

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL CATHOLIC PARISH

PARISH FALL FESTIVAL IS BACK

In-Person Event Returns on Halloween, Oct. 31

What could be more fun than kids' games and a cookie walk, all played in costume? These are just some of the fun activities in which parishioners can participate during the annual St. Vincent de Paul Fall Festival. The event — which takes place from 2 to 4 p.m. on Sunday, Oct. 31 — is back after it was altered to a drive-through event in 2020.

“This event is meant to be a fun time for families and members of our parish,” says Mindy Magana, who is helping coordinate this year’s event.

There are not always opportunities for families to gather and have fun together, and the Fall Festival is a great chance for families to do just that. The event will look a little different this year. We are moving the whole event to Johnson Activity Center and discussing moving some games outside. There will be a ring toss, Bingo, and all kinds of other fun activities. In the past, the Fall Festival was a community-wide event. This year we decided we want to focus on providing a fun time for our parish family and to reconnect with each other.

“This is such a great way to bring the whole parish together. It is a great event for our young families. It is an opportunity for the youth of our parish to serve and have fun with the younger children. It allows those

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THE PRINCIPLES OF CATHOLIC SOCIAL TEACHING

What makes being Catholic, well, “Catholic”? Things like the Mass, the Rosary and the Seven Sacraments come to mind.

But there is also an element of Church teaching that’s often overlooked and sometimes misunderstood — Catholic Social Teaching.

Catholic Social Teaching guides Catholics on how to apply the faith to all aspects of life, and lays the framework for the Church’s teachings on the dignity and sacredness of human life.

Catholic Social Teaching can be explained with 10 key points. These 10 principles demonstrate the depth of the Church’s teaching on social justice, and they call Catholics to take an active role in shaping the world in which we live. Catholic Social Teaching, when taken to heart, can become the catalyst that causes positive change in a world that desperately needs it. Consider these principles and strive to apply them in your own life.



Human Dignity

Human dignity is the fundamental principle within the Church’s teaching on social justice. A firm understanding of this principle is required so that the rest of Catholic Social Teaching can be viewed from the appropriate perspective. God created us in His image and likeness, so we all are worthy of respect.

Respect for Human Life

Whether unborn or seconds away from death, no life deserves to be prematurely ended. The Church sees this principle as crucial to the health of any society.

Association

Association holds that social relationships must be developed so that all people may reach their fullest potential. The Church teaches that the family is the basic unit upon which all other elements of society rest. We must uphold the sacredness of the family, and foster the growth of other societal organizations that preserve the well-being of all people.

Participation

All people deserve the right to work and to participate in God’s creation. The joy of accomplishing a task and performing honest labor should be made available to all people.

Protection for the Poor and Vulnerable

Society exists in a balance between those with power, and those without it. The vulnerable — those with disabilities — and the poor must be protected from those with power who choose to wield it in an unjust manner.

Solidarity

“Love your neighbor as yourself” — this commandment extends beyond the boundaries of any town, state or country. The principle of solidarity encourages all people to reach out to their brothers and sisters in need and to help them, even if they live halfway around the world.

Stewardship

Everything we have — even our own lives — is a gift from God. Our talents, our time and our financial resources are not our own, but God’s. The same goes for the natural resources we so often take for granted.

Responsibilities and Limits of Government

Governments, while created for the common good, sometimes overstep their boundaries. The Church teaches that all governments should seek to operate at the lowest level of organization possible — striving to solve problems at the source, with those who understand them best, and not through oppressive force.

Human Equality

God made all humans equal, including those of different ethnicity and race, and in different stages of life. No one person is of more value than another.

Common Good

It is especially important in our society to promote the common good — the social well-being and development of the “human group.” If we consider the entire human race as one family, the common good urges us to support our brothers and sisters so that they may reach their full potential.

