

# St. Veronica

ARCHDIOCESE OF MILWAUKEE

353 E. NORWICH ST. • MILWAUKEE, WI 53207 414-482-2920

**WELCOME TO THE  
CATHOLIC FAITH  
COMMUNITY OF  
ST. VERONICA PARISH!**

If you are visiting St. Veronica today or if you are new to the area, we are very pleased that you have chosen to worship with us in our faith community.

We welcome you to become a member of our parish family. Please call the parish office, visit our website [www.saintveronica.org](http://www.saintveronica.org) or pick up a new member packet in the kiosk near the church elevator. Thank You.

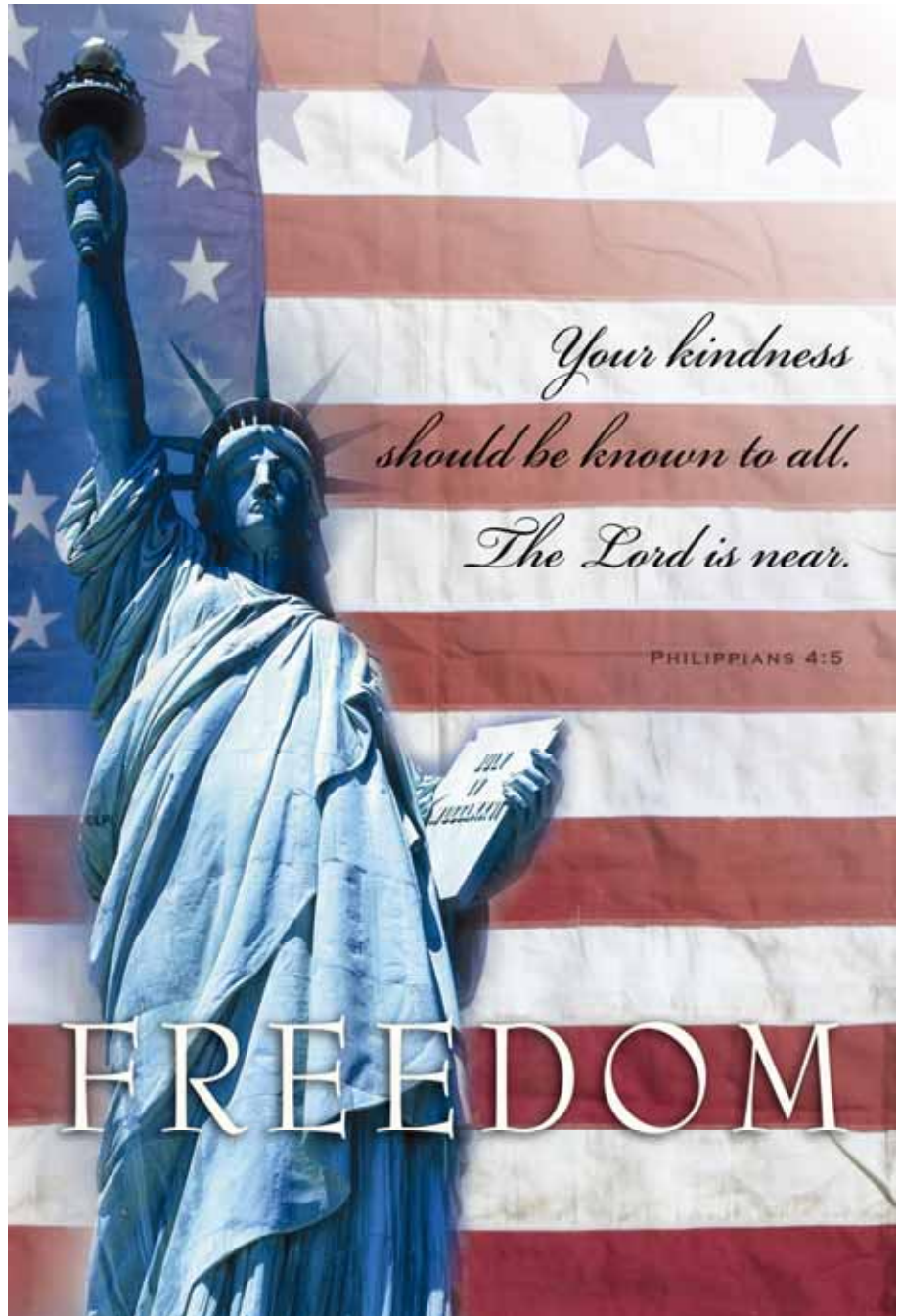
## Sacraments

**Baptisms:** The Sacrament of Baptism is celebrated on the first and third Sundays of the month. Contact the parish office to pick up registration materials. Parents are required to attend one Baptismal preparation class.

