



Saint Paul

2015-16 RENEWAL NEWSLETTER

A Letter From Our Pastor

Transformed Through Christ

Dear Parishioners,

As we continue with our time of Annual Stewardship Renewal, this year we are focusing on a critical element of the Christian life — Formation.

It is important for us to create opportunities to form disciples of Christ through formation within the context of the entire parish. Yet, even more importantly, we must take the time to look within, and consider how we as individuals can take steps to become closer to Christ by understanding His teachings through our own personal formation.

For many adult Catholics, unfortunately, statistics show that taking part in formal Catholic education ends when they receive the Sacrament of Confirmation. But ongoing formation, including the study of Scripture and Church teachings, should be a lifelong journey for all of us.

Formation helps us understand God's will, and therefore leads naturally to good stewardship. During our Stewardship Renewal, in addition to our emphasis on formation, we continue to focus on prayer, ministry, and offertory giving — or what we call time, talent, and treasure. I personally invite and challenge you to take a step forward in each area.

The first step in accepting this challenge is to read through this handbook, and then prayerfully discern how God is calling you to discipleship in our parish.

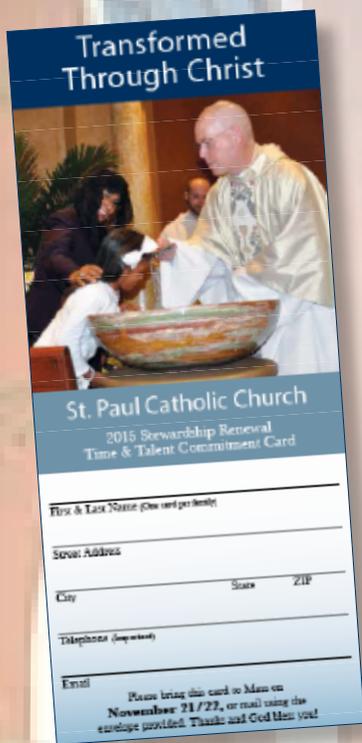
Will you spend time with Him every day in prayer? Will you consider joining one of our parish ministries to serve others? Will you live up to the commitment you made during our Stewardship of Treasure renewal?

The final and most important step in the challenge is to fill out the enclosed Commitment Card and bring it with you to Mass on November 21/22.

It is a blessing to be your pastor, and I thank you for your commitment to the Stewardship Way of Life at St. Paul.

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

Fr. Doug Halsema
Pastor



*Please bring your completed
Commitment Card
with you to Mass on
November 21/22, 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!*

Transformed Through Christ.....

“Do not conform yourselves to this age but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and pleasing and perfect.”
— Romans 12:2

