

Catholic Community of Lawrence County

Stewardship Report
July 2022-June 2023

St. Mary of the Assumption Catholic
Church

St. Vincent de Paul Catholic Church



Pastoral Staff

Father Jegan Peter

pastor@svsbedford.org

Deacon Tom Scarlett
deacontom@svsbedford.org

Deacon Dave Reising
deacon@svsbedford.org

Administrative Staff

St. Vincent Secretary
Elizabeth Cole
parish@svsbedford.org

St. Mary Secretary
Joyce Daugherty
stmarysmitchell294@gmail.com

St. Vincent Bookkeeper
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tinchers@svsbedford.org

CCLC Business Manager
Mark Coressel
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Director of Religious Education
Kim Getman
getmank@svsbedford.org

St. Vincent Music Director
Jay Elliott
elliottj@svsbedford.org

CCLC Youth Ministers
Cameron and April Lyle
youthministry@svsbedford.org
(812) 592-3534 (April)
(812) 592-5538 (Cameron)

St. Vincent School Principal
Teresa Underwood
underwoodt@svsbedford.org

Office Hours

St. Vincent
Monday – Friday
9 am – 4 pm
(812) 275-6539

St. Mary
Monday and Thursday 2 pm – 4 pm
Tuesday 9 am – 1 pm
Wednesday 9 am – 6 pm
(812) 849-3570

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Peace of Christ!

We, the Catholic Community of Lawrence County are a blessed Community founded in Christ, guided by our Mother Blessed Virgin Mary and St. Vincent de Paul, passing our Catholic values to the next generation with a great love for Christ and commitment to the teachings of the Holy Catholic Church and serving as missionaries for God's kingdom on this Earth.

At the wedding in Cana, Mother asks the servants, "Do whatever he tells" As we believe and experience the providence of God in our lives, let us learn to do what our Lord had commanded us to do. We are blessed in many ways by our loving God who has been always with us and pours out abundant blessings on each one of us and each family in our community. We are all stewards in the kingdom of God. We all have a mission in our Catholic community. Though we are caught up with many of our family responsibilities and social concerns, we are generously able to share the blessings with our Catholic Community here in Lawrence County.

This report, a great work of many hands and an amazing blessing from God to our community would give us a clear vision of where we can take our next step and our focus for the future so that God would lead us all to do His divine will. I appreciate and thank all our Parishioners for our generous, loving, and caring works of charity, love, and evangelization in our Catholic Community. I thank our Stewardship Committee in a laudable way for their hard work to bring this report in a beautiful way as a report in our hands.

May God's generous blessings continue to be accepted by you with praise and thanks and may you experience the joy of using them for His mission.

To be the witness to His love,

Fr. Jegan

Our Stewardship Mission

The purpose of stewardship is to encourage parishioners to practice stewardship as an expression of gratitude to God and as a way of life for disciples in Christ.

CCLC Mission Statement

Believing that we are created by God the Father, redeemed by Jesus His Son, guided and renewed by the Holy Spirit, we, the Catholic Community of Lawrence County, making use of our God-given talents, time, and treasure, strive to take an active role in our Church and our community, imitating the life of our patron saint, by worshipping God, teaching and sharing the Gospel, reaching out to those in need, living the life of our Savior.

Pastoral Council

Most Recent activities

- Parish Pastoral Governance structure improvements works in progress.

- Parish Pastoral Council Workshop to develop plans for development of a revised CCLC Constitution and its fulfillment.
- Draft of new CCLC Constitution, per Archdiocese framework
- Focus on staffing of all Commissions per the revised Constitution to support the CCLC membership, Pastor, Pastoral Staff and CCLC activities/priorities.
- Began implementation of New Constitution Bylaws and Standing Rules.

Historical activities

- Incorporation of CCLC
- Updating of facilities use agreements
- Financial support of Campus maintenance projects
- Roof maintenance projects - both parishes
- St. Mary's door replacements
- Conversion of facility lighting to more efficient LED
- HVAC system maintenance
- Rectory remodel
- CCLC photo directory updates
- Support of St. Vincent School activities

John Marshek, jmarshek@gmail.com

Finance Councils

Each parish of the CCLC has a Finance Council which operates in accordance with Canon 537 of Canon Law. It is the responsibility of each Finance council to aid the pastor with the financial needs of the parish with a consultative voice only. The Finance Council of each parish has the responsibility of overseeing the parish budget process,

providing for the financial controls, analysis of financial reports, review and approval of the annual operating budgets, new facility expenditures, and review of extraordinary expenditures. The Finance Councils also provide periodic reports to the parish relative to the parish finances.

