

# ST. VINCENT DE PAUL CATHOLIC PARISH



## Finance Advisory Council *Ensures Good Stewardship of Our Parish Treasure*

An important part of any parish is financial stability, which ensures that the parish can best serve the parishioners, the ministries within the parish, and the community. Here at St. Vincent de Paul, one way this is maintained is through the coordination of the Finance Advisory Council.

The Finance Advisory Council does not make the decisions regarding the finances or budget — instead, it serves as an advisory body to the pastor. The council members’ role is to help the parish maintain fiscal stewardship by advising the pastor on matters of finance, budget, facilities, fundraising, and long-range financial planning.



*Council member Gene Livens*

“The pastor appoints the committee and then shares the mission statement with the ‘dos and don’ts,’” says council member Gene Livens. “The committee is made up of very professional parishioners who can offer different insights. The main thing is that we are all able to voice our opinions and feedback so that Father can better evaluate his decision.”

The council takes into consideration anything that comes up around the parish. However, a primary effort of the council is the yearly report — the members’ goal is to compose it clearly so that it can be understood by all members of the parish.

“The yearly report is an eye-opener for parishioners because it shows them where the money gets spent,” Gene says. “It was an eye-opener for me. My heart was touched by how much we spend on outreach and ministries. We give and support a lot of great causes and groups. This is a discussion we have once a year and the report is put into the bulletin — I recommend that everyone

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## THE TRAITS OF THE *Christian Steward*

Each day, we strive to live stewardship in our lives, recognizing our roles as “God’s co-workers” in His creative, redemptive and sanctifying work. But in our quest to live as disciples of Christ, many obstacles often arise. One of the most prevalent roadblocks in living stewardship is understanding the traits that make up a good Christian steward. Surely, it would be much more convenient if we had some sort of “stewardship list” that could lay out the necessary steps to becoming a good steward. Unfortunately, it more often feels like living stewardship is a lifelong journey that we will never fully comprehend.

Fortunately, the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops’ pastoral letter on stewardship, *Stewardship: A Disciple’s Response*, gives some insight into the characteristics that make up a good Christian steward.

The Christian steward should display some of the following traits:

**Insight** — Before the disciples could live what we know as the stewardship way of life, they needed a flash of insight, or a certain way of viewing the world and their relationship to it in a fresh light. This “divine grandeur,” more than anything else, is often what sets people on the path to Christian stewardship (*Stewardship: A Disciple’s Response*, 39).

**Conscientiousness** — Stewards are fully conscious of their accountability in sharing of their time, talent and treasure. As caretakers of the gifts that God has given them, they have the opportunity and responsibility to use them to their fullest potential to spread God’s Kingdom on Earth (40).

**Generosity** — Christian stewards are generous out of love as well as duty. They should display a desire to share with and care for others based on the sacramental graces they have received. And they are also cognizant of the many warnings that the New Testament presents to those who fail in charity and authentic love (40).

**Joy** — Christian stewards are often presented with difficult obstacles, but they should remain joyful in the face of challenges to their lives of stewardship. Like Paul, the good steward is able to say, “I am filled with encouragement, I am overflowing with joy all the more because of all our affliction” (2 Cor. 7:4). Only by serving with a joyful spirit will stewards fully reap the rewards of their service, both in this life and the next.

Indeed, living as a Christian steward is a lifelong journey with many ups and downs along the way. But if we strive to consciously incorporate each of these characteristics into our giving of time, talent and treasure, we will find that the responsibilities of a good Christian steward will become much clearer with each experience of service.

## *A Letter From Our Pastor*

# We Provide the Gifts, God Performs the Miracles

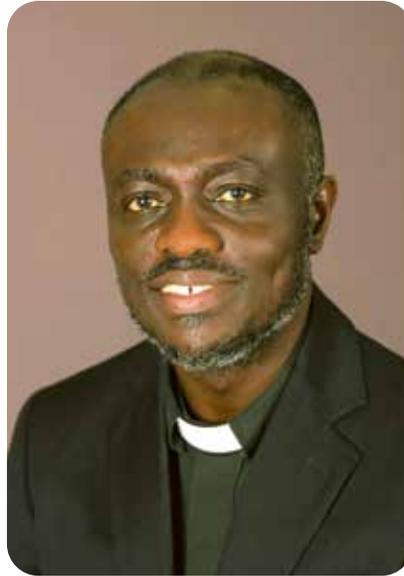
Dear Parishioners,

**I**t is human nature to try to neatly place things into categories. If we categorize the miracles performed by Christ, the two largest groupings might fall under the headings “Healing” and “Feeding.”

