



# St. Vincent de Paul Catholic Church

**Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time**  
**February 27, 2022**

## 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 6:30 a.m.  
Tuesday 6:30 a.m.  
Wednesday 6:30 a.m., 5:15 p.m.  
Thursday 6:30 a.m., 8:00 a.m.  
Friday 6:30 a.m., 8:00 a.m.  
Saturday 6:30 a.m.

## Confessions

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

## *Welcome to Our Newest Catholics!*

Congratulations to Breanna Burrell and Shanna Surratt who made their Professions of Faith and received the Sacraments of Confirmation and first Holy Communion this past week. The community of St. Vincent de Paul welcomes you!! May God continue to bless your journey to know and love Him ever more deeply!

We also congratulate Joel Gomez for receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation. May the Holy Spirit bless you abundantly with the gifts and fruits of the Spirit!

~ Deacon Mark Kiblinger

## Special Delivery This Weekend

~ a gift for you from the Discipleship Committee ~

## *Walking the Journey Together*

A booklet of reflections on the daily readings  
from Ash Wednesday through Easter Sunday

This devotional is unique —  
all reflections were written by  
St. Vincent de Paul Parishioners!  
Be sure to pick up your gift today!



Therefore, my beloved brothers and sisters,  
be firm, steadfast, always fully devoted to the work of the Lord,  
knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain —  
1 Corinthians 15-5

## • Mass Intentions •

### Monday, February 28

6:30 am Grandchildren of the  
Dan and Gail Overbey Family (living)

### Tuesday, March 1

6:30 am Kevin Jansen ☩

### Ash Wednesday, March 2

6:30 am Ella Friese ☩

8:00 am Sue Austin ☩

12:10 pm Charles Settle ☩

5:15 pm Alex Powderly ☩

7:00 pm Jan Eichhorn ☩  
(Bilingual)

### Thursday, March 3 St. Katharine Drexel

6:30 am Joan Conner ☩

8:00 am Ruth Ann Hester (living)

### Friday, March 4 St. Casimir / First Friday

6:30 am Joe McKeon ☩

8:00 am David Johnson ☩

### Saturday, March 5

6:30 am Living and Deceased Members  
of the Father Jaku Bala Kumar Family

5:00 pm St. Vincent de Paul Parish Family

### Sunday, March 6 First Sunday of Lent

7:30 am Living and Deceased Members of the  
St. Vincent de Paul Women's Council

9:00 am Mary Jane DeBrock ☩

10:45 am Father Mike Schmitz (living)

3:00 pm Poor Souls in Purgatory ☩  
(Bilingual)

## • Prayer Requests •

Please remember **Germaine Lynch**, the sick, the hospitalized, and those who care for them. Pray also for homebound St. Vincent parishioners.

**Congratulations to  
Norman and Donna Kirn  
who recently celebrated their  
60th wedding anniversary.  
May God bless you!**

## Livestreamed Masses

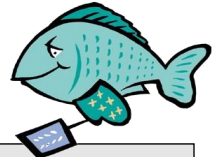
Each weekend, the Mass celebrated here at St. Vincent is livestreamed and available to view on the St. Vincent de Paul Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/svcape/>). The video is also available to view after Masses on the parish website ([www.svcape.com](http://www.svcape.com)). Most of the live feeds will be at the 5:00 p.m. Saturday evening Mass to allow for the longest viewing time.

*All of today's readings remind us that our works reflect what is in our hearts. Do my words and actions reveal a heart that is grateful for — and generous in sharing — the abundance God has poured into my life?*

## Lenten Fish Fry

**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. Tickets are \$13 for adults, \$7 for children, and ages 7 and under eat free. Carryouts are available.

***Fish Fry Tickets will be sold in the gathering area after Masses this weekend. During this presale period, you can purchase six tickets for \$65!***



## Fish Dinner Desserts

Each week during Lent, the Circle Leaders of the Women's Council will contact parishioners to donate desserts for the Friday Fish Dinner. If you have never been called and would like to bring a dessert on Friday, March 4, please contact one of the following: Virginia Sander (573-334-7944), Carol Simon (314-440-4467), Theresa Elfrink (573-651-3113), or Betty DeBrock (573-334-3305).



