

# ST. VINCENT DE PAUL CATHOLIC PARISH

## Vacation Bible School *Just in Time for Summer Fun!*

**W**hen it's the middle of summer and the kids are getting restless, our Vacation Bible School is just the thing for lots of fun — all the while learning about the love of Jesus!

Jessica Terry and Elizabeth Sanchez are heading up the committee for this year's Vacation Bible School, set for 9:30 a.m. to noon, July 9-13 in our Johnson Activity Center. New this year is the addition of elementary grades, so youngsters from 2 1/2 years old up to sixth grade can get in on the fun during "Shipwrecked — Rescued by Jesus!"

The children will be divided by age with about 10 to 12 children in a group.

"All the kids will learn a Bible saying of the day, and they'll learn songs and have crafts," Jessica says. "All will have something to do with the theme. They'll also view a video that covers the theme for each day."

As any parent knows how summer can lead to complaints of "I'm bored!" Vacation Bible School will counteract the doldrums with lots of fun and faith.

"It's an important ministry for the kids because it keeps them engaged with Jesus and His stories," Jessica says. "It's a break from the regular Faith Formation classes, and it's at a good middle point of summer. It gives them a boost to get ready for a new school year. They'll have fun learning about Jesus hands-on. They'll be singing

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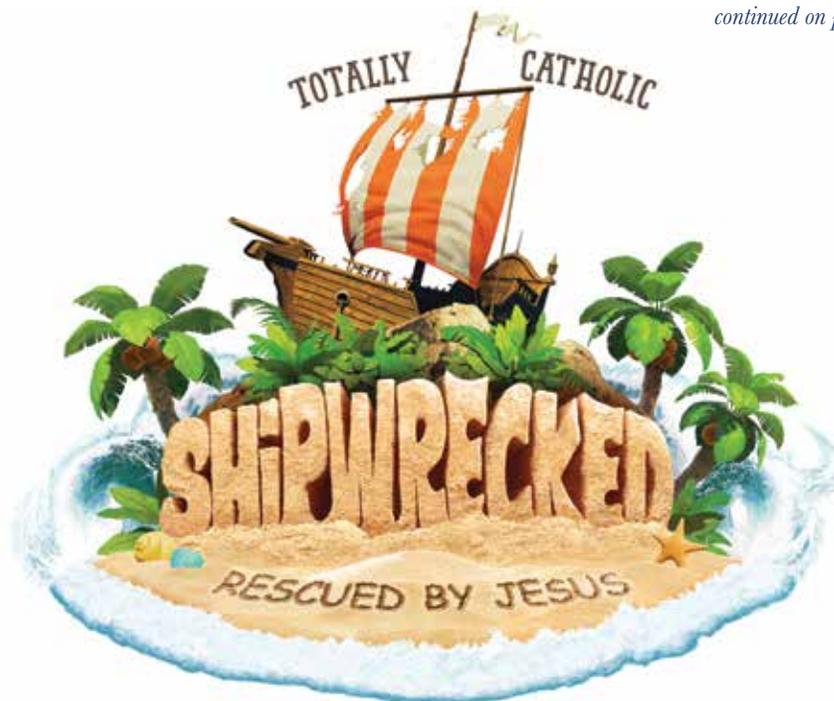
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# ST. VINCENT DE PAUL

## Vacation Bible School continued from front cover

about Him and see the different highlights of His love at their level. It's a blast!"

Parents will find that once Vacation Bible School is over, the messages about our faith will remain firmly with their children.

"Vacation Bible School builds the kids' faith," Jessica says. "There's the positive message in the songs. I hear my kids for weeks after singing the songs and they don't realize what they're singing is Scripture, and they're singing about Jesus. It's refreshing to hear that as opposed to the music on the radio."

Jessica has found that the children who have taken part in Vacation Bible School look forward to attending each year.

"It's just fun for the kids," she says. "They get to interact with others their age. But the biggest point is they're learning about Jesus and learning about deepening their faith in a fun way. It makes it exciting for them."

Parishioners are invited to join in the fun and be a part of Vacation Bible School. One potential area of involvement is in setting up the decorations beforehand, and taking them down after the school is over. A unique feature of our Vacation Bible School is that we are partnering with another area church to re-use their decorations.

