



11.2013

# Saint Paul

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

## Sacristans: *Stewards of God's Greatest Gift*

For many years, Ray Heindl has been able to serve God in a simple yet extraordinary way as a sacristan. It has been a rewarding experience that has carried with it many blessings.

“Being a sacristan gives me a way to serve God and pay Him back for the good things He has done for me,” Ray says. “It is definitely a way I can live out my stewardship commitment, and I am so glad I am able to do it. I really like being able to help out.”

Ray is just one of the numerous dedicated members of the Sacristan Ministry who offer their time and talent so that the offering of Holy Mass runs smoothly and prayerfully for all. Prior to each Mass, the sacristans take turns setting up the sacristy and sanctuary area with the necessary items. Using a rotating schedule created by Deacon Richard Lurton, who heads the ministry, three sacristans cover our parish weekday Masses, 10 cover the weekend Masses, and four cover funeral, wedding and other special occasion Masses.

Sacristans, under the general direction of the priests and deacons, provide the overall preparation for liturgical celebrations. This normally includes opening the church an hour before Mass or other liturgical functions, turning on the lights, and setting up whatever sacred vessels, Communion breads, wine and other items may be needed to celebrate the Mass or other liturgical functions. The sacristan ensures that the scheduled lectors and Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion arrive in time to serve, and the sacristan secures replacements if any scheduled ministers are absent. Afterwards, sacristans clean and store the sacred vessels that were purified by the priests and deacons, and once again secure the church.



*Members of the Sacristan Ministry offer their time and talent so that the offering of Holy Mass runs smoothly and prayerfully for all. Prior to each Mass, the sacristans take turns setting up the sacristy and sanctuary area with the necessary items.*

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## *Sacristans* continued from front cover

Sacristans are trained one-on-one by a deacon or an experienced sacristan. Following the initial training, new sacristans are paired with an experienced sacristan until the new sacristans feel comfortable handling the liturgical preparations and the post-celebration cleanup on their own.

Indeed, the Sacristan Ministry is a fulfilling opportunity for all those involved.

“I like to see people volunteer as sacristans because it really connects them to the Mass,” Deacon Lurton says. “It helps them to truly prepare themselves for it so they will actively participate. It helps them to grow in their Catholic faith and builds them up spiritually.”

Furthermore, the Sacristan Ministry is a beautiful expression of stewardship. Those who serve as sacristans are

stewards of God’s greatest gift — the gift of Himself, the gift of the Holy Eucharist. Each act of service they offer is an opportunity to worship and serve Almighty God directly, with care, reverence and dedication.

“Sacristans give a lot of their time to their ministry,” Deacon Lurton says. “They are great stewards of their time and their talent.” More sacristans are always needed to assist with preparation for the Mass — especially for weekday, Holy Day and special event Masses. For more information, please contact Deacon Richard Lurton at [lurtonr@stpaulcatholic.net](mailto:lurtonr@stpaulcatholic.net) or 850-291-0481.

*“I like to see people volunteer as sacristans because it really connects them to the Mass. It helps them to truly prepare themselves for it so they will actively participate. It helps them to grow in their Catholic faith and builds them up spiritually.” — Deacon Richard Lurton*

## *Please Return Your Commitment Card!*

### *Don't Forget!*

*The 2013 Stewardship Renewal is ongoing. Please remember to turn in your commitment cards to the parish as soon as possible. We appreciate your willingness to participate in this year’s renewal. The more we grow to embrace and understand the stewardship way of life, the more our parish will flourish and grow!*



## *A Letter From Our Pastor*

# A Month Filled with Gratitude

Dear Parishioners,

The month of November of course brings to mind thoughts of thanksgiving. Not just thoughts about Thanksgiving Day, although I look towards it with happy anticipation, but with thoughts filled with a variety of reasons we should be thankful.

We begin the month with a Holy Day of Obligation, the Solemnity of All Saints. This feast has been celebrated on November 1 since 835. It is a stewardship feast in so many ways, instituted to honor all saints, known and unknown. The communion of saints – the sharing of spiritual goods by those in heaven to us who are still in our pilgrimage – is a great cause for thanksgiving. We read about the lives of the saints to be encouraged and inspired by their examples, plus we are strengthened by their fellowship in the Body of Christ, and their prayers aid us.