**Marriage:** We celebrate the Sacrament of Marriage for only our registered parish members. Please phone the parish office one year in advance to schedule a meeting with the priest, before you book other arrangements.

**Anointing of the Sick/Pastoral Visits:** We are always willing to stop by your home or hospital. Please notify us when you or a family member is in need of a visit. The hospitals do not notify us. Anointing of the Sick will occur after every weekend Mass on the 2nd Sunday of each month.

**Reconciliation:** 1st and 3rd Saturdays at 3:30 pm before the 4:30 pm Mass and every 3rd Thursday following the 8:15 am Mass.





### Dear Parishioners,

This weekend, we celebrate the Feast of St. Peter and Paul. A priest gave me an icon portraying the two saints for a birthday gift. He mentioned that the significance of the icon is that it represents diversity within the church. We celebrate both Peter and Paul, not just one; yet our gospel will focus our attention upon Peter, the rock and “gate-keeper” of the kingdom of heaven entrusted with the keys. It was Peter who stated, “You are the Christ, the Son of God.” It was Peter’s strong faith in stating clearly who Jesus was that won him the title of Rock. It is Paul who challenged Peter and the other disciples to open themselves to the gentiles and allow the gospel to be preached to them, thus bringing converts to the Lord. Who is more important? Both men are significant to the early church; both see the church from a different perspective and yet their different roles within the church helped the church become what it is today. Both men were put to death under the Roman emperor Nero; it could seem that the gates of death had prevailed. Both Peter and Paul embraced their persecutions with a courage and deep faith knowing that the Lord would not abandon them but rescue them and grant them eternal life. As we follow in the footsteps of Jesus, let us take note of the diversity of the many fellow followers that journey with us. The diversity within our church allows us to see the needs that exist and need to be addressed. We are challenged today to meet the needs of the poor, to welcome new members from various cultures, to give voice to the injustices that exist in our society, to stand up for the rights of human beings. Yes, we are from the same church but there are many challenges that need to be met and there are varied ways of meeting those challenges. Let us take note this Sunday that it takes all kinds of people to keep our church moving along.

This weekend we will be having “Blest Art” with us selling wood products made in the Middle East to support the Catholic Church. This might be an ideal time to consider a Christmas gift or a wedding present for a couple you know that would appreciate a religious gift. The quality is very nice and the money raised will benefit those in the Holy Land. Take some time to stop in the front of Church to see what this organization has to offer you.

Here is a brief up-date on our air-conditioning unit for the parish. I am not sure how many of you are aware that our church is water cooled. The system is the original installed in 1965. It needs a bit of care each season to maintain it and keep it in good working order. This year we have had to spend more time with it due to age and parts wearing out. Ed, our maintenance man, has assured me that the parts are being replaced and soon, God willing, the air will be operating. Please take a moment to thank God for the pleasant, sunny but cool weather we have been having making it possible to have the doors of the church open during Mass. Thank you for your patience during this time while we undergo the needed repairs. *Blessings, Fr Mark*

### Question of the Week

Theme: *We are called to the ministry.*

Question for Children: *Jesus wants us to help others. What are some ways you can do that for the people in your family, class, or neighborhood?*

Question for Youth: *Who are the people you know who are least afraid of sharing their faith with others? What do they teach you about being a disciple?*

Question for Adults: *How have you responded in your own Christian life to Jesus’ call to feed his sheep? Do you recognize this as your own personal invitation from him to minister to others?*

### Faith In Our Future

This fall St. Veronica will be participating in the ***Faith In Our Future*** Archdiocese of Milwaukee capital campaign. A letter and survey have been sent to the homes of those who receive their monthly stewardship statements through the mail. This information is also available on our website ([www.saintveronica.org](http://www.saintveronica.org)) for those who receive their statements via e-mail or wish to respond to the survey electronically. After a long study and careful review by Archdiocesan leadership and pastors, they feel that the opportunity is now and we are in the right time. The letter will explain the purpose of the capital campaign and how our parish will benefit.

