

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL CATHOLIC PARISH

Check out Our Adult Bible Study

*Take Part in Our In-Person and Online
Groups and Grow Closer to Christ
and Your Fellow Parishioners*

For God, there is no time — and this becomes clear to us when we read the Word of God. By studying the Bible, we are able to apply the stories and lessons of yesterday to our lives, today. By coming to know the Bible, we also come to know Christ — and can grow together as a community in faith.

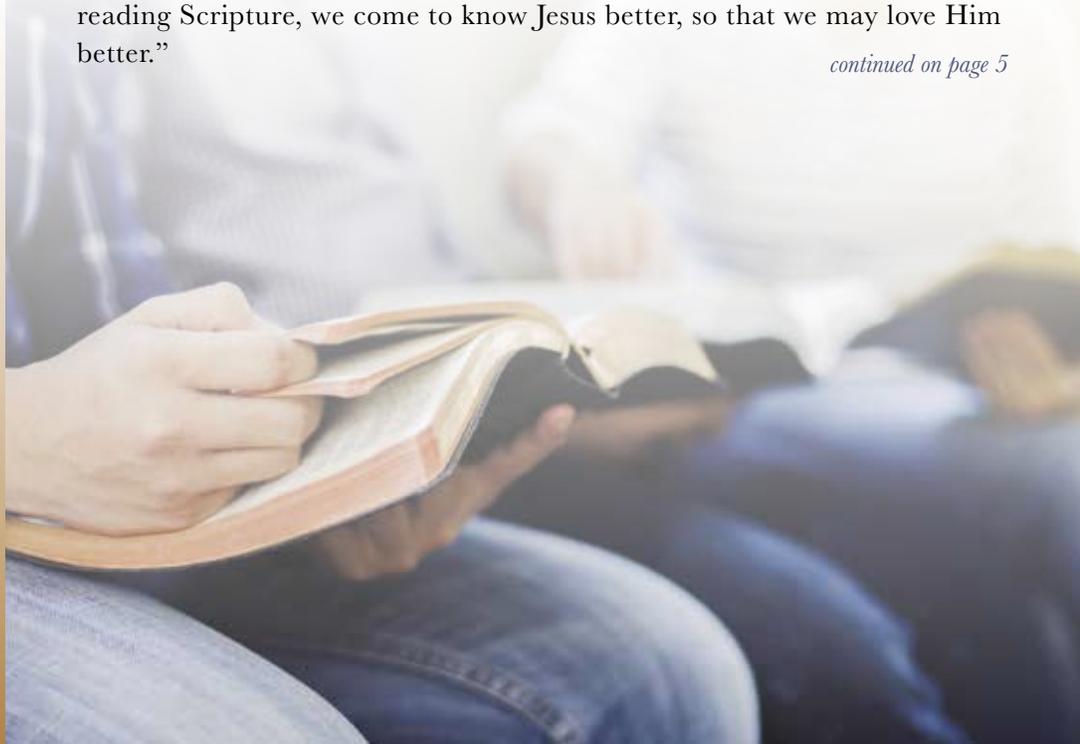
“The Bible tells us the story of ‘God’s search for man,’ of God’s plan to bring humanity into communion with Him,” says Director of Faith Formation Nicholas Senz. “The Bible is the Word of God that communicates to us this story of salvation, culminating in the coming of Jesus. St. Jerome famously says that ‘ignorance of Scripture is ignorance of Christ.’ Jesus is the Word of God who reveals God to us, and man to Himself. By reading Scripture, we come to know Jesus better, so that we may love Him better.”

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5819 W. Pleasant Ridge Rd.
Arlington, TX 76016
(817) 478-8206
www.svdpc.org



ST. VINCENT DE PAUL



THE CHALLENGE OF *Discipleship*

God calls us to give Him everything – our whole heart, our whole soul, and our whole mind. This is the challenge of discipleship – a lifelong process of more fully placing our lives under the lordship of Jesus Christ.

The reason that God can ask such complete service from us is that He made us. Everything we have belongs to Him! This includes our intelligence, our physical ability, our artistic talent, our family, our finances, our government – anything we may typically think of as “ours.”