We follow All Saints Day with All Souls Day on November 2 so we can honor and commemorate all those others who may have been “saints” in our lives. It may have been a mother or father, sister or brother, son or daughter, next-door neighbor, good friend, grandparent, uncle or aunt, cousin, teacher, or student. The list is endless. We have been blessed in our lives with people who have shown us what it means to be a good Christian, what it means to be a good steward. During this month of November, we need to thank God for those people in our lives. In fact, we need to thank God period, which is another important element of this month.

Toward the end of the month we celebrate what is mainly a secular holiday, Thanksgiving, but this national holiday is also grounded in our Christian stewardship tradition. This year



is the 150th anniversary of the first official Thanksgiving in the U.S., as proclaimed by President Abraham Lincoln in 1863, during the horrors of the Civil War. In the beginning of that proclamation, President Lincoln stated, *“The year that is drawing towards its close, has been filled with the blessings of fruitful fields and healthful skies. To these bounties, which are so constantly enjoyed that we are prone to forget the source from which they come, others have been added, which are of so extraordinary a nature, that they cannot fail to penetrate and soften even the heart which is habitually insensible to the ever watchful providence of Almighty God.”* Lincoln takes great care to recognize God’s presence in all of the “thanks.”

Couldn’t we say those words of Lincoln about our lives, about the life of our parish this year? In fact, we could say it every month. Stewardship is the appreciation of our many, many blessings, both personally and as a faith family.

From the beginning of the month when we thank God for the example of the saints and for the example of the saints in our lives, to the end of the month when we thank God for basically everything we have and everything we are, November is a time to remember and to approach the Lord with a grateful heart. That is what stewardship really is — approaching God; approaching each day; approaching all those with whom we come in contact — with hearts filled with gratitude and love.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rev. Doug Halsema". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Fr. Doug Halsema  
Pastor

# Serving Our Own Families, Serving God

## *Natural Family Planning*

What if there was a way for couples to plan having their families in accordance with Church teaching, while at the same time achieving happier marriages and healthier bodies, better communication, deepened intimacy, and a dramatic decrease in the likelihood of divorce? Dr. Mark Kummer, a parishioner here at St. Paul, says all this and more is possible through the practice of Natural Family Planning, or NFP.

Dr. Kummer and his wife, Debra, have practiced NFP for 33 years and instructed other couples in its use for decades. In addition, Dr. Kummer serves on the national board of directors for the Couple to Couple League, or CCL. According to its website, [ccli.org](http://ccli.org), the CCL is an “international, non-profit organization dedicated to promoting and teaching fertility awareness to married and engaged couples.”

“We have a lot of couples who come to us skeptical at first and then [after instruction], see the beauty of Church teaching and gain an appreciation for the complexity of our bodies,” says Dr. Kummer. “They come away with the attitude that we can have children or postpone them, but we need to include God in the decision.”

Parishioners Mary and Scott Thomas, who are Natural Family Planning Ministry leaders here at St. Paul, learned about NFP just before their wedding 30 years ago, initially because they were concerned about potential fertility problems.

“Even though this was never a problem, we actually realized that this was a method approved by the Catholic Church and is a 100 percent natural way of planning our family and not just postponing having children,” Mary says. “Through the years, we really had



*Scott and Mary Thomas*

to communicate with each other about our plans for our family, and it has made our marriage so much stronger. People think we are crazy to rely on this rather than artificial methods — like we want to have 30 kids or something. But they do not realize that NFP is a scientifically proven method and can be 99 percent effective if followed properly.”

Dr. Kummer sees the use of NFP as an act of stewardship.

“God gives us our bodies to take care of and use in a wise way,” he says. “God wants us to have and raise godly children. NFP teaches people not to be selfish about life.”

Some couples the Kummers have instructed have seen the devastating effect of birth control on the woman’s body.

“These couples see NFP as a natural, ‘green’ way to plan their families,” says Dr. Kummer, who also emphasizes that NFP is not “Catholic birth control.”

