

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



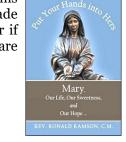
Fourth Sunday of Lent March 27, 2022

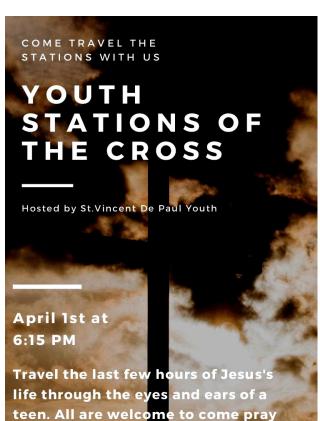
This Week at St. Vincent ...

Put Your Hands into Hers

Mark your calendars for Wednesday, March 30, at 6:00 p.m. (after the 5:15 p.m. Mass) for a presentation on the Blessed Virgin Mary by Father Ronald Ramson, C.M. Father Ramson has written a book, *Put Your Hands into Hers*,

and will share insights into the Blessed Mother from his many years of walking with her in prayer. If you have made your consecration to Mary through the Mary's Mantle or if you want to learn more about your Mother Mary, you are invited to attend.





with us.

If you are a young person who would like to assist with the Stations of the Cross, sign up at https://signup.com/go/GCzKDCW.

Mass Intentions

Monday, March 28

6:30 am Living and Deceased Members of the Tony J. Biondini Family

Tuesday, March 29

6:30 am Norma Welch ⊕

Wednesday, March 30

6:30 am Alma Heisserer ₽

5:15 pm Living and Deceased Members of the Kirk and B.J. Bowman Family

Thursday, March 31

6:30 am Ruth Ann Hester (living)

8:00 am Tom and Dotty Wencewicz (living)

Friday, April 1 First Friday

6:30 am Joan Conner ₽

8:00 am Bill Loos ₽

Saturday, April 2 St. Francis of Paola

6:30 am Ron Roth &

5:00 pm Lester Halter &

Sunday, April 3 Fifth Sunday of Lent

7:30 am Margaret Jones ⊕

9:00 am Living and Deceased Members of

the Richard and Doris Hagedorn Family

10:45 am St. Vincent de Paul Parish Family 3:00 pm Poor Souls in Purgatory ♣

(Bilingual)

Prayer Requests

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

Best Wishes to Deacon Rob

as he celebrates his birthday on Saturday, April 2!



Confessions During Lent

"Turn Away From Sin and Be Faithful to the Gospel!" During these days leading up to Easter, the Sacrament of Reconciliation will be offered at various times. Take advantage of these blessed encounters with the Forgiving Father!

- Every Wednesday of Lent from 6:30 7:30 p.m. in Church (This also includes Wednesdays at the **Cathedral** and **Catholic Campus Ministry** Chapel.)
- Every Friday of Lent from 12:00 noon 12:30 p.m. and 7:00 7:30 p.m.
- Every Saturday from 3:30 4:30 p.m.
- Also, by appointment if these times are not good.

The stewardship message in the parable of the prodigal son is that it is never too late to become a good steward. Blessed is the elder brother who had been a good steward all along. But blessed, too, is the prodigal, who had to lose all he had in order to understand the value of what he'd been given.

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 next weekend**, March 26-27.

This year there is an All-Cash Raffle where you could win \$500, \$1,000, \$1,500, \$2,000, \$5,000, 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 <u>svsraffle.com</u>. Thank you for supporting the school!

Young Adult Lenten Event

Join the Regional Catholic Young Adult group (ages 18-40) on Tuesday, March 29, at 7:00 p.m. for their next Lenten event! The night will include the normal Bible study plus a short, live presentation on the fourth Lenten topic: Temptation. Come enjoy Catholic fellowship! Doors open at 6:50 p.m. at the old convent. For more info, contact Carlee at idCapeinfo@gmail.com.

NCCW Convention

Attention parish women! The National Convention for the CCW will be held at the Marriott Minneapolis City Center, in Minneapolis, on November 2-5, 2022. Registration opens July 21. More information will become available at www.NCCW.org.

