A CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS

St. Paul’s Supports the Helping Hands Health and Wellness Center

On July 13, I was one of fourteen individuals who received the 2017 “Champions of Health Care” award. Sponsored by Columbus Business First, these awards annually go to some members of the community who have made significant contributions to the advancement of health care in Central Ohio. I was nominated because of my involvement with The Helping Hands Health and Wellness Center on Morse Road in the Northland area. (See article on page 2 of this newsletter.) I sincerely felt unworthy of this award, but I accepted it on behalf of all those who really make the Center work and in the hope that I might use the award to raise the clinic’s visibility.

The Helping Hands Health and Wellness Center is a free medical clinic for folks who are uninsured or underinsured. Doctors, nurses, other medical professionals, and just plain caring people volunteer to make this a beautiful place of healing. The late Fr. Jim Smith, the beloved pastor of St. Matthias Church in Columbus, made the parishes of the Northland Deanery (of which St. Paul is a member), aware of the needs of this worthwhile venture about seven years ago. St. Paul parishioner, Connie Sauter, then led an investigation on behalf of the Deanery to see how we might be able to support the clinic. After she made a report, it was decided that all seven parishes of the Northland Deanery would contribute to the operation of the Center. St. Paul has contributed 1½% from our offertory collection for this cause since 2011. Other Christian churches and other groups also contribute to the operation of the clinic. Thus it is an ecumenical venture.
The clinic adheres to Catholic Health Care Directives. By the way, the Center sponsors an extensive vegetable garden on the property which further strengthens the health of its clients.

This is a good cause. I am asking parishioners to consider volunteering at the clinic. It is located at 1421 Morse Road, Columbus, 43229. Their phone number is 614-262-5094. You can refer to their website at www.helpinghandsfreeclinic.org and click on “volunteers.” Doctors, nurses, and various medical professionals are needed. Other volunteers are also most welcome. The Center is typically open five times a month. It is housed in a hall of Ascension Lutheran Church and the space must be transformed every time the clinic is open. This takes a lot of time and work. So, there are plenty of volunteer opportunities.

I would very much like to see some of our many parishioners who have devoted their lives to the healing professions to be part of the Helping Hands Health and Wellness Center.

The Catholic Church teaches that health care is a human right. This right is far from a reality in America today. Hopefully our leaders will be able to agree on a way forward that guarantees adequate health care to everyone regardless of their financial situation. In the meantime, there are many groups trying to fill the void. The Helping Hands Health and Wellness Center is one of them—and it is in our back yard. Please consider volunteering there!

Sincerely in Christ the Healer,

Fr. Charlie

Champions of Health Care Award (July 13, 2017)

Health Care Provider for the Underserved

Father Charles Klinger, like the Catholic church at large, believes that health care is a right for all people. And through his parish at St. Paul the Apostle, he works to make that a reality.

“I’m keenly aware we’re the only civilized country that doesn’t have health insurance for everyone,” he said. “I’ve never been without health insurance, never gone hungry. I’ve been fortunate to have good health care, and I want that for everyone.”

To that end, he spearheaded efforts to secure more than $300,000 over the past six years from the Northland deanery for Helping Hands Health and Wellness Center’s free clinic. Each week, 1.5 percent of the parish’s offering bucket goes toward Helping Hands, amounting to more than $27,000 in 2016-17.

Helping Hands provides free medical care and social services to uninsured and underinsured patients from the Northland area and from 38 different zip codes in Franklin County and surrounding areas. The organization relies on volunteer physicians, nurses, counselors, chiropractors and administrative professionals. The financial support led by Klinger has helped the clinic expand hours, provided patients with prescription assistance, and provided the clinic with a part-time nurse to help coordinate care, wrote Noreen Palmer, Helping Hands’ Executive Director, in nominating Klinger for an award.

“I know that what Helping Hands does helps,” Klinger said. “They do a great job.”

Klinger and the parish fundraise for other “social teaching” groups that provide health services, including Westerville Area Resource Ministry, Catholic Social Services, Alcoholics Anonymous, Al-Anon, Overeaters Group and the St. Vincent de Paul Society.

