

February 1, 2012—
April 30, 2012



ST. VINCENT DE PAUL
CATHOLIC CHURCH

The St. Vincent Voice

A PUBLICATION OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL CATHOLIC CHURCH

A TIME TO GATHER & PARTICIPATE

Welcome to *The St. Vincent Voice*! Spring will soon be here and the promise of snow melting, flowers blooming and change is in the air. It is the perfect time of year to get involved and participate in our parish. This edition addresses the importance of the season, the activities in our community and the events happening in our parish.

As we progress into the new year, we find ourselves at an important time in the Liturgical calendar. Ash Wednesday begins the Lenten season on February 22nd and is the perfect time to renew our baptismal commitment, as described in "Lent and Baptism" below. Our Catholic quiz will test your knowledge of the season and learning about incense as a symbol will increase your knowledge of our Catholic faith.

Lent is also a great time to provide service

to the community. Get inspired by reading the about the ways teen members of our parish are serving others, and in "St. Vincent de Paul Commissions, Pastoral Council and sub-committees" learn about the opportunities to become involved. Review the importance of the Sacrament of Reconciliation and get ideas for your own Lenten journey.

This is also a great time to get out and enjoy St. Vincent's. Learn about Parish Happenings and events that you can attend. Join us at the Auction for Education, Cana Dinner, retreat with Matthew Kelly, or any of the many events occurring at this important time of year. Unable to make it to an event? Watch for the next edition of *The St. Vincent Voice* where we will be sure to highlight the gatherings!

— Marie Heinrichs, Parishioner

LENT AND BAPTISM

Transforming our hearts and minds to be followers of Christ

Lent is a great time to grow closer to God. There is no other relationship more important than the one we have with Him. It's good to know that while we are seeking God, He is seeking us. Those that search in earnest find Him. The following piece about Lent is taken from the United States Council of Catholic Bishops website, www.usccb.org.



to prayer and to the reading of Scripture, to fasting and to giving alms. The fasting that all do together on Fridays is but a sign of the daily Lenten discipline of individuals and households: fasting for certain periods of time, fasting from certain foods, but also fasting from other things and activities. Likewise, the giving of alms is some effort to share this world equally—not only through the distribution of

money, but through the sharing of our time and talents.

The key to fruitful observance of these practices is to recognize their link to baptismal renewal. We are called not just to abstain from sin during Lent, but to true conversion of our hearts and minds as followers of Christ. We recall those waters in which we were baptized into Christ's death, died to sin and evil, and began new life in Christ.

A variety of suggestions and resources to support your Lenten practice, enhance your prayer, and embrace your baptismal commitment can be found at www.usccb.org.

"Our observance of Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, a day of fast and abstinence for Catholics. At Mass on Ash Wednesday, the imposition of ashes replicates an ancient penitential practice and symbolizes our dependence upon God's mercy and forgiveness.

During Lent, the baptized are called to renew their baptismal commitment as others prepare to be baptized through the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults, a period of learning and discernment for individuals who have declared their desire to become Catholics.

The three traditional pillars of Lenten observance are prayer, fasting and almsgiving. The Church asks us to surrender ourselves



(Continued on page 3)

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

- **Jan. 25-Feb. 8**
BIZAA Mission Trip to Nigeria
- **Jan. 29-Feb. 5**
Catholic Schools Week
- **February 2**
Presentation of the Lord
- **February 6**
Divorce and Separated support group, 7:00-8:00 p.m.
- **February 10**
Cana Celebration
- **February 22**
Ash Wednesday Masses at 8:00 a.m., 5:00 p.m. & 7:00 p.m.
- **March 19**
Grief support group, 7:00-8:30 p.m.
- **March 24**
Annunciation of the Lord
- **April 1**
Palm Sunday
- **April 5**
Holy Thursday
- **April 6**
Good Friday
- **April 7**
Vigil of Easter
- **April 8**
Easter Sunday
- **April 15**
"Chocolate with Chuckles" for married couples, 7:00-9:00 p.m.
- **April 21**
Auction for Education
- **May 5**
Retreat with author Matthew Kelly



ASK FATHER

Fr. Bennet Answers Parishioner Questions

Q. Why must we confess our sins to a priest?

One of the most often voiced objection to the Sacrament of Reconciliation is: "I don't need to go to confession to a priest, I just need to confess my sins directly to God and God will forgive my sins."

