



03.2012

Saint Paul

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

*Ask Both What Your Parish Can do For You,
and What You Can do For Your Parish*

The Parishioner Parish Covenant

THE MEMBER ENGAGEMENT HIERARCHY

- Opportunities to learn and grow
- Progress in last six months

- Best friend
- Members committed to spiritual growth
- Mission/Purpose of congregation
- My opinions count

- Encourages development
- Leaders care
- Recognition last month
- Opportunity to do what I do best

- Spiritual needs met
- I know what is expected



The Parishioner Parish Covenant is based upon the "Member Engagement Hierarchy" model

some semblance of Jesus' suffering during the 40 days He spent in the desert fasting and praying. St. Paul Parish offers parishioners spiritual exercises to help guide them through the Lenten journey and to help them make the most of this season of penance and anticipation.

Last year, the parish provided parishioners with the Lenten program, "Becoming Spiritually Fulfilled." This year, parishioners will have a different opportunity for prayer through an exercise known as the "Parishioner Parish Covenant."

Whereas past Lenten exercises focused on what Catholic individuals should be doing to further their relationship with the Lord, this year's exercise takes the concept a step further, asking parishioners to better define their relationship with their parish.

Two fundamental questions make up this year's Lenten exercise: As a parishioner of St. Paul, what is expected of me? And, does St. Paul Parish meet my spiritual needs?

Research conducted by the Gallup Organization suggests that these questions build up the base of what is known as the "Member Engagement Hierarchy," a pyramid-shaped diagram which illustrates

For most of us, Lent is a time for giving up some of the pleasures of modern life, for taking on new prayer regimens, for practicing penance. In a nutshell, Lent has come to mean a time of stripping down, removing the excess, and striving to focus on what really matters.

Traced back to its Old English roots, Lent – or "lencten" – meant "spring" or "renewal." Combining the two understandings, this 40-day period that precedes Easter should become for us a time where we remove the unnecessary parts of our lives while renewing our dedication to Christ and His Church. The two definitions go hand in hand, as it is difficult to truly renew oneself without removing any obstacles that might be in the way, such as sin.

Each Lent, the Church encourages Catholics everywhere to spend the 40 days of Lent spiritually preparing for Christ's death and resurrection. We are, in a small way, challenged to experience

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Rebuilding a Priceless Instrument

The Parish Pipe Organ Fund



From the time St. Paul Parish built its current church building, which was dedicated in August 2008, the community had a desire to install a pipe organ to enhance the experience of liturgical worship within the church. But as the construction came together and financial priorities were arranged, parish leadership decided to make the pipe organ a long-term project that it would pursue later on in the development of our new church sanctuary.

What the parish didn't anticipate, however, was that a beautiful, one-of-a-kind instrument would become available at a very reasonable price within only two years of the church's dedication.

"I found this particular pipe organ on the Internet for \$10,000, and I thought there must be some kind of catch," recalls Christopher Powell, parish Music Director. "So I contacted the person whose information was listed, and he said it was the last of its kind, built in 1868 by Moritz Baumgarten. Baumgarten came over from Germany and took the principles from Europe and started to combine them with our American sounds, and created some great masterpieces, and this is the last one remaining.

"One of the reasons that the price was so low was that the church desperately wanted to give this organ a new home. It was in St. Catherine of Siena Parish in Charlestown, just outside of Boston, and the parish had merged with nearby St. Mary's Parish. St. Catherine's church building was going to be demolished, and because of the size of the pipes, the organ would have to be demolished with it."

Christopher went to Massachusetts to inspect the organ and play it, making a recording of the instrument while he was there. The organ hadn't been used much over the last 50 years and had fallen into a state of disrepair, but upon consulting with Fr. Doug, parish Business Administrator John St. Amant, and the Finance and Pas-

toral Councils, all parties agreed that it would be much more cost-efficient to purchase this unique organ and have it refurbished than to buy a new pipe organ several years down the road.

"I could tell it was a beautiful instrument at one time, and with work, it could be beautiful again," Christopher explains. "There were some misgivings about it, and I understood, but I said, 'If you want a pipe organ – really want one – this is probably the best opportunity we will have. This will be something of interest to people around the county, and we could spend a lot more money on an instrument that's not nearly as special.'"

The Finance and Pastoral Councils voted to purchase the pipe organ, and in the spring of 2010, the A. David Moore Company, an organ restoration firm, picked up the pipes from St. Catherine's on behalf of St. Paul and brought them back to its shop in Vermont, just ahead of the wrecking ball. The case for the organ did not fit the dimensions of St. Paul's balcony, so A. David Moore is currently in the process of building a new organ case for our parish sanctuary and restoring the pipes to their former glory.