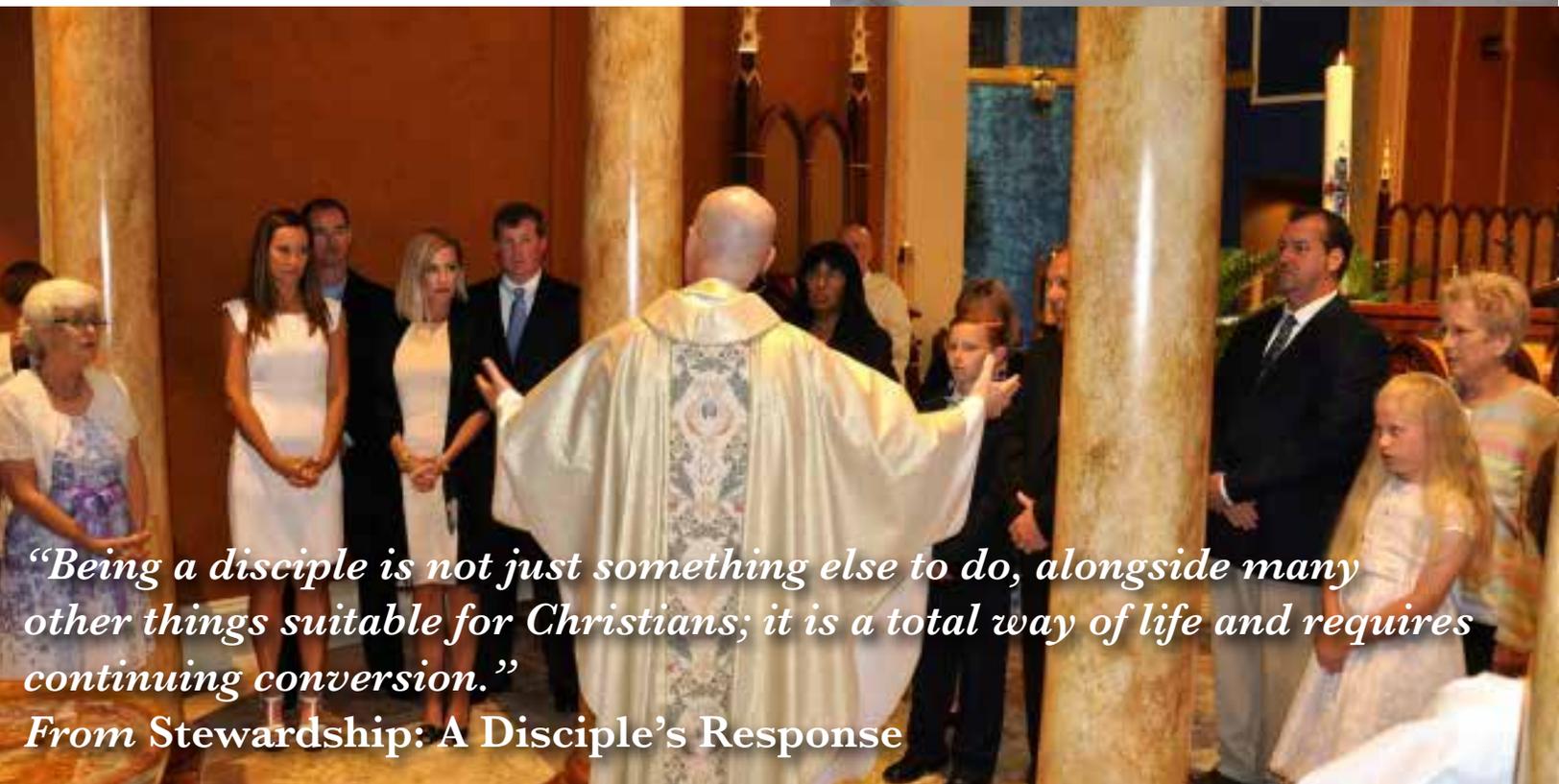
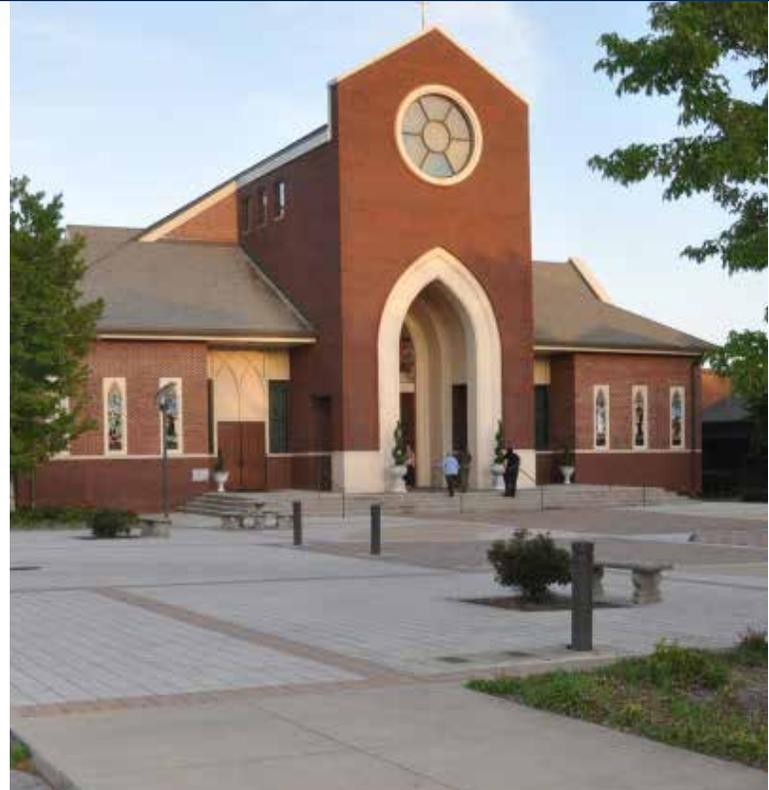
Conversion to Stewardship

“Something else must come before the practice of stewardship,” the U.S. Bishops said in an important pastoral letter. “People need a flash of light — a certain way of seeing — by which they view their world and their relationship to it in a fresh new light.”