“Father Klinger’s spirit of financial generosity has a positive impact on every human situation in his ministry,” Palmer wrote.
A Message from the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops Regarding DACA

The cancellation of the DACA program is reprehensible. It causes unnecessary fear for DACA youth and their families. These youth entered the United States as minors and often know America as their only home. The Catholic Church has long watched with pride and admiration as DACA youth live out their daily lives with hope and a determination to flourish and contribute to society: continuing to work and provide for their families, continuing to serve in the military and continuing to receive an education. Now, after months of anxiety and fear about their futures, these brave young people face deportation. This decision is unacceptable and does not reflect who we are as Americans.

The church has recognized and proclaimed the need to welcome young people: “Whoever welcomes one of these children in my name welcomes me; and whoever welcomes me does not welcome me but the one who sent me” (Mark 9:37).

Today our nation has done the opposite of how Scripture calls us to respond. It is a step back from the progress that we need to make as a country. Today’s actions represent a heartbreaking moment in our history that shows the absence of mercy and goodwill and a short-sighted vision for the future. DACA youth are woven into the fabric of our country and of our church and are by every social and human measure American youth.

We strongly urge Congress to act and immediately resume work toward a legislative solution. We pledge our support to work on finding an expeditious means of protection for DACA youth.

As people of faith, we say to DACA youth – regardless of your immigration status, you are children of God and welcome in the Catholic Church. The Catholic Church supports you and will advocate for you.

ST. PAUL’S BRANDING SURVEY

Late last month all parishioners were invited to hear Jason Jourdan of Novella Creative define how a unified brand platform will help St. Paul’s more successfully communicate our parish’s mission. Branding is about our message, our testimony, our role in serving and reflecting God’s love while evangelizing. Our church’s brand is about the entire experience one has at St. Paul’s. Simply stated, our brand is how our parish community is perceived by others – parishioners and non-parishioners alike.

We have asked all parishioners to participate in a short (six question) survey. Your input is invaluable in building our parish’s brand. The survey can be accessed at https://goo.gl/ghihTc or via this QR code. The link is also posted on our parish website (www.stpaulcatholicchurch.org).

The online survey is both secure and responses are anonymous.

Thank you for taking a few minutes to complete the survey!
The St. Vincent de Paul Diocese of Columbus, has begun an effective Micro-Loan Program to reduce the burden of poverty in our surrounding counties. The Micro-Loan Program is a low interest, small loan for individuals to conquer unexpected expenses. The Micro-Loan Program allows individuals to handle a ‘safe-loan’, build their credit, and have a mentoring relationship within the community.

Oftentimes, with no other option, (unbanked) individuals get a title loan company using their automobile as collateral. The average title loan is $350, but the average payback on those loans is 300% - 450% APR* (*Ohio AG). In some cases, the interest rate balloons even higher. Any missed payments result in a car repossession and without transportation, most clients will lose their jobs, and then the problems snowball.

The Micro-Loan Program charges 3% interest which is deposited back to the client at the end of their loan. If the client is ‘unbanked’; now they are establishing credit. If they have bad credit; it will be significantly improved by the close of the loan. In the end; they will have found a friend in the community who is represented in the graces of Catholic Social Teaching.

We are building for community success. Delaware County has recently formed a board and has partnered with CME Credit Union - now we ask for your support to help break the cycle of perpetual poverty.

We need volunteers to serve in multiple capacities:

- **Financial Mentors** – individuals of low-income who have experience in managing finances effectively are needed to be mentors. These individuals will meet with loan applicants about once a month and provide information, advice and referrals. These individuals will also work with loan applicants to complete the budget, the timeline for paying the loans back, and the loan application. Training will be provided.
- **Train the Trainers** – We will need individuals who are willing to train the financial mentors and serve as a resource when the financial mentor needs assistance.
- **St. Vincent de Paul Members** – we will need Saint Vincent de Paul members who perform home visits to help us identify individuals who need loans. We will also need SVDP members to assist in other aspects of the program, including media, marketing, organization of microloan programs in additional counties, and fundraising.

For more information, please take the time to contact St. Paul parishioner Joyce O’Neill at either jmconeill@gmail.com or 614-891-6487. Thank you!
October is Respect Life Month

Emphasizing the need to protect life from conception to natural death, St. Paul’s is again orchestrating a toiletry/diaper/layette drive on October 21-22 for expectant mothers (and their babies) who are served by The Women’s Care Center and a toiletry drive for the homebound served by the Senior Ministry of our sister parish, Holy Rosary/St. John. Your donations are always most appreciated.

