



ST. PAUL *the* APOSTLE CHURCH

Celebrate our Catholic Faith,
Share the Good News, Serve the Needs of Others

All Souls Day

May the souls of all the faithful departed,
through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.

PASTOR'S PEN

MASS OF REMEMBRANCE

HOLY VOCATIONS

PARISH HAPPENINGS

ADVENT

CATHOLIC CROSS BEARERS
MOTORCYCLE MINISTRY

FINANCE REPORT

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL REPORT

November is the month in which we look back and look ahead.

With observances such as All Saints and All Souls days – and our own so moving Mass of Remembrance: wasn't it beautiful?! – and Veterans Day, we remember those who have gone before us and the great debt we owe to them to create a future that's even better than the past. Thanksgiving is the feast that reminds us to be conscious of so many ways we've been blessed instead of focusing on our trials and tribulations. It puts our focus on the One to whom we owe our lives and our possibilities and encourages us to be perfect as our heavenly Father is perfect, who sends his rain down on just and unjust alike, and challenges us to love both friends and foes with that same kind of benignity, rising above the divisiveness that is so pervasive in our secular world.

And with all that remembering as a firm foundation, we then are ready to begin on November 29 the awesome season of Advent, the beginning of a new Church year. Unsullied by disappointments yet, it stands ready to be all that we hope it can be. With 2020 being so disastrous on so many fronts, I'm sure many of us are only too ready to consign it to the trash bin of history, but we know that a change of calendar date does not create a change in the conditions around us – it, hopefully, creates a change in us who confront that reality to improve it with fresh resolve.

We, the parishioners of St. Paul, are eager to do that. By now, as you know, we have resumed almost all our previous activities and outreach, just a little more creatively. We don't need reservations for Masses (as someone just recently asked me); we do practice social distancing, hand sanitizing, and wearing masks. We have resumed almost all our meetings and activities with those same safeguards; Zoom meetings are now just helpful adjuncts, not the rule anymore. We are poised for a Year of Grace.

I do hope you will be able to join us in all our activities and ministries this new year as we seek to redeem the time and help the Lord with his hopes and desires for our beloved community!

Mage Ken



Mass of Remembrance

We honored these parishioners who passed away in the last year:

*William J. Bader
Elizabeth M. Barman
Michael A. Bleam
Joan M. Camp
David D. Caprara
Carol M. Comyns
Doyal D. Cutnaw
Eugene P. Doughty
Jacqueline M. Downing
Frances M. Fleming
Stephanie C. Frazee
Paul J. Gross
Merrienne Hackathorn
Arlene A. King
Melanie Joy Lopez*

*Lawrence C. McGlinchy
Barbara E. Might
George Mitro
William H. Moffit
Louise D. Montgomery
Mary Mushett
Mary L. Orth
Regina A. Percival
Margaret A. Sarr
Gerald J. Schloesser
Judith A. Smith
Martha A. Smith
Mary Ellen Stehle
Frank V. Wechter
Gerald R. Weisenberger*

MASS OF REMEMBRANCE



My name is Luke Stoll. I am a 2019 graduate of St. Paul High School and a member of St. Paul Parish. Currently, I am a seminarian at Sacred Heart Major Seminary in Detroit, Michigan.

My discernment story started all the way back when I was in 4th grade and I felt the first desire to be a priest. I made the decision right then and there that I was going to be a priest. This thought lasted a short period of time until I was told that priests are not allowed to be married. That was a deal breaker.

As I grew older, my interest and love for the Catholic faith continued to deepen. I went to weekly Mass and I prayed on a regular basis. Through what I learned in school and my own personal prayer, my relationship with the Lord deepened. The thought of becoming a priest periodically came up in my mind, but I always ignored it. By the time high school came around, I felt like I had a solid faith. I was proven wrong during my senior year.

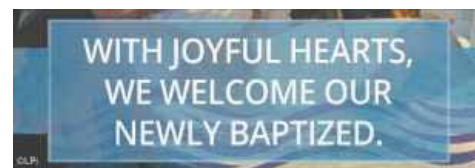
Senior year of high school was very difficult for me. I was going through a lot of painful things interiorly. I felt myself growing angry and depressed. I looked at the pain I was feeling in myself and I blamed God. I believed that He was causing all of the pain I had and, therefore, He did not love me. I rejected Him. I decided that He had no place in my life. This rejection turned my world upside down and led me into a depression that lasted throughout my senior year and into the summer of 2019.