Ross Jean, thegrjean@gmail.com, (812) 508-5632.

Commission for School

The Pastor and the CCLC Pastoral Council shall establish the

Commission as the policymaking and planning body for St. Vincent de Paul School. Commission policy and decisions shall be binding throughout the school upon written ratification by the Pastor.

- **School Commission** – A twelve-member commission, composed of appointed members of the parish and school, works with the pastor and principal to oversee the mission and goals of St. Vincent de Paul School. Meetings are held each month. The Commission helps in developing and executing the 5-year strategic plan for the school. The Strategic Plan for 2020-2025 includes goals for a rigorous academic and religious studies curriculum which is supported by all school leadership. An aggressive marketing and development program is vital to the financial health of the school, and therefore, the Commission is involved in fundraising and awareness of the value of our school to the community.

Alan Bush, (812) 277-5959

- **St. Vincent de Paul School** - For over 100 years, S.t Vincent School has served the Catholic Community of Lawrence County, and people of all faiths from surrounding communities. The mission of the school is to provide an education of outstanding academic excellence within the context of a Catholic faith community. The school endeavors to develop the spiritual, academic, social and emotional potential of students in pre- school through eighth grade, and to foster students' God-given talents, so that they may be faith-filled, productive members of society.

St. Vincent School is fully accredited with the State of Indiana and adheres to the National Standards and benchmarks set forth by the National Catholic Education Association. These include four pillars for excellence: Mission and Catholic Identity, Governance and Leadership, Academic Excellence, and Operational Vitality. Working with local and Archdiocesan school leadership, the school completes a five-year strategic plan. The current plan covers 2020-2025.

The school employs 30 teachers and support staff. Student enrollment in 2022-23 was 180. The projected enrollment for the 2023-24 program year is 218.

St. Vincent School has a tradition of academic excellence. The school has maintained an A" rating with the State of Indiana for the last 8 years, and ILEARN test scores are the highest among Lawrence County schools. In addition, the school has a multitude of extracurricular activities for students. It has a competitive athletic program that includes tennis,

volleyball, cross country, basketball and track. Many St. Vincent students are currently competing in their respective sports at the high school and collegiate level. There are also opportunities to participate in academic competitions including Spellbowl, Mathbowl, Science Olympiad, and Lego League Robotics. Because of our mission of evangelization of families, the parish has always supported the school, while seeking to make the cost affordable for families who desire a Catholic education for their children. In recent years, the Indiana School Choice Voucher Program, the Archdiocesan Scholarship Foundation, and the S.t Vincent Guardian Angel Fund have made it possible for up to 100% tuition and fees to be paid, based on income eligibility of the family. Parents wishing to enroll their children are highly encouraged to contact the school principal for information on enrollment and tuition scholarships.

Teresa Underwood, Principal,
(812) 279-2540, info@svsbedford.org.

Commission for Faith Formation

The purpose of the Commission is to establish policies and set goals pertaining to life-long faith formation of the CCLC in coordination with the Director of Religious Education.

- **Children's Liturgy** - Children's liturgy meets two Sundays of the month at the 10:30 mass at St.

Vincent. A lesson and craft are provided by the Director of Religious Education for use with the children. Leaders read a child's version of that Sunday's gospel followed by a discussion. A craft follows the lesson for the children to complete. An average of 10 children ages 5 through second grade attend with the adult volunteer. We currently only have one adult leader for this ministry.

Kim Brown, (812) 569-3382

Kim Getman, Director of Religious Education,
getmank@svsbedford.org

- **RCIA** - RCIA had 8 new enthusiastic members come into the Church. The schedule went from September 2022 to April 2023, and we met each Wednesday from 7:00 PM until 8:00 PM in the St Vincent DePaul room. The classes were led by 6 different instructors on a rotating basis and Fr Jegan provided the curriculum guidelines for the year. We had optional congregation participation for the first time, and we had 3 volunteers as sponsors from our parishes.

