

Saint Ferdinand

Catholic Church

1788

2021



Guide Book
&
Directory

Pastor
Fr. Mike Murphy

Associate Pastor
Fr. Nick Muenks

314-837-3165
1765 Charbonier Road Florissant, MO 63031
www.stferdinandstl.org

St. Ferdinand Parish

1765 Charbonier Rd
Florissant, MO 63031
(314) 837-3165



Welcome!

Welcome to St. Ferdinand Parish!

Sunday after Sunday, as we gather at the Lord's Table, we identify ourselves as followers of Jesus; this is our most important action as God's people. We come together not as strangers, but as brothers and sisters in Jesus. As a community of faith, we are about the business of furthering the kingdom of God in our parish. The work of the kingdom is accomplished in many different ways through the various ministries, organizations and individuals who are listed in this directory. Together, let us renew with one another, with the Lord's guidance, the unity which binds us together, and work tirelessly that indeed, His kingdom may come.

We are pleased to have YOU as a member of our Parish Family. We welcome you with open arms and invite you to full participation in our Parish Life!

If you are not registered, please call the Parish Office at 314-837-3165 or register on-line at www.stferdinandstl.org/parish/join-our-parish

History of Saint Ferdinand Parish

St. Ferdinand Parish celebrated their 230th anniversary in October 2018. During its 230-year history, the parish at times has been a part of the Diocese of Quebec, Santiago de Cuba, Havana, Louisiana and the Floridas and finally St. Louis. It was in the mid 1700's that the French began to invade the Mississippi Valley as settlers, giving birth to localities such as Florissant. Known then as St. Ferdinand de Florissant, it was a typical French Catholic village.

Like other French Catholics, their first concern was their religion. They decided to establish a village church even though the prospects of securing a priest to minister there were remote. They built the church, the first in Florissant, in 1788 at the corner of St. Ferdinand and St. Louis Streets.

In 1792, a new log church was built four blocks away. In 1820, the log church was replaced by a new brick church. In the first 20 years there was no resident pastor, and various visiting priests came at intervals.

In 1823, Jesuit priests came to Florissant, locating at St. Ferdinand Parish until their own building, St. Stanislaus Seminary, could be completed on another tract of land in Florissant. Father Charles F. Van Quickenborne became the first Jesuit Pastor of St. Ferdinand. This group of Jesuits came from Maryland, and most were natives of Belgium.

Father Peter J. De Smet, SJ, known as the Apostle of the Indians, was ordained at St. Ferdinand in 1827. He died in 1873 and was buried at St. Stanislaus. The first motherhouse in the United States of the Society of the Sacred Heart was established on the parish grounds by St. Rose Philippine Duchesne shortly after her arrival in St. Louis. The first Indian school for girls in the U.S. was established at the parish, as was a free school for boys and girls, one of the first institutions of its kind west of the Mississippi.

German settlers began to arrive in the mid-1840's. They came in such great numbers that at the close of the Civil War another parish was needed, and they established Most Sacred Heart Parish.

English, Irish, and other settlers also arrived in Florissant. The various people, despite their ethnic differences, merged into a cooperative community with their church at the center of their spiritual, civic and social life.

The Sisters of Loretto came to the parish to staff the school in 1847. Priests of the Society of Jesus oversaw St. Ferdinand Parish until 1958 when they were needed for mission and education work and archdiocesan priests were assigned. A year earlier a new St. Ferdinand Church was built on Charbonier Road on property donated to the Archdiocese for this purpose by Tom and Mary Herbst. To prevent demolition of the old structure, Florissant residents rallied to preserve it as Old St. Ferdinand Shrine.

The combination church and school building at the new site was used until December 1960, when a contemporary church seating 700 persons was built. From 1958 to 1961 the parish tripled in population. Several

additions were built on the school in the late 1950's and 1960's. A new 1,375 square foot Gathering Space was completed and dedicated in June 2013. It provides the much-needed space for fellowship after Mass without distracting from the reverence of church. There is a place for families to wake their loved ones before a funeral and space for wedding parties to prepare for the ceremony and greet their guests.

