



01.2015

# Saint Paul

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

## *“A Genuine Peace and Joy”* *Eucharistic Adoration at St. Paul*

If you knew there was a unique opportunity to have a closer personal connection with Christ, would you take advantage of it? Here at St. Paul, Eucharistic Adoration makes that possible for all parishioners.

As a convert to Catholicism, Eucharistic Adoration Committee member Wendy Karzewski found that adoration deepened her prayer life and took her relationship with Christ a step further.

“Through adoration, I experience a richness in my relationship with Christ,” Wendy says. “In order to grow, you have to assess what you are doing and how you can do more. Adoration helps get your priorities in order. The fruit is a sense of peace in our lives; a genuine peace and joy.”

While we receive Christ in the Eucharist during the Mass, we also have the opportunity to worship Him in the monstrance during the practice of Eucharistic Adoration.

“Adoration is praising God in the highest form of praise that we can give Him — our full and undivided attention in His presence,” Wendy says. “Adoration complements the reception of Communion because the goal is to grow in our relationship with Christ. We can do this through Communion and through spending time with Him in Adoration.”

The “ACTS” acronym offers one approach to worshipping Christ in adoration. Through adoration, confession, thanksgiving, and supplication, we adore Christ and acknowledge our own limitations.



“In your personal time in Adoration, remember to lift Him up first and to adore Him,” Wendy says. “Then, move into thanksgiving and lift your petitions to Him, your own prayers and your intercessory prayers for your friends and family.”

Wendy first encountered adoration when accompanying a group of young adults to a Steubenville Youth Conference. Since moving to St. Paul in 2011, Wendy has worked with the Youth Ministry and is inspired to see young people gather in adoration each week.

“We meet at the parish office at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday nights and then move to the chapel for high school fellowship and adoration,” Wendy says. “These high school students are in adoration every week for an entire hour. Anywhere from six to 30 students attend.”

Andy Chambers currently coordinates St. Paul’s weekly opportunity for adoration in the Adoration Chapel, beginning after

*continued on back cover*

*A Letter From Our Pastor*

# *The Future and Legacy of Our Community of God*



Dear Parishioners,

As you may have noticed, the massive upgrade and relocation of the entire campus' utilities is complete! This system is considerably more efficient, which will save us money. It also provides for the future by supplying air conditioning for much needed additional parish meeting space, a renovated parish center, new additional classrooms, and a new gymnasium. Moving the utilities also allows us to provide much nicer space for the playground for our small children.

The school renovations we initiated the summer of 2014 are now complete, thus providing significantly greater security for our children. Our priority is a safe environment for our school children and all of our children who attend religious education. The repair to the structural problems in the old church — cafetorium — are also complete. Over the next several months, we will be renovating the interior of the cafetorium to accommodate an updated library and computerized media center. Middle school classrooms will occupy the existing library and computer lab. The objective is to expand the middle school to accommodate the many students we currently must turn away due to lack of space. We hope to have moved the existing library and computer lab by August 2015. We also hope to commence building four new classrooms onto the south end of the school by summer 2015.

The new classrooms will house art, music and Pre-K, and there will be an additional classroom for our middle school. The objective is to move all classrooms out of the Parish Center/Gym to increase security for our children and provide some badly needed meeting space for our parish ministries.

Our LED lighting project continues to move forward. The conversion to the church building to LED is about 95 percent complete. About 85 percent of the exterior lighting around our campus has been converted to LED. We plan to finish the church, then complete the exterior LED work. The existing lighting in our school will be converted to LED as bulbs and fixtures need to be replaced. Our current utility bill is about \$14,000 per month — the utility upgrades and LED conversion should save us a tidy sum of money over the years.

*continued on next page*

# Our Community of God continued from page 2

Lastly, the pipe organ project is close to completion! Our rebuilt 1860 pipe organ should be fully functional in just a few months. We greatly appreciate our organ builders, A. David Moore Pipe Organs, their attention to great detail and dedication to building us one of their finest instruments for generations to come.

These projects serve as a reminder of what we want to accomplish — we want to renovate our campus to emphasize and reflect the fact that St. Paul Catholic Church is a COMMUNITY of GOD within which we WORSHIP, EDUCATE, and RECREATE. We will:

Dedicate our Parish Center as the center of our campus COMMUNITY.

- ◊ Revitalize our Parish Center to meet needs of entire parish community.
- ◊ Remove our recreation space from Parish Center with new secure gym to RECREATE.
- ◊ Remove education space from Parish Center with new classrooms.

Secure EDUCATION space.

- ◊ Relocate utilities.
- ◊ Create new classrooms to maximize security.
- ◊ Locate fencing to secure education space.

Enhance our WORSHIP experience.

- ◊ Complete our pipe organ project.
- ◊ Renovate choir area in church.
- ◊ Renovate adoration prayer chapel behind parish office.
- ◊ Initiate and complete LED lighting project in church.
- ◊ Continue sound system enhancements in church.

Make additional improvements.

- ◊ Covered walks to connect spaces.
- ◊ Improve church plaza and community courtyard with landscape.