“It is choosing to work in concert with God, being open to what He wants of you,” he says. “When you use NFP, a different mindset develops and a baby is recognized as a gift.”

Mary is grateful for the many gifts NFP has brought to her and Scott.

“Over the past 30 years, it has brought us closer together and closer to God by allowing us to celebrate the beautiful Sacrament of Matrimony,” Mary says. “Through serving in our own family and by being open to new life, we serve and respect God, each other, and the Church. We get excited seeing couples who are open to this practice since it has been such an important part of our own relationship. It’s also frustrating to see what couples are missing when they do not give NFP a chance. And, no, we do not have 30 kids. We have four children and cherish each as a gift that God has given to us, for with each of them we were open to the idea of life. Natural Family Planning has made this possible.”

For further information or to register for a local NFP class, please call Mary and Scott Thomas at 850-433-2715. In addition, the Couple to Couple League offers online training in English and Spanish — please visit their website at [ccli.org](http://ccli.org) for details.

# A Look Back at Our Parish Picnic

*Our parish community came together on Sunday, Sept. 29 to share in food, fellowship and plenty of fun at our 2013 Parish Picnic. We thank all who volunteered to make this year's picnic a success!*



# The Mottets

## *Keeping Faith in the Center of Family Life*

Even though Matthew Mottet is deployed far off in the United Arab Emirates as an Air Force instructor pilot, that doesn't keep him from remaining close to Christ, as well as to his loving wife.

"Our marriage has actually gotten better since Matthew has been deployed," Carey Mottet says. "Having to rely on God's help throughout this time has brought us closer together. When my husband is around, it is easy for me to put him on a pedestal in place of God. But when he is gone, all I have left is Christ. This makes us both stronger in our faith and allows us to have a better relationship with Christ, which, in turn, gives us a better relationship with one another."

Day by day, Matthew and Carey take impressive measures to work hard on their marriage and their spiritual lives, whether they are close to each other or far apart.

"We are currently reading *The Meaning of Marriage* by Tim Keller together," Carey says. "We pick a chapter, take notes on it individually, and then get together on the phone and discuss it. When my husband is at home, we try to pray together every night. We read the Bible together often and do Bible studies together occasionally. Even though our daughter is very young, we read Bible stories to her. As a family, we talk about how to live out our faith at work and in the midst of our daily lives."

Since they joined our parish a couple years ago, the Mottets have found our faith community to be a great support to them. Soon after they moved to Naval Air Station Whiting Field, the Navy base located in Milton, they visited St. Paul Parish and were pleased with what they found.

"We heard Fr. Michael's homily and we loved his teachings, and soon fell in love with St. Paul Parish and its people," Carey says. "Everyone was very welcoming and we felt at home as soon as we walked in."

In fact, Carey feels so at home at our parish that she is just waiting for the opportunity to join the Catholic Church. As a dedicated stay-at-home with two little girls, Charley and Kate, Carey hopes to complete the necessary preparations when the time is right.



*Matthew and Carey Mottet with their daughter, Charley, and the family dog, Lucy.*

"My husband grew up Catholic, but I grew up Protestant," Carey says. "We were both pretty involved in Young Life, which is a non-denominational Christian outreach for high school students. We both attribute growing in our faith at a young age to Young Life. Today as adults, we both love the tradition of the Catholic Church, and so many other aspects of the Catholic faith."

As a family, the Mottets attend Sunday Mass together whenever possible. Over time, they hope to become more and more of an integral part of our parish community. For now, Matthew serves on the Grounds Beautification Committee, while Carey serves God as a devoted wife and mother, bringing their children up in the faith.

"Faith is central to our family," Carey says. "During our time at St. Paul's, we hope to get to know other parishioners, have a good relationship with our parish priests, and volunteer more in the parish community."

*"Faith is central to our family. During our time at St. Paul's, we hope to get to know other parishioners, have a good relationship with our parish priests, and volunteer more in the parish community." — Carey Mottet*

# *St. Paul Annual Financial Report*

## *Fiscal Year 2012-2013*

### ***Income and Expense Summary***

In fiscal year 2012-2013, income from operations was \$1,586,659. This was \$105,100 above the budget and \$113,900 over the previous year. Offertory giving was 69% of the increase and lease fees from Our Savior were 17% of the year over year increase in income from operations. Income from operations is all income streams excluding Building Fund and Pipe Organ donations.

