



St. Vincent de Paul Catholic Church

Third Sunday of Lent
March 15, 2020

Parish Mission

We are one Church: loving Jesus, serving Jesus, and sharing Jesus.

Parish Vision

We are a vibrant Catholic church serving a diverse community in a safe and welcoming environment where we care for all people along their faith journey.

Core Values

Discipleship • Hospitality
Serving • Worship

Weekend Masses

Saturday 5:00 p.m.
Sunday 7:30, 9:00, 10:45 a.m.,
3:00 p.m. (Spanish)

Weekday Masses

Monday - Saturday 6:30 a.m.
Wednesday 5:15 p.m.
Thursday and Friday 8:00 a.m.

Confessions

Saturday 3:30 - 4:30 p.m.
or by appointment



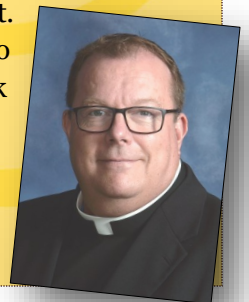
Living Water

Loving Savior, font of life,
you have poured out your living water upon us,
filling us with your Spirit.
Cleanse our hearts when we are overwhelmed
by fear, despair, or disbelief.
Refresh us when we grow weary.
Drench us with your love and mercy
so that our hearts will overflow with peace and
we will immerse ourselves in justice and reconciliation.
Engulf all who thirst to you in an onrush of your grace
until we drink forever from the streams of eternal life.
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

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Happy Anniversary, Father Rick!

After all Masses this weekend, enjoy cookies and punch with Father Rick as he celebrates the 30th Anniversary of his Priestly Ordination. Father Rick was ordained at St. Mary Cathedral on March 24, 1990. Remember to wish Father Rick a Happy Anniversary and thank him for his service to St. Vincent Parish!



1913 Ritter Drive • Cape Girardeau, Missouri 63701
573-335-7667 • Fax 573-335-0034 • www.svcape.com

Serving the Catholic Community since April 9, 1836

• Mass Intentions •

Monday, March 16

6:30 am Chalmer and Zelma DuBois ☩

Tuesday, March 17 St. Patrick

6:30 am Living and Deceased Members of the Michael and Audrey McMeel Family

Wednesday, March 18 St. Cyril of Jerusalem

6:30 am Albert Langston ☩

5:15 pm Ken Sander ☩

Thursday, March 19 St. Joseph

6:30 am Ray Viox ☩

8:00 am William and Dorothy Reinwald ☩

Friday, March 20

6:30 am Ella Friese ☩

Saturday, March 21

6:30 am Irene Stoverink ☩

5:00 pm St. Vincent de Paul Parish

Sunday, March 22 Fourth Sunday of Lent

7:30 am Rowena Meyer ☩

9:00 am Robert and Anna Drury ☩

10:45 am Julia Winder ☩

3:00 pm Lucille Dufek ☩
(Bilingual)

• Prayer Requests •

Please remember the sick, the hospitalized, the homebound, and those who care for them.

Parish Office

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When Jesus asked the Samaritan woman for a drink of water, He opened the door for a life-changing relationship with Him. Scripture says her testimony drew many others to Him as well. We, too, must be ready to respond whenever and wherever the Lord speaks to us and be prepared for it to change our lives!

Changes at Mass

Bishop Rice has asked that precautions be implemented in order to protect parishioners from the spread of illness. **Until further notice, the distribution of Precious Blood will be suspended and the Sign of Peace will be discontinued.**

Rosary Prayer Group

The Holy Rosary will be prayed at 1:30 p.m. this Sunday, March 15, inside Old St. Vincent Church - Chapel of Ease (downtown Cape).



SEMO Food Bank

The St. Vincent de Paul Council of Catholic Women will pack food boxes at the SEMO Food Bank in Miner, Missouri, on Tuesday, March 17. The volunteers will carpool from the JC Penney parking lot at 8:30 a.m. If you are interested, please call Carol Simon at 651-0764.

St. Gerard Circle

All mothers of the parish are invited to attend these upcoming events through St. Gerard Circle. Please look at the Facebook page for more information or contact Bridget Wengert at 816-805-3707.

• Group Meeting, Thursday, March 19, 6:45 p.m.

The speaker will be Fr. Brian and he will speak on "Understanding the Authority of the Catholic Church."