What is this flash of insight?

St. Ignatius of Loyola famously described it in very simple terms: God created us for a reason — to be with Him forever in heaven. He created other things on earth to help us achieve this goal. Consequentially, we should use earthly things to grow closer to God, or remove them if they are a hindrance. This is the life of the steward.

In the light of stewardship, we see life as God intended it to be lived. One could say that the “conversion to stewardship” comes when we truly believe that everything we have should be used for God’s purposes.



“Being a disciple is not just something else to do, alongside many other things suitable for Christians; it is a total way of life and requires continuing conversion.”

From Stewardship: A Disciple’s Response

Stewardship of Prayer.....

Unlike our talents, which can be cultivated by practice, or our money, which can be recouped by more work, our time is limited and can't be regained. This is one reason it is so important for us to use our time on earth wisely. How we spend our time reveals our priorities. Ask yourself — where does God fit in?

Each time we pray, we invite God into our lives at that moment, strengthening the foundation that we stand upon. During this year's Stewardship Renewal, will you seek to strengthen your relationship with God?

Strengthening Your Prayer Life

- Pope Francis' encouragement is to spend time in prayerful study of the scriptures, asking God what He would have you learn about Him and His will for your life through His Word.
- Go before Him in the Blessed Sacrament in Adoration, giving Him thanks for the good things He has brought to your life and asking for help in the challenges.
- Research the lives of the saints, read their works, and ask God for the grace to live as they did.
- Utilize Catholic phone and tablet apps such as iBreviary, Magnificat, Divine Office or The Pope App to pray and learn more about our Catholic faith.

Stewardship of Talent.....

The work of stewardship and evangelization always begins at home — “home” in our own hearts, and then the “home” of our parish. Of course, a faithful steward shares his or her talents by serving others, but an important step toward growing closer to Christ is through a personal commitment to a life of continual conversion in Christ through the life of the Church.

As Catholic adults, our continued formation is a talent we must cultivate for our entire lives. Whether it is regularly reading scripture, attending scripture study classes, participating in retreats, or engaging in meaningful discussions on the faith with our Catholic friends and fellow parishioners, there is a multitude of ways we can grow in our faith. Thanks to modern technology, the Internet gives us a seemingly endless supply of formational opportunities. Ultimately, by emphasizing our own personal formation, we in turn will have something more meaningful to give back to our loved ones, our parish family, and the Church at-large.

Deepening Your Faith

- Search uscgb.org (the website for the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops) or vatican.va (the website for the Holy See) for the daily readings, documents regarding faith and morality, and wisdom from Pope Francis.
- Read one paragraph from the *Catechism* every day.
- Seek out answers to the questions you've had about our faith by talking to priests and knowledgeable parishioners.
- Participate in faith formation opportunities available at our parish.

TIME TO COMMIT

The famous Christian author, C.S. Lewis, once wrote, “A person whose hands are full of parcels cannot receive a gift.” Stewardship is a life-long conversion of heart, mind and soul, so that we are able to receive God's love and return that love to Him. The better we understand our Catholic faith and our personal role within God's kingdom, the better equipped we will be to share God's love and resources — our time and our talent — with others. This year, how will you take the next step in your journey of sharing God's love through personal formation and conversion?

2015-16 Parish Ministries

FEATURED MINISTRIES

Ministries in the following category have been selected based on the opportunity they present for spiritual growth and the need of each ministry for additional members. As you research the various ministries available, we ask that you prayerfully consider making a commitment to at least one of the Featured Ministries.

Man Fully Alive

Man Fully Alive is a series of four men's nights for 2015-16 that are open to all men throughout the greater Pensacola area. The evenings will feature good food, great community, an encouraging talk, and prayer. Dates are 11/15, 12/6, 3/6, 4/10. 6-8PM in the School Cafetorium.

F3: Family Faith Formation

(K-4th grade children and parents)

F3 is a new fun and more effective way of doing religious education, formerly known as C.R.E. or C.C.D. Meetings occur on 3rd Sundays and 1st Tuesdays, with additional resources for parents to work through with their children at home during non-meeting weeks. Runs September-May.

