



10.2014

Saint Paul

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER



Society of St. Vincent de Paul

Seeking Holiness Through Works of Charity

More Information About Our St. Paul SVdP Conference

- Our St. Paul SVdP Conference provides special services for homeless veterans, single mothers with children, seniors, and those in dire need.
- We screen clients for one-way bus tickets home. We provide in-depth help to secure documents needed for Florida IDs and a host of services. The Conference helps clients to apply for work, get needed medical help, and register for education.
- For over six years, the TUESDAY program has worked with Favor House, Waterfront Mission, Lakeview Center, and the Veterans' Administration.
- We provide services not available elsewhere in Escambia County. We encourage members of St. Paul who are in need to call us. We are a part of the St. Paul Parish family.

Vivian Krumel-Storey, a parishioner of St. Paul for 50 years, is passionate about helping others through the Society of St. Vincent de Paul (SVdP). Having served as president of the St. Paul SVdP Conference for 10 years now, Vivian loves making a difference in people's lives.

"I am a registered nurse and like helping people, so I decided to volunteer after my sister encouraged me," Vivian says. "It has been a very rewarding and fulfilling experience, and I can use my time, knowledge and connections to help people in the community."

SVdP, an international organization, is external to the Catholic Church, but is guided and facilitated by practicing Catholics throughout the world. SVdP is founded on the following mission: "[SVdP] is composed of women and men who seek their personal holiness through works of charity."

The St. Paul SVdP Conference, which numbers 22 members, has two primary programs – outreach and homeless assistance. The outreach program assists individuals in need by helping paying rent and utilities, as well as providing food and transportation. This program often requires volunteers from



SVdP members working in the AWC trailer

SVdP to conduct a home visit to determine and verify the family's needs. The homeless assistance program utilizes the Alfred-Washburn Center (AWC), a Pensacola homeless shelter, two days a week to help those in need. One of the primary services SVdP provides through the AWC is making Florida identification cards available to the homeless.

"You cannot work in Florida without an ID card," Vivian says. "We help track down the birth certificate so they can get an ID to work. Many come out of jail and don't have any ID, and many lose their ID cards because

Society of St. Vincent de Paul continued from front cover

[the homeless] carry everything on their back, and their packs are often stolen.”

The St. Paul Conference helps in any way possible, including helping cover medication costs, buying dentures, ministering to domestic violence victims, and covering bus tickets so individuals can travel when needed.

“Nothing is foreign to SVdP when it comes to helping,” Vivian says. “We will help buy tools or boots so someone can work. If someone is stranded in town and ran out of gas, we will help fill their tank. We help a lot with paying utilities for people, especially during the summer to cover air conditioning for families with children.”

The St. Paul Conference receives \$1,425 each month from the parish, and calls to the parish for assistance are directed to Vivian. The conference also holds a few key fundraisers each year. In September, SVdP conferences across the country join together for the Friends of the Poor Walk, an event that raises awareness of SVdP and the homeless. St. Paul joins with other local conferences to facilitate the fundraiser at the Pensacola Catholic High School, and raises several thousands of dollars for charity.

After the recent devastating flood in Pensacola and a fire last year, the AWC needed major repairs. The St. Paul

Conference helped to raise money for the AWC through a dance fundraiser featuring live music from Mass Kun-fuzion, a well-known Catholic band. The fundraiser received many donations from local corporations and also featured a silent auction for participants. In 2013, this event raised \$29,000, while this year it brought in \$62,000.

The St. Paul Conference uses the funds to help those who ask for assistance, and \$500 is given every month to the AWC. The conference also distributes baskets filled with donated goods to families in need during Thanksgiving each year, and they join together with other local conferences each year to provide Christmas baskets.

“[SVdP] has brought me closer to the Lord and to the needs of the people,” Vivian says. “It has provided spiritual growth as we pray and have spiritual contemplations at every meeting. To be a Vincentian is a spiritual calling.”

The St. Paul Conference meets on the second and fourth Monday each month at the parish. To learn more about SVdP or the St. Paul Conference, please visit www.svdpusa.org, or contact Vivian Krumel-Storey through the parish office at 850-434-2551.