• Lenten Retreat, Saturday, March 21, 8:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

The group will travel to The Shrine of the Miraculous Medal in Perryville, Missouri, to hear Deacon Rob speak about prayer. The day will include a tour of the campus, a visit to the gift shop, and time for individual prayer. Breakfast and lunch will be provided.

Lenten Fish Dinners



The St. Vincent's Men's Association will sponsor a Catfish Dinner each Friday during Lent from 5:00 - 7:00

p.m. The family friendly meal includes fresh American pond raised catfish, "Todt secret recipe cole slaw," "Koehler famous hush puppies," side dishes, dessert and drink. Pizza will also be available for kids. Tickets are \$10 for adults, \$5 for children, and ages 5 and under eat free. Carryouts are available.

Each week during Lent, the Circle Leaders of the Women's Council will contact parishioners to donate a dessert for the Friday Fish Fry. If you have never been called and would like to bring a dessert on Friday, March 13, please contact one of the following: Mary Gosche (573-450-7470), Cathy Kapfer (573-334-8714), Theresa Elfrink (573-651-3113), or Betty DeBrock (573-334-3305).

May He Rest in Peace

Sympathy is extended to the family of

Gordon Brookman, former member of St. Vincent de Paul Parish.

*May he and all the souls of the faithful departed,
through the mercy of God, rest in peace.*



Stations of the Cross - A Beautiful Tradition



Stations of the Cross are celebrated every Friday during Lent at 6:15 p.m. in English and at 7:00 p.m. in Spanish. You are also invited on Wednesday afternoons at 2:00 p.m. as the school prays the Stations on March 18, 25, and April 1. Please join in this devotional prayer and make it a part of your Lenten journey.

Confessions During Lent

During these days leading up to Easter, the Sacrament of Reconciliation will be offered at various times here at St. Vincent.

- Every Wednesday from 6:30 - 8:00 p.m.
(This also includes St. Mary Cathedral Parish and Immaculate Conception Parish, Jackson.)
- Every Friday from 12:00 - 12:30 p.m. and 6:30 - 7:30 p.m.
- Every Saturday from 3:30 - 4:30 p.m.

You may also make an appointment if these times are not good for you.

Additional Pre-K Class

Due to an increased demand, St. Vincent de Paul School will open a second Pre-K class (4-5 year olds) for the 2020-2021 school year. **Enrollment is currently being held in the school office between 7:30 a.m. and 3:30 p.m.** Please bring child's birth certificate, Baptismal certificate, immunization record, \$50 registration fee, and \$50 snack fee. If you have questions, please call the St. Vincent School office at 573-334-9594.

Discipleship Corner

Good Humor and Good Thoughts ...

Do you like quick wit, light-heartedness and get-real conversation? Good storytelling? All this mixed with some great thoughts about Jesus? Then you will like **Katie Prejean McGrady**!



Whether or not you heard Katie speak at the Parish Mission this past week, you can still enjoy what this faith-filled, talented

young woman has to say by checking out her podcasts and following her on social media. **Katie hosts the "Ave Explores"** program available via podcast – access/subscribe to these sessions at <https://www.avemariapress.com/aveexplores-lent/> OR download **"Ave Explores"** from your PodCast app. "You Can't Mess up Lent"; "Giving Up starts with Giving"; "Carrying Your Cross", and other Lenten podcast sessions will be sure to get you thinking. Additionally, Katie and her husband host **The Electric Waffle podcast** also found in your Podcast app. Follow Katie on Twitter @katieprejean; on Instagram: katieprejeanmcgrady or find her on Facebook.

The right to life is the first among human rights.

POPE FRANCIS

• The Week Ahead •

Monday, March 16

7:00 pm Prayer Ministry

Tuesday, March 17

8:00 am Confirmation Prep (SVS)

Wednesday, March 18

8:00 am Ugly Quilt Ministry

(8:00 - 11:00 am)

8:00 am Confirmation Prep (SVS)

8:30 am Women's Council Food Bank

9:00 am Wednesday Morning Bible Study

2:00 pm Stations of the Cross (SVS)

3:00 pm Divine Mercy Holy Hour

4:00 pm Centering Prayer

5:45 pm PSR

6:00 pm Wednesday Evening Bible Study

6:30 pm RCIA

6:30 pm Reconciliation

Thursday, March 19

9:00 am Maxine's Shareable Wearables
(9:00 - 11:00 am)