Susan Johnson, (708) 267-

7827, susancdjm@gmail.com

- **Religious Education for Children**
 - Family Catechesis Program – Family of Faith
 - Classes met twice monthly from October to May for a total of 16 class dates
 - 15 families registered with an average attendance of 13 families per date
 - Average attendance by class; Toddler six, PK and K - ten, Gr. 1 and 2 - six, Gr. 3 and 4 - seven, Gr. 5 and 6 - eleven, Adult - twenty-four

- Total average program attendance of 64
- Sacrament of Confirmation
 - Classes met weekly for 25 weeks between October and April
 - Full day retreat was held onsite on February 11th with an attendance of 15
 - 16 students registered with an average attendance of 14 students per class
 - 16 students were confirmed at St. Vincent de Paul Parish on April 23rd
- Sacrament of First Holy Communion
 - Classes met weekly for 25 weeks between October and April
 - 12 students registered (6 parish, 6 school) with an average attendance of 11
 - Half-day retreat was held onsite on April 29th with an attendance of 12
 - 12 students received First Holy Communion on Saturday, May 6th

Goals of CCLC Religious Education program for 2023-24:

We welcome the opportunity to partner with parents in the religious education of their children, providing instruction in the Catholic faith through weekly religious education sessions and participation in one of the three weekend Masses. Our catechists and volunteers are committed to creating a safe, nurturing, and fun learning environment. Religious Education includes catechesis for children in grades PK – 6, preparation for the Sacraments of Reconciliation and First Holy

Communion, Confirmation, and RCIC (Rite of Christian Initiation of Children).

- To teach students Sacred Tradition, Scripture, and the Doctrines of the Catholic Faith
- To teach and prepare students for the Sacraments
- To assist students in prayer and spiritual growth
- To encourage students to live their faith through participation and service

For questions regarding our religious education programs, please contact Kim Getman, Director of Religious Education at (812)275-6539 ext. 227, getmank@svsbedford.org

- **VBS** - Shine Jesus' Light, Stellar VBS was held from June 20-23, 2023, at the Shamrock Center. There were 56 participants and 34 volunteers. There were several stations each evening for the children: All-star fun and games; KidVid; Imagination Station; and Bible Adventures. Every evening dinner was served to the children, VBS staff, and any parents who wanted to stay. Thursday night ended with a finale party for the kids. A lot of work goes into preparing for the week with registration, materials, and decorations. We had 17 preschoolers with volunteers working hard to keep the little ones interested with fun activities. Thank you to everyone who made up this year's Stellar team!

Amy Miskuf, flocknote@svsbedford.org

- **Youth Ministry** - Youth Ministry, grades 8 - 12, meet every Wednesday evening for hours of fellowship, games, activities, and fundraising for big events like NCYC. We have been blessed with 25+ youth!

Through the sharing of gifts from our generous parishioners, our ministry will be able to carry out our mission of bringing the Gospel message to the young people of our parishes and community. For any questions, please don't hesitate to call or email.

Youth Ministers
Cameron Lyle (812)592-5538
April Lyle (812)592-3534
youthministry@svsbedford.org

Commission for Family Life

The purpose of the Commission is to inform and involve the CCLC community in services to one another and to the larger local and global Community.

- **Bereavement**

St. Mary - The Bereavement committee helps ease the burden of people who have lost a loved one. This is done by providing a meal for family and friends after the service. Volunteers are needed to make some of the food provided and to help with set-up, clean-up, and serve the meal. This past year, only one funeral was held at St. Mary and the family declined the provided meal. Anyone interested in being a part of this ministry, please call Arlette Duymovic Stephenson, (812) 275-9123

St. Vincent - St. Vincent de Paul Bereavement Ministry provides a meal for family and friends of deceased parishioners following the final good-byes

to their loved one. This allows all to gather and spend time together with comfort food. Ten teams of 7-9 volunteers rotate to provide meals for the families. This year, eight meals were served, and three meat trays were delivered.

Rosemary Stanley, (812) 275-6622

- **Family Life and Welcome Committee** - This committee plans meals after the Saturday evening mass in the Shamrock Center. We have served homemade soups with sandwiches, a hot dog/coney bar, and a taco bar. We donate the desserts each month. Most of our meals are catered from local restaurants in which we have had pizza, Subway sandwiches, Italian night, barbecue, and fried chicken, as well as pitch-ins. A few of the special events provided were punch and cookies for All Souls' Day, meals for the Lenten spiritual retreat, breakfast for the priests, care baskets for the deacons and the archbishop, and Confirmation and First Communion receptions. Attendance varies for the Saturday meals from 34 to 125, with average attendance around 85. There are between 8-12 volunteers available to set up, serve, and clean up the events.

Beth Lewis, (812) 508-0326

Linda Fitzpatrick, (812) 797-9555

- **Farewell Committee** – a newly formed committee as of July 2023. Members of the committee will be contacted via phone, text, email, and/or Flocknote when a parishioner passes away. Committee members will attend memorials, funerals, and rosaries for the deceased. Burying the dead is a

corporal work of mercy and a way to support the deceased's family.

