



Saint Paul

2016-17 RENEWAL NEWSLETTER

A Letter From Our Pastor Called to Serve

Dear Parishioners,

This year's Time & Talent Stewardship Renewal theme – "Called to Serve" – builds upon an important element of stewardship: service. It is through service, both within and outside of our parish community, that we put our faith into action. Service is so important, in fact, Scripture tells us, "Faith without works is dead" (James 2:4).

Those who already regularly engage in acts of service know well the joy that comes from doing the work of the Lord. It is personally fulfilling to help others and to help our parish. For many, doing God's work can hardly be considered "work" at all! This is because, as St. Matthew wrote in his Gospel, "My yoke is easy; my burden light" (Matthew 11:30).

The theme for this year's Time & Talent Stewardship Renewal challenges us to think about the role of service in our own lives. Is service a regular part of our weekly routine, or something in which we rarely engage? I invite you to prayerfully consider how God may be calling you to grow closer to Him this year through service.

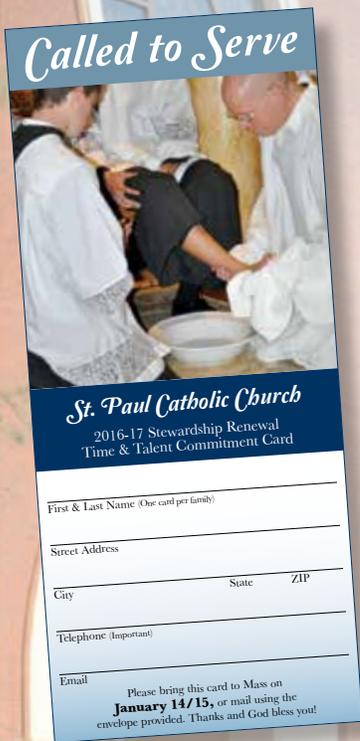
- Will you serve God by setting aside time each day for prayer?
- Will you serve others through participation in our various parish ministries?
- Will you allow God to use your financial gifts to serve those in need by giving a percentage of your income to Him through the parish offertory and supporting our Capital Campaign?

Please take some time in the coming week to prayerfully complete the enclosed Commitment Card with your family. I will be doing the same thing, reflecting upon how I can grow closer to Christ as a steward. **Once you have completed your Commitment Card, please bring it with you to Mass on January 14th & 15th, use the enclosed envelope to mail it to the parish, or complete the card online at stpaulcatholic.net/church/commit.**

In advance, thank you for taking the time to complete and return your Commitment Card(s). I am honored to be called your pastor and, with your gracious commitments, we can grow and flourish as Disciples of Christ.

May God bless you all, and may God bless your families.

Fr. Doug Halsema
Pastor



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Commitment Card
with you to Mass on
January 14/15, mail it
to the parish office using the
enclosed envelope or complete your
Commitment Card online at
stpaulcatholic.net/church/commit.
Thanks and God bless you!*

Called to Serve



“As I have done, so you must also do.” These were Christ’s words after He washed His apostle’s feet at the last supper. In this dramatic moment, Jesus called His followers to a life of humility and service. Helping others, especially the poor, is how we follow Christ’s command “to love your neighbor as yourself.”

During our Stewardship Renewal, we are focusing on the importance of service and having the heart of a servant. A servant goes where his master leads and responds without hesitation, ready and willing to do the will of the Master. With the right disposition, we can be ready for action when opportunity arises.

As many of us have discovered, service to others leads to peace and joy; we find that we are truly blessed when we give of ourselves. During this year’s Stewardship Renewal, let us turn to Christ for the grace to serve as He served and to love as He loved.

“For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, a stranger and you welcomed me, naked and you clothed me, ill and you cared for me, in prison and you visited me.” — Matthew 25:35-36



Prayer

The Language of a Servant

Prayer is the lifeblood of a true disciple of Christ. Without a healthy relationship with our Savior, we can't hope to know His perfect will or the depths of His love. Take time in daily prayer with God, asking Him how you can best serve others. As you discern how God is calling you to give of your time this year, ask Him to transform your heart into that of a servant.