1:00 pm Thursday Afternoon Bible Study

5:00 pm School Board

6:30 pm Tim Francis Follow-up

7:00 pm St. Gerard Circle

Friday, March 20

9:00 am Friday Morning Bible Study

12:00 pm Reconciliation

5:00 pm Lenten Fish Fry Dinner

6:15 pm Stations of the Cross

6:30 pm Reconciliation

7:00 pm Stations of the Cross (Spanish)

Saturday, March 21

7:00 am Men's Cursillo Group

9:00 am Maxine's Shareable Wearables
(9:00 am - 12:00 noon)

3:30 pm Reconciliation

6:00 pm Prayer Ministry

Sunday, March 22

Prayer Ministry after Masses

9:00 am Children's Liturgy of the Word

4:30 pm Confirmation Prep (High School)

8:00 pm Roots & Wings

Readings - March 22, 2020

1 Samuel 16:1b, 6-7, 10-13a

Ephesians 5:8-14 • John 9:1-41

Collection - March 8, 2020

Collection	\$ 22,334.00
E-Tithing	\$ 4,047.00
Total	\$ 26,381.00
Weekly Budget	\$ 31,450.00
Year-to-date Difference	\$ 13,253.63

Please be a good steward of God's gifts
by using Faith Direct or by using
your contribution envelope.

• Ministries •

Saturday, March 21 • 5:00 p.m.

Servers Lily Clubbs, Brayden Ward, **Volunteer**
Lectors Roy Merideth, Tony Peters
Eucharistic Ministers Debra Bollinger, Cody Bunger, Jim Govreau, Lynne Karnes
Sacristans Judy Heuring, Gene Heuring
Hospitality Maria Gates, Laura Powers, **Volunteers**
Musicians Mike Kohlfeld, Cheryl Oberhaus

Sunday, March 22 • 7:30 a.m.

Servers Donna Kielhofner, Kandee Oliver, **Volunteer**
Lectors **Volunteer**, Wayne Unterreiner
Eucharistic Ministers Pat Brase, Robert Janota, Becky Kitchen, Gerry Strohmeier
Sacristans Jane Unterreiner, Wayne Unterreiner
Hospitality Mary Boos, Katie Bunselmeyer, Phil Cantoni, Judy Cantoni, Lisa Church, Millie Hinkle, Robert Janota
Musician Tom Wenciewicz

Sunday, March 22 • 9:00 a.m.

Servers Kate Prost, Silvia Schallberger, Abbie Wilmarth
Lectors Joe Prost, Alan Essner
Eucharistic Ministers Mary Higgins, Tom Higgins, Chuck Prost, Bonita VanGennip
Sacristans Katie Michael, Robert Michael
Hospitality Toni Arnold, Marilyn Bell, David Halter, Barbara Hess, Bridget Ringstaff, **Volunteers**
Musician Dale Haskell

Sunday, March 22 • 10:45 a.m.

Servers Lainey Huck, Lorelei Martin, Lydia Strohmeier
Lectors Denise Trampier, Terri Martin
Eucharistic Ministers Allan DeYong, Susy Gutierrez, Amanda Strohmeier, Dotty Wenciewicz
Sacristans Tom Cook, Sara Cook
Hospitality Jill Bruenderman, Sherry Clark, Ralph Hendrickson, Rebekah Schnurbusch, Bradley Shuh, Rachel Shuh, Jennifer Smith
Musicians Chris Janet, Casie Mills

Cursillo News

St. Ambrose Parish, Chaffee, will be hosting Ultreya on Saturday, March 21. Morning prayer will take place in the church at 9:00 a.m. followed by grouping, refreshments, and socializing in the parish center. Please continue to pray for the Women's Cursillo next weekend at Pinecrest.

CCW Region VII Meeting

The next Region VII CCW Retreat/Meeting will be held on Saturday, March 21, at St. Anthony Parish, Glennon. **Mass will be celebrated at 8:00 a.m.** Registration, breakfast and retreat will follow in the school gym. Lunch will be provided and will be followed by the meeting. For carpool information, call Virginia Sander at 334-7944 or Carol Glueck at 334-8446.

Help Jesus in Disguise

Next week, a collection for Catholic Relief Services will be taken up at all Masses. Funds from this collection provide food to the hungry, support displaced refugees, and bring Christ's love and mercy to all people here and abroad. Next week, please give generously to the CRSC and **help Jesus in disguise**. Learn more about the collection at www.usccb.org/catholic-relief.