Expenses, excluding depreciation, were \$1,516,353. This was \$142,121 over budget and an increase of \$50,223 over the previous year. The most significant expenditure affecting the expense budget was the cost to refurbish the parish hall/gym roof. The cost to repair and to bring the roof up to current building standards was \$131,000. This expenditure was booked as a school subsidy expense since the school is the major user of this facility. The school, in turn, recorded this expenditure as an improvement to an asset, i.e. the parish hall/gym.

### ***Balance Sheet Summary***

For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2012, total cash changed from the previous year as follows.

	June 30, 2013	June 30, 2012	\$ Difference	% Difference
Checking and Savings	\$195,762	\$249,266	-\$53,505	-21.5%
Building Fund	\$386,989	0.00	386,989.37	100%
Pipe Organ Fund	\$526,353	\$401,159	\$125,194	31.21%
Hurricane Reserve Fund	\$151,640	\$147,181	\$4,459	3.0%

### ***Change in Operating Cash Summary***

Checking and Savings decreased by \$53,505 for the fiscal year. The following summarizes the sources and uses of this operating cash for the year.

#### **Increases in operating cash:**

Adjusted Net Income (cash basis):	\$75,800
Increase in cash received for special use (Liability accounts such as Mass stipends, wedding fees, gift shop, etc.):	\$33,000

#### **Decreases in operating cash:**

Expenditures for furniture, fixtures and equipment:	\$30,000
Principal payments on long-term debt:	\$114,300
Increases in prepaid expenses:	\$18,000

### ***Finance Council***

The parish Finance Council met on five occasions during the year and has reviewed the end of the fiscal year financial reports. In addition, the finance council has reviewed and approved the income, expense and capital budgets for fiscal 2014.

Finance Council members and contact information are as follows:

- Chair Person, Brian DeMaria, [brian@digital-secure.com](mailto:brian@digital-secure.com)
- Mike Eddins, [meddins@hilesmcleod.com](mailto:meddins@hilesmcleod.com)
- Ginny Stevens, [stevensIII@cox.net](mailto:stevensIII@cox.net)
- Anne Marie DeMatteo, [dematteo@att.blackberry.net](mailto:dematteo@att.blackberry.net)
- Bruce Vredenburg, [Bruce.Vredenburg@hancockbank.com](mailto:Bruce.Vredenburg@hancockbank.com)
- Stephen Burgess, [Stephen.Burgess@warrenaveret.com](mailto:Stephen.Burgess@warrenaveret.com)

*Detailed Financial Reports can be found on the parish website or a copy can be obtained by contacting the church office at [churchoffice@stpaulcatholic.net](mailto:churchoffice@stpaulcatholic.net).*

# Annual Financial Report

## Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2013

<b>Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2013</b>				
<b>Budget Versus Actual</b>				
	<b>Jul '12 - Jun 13</b>	<b>Budget</b>	<b>\$ Over Budget</b>	<b>% of Budget</b>
<b>Ordinary Income/Expense</b>				
<b>Income</b>				
<b>Offertory</b>	1,393,051	1,321,772	71,279	5.4%
<b>Building Campaigns</b>	708,188	140,000	568,188	405.8%
<b>CSA Overgoal Refund</b>	69,338	50,153	19,185	38.3%
<b>Other Income</b>	124,271	109,637	14,634	13.3%
<b>Total Income</b>	2,294,847	1,621,562	673,285	41.5%
<b>Total Income from Operations</b>	1,586,659	1,481,562	105,097	7.1%
<b>Expense</b>				
<b>Administrative</b>	46,448.78	41,065.96	5,382.82	13.1%
<b>Programs and Activities</b>	148,913.68	152,760.96	-3,847.28	-2.5%
<b>Plant Operations</b>	376,949.5	376,399.5	550.1	0.1%
<b>Diocesan Assessment</b>	134,266.86	119,849.00	14,417.86	12.0%
<b>School Subsidy</b>	295,283.13	200,000.98	95,282.15	47.6%
<b>Charitable Gifts</b>	58,790.53	35,092.80	23,697.73	67.5%
<b>Employee Related Exp.</b>	455,700.28	448,912.68	6,787.60	1.5%
<b>Total</b>	1,516,352.80	1,374,081.86	142,270.94	10.4%

### ***Stewardship of Treasure***

One of the three “Ts” of stewardship, our treasure represents monetary gifts we offer to God and our parish in thanksgiving for the many gifts He has given to us.