"Then we pass on the decorations to a parish outside of Waco," Jessica says. "Then they can pass them on. It's a nice thing to see, that there are a number of churches who get to use the decorations."

We also invite parishioners to join the kitchen crew that prepares the snacks, as well as a gym crew. In addition, parishioners can serve as leaders for all the activity segments, such as music, crafts and Bible stories. There are also key opportunities for parishioners to serve as group co-leaders. Those serving the week of July 9-13 may choose where they would like to participate.

Some parents whose children are attending serve, as well as several parishioners who have no children involved.

Adults need to take the Safe and Sacred training before the sessions begin which is online and additionally, a background check will be run on those adults who participate. The teens will have a live training that they will need to attend before the start of VBS.



*Registration for children attending, as well as for those wishing to serve, will all be done on-line through our parish website, [www.svdpc.org](http://www.svdpc.org). The registration will open in the middle of May.*

*A Letter From Our Pastor*

# The Month of Mary: *A Time for Celebration and Joy*

Dear Parishioners,

**I**n the Catholic Church, we designate a particular devotion for each month — and May is when we honor our Blessed Mother Mary. Thus, this is a good time for us to think about and concentrate on our devotion to the Mother of God. Perhaps we can add a few more Marian prayers to our daily routine. Praying the Rosary might be even more important. Of course, that assumes that daily prayer is part of our daily routine — which it should be.

Our Blessed Mother is important to our faith and to our Church. Her willingness to serve in a way that allowed the Lord to take human form really made our salvation a possibility. Because of her complete trust in God, she lived her life free from sin, and after her life, she was assumed into heaven by the power of God and crowned Queen of Heaven and Earth.

She is, of course, not divine. We worship only our Lord Jesus Christ, but we honor Mary as a saint and in many other ways. We honor God when we remember the role of Mary in our salvation. Devotion to Mary always leads to Jesus Christ Himself.

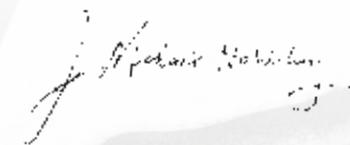
Mary was joyous when she said “yes” to God. That is the kind of joy we need to seek — and we, too, must say “yes” to the Lord. Let us be grateful to Mary for bringing us her Son. This is why we crown her on our Catholic version of Mother’s Day. Through Mary, we are given an invitation into the Catholic fold. Her feminine presence

and the safety of her motherhood may help us grow.