Our Respect Life collection is a tangible way to help young mothers who are choosing life for their unborn babies. Extending compassion and services to our elderly says much about how we value life. Thank you in advance for recognizing that every life is worth living through your generous donations (and prayers) for this drive! Look for a collection bin in the vestibule of the church October 21-22.

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**Items Most Needed at the Women’s Care Center Include:**
- Diapers size 3 or larger (especially 4s & 5s)
- Babywipes, baby wash, and shampoo
- Newborn baby clothes
- Baby clothes through sizes 24 months or 2T
- Maternity clothes (new or gently used.)

**Items Most Needed by the Senior Ministry Include:**
- Glucerna (strawberry)
- Vaseline 100 % pure petroleum jelly
- Unscented lotion for sensitive skin
- Tissues
- Hand sanitizer
Dear Parishioners,

I am pleased to inform you that we now have the option to contribute to the parish through online giving. St. Paul has teamed up with WeShare from Liturgical Publications. LPi has been a wonderful partner for many parishes besides us, their reputation is sterling.

Using WeShare makes the act of donating simple and easy, while at the same time keeping the process safe and secure. It is available for parishioners who would like to make online donations to our weekly offerings, as well as other parish collections. You can set up a recurring weekly or monthly payment, allocate different amounts for different collections, and view complete, accurate financial records at any time.

Those who wish to continue to use traditional methods of offering may do so, however please consider using WeShare. Some of the benefits for the parishioner include: no need to write checks; you can give even if you are unable to attend Sunday services; and your contribution amount can easily be adjusted. The benefits for the parish include: less time necessary to process the collection; more consistent giving with recurring contributions; online donation summaries for record-keeping; and it accommodates all special parish collections and appeals.

There are two very simple ways to sign up for WeShare:

1) Scan the “QR” code found on the diagram below:

2) Go to the home page of our parish website (www.stpaulcatholicchurch.org) and “click” on the donate icon.

Once you do either of these steps, it is easy to set up your account. If I can do it, so can you! If you have any questions about the program or about setting up your account, please call Loretta in our Parish Office at 614-882-2109. Thank you for all the ways you generously support St. Paul!

Sincerely,

Fr. Charlie

Fr. Charlie
WeShare Online Giving

1. Is online giving secure?
   Yes! Our provider is a merchant of record (an organization that assumes the overall liability of any outstanding credit or debit balance on a merchant account) and provides cyber insurance.

2. I prefer envelopes. Can I continue to receive and use them?
   Certainly! Envelopes will still be mailed to those who prefer to give in that way.

3. What if I currently give via electronic funds transfer?
   You may continue to give that way, and use the new system for 2nd collections (or with the offertory envelopes that are mailed to you). If you prefer to only use our new online giving program, WeShare, that’s great – we can cancel your EFT. Just call the Parish Office (882-2109) and I can help you.

4. Why the switch to online giving? Aren’t things okay as they are?
   There are many reasons to consider WeShare. First, you have better control of your donations with WeShare. You don’t have to worry about mailing in your contribution if you are out of town for the weekend and it’s much easier to donate to the various second collections such as those for St. Vincent DePaul and WARM. Additionally, you can select the funding source including a major credit card. Many people prefer to handle their financial transactions online because you can check your profile at any time.

5. Will I be able to use WeShare to pay my PSR tuition? How about my VBS registration fee?
   Beginning next spring, indeed you will be able to use WeShare to pay for both VBS as well as the PSR tuition for 2018-2019.

6. I belong to a few parish ministries that have various programs throughout the year. Will I be able to use WeShare for registration and payment for these events?
   Absolutely! That’s one of the great features of the program. The ministry chair only needs to call the Parish Office and I will gladly put things in place for the event.

7. Do I need to enter my payment information every time I use WeShare?
   No. Once you have initially entered your payment preferences, you will be offered those options each time you enter a new donation.

Loretta Nazario, Parish Accountant
lnazario@stpacc.org or 614-882-2109

The Knights of Columbus is a Catholic, Family, Fraternal, and Service organization. Our guiding principles of Charity, Fraternity, Unity, and Patriotism, permeate all our programs in Church, Community, Council, Family, Culture of life, and Youth Activities. We stand united with the Church, and our beliefs strengthen us to speak out for religious and moral values. We demonstrate the utmost respect for the clergy and the religious, by our active encouragement and promotion of vocations.