You can now apply for Diocesan Lay Endowment funds to help with expenses. The application deadline is March 31. *Please let Virginia* (334-7944) know by March 28 if you are interested in attending.

Tell your money where to go instead of wondering where it went! *Financial Peace University* is a nine-lesson class designed to help you build a budget, dump debt, grow your wealth, and leave money stress behind. Each lesson is based on biblical wisdom and



common sense. Sign up for this class, start your 14-day free trial of Financial Peace, and get details at **fpu.com/1148186**. Class starts at 6:00 p.m. on Thursday, March 31, in the upper meeting room, and will be coordinated by Cheryl Klueppel and Katie Bunselmeyer.

May He Rest in Peace

Sympathy is extended to the family of

Joseph Hoffman, Sr., brother of Rebecca (Rick) Essner.

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



Lenten Fish Fry

The St. Vincent's Men's Association is sponsoring a Catfish Dinner each Friday during Lent from 5:00 - 7:00 p.m. The

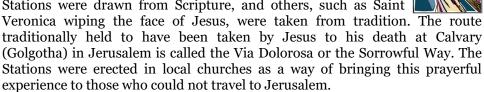
family friendly meal includes fresh American pond raised catfish, "Todt secret recipe cole slaw," "Koehler famous hush puppies," side dishes, dessert and drink. Tickets are \$13 for adults, \$7 for children, and ages 7 and under eat free.

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, April 1, please contact one of the following: Norma Parker (573-208-8802), Millie Hinkle (573-450-6848), Joan Walter (573-979-3964), or Ann Yuede (573-579-7635).

Stations of the Cross — **A Beautiful Tradition**

The Stations of the Cross are images of stories about the passion and death of Jesus Christ. Most of the stories which make up the Stations were drawn from Scripture, and others, such as Saint



Stations of the Cross are celebrated every Friday during Lent at 5:00 in Spanish and at 6:15 p.m. in English. Please join in this devotional prayer and make it a part of your Lenten journey.

The Sacrament of Reconciliation will follow the Stations of the Cross at 7:00 p.m. each Friday during Lent.

Attention: Adult Catholic Men

You are invited to the Southeast Missouri



Friday, April 1, 2022 • 6:30 - 9:00 p.m. St. Augustine Parish • Kelso, Missouri

An evening of Adoration, Confession, and a Manly Meal with discussion Special Guest: John Edwards of Just a Guy in the Pew

To plan for food, please RSVP to SEMOCatholicManNight@gmail.com, or SEMO Catholic Man Night on Facebook or text 573-275-5214.

The Week Ahead

Monday, March 28

8:00 am SVS Confirmation Prep

Tuesday, March 29

8:00 am SVS Confirmation Prep 6:00 pm Tuesday Evening Bible Study

7:00 pm Tuesday Night Thrive (Young Adult)

Wednesday, March 30

8:00 am Ugly Quilt Ministry (8:00 - 11:00 am)

9:00 am Wednesday Morning Bible Study

2:00 pm SVS Stations of the Cross 3:00 pm Divine Mercy Holy Hour

6:00 pm Parish School of Religion

6:00 pm Blessed Virgin Mary Presentation

6:30 pm Reconciliation

Thursday, March 31

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

5:30 pm Centering Prayer

6:00 pm Financial Peace University

Friday, April 1

7:00 am Adoration

12:00 pm Reconciliation

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, April 2

8:00 am Diocesan Youth Conference

9:00 am Maxine's Shareable Wearables

(9:00 - 12:00 noon)

3:30 pm Reconciliation

Sunday, April 3

9:00 am Children's Liturgy of the Word



Readings - April 3, 2022

Isaiah 43:16-21 • Philippians 3:8-14 John 8:1-11

Collection - March 20, 2022

Collection	\$15,741.67
E-Tithing	\$ 337.00
Total	\$16,078.67
Weekly Budget	\$31,450.00
Difference (7-1-21 to 3-20-22)	\$87,956.69

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

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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@dioscq.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

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Jeffrey Lloyd, Maintenance Supervisor jlloyd@svparish.com / 573-335-7667

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Cheryl Oberhaus, Director of Parish Finance coberhaus@svparish.com / 573-335-7667

Debbie Wells, Receptionist dwells@svparish.com / 573-335-7667





New student registration is open for grades 1 - 8 at St. Vincent de Paul School. For more information, please call 573-334-9594 or stop by the school office.