That statement is partially correct. Only God forgives sins. Since he is the Son of God, Jesus tells us, "The Son of man has authority on earth to forgive sins" and exercises this divine power: "Your sins are forgiven."

However, Jesus also commissioned his apostles and gives them power to exercise the ministry of reconciliation in his name (CCC 1441). Jesus asked believers to approach God for forgiveness through the apostles who were commissioned to act as his agents by telling Peter, "I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven" (Matthew 16:19). Furthermore, after the Resurrection, Jesus breathed on his disciples and said, "Whose sins you forgive are forgiven them and whose sins you retain are retained" (John 20:22-23). It is priests who carry out this apostolic role (Canon 965; CCC 1461 and 1462).



Jesus gave us the sacraments to provide us with an abundant share of God's grace. Yet, the sacraments are not self-administered; it is mediated through the priest who is the conduit between God and God's people. In the celebration of the sacraments, the priest is not just another human being. Rather, the priest, through the graces given to him through the sacrament of Holy Orders, is one who acts in *persona Christi*, in the person of Christ. With faith, we believe that when the penitent speaks to the priest, the penitent speaks to Christ, and when the priest speaks, the priest speaks on behalf of Christ. When the priest says, "I absolve you," it is Christ who absolves us (Mark 2:10).

When he celebrates the Sacrament of Reconciliation, the priest is fulfilling the ministry of the Good Shepherd who seeks the lost sheep, of the Good Samaritan who binds up wounds, of the Father who awaits the prodigal son and welcomes him on his return, and of the just and impartial judge whose judgment is both just and merciful. The priest is the sign and the instrument of God's merciful love for the sinner (CCC #1465). The priest is truly instrumental in bring us back into communion with God and neighbor.

Lastly, when we confess our sins to a priest, we are able to receive individualized counsel fitting our unique circumstances, and we receive a penance that helps us in the spiritual healing process (Canon 981).

Submit Your Question!

If you have a question for Fr. Jack or Fr. Bennet, please mail it to: **The St. Vincent Voice Editor** at the church, or e-mail it to: editor@saintvdp.org

AUCTION FOR EDUCATION PRESENTS:

"GREEK"

SATURDAY, APRIL 21, 2012



If you've never been to St. Vincent's Auction for Education, you don't know what you've been missing! If you have been to a previous auction then you know you won't want to miss it! "GREEK" will include a silent auction, live auction, dinner, fellowship, and fun. The Auction for Education is the major fundraiser for our Faith Formation program and St. Vincent de Paul Catholic School.

For more information about the auction or to purchase tickets, please contact Brenda Franczak (763-712-9184) or Tiffeny Sable (612-327-6474) or go to saintvdp.org/parish/events/auction.

THE LENTEN JOURNEY

Resources and suggestions for Lent and Easter

Simply search the following terms on the USCCB's website to access useful reflections as you journey through this holy season of Lent.

Guidelines for Catholic-Jewish Relations

We are reminded that the Church and the Jewish faith possess "our common heritage of service to humanity and its immense spiritual and material needs."

Jews and Judaism in the Liturgies of Lent and Holy Week

Discusses the work to increase the "appreciation of the Jewishness of that heritage and rich spirituality which we derive from Abraham, Moses, the prophets, the psalmists, and other spiritual giants of the Hebrew Scriptures"

Resources for Lent and Easter

Reflections upon the Easter Triduum from Pope John II and Pope Benedict XVI.

—Freely adapted from the Liturgical Resources pages of www.usccb.org

www.sacredspace.ie

Sacred Space is a meditative daily prayer website run by the Irish Jesuits. You are invited to pray—sitting right at your computer—with the help of scripture chosen for each day and on-screen guidance.