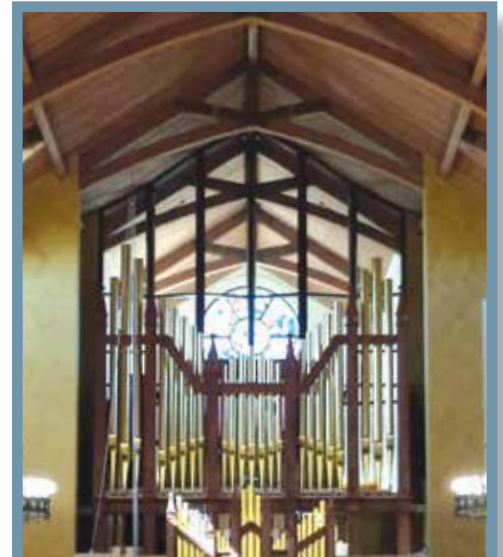
This construction is about our vision for the future and the legacy we will leave for generations yet to come. Thank you for your patience and your financial sacrifices to make it all happen. Certainly with God's help, through the strength of His Son and the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, we will do more than we could ever imagine.

“Now to him who is able to accomplish far more than all we ask or imagine, by the power at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen” (Eph. 3:20-21).

Sincerely yours in Christ,



Fr. Doug Halsema  
Pastor



# St. Paul Extends Faith F High Sch



“If you go in knowing you’re going to get something accomplished, you’ll have a great outcome and you’ll carry that experience with you for the rest of your life.”

This is what Isabella Williams, who has participated in youth activities here at St. Paul, has to say about getting involved. And it’s true — from scouting programs, youth groups, and service and retreat opportunities, we have so many wonderful opportunities for young people to learn more about and grow in their faith, as they help others in the community, grow closer to God, and get to know other peers who share their values.

“You get so much out of things like Tuesday Night Talks, campouts, or groups like Fraternus or Fidelis,” says Ben Williams, Isabella’s brother and a founding member of Fraternus. “It’s always good to have that balance with the rest of your life, and to have mentors who are religious people or priests. It keeps you in touch with your faith, and can help you get through whatever struggles you have in high school or at home. It’s a good thing to keep in your life.”

This year, St. Paul will hold its “Ignite Retreat” for high school students from March 27 to March 29. The next month, from April 10 to April 12, high school students are also invited to a campout at Camp Timpoochee in Niceville. Recalling his time participating in similar events like Fraternus’ annual campout, Ben encourages youth to open themselves up God through these activities.

“It’s a great way to really get in touch with our spiritual lives,” he says. “Plus, you also get to meet people and have a good time.”

Also in 2015, there will be three opportunities for youth to attend conferences and programs, both in the local area and further beyond. From Jan. 30 to Feb. 1, the Diocese of Pensacola-Tallahassee will host the Diocesan Youth Conference at Edgewater Beach Resort in Panama City, Fla. This spiritual, social, educational, and recreational weekend will include keynote speakers, musicians, workshops, a dance, and a closing liturgy celebrated by the bishop. This is a great way for youth to get acquainted with other young Catholics from the Panhandle.

From June 7-12, high school youth are invited to attend the Christian Leadership Institute, a weeklong summer program that teaches youth leadership skills for their parish, school and community. The week includes various workshops on topics such as interpersonal skills building, group dynamics and communication, as well as opportunities for worship, prayer and reflection.

Finally, from July 10 to July 12, youth will attend Life Teen’s Steubenville Youth Conference in Atlanta. This conference, which takes place in several locations across the United States, brings together thousands of Catholic teens in a weekend full of talks, workshops, liturgies, adoration, praise, and worship.

“They always find great speakers, leaders and priests, and each year they change it up with new talks and different activities,” says Ben, who has attended the conference each year since the seventh grade.

“It takes away from the chaos of whatever is going on in your life,” Isabella says. “Whatever is going on — when you hit Steubenville, it disappears. You’re

# Formation Opportunities to Cool Youth



with all these teenagers your age that you'd never imagine meeting, and you have this time off from your daily routine to spend with God. So you have an amazing time just sitting down with God, and it's also amazing fun at the same time."

"That's one of the best parts, I think — meeting new people," Ben adds. "Everyone is there for the same reasons, and everyone is welcoming. Every time we go, it seems like you meet someone who knows someone else — it's a really small world in terms of the Church!"

Isabella, who has attended the conference for the past three years, credits Steubenville for a huge spiritual change in her life.

"Last year was really tough for me, and when I went to the conference, it was like all my negative feelings towards people in general or towards myself just disappeared," she says. "I

felt like my faith life was restored, and it really impacted me. I think it really happened during adoration — I was praying for God to show me something, begging for a sign that He was there in the room with us. So I kept praying, and when [the Blessed Sacrament] came around to me, I saw the Eucharist and I immediately melted down. Looking at the Eucharist, I realized that God is there, God is real, and He loves us and will forgive us no matter what."

For Isabella, the conference has helped her to continue to nurture her faith life throughout the rest of the year.

"It's always hard when you come back from such an amazing experience — you get a huge reality check," she says. "So I try really hard to transfer the call to love others, and the constant joy you get from that, to my own little life. Now, I tend to pray a lot more and keep in constant check with God.