Ways to Improve Your Prayer

- Pope Francis' encouragement is to read the daily readings of the Catholic Church found at <http://www.usccb.org/bible/readings>, asking God how He would have you apply them to your life.
- Spend 5 minutes each morning, thanking Him for the ways He has graciously blessed you and then asking Him for help with your struggles.
- Pray with your children each night before bed, giving each family member an opportunity to pray for something and concluding with an Our Father, Hail Mary and the Glory Be.

“Your word is a lamp for my feet, a light for my path.”

— Psalm 119:105



Talent

The Actions of a Servant

Talents are the gifts God has given us that enable us to serve Him. All talents or skills that we have can be used to give God glory and are equally important in His eyes. During this year's Stewardship Renewal, consider your own talents and ask God how you can best use them to serve Him through His people.

Deepening Your Faith

- Pray about how the gifts God has given you can best be used to serve others.
- Use your Commitment Card to find a ministry that will help you grow personally in understanding the faith as well as serving others.
- Commit to being faithful to God through those you serve in word and deed.

“Incline my heart according to your will, Oh God.”

— The Divine Office



STEWARDSHIP INVOLVES COMMITMENT

All parishioners are encouraged to participate in our annual Stewardship Renewal. Please take the time to review the materials in this packet, and prayerfully consider how you can offer Christ a portion of your time and talent this year. Then, take a few moments to fill out the enclosed Commitment Card. The Commitment Card enables you to make a written commitment to God of how and where you desire to place Him first.

2016-17 Parish Ministries

Each of these ministry groups are looking for people to volunteer as leaders or co-leaders, and are looking for those who simply want to sign up to be a member of the ministry group.

COMMUNITY MINISTRIES

Ministries and organizations that support a sense of belonging in the parish and reach out to involve parishioners in parish life.

Angel Gift Shop

The Angel Gift Shop offers a wide selection of religious items for sale. A portion of the proceeds offers tuition assistance for St. Paul Catholic School children. The gift shop is open after all weekday and weekend Masses (except 6 p.m. Sunday Mass), with extended hours during the holiday season. New volunteers are always welcome to participate.

Baby Love

Baby Love Ministry is here to love new mothers and families through support, encouragement and a few meals celebrating the birth or arrival of a baby or child into the family through birth or adoption. Ideally, we will begin contact with the mother in the last trimester and be a source of prayer and hope. Baby Love ministers can offer basic information and trusted resources to new mothers and share in joyful anticipation of God's gift of new life.

Boy Scouts

The parish sponsors an active Boy Scout troop for boys nearing the end of fifth grade through those in the 12th grade. The program includes leadership, scholastics and core values, and assists young boys in their development of skills that are useful for adulthood. The program teaches love and respect of family, country, and the Church. New members are always welcome.



Caring Hearts Funeral Ministry

Caring Hearts Funeral Ministry is a group of compassionate volunteers who respond to the immediate needs of families who have lost a loved one. Assistance is offered to the family of the deceased in the way of food, funeral reception arrangements, or other immediate needs.

Cub Scouts

The Cub Scout organization is for boys in grades 1-5 and their families. Since its beginning nearly 50 years ago, the Cub Scout Pack 425 has been a fun and educational experience concerned with values. Besides providing a positive place where boys can enjoy safe, wholesome activities, Cub Scouting focuses on building character, improving physical fitness, teaching practical skills, and developing a spirit of service to both the Church and the community.

Knights of Columbus

Knights of Columbus are Catholic gentlemen committed to the exemplification of charity, unity, fraternity, patriotism, and defense of the priesthood. Brother Knights work to fulfill the central mission of the order: striving in charitable works; serving the Church, unified in following its teachings; supporting brother Knights in their temporal and spiritual needs; acting for the good of their country; and giving aid to widows, orphans, the sick, and the poor.

Stephen Ministry

Stephen Ministry assists the priests and deacons by providing confidential one-to-one Christian care to members of the parish. Stephen Ministers are parishioners trained by Stephen Leaders to carefully listen, encourage and provide emotional and spiritual support to people feeling alone while going through a difficult time due to the loss of a loved one, divorce, job loss, illness, as well as many other trials in life.