Catholic Quiz: Check Your Lenten/Easter IQ



1. What day begins the season of Lent?
2. Fasting is to refrain from eating meat on Ash Wednesday and all the Fridays of Lent. True or False?
3. Abstinence refers to eating only one regular meal with no snacking on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday. True or False?
4. Name the three main "practices" of Lent.
5. What is the traditional number of Stations of the Cross?
6. What is the liturgical color for Lent?
7. How long is the Easter season?
8. When does the Triduum begin?
9. Lent is about renewing our _____ commitment, which is why we renew our vows and have the sprinkling rite at Easter.
10. What do we call the large candle that is lit for the first time at the Easter Vigil?

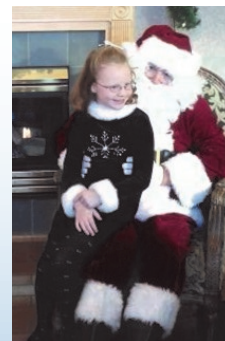
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We invite you to sign up for e-mail communications from the parish. Visit www.saintvdp.org for more information.

Answers: 1. Ash Wed.; 2. False-abstinence; 3. Prayer, fasting, and almsgiving; 4. 50 days; 5. 14; 6. Violet/purple; 7. Lord's Supper on Holy Thursday; 8. Mass of the Resurrection; 9. Baptismal Candle; 10. The Paschal Candle.

REMEMBERING ...



Breakfast with Santa



ST. VINCENT DE PAUL SCHOOL CELEBRATES CATHOLIC IDENTITY

Nationwide Catholic Schools Week 2012: January 25—February 5

Beginning on the last Sunday of January, Catholic schools all across the country will join in commencing their annual, formal, week-long celebration of that one special characteristic which sets them apart from all other schools—their Catholic Identity. This year's theme is "Catholic Schools: Faith. Academics. Service." and St. Vincent de Paul School never ceases in pursuing these three priorities.

Faith. First and foremost, St. Vincent de Paul School teaches and models its Catholic faith. Students learn not just the basics of Christianity, but how to have a relationship with God. Discussions, prayer and a nurtured dialog with God are the daily components of a typical school day. Students attend Mass each week and participate in reconciliation at least two times a year.

But it is truly the daily practice and humble efforts of St. Vincent de Paul School community members to model and live out the Catholic faith. Teachers know their students not only for academic reasons, but because they genuinely care for each child, realizing that all students need to be recognized and loved through the eyes of God.

Academics. Catholic schools, and St. Vincent de Paul School specifically, maintain high academic standards, aiming to help each child reach his or her full potential. This is achieved through a variety of means including a rigorous scope and sequence curriculum, supported by hands-on learning opportunities and varied activities to

address all kinds of learning styles.

Service. Inherent to Catholic identity is service—the giving of one's time and effort to help others. St. Vincent de Paul School teaches that service to others—even service to *each other*—is an essential expression of our Catholic faith.

The school hosts monthly service projects aiding organizations such as C.R.O.S.S., Toasty Toes, and Mary's Place, but it also focuses on helping one another on a daily basis. Older students work with younger ones and read together; teachers trade successful lesson ideas and pitch in to help another when the need arises.

St. Vincent de Paul celebrates its Catholic Identity during this week with Mass and an open house. Fun and exciting activities for both faculty and students run throughout the week, as well, including a trip to Brunswick Bowl and a DJ-hosted, family dance on Saturday evening.

Faith, Academics, Service—these three qualities are worth honoring and St. Vincent de Paul School does indeed celebrate and honor its Catholic identity.

—Kim Lyngen, Parishioner

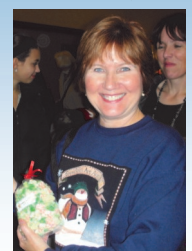


Faith. Academics. Service.
Catholic Schools

REMEMBERING ...



CHRISTMAS BAZAAR



GUIDELINES FOR CELEBRATING “YEAR OF FAITH” REVEALED

All levels of the Church will contribute to “the rediscovery of faith.”

The Vatican has issued guidelines for how the Church at all levels should celebrate the *Year of Faith* which starts in October 2012. The introduction to the guidelines explains that the Year of Faith is “intended to contribute to a renewed conversion to the Lord Jesus and to the rediscovery of faith, so that the members of the Church will be credible and joy-filled witnesses to the Risen Lord, capable of leading those many people who are seeking it to the door of faith.”