## Old Palms

If you have old palm leaves from previous Palm Sundays and would like to dispose of them, please bring them to Church before Ash Wednesday. Place them in the container in the gathering area. Father Rick will make sure that they are properly disposed of. Some may even become ashes for Ash Wednesday!

## Tuesday Night Thrive

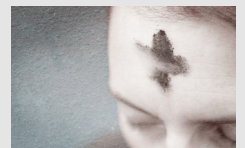
Longing for more in your faith or in life? Join young adult Catholics (ages 18-40) from a variety of parishes as together you can seek to thrive. Upcoming Sunday Scriptures will be read and their meaning for you will be discovered. This takes place weekly on Tuesday evenings at 7:00 p.m. in the old convent. Bring a snack to share if you'd like. For info, contact Carlee at [idCapeinfo@gmail.com](mailto:idCapeinfo@gmail.com). Don't just live. Thrive!

## Ash Wednesday Mass Schedule

**March 2, 2022**

6:30 a.m. • 8:00 a.m. • 12:10 p.m.

5:15 p.m. • 7:00 p.m. (Bilingual)



*The money collected during the Masses on Ash Wednesday will benefit Mother's House, an outreach center run by the Glenmary Sisters in Haiti, Missouri. Mother's House provides children's clothing and baby items to young mothers and grandparents who find themselves raising their grandchildren. Your generosity is appreciated.*

**IS CATHERINE'S CUPBOARD ON YOUR GROCERY LIST?**

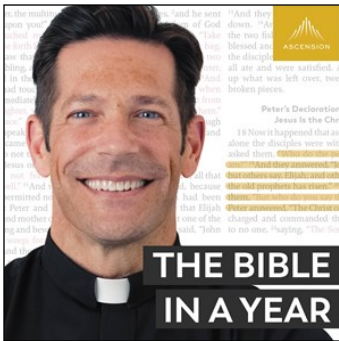
## Guidelines for Fasting/Abstinence during Lent

**Abstinence** is a penitential practice consisting of refraining from the consumption of meat and is to be observed by all Catholics who are 14 years of age and older. Ash Wednesday, Good Friday, and the Fridays during Lent are days of abstinence. **Fasting** is to be observed on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday for ages 18 - 59 (inclusive). The Church defines fasting as one meal a day, and two smaller meals which if added together would not exceed the main meal, as well as no eating between meals.

*Note:* If a person is unable to observe the above regulations due to ill health or other serious reasons, they are urged to practice other forms of self-denial suitable to their condition.

## Operation Rice Bowl

Join St. Vincent Parish, and nearly 14,000 Catholic communities across the United States, in a life-changing Lenten journey with CRS Rice Bowl. On Ash Wednesday, pick up your family's rice bowl from the gathering area and let it be your ticket to global solidarity as you **pray, fast, learn** and **give** this Lent in order to change the lives of brothers and sisters in need. Please place your Rice Bowl offerings in an envelope and return to church on Good Friday. Remember, what you give up for Lent changes lives.



## Man Oh Man! What a Gift!

Lent begins March 2 — a perfect time to start your **Bible in a Year** Journey. Open the app, press play on Day 1 and change your life!

Find **The Bible in a Year Podcast** on YouTube, Apple Podcast, Hallow Prayer App, Spotify, Amazon Music, and Google podcast.

## First Friday Schedule of Prayer

Everyone is welcome to attend First Friday devotion on March 4, 2022. Please pick or choose any of the prayer opportunities below, or you can attend Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament anytime throughout the day for your own quiet prayer time. Here are some of the prayer opportunities:

- 6:00 a.m. Recitation of the Holy Rosary
- 6:30 a.m. First Friday Mass
- 7:00 a.m. Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament begins
- 12:00 noon Confessions from 12:00 - 12:30 p.m.
- 3:00 p.m. Recitation of the Divine Mercy Chaplet
- 5:00 p.m. Recitation of the Holy Rosary
- 5:15 p.m. Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament



In these days of turmoil, it is of particular urgency that we begin, or renew, devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus in the spirit of reparation that St. Margaret Mary Alacoque, a Visitation nun who lived in France in the 17th century, gives us. The practice of the nine First Fridays is a particularly powerful way to do this. Jesus gave us this devotion as a sure way of offering reparation to Him and consoling His Sacred Heart. Reparation is the way a person makes amends for a wrong one has done. Let us not waste such an opportunity, then, but rather take full advantage of the means that we are given by showing our love for Jesus and His Sacred Heart. For more information, go to [www.simplycatholic.com/how-to-observe-first-fridays-and-first-saturdays/](http://www.simplycatholic.com/how-to-observe-first-fridays-and-first-saturdays/).

## • The Week Ahead •

### Monday, February 28

- 8:00 am Confirmation Prep (SVS)
- 6:00 pm Mary's Mantle Consecration

### Tuesday, March 1

- 8:00 am Confirmation Prep (SVS)
- 6:00 pm Tuesday Evening Bible Study
- 6:30 pm St. Francis DeSales
- 7:00 pm Tuesday Night Thrive (Young Adult)

### Ash Wednesday, March 2

- 8:00 am Ugly Quilt Ministry (8:00 - 11:00 am)
- 9:00 am Wednesday Morning Bible Study
- 3:00 pm Divine Mercy Holy Hour
- 5:15 pm PSR (Attend Mass)

### Thursday, March 3

- 9:00 am Maxine's Shareable Wearables (9:00 - 11:00 am)
- 9:00 am Thursday Women's Bible Study
- 1:00 pm Thursday Afternoon Bible Study
- 2:00 pm Endowment Board
- 5:30 pm Centering Prayer
- 6:15 pm i.d.Cape

### Friday, March 4

- 7:00 am Adoration Begins
- 5:00 pm Lenten Fish Fry
- 5:15 pm Benediction
- 5:30 pm Stations of the Cross (Spanish)
- 6:15 pm Stations of the Cross (English)
- 7:00 pm Reconciliation

### Saturday, March 5

- 9:00 am Maxine's Shareable Wearables (9:00 - 12:00 noon)
- 3:30 pm Reconciliation

### Sunday, March 6

- 9:00 am Children's Liturgy of the Word
- 10:15 am Coffee and Christ

## Readings - March 6, 2022

Deuteronomy 26:4-10 • Romans 10:8-13  
Luke 4:1-13

## Collection - February 20, 2022

Collection	\$10,753.12
E-Tithing	\$ 337.00
Total	\$11,090.12
Weekly Budget	\$31,450.00
Difference (7-1-21 to 2-20-22)	\$89,037.76

**Thank you for being good stewards of God's gifts!**



## • Contact Information •

### Parish Office

contactus@svparish.com / 573-335-7667

### Father Rick Jones, Pastor

Stvcapepadre@gmail.com / 573-335-7667

### Father Alex Sutachan

Associate Pastor/ Chaplain of NDRHS  
fatheralex@svparish.com / 573-335-7667

### Deacon Robbie Huff

Superintendent of Schools / Diocesan Chancellor  
Diocese of Springfield-Cape Girardeau  
rhuff@dioscg.org / 573-335-7667

### Deacon Mark Kiblinger

Coordinator of Stewardship and RCIA  
mkiblinger@svparish.com / 573-335-7667

### Deacon Thomas Schumer

Director of CCM, SEMO University  
deacontom@ccmin.org / 573-335-7667

### Kay Glastetter

Principal of St. Vincent DePaul Grade School  
kglastetter@svcape.eduk12.net  
573-334-9594

### Kathy Hotop Raines

Director of Religious Education  
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kitchenbecky19@gmail.com / 573-382-6005

### Lenny Kuper, Music Coordinator

lennykuper@notredamecape.org  
573-335-7667

### Jeffrey Lloyd, Maintenance Supervisor

jllloyd@svparish.com / 573-335-7667

### Beverly McMeel

Accounting Clerk/Administrative Assistant  
bmcmeel@svparish.com / 573-335-7667

### Cheryl Oberhaus, Director of Parish Finance

coberhaus@svparish.com / 573-335-7667

### Debbie Wells, Receptionist

dwells@svparish.com / 573-335-7667



## World Day of Prayer

Friday, March 4, 2022

Immaculate Conception Church

Jackson, Missouri

Registration 12:00 noon • Program 12:30 p.m.