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@syparish or call 335-7667. A parish registration form is available at http://www.sycape.com/Parish/.

	•
Name	
Address	
EmailPhone	
☐ 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.	

Visit the Lenten Relic Display

The Association of the Miraculous Medal invites you to a very special Lenten experience in Perryville, Missouri, to venerate sacred relics that include a piece of the True Cross, a fragment of the table at which Jesus celebrated the Last Supper, and particles from Gethsemane, Via Dolorosa, and Calvary.

The relics will be on display at the historic National **Shrine of Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal in Perryville, Missouri, from 12:00 - 4:00 p.m. on April 2, 3, 9, and 10.** Join fellow pilgrims in prayerful reflection to prepare for the celebration of Christ's Resurrection Questions? Call the Association of the Miraculous Medal at 1-800-264-6279.

• Movie Night •

The Passion of the Christ

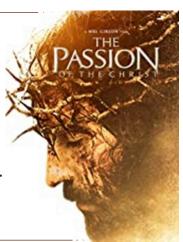
Rated R • Parent discretion advised

Monday, April 4, 2022 6:15 p.m.

Upper Meeting Room (behind church)

Come with an open heart; leave with a greater understanding of Jesus' love for you.

Brought to you by the SVDP Discipleship Committee



St. Vincent's Women's Council

All women of the parish are invited to attend the next Women's Council meeting on April 4, 2022, at 6:30 p.m. in the lower meeting room of the church. The slate of officers and budget for 2022 will be voted on.

Deacon Mark will be the guest speaker and will facilitate a Synod Listening Session. Gathering input from parishioners by way of existing parish groups is part of Pope Francis' desire to obtain input from the faithful on how the Catholic Church can better spread the gospel and serve the faithful. Bishop Rice has asked all parishes to seek input from their faithful.

Please bring donations to the meeting for the Spring Assembly baby basket (taking place April 22-23). You may also bring donations of regular size personal hygiene items for Maxine's. Hope to see you there!

NDRHS Spring Musical

Notre Dame Regional High School is proud to present *Once Upon A Mattress*. Performances will take place at Notre Dame Regional High School's King Hall on April 7, 8, 9 and 10 at 7:00 p.m. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. Tickets are \$10 and can be purchased online at www.notredamehighschool.org/musical.

Once Upon a Mattress includes fun songs, including "Shy," "Yesterday I Loved You," "Sensitivity," "Swamps of Home," and the exciting dance "The Spanish Panic." Come enjoy this merry medieval musical!

The spring musical will be Miss Cynthia R. King's final production, as she is retiring from NDRHS after 50 years. Alumni are encouraged to attend "Alumni Night" for the April 9 performance to pack King Hall!

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). Most of the live feeds will be at the 5:00 p.m. Saturday evening Mass to allow for the longest viewing time.



You Are Invited!

Pope Francis and Bishop Edward Rice invite you to join the conversation in your parish! In May of 2021, Pope Francis introduced the Synod on Synodality which is a journey of dialogue and discernment, in which ALL THE PEOPLE OF GOD are called to pray and reflect upon the Holy Spirit's will for the Church. Through listening and sharing together, we will seek to understand the Holy Spirit's will. Your experiences, insights, and concerns are valued! Will you please come and share them?

- Monday, April 4, 6:30 p.m. with the Women's Council in the lower meeting room
- Wednesday, April 6, 6:15 p.m. with PSR/SVS parents in the upper meeting room
- Saturday, April 9, 9:00 a.m. with all parishioners in the upper meeting room

For more information on the Synod, please scan the QR code or

check the website at https:// dioscg.org/synodon-synodality-2021-2023/





A Lenten Opportunity Beatitude Boxes / Bags

Blessed are they who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be satisfied. MATTHEW 5:6

During the season of Lent, the parishioners of St. Vincent are invited 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 boxes in the gathering area no later than April 15. Boxes and bags will then be filled and given to the needy in the local community.

