



Blessed SACRAMENT

BECOMING STEWARDS IN COMMUNITY

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TEACHING AND PRAYING THROUGH SONG: *Our Blessed Sacrament Children's Choir*

As someone who knows the power of music and how it impacts our faith, Music Director Matt Spencer hopes to encourage the youngest members of our parish community to take advantage of the wonderful opportunity to learn, through our newly expanded Children's Choir.

"I tell our students all the time, the music that we're singing, it's not just to sing songs at church," Matt says. "There are lessons that refer back to Scripture and they're something we keep with us — they're tools in our toolbox so that we can teach and preach the Gospel.

"We want kids to know some of the great hymns we sing as a Church," he adds. "Some of them tell the story of salvation, some of them teach us lessons about the Virgin Mary, some of them teach us about the Eucharist. Our job in music ministry is to reinforce what the truth is, through the words that we sing."

The Children's Choir is now open to all students in fourth through eighth grades, both those who attend Blessed Sacrament School, as well as other



The Children's Choir is an opportunity for our youth to use their gifts to serve the parish.

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OUR BLESSED SACRAMENT CHILDREN'S CHOIR

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young members of the parish who attend other schools. Rehearsals for the Children's Choir will take place on Monday afternoons at 3:15 p.m. There will be three "levels" of the choir based on age, giving all students an opportunity to grow in their abilities, as well as understanding of liturgical music.

In the past, the Children's Choir has provided music for school Masses, as well as for celebrations such as Christmas Eve. However, this year, Matt hopes to expand the program to not only include more children, but to also give them more opportunities to share their gifts, leading the congregation in song at Mass.

In addition to the choir, Matt hopes to give children the opportunity to learn about other forms of music used in liturgical worship, such as the handbells. He also encourages students who would like to play an instrument at Mass or utilize their gifts as a cantor to reach out to him for further information and instruction opportunities.

Matt hopes that being involved with the Children's Choir will also encourage children to be involved in parish music ministry in the future, as high school students and adults.

"The goal of the Children's Choir is to get them trained and to expose them to other ministries so that, when they're of age, they can move on to those," Matt says.

For those who participate, the Children's Choir is an opportunity for children to learn more about their faith and grow in their relationship with God, through prayer.

"We are praying when we're singing," Matt says. "When we teach them new music, we make a point to tell them why we're teaching them new music. We give some catechesis behind it and they really do understand it and appreciate it.

"The kids are learning the truths of the faith in the music that they sing, and they're professing it for others to hear," he adds.

Matt encourages children with musical talent to consider using it to serve God and the Church as part of the Children's Choir.

"This is how [children] can use their gifts — not just for themselves, but for the good of other people and for the glory of God," Matt says. "They can evangelize by their example of being there and it shows that the Church has life in it."



Along with helping to lead the congregation in song, children in the choir also have the opportunity to learn about the richness of our faith through music.



If you would like more information, or if your children would like to become involved in the Children's Choir at Blessed Sacrament, please contact our Music Director Matt Spencer at m Spencer@bscky.org or 859-814-4094.

A Letter From Our Pastor

THE MASS IS A GIFT, TO GOD AND OUR PARISH COMMUNITY

Dear Parishioners,

It is hard to believe that August is upon us! We are now approaching the returns to school, the completion of vacations, and the time when things here at our parish get busier again.

We call them vacations, but the British call them “holidays.” Of course, it’s easy to see that the words “holiday” and “holy day” share the same roots. There was a time when the only “holidays” people experienced were indeed “holy days.” That included Sunday, to be sure, but the reason people had these “holy days” was to celebrate religious times and occasions.

We’re all pretty familiar with the term “Holy Day of Obligation.” In fact, there is one this month — Aug. 15, the Solemnity of the Assumption of Mary. A solemnity is a feast day of the highest rank in the Church — and as we are told in the *Code of Canon Law* (1247), “On Sundays and other holy days of obligation, the faithful are obliged to participate in the Mass.”