*Sponsored by Church Women United*

## CCW Deanery 6 Meeting

Deanery 6 Council of Catholic Women will have their March Meeting and Retreat on Saturday, March 5, 2022, hosted by St. Anthony Church, Glennon. Mass will be celebrated at 9:00 a.m., followed by registration and breakfast. Retreat speaker at 10:00 a.m. is Father Allan Saunders. The business meeting will follow at 11:00 a.m., finishing by 12:00 noon. Lunch will not be served. Every lady from the parish is welcome to attend. For carpool information call Virginia Sander at 334-7944 or Carol Glueck at 334-8446.

## St. Vincent's CCW Meeting

The next St. Vincent Women's Council meeting will be held at 6:30 p.m. on Monday, March 7, 2022, in the lower meeting room. A slate of officers for 2022-2024 will be presented. Kim Kolda from the Ugly Quilt ministry will share how she crochets plastic bags into mats that are used under Ugly Quilt bedrolls. Please bring scissors and any extra plastic bags (Walmart, Schnucks, Target, DG, etc.) that you don't need, and see how these bags are made into a worthwhile project. All women of the parish are invited!

## Camp Re-NEW-All Registration

**Camp Re-NEW-All, the summer camp program for the Diocese of Springfield-Cape Girardeau, will begin taking applications for this summer on Tuesday, February 22, at 3:30 p.m.** Camp is open to campers going into 5th - 9th grades in the Fall, high school staff going into 10th - 12th grades, and adult staff. Parents and grandparents are invited to volunteer also! Campers are placed on a first-come, first-served basis. Brochures are available in the gathering area of church. Apply online at <https://dioscg.org/camp-re-new-all>, or contact Katie at the Catholic Center at 417-866-0841 or [knewton@dioscg.org](mailto:knewton@dioscg.org) with questions.

## Welcome to St. Vincent de Paul

If you would like to register for the parish, change your address, or simply have questions, please fill out the form and place it in the collection basket. You may also mail it to the parish office at 1913 Ritter Drive, Cape Girardeau, MO 63701. Please free to contact parish office staff anytime during regular office hours, Monday - Friday, 8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. You may email the parish office at [contactus@svparish](mailto:contactus@svparish) or call 335-7667. A parish registration form is available at <http://www.svcape.com/Parish/>.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

☐ I am new to Cape Girardeau. ☐ I am new to St. Vincent de Paul Parish.

☐ I have been attending St. Vincent Parish and would like to register as a member.

☐ I would like to learn more about the Catholic faith.

☐ I would like to register my child/children for Parish School of Religion.

☐ Please change my address to the one shown above.

☐ I would like to sign up for Faith Direct.

## SVS Raffle Fundraiser

St. Vincent De Paul School is excited to announce the its Raffle Fundraising event! The funds raised from this raffle will continue to benefit and support school students in numerous ways. **Tickets will be available in the gathering area before and after Masses on the weekends of February 26-27, March 12-13, and March 26-27.**

This year there is an All-Cash Raffle where you could win \$500, \$1000, \$1500, \$2000, \$5000, or \$10,000. Tickets are two for \$50 for this raffle. There is also a You-Pick Raffle which consists of 22 items. Buyers will indicate which item they want to enter when they purchase tickets. Tickets are five chances for \$25.

Finally, there is a SVS Family Raffle which consists of 16 experiences for SVS students and even a few for parents. These experiences are for SVS families only. Tickets are five chances for \$15.

There will be a **live drawing** at 7:00 p.m. on Saturday, April 2, on the SVS Facebook page. Please order tickets online at [svsraffle.com](http://svsraffle.com). Thank you for supporting the school!