There are many occasions that call for a meaningful gift. Perpetual Memberships from the Association of the Miraculous Medal are now available. Perpetual members share in the eternal spiritual benefits of prayers and Masses at the Shrine of Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal, Perryville. Membership folders are available in the rack in the gathering area. More information can be found at www.amm.org.

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 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.



Do you have someone special preparing for First Communion?

This little booklet, *My First Communion Journal*, is a wonderful gift for children to use during the weeks anticipating the special day of their First Eucharist and afterward as well.

In the booklet are thought provoking suggestions, activities, stories of saints' and popes' First Communion, and pages for the children to journal, color and document their special days of baptism, first reconciliation and first communion.

Find this booklet at https://osvcatholicbookstore.com.

Positions Available

St. Vincent de Paul Catholic School is currently accepting applications for a **Sixth Grade Teacher** for the 2022-2023 school year. Applicants should be able to teach World History, Religion, and English. For an application, go to <u>dioscg.org</u>, call the school office at 573-334-9594 or please email <u>kglastetter@svcape.eduk12.net</u> or call 573-334-9594.

Immaculate Conception Catholic School in Springfield, Missouri, is seeking an Elementary School Principal beginning the 2022-23 school year. The successful applicant would be individual with demonstrated skill in spiritual, academic, and advancement leadership. Immaculate Conception has 507 students in K-8th grades and 56 preschoolers, all taught by 38 teachers. Applicants for this position must be practicing Catholics in good standing and understand the mission and ministry of Catholic schools in the Diocese of Springfield-Cape Girardeau. To download and submit an application, go to www.ic-parish.org, go to the "About" tab, and click "IC School." Deadline for applications is March 30, 2022.

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. 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.

St. Mary Cathedral School is seeking a **Sixth Grade Teacher** with a concentration in Math for the 2022-2023 school year. Candidate should be Catholic and certified in elementary or middle school education. Interested individuals should email christineostendorf@stmarycape.org by April 8.

Notre Dame Regional High School in Cape Girardeau is seeking applicants for an open Multimedia/Communications position for the upcoming 2022-23 school year. Interested candidates should send their resume, cover letter and list of references to Paul Unterreiner at paulunterreiner@notredamecape.org. Applicants should be committed individuals that can teach Journalism, Yearbook and Video Broadcasting. Other responsibilities include coordinating and supervising livestreams and working with Notre Dame's webpage and social media platforms. Notre Dame is a Roman Catholic school in the Diocese of Springfield-Cape Girardeau, so preference would be given to practicing Catholics.

Immaculate Conception Parish, Jackson, is currently accepting applications for a **Youth and Family Director**. Applicants must be a practicing Catholic. Please contact Fr. Randy Tochtrop at 573-243-3182 or pastor@iciacksonmo.com.



Saturday, April 30, 2022 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Drury Plaza Hotel - Cape Girardeau Conference Center

Cape Girardeau, Missouri

A day of intellectual and spiritual formation for Catholic men

Featuring:

- Mass celebrated by Bishop Edward Rice
- Four world-class theologians speaking on subjects ranging from man in the contemporary world to scripture, grace, and salvation
- Refreshments and lunch provided
- Open to all men 16+

Registration and Attendance are FREE To register go to: https://forms.gle/gxggdoNV5nccDmJL9

Girl/Boy Scout, Little Flowers Girl Club and American Heritage Girl Club Ceremony

Voice for Life Awards

The Catholic Youth Adventure Program Awards Ceremony will be held at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, May 4, at Old St. Vincent Church. The deadline for applications is April 4. For all scouting applications and inquiry, contact Mary Ann Hennecke at 573-837-7472 or <a href="mailto:

The Voice for Life Awards Ceremony will be held at the same time as the Catholic Youth Adventure Program. For more information, please contact Donna Anderson at 573-450-1451.

