinson, Sr.

Vivian Eberly

Oscar Garcia

John Kompa

Jean Leak

Gerald Mahl

Harold Marett

Kathleen Meagrow

Charles Obermiller

Connie Ott

Robert Pritchard

Rosemary Schaffer

Frank Trares

Olive Wise



Mr. & Mrs. Joseph & Caylie (Shover) Andrews

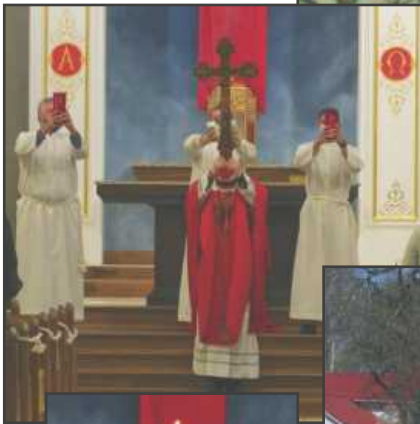
Mr. & Mrs. Dalton & Marianne (DeWitt) Schenk

Mr. & Mrs. Chris & Kelsey (Steele) Hogue

PARISH LIFE

Holy Week:

Palm Sunday
Holy Thursday
Good Friday
Easter Vigil
Easter Sunday



WELCOME!

Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults:

Hannah Douglas & Kathy Molek

Rite of Christian Initiation of Children:

George & Stormie Shtaway



CONFIRMED IN THE HOLY SPIRIT!

May 8th & 9th, 2021
Msgr. Ken Morman,
Celebrant



Jacob Bocock
Lillian Chylik
Kaily Clark
Ethan Clark
William Cloud
Bryce Cook
Garrett Cook
Isaac Cook
William Copsey
Luka Cuturic
Nikola Cuturic
Adele Dowdell
Korey Frazee
Lily Gerber
Everett Gfell
Samantha Gocsik
Isabel Gross
Jared Hipp
Brock Houck
Kali Kirby
Grace Kluding
Luke Marsh
Maggie Martinez
Kristin Matlack
Tristan Nickoli
Joshua Penwell
Owen Romell
Lydia Rospert
Fletcher Ross
Zoe Roth
Adam Roth
Benjamin Rupp
Jayden Smith
Spencer Smith
Cole Stieber
Gavin Thurston



"The Spirit of the Lord is being sent down upon you,
anointing you for your mission." ~ Msgr. Ken

EVANGELIZATION & FAITH FORMATION

What a difference a year makes! By the time you receive this newsletter we will have Confirmed our parish youth, celebrated our Seniors in a Baccalaureate Mass, and will be in full swing for our First Communicants to receive their First Holy Communion the first weekend of June. The life of the parish is truly bursting forth in all that has been happening lately.

In what has been a year for the history books, I am truly grateful for all that has been accomplished by our parish. We have educated 47 PSR students, 41 Confirmands, and 39 First Communicants in person all year. We prepared families for baptism, worked on growing the domestic church through our monthly kits, welcomed St. Nicholas, worshiped together in family and praise and worship Adoration, studied in prayer groups, held a marriage preparation retreat, hosted 3 Alpha series - the list goes on! While many have focused on limitations for the last year, as a parish I've been proud to see us work together to use this moment in history as an opportunity to creatively connect! There is no barrier so great that we cannot continue to walk with each other in faith!

As we move into summer there is much to look forward to! Our moms group will begin meeting outdoors, our parish youth have the opportunity to participate in Totus Tuus, a preschool summer program will be offered, our Teen Alpha is bursting forth to plan for the future of youth ministry, there will be marriage enrichment opportunities, and we look forward to Adoration under the Stars (which I am convinced needs to now be a yearly event!).

Our parish is vibrant with many ways for you to connect! If you've been on the hunt for a way to meaningfully connect, or reconnect, please reach out to me - I'm happy to help get you involved! If you have an idea for something you would like to see happening here, my door is always open.

I'd also like to send a quick thank you to those who have worked behind the scenes to keep things going - from keeping groups running, to thinking outside the box in connecting with others, and continue keeping our parish and all of its members in prayer - we are blessed by you!



CONSECRATION TO ST. JOSEPH

Pope Francis declared 12/8/2020—12/8/2021 as The Year of St. Joseph. Find St. Joseph resources at www.yearofstjosephtoledo.org



FIRST COMMUNION RETREAT

Dr. John Woods and his family presented a special "Dragon Slayers' retreat for our second graders and their parents. The children learned how to slay "sin", in preparation for their First Holy Communion.



PARISH SCHOOL OF RELIGION

Our PSR students attended a special Stations of the Cross during Lent, with kid-friendly items created for each station to keep and reflect on.

FAMILY ADORATION

A special part of Family Adoration is placing a small candle (battery powered) on the altar in front the Eucharist.