A Letter From Our Pastor

OCTOBER:

Helping to Feed Spiritual Hunger

Dear Parishioners,

Have you ever been hungry — really hungry? When asked that question, most of us probably think of a time when we had pangs of hunger because we were fasting, we were on a diet to lose weight, we had saved up for a big dinner, or we just decided not to indulge in what we wanted. However, there are people right here in our own community who go to bed at night with real hunger. And that hunger is not without real pain.

If we expand that to our diocese, our country, and the world, untold numbers of people go to bed hungry every night. Yet, while Jesus instructed us to “feed the hungry,” He did not want us to stop at satiating simply physical hunger.

All around us, there is spiritual hunger. We all know people who have plenty to fill their stomachs but are not sure exactly what they want in life, living unsatisfied. Some of these people are our siblings, our children, our parents, or even our spouses.

Although so many are spiritually hungry, it may not be as apparent to us as physical hunger, because the spirit is within us and we are weakened more slowly. Life goes on when we are spiritually hungry — but truly addressing that need is just as important for us as a Church as physically feeding the hungry. Spiritual malnourishment can be just as devastating as physical famine.

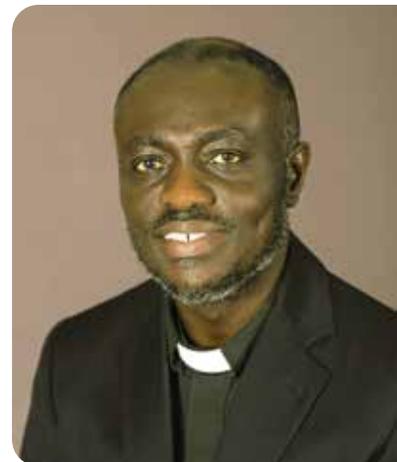
While we are aware of the reality that we, as a faith community, cannot completely eradicate physical

hunger, we must do what we can to feed those around us. Both physically and spiritually, we have opportunities every day to reach out to those in need. Sometimes, it may be as simple as praying for someone. Or it may mean giving of our time, talent or treasure to those who are less fortunate than ourselves. Yet, we always have an opportunity to share the greatest gift with others that alone can satiate the human heart — the love of Christ. There is no time better than today to begin. Will you reach out in love to those in need by sharing the love Christ has poured into you?

Blessed Mother Teresa advised us, “If you can’t feed a hundred people, then feed just one.” Let each of us vow to find that one, and feed him or her, whether physically, spiritually or both.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Rev. Philip Brembah
Fr. Philip Brembah
Pastor



ST. VINCENT DE PAUL

A LOOK AT OUR PARISH ROSARY GROUP

On Tuesday evenings, one may find the church at St. Vincent de Paul echoing with the cadence of a dedicated group praying the rosary.

The Rosary Group is a group of men and women that come together to pray the rosary for the intentions of the parish, individual members' requests, vocations, the Pope's intentions, and our country.

The group began over 20 years ago, meeting in parishioners' homes. Eventually, it moved to the chapel at St. Vincent's and after taking a year from meeting in person due to COVID, they began meeting in the church to allow for more space for the members.

"We miss the coziness of our small chapel but being able to pray in front of the tabernacle and in the presence of Jesus, that is something special as well," says Beverly Keiser, a longtime Rosary Group member and the head of the Devotional Ministry.

While all are welcome to join them in the church every week at 7 p.m., the group shares their love of the rosary with the parish in a more prominent way during a couple months of the year.

"October is the month of the Rosary and May is the month of Mary," Beverly says. "So, Fr. Philip asked us to assist with leading the rosary before each Sunday Mass."



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Spiritual Growth Through Communal Prayer

Parishioners are encouraged to arrive a little early on Sundays so they can join in praying with others each week. Many people have an individual devotion to Mary and the Rosary, but there is something uniquely special about praying it as a community.

“As a group, there is just a feeling you get in the power and the peace that it gives you,” Beverly says.

Some members come and go as their situations or lives change yet Beverly notes this ebb and flow with encouragement as “so many members are drawn back, thankful for the prayers answered and the blessings given.”