Blessing of the Child in the Womb

Weekend of March 21-22 at all Masses

If you are expectant parents, please call the parish office at 335-7667 to sign up.

Attention: Adult Catholic Men

You are invited to the Cape Girardeau-area

CATHOLIC MAN NIGHT
Men Meeting Jesus

Monday, March 30, 2020 • 6:30-9:00 p.m.

St. John Parish • Leopold, Missouri

An evening of Adoration, Confession, and a Manly Meal with discussion.

To help plan for food please RSVP to

SEMOCatholicManNight@gmail.com,

SEMO Catholic Man Night on Facebook or 573-837-2556

Lenten Mission of Mercy

• Week Three •

Fast from complaining and offer expressions/prayers of gratitude

By participating in Bishop Rice's Lenten Mission of Mercy project, the youth (and adults) of the diocese have the wonderful opportunity to embrace the Catholic practices of prayer, fasting and almsgiving.

Extend mercy towards others, so that there can be no one in need whom you meet without helping.

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL

?? Bible Quiz ??

In John 4, Jesus talks with a woman about living water. Where does that conversation take place?

- A. Sychar
- B. Samaria
- C. Galilee
- D. Jacob's well

Answer: A, B and D (See John 4:4-7ff.)

BISHOP'S WALK

FOR CATHOLIC CHARITIES OF SOUTHERN MISSOURI

Bishop's Walk and Easter Egg Hunt

Bishop Rice is coming to the Cape Girardeau area Bishop's Walk!

Saturday, April 4, 2020

Check in begins at 9:30 a.m. • Walk begins at 10:00 a.m.

Notre Dame Regional High School Track

Lunch provided by Friends of Catholic Charities of Southern Missouri

Cost is \$25 for an individual and \$60 for a family

Register online at <https://ccsomo.org/news-events/event-registration/>

Your Bishop's Walk registration helps move those in southern Missouri from poverty to self-sufficiency.

A Lenten Opportunity

Beatitude Boxes and Bags

*Blessed are they who hunger and thirst for righteousness,
for they will be satisfied.*

MATTHEW 5:6

During the season of Lent, the Serving Core Value Committee invites the parishioners of St. Vincent to collect food and paper items for distribution to the needy. **Beatitude Boxes** will be filled with specific food items and **Beatitude Bags** will be filled with specific paper products.

Tags are posted on the bulletin board in the gathering area. Some tags will list all items in the box (approximate cost \$30-\$35) and all items in the bag (approximate cost \$12-\$15). Other tags list some of the items in the box or bag. You are invited to take one or more tags and purchase the requested items. **Return the items to the designated area in the gathering area no later than April 5.** Boxes and bags will then be filled and given to the needy in the local community.



Virtus Sessions

The VIRTUS Protecting God's Children is the adult safe-environment program being offered by the Diocese of Springfield-Cape. The Diocese requires all adult employees and volunteers who have substantial contact with children to attend. Upcoming sessions include:

- **Wednesday, April 15**, 6:00 p.m., St. Ambrose Catholic School, Chaffee
- **Wednesday, May 6**, 6:00 p.m., St. Denis Catholic School, Benton
- **Tuesday, June 2**, 6:00 p.m., St. Joseph Catholic School, Scott City
- **Thursday, July 2**, 9:00 a.m., St. Augustine Parish Center, Kelso

Check availability for additional dates/locations on the VIRTUS website. To attend a seminar you must pre-register with your full legal name. **Pre-registration is necessary:** Go to www.virtusonline.org and click on the yellow link labeled 'Registration' (you may either view a list of sessions or begin the registration process). To register for a specific session, select 'Begin the Registration Process'. From the pulldown menu, select 'Springfield-Cape Girardeau'. Follow the online prompts, completing the Code of Conduct and your information for a background screening.

• Holy Week Schedule •

Monday, April 6

Chrism Mass • 7:00 p.m.
Blessing of Oils and Priests'
Renewal of Commitment
St. Mary Cathedral

Tuesday, April 7

Confessions "on the hour"
6:00 - 8:00 p.m.

"Spy" Wednesday, April 8

Confessions "on the hour"
6:00 - 8:00 p.m.

