



Our Lady of HOPE

CATHOLIC CHURCH

MEET THE CHURCH CLEANING MINISTRY

Keeping God's House and Our Parish Home Neat and Tidy

There are many essential tasks that take place behind the scenes to keep a parish running smoothly. Since this work is performed mostly out of sight, these efforts may not get a second thought from those coming in and out of the church for Mass. One such essential effort is keeping the church clean. We all know what goes into cleaning our own homes — so who takes care of that work here at the church?

At Our Lady of Hope, there are a few different ministries that work together to help keep the church clean and beautiful. The Church Cleaning Ministry members work as monthly teams to clean the windows, bathrooms, and doors, as well as dusting the pews, among other tasks.

Randy and Barbara Emmons have been involved in the Church Cleaning Ministry for almost 20 years. It has been one of the many ways that they have served Our Lady of Hope over the years.

"I'm a convert," Randy says. "When I converted, I told myself that if I was asked to help the community, I would have to say yes. So, they had a sign-up and asked if anyone was interested in helping out to keep the church clean, and we said yes."

Each team is assigned a month, and that team ensures that the church is ready for the weekend Masses. Typically, members spend about one or two hours a week cleaning for their assigned months. Sometimes when there are



(From left) May church cleaners Barbara Emmons, Randy Emmons, Kay Heffernan, Mary Jo Sellers, Glenna Myers (not pictured — Madonna Worland)

special events such as graduation, weddings, funerals, Christmas or Easter, the teams may spend extra time preparing.

"When I go in, it is so quiet," Barbara says. "I use the time while I am cleaning to talk to God. Or, I'll pray for people who I know are in need of prayers. It is a very

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HOW TO PRAY *the Rosary* WITH DEVOTION AND PURPOSE

As Catholics, prayer is an integral part of our spiritual journey, and among the most cherished and powerful devotions is the Rosary. With its beads and meditative rhythm, the Rosary offers a profound way to connect with God and reflect on the life of Jesus Christ. Whether you're new to the practice or seeking to deepen your prayer life, here's a guide to help you pray the Rosary with devotion and purpose.

- **Prepare Your Heart:** Before beginning the Rosary, take a moment to quiet your mind and open your heart to God's presence. Offer a prayer asking for guidance and grace as you enter into this sacred time of prayer.
- **Start with the Sign of the Cross:** Begin by making the Sign of the Cross, affirming your belief in the Holy Trinity — Father, Son, and Holy Spirit — who you invite to join you in prayer.
- **Recite the Apostles' Creed:** This foundational prayer expresses our core beliefs as Catholics. Recite it slowly and attentively, reflecting on the profound truths it proclaims.
- **Pray the Our Father:** As Jesus taught His disciples, pray the Our Father, acknowledging God as our loving Father and seeking His will to be done in our lives.
- **Meditate on the Mysteries:** The Rosary is divided

into four sets of Mysteries: Joyful, Sorrowful, Glorious, and Luminous. As you recite each decade, meditate on the corresponding Mystery, contemplating its significance and relevance to your life.

- **Recite the Hail Mary:** With each bead, pray the Hail Mary, honoring Mary as the Mother of God and seeking her intercession as you journey through the Mysteries.
- **Conclude with the Glory Be:** At the end of each decade, offer the Glory Be, praising the Holy Trinity and acknowledging God's glory and presence in your life.
- **End with the Hail Holy Queen:** Conclude the Rosary by reciting the Hail Holy Queen, asking Mary to pray for us and guide us on our journey towards her Son, Jesus Christ.
- **Closing Prayer:** Finally, offer a closing prayer, expressing gratitude for the opportunity to pray the Rosary and asking for God's blessings upon yourself and your loved ones.
- **Practice Consistency and Persistence:** Like any spiritual practice, praying the Rosary regularly requires commitment and discipline. Set aside time each day to pray the Rosary and allow its transformative power to enrich your spiritual life.



THE MONTH OF MARY: A TIME FOR CELEBRATION AND JOY

Dear Parishioners,

In the life of the Church, each month carries a special devotion, and in May, we turn our hearts to our Blessed Mother, Mary. This is a time to deepen our love and appreciation for the Mother of God, reflecting on her role in salvation history and in our own spiritual lives. Perhaps we can honor her this month by incorporating more Marian prayers into our daily routine, especially the Rosary — a powerful prayer that draws us closer to Christ through Mary’s intercession. Of course, this presumes that daily prayer is already part of our lives, as it should be for every faithful steward of God’s gifts.