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– Vivian Krumel-Storey, St. Paul SVdP Conference President



SVdP Tuesday Outreach at AWC



“Coffee” Bob Kane and Deacon Bob LeBlanc at the 2013 VA Stand Down



The homeless served by SVdP live in camps throughout the year

A Letter From Our Pastor

Make October a Spiritually Fulfilling Month

Dear Parishioners,

Through the centuries, the Church has developed and established a theme and devotion for each month of the year. Officially, October is the month of the Rosary, highlighted by the Feast of Our Lady of the Rosary on Oct. 7.

The Rosary and its importance to our prayer lives is a fixture of our Catholic faith. It is satisfying and affirming for me to see people with rosaries at church. However, this is not as prevalent today as it was one generation ago.

A family praying the Rosary together was once the norm. Since October is the month we highlight this devotion, there is no better time to bring it back to the forefront of our faith lives.

So, this month, I invite you to do two things. First, find your rosary. If you don't have one, ask your friends in the parish who might have one you can use, or you can purchase one in our gift shop or online. And, second, make a concerted effort to pray the Rosary this month — either individually, or more importantly, with your family.

Families and family life are under attack from secular society. Last year, Pope Francis announced an Extraordinary Synod of Bishops to occur this month from October 5-19. The topic of discussion will be the "Pastoral Challenges of the Family in the Context of Evangelization." Participants will include the presidents of national bishops' conferences (our president is Archbishop Joseph Kurtz of Louisville), the heads of the Eastern Catholic Churches, and the leaders of major Vatican offices. It will be interesting to see what comes out of this significant



meeting.

The pope has consistently emphasized the importance of the family to our Church. One of his comments contained "food for thought" for each of us in relation to our own families. He said, "People should take Sundays off so they can be with their families." Of course, we all understand this can be difficult given the busy and complex world in which we live. The Holy Father added, "Turn off the television during family meals and set aside time to play with or to talk with your children." In addition to praying the Rosary, I would recommend that our families make an effort to heed Pope Francis' words.

Finally, I would like to suggest a couple of words and one phrase that would make our relationships to one another stronger and more comfort-

able, whether in our families, or right here in our faith family. The words are "please" and "sorry," and the phrase is "thank you." It is amazing what these words might mean to someone. I do not think we can say them enough. As we approach our busy fall season with all the joy it brings, let us keep in mind how the Lord has gifted us, and respond with the heart of a generous steward.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Fr. Doug Halsema
Pastor



Our Annual Stewardship Renewal

Thanking God for the Blessings

You have to take care of yourself before you can take care of those you love. This rationale is difficult for many of us to accept. Mothers and fathers routinely place the needs of their children before their own; soldiers at war often throw their own safety to the wind in the interest of protecting their fellow soldiers. The story of Jesus also focuses on giving to others. If Christ calls us to imitate Him – to become completely selfless – then it would seem that focusing on ourselves might counteract our efforts as Christians.

Nevertheless, as we enter into our annual Stewardship Renewal, Fr. Doug Halsema is asking us all to focus a bit more on ourselves. No, he's not encouraging self-centeredness; he's asking us to examine our own lives and determine the areas that are in need of growth. Before the stewardship way of life can totally transform our parish, it must begin in each of our hearts. As each individual's spiritual life blossoms and grows, so will our parish as a whole. Will you plant the seed of stewardship in your own heart?

Is your prayer life in need of a tune-up? Honestly ask yourself, "How much time do I spend in prayer each week?" The answer is probably a bit embarrassing. Everyone wants to spend more time in prayer, but there's just never enough time to do everything we want to do. Good intentions are just that: intentions. This year, as you're discerning how you will offer your time to God, resolve to follow through with your commitments. Consider each moment you spend in prayer as nourishment for your soul. The spiritual health of our parish is only as strong as the sum of its parts (individual parishioners).

Is your level of parish involvement in need of a boost?

We give our talents back to God when we get involved in ministries at St. Paul. And, with a host of ministries to choose from, there's something for everyone. Sure, ministries give parishioners opportunities to serve others in the community, but they also benefit those in the ministry itself. Ask anyone who actively participates in a ministry at St. Paul, "Why do you enjoy serving in this way?" They'll probably say, "I get more out of the ministry than the people I serve." This year, as you're discerning how you will offer your talents to God, considering signing up for a ministry that may benefit you, like a Bible study, prayer group, or retreat. Or, contribute to an outreach ministry where your good deeds not only help others in the community, but also give you feelings of satisfaction and thankfulness.