Note that what this actually says is that Sunday is, in fact, a Holy Day of Obligation — we should view our weekly Mass attendance this way, as well. Sometimes in our busy modern lives, we may lose sight of how important this is.

Of course, our Mass attendance goes hand in hand with stewardship — how we take and responsibly use the gifts God has given us, then return and share those gifts with the Lord

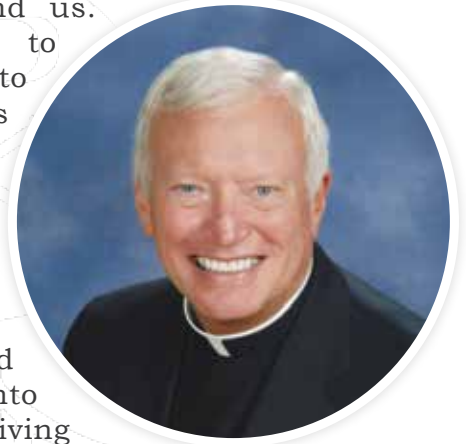
and those around us.

Although going to Mass is a gift to the Lord, it is also a gift to our community and to ourselves. We need that time to step back from our daily worries and concerns, and to look deeper into the meaning of living and of the importance of our relationship with God.

This month, and always, let us each consider how important it is to attend Mass. If we are really going to be committed to stewardship, we need to realize the significance of setting aside time each week and on designated holy days — Aug. 15, for example — to be with the Lord and with our parish community at Mass. We must be completely committed to living out our Catholic faith!

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Rev. Daniel J. Vogelpohl
Rev. Daniel J. Vogelpohl
Pastor



LIVING OUT THE *The Northern Kentucky Council of*

Here at Blessed Sacrament, we have emphasized the importance of stewardship and sharing of our time, talent, and treasure in an effort to help build our Church and bring the love of Christ into the world. Working as a parish to make stewardship a part of life here in Fort Mitchell is truly inspiring. But what might it look like if people across the *entire world* were passionate about putting their faith into action? One international organization, the St. Vincent de Paul Society, is doing just that — sending ripples of stewardship from parishes like Blessed Sacrament to communities around the globe!

The St. Vincent de Paul Society has over 900,000 members who are active in 150 countries. Each country is run by a national council and divided into regions. Kentucky, in the Midwest region of the U.S., is further divided into four diocesan councils. Our Blessed Sacrament parish conference is a part of the Northern Kentucky Council.

This summer, the Northern Kentucky Council of the St. Vincent de Paul Society is getting ready to elect a new president.

For the second time in a decade, the president will be a parishioner from Blessed Sacrament, demonstrating that our parish's commitment to stewardship is alive and well — and making waves not only in our local area, but also in communities well beyond our geographical boundaries!

Blessed Sacrament parishioner Norb DeJaco joined the society almost 25 years ago, and served two consecutive terms as president of the Northern Kentucky Council from 2010 to 2016. He is still active in the ministry, and remains inspired by its good works.

“There are a lot of ways that Vincentians can help those in need,”



(From left) Norb DeJaco and Casey Guilfoyle stand with the Blessed Sacrament Conference official St. Vincent de Paul Letter of Aggregation.

THE GOSPEL CALL:

of the St. Vincent de Paul Society

he says. “It’s kind of amazing. We help with rent, we help with utility bills, we give out beds. We do a little bit of everything, and that’s the beauty of it all — there’s a place for everyone.”

While Norb is excited to see the many ways that the St. Vincent de Paul Society helps individuals and families in need, he emphasizes that the main purpose of the society is not just to serve others, but also to help the Vincentians grow in holiness.

“It’s the thing Christ Himself told us to do, and St. Paul said that without charity, you are nothing but a clanging gong,” Norb says. “The society gives parishioners a very excellent format to do exactly what Christ asked us to do. And it makes it easier that you’re not out on your own — you’re there with friends and people you know and you are all doing the very best you can.”