Spiritual Direction Available

Do you desire to grow closer to God? Spiritual Direction may be what you are seeking. Spiritual direction will help you become more God-centered, to listen and notice where God is working in your life, and to better understand your identity as a child of God. Please contact Meg Garner at 573-579-2188 or meggarnerndhs@gmail.com with questions or to begin spiritual direction.

Holy Week Schedule

Monday, April 11

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

"Spy" Wednesday, April 13

Confessions "on the hour" 12:00 - 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 14

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 15

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 16

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

Easter Sunday, April 17

Easter Masses 7:00 a.m. • 9:00 a.m. • 11:00 a.m. 3:00 p.m. (Spanish)



Pope Francis' Prayer for Peace

Lord God of peace, hear our prayer!

We have tried so many times and over so many years to resolve our conflicts by our own powers and by the force of our arms. How many moments of hostility and darkness have we experienced; how much blood has been shed; how many lives have been shattered; how many hopes have been buried ... But our efforts have been in vain.

Now, Lord, come to our aid! Grant us peace, teach us peace; guide our steps in the way of peace. Open our eyes and our hearts, and give us the courage to say: "Never again war!" "With war everything is lost." Instill in our hearts the courage to take concrete steps to achieve peace.

Lord, God of Abraham, God of the Prophets, God of Love, you created us and you call us to live as brothers and sisters. Give us the strength daily to be instruments of peace; enable us to see everyone who crosses our path as our brother or sister. Make us sensitive to the plea of our citizens who entreat us to turn our weapons of war into implements of peace, our trepidation into confident trust, and our quarreling into forgiveness.

Keep alive within us the flame of hope, so that with patience and perseverance we may opt for dialogue and reconciliation. In this way may peace triumph at last, and may the words "division," "hatred" and "war" be banished from the heart of every man and woman. Lord, defuse the violence of our tongues and our hands. Renew our hearts and minds, so that the word which always brings us together will be "brother," and our way of life will always be that of: Shalom, Peace, Salaam!

Amen

United States Conference of Catholic Bishops

Inviting All Youth 1st-12th Grade!

TOTUS TUUS

Summer Youth Program

June 12-17, 2022

St. Vincent de Paul Parish

1913 Ritter Drive • Cape Girardeau

What is Totus Tuus?

Totus Tuus ("Totally Yours") is a week long summer Catholic youth program dedicated to sharing the Gospel and promoting the Catholic faith through evangelization, catechesis, Christian witness, and Eucharistic worship. Totus Tuus is concerned not only with teaching the faith, but also igniting the hearts of young people!

Brochures are available in the gathering area. For more information, you may contact Kathy Raines, Totus Tuus Parish Coordinator, at 573-335-7667 or kraines@svcape.eduk12.net.



Scan the QR Code to register online.

Sponsored by:

The Office of Evangelization, Catechesis, and Youth Formation Diocese of Springfield-Cape Girardeau



NDRHS Cheer and Dance Team Tryouts

Interested in being a Notre Dame Cheerleader or a member of the Notre Dame Dance Team for 2022-2023? Cheer and Dance clinics will be held April 18-21 at ND from 4:00 - 5:30 p.m., with tryouts on April 22 at 4:00 p.m.

Please complete the Cheer and Dance Tryout online form by the first day of the clinic. Download the Cheer or Dance tryout packet from www.notredamehighschool.org/tryouts. Don't wait until the last minute because there are important deadlines concerning teacher/coach evaluations. Every athlete is required to complete the FamilyID registration and upload a MSHSAA Physical Examination Form dated within the past year.

Thank You

I would like to say "thank you" to St. Vincent de Paul Parish for the prayers sent to God on my behalf. My surgery was successful and I am making progress with mobility. I am so very grateful and feel that my daughters are blessed to be parishioners of such a wonderful parish family.