Gene Abel, (812) 276-1733

- **Giving Tree**

St. Vincent – In November, a tree was placed in the back of St. Vincent with tags of names of children in need of gifts for Christmas. Three items per child were collected, wrapped, and brought to the parish office for distribution. In 2022, 26 children and 11 families were helped. Each family was also given a ham or turkey courtesy of the St. Vincent de Paul Society.

Mike and Geri Daugherty

(812) 902-9074 (Mike)

(812) 902-9044 (Geri)

St. Mary - In December 2022, 40 volunteers provided gifts for 55 children supported by Healthy Families Indiana (HFI). A team of 3 volunteers sorted through early donations, printed gift tags, and set up the tree in November. All gifts were back by the first weekend in December. Gifts were then sorted by child and 3 vehicles were loaded up with gifts for delivery at the Healthy Families offices the following week. A big THANK YOU to everyone who is a part of this community outreach activity!

Irene Stockton, irene.stockton@hotmail.com

(812) 276-6681

- **Meal Train** - Meals are provided for parish and school families for reasons such as death in the family, newborn baby, illness, or surgery. There is no

cost to the parish as Meal Train runs from a free website. The Meal Train had 39 participating members who provided 69 meals this year. Amy Miskuf, flocknote@svsbedford.org

- **Mom's Group** - Ladies 8am prayer group with rosary and coffee met Monday mornings in the St. Vincent's de Paul room last Fall. Three to four ladies attended each time.

Laura Dusard, (812) 675-7988

- **Parish Fellowship** – Events conducted during the fiscal year were:
 - All Saints Day Chili Dinner held November 5, 2022. Approximately 80 people attended with 4-6 volunteers.
 - Historical Church Tour held December 11, 2022. Attendance was approximately 120 people with 6-8 volunteers.
 - Catholic Schools Week Open House held January 20, 2023. Four to six volunteers worked at this event.
 - Coffee and Donuts – held April 2, 2023, with approximately 100 people attending. On May 7, 2023, 75 people attended coffee and donuts. Four volunteers worked these events plus some children.

- Upcoming events
 - Coffee and Donuts – each month for the rest of the calendar year.
 - Parish pool party – August 1, 2023

Melissa Banks, melissaannebanks@yahoo.com,
(317) 446-5990

- **Persimmon Festival Spaghetti Dinner** - This event is part community outreach and part fundraising on one day per year. During the Persimmon Festival in the town of Mitchell, the parishioners of St. Mary put on a spaghetti dinner at the 7th Street tent set up by the festival committee. There are sub-committees that work to bring the whole dinner together. We serve about 200 dinners to the community.

 - 1.) The meat sauce team
 - 2.) Pasta team
 - 3.) The set-up team, both at the tent and in the STM gym kitchen
 - 4.) Serving team
 - 5.) Clean up team

Anyone in a CCLC parish is welcome to join!
 Amy Marshek, jmarshek@gmail.com, (812) 653-3973
- **Pro-Life** - A Pro-Life rosary is said every Wednesday throughout the year before the 5:15 mass at St. Mary's. There are typically 5-10 participants. We also participate in the 40 Days for Life campaigns praying outside Planned Parenthood in Bloomington. Anyone wanting to pray at Planned Parenthood can contact Melissa Epping for more information.
 Melissa Epping, (812) 788-0506
- **Social Committee** – This social committee exists at St. Mary's to provide time to connect with our new parishioners and one another. Donuts are provided on the first Sunday of the month. For this event, we generally serve 30-40 people per month. We also coordinate the First Communion celebrations, feast day receptions, and other non-bereavement events.

Anyone in the parish is welcome to join this committee. We do not raise any funds or receive any donations.

Amy Marshek, jmarshek@gmail.com, (812) 653-3973

- **Sports and Parish Wellness** - During the winter season Father Jegan sponsored volleyball games at the Shamrock Gym. Pick-up basketball games were enjoyed at both parish gyms throughout the year. Additional opportunities for parish wellness activities are welcome throughout the year. The Murphy Gym can be scheduled through the St. Mary's Parish Office, 812-849-3570, and the Shamrock Gym can be scheduled by contacting: Mark Coressel, coresselm@svsbedford.org

Commission for Spiritual Life

The purpose of this commission is to provide individual and communal opportunities for spiritual growth for the CCLC community.

- **Adoration** - Saint Vincent's John Paul Adoration Chapel currently has 53 permanent Adorers who fill the hours Sunday through Saturday. We currently have 33 members who are on call to fill in as substitute adorers. Hours for the adoration chapel are Monday – Friday 9 am – 6 pm and Saturday and Sunday 9 am – 9 pm.
Amy Miller, (812) 508-4209
- **Altar Society**
St. Mary - The mission is to keep the altar updated with the liturgical calendar. We change the linens,

keeping them clean, putting up the decorations and flowers for the coinciding holy days, changing out the candles and keeping the needed items in stock. All parishioners who participate in any of the mass offerings are served by this service. Anyone can volunteer for this committee no fees or donations are collected.