The parish today is stable. There are over 1,200 households in the parish. Our second year as All Saints Academy St. Ferdinand Campus has over 180 students. Our Parish School of Religion has combined with St. Sabina. The Principal of the parish school is Mrs. Anna Davis, and PSR Coordinator for St. Ferdinand students is Deacon Dave Harpring.

Saint Ferdinand III of Castile

King of Castile, Spain, from 1217 to 1252, Ferdinand III was canonized by Pope Clement X in 1671. The son of Alphonso IX of Leon, and Berengaria, the heiress to Castile, he was born near Salamanca, Spain, in 1199. Upon the death of his father in 1230, Ferdinand succeeded to the throne of Leon. He ruled the kingdoms of Castile and Leon jointly until his death in Seville, Spain, on May 30, 1252.

As king, Ferdinand proved a capable and just administrator. His lifelong interests were to rid Spain of the Moors and to foster the spread of Christianity throughout his kingdom. He succeeded in driving the Moors out of almost all of Spain, including the important cities of Cordova (1236) and Seville (1248). At his death, only Granada and Alicante remained in the hands of the Moors. Ferdinand also defended the faith by taking stern measures against the Albigenses, a heretical sect.

A devout Catholic, Ferdinand was strict in fasting, wore a hair shirt, and often prayed all night. He founded monasteries, converted Muslim mosques--including one at Seville--into cathedrals, and endowed hospitals. In 1242 he established the University of Salamanca, a famous center of learning. When Ferdinand died, he was buried in the habit of the Third Order of St. Francis in the cathedral of Seville, where his tomb has been credited as the site of many miracles. His feast is celebrated on May 30.



St. Ferdinand proudly claims Philippine Duchesne as our saint, and she was a woman of adventure and faith. She constantly tried to bring people, especially children, to the beauty of the Sacred Heart. She was not one to remain complacent and be satisfied with the status quo. She kept inviting people to be nourished by Jesus Christ. She opened schools in Saint Charles, Florissant and Saint Louis. She reached out!

We at St. Ferdinand have an opportunity to “reach out” to others with our new “gathering space”. By expanding our present vestibule, we have provided a warm, welcoming entranceway to God’s House. We now have space for our organizations to offer opportunities for participation in various parish programs. We now have an area for our shrine to St. Ferdinand, plus an attractive, prayerful space for families to wake their loved ones before a funeral. This gathering space encourages people to enjoy fellowship while allowing those who wish to pray after Mass the quiet and solitude of our church space.

St. Philippine Duchesne always found ways to invite our ancestors to a greater appreciation and devotion to our Blessed Lord. Please join us to provide sacred hospitality to those who come to pray at St. Ferdinand by being excited welcoming hosts.

Parish Mission Statement

We, the people of St. Ferdinand Parish, appreciative of our rich traditions and missionary heritage, are a Catholic Community empowered by the Holy Spirit, the sacraments and prayer.

Using our individual gifts and talents, we are called to grow in Christian faith and love, to proclaim the Gospel values, and to minister to the St. Ferdinand parish family and all the people of God.

With God’s grace, we continue our apostolic mission to spread the Good News and to follow our baptismal call to be the Body of Christ.