"I feel that this will really inspire the people because of the sound," Christopher says. "It is my belief and prayer that when people hear this instrument, they will be inspired to look toward heaven. With all the sounds – from a whisper to a roar – that this instrument produces, it expresses the range of human emotion people can bring to Mass. We can also use it with our choirs, our string ensemble, our piano – we can use it with all of the ensembles we currently have for responsorial singing."

It is important to note that the pipe organ is being completely paid for by contributions to the St. Paul Pipe Organ Fund. No parish general operating funds will be used, and no debt will be incurred.

A Steward's Guide to Lenten Commitments

Dear Parishioners,

Making a Lenten commitment is simple. What's hard is keeping it! The Lenten commitments we make ourselves are frequently a lot like New Year's resolutions – they sound good, but we don't get far into the new year before they've been broken and then abandoned.

If you are like me, you approached Ash Wednesday with the intention of doing better than you did last year. But as March drags on, it seems as though we'll never get to Easter. Our enthusiasm wanes, and it seems harder and harder to keep our commitment. And then we begin to wonder, "What's the point?"

Often, we realize we've already broken our commitment in some way – perhaps we decided we'd pray a decade of the Rosary every evening, but we were too tired one night or simply forgot. Maybe we slipped up and ate a cheeseburger on the first Friday in Lent, even though we know that all Fridays in Lent are days of abstinence from meat. So we conclude that we just can't keep a good Lent and so give up trying to make it a special season in any way.

If you're tempted to give up, don't do it! Just pick up where you left off, ask God for forgiveness, and begin again. Our Lenten commitments should challenge us, and we can grow spiritually. We can even benefit from our failures if they help us better realize how much we need God's grace.

After all, nothing worthwhile is accomplished without discipline and structure. Whether it's a football player in training or a musician practicing an instrument or a medical student mastering the intricacies of the human body, hard work, discipline, and even frustration will be part of the process. Only those who keep at it will master the skills those activities demand.

The spiritual life follows the same principles. Spiritual growth requires hard work and discipline and practice. Making our wills conform to God's will is the result of repeated efforts over a period of years.

It is true that sometimes we need to reevaluate our Lenten commitments. If we are aware we're consistently failing in some point, we may need to modify it. But normally the value of our Lenten commitments comes from our steady, day-to-day observance of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving all through the season.

But when we fail, we should remember the Prodigal Son (Luke 15:11-32). He had failed miserably. Suppose he had concluded, "I've blown it. I rejected my father and my home. There's no way I can go back." He'd have given up in despair. But coming to his senses, he decides to return home in penitence, to be a servant. But when he arrives home, he's welcomed with joy and restored to his position.

This parable sets forth the pattern we should follow when we fail in our Lenten commitments. Begin our observance again, and keeping on trudging the whole length of March, until we come to the joys of Easter. God our Father will welcome us. Then we will indeed be ready to celebrate.

Sincerely yours in Christ,



Fr. Doug Halsema
Pastor

The Parish Pipe Organ Fund *continued from page 2*

Thus, a ministry called Friends of the Pipe Organ has formed at St. Paul to raise funds to restore the three-manual, 28-stop Baumgarten organ to its full capacity. The goal is to raise just over \$500,000, with the hope of having the new pipe organ installed at St. Paul by Easter 2014. Work will not start until Friends of the Pipe Organ have the cash in hand to cover each phase of building the organ.

"In a historical context, for Catholics, the pipe organ has been the instrument of the Church for hundreds of years," Christopher says. "Then there is the more symbolic aspect, that the pipe organ is real; it is authentic. For Church music, the authentic sound of real wind blowing through real pipes will always sound better than an electronic imitation. What we are about as a Church is authentic-

ity in our worship and in our prayer. And there are actually some quotes from various popes about this, too, how the pipe organ mirrors the whole idea of divine worship, of many voices sounding as one. It has also been compared to the Holy Spirit, because of the great and mighty wind that powers the pipes giving the organ its sound."

There are many ways to support the Pipe Organ Fund, and all parishioners are encouraged to help the Friends of the Pipe Organ in restoring this integral part of our future worship at St. Paul. For more information, or to contribute, please call John St. Amant at 850-434-2551, ext. 101, or click on the "Pipe Organ" link at the parish Web site, www.stpaulcatholic.net.

Celebrating Catholic Schools Week



Food was collected for Waterfront Mission



Bump, set, spike!



"When-I-Grow-Up-Day"



Line dancing!



Dressed up for the Mardi Gras Parade



\$3,300 was collected during the "Penny War"

Catholic Schools Week is a national campaign sponsored by the National Catholic Educational Association (NCEA). Every year, starting on the last Sunday of January, a week is set aside to celebrate Catholic schools across the country.

This year, the theme was "Catholic Schools: Faith. Academics. Service." Following this theme, St. Paul Catholic School planned several events and activities for this special time, celebrating the gift of Catholic education and recognizing the importance of that gift.