It takes courage to recognize that we are not the masters of our possessions and ourselves. Furthermore, as Christians, we believe that because everything we have is a gift from God, we are called to give Him thanks. We express our thanks by using our gifts to further His kingdom on earth. This is the basis for our understanding of stewardship.

We refer to “time,” “talent,” and “treasure” in order to differentiate between the various parts of our life that belong to God. “Time” is the duration of life that God has given us. “Talent” includes the special gifts or strengths God has nurtured in us. “Treasure” is what we have earned through our time and talent.

Even though we identify these three aspects of stewardship, they are still part of the same Gospel-based concept. And even when we focus separately

on these parts, it should not signal that one is more important than the other. Instead, focusing on each aspect one at a time helps us to better concentrate on that area in our lives.

Stewardship is, after all, an attitude. If our goal is to become better stewards, we must have a reason in our minds to do so. Here are the basics of a stewardship attitude:

“God made everything!”

A wholehearted trust that God made all things is essential to understanding stewardship. Recognizing God as the Creator is one of the most basic, profound beliefs of Christianity.

“I am truly blessed!”

It takes humility in order to truly acknowledge God’s goodness. Every great triumph and every little pleasure is a blessing from above, and every strong character trait we possess is a gift from God.

“I believe I am to use God’s gifts for His glory!”

What better way to thank God for His goodness than by using our personal gifts to glorify Him? We are not the owners of our time, talent or treasure. But we are caretakers given the responsibility of spreading God’s kingdom on earth.

A Letter From Our Pastor

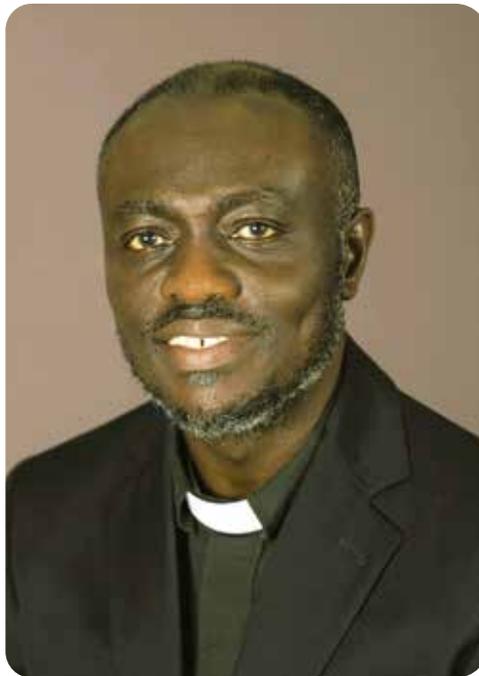
What Are You Going to Do With Your Life?

Dear Parishioners,

We are called to be the disciples of Jesus Christ. Discipleship is our calling — stewardship is the way we are to live the life we have been given. I don't think we believers would or should argue the point. It begins with our Baptism and our new life as members of the Church. There are no questions about it, even though we may not always remember that we have been called to discipleship — it is a lifelong process, and we are all works in progress. But please remember, we are God's "works" that evolve moment by moment, day by day, and year after year.

To get more specific, we need to not only understand that stewardship is the expression of discipleship, but it is also the way in which we are to live our life. It is not a program — it is a way of life. I suppose at least once in our lifetime, we have been asked, "What are you going to do with your life?" Usually, that will happen at graduation, and how many of us have followed the path we thought we would at that time in our life? Perhaps we replied with a certain profession that may have interested us at the time. But there is always more to our answer than the title of a profession, just as there is more to our lives than just breathing. How do we use the gifts God has given to us? How we do so will define the life we live for God and the Church. That is our call to discipleship. It is how we should understand stewardship.

