

St. Vincent De Paul Church

109 East Price Street ♦ Philadelphia, PA 19144-2145 ♦ 215-438-2925
www.facebook.com/StVincentDePaulCatholicCommunity ♦ www.saint-vincent-church.org

Mission Statement

St. Vincent de Paul is a faith community striving to live Jesus' gospel message of love, peace and justice for all peoples. In the spirit of St. Vincent de Paul, our inclusive community welcomes, affirms and serves both the poorest of the poor and those who are alienated and most vulnerable among us. Our individual faith journeys join together in the celebration of the Eucharist. Through the guidance of the Holy Spirit, we will continue to nurture the gifts of all our members. Our parish family will draw strength and unity from diversity. We will foster an atmosphere of warmth, hospitality and prayerfulness. We pray that our commitment to these efforts will further the mission of being one with our God and one with each other.

The DePaul Catholic School, An Independent Mission School
44 W. Logan Street ♦ Philadelphia, PA 19144 ♦ 215-842-1266 ♦ www.thedepaulcatholicschool.org

Parish Staff

♦ **Sylvester Peterka, C.M.**

Pastor, Ext. #218

♦ **Joseph Cummins, C.M.**

Parochial Vicar, Ext #220

♦ **Valerie Lee-Jeter**

♦ **Darin Williams**

Ministers of Music

♦ **JoAnn O'Connor**

♦ Bookkeeper

business@saint-vincent-church.org

♦ **Evelyn Rogers**

Parish Social Ministry,

215-438-1514

♦ **Kevin Gomez &**

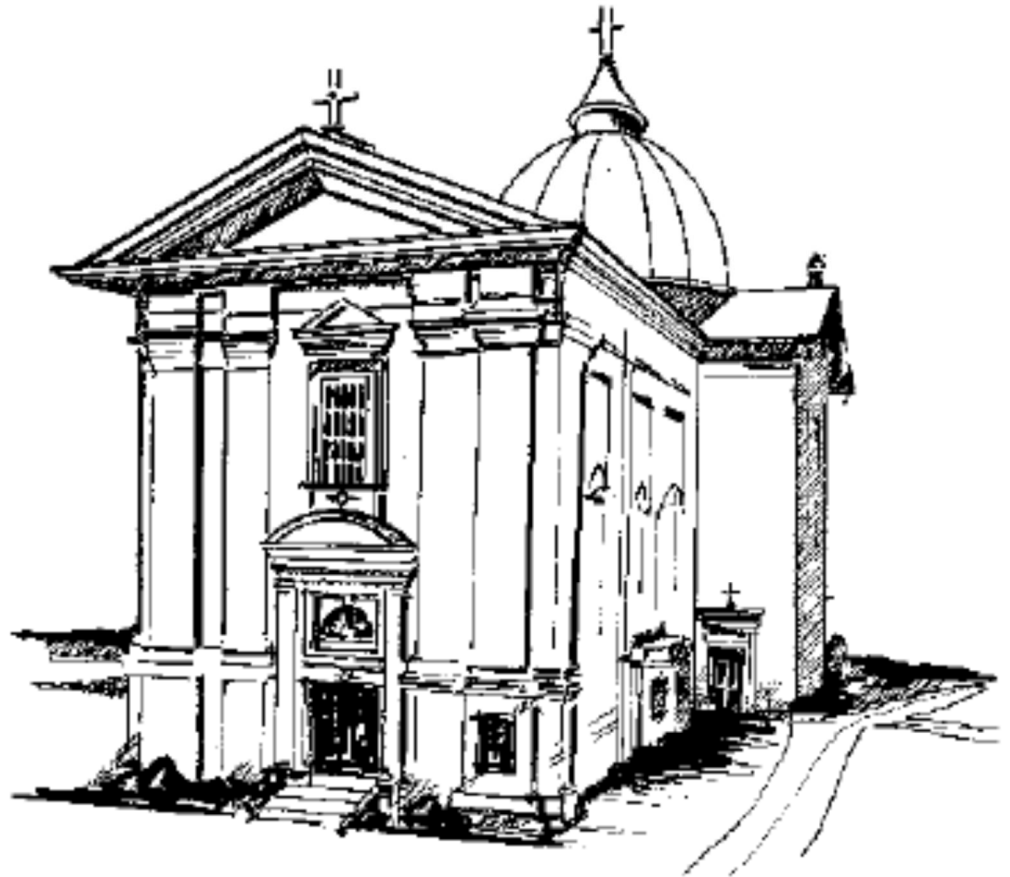
Suzanne Garnett

Directors of Religious
Education

♦ **Delia Landers &**

Katie Crump

Directors of Youth &
Young Adult Ministry



Partners in Ministry

♦ **PAR-Recycle Works
Prison Ministry**

Timothy Lyons, C.M. &
Laura Ford

267-335-5455

Par-recycleworks.org

♦ **Inn Dwelling**

Sr. Rosemarie Jefferson
Administrator
Alfred J. Smith, C.M.
Director

215-438-2195

inndwelling.org

♦ **Face to Face**

Mary Kay Meeks-Hank
Exec. Director

215-849-0179

267-566-8402

facetofacegermantown.org

♦ **My Place Germantown**

Jeffrey Williamson
Executive Director
js@myplacegermantown.org

215-901-9795

Eucharistic Celebration ♦ Saturday 4pm, Sunday 9 & 11am
Sacrament of Reconciliation ♦ Please call for an appointment.