Casey Guilfoyle, who is running uncontested to replace Dennis Coyne, the outgoing president of the Northern Kentucky Council, echoes Norb’s sentiments.

“When we go out there to help the neighbors that surround Blessed Sacrament Parish, we’re communicating Gospel values,” Casey says. “We’re there to assist in their time of need. It’s all very powerful when you think of it through a stewardship lens — we’re really there to live out the Gospel.”

Casey first joined the St. Vincent de Paul Society after talking with Norb at one of our parish ministry fairs. In the 10 years since, she has served as the president of our parish St. Vincent de Paul conference, Vice President of the Northern Kentucky Council, and most recently, as Central District President.

Looking ahead to the future of the Council, Casey is most excited about a new program being introduced this summer, designed to help those facing financial emergencies through the

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combined implementation of microloans and financial literacy instruction.

In this new leadership role — as in all the others she has held in the past — Casey feels particularly blessed by the strong conference of Vincentians in our parish.

“The Blessed Sacrament conference members are amazing,” she says. “They are really walking the walk and approach people with their dignity intact. I’m grateful to them for embracing that mission and teaching others to do it as well. The parish as a whole has always been very supportive of the St. Vincent de Paul Society, and we’ve been blessed with good members who feel supported enough to take on extra leadership roles.”

Here at Blessed Sacrament, we would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to Norb DeJaco, Casey Guilfoyle, and all of our parish Vincentians for being a true example of what it means to live out the Gospel in today’s world!

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STEWARDSHIP'S "SUPREME TEACHER" FOLLOWING CHRIST'S EXAMPLE

Former President and Five-Star General Dwight D. Eisenhower once said, "You don't lead by hitting people over the head — that's assault, not leadership." President Eisenhower's words are both blunt and humorous, but he makes a great point. Almost any successful endeavor in life requires the benefit of strong leadership. And a truly effective leader does not lead by simply telling others what to do, but by providing a strong example of how to carry oneself on a daily basis.

This is no different for us in our lives as Catholic Christians. As individuals who face numerous difficult choices every day, we require a leader who, through word *and* example, can show us the path to living according to God's will. For us, Jesus is the supreme teacher of every aspect of Christian life, and His life as documented in the Gospels is a model that we should strive to imitate in living as good Christians. And as we have learned, stewardship — the sharing of the gifts that God has given to us — is a big part of Christian life, and one for which Jesus left many examples of successful living.

Jesus' nature of selfless service, documented many times throughout the New Testament and culminating with His death for our sins, is an underlying aspect of living the stewardship way of life. As the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops points out in its pastoral document *Stewardship: A Disciple's Response*, "In Jesus'

teaching and life self-emptying is fundamental. Now, it might seem that self-emptying has little to do with stewardship, but in Jesus' case that is not so. His self-emptying is not sterile self-denial for its own sake; rather, in setting aside self, he is filled with the Father's will, and he is fulfilled in just this way" (19).

Jesus points out to Peter in Mark's Gospel that this "self-emptying" requires sacrifice, but ultimately leads to "eternal life in the age to come" (Mk 10:30). But the Christian steward's ultimate reward is not his or her only benefit from living the stewardship way of life. By sharing of our time, talent, and treasure, and living in imitation of Christ, we can relate more closely to Him in sharing, in a small way, in His sacrifice. "To be a Christian disciple is a rewarding way of life, a way of companionship with Jesus, and the practice of stewardship as a part of it is itself a source of deep joy. Those who live this way are happy people who have found the meaning and purpose of living" (*Stewardship: A Disciple's Response*, 21).

The next time you are frustrated or unsure of how to best respond to God's gifts in stewardship, take a moment to open up the Bible. Jesus may not "hit us over the head" in His leadership, but He does provide numerous examples through His actions and teachings of how to live as one of His disciples.