The *Year of Faith* will begin on October 11, 2012, the 50th anniversary of the opening of the Second Vatican Council. It also coincides with the 20th anniversary of the publication of the Catechism of the Catholic Church. The Congregation of the Doctrine of the Faith hopes that the *Year of Faith* will make the Second Vatican Council and the Catechism “more widely and deeply known” throughout the Church. The document from the Vatican’s doctrinal congregation offers a sketch of what should take place at every level of the Church during the Year of Faith.

At the universal level, the Pope will engage in various events, including the solemn opening of the *Year of Faith*, the Assembly of the Synod of Bishops in Rome, and World Youth Day 2013 in Brazil. There will also be “various ecumenical initiatives” aimed at “the restoration of unity among all Christians,” including “a solemn ecumenical celebration in which all of the baptized will reaffirm their faith in Christ.”

At the level of dioceses, the *Year of Faith* is expected to provide an occasion for “renewed creative dialogue between faith and reason,” among both the academic and artistic communities. It should also be a year for “penitential celebrations” in which Catholics can “ask for God’s forgiveness, especially for sins against faith.”



In local parishes, the Vatican would like to see a focus on the liturgy, especially the Eucharist, since in it the “mystery of faith and source of the new evangelization, the faith of the Church is proclaimed, celebrated and strengthened.”

The Vatican’s doctrinal congregation says that their pastoral recommendations are aimed at helping people encounter Christ and grow in their understanding of the Catholic faith. At the same time, it adds, the guidelines are not meant to rule out “other initiatives which the Holy Spirit will inspire among Pastors and faithful in various parts of the world.” The year will end on November 24, 2013, the Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ Universal King.

—Adapted from *CL Weekly*, a publication of the National Conference for Catechetical Leadership (NCCLE)

INCENSE: THE LORD IS NEAR

Incense guides our focus back to God through sight, sound, and smell

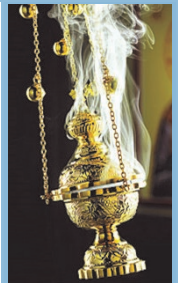
Incense has been used in the Catholic Church for thousands of years. The term “incense” is derived from the Latin *incendere* which means “to burn.” The oldest and highest quality types of incense are produced from the gum resin of trees. Frankincense and myrrh are the most well-known incense but the most commonly used is called White Copal.

White Copal is one of the most beautiful smelling of incense but is not nearly as strong as frankincense or myrrh. It is a natural incense that renders a beautiful white smoke while also being very kind to those who are sensitive to incense smoke.

Incense engages our sense of smell during liturgical celebrations, but also our visual and audible senses. The thurible, that the incense is burned in, emits a luxurious

cloud of smoke and the click-click-click of the chain on the thurible catches our attention, helping us focus on the incensing taking place.

Incense is a sacramental used to venerate, bless and sanctify. It is a reminder of our Lord’s presence. The visual imagery of the smoke and its’ smell reinforce the transcendence of the Mass linking Heaven with Earth, allowing us to enter the presence of God. During Mass the priest may incense the gifts on the altar, the cross, Book of Gospels, Paschal Candle, the priest, and the people.



Information gathered from “*Holy Smoke*” by Matthew D. Herrera.

—Lisa Price, Parishioner

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL PARISH COMMISSIONS

E-mail Communications and a Call for Active Involvement

Isn't it wonderful to feel thankful - to get that light-hearted feeling inside? When we realize how grateful we are for all of God's gifts in our lives, we have an opportunity to take care of these gifts and to make them grow. God has given each and every one of us talents and gifts that we sometimes overlook or may not even recognize when they're a part of our everyday lives (such as the ability to organize, to engage others, to be social, or simply to listen).



Our parish is in the midst of seeking out new members for our commissions, pastoral council and sub-committees. We need individuals like you, who are willing to share their gifts, discovered or undiscovered, with your fellow parishioners.

You may ask "what do I have to give?" Your talents and gifts, when united with others, will strengthen and nourish our parish, as well as the lives of others. When Jesus called the disciples to follow him, they likely were scared, maybe nervous or unsure of themselves. They may have worried whether they had what it took to proclaim the good word. We are no different.