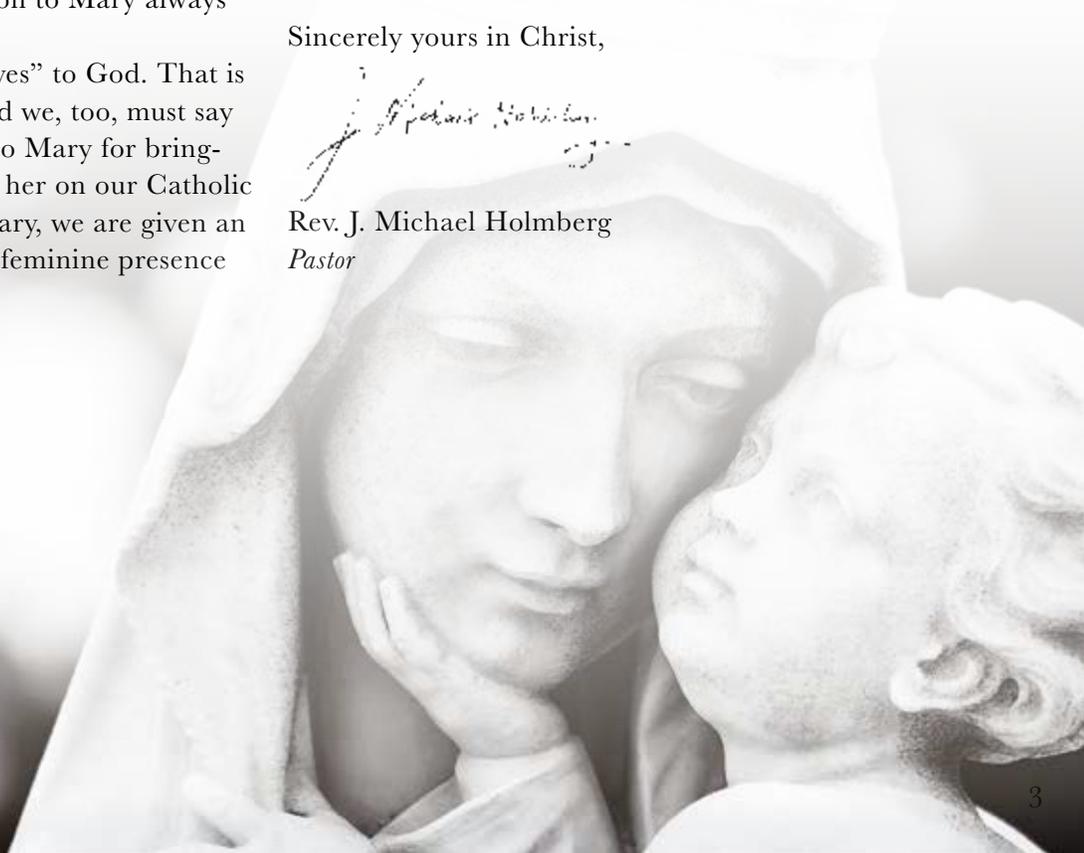
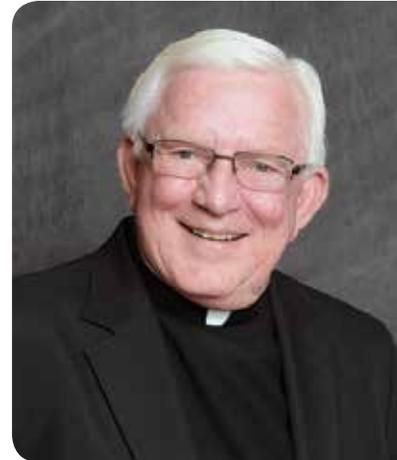
For most of us, this time of year is a month of growth in relation to nature. It is difficult not to have May as one of our favorite months for so many reasons. May is a beautiful time. We are called to make it even more beautiful, and we can do that as we serve and love one another.

I am deeply blessed to be your pastor. I may say that often, but it is true. My priesthood has been a blessing, and serving you all has made that blessing even more significant. I pray for you daily. Please pray for me. God bless you and keep you always.

Sincerely yours in Christ,



Rev. J. Michael Holmberg  
*Pastor*



## The Magana Family Stri

**L**ook around St. Vincent de Paul during any given Mass, and one of the most beautiful sights to behold is the number of families with young children filling the pews! Seeing so many parents dedicated to staying active in the parish and passing the Catholic faith on to the next generation is always inspiring.

Marc and Mindy Magana and their children — Araceli, 8; Diego, 6; and Sebastian, 4 — are one of the many young families in our parish that have made regular church attendance, parish involvement, and service an essential part of life. Having been parishioners of St. Vincent de Paul for 10 years, the Maganas feel blessed to have found such a vibrant and welcoming faith community for their family.

When Marc and Mindy moved from the west side of Fort Worth closer to Arlington shortly after they married, they began to seek a home parish here.

“We really just drove around looking for a church,” Marc says. “When we went to St. Vincent, it was perfect — just

what we were looking for. It was so welcoming, and we really felt like we were at home there.”

In addition to the warm welcome they received on their first visit to our parish, Marc and Mindy were also impressed with the number of ways St. Vincent de Paul provides parishioners to stay involved with the parish and the wider community. Through participation in our Mommy and Me group, the Learning Center, Vacation Bible School and the Prayer Shawl Ministry, the Maganas have enjoyed spending time together as a family, growing in their faith, and forming lasting friendships with fellow parishioners.

While playing an active role in the parish is important to Marc and Mindy, they are also thankful for the opportunities their family has found to serve on a local and even global level. Once a month, the Maganas are the drivers and servers for our Noreen’s Nourishment Ministry, bringing hot meals from the church to families on the oncology ward of Cook Children’s Hospital.