PSR YEAR-END ACTIVITY

PSR families celebrated the end of this year's program with sharing a picnic supper and creating Mary gardens.



Society of St. Vincent de Paul (SVdP)

Norwalk St. Paul Conference

Semi-Annual Fiscal Report: October 1, 2020 - March 31, 2021

Rent	\$11,967	Adults assisted- 123
Electric	\$ 4,083	Children assisted- 98
Gas	\$ 1,800	Total Applications -123
Propane	\$ 1,744	
Water	\$ 2,130	
Food (1)	\$ 3,825	
Gasoline	\$ 0	
Community/SVdP (2)	\$ 301	
Office exp	\$ 804	
Other	\$ 862	

	\$27,516	

(1) Large portions of this line item are regular help to the Norwalk Area Food Bank (NAFB). While we do some direct aid in the form of food vouchers, most of our food needs are referred to NAFB.

(2) This line item is normally comprised of donations SVdP International Disaster Fund and other SVdP conferences affected by hurricanes fires and other disasters. We also regularly refer people in need to other sources of help such as Abigail Pregnancy Services, The Salvation Army, Non-Food Bank and other community organizations for needs that we cannot provide. For that reason, we also help these organizations with products they are giving to people in need.

It should be noted that 97% of your donation goes *directly* to people in need.

The past 12 months (March 2020 to March 2021) have been unusual and trying times. During these months we have continued to assist those in need with very little interruption. It should be noted that demand for assistance has been down because of the stimulus funds, increased unemployment benefits, generally more job opportunities and public/private funding that is not normally available. Also, during much of the last 12 months there has been a moratorium on rent evictions and utility shutoffs.

In our September 2020 report, we indicated that some of the funding sources looked like they were going to dry up and moratoriums would be ending by now. However, there have been additional stimulus funding and continued moratoriums. Therefore, the anticipated increased demand has not yet occurred. We do feel that demand will grow and possibly exceed our normal volume. We now anticipate this to occur in the last calendar quarter of 2021.

The SVdP, Norwalk St Paul conference does provide immediate help with food, rent, utilities and other related needs. We offer hope to individuals giving them a chance to recover from their financial problems. In addition, we refer them to other agencies for additional temporary and long-term assistance and guidance, which is also a very important part of our mission.

We call ourselves Vincentians in tribute to St. Vincent de Paul. What Vincentians have in common is a desire to serve those who are poor and suffering. In other words, Vincentians embrace the lonely, forgotten and alienated by providing services to anyone in need. Our motto is: *"There is no work of charity that is foreign to the society"*.

To respect the wishes of those who donate to us and support our work, we do our best to verify the legitimacy of our clients' claims of need before providing any assistance. We also must keep in mind the spirit of Christ, who leads our ministry, which means we help our neighbors based on need without judging them.

The SVdP, Norwalk St Paul Conference would like to thank our generous parishioners and donors for the financial support you have given us. As an additional show of our appreciation, the SVdP, Norwalk St. Paul Conference offers a Mass every month for the intentions of our donors and the people we serve.

Many blessings to you,

Vincentian Members, St. Vincent de Paul Society
Norwalk St. Paul Conference



St. Paul Catholic Church

91 E. Main St
Norwalk, OH 44857

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SAVE THE DATES!

ST. PAUL THE APOSTLE
CATHOLIC CHURCH

Memorial Day Mass
May 31, 2021
8:00 am
St. Paul Cemetery

Chairs will be set on the driveway for social distancing. Feel free to bring a lawn chair to sit in the grass areas closer to the altar. In case of rain, Mass will be held in church.

*Eucharistic Adoration
Under the Stars
Saturday, July 24*

8:00 pm Fellowship & Games
9:00 pm Adoration & Reconciliation
Praise & Worship Music

**150TH CELEBRATION
KICK-OFF**

Wednesday, June 9
7:00 PM Mass

Shrine of the Sorrowful Mother
West Main St., Norwalk

Ice Cream Social & Parish History
Presentation Following Mass

RSVP TO THE PARISH OFFICE
419-668-6044

¡FIESTA MEXICANA!

*Para celebrar los 150 años de
nuestra Parroquia de San Pablo*

Sábado 7 de agosto de 4:00 pm - 9:00 pm
Estacionamiento del Convo
Calles Wooster y Monroe

la comida:
*Corundas, elotes, tacos, walking tacos, aguas frescas,
cocteles de fruta, fresas con crema y pizza*

juegos:
Tómbola, ruleta, aros

entretenimiento:
danzas y música de DJ

MEXICAN FIESTA!
*St. Paul Parish
Celebrating 150 Years*
Saturday, August 7
4 pm - 9 pm
St. Paul Convo Parking Lot

Mexican Food,
Games, Dancers,
Music & DJ!