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THIS WEEK

SUN	09/02	Miraculous Medal	9:00 am
		Miraculous Medal	11:00 am
MON	09/03	NO MASS	
TUE	09/04	Miraculous Medal	7:00 am
WB	09/05	Frank & Maria Meloni	7:00 am
THU	09/06	Miraculous Medal	7:00 am
FRI	09/07	Frank Coralluzzo, Jr.	7:00 am
SAT	09/08	Miraculous Medal	4:00pm

**THIS WEEK'S
CALENDAR**

SUN	Twenty Second Sunday Ordinary Time
SAT	Sacrament of Penance 3-3:30 pm

FOR THIS WE PRAY

Parishioners

Muriel Ancrum, Patricia Banmiller, Bernadette Barry, Katherine Elliott, Anoa Curtis, Myles McDonald, William Drinker, Judith Di Battista, Donna Jean Cocchia, Leo Johnson, Patricia Judge, Pat Burton, Thomas Baumann, Dick Taylor, Ginny Witte, Edna Poole, Nan Wade, Vince Morgan, Gerry Widmann, Kay Harty, Mary Lynn Kraft, Darryl Carroll, Arlene Myers, Betty Barnett, Annie Serious, Mary Ellen Graham, Mary Ann Delaplane, Joey Gavin, Barbara Adams, Bertha Allen, Estelle Duncan, Fran Rigler, Evangelina Aberin, Marie Coln, Helen Green, Margaret Weber, Evelyn Rogers, Br. Al Smith, Ronald Rigler.

Friends of St. Vincent's

Steven David Aslow, Mary Fazzini DeCanelo, Laura Alfonse, Nancy Tooker, C'Aron & Wynter Marie Hamilton, Tim McCabe, Harrison Harper, Claude Harper, Jaedon Anthony Horton, Arturo Magana Herrera, Lisa Kineke, John Brennan, Ashley Kiker, The Carey Family, Monique & Joseph Phillips, Dan Wuenschel, Ashley Margetech, Johnny Hilferty, Diane McCabe, Judy Spearmint, Millie Kribel, Kathleen Lawson, Dorothy Heimlich, Connie Bronson, Joseph Simmons, Amy Natkins, Terri Jackson, Samuel Gonzalez, Mary Elizabeth Unterfofler, Ana Esquilin Santos, Ann Rainsford & Family, Rayan Bousso, Richard Lipton, Palmina Rucker, Martha King Cox, Anna Satchell, Steve Damville, Jessica Jara, Joe Hagan, Vincent Owens, Barbara Rothenbach, Diane Harris, Siobhan Barrett, Mary Corini, Alysa Smith, Diane Dugan, Louis Malizia, Alice Penderghast, Sister Margaret McDevitt, John Michalski, Caitlyn Graham, Sister Michael Anthony Mugan, Claire Wesolowski, Wanda Johnson, Robert Myers, Carol Holloway, Lillian Elliott, Jeanette Ingersoll, Minerva Ortiz, Cathy Schofield, Dara Hefton, Shirley Smith, Christopher Mills, Johanna Moreno, Richard Piedra, Minerva Ortiz, Mattie Robinson, Mike Hlywski, Jack Weinberg, Titilope Oluwo, Theresa Kelley, Sandra Friday. *Our Sister Parish, Las Anonas de Santa Cruz, El Salvador.*

PASTORAL CARE

We bring the Eucharist to those unable to attend Mass regularly due to sickness or infirmity. Please call the Rectory.

Last Week's Collection	2,586.86
Electronic	<u>3,250.00.</u>
Total	5,836.86

Tithe 291.80

Today's Readings

First Reading:	Deuteronomy 4:1-2, 6-8
Psalm:	Psalm 15
Second Reading:	James 1:17-18, 21b-22, 27
Gospel:	Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23

Readings for Next Week

First Reading:	Isaiah 35:4-7a
Psalm:	Psalm 146
Second Reading:	James 2:1-5
Gospel:	Mark 7:31-37

Monday:	1 Cor 2:1-5; Ps 119:97-102; Lk 4:16-30
Tuesday:	1 Cor 2:10b-16; Ps 145:8-14; Lk 4:31-37
Wednesday:	1 Cor 3:1-9; Ps 33:12-15, 20-21; Lk 4:38-44
Thursday:	1 Cor 3:18-23; Ps 24:1bc-4ab, 5-6; Lk 5:1-11
Friday:	1 Cor 4:1-5; Ps 37:3-6, 27-28, 39-40; Lk 5:33-39
Saturday:	Mi 5:1-4a; Ps 13:6; Mt 1:1-16, 18-23 [18-23]

BAPTISM OF OUR CHILDREN

Call Fr. Sy Peterka, Pastor, at 215-438-2925, ext. 218, for available dates and additional information.

RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS

The RCIA is the process through which adults become members of the Catholic Church. If you are interested in exploring whether the Catholic Church is where you want to begin or continue your Christian faith journey, please contact the Rectory at 215-438-2925.

THOSE IN NEED OF THE SACRAMENTS

Please contact Fr. Sy Peterka, at 215-438-2925 ext.218.

MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES

If you are interested in becoming involved in one or more of our Parish ministries, call the Church office, at 215-438-2925.

PARISH OUTREACH

Non-perishable food donations may be made Monday, Tuesday and Friday between 9am and Noon. To make an appointment for any other time, please call Evelyn Rogers at 215-438-1514.

RESERVATIONS FOR MEETINGS/EVENTS

Please call the Church office, 215-438-2925.

RACIAL HEALING STATEMENT

To foster a community in which people of all races and cultures are treated as equals and fully participate in the life of the church. We hope to achieve this by... Deepening Cross-Racial/Cross-Cultural relationships; Developing each person's gifts for Leadership & Ministry, (Including each group's Art & Culture) and by... Supporting actions for justice.

ANNOUNCEMENTS - September 2-8, 2018

LECTOR NOTES

If you feel called to proclaim God's Word during Mass, consider becoming a lector! We will have a training in September. Meanwhile, pray on this. And call Mary Laver for more information about what this ministry requires of us. We are especially eager to welcome new parishioners, youth (post-confirmation) and men.

INTERCESSORY PRAYER CIRCLE

After each Mass, those wishing to pray for something specific or to pray for those with special needs can join our prayer circle which lasts 5 to 10 minutes. It will be led by our Lay Leaders of Prayer.

BIBLE STUDY

We will journey through the Gospel of Matthew beginning **Wednesday, September 5 from 7-8:30pm.** Please join us.

HOSPITALITY

Join us for hospitality by the community after the 9am Mass in the Hospitality center. To volunteer, sign up on the bulletin board by the side entrance. Questions? Call Jack DiFeo 215 287-5682.

VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED IN SEVERAL MINISTRIES

1. Altar Servers: Young people please sign up. We will have a practice in early September.
2. Liturgy Coordinators: To help set up and make sure all ministers for the Liturgy are in place.
3. Bereavement Ministers: We are looking for people to minister to families when someone dies by counseling them and helping them plan the funeral service.

LAY/INTERCESSORY OF PRAYER LEADERS NEEDED A wonderful ministry to assist our community in reflection and prayer at Mass & to fully participate as Leaders in this spiritual experience! PLEASE consider joining this ministry. Please contact Joan McGowan (267-879-7664/joaniemc223@comcast.net) if you want to know more!

ST. VINCENT SCHOLARSHIP

Scholarships are available to all active members, who are sending children to Catholic schools (from Kindergarten to 12th).

FATHER JOE, BROTHER AL, AND EVELYN ROGERS

All continue to need our healing prayers.

FATHER SY'S AFRICAN APPEAL FOR HOPE Information is available in the back of the church.

PAR RECYCLE WORKS

If you have old equipment to donate, please deliver it to PAR RECYCLE WORKS, at 342 East Walnut Lane (267-335-5455). Please do not drop the items off at the church.

SAINT VINCENT DE PAUL FEAST DAY

Sunday, September 23, 2018 - ONE MASS 10 AM.

2018 Recipients of the St. Vincent de Paul Service Awards will be honored. Congratulations:

Lynne Horoschak
Julie Kring
Robin & Jerry Smith

SEEKING VOLUNTEERS FOR NOVEMBER 2019 RETREAT

Good news! St. Vincent's is planning a weekend retreat at the Malvern Retreat House, November 8-10, 2019. Those who were able to attend our 2016 retreat in Harvey Cedars remember what wonderful opportunities for faith sharing and community building a parish retreat provides. We will share more news in the coming months; right now, retreat co-chairs Wiley Redding and Christine Eberle are seeking dedicated volunteers to form the Cor Team. (Cor = Heart!) This is a fifteen-month commitment to the planning process, including monthly meetings (generally on Saturdays) and committee work. We are seeking volunteers with passion & skill in the areas of Publicity, Logistics, Art, Hospitality, Program Design and Fundraising. Intrigued? Contact Wiley at wlredding21@gmail.com or Christine at christine0707@me.com with your name, phone number, and area(s) of interest. Please note: The Cor Team will kick-off our work together with a half-day retreat on **Saturday, September 8** from noon – 4:00!

The POWER of Voting!

How can we "bend the arc of history toward justice," as MLK's challenged us to do, with God's help? One way is through exercising our right to VOTE, urging others to do the same, and encouraging each other to stay involved year-round, so elected officials are held accountable to support policies and laws that lift up every family! Please consider joining a growing team of St Vincent's parishioners and members of other local congregations as we reach out in person and by phone to prospective voters across Germantown and in our own networks to push for VOTER REGISTRATION by the Oct 9 deadline! Then urge them to show up at the polls on Nov 6! This is a non-partisan campaign, supported by the POWER Interfaith congregations St Vincent's is a member of (www.powerinterfaith.org)

How do I sign up?