## Upcoming Area Events

**Buffet Style Breakfast**  
**Sunday, February 27, 2022**  
**7:30 a.m. - 12:00 noon**

**St. Maurus Parish**  
**Biehle, Missouri**

Menu includes pancakes, ham, sausage, scrambled eggs, German fried potatoes, milk gravy, biscuits and homemade coffee cake  
\$10.00 per person, \$5.00 ages 6-12

**Lenten Fish Fry Dinner**

**March 4, 11, 18, 25,**  
**April 1 and 8, 2022**

**Carry-out service only**  
**4:30 - 7:00 p.m.**

**Knights of Columbus #1111**

**Lower Hall**

**318 Spanish Street**

**Cape Girardeau, Missouri**

Menu includes fried catfish (3 pc.), French fries, homemade hushpuppies, slaw, and dessert

\$13.00 per person, \$6.00 ages 5-12  
Curbside pick-up service

**Fish/Chicken/Shrimp Dinners**

**March 4, 22, 28, 25,**  
**April 1 and 8, 2022**

**4:30 - 7:00 p.m.**

**Knights of Columbus Upper Hall**  
**Scott City, Missouri**

Menu includes fish, chicken, shrimp, French fries, homemade slaw, baked beans, potato wedges, macaroni and cheese

\$13.00 per person,  
\$7.00 ages 10 and under  
Carry outs available

**Bunco Bash**

**Sunday, March 6, 2022**

**Registration 12:30 p.m.**

**Dice start rolling 1:00 p.m.**

**Knights of Columbus Upper Hall**  
**Jackson, Missouri**

No pre-registration required

Hosted by Jackson KC Ladies Auxiliary

**St. Joseph H&S Music Trivia**

**Saturday, March 12, 2022**

**Doors open 6:00 p.m.**

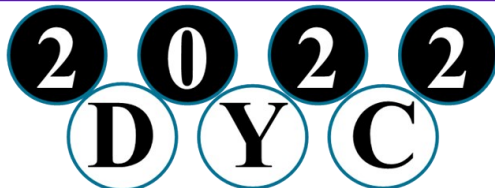
**Play begins 7:00 p.m.**

**St. Joseph School Gym**  
**Scott City, Missouri**

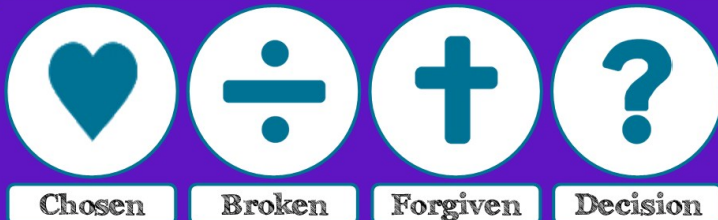
\$15 per person / Maximum 8 per table

For reservations, call or text

573-450-9516 or 573-275-3312



**DIOCESAN YOUTH CONFERENCE**  
**FOR ALL YOUTH IN 7TH-12TH GRADE**



**SATURDAY, April 2**

**9:30am - 5:00pm**

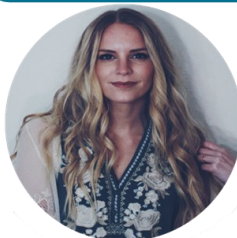
**St. Vincent de Paul Parish :: Cape Girardeau**



Featuring:

**Sister Josephine Garrett**

with music leader Mary Kate Westrich



Brought to you by the Office of Youth Formation  
Diocese of Springfield-Cape Girardeau  
Registration is \$30 per person, per conference date.  
For more info, scan the QR Code, visit [www.dioscg.org/DYC](http://www.dioscg.org/DYC),  
or contact your parish youth leader.



## Videographers Needed

Would you like to use your time and talent to spread the Good News into the world? If so, St. Vincent de Paul Parish is looking for volunteers, ages 14 and older, to be part of a growing team helping to video weekend Masses. Normally the 5:00 p.m. Saturday Mass is the Mass that is filmed each week but the Mass time may be adjusted as needed. If you have questions or would like to join the team, please contact Becky Kitchen at 573-382-6005 or email her at [kitchenbecky19@gmail.com](mailto:kitchenbecky19@gmail.com).