The celebration began on Sunday, Jan. 29, which focused on parish appreciation. There was an Open House, as well as a viewing of the Art Fair and Science Fair, which were on display. Middle school students also read thank you messages at Mass and thank you cards were distributed to parishioners.

Each day of the week carried a theme of appreciation. On Monday, the focus was on community appreciation, on Tuesday they school celebrated student appreciation, Wednesday was school appreciation, Thursday was for parent appreciation, and Friday dealt with teacher appreciation.

Many of the activities correlated with the themes for each of the days. For student appreciation, the children were given no homework on Tuesday night, and on Friday, there was a Parent Volunteer Appreciation Breakfast. One of the biggest activities of the week was the Penny War, a charity activity that lasted from Monday to Friday.

The week ended on Friday with Mass, the Distinguished Alumnus Award and Reception, and a teacher luncheon sponsored by the eighth grade.

Knights of Columbus Shine Without Armor

Men associated with the Knights of Columbus fraternal organization are great examples to follow. These men are collectively dedicated to serving their communities in a number of ways.

“Even though [a brother knight] may not belong to our parish, if he needs our assistance, we’ll be there,” says Fourth Degree Knight and Advocate to the Council Joe Pastucha. “We respond wholeheartedly.”

Joe is a member of Council #778, our local Knights of Columbus council, which has been active for nearly 120 years.

The Knights of Columbus is an international fraternal organization with councils all over America and several other countries around the world. The organization is dedicated to promoting four main principles in all they do: Charity, Unity, Fraternity, and Patriotism. The men carry out their mission through the financial support of a number of charities, organizations and causes, through active service to the community, and through many social, family, and outreach activities held throughout the year.

Our local council is heavily involved in pro-life ministry, donating money, and participating in activities such as the 40 Days for Life. The council also raises money to help support groups like FavorHouse of Northwest Florida, a local domestic violence center, and Alpha Center, a pregnancy care center.

“We will do everything in the world to help support St. Paul and any endeavor they have,” Joe says. “We just hope to be a viable organization that will do anything and everything we can.”

Council #778 also holds three monthly meetings. The entire council comes together on the first and third Mondays of the month; one of the meetings is for regular business and the other for socialization, which is also open to members’ spouses and families. On the second Monday, the council holds a meeting exclusively for Fourth Degree members.

Historically, Council #778 has not been directly associated with any one parish in Pensacola; rather, it has served several parishes in the community. However, according to the desire of the Supreme Council that there be a Knights of Columbus council at every parish in the country, Council #778 will soon be bringing their ministries to our parish as direct affiliates of St. Paul.

“We extend ourselves as far as we can to any charitable use,” Joe says. “We will be doing that exclusively at St. Paul when we are totally affiliated.”

The Knights of Columbus not only provides its members with the opportunity to serve their community, it also builds a sense of camaraderie among the men in the community.

“It’s something I would love for every Catholic man to experience,” Joe says. “Our principles – Charity, Unity, Fraternity, and Patriotism – should be the aspiration of every Catholic man.”

Anytime we participate in serving others in our community, we are blessed by the experience, and this has certainly been true in Joe’s life through his participation with the Knights and other ministries.

“I would hope that it has made me a better Catholic,” Joe says. “I’ve been a Eucharistic Minister at St. Paul, I’ve been an usher, and I’ve been a reader. I feel that the Knights has had an influence on my involvement because it’s strictly Catholic. It really gets to the heart of what being a Catholic is.”

And that is the opportunity offered to each of the members of Knights of Columbus Council #778, who are wonderful examples of parish involvement.

For more information on the local Knights of Columbus council, or to get involved, call Joe Pastucha at 850-438-0241.



Knights of Columbus during their Installation of Officers ceremony.



State Council Annual Convention



The Knights of Columbus honor our priests and religious with an appreciation banquet.



Our Knights of Columbus Council Flag.



Join us as we
CONNECT
our families

We need you to make our new family album complete!

Let's put names with faces. We have chosen to partner with Lifetouch for professional photography that will connect our members and tell our story.

Convenient

Lifetouch will photograph at our location.

In your one-hour session you will:

- Check-in
- Be professionally photographed
- Immediately view your portraits
- Have an opportunity to purchase additional portraits

When was the last time you or your family had a professional portrait taken?

Portraits are valued family keepsakes. Watch for more information coming soon about the opportunity to schedule your portrait session.

We look forward to seeing you!



Each family will receive a Complimentary 8x10 Portrait & Directory for participating



Exciting Products
turn your portraits into cherished memories

Products may vary

Proclaiming the Word of God

Readers Ministry

Every Catholic parish has a number of different ministries and volunteer opportunities for its parishioners. Some ministries are not very well known to the average churchgoer, while others are a familiar sight to anyone who attends Mass each Sunday. At St. Paul, our parish readers belong to the second category, standing in front of everyone to proclaim the Word of God.