- 1- Contact one of the 3 people listed at the end of this notice.

We'll plug you into a training!

- 2- Save these dates (more dates will be added):

SAT OCT 6: Germantown canvassing day (door-to-door, some at stationary tables)

TUES OCT 9: Deadline to Register

SAT OCT 27: Germantown "Get out the vote" canvassing day

SAT NOV 3: ditto

TUES NOV 6: Election Day

Call Mary Laver (610-324-9388), Terri Burgin (215-651-0100)

or Delia Landers (215-431-8542).

MEALS ON WHEELS

Do you or someone you know have need of nutritious home-delivered meals? Chestnut Hill Meals on Wheels is here to help with volunteers delivering two fresh meals a day, up to five days a week. The cost is \$9/day for two meals, \$4.50/day for one meal. Limited subsidies are available. No need for meals, but interested in volunteering? We always need volunteer drivers, packers, and bakers! Call 215-233-5555 for information.

TRIVIA NIGHT BENEFIT: MY PLACE GERMANTOWN

September 29 6pm at Presbyterian Church of Chestnut Hill. \$50 admission for fun game playing, dessert buffet, chances for gift certificates to local restaurants, theatres, golf courses, etc. Go to myplacegermantown.org to register or fill out form in back of church before September 15.

Saint Vincent de Paul Parish
Registration Form

Thanks for being here! If you would like to become an ACTIVE member of St. Vincent De Paul Parish (full-time or part-time), we invite you to **complete the Parish Registration form below.**

Date _____ Envelope number _____

Name _____

last

first

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Date of Birth _____ Home Phone _____

Cell _____

Email _____

Full name and relationship of all resident family members

_____ DOB _____ Relationship _____

_____ DOB _____ Relationship _____

_____ DOB _____ Relationship _____

_____ DOB _____ Relationship _____

Have you received the Sacraments?

() Baptism () Confirmation () First Communion

Are you interested in

() Liturgical Ministry () Service Ministry

(Can you sing, lector, teach....)

**Please place completed form in the Offeratory basket
or send to the Parish Office and we will contact you.**

.....

**Bulletin Deadline: Mondays by noon. Email to
secretary@saint-vincent-church.org**

St. Vincent de Paul Church
Electronic Donation Authorization ES6255

Thank you for considering donations to St. Vincent de Paul electronically via your bank account. Please complete this form so that we can set things up for you. If you have questions, contact JoAnn at business@saint-vincent-church.org.

Date_____ Envelope Number_____

Electronic Type: New____ Change____

Name_____last_____first_____

Address_____

City_____ State__ Zip_____

Telephone #_____

Cell #_____

Email_____

Date of 1st Donation_____

Amount of Donation_____

Frequency:

Monthly on the **1st** _____

Monthly on the **15th** _____

Weekly (**every Monday**) _____

Weekly (**every other Monday**)_____

Bank Routing Number_____

Account Number_____

Please debit my checking account per **attached voided check**. (If you wish to debit your savings account, please contact your bank for routing and account number.) **I authorize the above organization to process debit entries to my bank account. I understand that this authority will remain in effect until I provide reasonable notification to terminate the authorization.**
Authorized signature and Date:

Prayers of the Faithful
September 1-2, 2018
22nd Sunday of Ordinary Time

(At the 11 o'clock mass, please add **Lord, hear our prayer** after each petition and the response is: **Lord, hear our prayer.**)

We pray for the Church: its clergy, religious, and laity that together they may root out the evil of sexual abuse.

We pray for Pope Francis as he is confronted with the clergy abuse scandal. May he have the courage and wisdom to find his way through this darkness and lead the Church with humility and truthfulness.

We pray for the victims of sexual abuse. May they find solace in the acknowledgement of their suffering, and may their wounds be healed.

We pray on this labor day weekend for those workers who struggle to make ends meet. May they secure a just wage and improved working conditions.

We pray for Father Joe, Brother Al, Evelyn Rodgers, and all our parishners who are ill or facing difficult medical procedures. May the healing love of Jesus surround them and encourage them.

We pray for all our loved ones who have passed from this life. May the love we've shared in life and our belief in a loving God be a source of peace for all who are grieving.

Mary Ellen Graham
Peg McFadden

ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR SEPTEMBER 1ST AND 2ND, 2018

Welcome to Fr. Joseph!

Brother Al is back!

Evelyn Rogers was transferred to University of Pennsylvania/Presbyterian Hospital and is in the ICU. Please keep her in your prayers. Please do not visit.

FEAST OF ST. VINCENT AND ST. LOUISE: On Sunday, September 23rd, there will be **ONE MASS**, at 10 am.