I love praying the Rosary now — my mom does it every night, so sometimes I join her. I am also more aware of what people are saying, and I try to speak up when people say mean things. This has really influenced me with my friends and how I talk to them."

High school can be a busy time, but Ben and Isabella both encourage others to get involved in whatever they can make time for. Even if you can't make a regular youth group meeting or every retreat, even one activity each year can make a huge difference in your life.

"I am a varsity basketball player, so in terms of practice and games, I can't make it to every event," Ben says. "But I do try to go to whatever I can, and try to keep in touch. Just give it a chance — why not?"

For more information about high school youth opportunities at St. Paul, please visit [www.stpaulcatholic.net/church/ministries/youth/](http://www.stpaulcatholic.net/church/ministries/youth/).

# *Second Phase Begins on Baumgarten Pipe Organ Installation*

In December, St. Paul Catholic Church began the second installation phase of our beautiful Baumgarten Pipe Organ in the church. The building process started on Dec. 11, and will continue into the spring.



# Community Welcomes New Parish Organist

## Elaine Payne

No matter our stage in life, we each have unique and valuable talents that we can give back in gratitude to God. Elaine Payne, the St. Paul Catholic Church's new organist, has been using her musical gifts to glorify God since she was in high school.

"Faith was a very big part of my family life growing up," Elaine says. "I was very involved in all kinds of activities — mission activities, certainly choirs. I first started playing for choirs as a high school student. Then I went to a Baptist college and started as a church

music major, and switched to a piano performance degree with a minor in organ. I started playing for churches when I was in college and have been doing that ever since."

For the past 30 years, Elaine has been a member of Columbia Baptist Church in Falls Church, Va., where she was the organist and Associate Minister of Music. She heard about our parish's need for a new organist through her friend, who is the organist at another church in Pensacola. That friend gave Elaine's contact information to Brian Brown, the Music Director for St. Paul, leading to her eventual employment as our parish's new organist. She begins her new position this month.

"I'm looking forward to the opportunity to continue to use the gift that God has given me to enhance the worship with His people," Elaine says. "I'm looking forward to working with Brian Brown and the members of the choir and getting to know the people of the parish. Everyone I've



Elaine Payne

met so far has been very gracious and welcoming."

Elaine understands the importance of sharing her talents and gifts in service to God and His people, as we are all called to do.

"Not everybody has a musical gift, but we can all offer our praise," she says. "We each have gifts that we've been given that we can give back in His service. It might be helping to feed the homeless, or something else, but we all have gifts that we should share."

She also recognizes that sharing her musical gifts in praise and worship of the Lord is a means of prayer.

"I see prayer as a conversation with God as much as something formal," Elaine says. "And through our music, we can certainly offer our praise and worship to Him. He can speak to us through music, and the music that we play can speak to others in the choir and the people that we share it with."

And as all who use the talents God has given them in service to Him know, when we give back to God, we are blessed even more in return.

"It's had great effect on my faith life, being able to be part of the regular worship experience of people, being part of their lives and being able to share in special moments in their lives — whether it's a wedding, a baptism or a funeral," Elaine says. "Music touches people. It's a way to glorify God. It's been a joy to be a part of people's lives in that way."

Please join us in welcoming Elaine to our parish family!

---

*"Not everybody has a musical gift, but we can all offer our praise. We each have gifts that we've been given that we can give back in His service. It might be helping to feed the homeless, or something else, but we all have gifts that we should share." — Elaine Payne*

Address Service Requested

## *Eucharistic Adoration* continued from front cover

the Thursday morning Mass and continuing until the Friday morning Mass. During the Advent season, additional hours for adoration were offered for the parish in the church.

Regular adoration was identified as one of the top needs of the parish in the parish's Spring Assembly last year. A Eucharistic Adoration Committee was formed for the short-term goal of raising awareness of adoration and the long-term goal of address the possibility of a Perpetual Adoration Chapel.

"Moving from 24 hours a week to perpetual adoration is a huge leap," Wendy says. "Yet, adoration is one of the top needs of the parish, because we know that parishes across the country that have perpetual adoration have incredible fruits, especially in terms of vocations."

At any time of the day or night, the Adoration Chapel welcomes parishioners who want to further enrich their relationship with Christ through adoration.

For more information about Adoration at St. Paul, please contact Andy Chambers at [andyrchambers@gmail.com](mailto:andyrchambers@gmail.com) or 850-777-0376 or in the parish office at 850-434-2551.

*"Through adoration, I experience a richness in my relationship with Christ. In order to grow, you have to assess what you are doing and how you can do more. Adoration helps get your priorities in order. The fruit is a sense of peace in our lives, a genuine peace and joy."*  
— Wendy Karczewski,  
*Eucharistic Adoration Committee*

---

### *Liturgy Schedule*

**Saturday Vigil:** 4:30 p.m. | **Sunday:** 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.,  
most Sundays during 9:00 and 11:00 a.m. Mass, 1st Wednesdays, 6:30 p.m., and by appointment  
**Eucharistic Adoration:** Thursday 9:00 a.m. until Friday 7:30 a.m.