3rd Sundays: 12PM-2PM (after 11AM Mass, includes light lunch). Begins September 20th.

1st Tuesdays: 6-7:30PM in School Cafetorium.

Begins October 6th.

Sacramental Preparation: 1st Reconciliation and 1st Holy Communion

Sacramental Preparation: 1st Reconciliation and 1st Holy Communion is immediate preparation for young people to first receive the Sacraments of Reconciliation and Eucharist. This immediate preparation usually occurs in 2nd grade, but is contingent upon the readiness of each young person.

1st Reconciliation Retreat: 11/10, 6-9PM in Cafetorium

1st Reconciliation: 12/2 at 6:30PM in Church

1st Holy Communion Retreat: 4/9, 9AM-12PM in Cafetorium and School

1st Holy Communion Mass: 4/17 at 2PM in Church



Sacramental Preparation: Confirmation

Sacramental Preparation: Confirmation is our immediate preparation for young people to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation. This immediate preparation usually occurs in 9th Grade, but it truly depends upon the readiness of each young person. We help to prepare each teen alongside their parents, and therefore each class does require the participation of at least one parent for each teen.

Regular Classes on Sundays 4:15-5:45PM in Giri Room: 9/13, 12/6, 1/24, 2/21.

Special Session, includes Sacrament of Reconciliation: Wednesday, 11/4 from 6-8PM in School Cafetorium.

Retreat: Sunday, 2/14 from 2:30-7PM; meet in Giri Room.

Mass Rehearsal: Thursday, 3/3 from 7-8PM; meet in school hallway.

Mass with Rite of Confirmation: Sunday, 3/6 at 2:30PM; meet at 2PM in school hallway. Reception in gym until 4PM.

Encounter

(5th-6th grade children and parents)

Encounter is an 8-week faith study for 5th and 6th graders and their parents. A minimum of one parent must accompany their child(ren) at each class.

Encounter draws students into the story of our faith and God's plan for our lives. In the midst of this, it is our hope that they will come to see God as a loving Father who desires a meaningful and lasting encounter with them.

Sundays: 4:15PM-5:45PM (in Giri Room unless otherwise noted) 9/27, 10/4, 10/11, 10/18 (School Cafetorium), 11/1, 11/8, 11/15, 11/22

Chosen

(7th-8th grade children and parents)

Chosen is an 8-week faith study for 7th and 8th graders and their parents. A minimum of one parent must accompany their child(ren) at each class.

Chosen connects with teens and inspires them on multiple levels — intellectually, emotionally, and spiritually. Teens who experience Chosen will find themselves drawn deeply into the beauty of Catholicism and the love of Jesus Christ.

Sundays: 4:15PM-5:45PM (in Giri Room unless otherwise noted) 2/28, 3/6, 3/13, 3/20, 4/3, 4/10, 4/17 (School Cafetorium), 4/24

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 into our parish community through friendly, kind, and authentically gracious service exhibited by "going the extra mile with a smile." Welcome Stewards will warmly greet all Mass attendees at various locations including the main doors entering the church, the narthex, and the doors leading into the sanctuary. Additionally, Welcome Stewards should be willing to serve when asked to hand out Worship Aides before Mass, collect the Worship Aides, hand out bulletins and 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. Welcome Stewards foster a sense of hospitality and community in which visitors, new members and established parishioners feel a sense of belonging to God, the parish, and the larger Church. This is a critically important ministry that "lives our mission" of loving God, serving others and making disciples. Welcome Stewards must set a Christian example at all times and possess a deep desire to love God, serve others, and foster discipleship. A hospitable, positive and pleasant attitude is an absolute must for this ministry.

WORD MINISTRIES

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

Abide

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 every day life. Our first set of discussions will be based on Pope St. John Paul II's Letter to Women. Abide will begin on October 4th, and meet weekly on Sunday evenings at 7PM.

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 9am 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 which are 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.

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

(For Potty Trained Children ages 3 and 4)

Living Faith pre-School features age-appropriate faith formation in the pre-k room during the 9AM and 11AM Sunday Masses. Dynamic and interactive activities include: music, play, art, and storytelling. Begins October 4th and runs October through May.