The history of the Rosary is long and storied. While the roots of the rosary go back to early Christian prayer traditions and the mysteries of the Rosary were given to St. Dominic of Prussia in the 1400s, the name of the “Rosary” and its current form date back to 1597. This format remained largely the same until Our Lady appeared to the children at Fatima in 1917. She asked them to include what is now known as the “Fatima Prayer” at the end of each decade. The Rosary itself is very powerful. Mary asked the children at Fatima to pray the rosary every day for peace in the world.

“Our Lady has asked us to pray the Rosary,” Beverly says. “It has lasted through the ages, and we are united in it.”

The Rosary has lasted through the ages, indeed, and is truly a universal, worldwide devotion. Beverly witnessed this firsthand during a trip to Germany.

“We were told that we needed to see this local church that was not on the tour, so before dinner, we went to the church,” Beverly says. “And there at one of the side altars was a small group praying out loud in German. I immediately recognized the rhythm of the Rosary. Even in a different language, it was almost like a song.”

These powerful prayers and traditions within our Church unite us across borders, cultures, and languages. The word “catholic” itself means “universal.”

In addition to the Rosary Group, several other types of prayer groups fall under the parish’s Devotional Ministry umbrella.

“Our purpose is to promote the communal devotions as a parish and grow spiritually,” Beverly says. “While the Rosary group is our main devotion, we also have Stations of the Cross during Lent, and before COVID began, we were working on promoting the Divine Mercy devotion during the Easter Season.”

Anyone is welcome to join the Rosary Group in the church every Tuesday at 7 p.m., and Beverly encourages any parishioner interested in other devotional prayer groups in the parish to reach out to her with suggestions.

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For more information on the Rosary Group, or to suggest other types of prayer groups to start as part of the parish Devotional Ministry, please contact Beverly Keiser at 817-300-1084 or keiser4@sbcglobal.net.

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL

ST. THÉRÈSE OF LISIEUX: *Saint of Love*

“In the heart of the Church, my Mother, I will be love!” — ST. THÉRÈSE

All of us were made for love. Only love can fulfill our hearts and help us realize our human destiny. We have been created from all eternity to love God and neighbor with all of our beings.

St. Teresa of Calcutta, who was named after St. Thérèse of Lisieux, once said, “I am not just a number. I was made for great things, to love and be loved.”

St. Thérèse of Lisieux, whose feast day is Oct. 1, was a saint who understood the beauty of true love. As patroness of missions, she knew what it meant to quietly spend herself for the salvation of souls, making countless daily sacrifices in imitation of her Crucified Savior.

Thérèse Martin was the last of nine children born to Louis and Zélie Martin on Jan. 2, 1873, in Alençon, France. She was an overwhelmingly sensitive child. Her mother’s death — Thérèse was only 4 at the time — certainly did not help to alleviate her moodiness.

However, when she was 14, on Christmas Eve, Thérèse experienced a miraculous conversion that transformed her whole life. That evening, her sensitive spirit turned away from selfishness and turned toward love. Receiving strength from God, whose very being *is* love, Thérèse resolved to sacrifice herself for the happiness of others.

When Thérèse was 15, she entered the Carmelite cloister in Lisieux, giving her whole life to God. There, she lived up to her religious name, Sr. Thérèse of the



Child Jesus and the Holy Face, by her profound devotion to Christ Incarnate in the Eucharist, and to His Passion, as revealed in His Holy Face.

Thérèse fulfilled her vocation in Carmel to the utmost of her ability, embodying the essence of an authentic contemplative in every way. She died on Sept. 30, 1897, following a long struggle with tuberculosis. Her last words captured the meaning of her life well lived, “My God, I love you!”

Day by day, St. Thérèse lifted her soul towards heaven and her heart towards the face of Christ, both in times of trial and in joy. She practiced

through detachment from earthly things so that her spirit could soar to unite with God above. As she writes in her poem, *Jesus Alone*, “Jesus, you alone can satisfy my soul. Nothing can charm me here below... My only peace, my only happiness, my only love is you, Lord!”