This is exactly what we are about here at St. Vincent de Paul. At the base of all our liturgies is the Eucharist, when we come together in communion with the Lord and with one another to be both fed and healed. Even one of Christ’s most famous miracles — the Feeding of the Multitude — involved both healing and feeding from a spiritual and a literal perspective.

The reason the large crowd gathered was because Jesus’ reputation as a healer had spread and grown. He felt compassion for that crowd, which is another way of saying He loved them and felt sorry that they were hungry due to their willingness to sit and be with Him for so long. Recognizing it was late in the day and that many of them had not eaten, Jesus literally fed them — but that day, He didn’t stop with physical nourishment. He also fed them spiritually with His words, and simultaneously, healed their wounded hearts by preaching a message of hope and forgiveness in the midst of a dark and hardened world.

The narrative of Christ taking a small amount of food and using it to feed thousands is familiar to all of us. It is reported in all four Gospels. However, I would like to highlight one aspect of that miracle. It all started with one boy who was willing to share what little he had. Because the boy made the gift of his fishes and loaves, the Lord took it and multiplied it many times over, nourishing so many more people



than what that little bit initially could.

Isn’t that what we as a parish are called to do? We make gifts of our time, our talent, and our treasure as good stewards — but nevertheless, it is God who takes those gifts and performs miracles with them. Our goal is to give what we have so that Christ might use it, multiplying it to feed, to heal and draw a multitude of people closer to Him.

The reality is that without the gifts, there can be no miracles, and without miracles, we are a hungry and broken people. Christ has come to renew, nourish, fulfill, and restore — and that, brothers and sisters, is what Christianity is all about.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

*Rev. Philip Brembah*

Fr. Philip Brembah

*Pastor*



# ST. VINCENT DE PAUL

## MEET GREG AND *Prioritizing Fa*

**F**or many years, Greg and Isabel White have packed up some or all of their six children to attend Sunday morning Mass. With three of their children now adults, it's gotten a little less hectic in the pew. But Isabel can remember the days of infants, toddlers, and children all in the pew with her and Greg. It was sometimes hard and stressful, but they always showed up.

"We just go to Mass," she says. "There's never really a discussion. It's just what we do."

The family follows Mass with brunch at home.

Isabel is the St. Vincent's Academy Director, our preschool, here at St. Vincent de Paul. She has worked here for five years and has served as the Director for two years.

Periodically, the family has the chance to travel to Greg's hometown, Chicago, or Michigan. When they do travel, they take that as an opportunity to attend a new parish. The

family doesn't use travel as an excuse to skip Mass. Isabel and Greg even make a game of it by asking what their children noticed in the church or what was different about the Mass. They see it as a great chance to share in some fun catechesis.

"Besides the fact that we have a Sunday Mass obligation, I think God is telling us we need to go," Isabel says. "He knows we need that set time each week to praise Him, and ground our day and week."

Isabel loves the quote often attributed to St. Francis of Assisi, "Preach the Gospel always, and, if necessary, use words." She believes this is a great thing to consider while raising children.

"You can tell them church is important and tell them God is important," she says. "But, they have to see that you make it a priority. That means going to Mass when it's not always easy."



*Wherever the White family's travels may take them, they always make it a priority to attend Mass. "There's never really a discussion," Isabel says. "It's just what we do."*

# ISABEL WHITE:

## *With as a Family*

Isabel is passionate about making families, especially ones with young children, feel welcome in church. It's hard to keep little ones occupied for a whole Mass. There are families there each week doing their best.

"One of the beautiful things is that we can see the fruits of Mass attendance in the little ones at preschool," Isabel says. "You may not think they are listening, but they are."

It is Isabel's hope for our parish community to do what they can to make tired and stressed parents know they always have a place in the parish. Sometimes, it's as easy as smiling or giving them space in your pew.



*To find Mass times at other parishes, you can visit [masstimes.org](https://www.masstimes.org).*

## Finance Advisory Council continued from front cover

read it. You might be surprised by some of the great works that we are able to support."

The council is appointed by the pastor and consists of members with experience in banking, finance, accounting, and property management. If you are interested, you may sign up at the annual Ministry Sunday. The council will contact you and the pastor will interview you. A lot of prayer and discernment goes into whether it would be a good fit for everyone involved.