### Eucharistic Adoration and Benediction

Please join us for Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and Benediction this Sunday, June 29, during the time between the Masses. Jesus truly present in the Sacred Host will be exposed to view in the monstrance on the altar. Plan to spend some quiet prayer-time in adoration and thanksgiving after the 8:30 Mass or before the 10:30 Mass. This opportunity for prayer will be offered on **the Sunday that is in the fourth full weekend of the month.** “*Spend time in spiritual conversation, in silent adoration, in heartfelt love before Christ present in the Most Holy Sacrament.*” (Pope John Paul II)

### Trustee-Secretary Election

Every two years parish bylaws require that trustees be elected by the parish to serve until their successors are elected. The Trustee-Secretary position is open this year. Please nominate anyone (including yourself) you think will be a good fit for this position. It is a two (2) year commitment.

To be placed in nomination, one has to be nominated in writing by 10 adult members of the congregation. The Nomination Forms are located at the end of each pew. Parish members 18 years and older are eligible to nominate and vote. Nominations will close **Sunday, June 29, 2008.** You may either mail in or give your Nomination Form to Fr. Mark or the Ushers after each Mass.

Candidate requirements:

- Catholic
- A registered and practicing parish member
- At least 25 years of age

The rules governing election of parish trustees come from Wisconsin State Statute 187.9 that stipulates: trustees are to be elected “from and by the congregation.”



# Human Concerns

## Mammogram Website

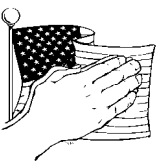
Do you spend time on a computer? Take a few moments to help ensure that poor women can receive free mammograms. The website [www.thebreastcancersite.com](http://www.thebreastcancersite.com) is sponsored by numerous businesses which will fund mammograms. All you need to do is visit the site and click. This is an easy way to help others, maybe even someone you know.

## Caregiver Support Group

All caregivers are invited to join with others who share their experiences. Through listening and exchanging ideas, caregivers can glean new insights and feel supported by others who understand. *Shepherd House 3221 S. Lake Drive; First Wednesday of every month; 1:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.* Registration is NOT necessary for this group.

## Free Clinic

The Open Door Free Clinic for uninsured and underinsured will be open on Wednesday July 2, 9, 16, 23 and 30. The clinic is located inside Unity Lutheran Church, 1025 E. Oklahoma. Sign in time is 5:30 pm and the provider will see patients at approximately 6 pm.



## Prayer for Independence Day

God, source of all freedom, this day is bright with the memory of those who

declared that life and liberty are your gift to every human being.

Help us to continue a good work begun long ago. Make our vision clear and our will strong: that only in human solidarity will we find liberty, and justice only in the honor that belongs to every life on earth.

Turn our hearts toward the family of nations: to understand the ways of others, to offer friendship, and to find safety only in the common good of all.

We ask this through Christ our Lord, Amen.

(Prayer reprinted from Catholic Household Blessings and Prayers).

## Prayer Network

In May, there were **more than 136 requests for our prayers** called in to our Prayer Network or written in our parish Book of Intercessions.

Intentions included: Birth of a healthy baby - Employment - Family guidance - Financial problems -

Healing from accidents, illness, surgery, depression - Peace - Peace after death of loved one - Peaceful death - Safe travel - Sale of house - Special intentions - Spiritual guidance - Success in job - Success in school - Thanksgiving. Please remember all prayer requests in your prayers. Become a part of Pope Benedict XVI's prayer group. The general intention recommended by the Holy Father for June is:

(Friendship with Christ) That all Christians may cultivate a deep and personal friendship with Christ so to communicate the strength of his love to every person they meet. The mission intention is: (International Eucharist Congress) That the International Eucharistic Congress in Quebec may lead to greater understanding that the Eucharist is the heart of the Church and the source of evangelization.

<http://apostleshipofprayer.org> "Set aside time to pray for an end to abortion and to receive strength from the Lord. Our 'great campaign in support of life' will require all the resources God has given us. It will take time. It will take much prayer, fasting, and sacrifice. Pray for the protection of human life and invite others to do so." Homily of Cardinal Justin F. Rigali, Chairman, USCCB Committee for Pro-Life Activities, National Vigil for Life Opening Mass, Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception, Washington, D.C. January 21, 2008.