Amy Marshek, jmarshek@gmail.com, (812) 653-3973

St. Vincent – Meetings begin at 11:30 a.m. The rosary is prayed, and lunch is served. Each month, two members bring the desserts and door prizes.

Between 18-20 members attend each meeting. This year, new vestments were purchased for the altar servers. On the first Friday of each month, a Mass is said for the past and present members of the Altar Society. For a \$20 donation, there is a memorial quilt that parishioners can add the names of their deceased loved ones. The quilt is placed on the altar in November celebrating All Saints and All Souls Days. New members are always welcome.

Patty Craig, (812) 583-4566

- **Bible Study**

St. Mary - The St. Mary's Bible Study group meets on Wednesday evenings after the 5:15 mass at St. Mary's (usually around 6:00). This past fall, 9 participants completed Jesus, the Way, the Truth, and the Life from Ascension Press. Beginning in January, another 9 participants read and discussed Still Amidst the Storm by Conor Gallagher (the book given out at Christmas). We also watched and discussed Seasons 1 and 2 of The Chosen.

Melissa Epping, (812) 788-0506

St. Vincent - Women's Bible Study – a six-week Bible study over the book of Colossians, entitled *Rooted and Radiant* from the Walking with Purpose studies, was used. Nineteen women registered for the study which met on six Wednesday evenings from May 17 – June 21. Each member purchased her own book. The study was facilitated by Cathy Andrews, candrews1148@comcast.net and Noelle Jean, nrfjean@gmail.com

- **Caretakers of God's House**

St. Vincent – The church was cleaned weekly, by dusting all surfaces and vacuuming carpets, washing and shining all glass doors, straightening hymnals/missals, and emptying trash. During the Easter and Christmas seasons, floors are mopped and waxed. Occasionally, the choir loft is cleaned. Patty Craig, (812) 320-4754

- **Choir**

St. Mary - Our choir, consisting of 5 volunteers, sing for Sunday Mass and Holy Days. Practice for special masses, Christmas and Easter, is held after mass the week prior. Volunteers needed to sing at funeral masses. Practices would be every month or two to maintain familiarity with the music. Times to be determined.

Vanessa Dorsett, (812) 849-2741

St. Vincent – As friendly music lovers, we meet prior to Mass to coordinate as a group and prepare music to lead the congregation during Mass. The adult choir served at 89 events this year, which includes one Mass each weekend as well as Holy Days of Obligation, and funerals or other occasions. We now

have two Children's choirs in conjunction with the school which served for 154 events including school Masses, weekends, and special occasions. We all work to enhance the liturgy by learning harmonies and growing our individual voices, as we are called in the Parable of the Gifts, so we may be beacons of His light as we unite our instruments. We always have room for more voices of any experience and instrumentalists!

We have 17 adult choir members and 30-40 children's choir members.

Jay Elliott, elliottj@svsbedford.org

- **Communion for the Homebound** - Commissioned Eucharistic Ministers deliver Communion to individuals who are in nursing homes or who are confined to their home. During the fiscal year ended June 30, 2023, 36 different individuals were visited on an ongoing basis either weekly, biweekly or monthly depending on their requested schedule. Twenty Eucharistic Ministers participated in this important ministry bringing the Body of Christ to those unable to attend Mass. Besides providing the homebound an opportunity to receive the Blessed Sacrament, we offer conversation, often form close friendships and share updates on CCLC activities. Our volunteers also help coordinate visits, confession and anointing of the sick with Fr. Jegan Peter for those we serve. A desire to share your time with those in need is the only requirement for joining this ministry.
Linda Smith, (812) 675-3462

- **Evangelization and Outreach** -Evangelization is sharing the good news of Jesus Christ with people. As

disciples of Jesus, we work to make more disciples, who will live that relationship in communion with His body, the Church.

The CCLC evangelization team, made up of members of St. Vincent and St. Mary's, works to reach out to the unchurched, to Catholics who are not regularly participating in the Mass, and to call those who do participate, into a deeper relationship with Christ and His Church. This year, we have set a goal of contacting each family on our parish lists, visiting, and sharing materials that we hope will bring them closer to Jesus. In addition, the committee is becoming trained in the formation of Discipleship (Faith-sharing) Groups.