St. Paul Youth Group

Youth Group is for all high school students who want to come and experience community and prayer with their peers at St. Paul. Table Talk nights will include a discussion about a current topic or event that affects the lives of the teens. Youth Group and Table Talk will meet in the Marian Room/Music Room attached to the gym. Pack the Chapel is a night for teens to gather in the chapel to connect with God on a deeper level. These nights will include Eucharistic Adoration and praise and worship music. Pack the Chapel will meet in the chapel attached to the parish office.

This group will meet every Wednesday from 6:30PM to 8PM. All high school students are welcome, and we would love to see you there.

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 6am 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.

Women's Study Group

The purpose of the Women's Study Group is to encourage women to grow spiritually through an understanding of God's Word while giving support to one another through love, sharing and prayer. The group is open to all women of the parish, and participants are welcome to attend just one or all of the meetings since they are independent of each other. There are two independent groups, one that meets in the morning and one that meets in the evening.

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 either boys or girls, men and women. To serve at Saint Paul you must be at least entering into the 6th 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 9:00 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

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.

Rosary Society

Members of the Rosary Society make rosaries and scapulars to distribute throughout the Pensacola area. Volunteers may sign up to have the statue of Our Lady of Fatima at their home, and videos promoting devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary can be shown or loaned to parishioners. Members also gather to pray the Rosary every weekday at 7:50 a.m. in St. Paul Church.

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.

SERVICE MINISTRIES

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

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. Our objectives are to:

- To create an environment in the parish and the community that supports and advocates for pro-life issues
- To educate members of the parish, of all ages, about the Catholic perspective on pro-life issues
- To provide monetary support for pro-life activism and charities, specifically crisis pregnancy centers and organizations that provide aide to families in need
- To organize community events such as a life chain, silent prayer protests at local abortion clinics, and service work at local crisis pregnancy centers
- To involve and engage the youth of the school and parish in pro-life awareness-causing them to realize the sacredness of life from conception until natural death
- To provide support for families who wish to teach and raise their children by the pro-life teachings of the Catholic Church

St. Vincent de Paul

The Society of St. Vincent de Paul is an international Catholic Organization of lay persons 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. It is this personalized involvement that makes the work of the Society unique. This aid may take the form of intervention, consultation or through direct dollar or in-kind service. In an effort to provide personal and neighborly help, this group of parishioners meets at 12PM on the second and fourth Wednesday of each month. Volunteer hours are flexible and varied according to one's schedule.

The Alpherd Washburn Center (AWC)

AWC is a 100 percent volunteer organization that serves those in need in Pensacola by providing lunches, clothing, phone and mail service, and shower and laundry facilities. Volunteers assist with a variety of tasks. The center is open from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. on Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday, and is located at 31 Murphy Lane, Pensacola.

The Northwest Florida Guild of the 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.

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 offer tuition assistance for St. Paul Catholic School children. The gift shop is open after all weekday and weekend Masses (except 6:00 p.m. Sunday Mass), with extended hours during the holiday season. New volunteers are always welcome to participate.

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 which are useful for adulthood. The program teaches love and respect of family, country, and the Church. New members are always welcome.

Caring Hearts Hospitality Ministry

Caring Hearts Hospitality 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, transportation, sitters, 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.

Fellowship Supper

Fellowship Supper takes place once a month at the Parish Center, on a Wednesday or Saturday evening, during the academic year. This family-oriented outreach event allows parishioners and those of the surrounding community to gather together for a hearty meal, fellowship and prayer. Parishioners can volunteer in a variety of areas, such as cooking, cleaning, hospitality and more.

Knights of Columbus

Knights of Columbus are Catholic gentlemen committed to the exemplification of charity, unity, fraternity, patriotism and defense of the priesthood. The order is consecrated to the Blessed Virgin Mary, and is unequivocal in its loyalty to the Pope, the Vicar of Christ on earth. Knights are firmly committed to the protection of human life, from conception to natural death, and to the preservation and defense of the family. Brother Knights work to fulfill the central mission of the order: striving in charitable works; serving the Church and 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.

Music With Mama

The purpose of a parish music class is to create an opportunity for children ages 4 and under to be exposed to music, rhythm, and movement while also building community and friendship among young families in our parish.

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.

SPECIAL GIFTS & TALENTS

Money Counter

Volunteers work in teams to tabulate the contributions of parishioners, which must be counted every week, deposited, and recorded for tax and auditing purposes. As a diocesan requirement, our money counters complete a credit check and sign a form outlining their responsibilities. If you can balance a checkbook well, this ministry is for you!