Our parish believes it is important to share with you, the parishioners, how we have responsibly used your offertory and other financial gifts to serve God’s people in the past year. The members of our Finance Council take very seriously the financial management of our parish, and transparency is an important component of their service to the community.

For more information about St. Paul’s finances, contact John St. Amant in the business office at 850-434-2551, ext. 101, or via email at [stamantj@stpaulcatholic.net](mailto:stamantj@stpaulcatholic.net).



# St. Paul Catholic Church 2013 Annual Report

## COMMUNITY

ACTS: We have held fall and spring retreats for men and women since November 2010. 248 people have attended our retreats; 78 this past year. The ACTS Core Team oversees ACTS in our community. The Core Team expanded to six men and six women this year. The ACTS Community of former retreatants serves our parish by hosting the third Sunday monthly Fellowship Coffee and Doughnuts. A Spiritual Gathering and Christmas social were held this year. Several Small Christian Communities have formed from these retreats, including the Community of St. Therese and the Community of St. Bernadette.

Angel Gift Shop: The Angel Gift Shop, established in 1975, offers a large selection of religious articles and books. It is located in the church and is open after each Mass. The shop was run by Lou Gellner from its opening until this year, when Jo Chambers became Gift Shop manager. There are between eight and 13 volunteers that help run the shop. Most of the proceeds go to CETAP, the Catholic Education Tuition Assistance Program, which helps parents unable to meet the cost of tuition at St. Paul School. Proceeds are also used to provide for vestments, altar cloths and vessels for the church as needed.

Caring Hearts/Bereavement: This ministry was started in 2003 as a way to assist fellow parishioners along their grief journey by extending support and understanding after the death of a loved one. The nine members of this ministry offered services, including calls, visits and correspondence to twenty-three families this year and included the names of the families in the Diocesan Mass of Remembrance at Sacred Heart Cathedral in November.

Caring Hearts/Hospitality: There are 32 ladies involved in this ministry, which has been active since 1993. They provide set-up and food for receptions for families after the funerals of loved ones.

Fellowship Suppers: Over 70 volunteers, organized by John and Jackie Dickinson since 2006, put on these Wednesday suppers once a month during the school year. A highlight is the Thanksgiving Dinner, when a traditional homemade dinner is served with turkey and all the fixings. Leftover food was donated to Loaves and Fishes, Appetite for Life, and/or Florida Baptist Children's Home.

Knights of Columbus: Local Council #778, which was founded in 1903, became directly affiliated with St. Paul Parish last year. There are 230 members. The Knights focus on six areas of outreach: council support, church support, youth support, family support, community support, and pro-life support. They seek to support at least four activities in each of these areas per fraternal year.

Newcomers Welcoming Ministry: This ministry was formed in November 2006. The twenty-two volunteers serve to greet potential new parishioners after Sunday Masses and to mentor newly registered parishioners.

Northwest Florida Guild of the Catholic Medical Association: This new Guild was established in our parish on Sept. 23. The CMA is a physician-led community of healthcare professionals that informs, organizes, and inspires its members to uphold the principles of the Catholic faith in the practice of medicine.

Parish Picnic: Our annual picnic, provided free by the parish for all parishioners, was held on Oct. 21 with the theme "The Light of Christ SHINES at St. Paul Parish." Louise Videau and her incredible volunteers again put on a wonderful day of fun, food and fellowship that was enjoyed by parishioners of all ages.

