

Welcome to our church family! Our church web site is www.ssjohnpaul.org. Our fax number is 967-7197. You can reach the office manager, Laurie Delvaux, at the church office, 967-3796. The parish offices are located at the east end of the church building.

We want to welcome you to our parish and give you a little information on some of the groups & activities we have available here at Ss. John & Paul.

Musicians: if you would like to be part of our music ministry, contact Patty Hormann, 967-3796.

Liturgical Roles: If you are interested in serving as a Liturgical Minister at Mass, contact the following: **Lectors/Commentators:** Katie Henry, 515-975-7856; **Ushers:** Mike Daspit: 515-443-3636; **Greeters:** Diane Zadow, 515-967-3003; **Servers:** Darlene Huberty, 515-707-3271; **Eucharistic Ministers:** Madison & Abby Delaney: 612-710-8572.

Nursing Home and Homebound Ministry: If you are interested in bringing **Communion to one of the Altoona Care Centers**, contact Laurie in the parish office, 967-3796. If you would like to help with **Homebound Ministry**, contact Parish Nurse, Linda Gries, 515-263-0268.

Holy Hour: Join us in adoration of the Holy Eucharist every Monday night at Ss. John & Paul from 7-8 pm. *"Could you not watch with me one hour?" Matthew 26:40/Mark 14:37.* Call Maggie Murphy at 967-2624, for more information.

The Liturgical Environment Committee: meets the first Tuesday of each month at 6:30 pm in the conference room. The committee is responsible for the Liturgical decorations and take home reminders for Holy Days and Liturgical seasons throughout the year, as well as seasonal décor. For detailed information contact co-chairs, Donna Minahan, 515-480-5059 or Becky Stidfole, 515-229-3732.

The Council of Catechesis seeks to guide and promote formation for the Christian life, that those desiring to live as Catholic Christians actively cultivate a lively baptismal and Eucharistic spirituality with a powerful sense of discipleship. The Council plans, promotes and advocates for the lifelong formation in faith of all the members of the Parish. For more information, contact chairperson, Cicily Dennis, 515-250-4915.

Parish Life Committee: promotes community building through various activities. Anyone with enthusiasm is welcome to join the committee! Our activities include: Family Fun Fest, Celebrate the Season Advent gathering, various receptions and other parish gatherings. One major benefit of volunteering with our projects is the chance to get to know your fellow parishioners in a small group setting and many of our projects involve the entire family. For more information call Ann Moyna, 515-250-3209.

Technology Committee identifies and makes recommendations for expanded and updated use of electronic resources and ever-changing technology. This includes working with the parish website, email and e-newsletter resources, texting, print media, and parish technology equipment. For more information, contact Liz Donner, 515-967-8047.

Parish Social Ministry, based on the Gospel of Matthew, chapter 25, coordinates parish efforts of outreach, keeping in mind Catholic Social Teaching and the dignity of each person. The committee has components of education, advocacy and direct service, and is comprised of members of various organizations of the parish that are engaged in social justice activities. For more information, contact Julie Sparks, 515-710-4185.

St. Vincent de Paul: a Catholic lay organization, offers service to those who are needy and suffering. Locally, we bring food and cash donations from our parish to the Caring Hands Food Pantry and organize several food drives throughout the year. We organize gift giving programs for Christmas. We also work with Catholic Charities to help with various collections for Refugee Resettlement, Catholic Charities Emergency Family Shelter, and Catholic Charities Outreach Center & Food Pantry. To become involved, call Vickie Sowden, 969-9435.

Small Faith Sharing Groups: Small groups meet for several weeks in the fall and during Lent, using a special resource chosen each year. All are invited to participate in friendly conversation about faith. For more information or to join a small group, call Sr. Virginia Jennings at 967-3796.

Habitat for Humanity: Ss. John and Paul is partnered with several other Catholic parishes and *Greater Des Moines Habitat for Humanity* to form the *Catholic Circle of Faith*. We collaborate in the construction of a home in the Des Moines area each year. We also partner with *Greater Des Moines Habitat for Humanity* and *Habitat for Humanity-International Global Village* to send a group of adults to El Salvador each year. For more information contact Steve Smith, 250-0317.

RCIA: Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults, meets on Sunday mornings, September through Pentecost. If you know of someone who is interested in joining the Catholic Church, or would like to help with RCIA, please call Sr. Virginia at the parish office at 967-3796.

Prayer Chain: If you have a prayer request you would like added to our parish prayer chain, call Laurie Delvaux, 967-3796 or email the church, ssjohnpaul@ssjohnpaul.org. If you would like to be part of the prayer chain, either by e-mail or phone, contact Laurie.

Welcome Committee: after you are settled if you would like to help welcome other new members to our church, through a variety of ways, contact Laurie Delvaux at 967-3796.

Funeral Committee: Help is needed both working in the kitchen the day of the funeral, and providing salads or desserts for the luncheon. If you are interested in helping with funeral dinners, please call Sally Duer, 266-0582.

Faith Formation:

Our Parish Faith Formation is an intergenerational program which meets once a month: Sunday from 5 to 7:30 pm, or Wednesday from 5:30 to 8 pm. Contact our Director of Faith Formation, Paulette Chapman, at 967-8047 for more information.

Parish Faith Formation is supplemented by **Junior High Youth Ministry (JYM)**, where 7th and 8th grade students gather for an additional event twice a month. Contact Youth Ministry Coordinator, Liz Donner, 967-8047, for information or to volunteer. **Tweens**, for 5th and 6th graders, and **JP Kidz** for 3rd and 4th graders, also meets once a month for gatherings to more fully explore their faith. Contact Amanda Underhill, 515-689-7363 (for Tweens) or Janet Elwer, 515-250-7088 (for JP Kidz), for information or to volunteer.

Children's Liturgy of the Word: Takes place Sundays at the 8:30 and 10:30 am Masses for children 4 years old – Grade 4. Children leave to hear the readings at their age level, have a discussion or activity, and return to the assembly after the intercessory prayers. For information contact Paulette Chapman at 967-8047.

Teen Group: our High School youth meet the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of the month from 7 – 8:30 pm in the Faith Development Center. For more information call our High School Youth Minister, Joan Ammons at 314-8714.

Stay-at-Home Moms: A group of mothers with young children meets every Thursday morning for a play date and bible study. Call Jenni Lihs, 515-210-6594 for information.

Life After 50: A group for those 50 and older interested in doing a variety of activities, both social and service oriented. Contact Dorothy and Terry Powers, 265-2914.

Knights of Columbus: A men's fraternal organization with emphasis on service, social and family. They meet the first Thursday of the month in the Parish Hall at 6 pm. Contact Grand Knight: Mike Kockler, 681-2232.

Bible Study Groups:

Men's Bible Study: Every Saturday, 7:30 am in the FDC. Contact Tom Maly, 957-0185. Call Laurie in the office, 967-3796 for other Bible Study opportunities.