THE BIRTHDAY OF MARY: The weekend of September 8th is the Catholic Church's commemoration of the birthday of Blessed Mary, Mother of Jesus. This celebration is ancient. Celebrated in the Eastern Church since at least the 6th century and in our Roman Rite since the 7th century. As a parish, we will honor the birthday of our Blessed Mother by praying the *Magnificat*; her powerful prayer from the gospel of Luke (1:46-55), for justice and an end to all oppression, as she welcomed God's arrival in the most powerful way.

AFRICAN FANS: The fans have arrived. They are available after Mass this weekend.

ST. VINCENT SCHOLARSHIP: Scholarships are available to all active members, who are sending children to Catholic schools (from Kindergarten to 12th).

BEN MELAKU, C.M.: Ben, who was part of our Gospel Choir, our Black Lives Matter and POWER, when he was here as a novice, will be ordained a deacon, on Saturday, October 20th, at 10 am, at St. Vincent De Paul Church, in Chicago. Ben asked that I invite everyone. After the Mass, there is a reception. If you plan to go to Chicago that weekend, please call Scott, at (623) 202-2445 or email scottdjakub80@gmail.com.

FINDING GOD IN ORDINARY TIME: Parishioner, cantor, and petition-writer Christine Eberle's first book, *Finding God in Ordinary Time*, is being published on September 17 by Green Writers Press. Come celebrate with a reading and book signing after the vigil Mass on Saturday, October 6! Starting at 5:30, Christine will give a brief talk in church, read an excerpt from her book, and answer questions; then we will adjourn to the rectory for wine & cheese, dessert, and book signing. Christine will also sell and sign books at hospitality and following the 11:00 Mass on Sunday, October 7. You can learn more about *Finding God in Ordinary Time* at christine-marie-eberle.com/book.

CHURCH VAN: We are looking to sell our fifteen passenger van. It's a 2001 Chevrolet Express, with only 35,000 miles on it. Comparable vans with 60,000 to 70,000 miles are selling for \$6000. If anyone is interested, please see Father Sy (price is negotiable). Soon we will put it on the market.

UPCOMING MEETINGS:

- Liturgy, Monday, September 10th, at 7 pm.
- Pastoral Council, September 13th, at 7 pm.

PAR RECYCLE WORKS: If you have old equipment to donate, please deliver it to PAR RECYCLE WORKS, at 342 East Walnut Lane (267-335-5455). Please do not drop the items off at the church.

NOTE FROM CLOW (CHILDREN'S LITURGY OF THE WORD):

Dear Families,

I hope everyone had a blessed summer break, and had an opportunity to refocus, relax, and refresh. It won't be long, and we will begin a new year of Religious Education! We welcome you & are happy to have you participate in our programs.

I want to thank our dedicated parents who teach Jesus' Gospel and help the children grow in their faith & love of God and his Church. God gives us amazing grace when we answer God's call to carry on the joyful mission to teach as Jesus did. We would like to invite all parents to registration for Children's Liturgy of the Word, on Sunday, September 9, 2018. Following both the nine, and the eleven o'clock mass, all parents are invited to the first Children's Liturgy of the Word parents meeting. At the meetings, parents are encouraged to register their children, express any concerns they may have, or provide recommendations for the 2018 Children's Liturgy of the Word year. The first day of classes will be September 16, 2018. Please enjoy the remainder of the summer.

God Bless,

Kevin and Suzanne

- Meeting for parents is next Sunday, September 9th, after 9 and 11 am Masses.
- CLOW begins Sunday, September 16th.

BIBLE STUDY

WEDNESDAY EVENINGS

STARTING WEDNESDAY

September 5, 2018

7:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

JOIN US AS WE JOURNEY THROUGH
THE GOSPEL OF MATTHEW



SEEK The LORD
While He MAY
BE FOUND.

This Photo by Unknown Author is

CALLING ALL SENIORS!!!

It's that time AGAIN! THE

SENIOR MINISTRY WILL RESUME

MEETING ON WEDNESDAYS BEGINNING

SEPTEMBER 12, 2018. FOR MORE

INFORMATION OR QUESTIONS, PLEASE

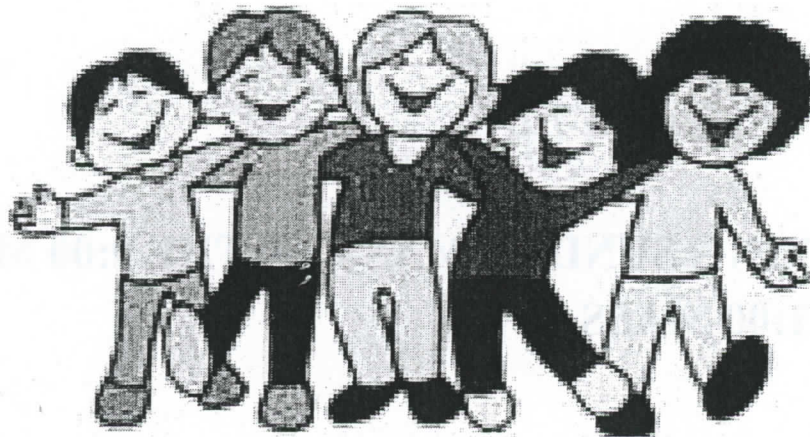
CONTACT JERRY SMITH (215-508-0427).