During a campout that summer I was sitting around a fire with a few other family members. The topic of faith came up and I started asking my aunt questions that I had about the faith. Slowly, through her answers, I began to realize that what I believed about God was false. She explained that we all have crosses and we all experience pain, and, although it can be very difficult, God allows that pain to bring us closer to Him. Quickly, I made the realization that God still loved me. This realization served as the catalyst for a revitalization of my faith. I began praying and taking Mass more seriously. This had an incredible impact on my life. I felt the weight of depression leaving me and I knew it was by God's grace that it had happened.

Later that summer, I went off to college. My relationship with the Lord continued to flourish. September of that year is when I first felt a deep call to the priesthood again. I was sitting in an empty classroom thinking about my future and the priesthood came into my thoughts. When I thought about becoming a priest I felt a deep sense of peace and satisfaction. It was an incredible and terrifying sensation. I knew that God was calling me to seminary, but I put it in the back of my head because I had decided I would get married. In the next three months, I thought and prayed about it more and more. Finally, in December I decided I could not ignore the calling any longer. I contacted Msgr. Ken and Fr. Andrew and talked with both of them about the priesthood. After these conversations, I decided to contact Fr. Phil Smith, the Diocese of Toledo Vocations Director, and I began the process of applying to become a seminarian. In March, I was accepted as a seminarian.

I entered my first year of seminary on August 27. It has been an incredible time of human, intellectual, and spiritual growth. My days are now spent studying, praying, and partaking in fraternity with my brother seminarians. I am thankful for the time I have spent here at Sacred Heart and I cannot wait to see what plans the Lord has for my future. I am also very thankful for all of you at St. Paul. I really appreciate the prayers and the great support from all of you back home. I assure you that you are making a hugely positive impact in my life; for that I say THANK YOU!

~ Luke Stoll



Regina

Daughter of Willie & Ileana Echavarri

Aniston Kay

Daughter of Melissa Osborn

Cecily Geraldine & Charlotte Reeves

Daughters of Travis & Mary Schaeffer

Leonardo

Son of Gerardo & Lauren Garcia

Cameron Michelle

Daughter of Jason & Clara Brown

Riley Ann

Daughter of Wesley & Kelsey Stein

Joshua Leo & Luna Lianna

Children of Joshua & Misty Samano

Grace Christine

Daughter of Frank & Jill Van Dresser

Melanie

Daughter of Juan & Veronica Negrete



Mr. & Mrs. Isaac & Katie (Bath) Livengood

Mrs. & Mrs. José & Elizabeth (Cuevas) Carrillo

Mr. & Mrs. Connor & Lisa (Highley) Careless

Mr. & Mrs. Leander & Taylor (Paquet) Hipp

Mr. & Mrs. Scotty & Alexandria (Osborn) Slauterbeck

Mr. & Mrs. Blake & Megan (Schwab) Moran

The Diocese of Toledo's faith initiative for November focuses on Holy Vocations. Please pray for those discerning the priesthood or religious life.

Learn more at ReconnectToledo.org

PARISH HAPPENINGS

MASS OF CELEBRATION & GRATITUDE

Thank you parish volunteers and benefactors!



TRUNK OR TREAT

Family fun!



EUCHARISTIC ADORATION UNDER THE STARS

Time with Our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament... Outdoors!



ROSARY RALLY

Prayers for our nation.



EUCHARISTIC DEVOTIONS

The Eucharist in the Midst of the Pandemic



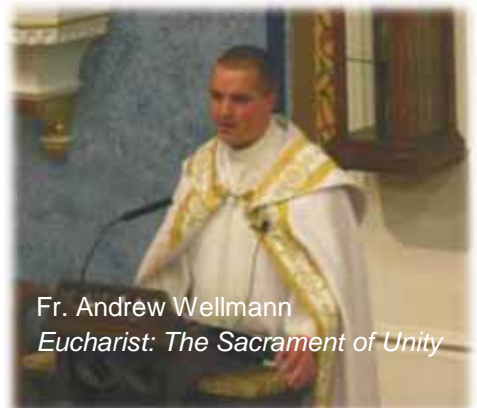
FAMILY EUCHARISTIC ADORATION
A special time of Adoration for families with young children.



