

Upcoming events

- Dec. 15 - SPS K-4th concert
 - Dec. 20 - Grinch Who Stole Christmas - 8th grade
 - Dec. 18 - *A Night Before Christmas* Singalong with all parish choirs and musicians
 - February - a special community Sunday coming soon!
 - April 22 - St. Paul's 50th Anniversary Banquet
- Please remember to mail in your pledge for the Future is Now Building Campaign by 12/31/05.**



Cub Scouts of America is 75 years old! Our St. Paul Pack 728 has 36 boys, ages 6 to 11. Our Pack finished requirements for a 75-year award when they planted a tree on the school playground.

Get Ready to Celebrate 50 Years!

Mark your calendars for our 50th Anniversary Banquet on April 22, 2006! This will be one of a few special events planned throughout the year for this wonderful parish milestone. Chairman of our Anniversary Committee is Bob Jenkins, and the guy to find volunteers to help make these events memorable is Lou Lenzer. Please call the parish office at 972-235-6105 if you can help or if you know some history to share about our parish. Watch for more information coming soon!



St. Paul Parish Center: Turning a Dream Into Reality

Conflicts over meeting space, parish dinners on plastic-covered gym floors, and grown-ups sitting through meetings in child-size school chairs could be a thing of the past once improvements begin to be made to the new Parish Center on St. Paul Drive.

For several weeks, we've been hearing and reading exciting news about the new Parish Center. The former office building will be transformed in phases into what is expected to be a first-class facility for parish activities, now and far into the future.

Since this summer, a Capital Campaign has been in progress to solicit pledges from parishioners to raise the funds needed to launch the initial phases of repair and remodeling work.

During November, parishioners were provided a clearer view of potential uses for the building in a video shown at all the Masses. As seen in the video, some of the many potential benefits of the building include:

- * comfortable meeting rooms for parish organizations
- * a banquet hall with full-service kitchen
- * lots and lots of storage
- * space for special ministries
- * ample additional parking

The Capital Campaign Committee, headed by Bill Keffler and Don Wass, reports that while pledges to date have been generous, many parishioners have not yet turned in their forms. The committee hopes to get a response from every family in the parish, even those who are unable to give. However, time is running short as the campaign will end very soon!

If you haven't yet made a pledge, please prayerfully consider doing so now. **Pledge forms are available in the back of church at all Masses and may be dropped in the collection basket, or mailed to the church office.** Look for the new "thermometer" in the church to watch our progress toward making this parish dream a reality!

Third Annual Christmas Sing-Along Concert A Night Before Christmas

Find your Christmas Spirit!
Bring your friends!
Your family!
Your neighbors!

Join us for a performance by the the Youth and Family Choir and Orchestra, the Hispanic and the Adult Choir of St. Paul the Apostle.

St. Paul the Apostle Church 7 pm, Sunday, December 18th Refreshments provided after the program

It will be a wonderful holiday experience to listen to inspirational music and sing traditional carols together, and this third annual concert continues to support the Holy Trinity Seminary Restoration Project sponsored by the Knights of Columbus Council 12021.

We hope you'll come and sing along, or at least be there to enjoy the talent of our St. Paul choir members and some special guests. ***If you'd like to help or need more information, please contact Bernie Gotway at 972-918-9333 or Bernie@Gotway.com.***

Parish Communications

We hope you've been enjoying the notes that we've been inserting in the bulletin on a monthly basis from our St. Paul Organizational Committee meetings. Along with this newsletter, it is part of our ongoing efforts to keep parishioners informed about the many events going on at St. Paul. Special thanks for guest Writers Pat Kellar and Andrew Miller, as well as Writer Tim Lyons, Translator Marcos Abreu and Spanish Editor Laura Fernandez. Thank you also to Ready Print. Please send ideas to the editor jane@koenecke.us or in the Newsletter box in the Narthex. Hope you enjoy St. Paul People!

St. Paul the Apostle Church
720 S. Floyd Rd
Richardson, TX 75080

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Centro Parroquial de San Pablo: Un Sueño Hecho Realidad.

Los conflictos con el espacio para juntas, las cenas parroquiales en el gimnasio con el piso cubierto de plástico, los adultos sentados en sillas para niños, todo eso puede ser cosa del pasado una vez que se comiencen a hacer los arreglos en el nuevo Centro Parroquial en la calle St. Paul Drive.

Por varias semanas, hemos estado escuchando y leyendo noticias muy excitantes acerca del nuevo Centro Parroquial. El antiguo edificio de oficinas será transformado en fases en lo que se espera sea una facilidad de primera clase, ahora y en el futuro.