*Please note there will be no scheduled
confession times during the
Sacred Triduum of Holy Thursday,
Good Friday, and Holy Saturday.*

Holy Thursday, April 9

Morning Prayer • 9:00 a.m.
Mass of the Lord's Supper
7:30 p.m.
Eucharistic Adoration
9:00 p.m. - 12:00 a.m.

Good Friday, April 10

Morning Prayer • 9:00 a.m.
Passion of the Lord • 12:00 p.m.
Passion of the Lord (Bilingual)
3:00 p.m.
Passion of the Lord • 7:30 p.m.

Holy Saturday, April 11

Morning Prayer • 9:00 a.m.
Easter Vigil Mass • 7:30 p.m.

Easter Sunday, April 12

Easter Masses
6:30 a.m. • 8:00 a.m. • 10:00 a.m.
11:45 a.m. • 3:00 p.m. (Spanish)

Easter Egg Hunt
following 11:45 a.m. Mass
(approximately 1:00 p.m.)





Registration Open!

Currently, Camp Re-NEW-All, the summer camp program for the Diocese of Springfield-Cape Girardeau, is taking applications for this summer. **The dates for this summer's camps are June 8-12 (Session 1F), June 22-26 (Session 2F), and July 6-10 (Session 3F).** Camp is open to campers going into 5th-9th grade in the fall, high school staff going into 10th-12th grade, and adult staff. Parents and grandparents are invited to volunteer also! Campers are placed on a first-come, first-served basis and weeks fill quickly, so apply early. Brochures are available on the bulletin board in the gathering area. Apply at https://dioscg.formstack.com/forms/camp_re_new_all_2020, or call Katie at the Catholic Center at 417-866-0841 with questions. **Please note that the Diocese will only accept online registrations.** Paper registration forms are not available.

St. John Henry Newman Center Mass Time Changes

In preparation for new construction of the St. John Henry Newman Center on the SEMO campus, ministry offices and daily Masses have relocated to 902 College Hill (corner of North Pacific Street and College Hill). The daily Mass schedule is Monday - Thursday, 5:15 p.m. and Friday at 12:00 noon. Beginning Sunday, March 15 and for the duration of construction, the 6:00 p.m. Sunday Mass will be offered at St. Mary Cathedral Church. The 8:00 p.m. Sunday Mass will be temporarily discontinued during the construction process. Beginning Sunday, March 29, and continuing for the remainder of the spring semester, the 11:30 a.m. Sunday Mass will be offered on campus in Rose Theatre located in the Grauel English Building.

IS CATHERINE'S CUPBOARD
ON YOUR GROCERY LIST?

Awards Ceremony

The Catholic Youth Adventure Programs Awards Ceremony for Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts, Little Flowers Girls Club, and American Heritage Girls Club will be held on Tuesday, May 5, at 7:00 p.m. at Old St. Vincent Church. Please be at Old St. Vincent by 6:45 p.m. to line up. Deadline for applications is March 18. For all scouting applications and inquiry, please contact Mary Ann Hennecke at 573-335-3899 or email maryann@camin.org.

Totus Tuus

Totus Tuus (Latin for "Totally Yours") is a summer Catholic youth program, for grades 1 - 12, dedicated to sharing the Gospel and promoting the Catholic faith through evangelization, catechesis, Christian witness, and Eucharistic worship. A team of energetic young adults will lead the children of the parish in games, skits, lessons, prayer, discussions, and more! This program is similar to Vacation Bible School. Totus Tuus is concerned not only with teaching faith, but also igniting the hearts of young people!

This year's Totus Tuus program will be held June 14 - 19, 2020. Students in grades 1 - 6 will meet Monday - Friday from 8:30 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. Students in grades 7 - 12 will meet 7:00 - 9:15 p.m. Sunday - Thursday. Information cards are available in the gathering area on the bulletin board. You can also register and pay online by scanning the **QR Code** on this page. **Sign up early — space is limited!**



Employment Opportunities

St. Vincent de Paul School, Cape Girardeau, is looking to fill the following positions for the 2020-2021 school year: **Technology Director/Technician with part-time teaching, Grades 7/8 English Teacher** (middle school English degree or specialization in that area), **Early Elementary Teaching positions.** For an application go to dioscg.org or call the school office at 573-334-9594.

St. Vincent Parish is looking for a **Substitute Custodian** for the Parish Grade School. Current pay would be \$9.45 per hour and applicant must complete Virtus training and a background check. If interested, contact the parish office at 335-7667 or stop by to complete an application.