## Volunteer with SEMO Food Bank

For those seeking opportunities to put their faith into action, the Southeast Missouri Food Bank will hold Help More, Feed More Volunteer Days from 1:00 - 4:00 p.m. the third Thursday and from 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon on the fourth Wednesday of each month at its distribution center at 600 South Highway H in Sikeston. March open volunteer days are March 17, 1:00 - 4:00 p.m., and March 23, 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon. Volunteers may come as individuals or in groups. Tasks may include sorting donated food, labeling cans, packing boxes, clerical work or cleaning. This new volunteer opportunity is for individuals who are not already part of an organized group. Register by calling Candice at 573-471-1818 or emailing [cblaylock@semofoodbank.org](mailto:cblaylock@semofoodbank.org).

## Thank You

**Knights of Columbus Council 11205** extends grateful thanks to the St. Vincent de Paul community for supporting the take-home kettle beef sales last weekend. This was the first endeavor into such a project and sales exceeded expectations. Therefore, the Knights sincerely regret they ran out. They anticipate hosting another kettle beef event next fall and will be better prepared. Thanks to the parish for all the wonderful support of the council's activities. Most proceeds generated from council activities support worthy causes in the Cape Girardeau area and diocese. Examples include: supporting the protection of life, seminarians and seminaries, meals for families in need, students going to Steubenville, SEMO Catholic life, and many others.

## Positions Available

**St. Vincent de Paul Catholic School** is currently accepting applications for **Pre K and Kindergarten teachers** for the 2022-2023 school year. Preference will be given to candidates possessing a teaching certificate in early childhood education. For an application or questions, please email Kay Glastetter at [kglastetter@svcape.eduk12.net](mailto:kglastetter@svcape.eduk12.net) or call 573-334-9594. Applications may also be found at [dioscg.org](http://dioscg.org).

**St. Augustine School** is seeking a full-time **Fourth Grade Teacher** for the 2022-23 school year. Applicant must be a practicing Catholic, possess an appropriate certification and hold a Bachelor's degree. Previous teaching experience at the elementary level is preferred. Applications are available on the school website, [www.stakelso.eduk12.net](http://www.stakelso.eduk12.net). Applications may be submitted in person, through mail, or online to Mrs. Katie Hendricks, St. Augustine School, 231 S. Messmer St., Kelso, MO. Mail to PO Box 97, Kelso, MO 63758. Email to [khendricks@stakelso.eduk12.net](mailto:khendricks@stakelso.eduk12.net).

**The Diocese of Springfield-Cape Girardeau** is currently accepting applications for **Totus Tuus Summer Missionaries**. Applicants, ages 18 - 24, must have an authentic faith and be actively living the teachings of the Catholic Church. This is a great summer job experience (June 1 - July 29) for anyone wanting to work in ministry, education, or with children in any setting. For more information or to apply to be a Missionary, visit the Totus Tuus page at [dioscg.org/totustuus/](http://dioscg.org/totustuus/) or contact the Office of Evangelization, Catechesis, and Youth Formation, Lynn Melandez, Director, at 417-866-0841 or [lmelendez@dioscg.org](mailto:lmelendez@dioscg.org). Deadline to apply is March 31, 2022.

**The Association of the Miraculous Medal** has a position available for a **Member Services Representative - Bilingual**. This representative is responsible for providing assistance to Spanish and English speaking members (both phone and correspondence) and maintaining various computerized records of communication with members. Qualifications include bilingual and bicultural, a passion and understanding of Catholic tradition and spirituality, basic member relation skills, working knowledge of technology (Word, Excel, etc.). This is a part-time position averaging 25-28 hours per week and must be willing to adjust hours and work extra time as needed. Si tiene interés en las posición o para información, escribir a: [jsanchez@amm.org](mailto:jsanchez@amm.org), [jobs@amm.org](mailto:jobs@amm.org) o llamar al 1-800-360-2104.