Desde el verano, ha estado en progreso una Campaña Capital solicitando compromisos de los miembros de la parroquia para acumular los fondos necesarios para lanzar la fase inicial del trabajo de reparación y remodelación.

En Noviembre, en un video que se mostró en todas las Misas, se proporcionó una visión más concreta del uso potencial del edificio.

* Como se ve en el video, algunos de los beneficios potenciales del edificio incluyen:

- * Cómodos salones para las juntas de las organizaciones parroquiales
- * Un salón para banquetes, con una cocina de servicio completo
- * Mucho y mucho lugar de almacenaje
- * Espacio para ministerios especiales
- * Amplio espacio adicional para estacionamiento.

El comité encargado de la Campaña Capital, dirigido pro Hill Keffler y Don Wass, reparta que aunque los compromisos

Fajita Dinner Raises Funds for Our New Building Campaign!

Thank you to the Hispanic members of St. Paul Parish who hosted a wonderful Fajita Dinner in September. All proceeds - nearly \$1,000 - were donated to the Future is Now Building Campaign! We really appreciate the many volunteers from the Hispanic community that helped prepare and serve the meals. Wonderful teamwork!

This month, the Hispanic Ministry will celebrate the Virgen de Guadalupe, observed on Sunday and Monday evenings, December 11th and 12th.

To learn more about the St. Paul People who are an important ingredient to these Hispanic Dinners, please watch for the next newsletter featuring an article about Jose and Patricia Perez. This is a couple who is involved in a number of ministries, and you'll want to learn about what a difference they are making at

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recibidos han sido muy generosos, muchos miembros de la parroquia no han devuelto las formas del compromiso. El comité espera recibir una respuesta de cada familia en la parroquia, aun de aquellos que no puedan contribuir. Sin embargo, el tiempo está corriendo y la campaña terminará muy pronto.

Si aún no ha hecho su compromiso, en oración, considere hacerlo ahora. Las formas del compromiso están disponibles en el vestíbulo de la iglesia y pueden ser regresadas en el momento de la colecta o por correo a la oficina parroquial. Mire el termómetro en la pared de la iglesia y observe el progreso hacia el ¡Sueño de la parroquia hecho realidad!

Una Cena Exitosa

Gracias a los miembros de la comunidad Hispana de San Pablo quienes en el mes de Septiembre fueron los anfitriones de una sabrosísima cena de tacos y fajitas. Las ganancias de casi \$1,000 - fueron donadas para campaña del Nuevo Edificio El Futuro es Ahora. Agradecemos a todos los voluntarios de la Comunidad Hispana que ayudaron a preparar y a servir la cena.

La Comunidad Hispana se esta preparando para la celebración de la Fiesta en honor de Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe que se observará el Domingo 11 de Diciembre en la noche y el Lunes 12 de Diciembre en la mañana.

Para conocer más sobre la gente de San Pablo que es un ingrediente importante en las Cenas Hispanas, espere el próximo boletín informativo que traerá un artículo acerca de José y Patricia Pérez. Esta pareja está envuelta en diferentes ministerios en la Parroquia de San Pablo Apóstol, y usted querrá saber la diferencia que ellos están haciendo en la parroquia.



The Liturgy Commission initiated a Living Rosary on Oct. 14th. The event was spiritually moving as one experienced our parish's diverse cultures, reverence and unity. It was also aesthetically inspiring to see our Pastor and Deacons, the Knights of Columbus, and our parishioners, with candles and roses, all coming together to pray in honor of Christ's mother.

Opportunity Knox

New Guy Mark Knox Brings Focus on Youth

St. Paul the Apostle has a new Youth Minister! Mark Knox is a native of Coleman, Texas, a small farming community near Abilene. He attended Texas A&M and graduated with a degree in Agricultural Development, with honors in Wildlife Fishery Science and Outdoor Education. Mark has worked at The Pines Catholic Camp, the Tumbling River Ranch in Colorado (as a wrangler and a musician) and at Piloncillo Ranch as a wildlife biologist. He has come to us very well-qualified for our St. Paul Youth Ministry.

Mark has a lot of ideas for activities for the parish youth, and he's been attending classes to become a nationally certified Youth Minister, and just participated in a week-long youth conference in Nashville - so he's getting more ideas all the time!

There are separate gatherings for middle school (6-8 grade) students and for senior high (9-12 grade) students, with no specific meeting day or time but activities planned throughout the month

In September he and several high school teenagers attended the XLT Worship and Praise at St. Ann's in Coppell. XLT



is a gathering of young people from the diocese facilitated by the St. Ann's youth staff with guitar music, witnessing, lots of dancing in the aisles and singing at the top of their voices.