“It is not a frightening experience for most of us,” says reader Linda Duff. “We don’t have to make anything up. It isn’t us speaking; it’s the Word of God speaking through us. It does feel a little bit ‘tingly’ when you first start, but generally there’s a real satisfaction in knowing that you have shared with the congregation.”

How much attention do we pay to these volunteers who are not only present every Sunday, but also actively participate in the celebration of the Mass? It can be easy to take for granted these ministers of the Word and the important role they play in our liturgical celebrations.

“The reader is not just a reader or a presenter or a dramatic reader of the Gospels and the writings of both the Old and New Testament; we are to proclaim the Good News with joy and understanding and sincerity,” Linda says. “That’s why the Church has made it a requisite that the readers pray and understand what they are about to read. We really understand and pray over the Word of God.”

The readers follow a schedule in which they are assigned certain weeks to read at Mass, with each reader generally proclaiming the Scriptures once or twice per quarter.

The basic duties of the readers include proclaiming the first and second readings, and sometimes the responsorial psalm and petitions. What many people may not realize, however, is that there is also an aspect of preparation. Readers are expected to prepare and practice for their readings before their scheduled Masses. Linda even suggests taking that preparation further.

“I encourage new and older readers to revisit their dedication to Scripture and how important it is to our lives and to our liturgy,” she says. “We don’t just listen to those few short readings every Sunday, but we dig into those



Richard Hahner reading at the ambo

readings and gospels during the week. We have a group which meditates and studies the readings – that should be going on in everybody’s home.”

Many of the members of this ministry benefit from it in more ways than that. The Reader Ministry provides a great way for people of St. Paul to get involved in our parish and give back to the Church, and also leads to a stronger sense of community.

“It’s important for lay people to be involved in our liturgy, in our worship service,” Linda says. “It makes you feel more connected, you feel a big part of things. And it’s an honor to do this; it’s a privilege. It helps you feel more plugged in.”

The ministry also gives the readers the opportunity to be more fully involved in the Mass, helping them to feel more connected to the liturgy and bring away more from the service.

“I’ve learned so much about our liturgy and why things are done the way they are,” Linda says. “The more I learn, the more I want to learn. It’s part of my faith journey and it helps me to learn more. I think the more plugged in and connected you are, the more you want to know.”

For more information about the Readers Ministry or to get involved, call Linda Duff at 850-434-8781.

“The lector is not just a reader or a presenter or a dramatic reader of the Gospels and the writings of both the Old and New Testament; we are to proclaim the Good News with joy and understanding and sincerity.” - Linda Duff, reader

Address Service Requested

The Parishioner Parish Covenant *continued from cover*

parishioner needs from the most basic to the most advanced. The idea behind the pyramid is that if the bottom two needs are met, parishioners will be engaged in the parish and seek ways to help the community grow or further their own spiritual enrichment.

This Lent, parishioners will have the opportunity to answer both questions through an in-pew survey. St. Paul is interested in knowing what it can do better to serve its parishioners' needs. And most parishioners are also interested in knowing what they can do better to live according to the Church's teachings. The survey will give participants an opportunity to comment on both areas. Then, once the feedback from the surveys is analyzed, parishioners will be asked to sign a covenant, indicating their commitment to St. Paul Parish and their desire to grow in a relationship with the Lord. Similarly, parish leaders and clergy will also sign the covenant, showing their determination to serve parishioners' needs.

"The Lenten Season is an opportunity for everyone to refocus," says Fr. Doug. "The covenant will establish the way in

which we live the remainder of the year – it is a discernment process, a time of reflection."

Perhaps most importantly, the "Parishioner Parish Covenant" will allow the community to embrace the two-fold definition of Lent as a time of cutting away the fat while experiencing a spiritual rebirth.

Refer to the weekly parish bulletin for more information about the Parishioner Parish Covenant. Important dates to remember include:

Feb. 26, Introductory announcements at Mass, preparing parishioners for the survey and covenant process.

March 4, Presentation Sunday, educational materials sent home with parishioners.

March 11, Administration of In-Pew Survey

March 25, Unveiling of Parishioner Parish Covenant

Liturgy Schedule

Saturday Vigil: 4:30 p.m. | **Sunday:** 7:00, 9:00, 11:00 a.m., 6:00 p.m. | **Daily Mass:** Monday-Saturday, 8:30 a.m.

Confessions: Saturdays, 9:00 a.m., 3:30 p.m. - 4:15 p.m., 1st Wednesdays, 6:30 p.m., and by appointment

Eucharistic Adoration: Thursday 9:00 a.m. until Friday 7:30 a.m.