NDRHS News

Notre Dame Regional High School will present the musical, **The Music Man**, on April 2, 3, 4, and 5 at 7:00 p.m. each evening. Tickets can be ordered online at www.notredamehighschool.org.

Notre Dame's FCCLA invites all seniors to the **Senior Citizen Dance** on Friday, March 27, from 2:00 - 4:00 p.m. at Notre Dame Regional High School. The dance will feature music by the Jerry Ford Combo. Snacks and prizes will be provided by FCCLA students. Come for a fun and free afternoon of dancing! For more information contact Tanya Davis at tanyadavis@notredamecape.org or phone 573-335-6772, ext. 501.

Prayer • Fasting • Almsgiving



THIS WEEK AT HOME

Monday, March 16 What We Deserve

Naaman, thinking he deserved better treatment, nearly missed the opportunity to be healed. The people in Jesus' hometown also thought they deserved privileged treatment. They so resented Jesus' willingness to minister to others, they stopped listening to him. They even tried to silence the voice of God. Use Psalms 42 and 43 to pray in solidarity with those whom the world does not value. *Today's Readings: 2 Kings 5:1-15b; Psalm 42:2, 3; 43:3, 4; Luke 4:24-30.*

Tuesday, March 17 St. Patrick, a True Servant

How do you act in a crisis? Azariah admitted his sins and expressed his trust in God. St. Patrick, after being enslaved in Ireland, chose to return years later to share the Gospel. Azariah and St. Patrick admitted their need for God, but the servant in the Gospel parable remained selfish and hard-hearted. Sometimes once the danger has passed, we too return to our former ways. Read part of St. Patrick's Confessions and ask God to keep you faithful during difficult times. *Today's Readings: Daniel 3:25, 34-43; Psalm 25:4-5ab, 6 and 7bc, 8 and 9; Matthew 18:21-35.*

Wednesday, March 18 St. Cyril of Jerusalem

Jesus, like Moses before him, told people to uphold God's law in everything. By our obedience we become part of God's promised kingdom and reveal God's wisdom and goodness to others. In his homilies, St. Cyril of Jerusalem urged the newly baptized to heed what they were taught and to treasure God's grace so as to enter God's kingdom. Identify and pray for the people in your community who are preparing to become Catholic this Easter. *Today's Readings: Deuteronomy 4:1, 5-9; Psalm 147:12-13, 15-16, 19-20; Matthew 5:17-19.*

Thursday, March 19 St. Joseph, Faithful Provider

When Mary became pregnant in a most unexpected way, St. Joseph took her into his home and provided for her and her son. This legacy of St. Joseph continues in the story of his intercession on behalf of farmers in Italy who needed rain. When the rains came, the farmers celebrated with a feast they blessed and shared with the poor. Offer a special prayer of thanks for your food today, and share what you can with a local food pantry. *Today's Readings: 2 Samuel 7:4-5a, 12-14a, 16; Psalm 89:2-3, 4-5, 27 and 29; Romans 4:13, 16-18, 22; Matthew 1:16, 18-21, 24a or Luke 2:41-51a.*

Friday, March 20 Steadfast Love

In the passage from Hosea, God reveals his unfailing love despite his people's choice to carve idols and turn to other gods. The God of Israel proves infinitely patient and forgiving. Jesus reminds us that God deserves our complete devotion. Insofar as God shows steadfast love for us, we are to reciprocate by loving God as well as other people. What can you do today to show God's love to someone else? *Today's Readings: Hosea 14:2-10; Psalm 81:6c-8a, 8bc-9, 10-11ab, 14 and 17; Mark 12:28-34.*

Saturday, March 21 Painfully Aware

As the people in the First Reading return to God, the Lord knows that they will soon stray again. They might not even realize how faithless they are. They are like the Pharisee who is so self-absorbed he doesn't actually pray. We are called to be like the tax collector: deeply aware of both our sinfulness and our continuous need for God. Spend fifteen minutes today in silence, repeating the words of the Jesus Prayer: "Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on me, a sinner." *Today's Readings: Hosea 6:1-6; Psalm 51:3-4, 18-19, 20-21ab; Luke 18:9-14.*





Protecting God's Children for Adults

Mobile Device Dangers: Snapchat, Snap Map and Caller ID Spoofing

By Robert Hugh Farley, M.S.