Succession of Priests of St. Ferdinand

Pastors

Bernard de Limpach, O.M. (Capuchin) – 1789

Jean Antoine Le Dru dit Jacobin – 1789-1792

Pierre Joseph Didier, O.S.B. (Benedictine) – 1792-1798

Leander Lusson (Recollect) – 1798-1804

Thomas Flynn, O.M. (Capuchin) – 1806-1808

M. Bernard Langlois, O.C.R. (Trappist) – 1809-1810

Urban Guillet, O.C.R. (Trappist) – 1810-1811

Marie Joseph Dunand, O.C.R. (Trappist) – 1811-1820

Charles De La Croix, 1820-1823

Charles F. Van Quickenbourn, S.J. 1823-1827

Theodore de Theux, S.J. – 1827-1829

Judocus Van Assche, S.J. – 1829-1835

James G. Busschotts, S.J. – 1835-1836

Judocus Van Assche, S.J. – 1836-1838

Victor Paillason, S.J. – 1838

John Gelizal, S.J. – 1838-1840



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James Cotting, S.J. – 1840
Judocus Van Assche, S.J. – 1840-1853
Florian Sautois, S.J. – 1853-1857
Judocus Van Assche, S.J. – 1857-1877
Adrian M. Hayden, S.J. – 1877-1884
Adrian Sweere, S.J. – 1884-1885
William F. Boex, S.J. – 1885-1893
Joseph P. DeSmedt, S.J. – 1893-1895
Joseph R. Real (Riehl), S.J. – 1895-1896
Francis Hillman (Heuvelmans), S.J. 1896-1911
Michael Speich, S.J. – 1911-1919
Joseph M. Milet, S.J. – 1919-1925
William H. Trentman, S.J. – 1925-1944
James V. Fallon, S.J. – 1944-1949
Lawrence L. Cusak, S.J. – 1949-1953
Harry B. Crimmins, S.J. – 1949-1953
Edward W. Courtney, S.J. – 1955-1958
John R. Phelan – 1958-1967
Joseph A. O'Brien – 1968-1974
John P. Holland – 1975-1991
Gary M. Gebelein – 1991-2002
John G. Dempsey – 2002-2008
A. John Schuler – 2008-2014
Thomas J. Haley – 2014-2016
Michael G. Murphy – 2016 - present

Associates

Charles Bell – 1894
Joseph G. Kernion – 1895
Peter Bouige – 1898-1899
James Paulus – 1913-1921
Michael Eicher – 1924-1927
Michael R. Speist – 1928-1937
Charles A. Imbs – 1938-1941
Alfred F. Schneider – 1942
Francis J. Coffey – 1943-1944
Joseph F. Kiefer – 1944-1947
William F. Trentman – 1945-1946
Stephen J. Egan – 1947
Anthony J. Adams – 1948-1950
Joseph A. Herbers – 1951-1952
George T. Andrews – 1951
Marion B. Budzinski – 1942-1954
Henry H. Regnet – 1956-1957
Edward A. Thro – 1958
John H. Knittel – 1958-1963
John J. Houlehin – 1960-1961
Gregory L. Schmidt – 1961-1967
Joseph T. Shocklee – 1964-1965

Robert Foley – 1966-1967
Alexander Lippert – 1967-1968
Norman C. Schrodi – 1968-1969; 1971-1974
John. F. Fitzgerald – 1968-1969
John L. Mayer – 1970-1973
James W. Schaefer – 1969-1970
James F. Stauber – 1972-1975
Joseph W. Banden – 1974-1978
Adolph H. Ayd – 1974-1979
Michael S. McGrath – 1975-1977
George Galovich – 1976-1977
Eugene E. Utrup – 1978-1979
Robert Samson – 1979-1984
Gerald T. Will – 1980-1983
Kevin V. Schmittgens – 1983-1984
Mark L. Fuller – 1983-1984
Paul J. Rothschild – 1985-1990
Raymond B. Leirmann – 1987
James P. Grady – 1988-1992
Donald Heck – 1990
Joseph J. Ryan – 1990-1992
Timothy Cronin – 1991-1993
Patrick Christopher – 1992-1996
Glennon Goellner – 1993-2000
Michael G. Murphy – 1996-1998
Richard J. Rath – 1998-2001
Eugene G. Robertson – 2001-2004
William J. Baier – 2004-2013
Timothy J. Henderson – 2004-2007
Joseph S. Post – 2007-2011
John C. Nickolai – 2013-2016
David E. Rauch – 2016-2019
Nicholas J. Muenks – 2019-present