"Church is a community and it involves more than just church on Sunday," Gene says. "We have so many ministries and areas that no matter what age or health level, there is something for everyone to do. If you want to be an active Catholic Christian member of the community, there are many opportunities. The Finance Advisory Council is just one opportunity."

*"The committee is made up of very professional parishioners who can offer different insights. The main thing is that we are all able to voice our opinions and feedback so that Father can better evaluate his decision."*

— GENE LIVENS

*If you would like more information about the Finance Advisory Council, please contact Gene Livens at 817-905-8098.*

# ST. VINCENT DE PAUL

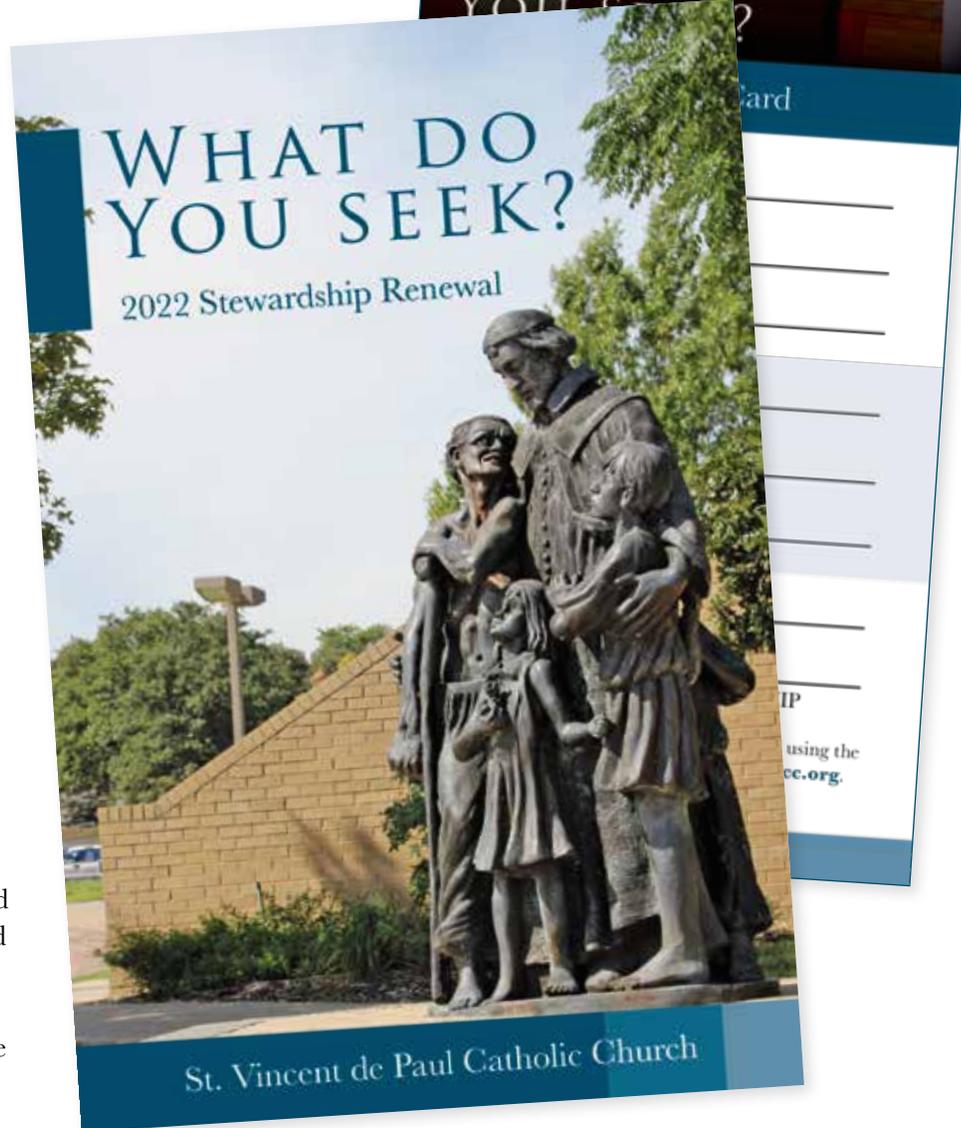
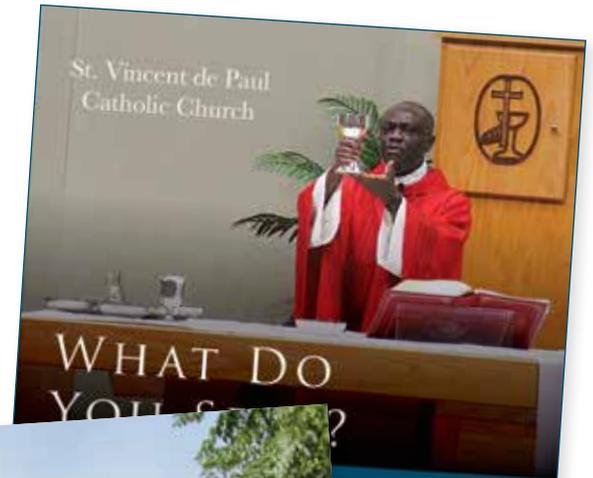
## Highlights of Our 2022 Stewardship Renewal