Welcome Stewards

Welcome Stewards are the face of the Body of Christ to those entering our church prior to Mass and leaving the church after Mass. Their ministry is to make people feel the love of God by truly welcoming them into God's house and "going the extra mile with a smile." Welcome Stewards hand out Worship Aids before Mass, collect the Worship Aids, hand out bulletins, help to staff the Welcome Center after Mass, collect the offertory gifts during Mass and be available to graciously take care of any special needs that may arise with Mass attendees before, during or after Mass. A hospitable, positive and pleasant attitude is an absolute must for this ministry.

Young Adults

We invite young people in their 20s and 30s to gather together to deepen their Catholic faith, develop friendships with other believers, to strengthen a sense of community, and to find help to live our Catholic faith through service and discipleship.

EVANGELIZATION MINISTRIES

This is the mission of all members of the Church: to practice their faith with enthusiasm, to invite others to share their faith, and to transform society.

Alpha

Alpha is a practical introduction to the Christian faith that is open to anyone. It runs as a series of 10 weekly meetings, which involve an informal meal, a talk, and small group discussion. It is relaxed, nonthreatening, low-key, friendly, and fun. Alpha is for everyone, especially new Christians, newcomers to the Catholic Church, and those wanting to investigate Christianity.

We are looking for people to be involved with Alpha in two ways. (1) Come to Alpha as a participant and bring your family, friends, and neighbors. (2) Join the Alpha team. You do not have to have been through the course to join the team. We will train you. You can help on the team in two ways, as a Host/Helper or as part of the Task Force. The Host/Helpers help facilitate the small group discussion and are asked to commit to being there every week. The Task Force members help set up the gym and Giri Room for the course, decorate the tables, and serve the meal. They also help in the cleanup after each session.

Street Evangelization Ministry

Do you have a desire to bring the love of Jesus to those in our community? Our street evangelization ministry brings the love and truth of Jesus Christ and His Catholic Church to our community in a loving, non-confrontational way by passing out rosaries and meeting new friends. We're reaching the world for Christ, one heart at a time!



SERVICE MINISTRIES

Ministries and organizations directed toward serving those in need and working for justice and peace.

Catholic Medical Association

The Northwest Florida Guild of the Catholic Medical Association is a physician-led community of healthcare professionals that informs, organizes, and inspires its members, in steadfast fidelity to the teachings of the Catholic Church, to uphold the principles of the Catholic faith in the science and practice of medicine.

Christmas in July

We need someone to step up and lead this ministry. St. Paul is celebrating Christmas in July! The Angel Christmas tree will be active during the month of July. The Angels, for whom we will be purchasing gifts, are residents of the Haven nursing home. We want to help the residents of the Haven know that they are loved and that the Church has not forgotten them. It is a great opportunity to love God through serving others.

Respect Life

The mission of this ministry is to educate the parish and community about the Catholic perspective on life issues; to provide support for the unborn and those whose fundamental right to life is threatened; and to create a prayerful and respectful environment where life is cherished and valued. As in all things, these will be accomplished through the ever-present grace of God.

St. Vincent de Paul

The Society of St. Vincent de Paul is an international Catholic organization of laypersons who have a commitment to compassion. They seek, in a spirit of justice and charity, to help those who are suffering. The Society of St. Vincent de Paul offers tangible assistance to those in need on a person-to-person basis. This aid may take the form of intervention, consultation, or through direct dollar or in-kind service. In order to provide personal and neighborly help, this group of parishioners meets on Monday Evenings.

WORD MINISTRIES

Ministries and organizations involved in spiritual formation and religious education of parishioners.

Abide for High School and Middle School Girls

Abide is a discipleship group for high school girls who are interested in going deeper in their faith. Abide is rooted in John 15:9, "As the Father loves me, so I also love you. Remain in my love." This group will provide a community for high school girls trying to live out their faith in their faith in their everyday life.

Abide for Middle School is a middle school girls youth group that meets every other Sunday evening to grow in Christian community and in our faith. This program provides an opportunity for middle school girls to be mentored and led by high school girls who have gone before them as they learn to live their faith in everyday life.