Pastor:Fr. Michael Murphy

Associate Pastor:.....Fr. Nicholas Muenks

Permanent Deacons: Deacon Phil Hutsler
..... Deacon Pete Gounis (Retired)

School Principal:.....Mrs. Anna Davis

PSR Coordinator: Deacon David Harpring

Office Manager:..... Mrs. Dana Wiele

Parish Secretary:..... Mrs. Jan Keenoy

School Administrative Assistant:..... Mrs. Barb Wilcox

Sunday Masses:..... 7:00 AM; 9:00 AM; 11:00 AM

Anticipated Mass:..... Saturday, 5:00 PM

Weekday Masses:..... Monday-Friday: 6:00 AM; 8:00 AM
..... Saturday: 8:00 AM

Holyday/Holiday Mass See Bulletin

The daily 8:00 AM Mass and the 5:00 PM Vigil Mass for Sunday are live streamed and posted daily on our YouTube page.

- Confessions:**..... Saturday: 3:30 PM-4:30 PM
 Or by appointment when necessary
- Anointing of the Sick:**..... Contact the Rectory
- Perpetual Help Devotions:** Tuesday following 8:00 AM Mass
- Perpetual Adoration:** Duchesne Chapel-See website for hours
- Divine Mercy Chaplet:** Sunday evening at 5:00 PM in the Chapel
- Sacrament of Marriage:** Please call the rectory for appointment at
 least six months prior to the wedding.
- Baptism:**..... Please call the rectory to schedule the
 required parent instruction class.
- Bulletin Deadline:**..... Tuesday Morning
- Parish Registration:**Monday-Friday: 8:30 AM-4:00 PM at the Rectory
 Or online at www.stferdinandstl.org
- Rectory:**..... 314-837-3165
 Fax:..... 314-837-5799
- Parish E-mail:** stferd@juno.com
- Parish & School Web Site:**www.stferdinandstl.org
- School:**..... 314-921-2201
- Falcon Friends:**..... 314-288-6224
- Fish Fry:** 314-839-5312

St. Ferdinand Organization List

Organization	Contact	Phone
Adult Faith Development	Paul Segura.....	831-1197
Altar Society.....	Sharon Derhake.....	921-1100
Athletic Association.....	Chad Berendzen.....	795-6197
Children's Liturgy of the Word	Joan Reddy.....	839-2798
Church Cleaners.....	Mary Jane Ebersohl.....	920-9608
Culture of Life (Pro-Life).....	Maria Thompson.....	831-1989
Eucharistic Ministers	Susan Koester.....	921-3960
Falcon Friends.....	Angela Wolverton.....	288-6224
Fish Fry	Joni Snider.....	222-9414
Funeral Meals	Rhonda Lakin.....	895-5566
Greeters	Lori Geerling.....	731-3893
Homebound Ministry	Debbie Henderson.....	837-8366
Ladies Sodality.....	Sharon Derhake.....	921-1100
Lectors	Mike & Stephanie Koenig.....	330-3239
Lighted Sign.....	Dana Wiele.....	837-3165
Liturgy Committee	Mary Krummey.....	741-1619
Marriage Encounter	Linda Biondo.....	831-2677
Marriage Prep Program.....	Darren & Dawn Hale.....	731-2743
Meals-On-Wheels-to volunteer	Jan Schubert.....	837-3444
to order meals (Between 9AM & 1PM)	M.O.W. office.....	953-6800
Men's Club (Council of Catholic Men)	Phil Beck.....	839-3239