*The Magana family helps with the Noreen’s Nourishment Ministry — standing with some of the Cook Children’s Hospital oncology nurses are (at left) Marc with Araceli (8) and Diego (6), and (right) Mindy with Sebastian (4).*

# Ways to Put Faith Into Action

Over the years, their participation in Noreen's Nourishment has brought the Magana family many unexpected — and priceless — blessings.

"I have a nephew that was going through a hard time when he was about 11 years old," Marc says. "His father wasn't really a part of his life, and he was having some growing pains. I saw Noreen's Nourishment as an opportunity for him to get involved, see the kids with cancer, and give him some perspective. To this day, he's in college and still driving with us, and I could probably count on one hand the times he's missed. That was just something he needed, and it was a turning point for him.

"Then, five years after we started driving, my other nephew, Trae, was diagnosed with leukemia," he adds. "So, he wound up being there at the same hospital we were serving, and it just gave us some peace, because we knew the nurses and how well they take care of their patients. He's been in remission for two years now, and I think it's neat that now we have a success story we can share with the families there who have just received a diagnosis."

The Magana children have always participated in these monthly visits to the hospital, and they wouldn't have things any other way!

"If something happens and we can't do it one month, the kids get upset," Mindy says. "And I think it's huge for them to see kids going through such a hard time, just to bring it all back to them that we're so incredibly blessed. If we can help bring a smile to those parents and children, we get back so much more than we give — the love and prayers are just unbelievable."

While they love serving locally, the Maganas have also extended their stewardship beyond the Arlington area. Just over three years ago, after hearing a speaker from the Unbound child sponsorship ministry speak at our parish, the family decided to reach out and serve on a global level by sponsoring a young girl in Guatemala.

"Our daughter, Araceli, was 5 at the time, so we wanted her to make a connection with another girl her age," Marc says. "It worked out great, and she really sees the importance of giving back that way. It's just a learning experience for her, getting to know someone who doesn't have everything that she has."

For Marc and Mindy, taking advantage of the many involvement opportunities within our faith community, and

serving on a local and global level is a wonderful way to pass on their own faith and values to their children.

"We want them to know who they are," Mindy says. "You look at this generation and they have everything. The biggest thing for us is to make sure our kids understand that they're here to help others, and not let them get consumed by the mainstream media that wants them to believe 'it's all about you.' For us, the Catholic faith is all about the action — it's about putting your faith in actual practice."

Here at St. Vincent de Paul, we are surely blessed to have so many families dedicated to putting their faith in action and bringing up the next generation of stewards in Christ!



*Each of the Magana children has a special "job" when they help with Noreen's Nourishment. Here, Diego (age 6) inspects some of the fruit he has washed.*

# ST. VINCENT DE PAUL

## Highlights of Our 2018 Stewardship Renewal

**E**arlier this year, our St. Vincent de Paul parish leadership held the 2018 Stewardship Renewal, which gave the members of our parish community the opportunity to make commitments of time, talent, and treasure. So, in this month's newsletter, we are happy to share with you some of the highlights of the 2018 Stewardship Renewal.

- There were 587 commitment cards received, from 37 percent of active parish households.
- There were 2,357 commitments to prayer — the Stewardship of Time — from 92 percent of participating households.
- Some of the top commitments to prayer included: “Attend Mass every Sunday and Holy Day,” 503 commitments; “Spend 15 minutes a day in personal prayer,” 359 commitments; “Spend extra time with my spouse each day,” 299 commitments.
- There were 1,836 commitments to ministry — the Stewardship of Talent — from 80 percent of participating households. Of these, 526 were new ministry commitments, while 1,310 were ministry re-commitments.
- Some of the top commitments to ministry included: Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion, 121 commitments; Men's Club, 105 commitments; Women's Guild, 104 commitments; Adult Bible Study, 88 commitments; Noreen's Nourishment, 87 commitments.
- There were 419 offertory commitments — the Stewardship of Treasure — from 71 percent of participating households.
- The average offertory pledge was \$2,355.