Our Council participates in many events, fundraisers, and activities that benefit both our community and the many charities we support including: Measure-Up for Special Education, Meals on Wheels, Breakfast with Santa for WARM, Parishioners in Need, Fish Fry’s, Blood Drives, Sub Sales for the Church Building Fund, Rosary at Abortion Clinics, and many others

Become a Knight! Be part of an organization that fills your heart and mind with the joy of giving to others and the feeling that comes with making a difference.

To learn more about the Knights of Columbus, or how to join our Council here at St. Paul’s, please visit http://www.kofc5776.org/
We have made great strides in our fundraising efforts for Reaching for Tomorrow with a balance of $800,000 left to bring the campaign to its successful conclusion! I would like to again thank everyone who has made a pledge or donation. Recently the quarterly billing statements were mailed to those families who have contributed to the campaign to ask for their consideration to renew or extend their existing pledge. The remaining funds to be raised are critical to the project as it will allow the necessary finishes and furnishings needed to complete the interior of the entire second floor as originally planned.

Corna-Kokosing began the work in June and have accomplished most all the steel framework despite a rainy month of July. The estimated completion of the construction project remains June of 2018. Some benchmarks that our parish community are especially looking forward to along the way include the rejoining of Miller Hall with the school building which is estimated to occur at the end of this month. Additionally, the school and auxiliary offices are estimated to be complete by the end of December. And finally, the completion of the second floor will be finished by the end of this academic year. As with any construction project we have had a few challenges that have resulted in being slightly behind schedule, but nothing that has derailed the project.

There are still some memorial opportunities of stained glass from the old church which are available for those who are interested. Also noteworthy are the plans to recognize all donors who have made gifts of $6,000 or more to the campaign on a special Donor Recognition Wall that will be in a prominent area within the school.

Please earnestly pray and consider how you can make a pledge of support or continue your current support of the campaign. Payments can be paid in full or extended over a 1, 2 or even 3-year period. Consider using our online donation option for ease of payment. Simply go to the WeShare link that can be found on the home page of our parish website (www.stpaulcatholicchurch.org). You can learn more about the WeShare in this newsletter!

If you have any questions about our Reaching for Tomorrow Campaign, please contact me at either dforsythe@stpaulk-8.org or 614-882-2109. With a renewed spirit of faith and academic excellence, we can make our Reaching for Tomorrow Campaign a success!

God bless and thank you!

Dana F. Forsythe, CFRE
Development Director
St. Paul the Apostle Parish
A Hub for Teaching, Living, and Learning in the Light of Christ

The renovations to our St. Paul School this summer included redefining and reshaping the library and technology lab into one seamless Library Learning Commons (LLC). The vision was to create a collaborative space in which students would be able to interact with other students, teachers, technology, and content. Research supports allowing students to construct knowledge through their interactions is a critical step in helping them become more self-directed learners (Edwards, 2012). The LLC was purposely designed to be a transparent space where learning could be seen through the windows to reflect the innovations that are happening within our school.

To realize our vision, we organized a dynamic team of LLC teachers who are working to provide our students with project/problem-based learning opportunities within the framework of Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM). These activities provide students with opportunities to ask questions, investigate answers, construct new understandings, and communicate to share their newfound knowledge with others within a real-world context.

Our students are at the heart of teaching and learning at St. Paul School! We most certainly want to empower them to follow their sense of wonder into new discoveries and insights that will launch them into a lifetime of self-directed learning.

What is STEM?
STEM is a curriculum based on the idea of educating students in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics in an interdisciplinary applied approach. STEM immerses students in thought provoking and collaborative learning based on real-world applications.

God Bless!
Kathleen Norris, PhD
Principal – St. Paul School

So What Does This Mean?
An example of a third grade STEM activity is the “Geometrocity” unit, pictured above. Third graders are tasked with constructing a three dimensional “city” using paper. Students study various geometric concepts as well as the basic aspect of city planning. They then use an array of grid sheet paper to build solid shapes from flat, two-dimensional “nets.”
This year our St. Paul’s Men’s Prayer Breakfast Ministry is celebrating its 40th Anniversary as a parish ministry. The men’s prayer group has already been very busy planning a special celebration to commemorate this milestone!