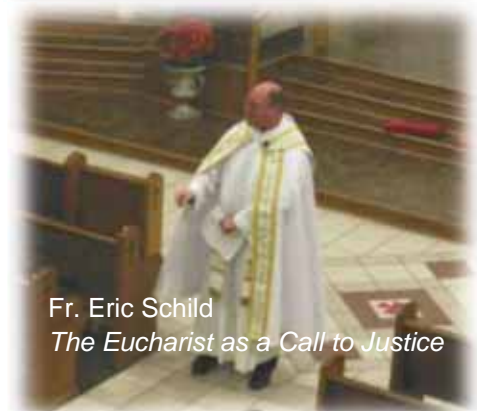
Fr. Paul Schreiner
The Ministry of the Assembly

FAITH FORMATION

Parish School of Religion, Jr. High Bible Study, Sacrament Formation



Fr. Andrew Wellmann
Eucharist: The Sacrament of Unity



Fr. Eric Schild
The Eucharist as a Call to Justice

“Unprecedented times”; how tired are you of that phrase? I think I hear it at least a dozen times per day. It’s repeated so often I think it disappears into the background noise. While the unexpected manages to crop up each day, we enjoy a certain stability in the ebb and flow of the year. Spring gives rise to summer – fades to fall and then we await the first snows of winter, for the cycle to continue. That routine provides a comfort we may not even realize. Advent of 2020 will not be the routine that we have grown to expect our whole lives. Decades of conditioning, oftentimes unspoken, has certain ‘givens’ for each season of our lives. Some of these expectations may be extravagant, but most are modest, and how many of them require social proximity in a time of social distancing? How can we celebrate such a joyful season of anticipation during such an “unprecedented” time?

Maybe we start by taking comfort in the fact that the first Advent was in fact an unprecedented time! Did anyone expect an unwed poor virgin to travel at just the right time to give birth in a manger to the Messiah? Her first guests, shepherds and pagan astrologers? The heart of Advent is not trying to mold God to accommodate our expectations, but to come awake - to “be alert” to His ways and thoughts that are higher than our own. Maybe, what is so unprecedented about this Advent is our long overdue chance to consider with fresh hearts how unexpected that first Advent and Christmas were and what it means for us today.

When we sit and reflect on what we really want this Advent to look like, what do we see? When we strip away what we feel we *should* be doing, what remains? The beautiful Sunday liturgies, dinner by Advent wreath candlelight, chocolate gold coins from St. Nicholas, porch-delivered treats on the Feast of St. Lucy, a vibrant Our Lady of Guadalupe celebration, a blessing of our bambinelli- so much richness and beauty in our faith. So many reasons to be hopeful and to see joy in this season.

Maybe this is your time, time to liberate “your” Advent from years of accumulated baggage, the “shoulds,” the hustle and bustle, the lifetime’s nostalgia and expectations that are too high to fulfill, and running in every possible direction. I pray that during this “unprecedented” Advent our hearts and hopes are open to seeing where we can shine brightly for all to see – despite social distancing!



den



Sharing Tree



St. Nick Celebration

Family Advent Retreat

November 21 @ 10 AM
In the Gathering Space

Outdoor Advent Wreath Blessing

Saturday, November 28
Following the 4:30 PM Mass

“The Prophets Isaiah”

Scripture study with Msgr. Ken
Mondays @ 7 pm
November 30, December 12 & 19
In the Gathering Space

Coffee & Conversation

“Advent” on FORMED
Wednesdays @ 10 am
In the Gathering Space

Evening Prayer

Wednesdays @ 7 pm
December 2, 9, 16, & 23

“The Star” and “The Nativity Story” Movies

Friday, December 5
Saturday, December 6
@ UEC Theater, Norwalk

St. Nicholas Celebration

Sunday, December 6
After the 9 am & 11 am Masses
Sunday, December 13
After the 1 pm Mass
In the Gathering Space

Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe

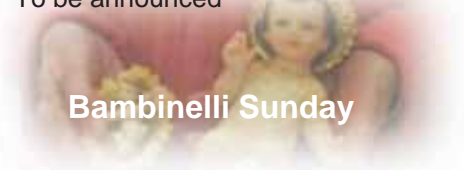
Sunday, December 6
11:45 AM Hot cocoa at the courthouse on Main St.
12:00 PM Procession
12:30 PM Reenactment
1:00 PM Mass

Bambinelli Sunday

After all Masses, December 12 & 13
Bring the baby Jesus figurine from your nativity set to be blessed.

Christmas Liturgies

To be announced



Bambinelli Sunday

Pause and Ponder

Welcome to a new liturgical year which begins on the 1st Sunday of Advent (November 29th this year)! The Christmas Season begins on December 25, 2020, our American cultural practice notwithstanding. This year, the Christmas Season ends on January 10, 2021, the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord.