We thank all those who participated in the 2018 Stewardship Renewal. And if you did not fill out and return a commitment card, we encourage you to consider the ways you can share your gifts with God and our parish — after all, it's never too late to begin living out the stewardship way of life!

**HOSPITALITY:  
WELCOMING  
CHRIST**

*St. Vincent de Paul Catholic Parish*

*My offering of Time, Talent & Treasure*

First & Last Name (One card per family)

Street Address

City State ZIP

Telephone (Important)

Email

# Sacramental Fuel for Our Faith

## *Young Parishioners Prepare for First Communion*

**W**hen we were kids, we often heard that “breakfast is the most important meal of the day” — and while there is some truth to this, we also understand as Catholics that true nourishment goes far beyond a bowl of cereal or a slice of fruit in the morning.

“You have to have breakfast — my kids are like, ‘I have to eat, or I’ll pass out!’” says parishioner Tyra White with a smile. “But what happens if you don’t partake in the Eucharist? It’s the same thing. If you don’t partake in that Eucharist, you’re going to ‘pass out.’ Your spirit won’t be full, you won’t be able to handle a challenging situation and you won’t have that joy and closeness with Jesus. I’ve got to go to church — I need this fuel.”

Tyra is a catechist for our parish Religious Education Program, as well as our Sacramental Preparation Program. One of her children has gone through our Sacramental Preparation to receive First Communion, and her second is currently preparing to receive the Sacrament this May, along with her fellow students.

The students — mostly in second grade — spend a year preparing to receive the Sacrament of the Eucharist for the first time.

“It really is teaching them and preparing them,” Tyra says. “It’s not that you just go to church and take the Eucharist every Sunday because your parents tell you to. It’s the connection with God — the Eucharist is the Body of Christ. It’s helping them to understand what Jesus actually did. He died for us for you to be able to participate in the Eucharist.”

One of the things that Tyra seeks to instill in the students is the meaning of the word “Eucharist.”

“It’s ‘thanksgiving,’” Tyra says. “It’s helping them to be thankful that they have this opportunity to take in the Body and Blood of Christ.

“I look at all the things I’ve been blessed with,” she says. “Mass is my way of being thankful and showing God my thanks and participating in the Eucharist. I go because it’s a way of saying ‘thank you.’”

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## MASSES

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

**Sunday:** 9 a.m., 10:45 a.m. and 12:30 p.m.

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

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

**Tuesday Morning Prayer:** 8:45 p.m. in the chapel

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

## Sacramental Fuel for Our Faith continued from previous page

For Tyra, helping to teach the children about the Eucharist has served to inspire and increase her own appreciation of the Eucharist.

“When you take the Eucharist every day, you can go through the motions and it no longer becomes a special moment and you can forget the joy it can bring,” Tyra says. “By helping the kids prepare for the Eucharist, it helps me to realize it really is a special moment that I may take for granted, because I have the luxury of doing it so often. Helping the kids prepare helps to remind me this is a special moment, every single time. When you watch the kids and you watch them get excited and the joy that they have, I get the joy too. Helping the kids prepare brings that excitement back.”

Tyra encourages all parishioners to pray for the children who will be receiving their First Communion this month.

“Pray that the kids realize this is not a one-time thing, but it’s an ongoing journey for them to receive the Eucharist,” Tyra says. “Pray that the kids know they need this fuel every Sunday. Pray that kids are able to maintain and grow in this journey and their First Communion is just the beginning.”

“I really hope that they really continue to see the importance of the Eucharist,” she adds. “I hope that the Eucharist can help fuel their faith over time, help it grow stronger. And then help them to help others and promote the beauty of the Eucharist and help others understand the same thing. Without the Eucharist, you’re not getting the food you need — without it, your faith won’t make it. We wake up every morning and we eat breakfast because we know we need that to fuel our body. We need to go to Mass and participate in the Eucharist, to refuel us, to deal with the challenges we encounter.”

*For more information on our Sacramental Preparation Program, or to learn about enrolling your child for the 2018-19 school year, please contact Sacramental Coordinator Michal Tincup at 817-478-8206, ext. 220 or [mtincup@svdpsc.org](mailto:mtincup@svdpsc.org).*