Kathy Sleva

kathysleva@gmail.com, (812)583-0836

- **Greeters**

St Mary – Nineteen parishioners participated in greeting mass attendees before each 8:30 a.m. mass on Sundays. There are currently eight teams ready to welcome those who enter through the main church doors.

Joyce Daugherty, (812) 849-3570,

stmarysmitchell294@gmail.com

- **Homebound Newsletter** - The newsletter is comprised of a letter from Deacon Dave, activity puzzles, and the mass readings and is published monthly. People involved in the copying and distribution of the newsletter include Greg Stanley, the creator of the newsletter, the parish secretaries, CCLC website administrator, and those who make visits to parishioners who are either homebound or

living in a nursing home. The parish secretary reported that she makes about 20 copies of the newsletter and leaves them in the sacristy to be picked up. She further reported that there are about 10 visitors distributing the newsletters to the homebound. The newsletter is also posted to the CCLC website monthly.
Greg Stanley, (812) 583-5828

- **Lectors/Eucharistic Ministers**

St. Mary - There are currently seven lectors and 10 extraordinary ministers at St. Mary.

Joyce Daugherty,
stmarysmitchell294@gmail.com

St. Vincent – There are 19 lectors, 22 extraordinary ministers, and 20 servers at St. Vincent.

Elizabeth Cole, parish@svsbedford.org

- **Liturgical Committee** - This committee was reinstated in the fall of 2022. We currently have 6 members who meet quarterly. We plan holiday and Holy Day Mass times and services for both parishes, church decorations, lighting of flame for Easter Vigil, and discuss music for Mass. We have also planned when and how to do confession set up, organize special events like speakers. We organized families lighting the Advent candles, assisted with some marketing for guest speakers and supported those events. When extra servers or readers are needed, we have worked with scheduling the additional lay people for Mass. The CCLC bulletin, flock-notes, and announcements for Mass have been utilized to communicate special events with the

community.

Amy Brown, (812) 276-7423, amyleeb2@yahoo.com

- **Live Stream Mass** - Mass is streamed the 3rd weekend of every month. Saturday vigil mass from St. Vincent and the Sunday morning mass from St. Mary's. Major Holy Days and some special speaking events have also been streamed. John Marshek, jmarshek@gmail.com
- **Prayer Chain** - Prayer intentions are shared with 9 people through phone calls and 78 people by email. From July 1, 2022, a June 30, 2023, we prayed for 712 intentions. Anyone wishing to join the prayer chain or who would like to request prayers should contact Marilyn Epping at 812-508-5755 or Melissa Epping at 812-788-0506 or eppingmelissa@yahoo.com.
- **Prayer Group** – The Prayer Group meets the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of every month in the St. Mary education building. Five people meet to pray for the community and situations God puts on their hearts. Becky Allbright, (812) 583-7581
- **Prayer Ministry** - A team of approximately 20 members from both parishes are available to pray for anyone for any reason. Prayer ministers are available following most weekend masses at the front by the pulpit. If there is a need for a deeper prayer session, the prayer ministers are available by special appointment. Appointments are scheduled by Deacon Dave Reising.

The prayer ministers meet for prayer and to be trained in the Christian Healing Ministry program. This program trains the ministers to pray for physical, spiritual, inner healings, and deliverances. Ministers are available to pray for any need. Anyone wishing more information about the prayer ministry may contact Deacon Dave Reising at (812) 278-1795.

- **Sacristans**

This ministry prepares for the celebration of the Mass. It is a special way to serve by preparing the vessels used for Mass, opening the church at the beginning, closing the church at the end of Mass, and the cleaning and storing of the vessels.

St. Mary - During the 2022/2023 fiscal year we have had 4 Sacristans and 4 Altar Servers helping before, during, and after the masses. These individuals are a blessing to our church community.

Liz Esboldt, esboldt@aol.com

St. Vincent - We have Saturday evening, Sunday, and several other Holy Day Masses from which to choose. Currently there are fourteen sacristans who serve. St. Vincent has Our parish thrives when we all participate in giving of ourselves and our time. For more information, contact Susan Johnson, (708)-267-7827

- **Ushers**

St. Mary – has a rotation of 10 ushers.
Joyce Daugherty,
stmarysmitchell294@gmail.com,

St. Vincent – has 4 ushers each Sunday with 8 substitute ushers available.

Elizabeth Cole, parish@svsbedford.org
parish@svsbedford.org

Commission for Stewardship

The purpose of the Stewardship Commission is to promote and implement a comprehensive program of stewardship that responsibly cares for the human, material, and financial resources of the CCLC.