Scouts: Our parish has two active Girl Scout troops — the third-grade troop with 14 girls and the fourth/fifth-grade troop with 12 girls. This year, the girls' service projects included singing at the Haven at Christmas and making Valentine's Day cards for the sick and shut-ins. The fourth and fifth-graders visited the home of Girl Scout founder Juliette Gordon Lowe in Savannah.

Our Cub Scout Pack 425, designated a "Quality Unit" by the West Florida Council since 1984, had 25 boys this year. They held Pack and Den meetings monthly and went on two camping trips. The annual Pinewood Derby was held in January, and the Blue and Gold Banquet was held in February.

Our parish Boy Scout Troop 425 had 25 boys registered this year. In addition to their weekly meetings and monthly camping trips, they served our parish by hosting the first Sunday monthly Fellowship Coffees and serving as clean-up crew at the Parish Picnic.

Softball Team, Coed: Our softball team was officially recognized as a ministry early this year with a mission to provide Christian Catholic witness in a recreational setting and to strengthen the bonds of community fellowship through athletic team sport animated with the spirit of Christ. The 17 members of the team play games on Monday nights.

## WORD

Adult Education: Sr. Margaret Kuntz organized our Adult Faith Formation classes again this year. In the summer, there was a class series from Jeff Cavins, "James: Pearls of Wisdom." Fr. Doug presented a four-week series on "The Spirituality of Stewardship" in September. Fr. Doug and Fr. Michael presented classes on Sunday mornings in the "Faith Formation with Father" series. In October, there were several classes on life issues, and in November on Vatican II. In the spring, there was the weekly series on "Pillar I — The Creed."

Kitty Cleveland performed a musical mission on Eucharistic Adoration in July, and Fr. Bill Casey with the Fathers of Mercy presented a parish mission nightly from February 18 to 22.

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Children's Religious Education: Classes for grades K - 5 were held on Wednesday evenings. There were 90 children with six catechists with eight assistants. They built their faith through lessons, prayer, crafts, and more. Twenty middle school youth participated in the Edge Program led by Martin and Emily Hanley.

Couple To Couple League: Mark and Deb Kummer brought this parish ministry to our diocese in 2011, and Scott and Mary Thomas serve as our parish contacts. The mission of this ministry is to build joyful marriages by teaching Natural Family Planning, couple to couple.

Dead Theologians Society: This new ministry for young adults ages 18 to 24 met on Sunday evenings and had about six members this first year. The Society is a Catholic apostolate that inspires young adults through the saints of yesterday to become the saints of tomorrow.

Fidelis: Formerly called Sororitas, and now in its third year, this program for girls in grades 6 to 12, had about 25 girls in attendance at its weekly meetings. They participated in several "Days of Charity," as well. The aim of the group is to mentor girls to grow in the fullness of the Christian life and to the perfection of charity.

Fraternus: Fraternus, dedicated to the formation of boys into chaste young men of integrity, faithful to the Catholic Church as disciples of Jesus Christ, had a successful fifth year in our parish. About thirty-five boys in grades 6 to 12 from St. Paul, St. Ann (GB), Sacred Heart, and Little Flower parishes, regularly attend the weekly meetings. High school boys also met in small mentoring HAWC groups (Honest, Available, Willing and Chaste). Joe McGovern served as commander. The Accolade Ceremony was held in May and one young man became a Knight of Fraternus.

Men of St. Joseph: Formed in 2009, this group of about 60 men, dedicated to becoming the spiritual leaders of their families and "putting the family back into the hands of the Father," continued to meet early Tuesday mornings for prayer and reflection. They gave a gift of *The Four Signs of a Dynamic Catholic*, a Matthew Kelly book, to the men of each parish family.

RCIA: Rick Danner coordinated RCIA again this year. The RCIA Team is composed of ten members of the parish. There were 12 adults enrolled in RCIA this year.

Vacation Bible School: VBS was not held this year due to repairs being made on the Parish Center roof.

Women's Study Group: The Morning Women's Study Group, established in 1988, had about 60 women on their membership list this year. They met on Thursday mornings to encourage and support each other spiritually through love, sharing and prayer. The Evening Women's Study Group of about 12 women, headed by Tristan DeSorbo, met monthly to study and share the Word of God.

