I would like to close by sincerely thanking all of you for your generosity to our parish over the years and to humbly request that you keep it up. We have a lot more to accomplish together in growing our visible campus and, more importantly, in deepening the commitment to following the path to sanctity. We as a family of faith bring each other to Christ just as St. Andrew brought his brother to Jesus at the beginning of the church. It is an immense blessing for me to be the head of this big family of St. Paul – to be your pastor. Thank you from the bottom of my heart for your goodness to me. As a community of faith and love, we will grow closer to God through the Christ who motivates a good young man to ride his bike to Mass in the deep midwinter and who moves us all to do great things for the glory of our heavenly Father and for the good of our neighbor.

Ministries represented at the Fair:
- Adult Faith Formation
- Altar Servers (Children, Teens, Adults)
- Angel Room
- Bereavement Committee
- Boy Scouts
- Cantors
- Catholic Charismatic Prayer Group
- Children’s Liturgy of the Word
- Choir (adult)
- Choir (teen)
- Choir (youth)
- Choir (resurrection)
- Contemporary Ensemble
- Cub Scouts
- Elizabeth Ministry
- Flowers & Landscaping
- Funeral Lunces (Martha Ministry)
- Girl Scouts
- Helping Hands for the Homebound
- Holy Hour & Rosary
- Holy Rosary / St. John Partnership
- Knights of Columbus
- Lectors
- Lenten Bible Study
- Linen Committee & Sewing Committee
- Living Christ Retreat
- Men's Prayer Group/Prayer Breakfast
- Ministers of Holy Communion
- Mom’s Day Out
- Mornings for Mothers
- Parish Athletic Association (PAA)
- Parish Picnic
- Parish School of Religion (PSR)
- Prayer Shawl Ministry
- Prison Ministry
- Parishwide Service Project (monthly sandwich making)
- Reconnect & Come Home Program
- RCIA – Right of Christian Initiation School
- Small Church Communities
- St. Vincent de Paul Society
- Stewardship Employment Ministry
- Sunday Preschool
- Transportation to Mass
- Ushers
- Vacation Bible School
- Women’s Group
- Welcoming Committee
- Youth Ministry (Grades 6-12)

Stewardship Fair
After all the Masses on February 7 & 8

◆ Plan to enjoy a ministry extravaganza in the Parish Activities Center.
◆ Dozens upon dozens of our parish ministries will be showcased.
◆ Come learn more about parish life, receive up-to-date information and ask questions.
◆ Those interested in joining a ministry will be able to sign-up that weekend.
◆ Everyone is invited to participate in this event.
◆ There are 168 hours in the week, we invite you to consider giving our parish a few of these hours by serving as a volunteer.

If you are unable to attend the Stewardship Fair, you can go online to volunteer on the parish website. Just click on the “Sharing Time & Talent” icon.

wwwstpaulcatholicchurch.com
The “icle bicycle boy” no doubt has family and friends who have given him an example of what it means to be a good Catholic. In my case, my life is a chain of blessings with my parents and grandparents and ten generations of ancestors on both sides whom we have traced back to the Germany of hundreds of years ago. Two sets of my great-great grandparents each donated land for Catholic Churches in rural Washington County near Marietta, Ohio. One of these churches, dedicated to Mary, closed in 1919. But the other church, dedicated to St. John the Baptist, remains open and is flourishing. It was here that my parents were married and where I was baptized at the age of ten days and where in its cemetery my grandparents, great grandparents, and great-great grandparents are buried, along with their past contributions and their memories. This is that kind of place that these donations of land symbolize to me the generosity of so many of my relatives who have supported the church and the community over many generations. Of course, many friends have been Andrew to me as well.

In today’s Gospel from the very first chapter of St. John the Evangelist, we hear of John the Baptist pointing out Jesus as “The Lamb of God” – meaning that he was to be the sacrifice for our sins the way unblemished lambs were used throughout the history of ancient Israel as offerings to God for the forgiveness of trespasses. According to this Gospel reading, some of the Baptist’s disciples left him and began to follow Jesus since the Baptist in effect Israel as offerings to God for the forgiveness of – meaning that he was the Messiah – that is the one true God. Andrew is the first disciple of the Lord and introduced his brother to him. We all have our Andrews and our Andreas (if you will) who have given witness to us of Christian faith.

This weekend I am preaching at every Mass the annual Stewardship Homily. All of you, like me, are here because many someone(s) brought us to Jesus. These folks, whether kin or others close to us, generously shared their faith with us. In order to make sure the Church of Christ survived and thrived, they gave part of their lives and gifts to this endeavor so that we could have a church to be brought up in. In times past, they donated land as my ancestors did or perhaps they shared their crafts of carpentry, bricklaying, plumbing, electrical work and the like. But they also usually gave money too. Today we speak of volunteering our time and talent, and I encourage everyone who does not volunteer and is able to do so to choose a way to get involved here at the parish or in the wider community. Next month on the weekend of February 7 and 8, we will have a Stewardship Fair in the Activities Center where all the parish ministries will be displayed. This event, which we have not had for a few years now, will remind us that we are one parish family. Just as our birth families first gave us the precious gift of faith, so now we are called to be family to each other at St. Paul. Please plan to attend the Stewardship Fair after all the Masses in just three weeks and get involved if you aren’t already.

In addition to volunteering, it will always be necessary in our day to give of our treasure too. It was our treasure that by and large built this splendid church where in John’s Gospel, we hear of John the Baptist pointing out Jesus as “The Lamb of God” – meaning that he was the Messiah – that is the one true God. Andrew is the first disciple of the Lord and introduced his brother to him. We all have our Andrews and our Andreas (if you will) who have given witness to us of Christian faith.