Sometimes we can't see our gifts or hear the Holy Spirit calling us in the "noise" of everyday life, and it's easy to find reasons not to come forward. Just as Jesus called to the disciples as they sat in the boat, to come out to him as he stood on the water, the challenge is not "What if I fall in?" Jesus is prepared for that. The challenge instead is to get out of the boat.

The Commissions and their work

Since the development of our parish vision statement, we set out to improve communication and develop a wide organizational structure designed to reach out to our com-

munity. Parishioners, armed with gifts of innovation, wisdom and creativity, have filled leadership positions on each of the newly created commissions.

In the beginning of 2011, each commission developed an annual plan to further strengthen and nourish our parish. You may have noticed some recent changes, or can expect to, in the near future. For example,

- ✦ the Parish Life Commission invites you to the ongoing "Coffee and Company" where you can get to know your fellow parishioners and what's happening in the parish;
- ✦ The Worship Commission successfully rolled out the renewed and enlivened changes to the new Missal this fall (...And with your spirit!);
- ✦ The Finance & Administration Commission has launched a Stewardship Committee that exemplifies the attitudes of gratitude, responsibility and generosity;
- ✦ The Outreach Commission has successfully hosted a "Ministry Fair" allowing parishioners to learn about ministries in our parish;
- ✦ The Formation & Education Commission has launched a pilot Stewardship program tailor made for the lives of our first and second graders.

To help improve communication, both within commissions but also for parishioners, we have created generic e-mail addresses; they are listed below. Hopefully we will find them easy to remember.

Finally, we are in the midst of seeking out members for our commissions and pastoral council. More than anything else this is about gift discovery; all we need are individuals like you who are willing to share your gifts, discovered or undiscovered, with your fellow parishioner.

Even if you do not feel called to serve on a commission, many have sub-committees offering a variety of opportunities. Use the e-mail addresses listed here to contact any

We welcome your comments! The work of the commissions is ongoing, open to fresh ideas, good attitudes, and new perspectives. You may contact your servant leaders at any time using the newly created generic e-mail addresses.

Commission Name	Entire Commission	Commission Chair Only
Finance & Administration	fa@saintvdp.org	fachair@saintvdp.org
Outreach	outreach@saintvdp.org	outreachchair@saintvdp.org
Worship	worship@saintvdp.org	worshipchair@saintvdp.org
Parish Life	parishlife@saintvdp.org	parishlifechair@saintvdp.org
Formation & Education	fe@saintvdp.org	fechair@saintvdp.org
Pastoral Council	pc@saintvdp.org	pcchair@saintvdp.org

commission. Often this simply means rising to the challenge like Peter did in getting out of the boat and walking on the water to Jesus. Are you willing to "get out of the boat"?

— *Andrew Rem,*
Pastoral Council

TEENS SERVING OTHERS

St. Vincent de Paul youth share how it feels to help others

Here at St. Vincent de Paul we are very blessed to have active, involved youth and teens. As part of the curriculum for the day school and faith formation program, the seventh through tenth graders are asked to participate in service hours to the parish and the community.

Some of the projects are organized through faith formation and some are thought up, organized, and carried out by the students themselves. We'd like to give you the opportunity to know about some of the projects the teens have been doing and how it has helped them learn the value of service.



"I volunteered at the St. Vincent de Paul sports booster steak fry. It was cool because I was able to be with my friends and was able to help at the same time. We were really busy and that made the time go faster and made it easier to do." - Jack P.

"I've been helping a family friend with work on their farm. I got to work with livestock, pick rocks, and help with tree removal. I really enjoyed being outside and working with the animals. I liked it because I saw the result of my hard work right away." - Nick H.

"I babysat for three different families for a total of more than 10 hours. I love playing with little kids, and I know what a help it is for the parents to have a break and not have to worry about paying a sitter. I love how useful I feel when I can help like that." - Clara K.