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

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL

**Old St. Vincent Church / Knights of Columbus Council #1111**

## St. Patrick Celebration

**Sunday, March 13, 2022 • 4:30 p.m.**

**Knights of Columbus Hall**

318 S. Spanish, Cape Girardeau

*Irish entertainment • Corned beef and cabbage dinner*

\$35.00 per person • Reservation deadline: March 6, 2022

Make checks payable to: Knights of Columbus #1111

Include first/last name of each person, phone number, payment

Mail to Mrs. Carole Calvin, 1118 Hilldale Circle, Cape Girardeau, MO 63701



## Protecting God's Children for Adults

# How Monitoring All Environments Contributes to Safety

By The VIRTUS® Programs

In addition to understanding the warning signs of inappropriate adult behavior and screening and selecting employees and volunteers, it is up to each of us as caring adults to monitor all environments, including activities involving technology. All environments and activities with children and youth should be supervised to ensure that proper policies and procedures are being followed to keep children and youth safe.

It is important to monitor all environments because child abusers look for ways to spend time alone with children. While grooming often happens in the open, abuse is more likely to occur in private. Effectively monitoring all ministries eliminates any opportunity for an adult to be alone with a child in an isolated area while in-person or online. Monitoring all ministries also provides the opportunity to be vigilant in identifying any behaviors or situations that must be addressed before they can escalate to abuse, or problematic situations that could condition children to more easily be abused.

### How can we, as caring adults, monitor all in-person environments?

- Maintain a healthy caution about any environment in which children are entrusted.
- Identify secluded areas; lock empty rooms.
- Develop policies (with the organization's leadership) and follow policies regarding the use of any area (open, secluded, off-site, etc.).
- Don't permit children to enter staff-only areas.
- Only meet with children where other adults can have open access (such as, in the sight or hearing of other adults, with the invitation that they check-in at any time for safety).
- Perform consistent and random status checks (if status checks are performed at the same time every day, then people who do not have the best intentions could learn to anticipate that timeframe).
- Make sure enough adults are involved in programs so that you have an appropriate ratio of adults to children.
- Don't start new programs without the appropriate approval of the organization or leadership.
- Encourage parental involvement, allowing parents to have proper access to all programs to evaluate safety.

### How can we, as caring adults, monitor technology?

- Always use sanctioned devices and accounts to communicate with youth—these should be sponsored by the organization.
- Never "friend," "follow" or communicate with youth using your own personal accounts.
- Always communicate with youth during appropriate timeframes; i.e., if you wouldn't call the home at specific times, then you shouldn't text, call, message or email the youth, either.
- Never take or post photos of youth without the proper approvals of both the organization and the youth's family—typically this is resolved through photo releases that are kept on file at the organization (even with permission, photos should only be posted on an organization-approved forum).
- Install and use appropriate blocking/filtering software.
- Include additional adult oversight for any communication or online meetings with children or youth—this helps to ensure that the interaction online doesn't become isolated.

We must maintain a healthy caution about *any* environment that involves children and youth — whether it is on the organization's property, at another location, or online. Meetings with children and youth should occur only in designated areas, open to the sight or hearing of others, where the observation of others is welcomed and encouraged. Proper oversight for all meetings and events must have adequate supervision and transparency. Even for an online meeting where minors will be participating, other adults should have the permission and ability to drop in safely and check in, just as they would in person.

Furthermore, one of the best security measures we can take is to frequently and openly maintain communication with children and youth about the latest evolving technology. It's important to discuss the risks, benefits, and how they can help keep themselves safe when using technology. Prior to learning how to drive, youth are taught the rules of the road and how to safely operate a vehicle. The same should be true when it comes to the use of technology. Youth should be taught how to use it in a safe manner, to protect themselves and others, and what to do if they need help, or feel scared or uncomfortable.

Recall the spirit of the five steps from the *Protecting God's Children* Program:

1. *Know the Warning Signs of Adults* (or, also referred to as, *Know the Warning Signs*)
2. *Screen and Select Employees and Volunteers* (or, *Control Access through Screening*)
3. *Monitor All Environments, including Activities Involving Technology* (or, *Monitor All Ministries and Programs*)
4. *Be Attentive to Children and Youth* (or, *Be Aware of Child and Youth Behavior*), and,
5. *Communicate Your Concerns*

Each of us can help prevent inappropriate situations and technology threats if the entire environment is being monitored at all times, and the remainder of the five steps are also being followed. Thank you for all that you do to contribute to a safe environment both within your organization, and within your entire community.

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