How do I use my Commitment Card? Your commitment card allows you to make commitments to prayer, parish ministries, and offertory giving. It is designed to be used by the whole family.

Time Section: Except for the ill and homebound, everyone should be able to check "Come to Mass on Sundays and Holy Days." Try to check at least a few other items. Daily prayer should be a priority for every person trying to grow closer to God.

Talent Section: You can either sign up for new ministries or re-commit to your current ministries. Be sure to write your first name next to the ministry! This is especially important if the card is being used by more than one person.

Treasure Section: Clearly print how much money you plan to give each week or month to our parish. Try to take a step toward giving 5 percent of your income to St. Paul.

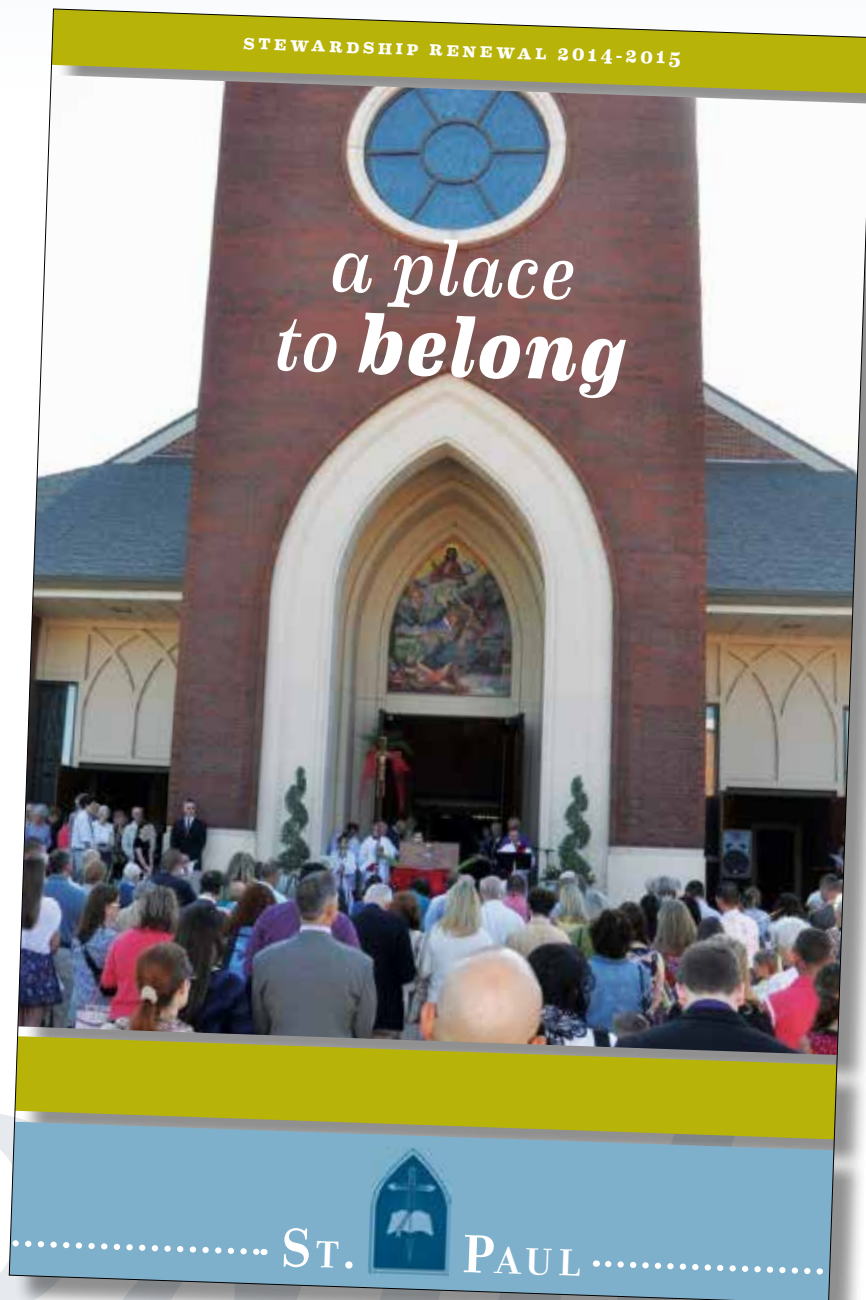
Stewardship Renewal

Gifts He has Bestowed on Us

Do you give a percentage of your income to the offertory?