[www.usccb.org/prolife](http://www.usccb.org/prolife)

TIME	CAPTAIN	PHONE
7-12 pm	Jeanette Kuechenmeister	481-6224
12pm-3 pm	Lucille Devine	529-8570
3-5 pm	Cecilia Bonczkowski	744-9406
5-7 pm	Helen Rewolinski	744-4139

Intentions left on a Captain's answering machine will be taken care of



## St. V's Pantry-Food of the Month

From time to time, the question is asked: "What food do you need in the food pantry?" The specific food item requested for the month of JULY is **white rice**. Donations may be dropped off in the Ushers room or brought to the parish office. Thank you.

## Recycled Bags for Food Pantry

We could use your recyclable grocery-size plastic and paper bags. Please bring them to the parish office or leave them next to the "feed the hungry" stand in Church. Again, thank you.

## Blest Art

Mr. Issam Qumseya will be selling beautiful hand crafted olive wood religious figures from the Holy Land. These days, more than 600 Christian families living in Bethlehem are completely dependent on carving olive wood figures for their living. The clashes in the Middle East have stopped the tourism in Bethlehem, causing most of those families serious harm in earning a living, and forcing many of them to flee their homeland. Removing the land of Christians can have tragic consequences for the holy sites.

Mr. Qumseya came to the United States on a mission to help those families selling their beautiful religious handicrafts. All the profits will go directly to those needy families in an effort to encourage them not to abandon their homeland.

Please Take Time To View These Beautiful Articles



The Parish Community of St. Veronica wishes to express its sympathy and promise of remembrance in prayer to the family of Henrietta Vallee. Our hope and prayers are that she is enjoying that fullness of happiness and peace in her heavenly home.



### New Principal Welcome

You may have heard that Mrs. Mary Stallmann, the principal at St. Thomas Aquinas Academy, will be leaving at the end of the school year. She recently accepted a position at St. Joseph Parish in Grafton, closer to her home. Thanks to Mrs. Stallmann for her service at STAA. We are pleased to announce that STAA has hired a new principal to take over leadership of the academy. Join us and our cluster pastors in welcoming Mrs. Rhonda Friday. Her official starting date is July 1.

### 10 Interesting Facts About St. Paul

- Paul was from the Roman city of Tarsus, located in what is today southern Turkey. (Acts 21:39)
- Paul was not physically impressive, nor was he a very good speaker. (1Cor 2:1 and 2 Cor 10:10; 11:6)
- Paul had a sister and a nephew. (Acts 23:16)
- Paul was educated in Jerusalem under the famous Jewish teacher Gamaliel. (Acts 22:3)
- Paul was a Pharisee and a tentmaker. (Acts 26:5; Acts 18:3)
- Paul was a Roman citizen from a wealthy family. (Acts 22:25-28)
- Paul participated in the stoning of Stephen, the first Christian martyr. (Acts 7:58)
- Paul was the most prominent apostle in the early Church because he was so effective at forming Christian communities.
- Although Paul wrote the most books of the New Testament, Luke, who only wrote two books, still gets the prize for writing over half of the New Testament.
- Paul's conversion is among the most well-known.

### 2008-09 Room Reservation Requests

We will soon begin scheduling and reserving Parish meeting rooms for the 2008-09 calendar year. To ensure your group or activity has ample room, is included within the online Parish calendar and to avoid scheduling conflicts, please complete and return your room request by Monday, June 30. Date and Room Request reservation forms can be picked up in the parish office or contact [gerrycofta@saintveronica.org](mailto:gerrycofta@saintveronica.org) to receive a form through email.

#### Please Note:

**Room Confirmation:** You will receive your room and date confirmation by July 28. All meetings, unless otherwise requested, will be included within our online Parish Calendar.

### From Out of the Ordinary

Want to learn more about your faith? Take our weekly quiz during Ordinary Time. Nothing is "ordinary" about our Faith.