In October, highschoolers had a great Texas Hold 'Em night, and a group of 7-12 graders went to the World Youth Day at Six Flags, and many middle schoolers attended an event at Medieval Times.

In November, 18 high schoolers showed up for a lasagna dinner and worship, and 29 middle schoolers enjoyed bowling and many are helping with a service project for middle schoolers.

New kids are participating regularly, and to keep the momentum going, Mark is making plans for a Mardi Gras celebration in late February and a high school diocesan ski trip in March, 2006. Beginning in January, Mark will have an open house every Tuesday after school for middle school and junior high kids to hang out at the youth house, 711 James. (If you can attend as a chaperone, please call!)

Email and the Web site, saintpaulchurch.org/spym/index, help Mark to keep communication flowing about all the events. You can email him at spym@hotmail.com or call the Religious Education office at (972) 235-2598 to get on his mailing list.

While Mark is very excited to be at St. Paul's, he can only keep the kids involved in the program with some adult participation. It doesn't have to be a big commitment. Adults can chaperone an event, make calls, bring food, drive or just run an errand for the Youth Ministry. If you have some ideas to share, you may want to be part of a core group that provides direction to the youth program. The harvest is many but the workers are few.... The harvest is a youth group that likes participating in our parish, with individuals who have an opportunity for spiritual growth and some fun!



Photos of middle schoolers having fun at 711 James.

Article written by Pat Kellar who adds this note: When my oldest daughter was involved with youth group several years ago I too participated. I drove to dances and Mission Possible, attended Diocesan Masses, chaperoned the state youth convention and went on week-long mission trips with them. Besides supporting my daughter in her interest, I also made good friends among the other adult volunteers. I knew who my daughter's friends were. And I had my own spiritual experiences along with them. I can think of nothing more worthy than serving Christ with your Catholics who are beginning to find their way in the world.

St. Vincent de Paul
"Living God's Love Face to Face"

"St. Paul Parish can be proud of how very generous we've been to hurricane evacuees," explained Lou Neeb, our leader of St. Vincent de Paul Society. "In addition to Katrina money received by our SVDP," he said, "the parish donated about \$21,000 to the Catholic Charities Katrina effort, and has donated more than one ton of nonperishable foods, personal care items, and other necessities." These items have been distributed through the Network of Ministries (they serve as our pantry for the needy), and our SVDP programs to the evacuees from both of the hurricanes.

Lou explained, "So far the parish has directly assisted 39 Katrina evacuee families (over 125 people) to establish new homes. At the same time, the Dallas Council of St. Vincent de Paul has helped more than 1,650 families make their new homes from Denison to Corsicana, and continues to help settle about 300 families each week."

Many families are leaving hotels to resettle in the North Texas area so we need to continue our ministry of providing very basic furniture and household goods for these new neighbors. It takes about \$650 to provide a family of four with mattresses, chest of drawers, a kitchen table and chairs, blankets, pillows, linens, kitchen, bathroom, and personal hygiene items. For a list of the Dallas evacuees needs, visit www.aidmatrix.org/SVDP.

Beyond money and items, Lou reminds us that time is a wonderful donation. He thanks all the volunteers who sorted items and helped to make "Fill it With Hope" boxes - containing all the basics to get a family restarted - at our Plano Warehouse Distribution Center. This additional warehouse location will probably remain open through mid December. Please call (214) 520-0650 or email svdpoffice@aol.com if you'd like to help while it is still open.

Lou added his sincere thanks for helping through our parish's St. Vincent de Paul society. He has seen some amazing stories unravel and knows you can be very proud of what a difference your donations have made in some very tough situations. "We've bought a lot of towels, pots and pans, cleaning supplies, pillows and more. A lot of people are truly sleeping better because of your efforts," he said.



St. Paul School News

For the 2005-2006 school year we have 428 students at St. Paul the Apostle, from Pre-K through 8th grade. Early in the school year, we welcomed 34 (and we now have 15) evacuees from the New Orleans area. We are happy to have new Teachers Susan Azmoudah (middle school Math), Carol Ibarra (middle school English), Betsy Venden (Math Lab)! With Susan and Betsy's leadership, we have added a new Math Club and Speech Team, plus a Chess Club started by 8th-grader Scott Miller. Here are some of the many reasons we are proud of our St. Paul Students!

Our 7th Grade Gils Volleyball Team (led by Coach Joni Avery) took first place in the DPL in November!

Knights of Columbus essay contest - Two out of three winners in the Dallas Diocese are students at St. Paul! Congratulations to Will Venden who received first place, and Andrew Miller who received third place. Both receive a trophy and a savings bond.