It may be hard to see offertory giving as a way to “help yourself,” but when we approach the subject from a spiritual viewpoint, it can lead to individual spiritual growth and an increase in faith. Even the most savvy business person worries about his or her personal finances from time to time. Adding a weekly offertory check to the list of monthly bills may seem crazy but, ultimately, sacrificial giving forces us to cut unnecessary spending, create a budget and have faith that God will help us make it through the month. All of these are good things for each of us, individually. After faithfully giving to the offertory for a few months, many Catholics find that it’s not only possible to give a weekly offering, but that the fruits of their gift far outweigh the expense.

At St. Paul, we ask that you give five percent to our parish, one percent to the diocese, and four percent to other charities. Why a percentage of income? First, because the tithe (10 percent) is a scriptural benchmark that the Church has honored for centuries (see Malachi 3:10). Secondly, we give a percentage of income because it is a common-sense standard by which everyone can equitably support the parish. Most of all, we give because we believe God comes first in everything, even finances.



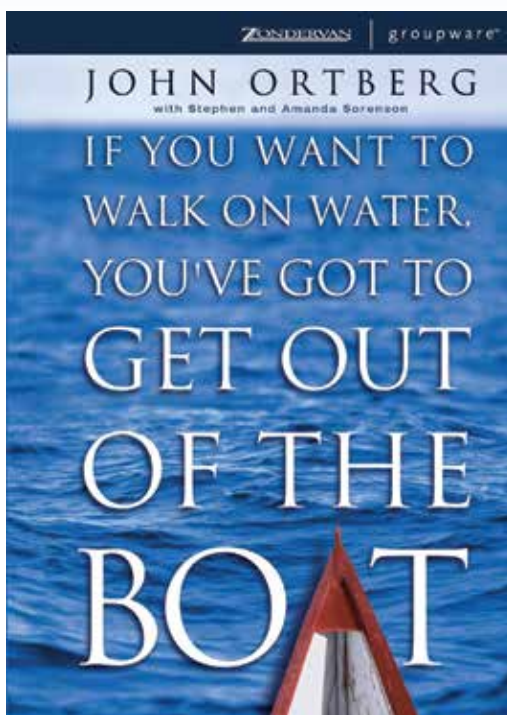
Every parish family receives a special “Stewardship Package” in the mail that further explains our parish’s vision of stewardship. It includes a booklet that describes every ministry in the parish, as well as your commitment card.

In-Home Small Group Series Invites Parishioners to Truly Step Up in Their Walk with Jesus

In Matthew 14, Jesus asks Peter to do the impossible. He invites Peter to leave the relative safety of his boat and join him for a stroll atop a stormy sea. That walk, that moment of complete trust in the midst of utter chaos, is the focus of this year's In-Home Small Group Series.

"The title of the series is, *If You Want to Walk on Water, You've Got to Get out of the Boat,*" explains Pastoral Associate Jim Havens. "It's about identifying how God is calling each person and to really step out in faith and take some action where maybe fear has been an obstacle or the call of what God might want someone to do might be an obstacle. We ask, 'What is the next step that God wants me to take in my life and how can I really step up and say "yes" to that and take some action?' It's really about hearing God clearly and then trusting Him to really take action on it."

With the guidance of ministry leaders Frank and Pat Lovett, the series is open to all parishioners, from teenagers to senior citizens. Small groups are organized according to participants' preferences such as time, day of the week, and what sort of group they'd like to be in – whether an all-female or all-male group, couples, or youth. Once the participants have been matched up, groups will meet in selected parishioners' homes beginning in October. All groups will follow the same six-week video lecture series by author and evangelical



Christian pastor John Ortberg based on Jesus and Peter's famous walk.