1. Which Old Testament person spoke to God "face to face"?  
(a) Noah; (b) Jacob; (c) David; (d) Moses
2. Which law finds its fullness in Christ?  
(a) Civil; (b) Moral; (c) Natural; (d) All of the above
3. St. Irenaeus called which sacrament "the seal of eternal life"?  
(a) Baptism; (b) Eucharist; (c) Confirmation; (d) Anointing of the Sick
4. What did St. Paul the Apostle do for a living?  
(a) Rabbi; (b) Fisherman; (c) Tent maker; (d) Tax collector
5. St. Augustine said that "Man is a \_\_\_\_ before God."  
(a) Sinner; (b) Child; (c) Beggar; (d) Creature



### SUMMER FESTIVAL JULY 17, 18, 19, 20

Are you interested in volunteering for this year's Summer Festival? Amy Jaap, the volunteer chairperson, will be in the baptistery area with a sign

up sheet after each Mass every weekend until the festival. You may also contact Amy at, 769-1154. Please visit our website for more details at [www.saintveronica.org](http://www.saintveronica.org). This is a great opportunity to share your time and talent, meet fellow parishioners and have fun, too!

#### Silent Auction

Summer is just around the corner, and so is the parish festival. The silent auction is requesting your donations of new or gently used household items, toys and select items of furniture. Your donations can be dropped off at the parish office marked for the silent auction. If you need to arrange pickup of your donation, please contact John or Marge Piwaron at 414-769-0684.

Would you consider buying and donating a gift card from your favorite restaurant for the prize raffle? Do you have an idea for a special prize? Do you have a new and unwanted present? Please contact Karen or Mark Zakszewski at 282-8094.

Receipts are available for tax purposes for all donations.

#### Cash Raffle Tickets

2008 summer music festival cash raffle tickets are available from the ushers after each Mass.

First prize is \$2,000. Second prize is \$1,000. Third Prize is \$500.

Raffle tickets are \$5 each; \$25 for six tickets; or \$45 for twelve tickets.

Ticket returns can be made to the ushers or placed in the collection basket at Mass.

#### Donations of Paper Products and Condiments for St. Veronica's Festival

To make our festival even more profitable we would like to ask for your help in providing donations of any of the following:

**Paper Products:** Unopened packages of paper napkins, paper plates, both 6 & 12 inches, brown grocery bags

**Condiments:** Unopened plastic bottles of ketchup, mustard, pickle relish and barbeque sauce

**Fish Fry and Chicken Dinner:** Dessert items.

Your donations can be dropped off at the parish office or in the usher's room anytime between now and July 13<sup>th</sup>. Dessert items can be dropped off in Johnson Hall, Friday, July 18 morning or evening and anytime on Sunday, July 20.

Thanks for your continuing support!

Answers: 1d; 2d; 3a; 4c; 5c

## ~Mass Intentions~

### Sunday, June 29 Peter and Paul

- 8:30 am For Our Parishioners
- 10:30 am † Chet Wszalek (Family)
- † Florence Vogt (G. Grant Family)
- † Florian & Clare Gilewski (Family)
- † Bonnie Galaszewski (Family)

### Monday, June 30

- 8:15 am Communion Service

### Tuesday, July 1

- 6:30 pm

### Wednesday, July 2

- 8:15 am † Mildred Harvey (L. Zager)
- Special Intentions

### Thursday, July 3 Thomas

- 8:15 am † Charles Scarpace (Family)

### Friday, July 4

- 8:15 am † Betty Huberty (Family)

### Saturday, July 5

- 4:30 pm † Robert Schwingshakl (Family)
- † Eugene Stawicki (Family)
- † Mary Margaret Larkin (Family)

### Sunday, July 6-14th Sunday in Ordinary Time

- 8:30 am † Conrad Kania (R. Bronk)
- † Esther Gorski (Friend)
- † Henry Budnik (Gold Dartball Team)
- † Rudolph Manriquez (D. Manriquez)
- 10:30 am For Our Parishioners

### Parish Meetings and Events

#### Tuesday, July 1

7:30 pm AA Seton

#### Wednesday, July 2

11 am AA Seton

#### Thursday, July 3

9 am Stewardship Mailing Assisi

#### Saturday, July 5

9 am Food Pantry/Thrift Shop

### Readings for the Week of June 29

- Sunday: Acts 12:1-11/2 Tm 4:6-8, 17-18  
/Mt 16:13-19
- Monday: Am 2:6-10, 13-16/Mt 8:18-22
- Tuesday: Am 3:1-8; 4:11-12/Mt 8:23-27
- Wednesday: Am 5:14-15, 21-24/Mt 8:28-34
- Thursday: Eph 2:19-22/Jn 20:24-29
- Friday: Am 8:4-6, 9-12/Mt 9:9-13
- Saturday: Am 9:11-15/Mt 9:14-17
- Next Sunday: Zec 9:9-10/Rom 8:9, 11-13/Mt 11:25-30