This past winter, our St. Vincent de Paul parish leadership conducted the 2022 Stewardship Renewal. The Stewardship Renewal gave our parish community the opportunity to discern how we are using our gifts of time, talent, and treasure in service to the parish and in return to God.

This month, we are happy to share with you some of the highlights of the 2022 Stewardship Renewal.

- There were 339 commitment cards received from 28 percent of active households.
- There were 2,872 prayer commitments — the stewardship of time — from 93 percent of participating households.
- There were 1,164 ministry commitments — the stewardship of talent — from 88 percent of participating households. Of these, 246 were new ministry commitments, while 918 were re-commitments to parish ministries.
- There were 286 offertory commitments — the stewardship of treasure — from 84 percent of participating households. The average pledge was \$3,040.

We thank all those who participated in our Stewardship Renewal. If you did not have the opportunity to fill out and return a commitment card, we invite you to consider the ways you may share your gifts of time, talent, and treasure with God and the parish community!





# FRIDAY ADORATION

## *Offers Valuable Time for Prayerful Reflection in His Real Presence*

**B**ack in 2017, our parish established a Vocations Committee, and one of this committee's first goals was to offer a Holy Hour to pray for vocations to the priesthood and religious life. A founding member of the Vocations Committee, Rhea Johnson had learned that parishes offering a Holy Hour for vocations often produce more priests and religious over time. It was obvious that this profound way of praying was the right place to start.

"No matter what your vocation is, everyone is given a mission by God," Rhea says. "Come and ask God what He is asking of you at this time in your life."

Eucharistic Adoration is meaningful to the parish community and can be a path to more vocations, as well as a way to pray for those who are in seminary or

formation for religious life. However, it goes deeper in that those who frequent adoration are deeply impacted.

"The essence of our faith is a relationship with the Lord," Rhea says. "This comes before active service to others, which should flow from that relationship. Prayer is the bedrock of that relationship. Adoration is the best prayer, outside of the Mass, in that we are in His actual Presence in a place of quiet."

The Holy Hour begins each Friday after the 8:45 a.m. Mass and ends at 7 p.m. with Benediction. Parishioners may print a worship aid from the parish website to bring with them. Parishioners can sign up for an hour so that there are two adorers present at all times, or they can drop in as their schedule allows. All are invited to come for an hour or even a few minutes.

*continued on back cover*

***"It really propels your relationship with God in a direction that it might not have gone. Something is happening even if it's not at a conscious level. God really blesses people for making the effort to come and be physically there."*** — RHEA JOHNSON



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## MASSES

**Saturday Vigil:** 5:30 p.m.

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

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

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

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

## Friday Adoration Offers Valuable Time for Prayerful Reflection in His Real Presence continued from page 7

Families are welcome to bring children as this is a beautiful witness of prayer and faith.

“Adoration is an important way for children that they learn that quiet is important and that it is a special place to pray,” Rhea says. “Seeing other people pray makes a big impression even if you only stay for 10 minutes.”

Friday Adoration was put on hold during the recent pandemic but started up again this past May. Rhea needs adorers who can commit to an hour during the

day. Friday Adoration is a special time for personal quiet prayer, as well as a chance to unite our prayers with the rest of the Church.

“People have told me how much they enjoy that hour,” Rhea says. “It has become really important to them to be there. It really propels your relationship with God in a direction that it might not have gone. Something is happening even if it’s not at a conscious level. God really blesses people for making the effort to come and be physically there.”

*While parishioners are welcome to attend Friday Adoration anytime, we are in need of those who can commit to an hour as well as those who are willing to serve as substitutes. To sign up, please contact Rhea Johnson at 817-455-7970 or Jack Hammon at 817-504-5420.*