Advent can be a time when we press the “pause” button and take time out from the usual December frenzy to “ponder” or think more deeply about things. We have much about which to “pause and ponder” this Advent season. The first words of Mark’s Gospel for the 1st Sunday of Advent this year are: “Be watchful! Be alert!” For what? First of all, we need to be alert to the “*signs of the times*”.

“You know how to judge the appearance of the sky, but you cannot judge the signs of the times.” (Mt 16:3)

*“I do exhort all the communities to an ‘ever watchful scrutiny of the signs of the times.’ This is a grave responsibility...” (Pope Francis, *The Joy of the Gospel* #51)*

Our experience of the Advent/Christmas Seasons will be unique this year. These are times like no other for most of us. The Second Vatican Council (1962-1965) called us to our “responsibility of reading *the signs of our times* and of interpreting them in the light of the Gospel”. (Gaudium et Spes, # 4) Some signs of our times: a global pandemic which continues to result in sickness and death worldwide; the closing of churches and businesses and the cautious attempts at re-opening; physical distancing from other people, including loved ones, resulting in isolation and loneliness for many; a greater awareness of those people designated “essential workers” who are often taken for granted in our society; an undercurrent of systemic racism which denies the opportunity for a good education, decent housing, and equal treatment, especially for people of color. How shall we interpret these “signs of the times” in the light of the Gospel?

We could begin by “pausing and pondering” using the Scriptures for the Sundays of Advent. We might look for key words or phrases that “jump off the page” at us or that suggest an idea or feeling on which we might “pause and ponder” more deeply. Everyone’s list will be different. Here are a few that gave me “pause”.

1st Sunday of Advent:

“Watch” (Mk 13:37) Watch what’s happening around us... Watch for signs of God’s presence... *What am I watching for?*

“Clay and potter” (Is 64:7) *What happens to clay in the hands of the potter?... What forces are “shaping” me these days?... Is Christ one of these forces?*

2nd Sunday of Advent:

“Prepare” (Mk 1:3) Prepare the way; straighten the paths... the “blueprint” for this is the Gospel... *What paths does God want to help us “straighten” out this year?*

“Comfort my people” (Is 4:1) Speak tenderly... so many people need words and actions of comfort and tenderness

3rd Sunday of Advent:

“Light” (Jn 1: 7-8) These are dark days... literally as daylight shortens, but many of the signs of our times suggest “darkness”... *Where is the light?... you are the light of the world.*

“... the poor, the brokenhearted, the captives, the prisoners” (Is 61: 1)... the refugees, the people of color, the unborn children, the sick and dying, the elderly, the migrants and immigrants, the widows and orphans... Our task is to “proclaim, heal, release”... *How shall we do this?*

4th Sunday of Advent

“troubled”, “pondered”, “afraid”, “impossible” (Lk 1: 29-30, 37) (terms from Mary’s conversation with Gabriel)... *What’s “troubling” me?... What seems “impossible”?... Why am I “afraid”?*

“ponder” *How is God inviting me to be a sign of his presence to others?*

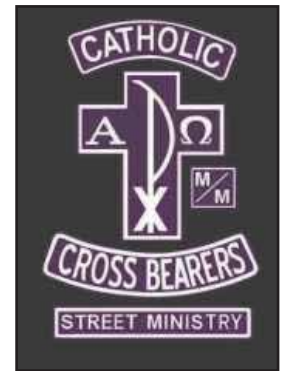
May God’s Spirit guide our Advent/Christmas “pause” this year as we “ponder” more deeply the *signs of the times* and interpret them in light of the Gospel.

~ Marian Bermudez, St. Paul Liturgy Committee, Co-chair

MINISTRY IN ACTION

CATHOLIC CROSS BEARERS MOTORCYCLE MINISTRY, INC.,
National Rally and Meeting, St. Paul Parish, August 2020

What does it mean to bear the cross? To bear the cross of Christ is to live a life of sacrifice to God. The sacrifice that God desires is a contrite heart (Psalm 51:17). It is also love of neighbor (Mark 12:28-34). We bear the cross when we live by the Cardinal Virtues (Wisdom 8:7), observe the Precepts of Charity (Mark 12:30), perform the Seven Corporal Works of Mercy (Matthew 25:35-36, Tobit 12:12), and Seven Spiritual Works of Mercy. It is bringing God's love to this world.