Many people ask me why I am so convinced that stewardship is a way of life. The simple answer I give is always the easy one and the most practical. My life as a faithful steward makes sense. The story of Christianity is filled with people like you and me who wonder



and desire how to live as a disciple of Jesus Christ. It is what we are to do with our lives. Our attitude must be formed to spend the time and the talents we have, to do our part for God's Church. When does that become our priority? When does it become our way of life? These are the questions any believer must ask themselves when we think about our relationship with God, His Church, and the people around us. But, throughout my time in life as a priest, stewardship as my way of life makes sense and is more than possible with what God has given me to work with. It is the same with each of us. I am grateful for what God has given me and thankful I can live my life as His disciple. I say that not

just as a priest, but as a baptized member of His family. I am thankful my parents brought me to be baptized a Christian and begin a life that would lead me, like all of us, to be the disciple we are called to be.

When we were baptized, no one asked us, "What are you going to do with your life?" If my parents and Godparents understood why we were all there, it should have been clear that we are all to be faithful stewards of all that God provides, beginning with the gift of life. That is why stewardship as a way of life is in my mind, heart and soul. That, too, was a gift from God for which I am most grateful. This is my calling, and "this" is what I going to do with the rest of my life. What will you do with yours?

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Rev. Philip Brembah
Fr. Philip Brembah
Pastor

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL

Faith Formation:

JOYFULLY SHARING THE FAITH

The family is the first place children learn the faith. The Second Vatican Council's *Dogmatic Constitution on the Church* calls the family the "domestic church" (11). In turn, the United States Conference on Catholic Bishops lays out a number of ways to build a "domestic church," like always attending Sunday Mass, praying a Rosary as a family, and inviting priests, deacons and sisters into your home, to name a few.

The St. Vincent de Paul Faith Formation program seeks to also teach children the faith outside the home. Michal Tincup recently took on the role of Director of Children's Faith Formation, but she has worked in various other Faith Formation roles for several years.

"We want the children to go from the children's program to youth group to adult ministry," Michal says. "We never stop learning about the faith."

After the last year of virtual classes, Michal looks forward to a return to normalcy, with in-person classes taking place once again. In turn, Michal is looking for more catechists — after all, the program can't happen without the help of many ministers.

"We want everyone to come back in person if they can," Michal says. "We are asking for catechists — they can be parents, grandparents, aunts, and uncles. Please consider giving of your time to be a catechist."

An important program as part of Faith Formation is Children's Liturgy of the Word (CLOW). This takes place during Sunday Mass and is for children of all ages. Younger children should have an adult or sibling attend with them.

Michal encourages all parents to help their children venture deeper into the Catholic faith through the other Faith Formation offerings.

"The youth learn life lessons to carry them through into a lifelong journey of faith," she says. "These programs build on what they learn in Mass. The ultimate goal is to have a personal relationship with Christ."

For first through sixth grades, there will be a home study available for parents to walk children through at their own pace. Staff is available for questions throughout the year.

We also have several in-person offerings for the younger children at St. Vincent de Paul, such as Faith Formation for age 2 to kindergarten. Catechists present Catholic teachings, traditions, and the Bible. Classes are offered Sundays from 9 to 10:15 a.m. and 10:45 a.m. to noon.

The Montessori-model Atrium classes follow the Catechism of the Good Shepherd curriculum. Level 1 classes are offered for



Our 2 and 3-year-olds gather for faith formation.



The Atrium program is for ages 3 to kindergarten.

TOGETHER ONCE AGAIN AS NEW YEAR BEGINS

ages 3 through kindergarten on Sundays from 9 to 10:15 a.m. and 10:45 a.m. to noon. Classes are also available on Wednesdays from 5:30 to 6:45 p.m.

Elementary Faith Formation is for first to sixth-grade students. Second-grade students take sacrament preparation classes for First Reconciliation and First Eucharist. Older students may also take this class if they have not already received the sacraments. A parent or guardian is required to attend each week with the student. Classes are offered Sundays from 9 to 10:15 a.m. and 10:45 a.m. to noon. Classes are also available on Wednesdays from 5:30 to 6:45 p.m.

“Weekly lessons and activities serve as a foundation for lifelong learning and a love of our faith,” Michal says.



The Montessori-model Atrium classes follow the Catechism of the Good Shepherd curriculum.