All men in the parish are cordially invited to join them on Saturday morning, November 4 – and are encouraged to bring their sons and grandsons (age 12 or older). The Men’s 40th Anniversary Prayer Breakfast will take place at 7:00 a.m. in Miller Hall. Gentlemen: please plan now to enjoy a delicious hot breakfast, great fellowship and time with our Lord. The breakfast will conclude in time so that those who desire can attend the 8:30 a.m. Saturday morning Mass.

Retrouvaille: A Lifeline For Marriages

When love seems lost, or the only answer seems to be separation or perhaps divorce, where do you turn? Retrouvaille, a Catholic program, shares a tremendous message of listening, forgiveness, and better communication to help bring a troubled marriage to life again.

Retrouvaille™ (pronounced re-tro-vi with a long i) is a French word meaning rediscovery. Thousands of couples headed for cold, unloving relationships or even divorce have successfully overcome their marriage problems by attending this program. A Retrouvaille Weekend will give you the opportunity to rediscover each other and examine your lives together in a new and positive way. Please refer to www.retrouvaille.org to learn more.

Our St. Paul Prayer Shawl Ministry regularly meets in Room 3 (located downstairs in the Parish Office) on the first and third Saturday of each month from 10:00 a.m. until noon and on the second and fourth Wednesday from 1:30 p.m. until 3:00 p.m. Prayers go into every single stitch of every prayer shawl, blanket, hat, and scarf they make. The items are created with the intent to provide comfort, give solace, show appreciation, or serve as a special gift to celebrate a significant milestone. Their overall mission is simply to share God’s love. There are many beautiful items on display in the hallway outside of Room 3 that parishioners are invited to select from when they need a special gift for someone.

Consider joining the Prayer Shawl Ministry if you enjoy knitting or crocheting – or would like to learn how! Contact a Prayer Shawl Ministry Coordinator to learn more: Patty Dittmar at 614-264-7226 or OmeOmyOmaPSM@gmail.com; Joan Sylvester at Joansylvester6@aol.com or Marsha Naunheimer at mnaunheimer@hotmail.com.

You can always find beautiful rosaries, Bibles for all ages and an assortment of crucifixes in our Marian Gift Shop, but did you know there are also movies in the shop that you can rent for just a $1? There are over 50+ movies to choose from that are ideal for both children and adults including The Way, St. Rita, Restless Heart, the Brother Francis series. Already looking for Christmas gifts? The leather pillows with inscribed Bible passages make great gifts year-round. Or select from an array of wonderful books including Catholic Mind Game puzzle books; or unique saint clips to attach to backpacks, zippers, key chains; adorable stuffed animals that sing and pray! The fragranced soaps made with Holy Water continue to be best sellers. We are fortunate to have a gift shop in our church! Be sure to visit our Marian Gift Shop – there are always new items arriving every week!
Our Small Church Communities Ministry is currently accepting registrations for a six-week trial period that will begin the week of November 13, 2017.

“We must be convinced that all the baptized – unless they die early or are incapable of making such a decision – will eventually be called to make a personal choice to live as a disciple of Jesus Christ in the midst of His Church.”  (author Sherry Weddell)

We believe parishioners are better equipped to grow as true disciples when they are connected to a part of a community of disciples. Our parish has strived to create an environment where a disciple can keep learning what being a disciple really means (a continual formation) and apply that learning to their everyday life situations, including service work. Our Small Church Communities (SCCs) provide a way to deepen one’s sense of community, prepare for Sunday Mass and support one another as we strive to be disciples of Jesus Christ in our daily lives.

Comprised of a group of eight to twelve adults, all SCCs are led by trained facilitators. Together they read the Gospel for the upcoming weekend and reflect on what it is saying to them. The Gospels are constructed in such a way that Jesus is leading, teaching, and showing disciples what it means to follow him. Small Church Communities help people hear and interpret the Gospel as Jesus addressing them in the here and now.

There exists in each SCC a true spiritual bond that transcends interests and friendships. The members pray with and for each other, uniting themselves to God’s will, which is to prepare them for the Sunday Eucharist. The simple sharing with a few others about the Gospel moves people toward God and that movement itself is from God.

A Small Church Community is not a scripture study; it is not a faith formation group discussing a book of the Bible or a certain topic. Nor is the SCC a social or friendship group, a therapy group nor is it about problem solving – although people may share their lives, including their heartaches. The main bond between members of a SCC is recognizing Christ’s presence and His bringing them together.