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Music Ministry	Mary Krummy.....	741-1619
Contemporary Choir	Mike Miloszewski.....	249-1086
Notary Public	Jan Keenoy.....	837-3165
Parish Council	Dave Reddy.....	395-4109
Parish School of Religion.....	Deacon Dave Harpring.....	831-8988
Perpetual Adoration	Stephanie Koenig.....	330-3239
.....	Debbie Henderson.....	258-4112
Picnic Committee	Laura Sandstrom.....	363-3219
Prayer Line.....	Website: www.stferdinandstl.org	
Quilting.....	Sharon Derhake.....	921-1100
R.C.I.A.	Sue Russell.....	972-1376
Room at the Inn	Kathy Costello.....	484-1804
Sacred Heart Enthronement.....	Bill Wallisch.....	837-0446
St. Ferdinand Thanksgiving Dinner.....	Pat Meitz.....	249-8603
St. Vincent de Paul	Leave voicemail	
.....	289-6101 ext. 2216	
Scrapbooking/Crafts	Karen Wroblewski.....	330-3693
Scouts		
Boy Scouts	Sam Huhman.....	895-1306
Cub Scouts.....	Darren Hale.....	731-2743
Girl Scouts.....	Christine Cenatiempo.....	830-0745
Servers	Amy Reddy.....	838-2962
T.E.A.M. collection	Debbie Henderson.....	837-8366
Ushers.....	Paul Manganeli.....	606-6578

Organization	Meeting Time	Place
Adult Choir	Thursday, 7:30-9:30 PM.....	Church
Altar Society.....	Tuesday, 9:30 AM.....	Church
Sacristy		
Athletic Association.....	3rd Tuesday, 7:00 PM.....	Duchesne Hall
Children's Liturgy of Word	Sunday, 11:00 AM.....	Church
Contemporary Choir	Sunday, 9:00 AM.....	Church
Cub Scout Pack Meeting.....	3rd Wednesday, 7:00 PM.....	Duchesne
Finance Council	Meets Quarterly.....	Rectory
Ladies Sodality (Sept-Nov, Feb-May)		
.....	3rd Tuesday, 12:00 PM.....	Duchesne Hall
Light Weigh.....	Thursday, 7:00 PM.....	Duchesne #10
Liturgy Committee	1st Tuesday Quarterly, 6:30 PM.....	Duchesne Center
Men's Club (CCM)	1st Wednesday, 7:30 PM.....	Duchesne Hall
Quilting.....	Monday, 8:30 AM-2:00 PM.....	Duchesne
September-April	Monday, 7:00-9:00 PM.....	Basement
R.C.I.A.	Thursday, 7:00 PM.....	Duchesne Hall



St. Vincent de Paul 1st/3rd Monday, 6:30 PM Duchesne #10
Youth Choir 1st/3rd Wednesday, 6:30 PM..... Church

Due to Covid-19 and the CDC and Health Department guideline, most meetings and gatherings have been canceled or are meeting via Zoom.

Adult Faith Development

All Christians, indeed all humankind, enjoy a personal relationship with God and are on an individual journey to grow ever closer to Him. One of the best ways we can encounter God is through the fellow Christians with whom we journey. Adult Faith Development fosters Continual spiritual growth by offering small faith study groups where the common questions of life, faith, and God can be explored in a nurturing, supportive environment. These groups typically have 7-12 participants and meet in the spring and fall. If you would like more information on being a small group facilitator, or becoming part of the coordinating team, please call Paul Segura at 831-1197.

All Saints Academy at St. Ferdinand Parish

PARTNERSHIP SCHOOL on the St. Ferdinand Campus
Catholic Education at All Saints Academy at St. Ferdinand Parish is an expression of the teaching ministry of the church, organized to promote human development in response to the Gospel. It fosters growth in all individual and social dimensions: spiritual, moral, intellectual, emotional, physical and aesthetic, through a ministry embracing a message of faith, taught and lived in community, and reaching out in service to others.

All Saints Academy and St. Ferdinand Parish has partnered with the Archdiocese of St. Louis and the two parishes at St. Norbert and St. Rose Philippine Duchesne to create a partnership school with shared student, staff, and parent resources. We offer a Preschool through Eighth grade Catholic Education. Our curriculum consists of the core subject areas as well as Technology, Art, Physical Education, and a resource teacher. All Saints Academy at St. Ferdinand Parish is accredited through the Missouri Non-Public Accreditation Association.