"I helped bake cookies for the Christmas Bazaar. It was fun to be with my friends doing something I really like to do." - Tori

"We have been to Feed My Starving Children. It's so cool that you are told how many meals you've provided for how many kids. You can see right away what a difference those few hours have made." - Natalie and Michelle

These are only a small sampling of the big contributions our teens are making all the time for our parish. They can be seen holding the doors before and after mass and helping people to and from their seats in church; they can be heard practicing music to sing for Mass; and their contributions can be felt in the strength of our parish.



"I love how useful I feel when I can help like that."

So if you have the opportunity, say thanks to a teen and to God for giving them the hearts to want to help.

—Rebecca Keran, Parishioner

CHRISTMAS GIVING TREE 2011 REVIEW

PARISHIONERS SERVING OTHERS

Throughout the Christmas season, St. Vincent members continued to reach out to the greater community and help those in need.

Parishioners, together with local area food shelves and school social workers, identified over **250 families** overwhelmed by financial pressures.

The Giving Tree program first considered the families' basic needs such as coats, mittens, hats and other clothing. Then, 1-2 'wish' items—such as toys and gift cards—were placed on the tree for St. Vincent members to purchase and donate.

This service to others, and those who humbly receive it, demonstrates our collective desire to follow in the footsteps of Christ.



Newsletter Submission Deadlines

Please submit your ideas to our committee by e-mailing them to: editor@saintvdp.org or by mailing them to the church, to the attention of "The St. Vincent Voice Editor."

Please note the deadlines to submit ideas; committee members will include them in the planning meetings:

- by Feb. 15 for the May 1–July 31, 2012 issue
- by May 15 for the Aug. 1–Oct. 31, 2012 issue

Full article submissions are not required by the above deadlines; it is only article ideas that must meet these due dates.



The St. Vincent Voice

A Publication of
St. Vincent de Paul Catholic Church
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www.saintvdp.org

The mission of our newsletter is to provide all registered parishioners of St. Vincent de Paul Catholic Church with an interesting and engaging publication that includes detailed articles about the people and events of our parish, education about our Catholic faith, and inspiration to deepen their relationship with God and the Church.

Inside this issue:

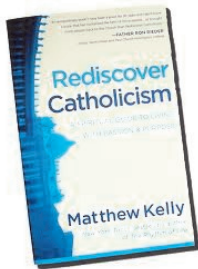
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A RETREAT WITH AUTHOR MATTHEW KELLY

Living every day with passion and purpose



Have you ever wondered if God was speaking to you or if it was just a voice in your head? Do you know how to tell the difference? This is just one of the many things you will learn during the Passion and Purpose retreat led by Matthew Kelly in May.



Author of the best-selling book *Rediscover Catholicism: A spiritual guide to living with passion & purpose*, Matthew Kelly is an internationally acclaimed speaker, author, and business consultant. His books have been published in 25 languages and he has inspired thousands of young people to discover their true mission in life. Matthew Kelly has dedicated his life to helping people and organizations become the best-versions-of-themselves.

Born in Sydney, Australia, Kelly began speaking and writing in his late teens while he was attending business school. Since that time, more than four million people have attend his seminars and presentations in more than fifty countries. He encourages people to explore their Catholic faith in a fresh way and has founded the Dynamic Catholic Institution to nurture and grow vibrant Catholic communities in the 21st Century. Indeed, Matthew Kelly is one of the most passionate Catholic speakers and authors of our time.

This spring, St. Vincent de Paul is offering a retreat with Matthew Kelly to learn how to “live every day with passion and purpose.” This is a day that will leave you energized, educated and inspired; don’t miss this extraordinary opportunity!

A retreat with Matthew Kelly, author of Rediscovering Catholicism
SATURDAY, MAY 5, 2012
St. Vincent de Paul Church

- ▶ Mass will be celebrated at 7:30 a.m. (optional).
- ▶ Retreat will begin at 9:00 a.m. and will conclude at 1:30 p.m.
- ▶ Please note that registration is required to attend this event. Registration fee is \$39. This fee includes refreshments and all event materials.*
- ▶ To find out more about the retreat and to register go to:
www.dynamiccatholic.com/passion-purpose-events.

*Materials include: a book, workbook, Mass journal, and program (valued at over \$125).