Introduction

A mobile application, known simply as an “app,” is a software application or a computer program that is designed to run on a mobile communication device such as a phone, tablet or watch. Today, most mobile communication devices are sold with several apps bundled as pre-installed software, such as a web browser, an email provider and a calendar. With the ever-growing number of apps available at the Apple iOS or the Android App stores, adults and young people are downloading more and more apps to their mobile devices.

For many, who are responsible and take safety precautions, some of the very popular social networking and messaging apps can be an easy and fun way to meet people and stay in touch with friends. Unfortunately, many are unaware of the dangers for children and young people who utilize these social apps because children and young people can be exposed to not only graphic images but in some cases, child molesters.

Snapchat and Snap Map Background

Snapchat, first released in 2011, is a popular social networking app that lets its users easily snap (take) and exchange photos, videos and text messages with a selected group of friends. As of October 2019, Snapchat reports having 210 million daily active users.¹

Unlike Facebook or Twitter, which memorializes everything a user posts, the photos and videos that are shared on Snapchat are meant to disappear once they have been viewed or within a pre-designated time. Unfortunately, many children and young people fail to realize that like anything that is shared online, the digital images are often still there, in some form, somewhere, forever.

Like other social media apps, Snapchat is extremely easy to download and use, despite easily overcome age restrictions. For example, once the Snapchat App has been downloaded to a device, all that one needs to sign up is a name, email address and a birthdate. According to Snapchat's terms of service, a user must be 13 years old to join. But, Snapchat unfortunately has no real age-verification process, so it is extremely easy for one to falsify their age by simply providing a fake birthdate.

After providing a birthdate (real or fake), one next selects a “user name” or profile display name to connect with friends or discover new friends. Many users will also use a Bitmoji for their profile image, which is a personal, animated cartoon avatar (created using another app). Once one has created an account, Snapchat offers a variety of features, allowing one to modify photos or make funny enhancements. Another feature simplifies video chatting or conferencing. Snapchat also offers users entertainment news and games.

Unfortunately, as a result of the inadequate age-verification process, children and young people who have joined can be easily manipulated by their new adult Snapchat “friends.” Some of the new “friends” will snap sexually explicit photos to vulnerable victims and will groom vulnerable youth to send the sexually explicit pictures of themselves, commonly known as selfies. They might obtain more images from youth by saying that the photos will quickly disappear per the app's functionality, which lowers the child's inhibitions.

Snap Map, first released in June 2017, is a Snapchat add-on feature that displays a user's location on a map in real time. Snap Map uses geo-location to track a user's mobile device. As a result, Snap Map friends will

Any suspected or known abuse of a minor must first be immediately reported to the Missouri Child Abuse and Neglect Hotline at 800-392-3738 or for suspected or known abuse of adults to the Missouri Adult Abuse and Neglect Hotline 800-392-0210, and may also be reported to law enforcement agencies.

All diocesan personnel are required to also report violations of The Code of Conduct for Clergy, Employees and Adult Volunteers of the Diocese, Parishes, and Schools to the Diocese Director of the Office of Child and Youth Protection at 417-866-0841 or childandyouthprotection@dioscg.org.

Concerns may be discussed with a supervisor, the Diocese Director of the Office of Child and Youth Protection, or a Victim Assistance Coordinator. Violations and concerns may also be reported using the TIPS online reporting system, accessible through the Diocese webpage, www.dioscg.org.

Failure to Report is a Class A Misdemeanor for a person who is required under the law to report. Filing a False Report is also a Class A Misdemeanor.

To view the Safe Environment Policy and Procedures, the Code of Conduct for Clergy, Employees and Adult Volunteers and for other important information, including a link to the United States Conference of Catholic Bishop's document, Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People, go to <http://dioscg.org/index.php/about/child-youth-protection2/>.

If you are unable to access the website or desire printed information, contact the Diocesan Office of Child and Youth Protection at 417-866-0841.

see an image or Bitmoji on a map. Further, it lets friends see where a person is located, right down to the very street. The geo-location updates every time the app is opened, not just when a photo, video or text is sent or snapped. If friends have opted into Snap Map, their locations are visible, too. One can turn this feature off, or use it in Ghost Mode, which allows the user to view the map but not be seen by others.