VFW essay contest - Congratulations to 8th graders Aubrey Allison, plus Eugene Tizcon and Ashley Brozie who read their essays during the Veterans Day event.

Winston Science Competition - The 7th grade team of Ruben Figeroa, Maggie Koenecke, Andrew Miller and Will Venden brought home a first place trophy among middle schoolers in the Winston Science competition, "How Things Work." There were many schools in the DFW area that participated.

Pines Camp - Nov. 1 to 4 the 5th graders enjoyed four days of ecology studies and fun at the Pines Catholic Camp in East Texas.

Please Join Us!

- * K-4th grade Christmas concert is Dec. 15.
- * 8th grade Performance of The Grinch Who Stole Christmas is Dec. 20.
- * Starting in January, St. Paul Packers basketball game are 4 to 8 p.m. on Sundays. Please come cheer!

We're already working on our big event for the year - our auction! It will be March 4 and will feature a fun 70s theme! We really hope everyone participates for maximum success and fun! If you have a donation, would like to help, or would like to receive an invitation, please call our Home & School President Katherine Berend, 972-385-8843.

St. Paul School has room for more students in all grades except 5 and 8. If you know someone looking for a quality education, a close-knit community and a place their child can grow in faith, knowledge, wisdom and love, please tell them about Saint Paul School. Visit www.saintpaulschool.org or call Principal Carol Regeci 972-235-3263.

Knights News:

Council 12021 and St. Paul parishioners were recently recognized for our donation of more than \$50,000 (the 7th largest donation) towards the Holy Trinity Seminary chapel restoration. As noted on the cover, the Knights will sponsor another Christmas Singalong this year to add even more support for this important project.

Our St. Paul Knights and the VFW Post 3530 sponsored the 7th Annual Veteran's Day Parade and Program on Friday, Nov. 11. Participants include the Richardson Police and Fire Departments, Clowns, KC Color Corps, Richardson City Officials, Veterans from VFW Post 3530, Scouts and St. Paul School children. We are very proud to recognize those who have served or are now serving our great nation with our Veteran's Day Parade.

In September the Knights sponsored a very successful fish fry that brought our community together and raised more than \$2,300 for hurricane relief. Special thanks to JCDA, the Women's Guild, and Girl Scouts who provided desserts, and Webelo Scouts who provided clean up services for the event.

St Paul the Apostle Renew members kicked off Season 5 in 'The Walk For the Whisper,' supporting the battle against Ovarian Cancer. The Renew team supported and prayed for team member Maryan Schirm, (2nd row center), through diagnosis, treatment, and *remission!* This small community truly embraced the Renew principles and witnessed the power of prayer. The group was also joined by friends and family to help celebrate and support Maryan.



This special Renew group includes members: Ginny Haralson, Patti Fitch, Maryan Schirm, Jeanie Curto, Tricia Rawlings and Terri Mertz.

St. Paul's Troop 728

Teaching Boys How to Become Quality Individuals and Leaders

The Saint Paul Boy Scouts of Troop 728 are very active. There are about 40 boys in our troop and we try to make our parish and our community a better place by helping with church and city events. Troop 728 was begun many years ago. We participate in *Scouting for Food* to benefit the food bank, and do fundraisers like our *Hole-in-One Golf Tournament* or our popcorn sales. We help at the Men's Club fish fry, help with the Cub Scouts troop, and offer to help in the parish in other ways. Our troop is special because it is a "Boy-run troop," which means that the boys make all of the decisions about troop activities and troop planning. Running our own troop helps us to learn more about advance planning, decision making and the importance of excellent leadership.

Any boy who loves camping, playing with friends, and awesome outdoor activities would love Scouts. By participating in our troop, a boy will learn to do all sorts of activities such as swimming, sports, bicycling, hiking, and climbing. Because of all of the activities that are available each year, Troop 728 has many boys who receive the ultimate scouting rank of Eagle Scout. Many boys choose to do their Eagle project to help our church or school.

The Scout Law says that scouts should be trustworthy, loyal, helpful, friendly, courteous, kind, obedient, cheerful, thrifty, brave, clean, and reverent. Our troop works to develop these traits in all of the boys. We are always happy when parishioners offer to help. Many the ability to help scouts earn merit badges or the religious medal "Ad Altare Dei." For more information about volunteering, please call the church office at 972-235-6105. Adrienne will get you in touch with Scoutmaster, Greg Bobzien.

Article written by St. Paul 7th grader and active Boy Scout member Andrew Miller, far right in the photo.