Our parents, being the first educators of their children, remain actively involved with activities throughout the school year, both during the school day, as well as after hours. The Home and School Association works with the three campuses and parents to provide community-building experiences and activities to ensure that families are an active part of the education of their children.

Our Preschool program offers hands-on approach to early childhood education that is rooted in Gospel values. Our students participate in a variety of fun-filled activities and are guided on their educational journey by dedicated, qualified early childhood educators. Our program has several components, allowing us to meet the varying needs of the children at each age level. We have both a full day and half day option for both 3-year-old and 4-year-old students.

Extra programs that the school is involved in are: Archery, Multi-grade team activities, Speech program, DARE Drug awareness program, Character Development program, Running Club, Computer Science club, Outdoor Education Experience, Academic Fair, Dancing Classrooms, Peer-Tutoring program, and a concentration of aid to the Missions. Grades 1 through 8 participate in Mass twice weekly, at which time students act as lectors, gift bearers and choir members. Kindergarten participates in Mass weekly, and Preschool students participate in Mass four times a year.

The personnel in the school office are always happy to answer any questions... just call 314-921-2201 or send an email to principal216@stferdinandstl.org.

Altar Society

Members of the Altar Society are called Sacristans. Sacristans are the people who assist with caring for the needs of the Sanctuary/Sacristy in church. Duties include watering and maintaining all the flower/plants, dusting/polishing/cleaning, launder/iron and repair of altar and server linens, cleaning the holy water fonts and maintaining all the candles. They take care of ordering flowers, host, wine and candles. The Head Sacristan reports monthly to the members of the Ladies Sodality, its parent organization. Please consider joining this society; they are always looking for more parishioners to assist them in taking care of the Sanctuary/Sacristy in church. Membership to the Ladies Sodality is not required. They meet every Tuesday morning after 8:00 AM MASS in the Sacristy.

Athletic Association

The purpose of the Catholic Youth Council (C.Y.C.) is to help boys and girls become ideal youth-loyal to God, church community, and country. One aspect of the CYC program is athletics; the goals here are to help our youth become physically fit, promote good sportsmanship, and teach respect for rules, teamwork, and the ability to get along with others. St. Ferdinand sponsors teams in baseball, softball, soccer, basketball, volleyball, and track. There are training leagues for grades kindergarten through 2nd, and CYC leagues for 3rd grade through high school. Sign-ups for baseball, softball, and track are in January, soccer, volleyball and golf in May and for basketball in September. Dates, times, and places for sign-ups are published in the bulletin.



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Our Athletic Association helps support its activities through a variety of fundraisers and the concession stand proceeds from the various sporting events. The Athletic Committee meets the 3rd Tuesday of every month at 7:00 PM. For information or online registrations, visit our website at www.stferdinandathletics.com.

Building and Grounds Committee

This committee keeps the parish complex in repair. The team identifies repairs that need to be done and, either on their own, or by contracting with outside companies, sees that it is completed. They are also responsible for all the improvements made to the school, church, rectory, and surrounding grounds.

Culture of Life (Pro-Life) Committee

The general purpose of the committee is to offer pastoral, spiritual, educational, and public policy programs within our parish which will raise the awareness of pro-life issues and needs. We receive guidance from the Archdiocesan Pro-Life Committee (APLC) and participate in as many of their activities as possible. Our small core group tries to meet this challenge but is always in need of people with new ideas and energies. Please come to one of our meetings or give one of the coordinators a call to get more involved. We could really use your help!

Eucharistic Ministers

When Pope Paul VI gave official approval for the use of extraordinary ministers of the Eucharist, he reestablished a practice that was common in the early church. These special ministers assist the ordinary ministers (priests and deacons) to insure that the communion rite of the Mass is not out of proportion to the total celebration. Some also bring the Eucharist to the homebound of our parish after Sunday Mass; in this way, these sick and elderly may realize that they are united, not only with the Eucharist, but with the community, and are supported by its love. No one, of course, is worthy of this ministry, but those who are invited to participate are called to a true commitment of humble service to the parish—a ministry that Paul VI called “an important office of immense love”.