Small Church Communities can choose to meet every week or every other week for about 90 minutes. Groups may meet in a member’s home, in a nearby coffee shop, or in a meeting room here at St. Paul’s. Light refreshments are often served. There is a standard format that strives to meet people where they are in their faith lives.

You are invited to join a Small Church Community! Consider making a six-week commitment and you will see yourself grow in your faith and become an even stronger disciple! A registration form is included in this newsletter for your convenience.

Additional information about our SCCs can be found on our parish website. Questions can also be directed to Pastoral Associate Jeff Adair at either 614-882-2109, or jadair@stpacc.org.
Join Us!

small CHURCH COMMUNITIES

Prepare for our Sunday encounter with Jesus in the Eucharist and be ready to go forth from Mass equipped to live the Gospel.

Whether you are married or single, younger or older, are new to the faith or not, you are invited to be a part of this ministry along with hundreds of others.

So, slow down.
Take 90 minutes each week and focus on the Gospel.
Enjoy the support of a community.
Share discussion, prayer, insight and worship in an intimate way.

Most communities meet every two weeks; some meet weekly.
Most groups break for the summer.
Each community has a trained facilitator.

“Jesus tells us: “Go into all the world! Go! Preach! Bear witness to the Gospel!”
In this “stepping out” it is important to be ready for encounter. For me this word is very important. Encounter with others. Why? Because faith is an encounter with Jesus, and we must do what Jesus does: encounter others.”
—Pope Francis

Join us! Sign up below and turn this form into a collection basket, the parish office or scan and e-mail to Jeff Adair, Pastoral Associate, at jadair@stpacc.org

NAME(S): ________________________________
EMAIL(S): ________________________________ PHONE: ________________________________

FIRST CHOICE
☐ MON ☐ TUES ☐ WEDS ☐ THURS ☐ FRI
☐ MORNING ☐ AFTERNOON ☐ EVENING
☐ SUN EVENING

SECOND CHOICE
☐ MON ☐ TUES ☐ WEDS ☐ THURS ☐ FRI
☐ MORNING ☐ AFTERNOON ☐ EVENING
☐ SUN EVENING

BUILDING A COMMUNITY OF FAITH

Sign Up!
Our Parish’s Relationship with Holy Rosary/St. John Thrives

In our summer newsletter, we looked at the many ways St. Paul Parish shares with others far and wide. However, one of our nearest and dearest relationships is to our sister parish, Holy Rosary/St. John’s (HR/SJ). HR/SJ is a parish of about 180 families, located on the near east side of Columbus, in the historic, “Street Car District.” For more than 118 years, the parish has preached the Gospel and consistently served their neighborhood through the Community Kitchen, the St. John Learning Center, the Parish Food Pantry, and their Parish Youth and Senior Programs.

Our relationship with HR/SJ and the Community Kitchen grew out of a Parish Council discussion that began in 1996. Our first actual activity was to get local grocery stores to donate 20 or so turkeys for Thanksgiving that year, and beginning in 1998 we expanded that effort to purchase and donate simply a small number of socks, hats, and gloves.

Since that time, our relationship has become a source of mutual benefit for HR/SJ and St. Paul’s. Our partnership with our sister parish provides countless opportunities for adults and youth within our parish to get involved in helping others by regularly serving in the Community Kitchen, orchestrating an annual school supplies drive, partaking in the “Bring a Turkey to Church” event, donating to the Jesse Tree at Christmas, and contributing to various toiletry drives.

- The School Supplies Drive began in 2002 with just 18 backpacks donated. It has grown to an effort that provides backpacks and school supplies for more than 200 children each school year.
- The Turkey Drive, since it’s humble beginnings, now fills a truck with over 400 turkeys every November and annually collects donations of cash and gift cards exceeding $1,500.
- The Jesse Tree project serves a dual purpose for our parish. First, it is an important part of our Advent Season, as we prepare to celebrate the birth of our Lord, and secondly, it facilitates our gift giving to the Holy Rosary/Saint John community. We are proud to report that over the past five years:
  - St. Paul School students have donated an average of 1,400 gifts (hats, gloves, sock, and blankets and toys) per year.
  - St. Paul PSR students have focused their efforts on gifts of toiletries and goodies. A conservative estimate of the value of all student gifts is $15,000 annually.
  - Our parishioners have decorated our Jesse Trees with checks and gift cards that have supported the operations of HR/SJ and the Community Kitchen to the tune of $19,400 annually over the same five-year period.