Mary’s unwavering “yes” to God changed the course of human history. Through her trust and obedience, she became the vessel through which our Savior took on flesh, making our redemption possible. Because of her perfect faithfulness, she was preserved from sin and, at the end of her earthly life, assumed into heaven, where she reigns as Queen of Heaven and Earth. While we worship only Jesus Christ, we honor Mary as the greatest of saints, recognizing that true devotion to her always leads us to her Son.

Mary’s joyful surrender to God’s will is a model for all of us. As Christian stewards, we are also called to say



“yes” to the Lord — offering our time, talents, and resources in gratitude for all He has given us. Just as Mary’s motherhood nurtured Christ, her spiritual motherhood nurtures us as disciples, drawing us ever closer to God’s love. This is why we honor her with May Crownings, recognizing her role in bringing Christ to the world and our lives.

May is a season of renewal, not only in nature but also in our faith. The beauty of spring reminds us that God calls us to bring beauty into the world through acts of love and service.

Stewardship is a response to that call — to live with hearts open to giving, just as Mary did.

I am deeply grateful to serve as your pastor. My priesthood has been a tremendous blessing, made even greater by the joy of walking this journey of faith with you. Please know that I pray for you daily, and I ask you to keep me in your prayers as well. May God bless you always.

In Christ,

Fr. Paul Ferguson

Fr. Paul Ferguson
Pastor



THE SUMMER SOCIAL *Offer*

Mark your calendar for Our Lady of Hope's Summer Social, held at the Commons on July 26-27. Fr. Paul Ferguson is already looking forward to this year's festivities.

"We decided to have it closer to school starting so we could have our alumni here," he says. "That way they can come celebrate with our Catholic community. We have the whole Commons Saturday night and all day Sunday. We have a whole new vision for the social, making it very family friendly."

The event starts at 6 p.m. on Saturday, July 26, with a beer garden and a band performing outside.

"We'll be selling liquor for the adults," Fr. Paul says. "It's going to be partly inside the Knights of Columbus and partly outside. People can walk around and listen to the music and dance and whatever else they want to do."

Plenty of great food will be available that evening, as well.

"We have food trucks that are going to line up on one side of the park," Fr. Paul says. "When people drink, they

want to eat. People can get different foods and we get a percentage of that back. If they spend more, we get more."

The Saturday evening portion of the event concludes at 10 p.m.

"On Sunday morning at 10 a.m., we have Mass outside," Fr. Paul says. "It's combining the 9 a.m. and the 11:15 a.m. Masses. After Mass, everything begins at the social and it lasts until 2 p.m."

The Sunday portion of the Summer Social offers plenty of food and fun for everyone.

"It includes all different eating stands," Fr. Paul says. "We have Spanish, a fish stand, hamburgers and hot dogs, and the Daughters of Isabella do all kinds of desserts."

But this year's event offers more than only food stands.

"This year, we're bringing back our dinner," Fr. Paul says. "That's going to be served in the air-conditioned Knights of Columbus Hall, or they can go eat on the Commons. They have a big, roofed area that we'll have decorated."

Everything goes until 2 p.m., though the dinners may



ers a Weekend of Faith, Fellowship, and Fun

end sooner if the food runs out.

“By the time the day is over, hopefully, we’ve sold them all,” Father says.

An event like the Summer Social wouldn’t be complete without family activities as well.

“We’ll have a big raffle and prizes,” Fr. Paul says. “The big raffle has different prizes — we pull 10 to 15 names out. There is something for everyone. We’re hoping this year to have some fun new things for the kids.”

The Summer Social is all about community and bringing everyone together.

“People from the whole city can come and participate,” Fr. Paul says. “We want to build fellowship within our community and also the larger community. We’ll send out a flyer to the other churches.”

Community is such an important part of a parish and to stewardship.

“Every year, we do a stewardship outreach,” Fr. Paul says. “We send all the households a packet on stewardship.