- **Building and Grounds**

St. Mary – The committee has been working to replace the church doors for some time. The New Church door installation is scheduled for July 2023. We are in the process of evaluating plans for rectory improvements. There is a possibility of a future retired priest residing there. The parking lot is being accessed for necessary maintenance. Routine grounds and gardening tasks are completed as needed.

John Marshek, jmarshek@gmail.com

St. Vincent – projects completed this fiscal year include the replacement and repair of building doors, Sacristy renovations, and the creation of the Holy Family Garden. The Knights of Columbus replaced ramp, deck, and stairs in the rear of the parish office building.

Robbie Tincher, (812) 583-4566

- **Bulletin** - The bulletin is published weekly. Amy Marshek turned over the Bulletin Editor duties to Fawn Mathes in March 2023. Each week, 400 bulletins are printed for distribution at Mass and for homebound parishioners. An average of eight people per week send updates via email to be inserted in the bulletin.
Fawn Mathes, bulletin@svsbedford.org

- **Collection Counting**

St. Mary - St. Mary's has 18 collection counters making up 5 teams. Counting is done immediately following 8:30am Sunday mass 52 weeks of the year. For auditing purposes collection counters must be parishioners, 18 years or older. New counters are paired with experienced counters.
John Castrale (jsascastrale@gmail.com)

St. Vincent - Six teams of two persons count weekend Mass collections, a team counting every Sunday. Each team counts once every six weeks. This ministry provides practical help in processing the donations which support the parish's needs & ministries. No experience is needed. Training will be provided. Contact the parish secretary for more information or to sign up.

Elizabeth Cole, parish@svsbedford.org, (812) 275-6539

- **Flocknotes** - A text and email service that delivers information to parishioners who have signed up to receive them. During calendar year 2022, 352 notes were sent to 524 total members with 73% having been read. There are several subgroups set up in our

Flocknote account. The Adoration sub list sent 175 notes; Meal train list sent 18 notes; the Fr. Garrity Council list sent 15 notes; the Knights of Columbus list sent 9 notes; the Fr. Rouck Assembly list sent 8 notes; the 9 Days for Life sent 11 emails and 11 text; the Adoration list sent 12 notes; and the CCLC Knights of Columbus Officers list sent 1 note. We have 32 new members this year with a total of 529 current members.

Amy Miskuf, flocknotes@svsbedford.org

- **Parish Office Volunteers**

St. Mary - We currently have one volunteer who assists the parish secretary as needed. Our volunteer opens the office on Sundays to answer questions and allow scheduling of mass intentions and facility usage as a convenience to parishioners.

Liz Esboldt, esboldt@aol.com

St. Vincent - Stuffing bulletins, folding & stuffing mailings, data entry, and other office tasks are available to volunteers, on a one-time or regular basis, depending on the task. For instance, volunteers made it possible to send out the Christmas, Lent, and Easter cards to the CCLC community, with over 700 envelopes in each mailing. This ministry had one weekly volunteer for data entry, 15+ volunteers to stuff inserts into bulletins, 10+ volunteers to prepare CCLC mailings, 1 volunteer to help with the library, and 5 volunteers to help distribute literature in the pews. Contact the parish secretary for more information or to sign up.

Elizabeth Cole, parish@svsbedford.org, (812) 275-6539

- **Raise Right (SCRIP)**

During the fiscal year 6 orders were made through Raise Right as a fundraiser for St. Mary's parish. Nineteen buyers let our volunteer coordinator know what gift cards they would like to purchase. Our parish coordinator ordered the gift cards from the Raise Right organization at a discount. The cards were then sold to the 19 parishioners at the face value of the gift card.

Raise Right does allow for members to go to the website and order gift cards and have them sent to their home, no one chose this method for orders this year. The website is: <https://www.raiseright.com>, for a list of available cards, available denominations from each vendor, as well as the percentage that the church receives from the purchase. Thank you for your support to our parish.

Brenda Premo,
(812) 797-4574, jrbren74@gmail.com

- **Safety and Security Committee**

The need for a committee to evaluate the safety and security of all CCLC buildings was determined by the Pastoral Council in April 2022. **Ed Stephenson** and **Steve Underwood** have accepted the task of supporting this effort. Please be patient as some policy changes may be necessary to facilitate our safety and security during CCLC events. Direct inquiries through the parish offices.

parish@svsbedford.org or
stmarysmitchell294@gmail.com

- **Stewardship Committee** - The CCLC joint Stewardship Committee held 6 committee meetings and one informational meeting. We compiled the August 2022 CCLC Stewardship Report which was mailed to all registered parishioners in January of 2023. The committee held Ministry Fairs at both parishes in December 2022 with a new ministry fair sign-up sheet completed by 45 parishioners. The information from these ministry sign-up sheets was compiled and provided via email to ministry leads and commission facilitators. A ministry leads contact list was developed and provided to both parish offices and shared at the first annual Ministry Organizational Meeting held in January 2023. At this meeting, the Stewardship Committee worked with the Financial Committee to provide information on fiscal year budgeting, planning, reimbursement, and communication. Four speakers and 15 ministry leads attended this meeting; at their suggestion, the forms are now available on the CCLC website in the Parish Forms section. The committee also developed an CCLC Annual List of Events which we continue to update.