Youth Events: Twenty-six high school youth from our parish went to Steubenville Atlanta in July. On return, the youth began meeting every Tuesday evening for fellowship and an hour of

Eucharistic Adoration. We also had youth participate in several diocesan youth events including Youth Rally in October, 15 to Youth Conference in January, Campout in April, and three to CLI (Christian Leadership Institute). A busload of youth participated in a Holy Thursday Adoration Pilgrimage.

## SERVICE

Angel Tree: This year, our parish again helped provide Christmas gifts for 60 families, composed of 181 children and 66 adults. This program, coordinated through Catholic Charities, was begun in our parish over 20 years ago and continues with the help of over 100 volunteers.

Feed My Sheep: John Schwab helped establish this new outreach ministry two years ago to provide nutritious hot meals for the homeless served at the Alfred-Washburn Center and other homeless care agencies in the area. Ten volunteers helped him serve 125 to 150 lunches three Wednesdays each month.

Respect Life: Revitalized in our parish in 2011, this ministry with 25 members provided education to the parish about the Catholic perspective on life issues. Meeting every few months, events planned included prayer and public witness in front of the abortion clinic, especially during the fall and spring 40 Days for Life Campaigns, as well as assisting the Alpha Center crisis pregnancy center.

Stephen Ministry: Our parish has 11 Stephen Ministers, who have undergone 50 hours of training, and one Stephen Leader. They provide emotional and spiritual one-to-one support to fellow parishioners suffering a difficult loss. They continue with their program of sending books called *Journeying Through Grief* to parishioners following the loss of a loved one.

St. Vincent de Paul: The 16 active members of our SVdP conference volunteer in several ways, including working at the SVdP Thrift Shop and the Alfred-Washburn Center — which provides shower and laundry facilities and some meals for the homeless — as well as making home visits to those in need. This year, they applied for a VA grant to further develop a program to help provide homeless veterans with proper identification and living assistance.

## LEADERSHIP

Stewardship Committee: In its second year, the Stewardship Committee continued to challenge our parish to develop and deepen its attitude of gratitude through the recognition that all good things are gifts from God and to stimulate our parishioners to respond to the call to give time, talent and treasure in fulfilling the mission of the Church on earth.

## WORSHIP

Altar Linen Group: The 10 women in this ministry, which began in 2002, cared for the altar linens and altar cloths diligently and reverently throughout the year according to the prescribed rubrics.

Altar Servers: This year, the Altar Server roster grew to 73 boys

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and girls in fifth grade or older, plus two adults. There were 22 lead altar servers, who are boys in eighth grade or older. Matt Ernde continued to help with the training and scheduling of servers. In addition to serving at the weekend Masses, servers also helped at other services throughout the year, including the Family Faith Fest, Solemn Vespers, and Holy Hours. Altar Server Awards were given in August for the first time in many years. One of our own was also chosen as State Altar Server of the Year. In March, many of the altar servers participated in a pilgrimage after Holy Thursday Mass to seven churches for Eucharistic Adoration.

Charismatic Prayer Group: This prayer group, begun in 1978, had a core group of ten people at their weekly meetings this year, with others that come when they can. They gathered together to grow closer to the Lord and each other through prayer, praise and worship. They also participate each year in the diocesan-wide Charismatic Conference held this year on March 8-10 at Holy Name of Jesus in Niceville.

Eucharistic Adoration: Weekly Adoration in our parish began in June 1995 and continues for 24 hours every Thursday to Friday morning. About 83 committed adorers each week prayed and worshiped in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament in the Prayer Chapel.

Extraordinary Ministers - Shut-Ins: Under Deacon Lurton's leadership, over 50 people who are shut-ins or in nursing homes received weekly Communion from 17 volunteer ministers. Additionally, the Eucharist is brought to patients at West Florida Hospital every Monday.

Greeters: The mission of this newly formed ministry is to make every person who comes through the doors of our church feel like a part of the parish family and to create a warm, spiritually healthy parish by welcoming everyone in a positive and friendly manner. Being a greeter is one of the simplest yet more important volunteer positions in our parish.