They can sign up for time, talent, and treasure, and they can sign up for the social and be a part of that. We call them up and get them involved to either be in the core group or just at one of the stands or whatever they’re interested in, like setup or teardown. We’ll have signs in the back of the church once we figure out how many people we need for each stand.”

Fr. Paul has a group of about 12 to 15 volunteers putting everything together.

“We’ve been meeting every two or three weeks,” he says. “We’ve had to figure out what we can and cannot do on public land. My chairperson and her husband were there with me last year and the year before, and we have a couple that have been there two years. We’ve also got some new people. Signups will be more towards the end of June.”

Things are getting bigger and better, so be sure to make it down to the Commons in July!

“Everyone is welcome,” Fr. Paul says.



For more information on the upcoming Summer Social, call the parish office at 812-254-2883.

THE ST. VINCENT

Serving as Christ's Hands and Feet,

As the hands and feet of Christ, we are called to serve our communities with a love that sees others as equals. Through the St. Vincent de Paul Society, our parish is able to do just that, bringing relief and love to our neighbors in need.

Barb Fyffe Risch is the conference president at Our Lady of Hope. Our conference runs the St. Vincent de Paul store, which is a hub for bringing aid to those in need.

"We are a 100-percent volunteer-run store, and 70 percent of what the store brings in goes to financial assistance in the form of rent, utility bills, medical prescriptions, and more," Barb says.

The St. Vincent de Paul store is a way to bring in funds to help others and bring affordable necessities to the community. Affordable — sometimes free — clothing and home goods help those who are struggling to pay their bills.

There are about 80 volunteers who run the store and

minister to neighbors in need. Some of the volunteers work in the back, sorting donations, cleaning, and stocking shelves. Others work at the cash registers and answer questions, while others take calls for assistance. They decide how they can help and go on home visits where two volunteers, usually a man and a woman, visit a neighbor in their home to meet and assess the situation.

"Home visits are a unique opportunity because people want to tell us their stories," Barb says. "Sometimes listening is far more important than the bill we pay. Sometimes we just need to be with them and say a prayer with them."

Many of the neighbors come to shop at the store so the volunteers are able to stay connected. Sometimes they make follow-up calls to see how neighbors are doing.

Our St. Vincent de Paul conference collaborates with nearby conferences — for example, we helped to put together



DE PAUL SOCIETY

Helping Our Neighbors in Need

soup meal kits to send to the Carolinas. We are also part of the Daviess County Partnership, also known as Connections, which links together churches and non-profits in the area.

“If a bill is too high and we can’t pay it all, we try to find another agency that can help,” Barb says. “There are often three or four organizations paying a bill.”

In her 13 years with the ministry, Barb’s understanding of those in need has transformed.

“We have preconceived notions of who needs help,” she says. “But after doing this for a while, you begin to see it can be anyone — even your family and friends. There is no ‘us’ and ‘them.’ We are no different than those we help.”

All parishioners can support the work of St. Vincent de Paul by making monetary donations as well as donating to the store. Barb notes that the ministry has been busier than ever before lately and volunteers are always welcome.

“We grow closer to God by serving others,” Barb says. “We want people to volunteer here who understand the mission and are doing it for the love of serving God.”



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To volunteer with the St. Vincent de Paul Society, call the store at 812-254-6678.

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CHURCH CLEANING MINISTRY *continued from front cover*

intimate time that I get to spend with Him. I just always remember that God is there and this is His house. We want to keep it the way that He would like it.”

The Church Cleaning Ministry is open to all parishioners. Large groups or other ministries can sign up to take a month of cleaning. This is even a great opportunity for families to get involved and donate some of their time to serve the parish family together.

“I was there the other day and there was a mother, young child, and her older son helping clean,” Barbara says. “It is good to show your children that this is something that needs to be done and that they can be involved too. It’s not all about treasure — children can be shown that they can offer their time and talents to the parish too.”

For Randy and Barbara, being involved in this ministry

has also offered them the opportunity to get to know other parishioners that they may not have met otherwise.

“We encourage all parishioners to get involved,” Randy says. “It is a worthwhile thing to do, and it makes you feel more like you are working as a family. You are getting the church ready as if it is your own home for your family of parishioners.”

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To get involved with the Church Cleaning Ministry, contact the parish office at 812-254-2883.