The Stewardship Committee assisted the Liturgical Committee during Advent and Lent with refreshments for speaker events; volunteers provided/picked up food, setup tables, and cleared up afterwards. We held Grandparent's Day events at both parishes in September 2022 with the assistance of several individuals.

Co-chairs:

Judy Carlisle, (812) 277-6342, cjcarlisle91@peoplepc.com

Irene Stockton, (812) 276-6681, irene.stockton@hotmail.com

- **Website** - The CCLC website, yourcclc.org, is updated weekly with parish announcements, Mass times, parish activities, church forms, Holy Day announcements, and archdiocesan communications. It is available as a desktop site and as a mobile site for smartphones. In 2022, the website averaged 574 viewers per month, with the highest number of views during Christmas and Easter and Holy Days. Noelle Jean, cclcweb@svsbedford.org
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Independent Organizations

- **Knights of Columbus** - The Father William P. Garrity Council 1166 of the Knights of Columbus conducted many of its usual activities. Every Monday, the Knights host bingo and sell pull tabs at the hall, located on M Street in Bedford. The Council also hosted our annual Lenten fish fries in the spring of 2023. Each fish fry is managed by a team of volunteers who cook the fish, serve the meals, and ensure that every guest has an enjoyable meal at an affordable price. With Kevin Steber's leadership, we were able to return to the buffet service that parishioners knew from years past. The proceeds from bingo, pull tabs, and Lenten fish fries support Council operations, including our charitable operations.

The Tootsie Roll Drive, supporting individuals with intellectual disabilities, was conducted on September 9–10, 2022. Numerous volunteers, including community members who are not Knights, collected donations at locations throughout Lawrence County. Other volunteers conducted a rolling resupply of those locations throughout Friday and Saturday. Greg Stanley, the chairman of the Tootsie Roll Drive, also wrote numerous grant applications to community organizations. In all, the Tootsie Roll Drive raised nearly \$25,000—all of which was donated to support individuals with intellectual disabilities.

The Coats for Kids program took place in the winter of 2022-2023. Parishioners at St. Vincent de Paul and St. Mary of the Assumption always respond enthusiastically to program chairman Jim Parsch's impassioned presentations at Mass. Last year was no different. Thanks to that response, the Council was able to donate dozens of warm winter coats to students in Lawrence County schools in a way that ensured that the children maintain their privacy and their dignity. Coats for Kids is another project that sees every dollar donated put toward the purpose of the program—warm winter coats for children in need.

The Council hosted an Easter Egg Hunt, held at the Council Hall this year. The Council also provided gifts to the children receiving the sacraments of First Communion and Confirmation. And Knights supported the Corpus Christi procession around downtown Bedford on the Feast of Corpus Christi in June 2023.

Knights of Columbus membership is open to all Catholic men.

Patrick Smith, Grand Knight,
patsmithbedford@gmail.com

- **Ladies of Columbus** - The Ladies of Columbus is a social organization, composed of practicing Catholic Women, at least 18 years old, that have a connection to the Knights of Columbus. This may be a direct relative, or those with a spiritual connection called to be associated with this group.

Rosemary Stanley

- **St. Vincent de Paul Society** - The Bedford Conference of The Society of St. Vincent de Paul is part of the international organization founded in 1833, by Frederick Ozanam and Rosalie Rendu, to follow in the example of St Vincent de Paul, whose mission was to care for all who needed any kind of help. Locally, we own and operate the St. Vincent Thrift Store. With the proceeds from the store and other donations, we offer help here in Lawrence County, by responding to calls received via voicemail to our helpline. We help with rent & utilities, food, clothing, and many other things based on each need. The help we offer our clients is completely confidential. In addition, we help support Becky's Place, Men's Warming Shelter, Hope Resource Center and LIFE Food Pantry.

Karen Wade, (812) 583-2513

**STEWARDSHIP –
it's not just
about giving
money.
It's about giving
EVERYTHING.**



**Stewardship is sharing the gifts we have,
whether time, talent, or treasure.**