Together our families contribute approximately $35,000 annually to HR/SJ and the Community Kitchen through the Jesse Tree project. Since the beginning of our 20+ year relationship, we have contributed over $220,000 in treasure to HR/SJ and countless hours of volunteer talent and time to the Community Kitchen. These contributions have been critical to the success of HR/SJ continuing to spread the Gospel as they serve their neighbors in need. Thank You!
In his very first general audience, our Holy Father Pope Francis challenged all of us to “move beyond a dull or mechanical way of living our faith, and instead open the doors of our hearts, our lives, our parishes, our movements or associations, going out in search of others so as to bring them the light and the joy of our faith in Christ.” The U.S. Bishops have echoed the pope’s challenge. “To take up the challenge of Pope Francis, we must be missionary disciples, called to witness to Christ in every aspect of our lives.” (LMD, 5) We, like the Apostle Matthew pictured here, are called by Jesus to be evangelizers.

“Who, me? Evangelize?” we might reply. In this famous painting by Caravaggio we see Jesus’ invitation and Matthew’s initial response. Caravaggio depicts the call of Matthew (sometimes called Levi) in the style and dress of his day. Jesus comes up with Peter in tow, and interrupts the business of counting the taxes collected from Matthew’s countrymen, separating out his take. “Follow ME,” Jesus says. Matthew leans back and points to himself as if to say, “Who, ME?” But look at his legs under the table. Matthew seems ready, despite his being taken unawares, to jump up and go after Jesus. And in fact, he does. The very next sentence of the Gospel account is, “And he got up and followed him.” (Matthew 9:9)

Who, me? Evangelize? Isn’t that for the professionals? The priests, the deacons, the nuns, the Catholic school faculty, the DRE? The bishops answer: “To evangelize, one bears witness to God’s Revelation in Jesus through the Holy Spirit by living a life imbued with Christian virtues, by proclaiming unceasingly that salvation is offered to all people through the Paschal Mystery of Christ, and by preaching hope in God’s love for us.” (DCW, 5)

So, the bishops say, anyone can evangelize – anyone who is doing his best to live a good life, who tries to give Jesus credit for her blessings, who tells the story of how they survived struggles through prayer and support from Catholic friends – anyone of these is evangelizing. The bishops also say that the times we live in call for more than “business as usual.” It’s not about maintenance, it’s about mission. It’s time for each of us, in our own way and in our own spheres of influence, to follow Jesus intentionally and to go out on a limb to witness to the difference Jesus makes in our lives.

To do this, all of us must grow in our faith, we must pray, we must study, and we must practice. At St. Paul, young people begin this journey in the home, and for many, by coming to PSR classes. Thank you to our faithful, dedicated men and women who serve as teachers, mentors, and guides and helpers for the approximately 700 children who are in our programs.

**Monday @ 4:45 & 6:30 p.m. for Grades 1-6; Wednesday @ 7:00 p.m. for Grades 5-8**

**Sunday Preschool during the 9:00 & 10:30 a.m. Masses for ages 3-Pre-K**

**Children’s Liturgy of the Word (dismissal from 9:00 & 10:30 a.m. Masses) for Preschoolers & older**

Blessings,

Mary Ann Putman

Director of Religious Education
Family Matters

As you gather together for a meal sometime this week, consider sharing with one another a difficult task that lies ahead for you. As you share your concerns, suggest ways that your trust in God might help you meet the obstacle. Allow each family member to offer ways of helping one another with these tasks, and then take time to pray together for guidance and courage.

Your family may also enjoy referring to the "Bringing Home the Word" link that can be found on the bottom of the home page of our parish website for reflections on the Gospel, a message from Pope Francis, and a prayer.

HOPE AND DIGNITY FOR ALL

The small donation bin in the south end of the church parking lot has been placed there for donations of clothing, shoes, household items and even small appliances. Donations are sold and the proceeds are used to support the many programs for the needy provided by Catholic Social Services. Motivated by faith, Catholic Social Services helps poor and vulnerable seniors and families reach their potential. To obtain a tax receipt, simply scan the QR code that is on the bin. If you have any questions, prefer a paper tax receipt, or have a larger donation to be picked up, please call their toll free number: 1-888-852-7523.