Lay Apostles of Jesus Christ: In its fourth year, this small but growing group of eight parishioners, led by Susie and Jim Nalley, held monthly prayer meetings and participated in weekly Eucharistic Adoration with a special emphasis on prayers for their children.

Lay Dominicans of Mary, Mother of the Eucharist: Our own parish Lay Dominicans group, formed in September, elected its group name in December. Membership includes 14 men and women with an age range of late 20s to early 70s. The group's priorities are prayer, penance and preaching. They hosted a Day of Faith for the parish in May.

Music Ministry: Christopher Powell served his fourth year as our music director and continued to work on enhancing the quality of our music. He continues work on the addition of the historical Baumgarten pipe organ to our church. He planned several concerts, including an Ensemble Concert in August, an Organ Improvisation Concert in November, a Cello Concert in December, a Piano Concert

in April, and a Mass for 9 Concert in May. He again hosted the Choral Society of Pensacola's performance of Handel's *Messiah* in December.

Confession: We continued with our monthly parish penance services on the first Wednesday of each month. The services begin with a short session on some aspect of Church teachings followed by Reconciliation. In addition, this year we added the opportunity for confession during the 9 a.m., 11 a.m. and 6 p.m. Masses.

## OTHER MINISTRIES THIS YEAR INCLUDED:

Community: Fellowship Coffee, Parish Twinning, Sports Program  
Word: St. Augustine Circle  
Leadership: Building Committee, Finance Council, Pastoral Council  
Worship: Baptism Preparation, Extraordinary Ministers, Funeral Sacristans, Marriage Ministry, Nursery, Readers, Rosary Society, Rosary Wednesday Group, Sacristans, Spanish Rosary, Ushers

## HIGHLIGHTS OF THE YEAR

- Several Fortnight for Freedom events were held in July, including Holy Hour Vespers and a Festival for Freedom with nationally renowned speakers Cathy Ruse and Bay Buchanan. There was also a talk on "Religious Freedoms" by Dr. Michael McCarron, PhD, in October.

- We kicked off our Year of Faith activities with a Family Faith Festival on Oct. 7. Sessions for both adults and children were held with an emphasis on Family Prayer.

- We introduced our Prayer Trees that held special intentions for each month in the narthex.

- Our Volunteer Reception was held on November 25.

- An important highlight for the year was our Capital Campaign. A Building Survey and Assembly Day held in the fall gave us important input from parishioners to use in determining our plan for our building project. Fundraising commenced in March and we exceeded our goal of \$2,500,000. The fruits of this campaign will be seen next year.

- Our own Dr. Bill Whibbs was ordained a Permanent Deacon on June 1.

- The birthday celebrations celebrating 50 years as a parish kicked off with 40+ Hours of Adoration in June.

- A problem with the Parish Center roof was discovered and repaired in late spring and into the summer. Unfortunately, this led to interruption of some activities, including Vacation Bible School.

- We bid farewell to Fr. Michael in June and looked forward to welcoming Fr. Kevin.

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Address Service Requested

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OUR PARISH BY THE NUMBERS

Priests	2	Priest in Residence	1	<u>Youth Numbers</u>	
Deacons	2	Retired Deacons	2	RE Grades K-5	90
Registered Families	1,443	New Families	135	Middle School Edge	20
Adults	2,786	Children	975	Fraternus	35
Ushers	30	Sacristans	13	Boy Scouts	25
Funeral Sacristans	4			Girl Scouts	26
EOM, active	112	EOM, inactive	18	Vacation Bible School	0
Readers, active	56	Readers, inactive	14		
Altar Servers, active	73			<u>Giving Numbers</u>	
Baptism, Children	61	Baptism, Adults	6	Average Sunday Mass Attendance	1,396
First Communion	64	First Confession	57	Average weekly offertory gift per registered family	\$20
Confirmation	49	Marriage	15	Average annual offertory gift per registered family	\$1,000
Anointing of Sick	70	Funerals	31	Number of families giving to Offertory and CSA	937
Profession of Faith	8	RCIA	10	Number of Families pledged to CSA	563
Masses Offered	590			Average annual CSA gift per giving family	\$475

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