PARTNERING WITH PARENTS AND FORMING THE FAITH THROUGH OUR PARISH SCHOOL OF RELIGION

While a school's religion teachers or a parish's catechists faithfully serve in forming our children as Catholics, for a youth's faith formation journey to be truly successful, it must ever remain a collaborative effort with the parents.

"This is why we emphasize to our parents each year that we're not here to try and replace them," says Blessed Sacrament's Director of Religious Education Rosanne Thomas. "Rather, we are here to support and assist them in their role as their child's primary catechist."

Gathering the second and fourth Monday of every month throughout the school year from 6 to 8 p.m., Blessed Sacrament's Parish School of Religion, or PSR, provides family-centered catechesis for public school children in first through eighth grades. Its mission is to help parents fulfill their Baptismal promises by partnering with them in the faith formation of their children.

"In everything that we do, we try to emphasize and maintain parental connection," Rosanne says. "We actually have a parent club that coordinates a lot of enrichment activities for the children throughout the year."

Every PSR class begins in the church with a Communion service led by one of the deacons. Parents are invited and oftentimes do attend this with their children. Afterwards, parish youth are dismissed to their classrooms where they receive age-appropriate catechesis from professional educators. During this time, students will learn about the sacraments, morality, Sacred Scripture and receive an overall appreciation of the Catholic faith.

"Using a spiraling curriculum, the kids are getting the same basic content year after year at a deeper and deeper level," Rosanne says. "Our seventh-graders actually receive instruction on the *Theology of the Body*, while our eighth-graders use *Chosen: This is Your Catholic Faith* by Ascension Press. This provides them with a really comprehensive view of everything before

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— ROSANNE THOMAS,
DIRECTOR OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION



The Blessed Sacrament PSR Catechetical Team for the 2018-2019 school year

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OUR PARISH SCHOOL OF RELIGION *continued from page 7*

they finish with us and helps prepare them for Confirmation.”

PSR also puts a heavy emphasis on stewardship, working to get not only the students but also their parents more actively engaged in the faith community. This is accomplished each year through the Advent Fair, which is hosted by PSR families for the entire parish community, as well as through Stations of the Cross and the service projects completed annually by each class.

“It’s so easy for Catholic school families to

be part of things, but it’s not always as easy for the other families of our parish,” Rosanne says. “So we try to find ways to better connect them through our program. Our kids always lead the Way of the Cross one of the Fridays in Lent for the whole parish and each of our classes does some sort of stewardship outreach to the community at some point in the year. That’s also something that our parent club leads, becoming just another way to further involve the parents as well as the kids.”

Registrations are currently being accepted for the 2019-2020 school year and can be accessed at www.bscky.org/Children-s-Formation. For Blessed Sacrament parishioners, the cost is \$100 to register one child, \$175 for two children, and \$225 for three or more. For more information about the Parish School of Religion, please contact Rosanne Thomas at either rthomas@bscky.org or 859-331-4302, ext. 22.

LITURGY SCHEDULE

Saturday Vigil: 4 p.m. | **Sunday:** 8, 9:30 & 11:30 a.m. | **Weekdays:** Tuesday & Thursday: 6:30 a.m., Monday through Saturday: 10:00 a.m. (When school is in session, Mass is at 8:45 a.m. instead of 10:00 a.m. on Wednesday & Friday)

Holy Days: 7 p.m. (prior day Vigil, excluding All Saints Day) 6:30 & 10 a.m.

Communion Service: Monday, Wednesday, and Friday - 6:30 am

Eucharistic Exposition: Wednesdays following Mass — Benediction to close exposition: 6:15 p.m.

SACRAMENTAL RECONCILIATION

Saturday: 2:30-3:30 p.m. | **Thursday before First Friday:** 10:30 a.m. | **Third Tuesday:** 6:30-7:30 p.m.