When it came to loving others, St. Thérèse understood that Christians must first love Christ. As the shape of the cross demonstrates, our focus must be first and foremost on loving our Father, and then on loving others.

“You want my heart, Jesus, I give it to you. I surrender all my desires to you, and those whom I love, O my Spouse, my King, from now on I only want to love them for you,” her poem continues.

Let us take a moment to thank God for all of the saints who have gone before us, paving the way to Eternity for all. This Oct. 1, let us remember this mystical “Saint of Love” and imitate her in a special way.

Military Family Photo Board and Prayer Request Ministry Supports Parish Service Members

With the recent evacuation and upheaval in Afghanistan, Robert Lapiska asks us to look at the world around us and earnestly keep our service members in our prayers.

“They are in harm’s way far more than you even know,” Robert says. “We do not have conventional military threats anymore. Anything could happen, and they need our support.”

Currently, Robert and his wife, Martha, maintain a ministry for the military families in our faith community that helps parishioners lift them up in our hearts and prayers.

“We took it over from Sharon Castleberry who knew that Martha and I were ex-military,” Robert says. “We both served in the Air Force, and our last assignment was the Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs. Now I’m the admission liaison officer for the Air Force in North Texas and work with junior and senior high school students.”

As you walk into the main entrance to St. Vincent de Paul, on the left of the narthex hangs a picture board covered with images of our men and women in the military. The board is a visual reminder to us all of their service as we cross the threshold of our church.

There is also a regular announcement in the parish bulletin reminding us of those who have grown up in our faith community and who are currently serving our country.

“You can reach out to me or to the parish office with a photo to put on the board,” Robert says. “Usually people give a photo and the person’s name and rank. Sometimes people put the photos up directly on the board too.”

Robert and Martha are involved in the faith community in many different ways. Robert serves on the Finance



Committee and is in the men’s club, and Martha is a member of the women’s guild.

“I’m a 100-percent disabled veteran, and the military is part of our family,” Robert says. “My father served and so did his five brothers. Our son went to Afghanistan, Turkey, Germany, and Area 51 in the Air Force. This is part of our family.”

“Take a moment and look at the board,” Robert says. “Think about if you have pictures to take down, like people who are no longer serving, or pictures to add.”

When you have a moment, pray for the members of our faith community in the military. Maybe you lift them up in your prayers each week before Mass or in your intentions before praying the Rosary. They need our prayers.

For more info about the military family photo board and prayer request ministry, contact Robert Lapiska at 817-478-1312 or rlapiska@sbcglobal.net.

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MASSES

Saturday Vigil: 5:30 p.m.

Sunday: 9 a.m. and 10:45 a.m.

Weekdays: (M/T/Th/Fr) 8:45 a.m. in the church
(Wed) 6:00 p.m. in the church

Holy Days: 8:45 a.m. and 7 p.m.

Confessions: Saturday: 4-5 p.m. in the chapel

Parish Fall Festival is Back! continued from front cover

families who have older children to serve together and it provides a way for our more established parishioners to have a fun time serving and getting to know our younger parishioners,” Mindy says.

Mindy is so thankful to the older parishioners who help, as this paves the way for younger families to enjoy a fun day.

“There are so many people who just love to see the kids in their Halloween costumes,” Mindy says. “They are just so generous with their time so that others can enjoy time with their young children. Many parishioners do the same job year after year.”

All parishioners are welcome to get involved with the Fall Festival planning, setup, and takedown — any amount of time is appreciated. Many tasks can be done in the weeks and days leading up to the festival.

With all the separation of the last year and a half, Mindy looks forward to seeing people and feeling that sense of community and connectedness.

“I love seeing all the families together,” Mindy says. “It has been fun to watch these kids grow together through the years. Since we didn’t have the traditional festival last year, I think everyone is looking forward to being together.”

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*If you would like to assist at the Fall Festival,
please contact Ines Roach at 817-874-4165.*