The Catholic Cross Bearers Motorcycle Ministry was founded in 2008. We are part of the Catholic Church's "People on the Move" outreach. We are members of the National Coalition of Motorcyclists (NCOM) Christian Unity Program. We have members throughout the United States, as well as in six other countries. We bring the love of Jesus to the streets and to those imprisoned. We bring a Catholic evangelistic presence into the motorcycling world. We go out to the streets and into prisons, armed with the Gospel, and filled with the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit guides our encounters as we share our testimonies. We seek to be available, in the present moment, to those who need us most. It is a life of service to others. Jesus gave His life on the cross for us. We give our lives, in a different manner, to those around us. Ours is a complete dedication to serving God, and our fellow man. Our works are not grandiose. We seek to act as Saint Teresa of Calcutta said, "Do little things with great love." Jesus tells us we are to be judged on how we love one another. It is more than just believing in God, or praying, it is total dedication to serving God. We believe in, and are committed to living the teachings and traditions instituted by Jesus Christ.

We put out the "Open for Business" sign when we put on our "Colors", our blessed vests, which are sacramentals, and greatly aid our mission. On any given day, we never know what God will send our way. He sets His Divine Appointments in His time. The very act of our backpatch being seen may reconcile someone with God, or reinvigorate a tired faith. At the very least, God was given some thought, even if just for a moment. We evangelize at the gas pump, in the parking lot, on the street corner, in the hospital, jail or nursing home, at motorcycle rallies and at motorcycle club rides. People approach us with needs or circumstances. We have resources to help combat addictions and mental problems; that are alternatives to abortion; that ease the pain of joblessness, hunger and lack of housing. We work with other Christian motorcycle organizations to promote Christian Unity. We work with the fringe elements of the motorcycling world. We work with society's disenfranchised people. We are God's instruments; we take care of God's business.

For further information about the Catholic Cross Bearers Motorcycle Ministry, Inc. including information on how to join, please visit www.catholiccrossbearersmm.com or email rick.kay929@gmail.com.

~ Rick Kay



**TO LOVE AND
SERVE THE LORD.
THANKS BE
TO GOD!**

\$1,593,459

PARISHIONER GIFTS
Fiscal Year 2019-2020

YOUR GIFTS AT WORK IN OUR PARISH:

NORWALK CATHOLIC

SCHOOL: \$980,000

STAFFING: \$282,475

MINISTRIES: \$117,037

DIOCESAN

ASSESSMENTS: \$79,424

FACILITIES: \$115,769

CAPITAL EXPENSES: \$49,724

Serving Our Parish & Our Community

- ◆ 100+ Facebook Live Videos
- ◆ 700+ Liturgies shared via Webcast
- ◆ 1200+ Care Calls made to parishioners
- ◆ 143 New recurring gifts through WeShare
- ◆ 1300 Facebook views of the Spanish Mass on Ascension Sunday
- ◆ 1100 Facebook views of bi-lingual Adoration
- ◆ Numerous resources for the Domestic Church made available to our families
- ◆ 150+ Photos 'Present in the Pews'
- ◆ So many prayers offered by & for our Staff & Parishioners!

St Paul the Apostle Annual Report Fiscal Year 2020

Dear Parishioner of St. Paul Parish -

Welcome to your St. Paul parish annual financial report for the fiscal year July 1, 2019 to June 30, 2020. To all who were so generous in supporting our efforts to Celebrate our Catholic Faith, Share the Good News, and Serve the Needs of Others as faithful disciples of Christ, we say a sincere and deeply felt thank you!!



Statement of Financial Position As at June 30, 2020

Cash	\$108,453
Savings Accounts	\$7,014
Chauvin Fund	\$253,052
Weisenberger Investment Fund	\$543,903
Endowment fund	\$806,328
Prepaid Expenses	\$7,158
	<u>\$1,718,750</u>
Total Liabilities	<u>\$74,353</u>
Net Assets	\$1,644,397

Chauvin Investment Fund

Balance at July 1, 2019	\$243,560
Earnings and Fund Appreciation	\$9,492
Balance at June 30, 2020	<u>\$253,052</u>

Robert & Leona Weisenberger Investment Fund

Balance at July 1, 2019	\$533,841
Earnings and Fund Appreciation	\$11,012
Disbursements for Education of Religious	-\$950
Balance at June 30, 2020	<u>\$543,903</u>