CLOW (CHILDREN'S LITURGY OF THE WORD)

WILL BE BACK ON SEPTEMBER 16TH, 2018

PARENT MEETING ON SEPTEMBER 9TH, 2018

Welcome to Children's Liturgy



**Co-Directors of Religious Education:
Kevin Gomez & Suzanne Garnett**

WHAT IS CLOW?

CLOW (CHILDREN'S LITURGY OF THE WORD) refers to the practice of children leaving the Sunday assembly during the Liturgy of the Word and gathering elsewhere to celebrate a separate Liturgy of the Word that is more appropriate to their level of understanding.

MOTTO: LOVE GOD, LOVE YOURSELF, LOVE OTHERS

Grades: Pre-K through 7th

WHEN: DURING SUNDAY MASS AT THE 9:00 MASS AND THE 11:00 MASS

QUESTIONS OR CONCERNS?

EMAIL US: DRE@SAINT-VINCENT-CHURCH.ORG

My Place Germantown's **TRIVIA NIGHT**

Annual fundraiser to support the mission of My Place Germantown

*A casual evening of fun, laughter and a chance to show off
how much you know (or don't know!)*

- Who:** You and Your Friends
(Trivia competition will be played in teams of eight. If you don't have enough to fill your table, we'll seat you with others to complete your table. And adults 21+ only, please.)
- What:** An evening of **TRIVIA**, including a dessert buffet. And it's **BYOB!**
- When:** Saturday, September 29, 2018
Doors open at 6:00pm; Trivia begins promptly at 7:00pm
- Where:** **Presbyterian Church of Chestnut Hill**
8855 Germantown Avenue (directly next to Chestnut Hill Hospital)
Philadelphia PA 19118 — Plenty of complimentary on-site parking
- Price:** \$40pp if paid by September 1 / \$50pp if paid after September 1
Includes trivia competition, soft drinks, dessert buffet and table snacks
- Raffle:** In addition to the trivia game, we'll be raffling off gift certificates/gift cards and more from local restaurants, hotels, theaters, golf courses . . .
Raffle will be open from 6-7pm and during the dessert break
- Payment:** Fill in registration/payment info on the RSVP page and send completed form to My Place Germantown, POBox 12218, Philadelphia PA 19144
Check - Payable to My Place Germantown
Cash
PayPal / Credit Card - Go to www.myplacegermantown.org (Click on Donate)

My Place Germantown is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization.
All contributions to My Place Germantown are tax-deductible to the extent provided by law.

Send completed form to My Place Germantown
POBox 12218, Philadelphia PA 19144

My Place Germantown's **TRIVIA NIGHT**

September 29, 2018

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Email: _____ Phone: _____

Please complete:

_____ # of Trivia attendees @ \$40pp (\$50pp after 9/1) = \$_____

_____ I/We are unable to attend, but would like to donate \$_____

Payment is made via (check one):

- ☐ Cash (enclosed)
- ☐ Check payable to My Place Germantown (enclosed)
- ☐ PayPal / Credit Card (online)

Trivia competition is played in teams of eight. If you don't have enough to fill your table, we'll seat you with others to complete your table.

Please seat me/us with:

1. _____ 2. _____
3. _____ 4. _____
5. _____ 6. _____
7. _____ 8. _____

RSVP DEADLINE IS SEPTEMBER 15, 2018

My Place Germantown is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization.
All contributions to My Place Germantown are tax-deductible to the extent provided by law.



HAVE MERCY ON US, O LORD

A PRAYER VIGIL OF REPARATION AND PETITION

All Catholics of the greater Philadelphia area are invited to an evening of prayer before Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament to ask for His mercy upon His Church in this moment of profound crisis. We come to make reparation for our own sins and those of our bishops and priests. We come also in confident hope that from Christ's superabounding mercy will come the purification, healing and restoration of holiness for which we long.

IN REPARATION FOR:

All sins of sexual abuse and sexual immorality, especially by members of the Catholic clergy
All sins of cowardice, deception, sloth and self-protection, especially among those in positions of authority in the Church
Our collective indifference to Christ's teachings on human sexuality
All forms of scandal and infidelity, including our own personal sins, through which we have been an obstacle to others finding God

IN PETITION FOR THE GRACES OF:

Healing for the victims of sexual abuse
Purgation of the Church from all evil
Rooting out of all compromise, infidelity and lukewarmness in our own lives and in those of our bishops and priests
New outpouring of the Holy Spirit to set the Church aflame with radical holiness, fidelity and zeal for the Gospel

Archdiocese of Philadelphia · archphila.org/vigil

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 14

FEAST OF THE EXALTATION OF THE HOLY CROSS

5 PM TO MIDNIGHT

The doors of the Cathedral will be open to all who wish to come and pray during this period. Everyone is invited to make this a day of fasting.