"The groups come together, they watch one of the sessions on the DVD, and after that they have some time to go through some reflective questions on their own," Jim says. "The DVD is a resource to facilitate some deeper conversation, get to know one another, grow in a relationship with one another, and go deeper."

Last spring, approximately 400 parishioners took part in the In-Home Small Group series. Jim notes that the informal setting of the groups, along with the opportunity to join together with like-minded Catholics, have made it a popular choice for parishioners looking to grow in their faith.

"It helps people to gain some new perspective to hear the stories of others,

and to hear one passage of Scripture being reflected on a deeper level over six weeks," Jim says. "Just staying with Jesus and Peter in that moment over six weeks and hearing how that applies to our lives, you can't help but come to know Jesus more in the midst of all of that."

Sign-ups to take part in the series are currently ongoing and groups are forming now. If you are interested in taking part, please contact Jim Havens at havensj@stpaulcatholic.net, or reach out to Frank and Pat Lovett at franklovettjr@gmail.com or 850-433-5788.

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— Jim Havens, Pastoral Associate

“Parishes With Children Are Parishes With Life” | *The Church Family*



The Church family at the 2013 Encountering Christ Diocesan Conference

“There is something to be learned all of the time from our faith. When we think we know everything, God has something more for us. The beauty of it is that so much can be found here at St. Paul in all the different ministries. There is something for everyone, and we all have so much to offer.”

— Gene Church

On Sunday, when the Church family attends Mass, Gene Church describes them as occupying several pews and jokes that they might be mistaken for a daycare when they arrive.

“I realized along the way that parishes with children are parishes with life,” says Gene, who, with his wife, Jeaniene, has seven children and 16 grandchildren. “When people say young people are the future, that is not true – young people are our present. I see our young people concerned about their faith, and when I look at the Church, I am very upbeat about it.”

Gene and Jeaniene and their family joined St. Paul five years ago – not because of its geographic location, but because they started becoming involved in different activities at the parish.

“Some of our older boys joined FRATERNUS, a group for young men that encourages virtue and becoming Catholic men, and others got involved in other activities,” Gene says. “I started attending Men of St. Joseph in the

morning, and we read the Magnificat and review the upcoming Gospel, all focused on putting the family back in the hands of the father. Eventually, we made the move to join St. Paul.”

Through the Men of St. Joseph, Gene became involved with ACTS retreats, the acronym of which represents the focal points of the retreat – Adoration, Community, Theology, and Service. Last year, Gene and Jeaniene served as the coordinators for the ACTS retreats for men and women. At the same time, they have watched their children become increasingly more active in their faith.

“There is a great group of kids here at St. Paul,” Gene says. “My kids get involved in every youth activity they can. They attended the Steubenville Youth Conference in Atlanta. They get up on Friday mornings for Adoration before school. They’ve been involved in pro-life activities. A group of them hangs out at our house for ‘Rosary parties’ where they socialize and say the Rosary

together. We don’t direct this – they do this on their own.”

Outside of the parish, Gene serves the community through operating several Catholic radio stations in the Pensacola region. He and Jeaniene began this venture in 2003 by joining the Catholic Radio Association, and then in 2006 by getting involved with their first station.

Gene was prompted by his personal experience with Catholic radio to give back to the community through this mode of communication and evangelization.

“Catholic radio had a big impact on me, and when I was listening to one of the stations, it got me back involved in Church,” Gene says. “Listening to Catholic radio gradually got me into parishes and parish life. We’ve seen tremendous gifts and blessings from this, and Catholic radio really has a major impact on a number of people’s lives.”

Gene believes we all continue to learn about and further our faith

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Address Service Requested

The Church Family continued from page 7

through means like Catholic radio and the many ministries offered by the parish. Despite the challenges the Catholic Church faces in our age, he expresses a sense of hope and calm when he sees the active community of St. Paul, and particularly of our youth.

“There is something to be learned all of the time from our faith,” Gene says. “When we think we know everything, God has something more for us. The beauty of it is that so much can be found here at St. Paul in all the different ministries. There is something for everyone, and we all have so much to offer.”



The Church family at a Pensacola Blue Wahoos Game with Bishop Parkes, Fr. Paul Lambert, and Fr. Kevin



Gene Church coordinating the ACTS Men's Retreat – sons Zach, Kyle, and Tanner also pictured

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.