He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?"  
Simon Peter said in reply, "You are the Christ, the  
Son of the living God." Jesus said to him in reply,  
"Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah. For flesh  
and blood has not revealed this to you, but my  
heavenly Father." - Mt 16:15-17

### Offices:

St. Veronica Parish Office (414) 482-2920  
353 E. Norwich St. 53207 Hours: M-F 8 am-4:00 pm  
Fax: (414) 482-3025

Website: [www.saintveronica.org](http://www.saintveronica.org)  
[parishoffice@saintveronica.org](mailto:parishoffice@saintveronica.org)  
Johnson Hall 414-482-2920, ext. 132

**Christian Formation Office** (414) 481-0777

**Very Rev. Mark Payne, Pastor** (262) 370-1845 (cell)  
(414)482-2920, ext. 111 [markpayne@saintveronica.org](mailto:markpayne@saintveronica.org)

**Deacon Emeritus John Dziennik**

**John Albinger, Technology**, 482-2920, ext. 114  
[johnalbinger@saintveronica.org](mailto:johnalbinger@saintveronica.org)

**Karen Bushman, Director of Elementary Formation**,  
481-0777, ext. 117 [karenbushman@saintveronica.org](mailto:karenbushman@saintveronica.org)

**Jeffrey Montoya, UAC, Youth Minister**,  
481-0777, ext. 135 [jeffmontoya@saintveronica.org](mailto:jeffmontoya@saintveronica.org)

**Kate Sponholz, Director of Music**, 482-2920, ext. 128  
[katesponholz@saintveronica.org](mailto:katesponholz@saintveronica.org)

**Tony Goodenough, Facilities Coordinator**, 482-2920, ext 115  
[tonygoodenough@saintveronica.org](mailto:tonygoodenough@saintveronica.org)

**Gerry Cofta, Parish Secretary**, 482-2920, ext. 110  
[gerrycofta@saintveronica.org](mailto:gerrycofta@saintveronica.org)

**Carla Jager, Office Coordinator**, 481-0777, ext. 140  
[carlajager@saintveronica.org](mailto:carlajager@saintveronica.org)

**Char Zeller, Office Assistant**, 482-2920, ext 110  
[charzeller@saintveronica.org](mailto:charzeller@saintveronica.org)

**St. Thomas Aquinas Academy**

**Principal: Rhonda Friday**  
(414) 744-1214 341 E. Norwich St.  
[www.thomasaquinasacademy.com](http://www.thomasaquinasacademy.com)

### Parish Council and Liaison Members 2007-2008

- Pastor*, Fr. Mark Payne
- Chairperson*, Paul Klajbor, 405-2674
- Vice-Chairperson*, Nick Karabon, 481-9165
- Agenda Secretary*, Christina Mascitti, 795-7505
- Trustee Treasurer*, Ken Widenski, 482-2417
- Trustee Secretary*, Patti Jeffers, 427-4069
- Building & Grounds*, Mike Zilinski, 482-4448
- Christian Formation*, Rodger Nelson, 571-0121
- Parish Life & APC*, Monica Phillip, 744-1697
- Prayer & Worship*, Lynn Larson, 489-9148
- STAA Board*, Judi Caruso, 744-1554
- Stewardship*, Robin Decker, 483-5485

### Parish Financial Stewardship for the Week of 06/15

Offeritory	\$ 632.86
Stewardship	14,804.32
Feed & Shelter the Poor	660.00
Fr. Mark's Wish List	<u>758.75</u>
<i>Total</i>	<i>\$16,855.93</i>

## Adult Ministry

### Rite of Christian Initiation Corner

Are you interested in joining the Catholic Church or completing the Sacraments of Eucharist and Confirmation? Do you know someone at work or in your neighborhood who is searching for a faith tradition?