All families and parishioners are invited to get involved in Faith Formation. As we return to in-person classes, more ministers are needed. Register your child for Faith Formation at www.svdpc.org. To get involved as a catechist, please contact Michal Tincup at mtincup@svdpcc.org. “We are a church family and we welcome everyone,” Michal says.

Adult Bible Study continued from front cover

At St. Vincent de Paul, the Bible Study has been meeting for over a decade, with as many as 75 people participating in a study. Studies are scheduled for the fall, spring and summer, and classes meet once a week. Meetings consist of small-group discussions as well as watching a video reflection, and participants are given a workbook to use as a tool throughout the study. In the fall we will be doing a study on Hebrews and in the spring we will be studying Genesis to Jesus.

The Adult Bible Study is currently offering both in-person and online sessions and is looking forward to the studies for the rest of 2021 and the beginning of 2022.

“Jesus is the Word of God who reveals God to us, and man to Himself. By reading Scripture, we come to know Jesus better, so that we may love Him better.”

— NICHOLAS SENZ

For more information or to sign up for one of our Adult Bible Study groups, please contact Nicholas Senz at nsenz@svdpcc.org or 817-478-8206, ext. 217.

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL

Pope St. Pius X: *A Modern Traditionalist*

On Aug. 21, the Church commemorates the feast of a great saint — St. Pius X, the peasant boy who became the Vicar of Christ. St. Pius X is a wonderful saint for our times because he effectively and definitively worked for a balance between upholding the Tradition and Faith of the Church and adapting to the Modern Age.

St. Pius X — Giuseppe Melchiorre Sarto — was born in 1835, one of eight children in an impoverished peasant family. He pursued God’s call on him to the priesthood from an early age. Even as a young priest, he possessed great personal and pastoral skills. In addition to his deep holiness and virtue, St. Pius had a passion for defending and preserving the truth of the faith, which he carried with him into his pontificate.

As pope, he gave as his motto: “*Instaurare Omnia in Christo*” — “to restore all things in Christ” — a mission proclaimed not a moment too soon.

Already in Europe, secular governments, social institutions, and the mass media were driving the faith out of public life and education, all the while upholding individual freedom — understood as unlimited license — as the ultimate good. Worst of all, these philosophies had made their way into the minds of many clergy and Catholic laity, who claimed that modern science had discredited many dogmas of the Church. They proposed a new Christianity based what they called the “religious experience,” a continually changing and evolving human experience that would in turn continually transform the meaning of Catholic teachings. The problem was that the new teachings proposed by these modernists contradicted the very foundations of the faith established by Jesus Christ.

Fortunately, the Holy Father saw through the modern theories immediately and exposed the false doctrines, all the while acting with extreme discretion and pastoral charity. Pope Pius X reminded us that God, the Author of both faith and reason, and in Whom there is no contradiction, cannot allow science and true religion to contradict. Moreover, he declared that all the essential teachings of the Catholic faith and of Scripture could be defended rationally, and he encouraged the faithful to study the faith and read the Scriptures daily.

While Pius X spent much of his pontificate defending Catholic dogma from the threat of Modernism, he

recognized the need for legitimate modern reforms within the Church. For instance, he initiated the codification of Canon Law, because the laws of the Church had little organization up to that time. He reformed the administrative offices of the Church. He also reformed the Liturgical Calendar, giving precedence back to the Sunday liturgies, which were too often being trumped by celebration of the daily saint’s feast. Pius X initiated a renewal in liturgical music, as well, bringing back Gregorian chant and sacred polyphony to their primary place within the liturgy.

Two of this saint’s most noted acts are reassigning the time of First Communion of children to the age of reason (about 7 years), and advising and promoting daily Communion, saying, “Holy Communion is the shortest and safest way to heaven.”



Meet Parishioners

TOM AND MARSHA WALLACE:

Couple Shares in the Joys of Giving Back to God

About 13 years ago, Tom and Marsha Wallace had a powerful “aha” moment, and their life has been a beautiful journey of faith ever since.

“I was not brought up in the Catholic faith, but Marsha was,” Tom says. “At the time that we got married, she wasn’t going to Mass. Then, about 30-some years into our marriage, we were just sitting on the couch and she said she wanted to go back to church. I told her it was the word I’d been waiting for!”