5 PM - Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

7 PM - Holy Hour of Reparation

12 AM - Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament

CATHEDRAL BASILICA OF
SAINTS PETER AND PAUL
18TH ST & BENJAMIN FRANKLIN PKWY
PHILADELPHIA, PA 19103

I Love This Church

*In the course of a half century,
I have seen more Christian corruption
than you have ever read of.*

*I have tasted it.
I have been reasonably corrupt myself.*

*And yet, I love this church,
this living, pulsing, sinning people of God
with a crucifying passion.*

Why?

*For all the Christian hate,
I experience here a community of love.*

*For all the institutional idiocy,
I find here a tradition of reason.*

*For all the individual repressions,
I breathe here an air of freedom.*

*For all the fear of sex,
I discover here the redemption of my body.*

*In an age so inhuman,
I touch here tears of compassion.*

*In a world so grim and humorless,
I share here rich joy and earthy laughter.*

*In the midst of death,
I hear an incomparable stress on life.*

*For all the apparent absence of God,
I sense here the real presence of Christ.*

Walter Burghardt, S.J.

An open letter from "ChristLife" creator Dave Nodar regarding the present crisis in the Catholic Church.

Dear brothers and sisters,

This is a time of widespread shaking in the Catholic Church. Not of persecution and imprisonment for the faith, as is the case in some nations. Rather, it is the revelations of homosexual activity among clergy, abuse in seminaries and parishes, pedophilia, and sinful cover-ups at the highest levels by some diocesan leadership*. These continuing revelations have left many laity and clergy angry, sorrowful, ashamed, and confused.

What shall we do?

The author of Hebrews exhorts us:

*"Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful. And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near." **Hebrews 10:23-25***

Here are a few things we can do as we walk through this storm together.

"He who promised is faithful."

First, turn to Jesus.

Cling to the Lord. Treasure Him in your heart. Every member of the Church is called to ongoing repentance and personal surrender to Jesus as Lord. He founded the Church. He continues to give us his Body and Blood. He gives us faithful brothers and sisters to walk with during times of trials. Turn to Jesus.

"Consider how to stir one another up to love and good works."

Second, help one another to stand firm in love and good works.

The Lord wants us to keep doing what we are always called to do—namely growing in loving God and our neighbors. We must continue to be witnesses of God's merciful love in this season of the Church.

One of the ways we do good works is by offering prayers for healing of the abused, and reparation of the sins of those who perpetrated these evils. This week Fr. Erik Arnold's parish, Our Lady of Perpetual Help, held an evening of Adoration with prayer for the victims of abuse and reparation for the sins of those involved with the abuse. If your church or diocese isn't hosting a public event, you can do this during your own personal holy hour or with your family or small group.

"Do not neglect to meet together, as is the habit of some."

Third, keep going to church and stay rooted in Christian community.

The temptation is to drop out of the race, which we are called to run together. Some will say: "I'll just go it alone, Jesus and me." But we need one another precisely at times like this. The devil always tempts us in times of trial and sin to go off on our own. He wants to divide and isolate us. It's the way a predator animal goes after its prey; like a wolf trying to drive a sheep off by itself for the kill. We need one another.

"Encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near."
Finally, encourage one another.

Throughout the history of the Church there have been times of severe testing. Even today, brothers and sisters are imprisoned and martyred for their faith in Christ. In times of testing, Christians are reminded of the importance of encouraging one another, of imparting courage to one another. Please don't forget to encourage your priests and bishops who are living godly lives.

The Lord is with us in this time, and we pray that this would be a time of purification, repentance, and reform. May He continue to grant us grace to stay close to Him, to encourage one another, and bring many to know His saving love.

Your brother,
Dave Nodar

who "shares with you in Jesus the tribulation and the kingdom and the patient endurance"
(Revelation 1:8)

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Editorial: The body of Christ must reclaim our church

by NCR Editorial Staff

Editor's note: The following editorial was written and will appear in the Aug. 24-30 print issue of NCR, which went to press the day before Cardinal Daniel DiNardo, president of the U.S. bishops' conference, revealed that the bishops were inviting the Vatican to conduct an apostolic visitation to the country to lead a "full investigation" into questions surrounding Cardinal Archbishop Theodore McCarrick, that the bishops will take steps to create channels for easier reporting of abuse and misconduct by bishops, and that the bishops will push for better procedures under canon law to resolve complaints made against bishops.

We welcome yesterday's announcement as a good first step in resolving the crisis that has enveloped the Catholic Church. Particularly encouraging is that the bishops have listed "substantial leadership by laity" as one of the criteria for meeting their goals. That, too, is a step along the way.

Cardinal DiNardo's statement is addressed to "Brothers and Sisters in Christ" and ends this request: "Let me ask you to hold us to all of these resolutions." The bishops should know that we will be watching.

With what we have learned about the abuse of minors and seminarians perpetuated by Theodore McCarrick and his parallel rise through the ranks of the church, coupled with the scathing grand jury report out of Pennsylvania that chronicles in vivid detail the rape of children and the culture of secrecy that enabled the abuse to continue for decades, what are Catholics feeling?

Anger and disgust don't seem strong enough words. Revulsion? Horror? Betrayal?