Prevention

The biggest risk for a child or young person using any location-based app like Snap Map is having their location seen by all of their friends, because some Snapchat acquaintances may not be real friends and may have bad intentions. It is frightening to think that a molester could stalk a child or young person in real time from home, school, a store or even to church. It is strongly encouraged that if children or young people are going to use Snap Map, that it only be used in the Ghost Mode. Even better, that it not be used at all. Keep in mind that other elements in the background of photos can also reveal locations (such as the image of a school, store, sign, neighborhood, car, etc.), even if the Snap Map add-on of this app, or any similar app, isn't utilized.

Caller ID Spoofing

Caller ID, or caller identification, while seemingly innocuous, is another technology that may be used in an alarming manner. As background, the caller ID process is initially transmitted at the start of the phone call and identifies the incoming caller before the receiver answers the phone. Call "screening" is the process of evaluating a telephone call before deciding whether to answer the call or not. Anyone who has a cell phone can screen a call — call screening is typically done by checking the receiver's caller ID display to see who or where the call is coming from. Unfortunately, with newer technology, the caller ID information that is received on the device can be falsified.

Caller ID "spoofing," or faking, is a technology that allows one to alter the information sent to a device's caller ID display in order to hide the caller's true origin. In simpler terms, caller ID spoofing allows one to display a phone number different than the actual number from which the phone call was placed. Multiple "caller ID faker" apps are available for download at the Apple iOS or the Android App stores. These apps, some of which are free, are advertised in the App stores as a funny way to prank or fool your friends. Other faker apps that are available at the App stores will even allow a text user to spoof or fake the mobile number that was used in connection with transmitting a text message.

Prevention

Children and young people who use social networking and messaging apps are often very trusting regarding the people or "friends" that they have met or communicated with online. As part of the grooming process, a child molester will progress (sometimes very quickly) from just messaging, and will attempt to actually talk in real time with a vulnerable child or young person. When receiving a call, a child or young person would typically check their phone's caller ID display to see who or where the call is coming from, giving them a sense of security. Caller ID spoofing apps present an enormous danger for these children and young people because it allows the molester to not only fake an identity, but also fake a mobile phone number.

Conclusion

Technology continues to rapidly change. All of us who are charged with protecting children must continue our efforts to stay abreast of the many new devices, software programs and the latest apps that may be used by young people, as well as people seeking to manipulate and sexually abuse children.

Reference: 1. Snapchat daily active users 2019 - Statistic. www.Statista.com

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Robert Hugh Farley, M.S.

As a highly decorated police detective, Deputy United States Marshal, and currently as an international child sexual exploitation prevention consultant for INTERPOL, Robert Hugh Farley has spent the last 30 years protecting children from killers, physical abusers, molesters and sexual predators. He has trained tens of thousands of police officers, federal agents, child protection workers, attorneys, medical personnel, and other professionals and conducted hundreds of training seminars. Robert has been a consultant, author and trainer for the VIRTUS programs since 2003. In July 1997, Robert created the Child Exploitation Unit through the Cook County Sheriff's Police. This specialized unit was the first police unit, in the United States, to deal specifically with proactively combating the online Internet solicitation and molestation of children. Under Robert's leadership, the program has grown to become one of the most successful law enforcement organizations of its kind, and to date has a 100 percent conviction rate. Its activities have received frequent publicity on nightly television, as well as in the national and international press. Prior to creating this Unit, Robert served as one of the founding members of the Federal Child Exploitation Strike Force in Chicago. From 1988 to 1997 he conducted hundreds of undercover child pornography, child exploitation and child prostitution investigations, to successfully target child sexual predators in Illinois, Wisconsin, and Indiana. As an internationally known child abuse expert, Robert has co-authored books while also serving as a senior instructor for the child abuse training programs of the U.S. Department of Justice, OJJDP, the FBI, the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children and INTERPOL. His training curriculum and child abuse investigative techniques have been implemented by hundreds of prosecutors, police departments, probation departments, child protection agencies and advocacy centers across the world. Robert utilizes his extensive experience to evaluate and determine risk factors for youth groups, schools, organizations, agencies, and congregations. Through diagnosis, psychological evaluations, management tools, policy development, employee training, and security risk environmental factors, Robert develops an individualized approach to avoiding potential child maltreatment. In addition, he assists in the supervision of internal investigations by providing comprehensive on-site analysis of existing situations and procedures, and by serving as a liaison with local law enforcement officials. Robert holds a master of science degree in criminal justice and corrections and a bachelor's degree in education — both from Chicago State University, in Chicago, Illinois.

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