St. Paul Endowment Fund

Balance at July 1, 2019	\$674,250
Principal	\$123,678
Accumulated Earnings	-\$18,172
Current Year Withdrawals	\$26,572
Earnings and Fund Appreciation	<u>\$806,328</u>
Balance at June 30, 2020	<u>\$806,328</u>

ST. VINCENT de PAUL SOCIETY

Norwalk St. Paul Conference

Annual Fiscal Report: October 1, 2019 - September 30, 2020

Reported 11/2/2020

Adults assisted: 295
Children assisted: 240
Total applications: 302

Rent	\$31,782
Electric	\$11,579
Gas	\$ 2,012
Propane	\$ 1,662
Water	\$ 2,226
Food (1)	\$ 7,750
Gasoline	\$ 260
Comm/SVdP (2)	\$ 4,301
Office Exp.	\$ 1,306
	<u>\$62,878</u>

- (1) Large portions of this line item are regular and seasonal donations 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 to SVDP International Disaster Fund and other SVDP conferences affected by hurricanes and fires, Abigail Pregnancy Services, Salvation Army, Non-Food Bank and other community donations. We feel these programs address community and national SVDP type needs that we do not, which are very worthwhile.

It should be noted that over 98% of your donations go directly to people in need.

The past several months have been unusual and trying times. During these months we have continued to assist those in need without interruption. It should be noted that demand for assistance has been down because of all the stimulus, increased unemployment benefits, and public/private funding that are not normally available. These funding sources are beginning to taper off. As a result, the demand for assistance has started to pick up. We expect demand to grow and possibly exceed our normal volume over the next few months.

Vincetians can provide immediate help with food, rent, the threat of a utility disconnection, eviction 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 longer-term assistance, which is also a very important part of our mission.

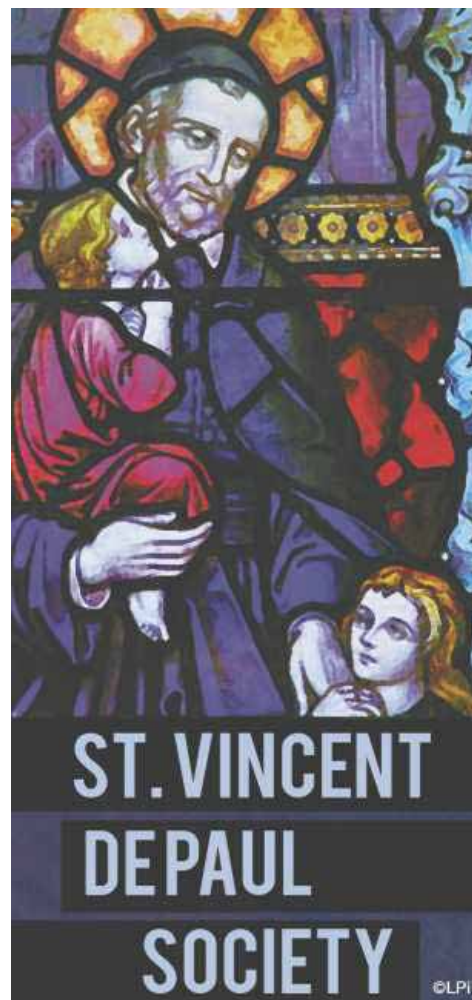
We call ourselves Vincetians in tribute to St. Vincent de Paul. What Vincetians have in common is a desire to serve those who are poor and suffering. In other words, Vincetians embrace the lonely, forgotten and alienated by providing services to anyone in need. Our motto is: *"There is no work of charity 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. St. Vincent de Paul committee would like to thank our generous parishioners for the financial support you have given us.

As an additional show of our appreciation, St. Vincent de Paul has a Mass offered every quarter for the intentions of our donors.

Many blessings to you,

Vincetian Members
Society of St. Vincent de Paul, Norwalk St. Paul Conference



St. Paul Catholic Church

91 E. Main St
Norwalk, OH 44857

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MASS TIMES

Saturday Vigil, 4:30 pm
Sunday, 7 am, 9 am, 11 am,
1 pm (Mass in Spanish) & 5 pm
Monday & Tuesday, 6:15 am
Wednesday, Thursday & Friday, 6:15 am & 9 am
First Saturday, 8 am

RECONCILIATION

Wednesday, 6:30 pm - 7 pm
Friday, 6:45 am
Saturday, 3:30 - 4 pm
First Saturday, 7:30 am
Also by appointment.

LIVE STREAM LITURGIES

www.stpaulchurch.org, click on "Live Webcast"