The revelations of the last two months make undeniably clear that it is time for the laity to reclaim our ownership of this church. We are the body of Christ, we are the church. It is time that we demand that bishops claim their true vocations as servants to the people of God. And they must live that way.

At this time, it seems laity can do very little to effect the changes needed to bring about the solutions to the large issues that plague the church now — careerism, abuse of power, lack of transparency, no accountability. The fact is laypeople in our church today have little power.

That said, as any community organizer would tell you, we have the power of the collective. Now more than ever, we — the laity — need to speak with a united voice. We must turn our anger into resolve.

It is shocking that after decades of revelations of sexual abuse of children, there is still no clear accountability for bishops. We must demand change.

First, tell our bishops that we no longer trust them, individually or collectively. The trust we may have had is now shattered.

Second, tell our bishops that regaining our trust requires reform in how the church as an institution operates.

In the next weeks and months, the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops will be studying the issues that arise from the McCarrick case. The conference will appoint committees, authorize studies and make plans. We must demand and be given full lay participation in all the committees and study groups, and we must have full transparency of all that these committees and groups see and do.

Furthermore, we must demand and receive full lay participation in whatever tribunals, councils or visitation teams result from these efforts. We won't settle for tokenism or mere "advisory roles."

If canon law doesn't allow the lay involvement we would seek, we respond: Change the law.

Furthermore, women should be as equally represented as men in these study groups, commissions, tribunals and councils. We would especially recommend reserving places in these groups for women religious. There are many leaders of women's congregations who are more than qualified to serve on any of these bodies, particularly those in the U.S. who endured years of Vatican scrutiny under the apostolic visitation and the doctrinal assessment of the Leadership Conference of Women Religious.

Indeed, if the effort the Vatican had expended on such baseless examinations had instead been focused on cleaning house of abusive or complicit bishops and priests, how much further along might we be in healing from the cancer of sexual abuse that weakens the church among its followers and erodes its moral standing in the world?

What plagues the church today — as the Pennsylvania grand jury demonstrates — resulted from the lack of accountability of bishops and religious superiors. Any Catholic has the right to petition their bishop, a major superior, the apostolic nuncio, the appropriate dicasteries in Rome, even the pope. But from the local level all the way to Rome, there is no accountable, transparent process to ensure that grievances are received, let alone acted upon.

We know, for example, that staff at the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith refused to send acknowledgements that they had received letters from victims of clergy sex abuse. Such an attitude perpetuates a culture of impunity that must change.

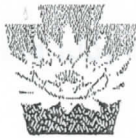
The next time you go to Mass and as you kneel in that silence that envelops the church just before liturgy begins, utter a prayer for this battered and wounded body we call the church. Pray for a renewal and inspiration from the Holy Spirit, and pray for a reform of our broken system. Then glance to your left and your right. Kneeling beside you are likely the strongest allies you have in rebuilding a church so badly in need of reform.

This affects all of us — the people of God. It's more than past time that we the laity demand more of our church leaders.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

August 14, 2018

Joint Response to Release of Grand Jury Report

Harrisburg, PA – The Pennsylvania Office of Victim Advocate, Pennsylvania Coalition Against Rape, and the Archdiocese of Philadelphia's Office for Child and Youth Protection have joined to share resources and provide support to survivors and parishes in the wake of the release of the grand jury report.

We recognize that news coverage about sexual abuse, transcripts of victim testimony, and the resultant conversations amongst friends, neighbors and family can often be traumatic and bring about feelings of helplessness, anger or despair for victims, parishes and the community.

This report and its scope may deeply impact victims and our community at large. We want all affected to know they are not alone - there are free and confidential resources for those victims identified within the report, for parishioners in need of assistance with processing the report, as well as the community in general who may need guidance in talking through the emotional toll. Our agencies are available to provide supportive measures your community may need – assistance with hosting dialogue around these difficult realities, help in locating written resources for hope and healing, validation via phone or community in-person conversation.

The entities identified below are free and confidential for anyone who is in need of guidance or assistance. Information will not be shared between agencies.

For those seeking rape/sexual assault counseling:

Pennsylvania Coalition Against Rape

888-772-7227

For those seeking resources within the Archdiocese of Philadelphia, and for information on resources available in other Pennsylvania diocese:

Archdiocese of Philadelphia, Office for Child and Youth Protection

888-800-8780

For those seeking community crisis response assistance:

Keystone Crisis Intervention Team

215-343-6543

As the partnership between these three entities continues, ongoing resources will be developed and shared throughout Pennsylvania.

If you suspect child abuse, call ChildLine, the 24-hour statewide system operated by the PA Department of Human Services, toll free at 800-932-0313.

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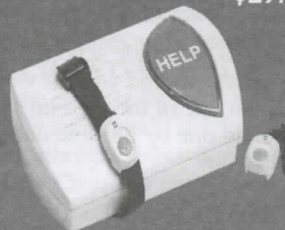
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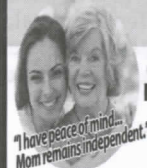
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