Journeying Through Lent

Seek the Miracle

Monday, March 28

With faith, the royal official asked Jesus to heal his son. Upon the son's healing, the whole household came to believe. Do you have a request for God? Realize that God is awaiting your petition. Look for Jesus today, for God is creating new heavens and a new earth at every moment. Find a miracle that unfolds for you today, however small, and share that with someone. *Today's readings: Isaiah 65:17-21; Psalm 30:2 and 4, 5-6, 11-12a and 13b; John 4:43-54. Optional for any day this week: Micah 7:7-9; Psalm 27:1, 7-8a, 8b-9abc, 13-14; John 9:1-41.*

You Are Near

Tuesday, March 29

"The Lord of hosts is with us; our stronghold is the God of Jacob," we pray with the psalmist today. The psalm tells of the "astounding things" God has wrought on the earth. In the Gospel, the Lord certainly was with the sick man who had been unable to enter the pool. There we see the God of mercy who restores the man to wholeness. Trusting in God's presence, pray the refrain of today's psalm throughout the day. *Today's readings: Ezekiel 47:1-9, 12; Psalm 46:2-3, 5-6; 8-9; John 5:1-16*.

So Also the Son

Wednesday, March 30

In today's Gospel, Jesus states that "a son cannot do anything on his own, but only what he sees his father doing." Jesus, the Son, does not do anything except through the power of God. What Jesus knows and sees the Father doing, Jesus will do. Who has taught you how to live as a Christian? Write a letter or call the person to acknowledge and thank them for their example. *Today's readings: Isaiah 49:8-15; Psalm 145:8-9, 13cd-14, 17-18; John 5:17-30*.

Whom Do You Believe?

Thursday, March 31

Many words and images come at us daily. Social media, news outlets, conversations with colleagues and friends flood us with messages. Jesus describes the many witnesses to his identity and power, but his listeners still don't trust all that he has to offer. What helps you believe that Jesus is the Savior? What keeps you focused on his message of truth? Make a point to name and claim that this week. *Today's readings: Exodus 32:7-14; Psalm 106:19-20, 21-22, 23; John 5:31-47.*

Ever Close Friday, April 1

Have you ever felt brokenhearted? Do you know someone who is? Today's psalm reminds us that God is always close to those in need, to those struggling, and to anyone in distress. Be especially attentive to show kindness to people you meet. Many people are struggling silently. Your compassionate presence will be a sharing of your faith in our loving and merciful God. *Today's readings: Wisdom 2:1a, 12-22; Psalm 34:17-18, 19-20, 21 and 23; John 7:1-2, 10, 25-30.*

Unite in Christ

Saturday, April 2

In today's Gospel, we hear of a division occurring as people argued over whether Jesus is the Christ. Today, many people hostilely debate matters of Christianity. A visible sign of the reign of God is unity, which can be sometimes hard to achieve even in a parish. Talk about unity with your family or a friend and make a commitment to help unite people as the people of God rather than create any further divisions. *Today's readings: Jeremiah 11:18-20; Psalm 7:2-3, 9bc-10, 11-12; John 7:40-53*.

Sunday, March 27

Lavish and Bountiful Mercy

Today's readings: Joshua 5:9a, 10-12; Psalm 34:2-3, 4-5, 6-7; 2 Corinthians 5:17-21; Luke 15:1-3, 11-32. A loving father with property and some wealth. A son who is steadfast but jealous. A son who is unsettled and wanders. In today's language, the family in the Gospel parable might be called "dysfunctional."

This family is not very different from today's families whose members exhibit a mix of jealousy, misbehavior, and mercy. After the younger son squanders his inheritance, he returns to his home with humility. The father greets the son, pouring out his love and mercy, and the son's return is celebrated with much feasting. However, the older son, because of his jealousy, is blinded to his father's goodness, and selfishly questions the father's decisions. This son who has worked hard for his father does not realize what has been right in front of him for his entire life. The father in the story wants to share his wealth and life and love with both of his children, but pride gets in the way for the older son. With humility, the younger son accepts his father's forgiveness.

At times in our lives any of us might act as the younger son, at other times as the older son, and sometimes like the father. God is consistent, always offering unending love and mercy. He always seeks to find the lost and offer life to those once dead to sin.

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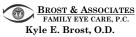
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