Children's Liturgy of the Word

Our children in grades K-5 are invited to participate in a special Liturgy of the Word during the following Masses: every Saturday 4:30 p.m., and every Sunday 9 a.m. and 11 a.m. The children are invited at the beginning of Mass to come forward and follow a team of adult leaders to their classrooms. There, God's Word is explained in ways suited to their abilities and interests. The children rejoin their families at the presentation of the gifts for the rest of Mass. This ministry requires a minimal amount of time yet provides a maximum feeling of fulfillment! A leader's manual is provided, which contains the information needed to guide you through the lesson; volunteers are normally scheduled once a month. If you normally attend one of these Masses, and feel called to this ministry, please join us.



Discipulus

This ministry's mission is to develop boys in first through fifth grade mentally, physically and spiritually and help them reach their full potential of sainthood. The ministry will hold two meetings per month, held on Sunday evenings. The meetings include physical activity, Bible study and the practical application of their Catholic faith to their everyday lives. The ministry requires family participation to help the children and themselves live the ministry motto, "Become a saint." The program is designed for boys to move up to Fraternus when they get to sixth grade.

Family Faith Formation

Family Faith Formation, also called F3, is in its second year at St. Paul's. We have religious education for the entire family, for kindergarten through fifth grades. Each session requires both the parent and child(ren) to participate in fostering discipleship because you can never be too old or young to learn more about your faith. F3 allows the parents to be educated along with their child and experience what they are learning in faith formation classes, as well as have liturgical opportunities to pray together and grow as a community of faith. Meetings occur the first Sundays of the month and the third Tuesdays of most months, with additional take-home materials and resources for parents to work on at home with their children during non-meeting weeks. Runs September – May. Kick-off meeting Sept. 18. First Sundays in the gym starting Oct. 2, from 12-2 p.m. (after 11 a.m. Mass and includes light lunch) and third Tuesdays 6-7:30 p.m. in the School Spartan Hall, beginning Oct. 18.

Fraternus

Fraternus, an exciting virtue-based formation program, is designed specifically for young men in the sixth through 12th grades, and provides the opportunity to gain knowledge and practice the virtues of Faith, Hope, Charity, Prudence, Justice, Temperance and Courage. This is accomplished through meetings consisting of prayer, team-building activities, Scripture study, catechesis, and fellowship. Fraternus hopes to form boys into chaste young men of integrity, faithful to the Roman Catholic Church and disciples of Jesus Christ.

Living Faith Pre-School

Living Faith Pre-School features age-appropriate faith formation in the Pre-K room during the 9 a.m. and 11 a.m. Sunday Masses. Dynamic and interactive activities include: music, play, art, prayers, and storytelling to prepare children to better understand God, the Mass and their Catholic faith. Begins Sept. 25, 2016, and runs through May 2017.

St. Paul Youth Group

St. Paul Youth Group is for high school students who desire to experience prayer and community with their peers. We meet every other Sunday evening at 6:30 in the gym. We will begin each evening with some open gym time, and then transition into our youth group activities. Some nights will include discussions about current events and how they correspond to our faith, some will be social events, and others will be prayerful evenings that include opportunities for deeper encounters with Christ.

Men of St. Joseph

The Men of St. Joseph is a group of active Catholic men who are dedicated to becoming the spiritual leaders of our families. Through prayer and the guidance of the Holy Spirit, the Men of St. Joseph have dedicated themselves to the following proposition: "Put the family back in the hands of the Father." The men meet weekly on Tuesday morning at 6 a.m. in the Giri Room to read from the Magnificat, pray for the intentions of various members of the group, read and discuss the Gospel reading for the upcoming Sunday, and dismiss. In the course of the prayer intentions and Scripture discussion, we support one another in our effort to become the "best version of ourselves" and to be the spiritual leaders of our family and faith community.

Natural Family Planning

Our mission is to build joyful marriages by teaching Natural Family Planning. Our vision is to shape a culture of love and life by increasing the virtuous use of natural family planning, protecting traditional marriage, increasing the number of lifelong and joyful marriages, and promoting sexual virtues.

Vacation Bible School

We make sure we put Catholicism into Vacation Bible School (VBS). Our VBS is a one-week Catholic Program/Summer Camp that is hosted by our parish during the summer months. All of our VBS programs are specially designed to lead kids closer to Jesus and to help them learn more about the treasures of our Catholic faith. VBS is a powerful tool of evangelization that also helps unite and bring life to families and parish communities.