With the gracious help of God, they become members of our parish in 2008. Tom then began the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults process (RCIA) and was fully initiated into the Catholic Church in 2009.

From the time they joined our parish family, Tom and Marsha have been an incredible blessing to our community. Their generosity and dedication to stewardship are truly inspiring. In addition to making sure they attend Mass every Sunday, they love to pitch in however they can to make our parish a loving, faith-filled environment for all to enjoy.

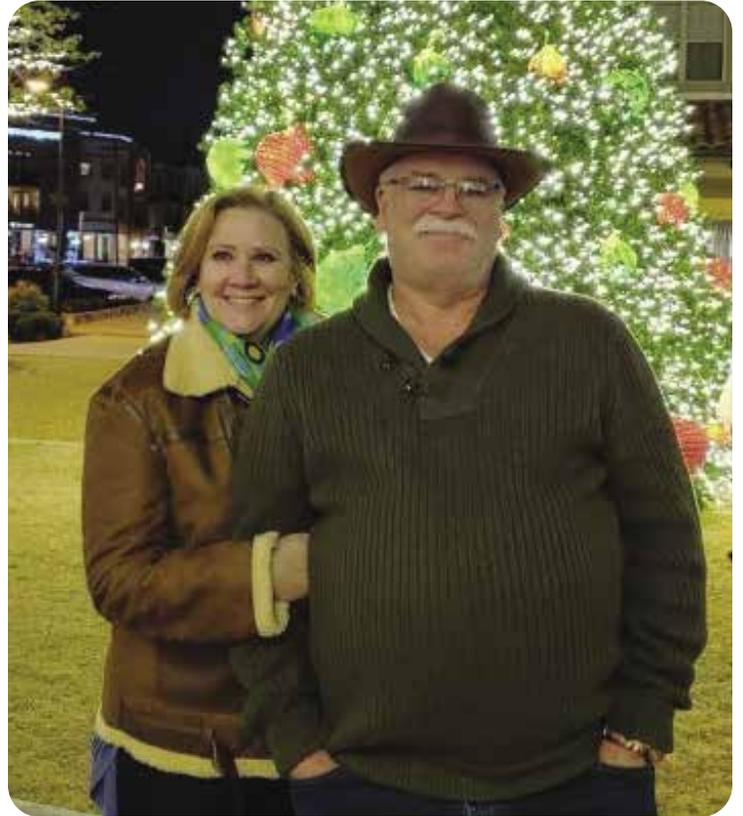
“In my opinion, our parish is very close-knit and interwoven,” Tom says. “A lot of people serve on several committees and help in many ways. When it comes to stewardship, I firmly believe that even though I do what I can, it never feels like enough. I wish I could do more. God has been unbelievably good to us, and we are trying to give back everything He has given us.”

Tom is especially active in the Men’s Club and formerly served as its president.

“Aside from men in the club, whom I love dearly, I also appreciate the outstanding support we give to the parish, both financially and through various events and projects,” he says. “I am so thankful for the opportunities that the Men’s Club gives me to help with the parish. There are 200-some members in the club. It makes our parish very strong!”

Each year, Tom enjoys helping out with the Mardi Gras event, which raises money for the Men’s Club’s charitable efforts, as well as with the annual parish picnic and barbecue.

“At the end of August, we have our Parish Picnic during which we prepare, sell, and serve about 700 meals



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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

Tom and Marsha Wallace continued from page 7

to raise money for the parish,” he says. “There are rides, inflatable games, and Bingo. I really enjoy the fellowship and family fun that events like these provide. They are a great way to bring the parish together, and they are definitely worth all of the hard work!”

Furthermore, Tom is a member of the Protection Team, and Marsha serves as a greeter. They both dedicate much of their time to prayer and strive to be faithful Catholic parents to their two grown sons and one grandchild.

“Church is the main priority in our life,” Tom says. “We try to live by God’s Word and show our children that, in our opinion, this is the best way to live. We share our faith with them by our deeds more than anything.”



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