Maybe they have asked questions about your Catholic practices. Why not invite them to consider the Catholic Church? The RCIA is an opportunity for people to learn about Jesus and His Church. We welcome the non-baptized, those baptized in another faith, and those who have not completed the Sacraments of Initiation. Inquiry sessions allow everyone to come and ask questions without any commitment. Be an evangelist wherever you are! Contact Karen at, 481-0777.or [karenbushman@saintveronica.org](mailto:karenbushman@saintveronica.org)

### Adult Confirmation

Adults (over 18) who have not received the Sacrament of Confirmation are invited to participate in the Adult Confirmation program. Program begins in January with sessions held on Thursday evenings. Registration forms are available on the parish website. For more information, contact Karen



### Theology-On-Tap 2008 Where Faith and Life Meet

Theology-on-Tap, a four week summer speaker series for single and married adults in their 20's and 30's, will run from July 7-July 31 at locations throughout Southeastern Wisconsin. All sessions begin at 7 pm. There is no cost to attend and registration is not required. Young adults of all denominations are welcome. For a complete listing of locations, topics and presenters, directions and information, please visit [www.livingourfaith.net](http://www.livingourfaith.net).



Please note the parish office will be closed on Friday, July 4th in honor of the holiday.

Have Safe and Happy Fourth!

## Youth Ministry

**Youth Ministry Intern Position Available** -We are seeking a college student to help with our youth ministry program for about 8 hours a week. The hours are flexible, but some weekends and Sundays are required. This is a paid position, perfect for a student interested in ministry or education careers. Contact Jeff Montoya for more information.

### FIRE

**Faith Igniting Retreat Experience** - a retreat for men to examine their understanding of Jesus Christ and relationship with him - August 8-10 at St. Vincent Pallotti Retreat Center in Elkhorn. This retreat will be directed by Father Mark Payne. Cost is \$150 which includes lodging, meals and retreat materials. For registration information go to [www.saintveronica.org](http://www.saintveronica.org) or call 482-2920.

### Sharing Faith with Your Child

Looking to weave your faith into your family life? Ideas come from 52 Simple Ways to Talk with Your Kids about Faith by Jim Campbell. This week we consider **Nurturing your child's gifts and talents**. Natural teachable moments include when your child enjoys and succeeds in a subject, hobby or sport; when your child notices a person with exceptional abilities; when your child questions their own abilities. Children can easily compare themselves with others. They can see others who have succeeded and question whether or not that is possible for them. Notice and comment when your child enjoys an activity and encourage them to try even when it seems difficult.

### Pick N Save Number

Religious Education for St. Veronica/ St. Paul has a charity number for Pick N Save grocery stores. If you would like your charitable donation to be credited to Religious Education please use code **#815830**. If you want to change your existing designated charity just mention our number at the service desk and they will update your card. Thank you.

### Catholic Kids Corner

#### Elementary Religious Education **FINAL DAYS TO SAVE MONEY ON YOUR REGISTRATION!**

Have you returned your registration form? Save money and re-register this week!

If your child will attend a public school in the fall, you are encouraged to register your child grades K5 – 6 for Religious Education. Children will attend class at their own parish with joint activities

throughout the year. Sessions at St. Veronica will be held on the second and fourth Sunday of the month, 9am – 11:30am (includes 10:30 Mass). Registration materials have been mailed. Registration forms are available on the parish website [www.saintveronica.org](http://www.saintveronica.org), call 481-0777. One year of religious education is required prior to preparing for First Reconciliation and Eucharist.

### Fun Facts for Faithful Kids

June 29 is the Feast of Sts. Peter and Paul. Peter was the leader of the Apostles. He had a special relationship with Jesus. Paul was not one of the Twelve Apostles but had been arresting people who believed in Jesus. On the road to Damascus, Paul heard Jesus talking to him. Jesus asked why Paul was persecuting Him. Paul became a follower of Jesus and was an important missionary.

July 3 is the Feast of St. Thomas the Apostle. He is often called Doubting Thomas because he at first did not believe that Jesus had risen from the dead. He said that he would believe if he could touch the wounds of Jesus. A week later, Jesus appeared again and Thomas said, "My Lord, and My God".

July 4 is celebration of the Birthday of America. On this day, the Declaration of Independence was ratified (accepted) by the Continental Congress. On July 4, 1884 France gave the United States a very large and special gift. This gift was the Statue of Liberty. The statue reminds us that in the United States we are free to celebrate life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.