WORSHIP MINISTRIES

Ministries and organizations that are liturgical, devotional or spiritual in purpose.

Altar Servers

The Altar Server is a male or female member of the assembly who assists the priest and deacon during the Eucharist and other liturgical ceremonies so the liturgy can be conducted with grace and reverence. Altar Servers should be active and full participants in the celebration with the understanding that they are leaders of the assembly. The altar server models the activity of the assembly, and by singing, praying and keeping silence can enhance the worship of the assembly. To serve at the Altar of God is a privilege granted to boys and girls, men and women. To serve at St. Paul, you must be at least entering into the sixth grade.

Eucharistic Adoration

The purpose of Eucharistic Adoration is to honor and adore the real presence of Jesus Christ in the Blessed Sacrament, and to provide an opportunity for private prayer for our parish members. Eucharistic Adoration takes place in the Parish Prayer Chapel (1700 Conway Drive). Adoration begins each week with Exposition on Thursdays at 9 a.m. until Friday at 7:30 a.m. New adorers are always welcome, and are invited to commit to a specific hour of prayer each week. Substitute adorer positions are available for those who cannot commit to a weekly hour.

Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion

We need assistance for Sunday 6 p.m. Mass. Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion are an indispensable part of the ministry of Communion, as they assist at all Masses. Ministers are specifically trained for their role. The ministry compliments and extends the ministry of the clergy; however, it is also a particular way of exercising one's Baptismal priesthood.



Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion to Shut-Ins

Those people who cannot attend Mass because of illness are still very much a part of our parish community. Priests, deacons and special ministers bring Holy Communion regularly to area hospitals, nursing homes and shut-ins at home. If you or someone you know has such a need, just call the parish office and inform the secretary.

Funeral Sacristans

This ministry consists of individuals who assist prior to and during each funeral Mass by setting up the sacristy and church with the necessary items for the celebration of the funeral Mass. This ministry is most rewarding as it provides the opportunity to offer solace and support to the family and loved ones of the deceased when they most need it.

Lay Apostles of Jesus Christ the Returning King

Lay Apostles of Jesus Christ the Returning King seek to be united to Jesus in their daily work and through their vocations, in order to obtain graces for the conversion of sinners. These individuals allow Jesus to flow through them into the world, bringing His light to souls who live in darkness. Lay Apostles agree to perform the basic obligations as practicing Catholics. Additionally, they adopt the following spiritual practices as best they can: 1. Morning Offering along with the Allegiance Prayer and a brief prayer for the Holy Father. 2. One hour of Eucharistic Adoration each week. 3. Participation in a monthly lay apostle prayer group, which includes the Luminous Mysteries of the Rosary and a reading of the monthly message. 4. Monthly Confession. 5. Commitment to follow the example of Jesus Christ as set out in Holy Scripture, treating all others with His patience and kindness.

Music Ministry

Music in Catholic liturgy, especially during Mass, is vital to a vibrant worship experience. St. Paul is blessed with volunteers who dedicate their time and talent to this mission. Our Music Ministry is comprised of several choirs and instrumental ensembles. Each group provides special music leadership, when needed. We offer uplifting music that reflects the meditative prayer of a particular Sunday or season.

Sacristans

This ministry is comprised of individuals who assist, prior to each Mass, by setting up the Sacristy and Sanctuary area with the necessary items for the celebration of Mass. Responsibilities include opening the church for all the faithful to come in and praise the Lord, checking the church for neatness and cleanliness, opening the tabernacle, preparing the water, wine, bread, sacred vessels and linens for Mass, and checking for the necessary readers and ministers of the Eucharist needed for the celebration of Mass. Other responsibilities include cleaning and filling the holy water fonts, purifying and storing the sacred vessels after Mass, and closing the church.

Spanish Rosary

The purpose of this ministry is for members to join together weekly to pray the Rosary, share Scripture, and give testimonies – in the Spanish language. Members who are fluent in Spanish help to translate to those members who may have a little knowledge of the language. Members assist by hosting an occasional meeting.