Falcon Friends

Falcon Friends is before and after school care for ASA-St. Ferdinand students. This program is an addition to the great education program already in place at St. Ferdinand. The hours of service are 6:00 AM to 7:30 AM and 2:30 PM-6:00 PM. Summer Camp is held every summer.

Fish Fry

The St. Ferdinand Fish Fry has been in operation almost 70 years! It started as a once-a-month fundraiser at the Old St. Ferdinand Shrine and grew to a weekly event after moving to the new St. Ferdinand Church on its completion on Charbonier Road. We have approximately 20 adults, 15 high school students, and 17 grade school students working each week. It takes 3 days' preparation to feed the crowds who come regularly. And, thanks to them, our profits help keep our parish and school running. Current hours are 3:30-7:00 PM each Friday; a variety of meals are available.

Funeral Meals

A group of volunteers prepare and serve funeral luncheons for parishioners who have died and have the funeral Mass at St. Ferdinand.

Greeters

The greeters welcome people as they enter for Mass. Adults, individuals and families are invited to become greeters.

Homebound Ministry

Each week after Sunday Mass, the homebound of our parish are brought the Eucharist by our homebound ministers. If you or anyone you know of is unable to attend Mass on Sunday and would like to receive the Eucharist in your home, please call Debbie Henderson at 837-8366.

The program is being expanded to include visiting our parishioners who are in the hospital or nursing home. We would love to have more people involved in the program. Please contact Debbie Henderson if you are willing to serve in this ministry.

Ladies Sodality

The Ladies Sodality is an organization for all women of the parish. Their purpose is to take care of the church needs such as paying for hosts, wine, altar linens, server linens and other special requests of the pastor. The annual Quilt Bingo is held the first weekend of November and provides the funds to support these expenses. The groups supported by Sodality are the Quilters and the Altar Society. The Quilters are responsible for making the beautiful quilts for the Quilt Bingo. The Altar Society is responsible for taking care of the Sanctuary and Sacristy. The Ladies Sodality meets on the third Tuesday of September, October, November, February, March, April and May at 12:00 PM in the Duchesne Hall. They have lunch, a meeting, games, and a lot of visiting with old and new friends. New members are always welcome.

Lector Ministry

This ministry has thirty-five dedicated parishioners who are all aware that in reading the Word of God, they are actually bringing Christ into the midst of the assembly. They also realize that they are just one ministry among many that help to make St. Ferdinand a very special parish family.

Liturgy Committee

The Sunday Liturgy is the heartbeat of our parish. It is the center to which we are drawn from various individual lives into community, sharing as a parish family. The Liturgy Committee at St. Ferdinand is striving to help create a more prayerful atmosphere at each Mass. Hopefully by sharing with you our “Mission Statement”, you will better understand what we are about and our function in the parish: *We, as people of God and members of the Liturgy Committee of the community of St. Ferdinand, have as our purpose: to facilitate and coordinate the liturgical ministries of our parish so that there may be full and conscious participation of the assembly in liturgical celebrations.*

Marriage Encounter

The St. Ferdinand Marriage Encounter community consists of approximately 25 couples of the parish who have all been fortunate enough to know the beauty of a Marriage Encounter weekend. Once a couple makes a M.E. weekend, they are cordially invited to take an active part of our community. This consists of attending a meeting once a month. There, the couples come together to pray, share and to dialogue with their spouses and each other, and to have a good time. There is no pressure with Marriage Encounter-no one takes notes or attendance, it costs nothing, and is for all age groups. M.E. is a group of couples who come together to reaffirm what their sacrament is and what it is calling them to be. Information on Marriage Encounter weekends and the monthly community meeting appears periodically in the bulletin.

Marriage Preparation Program

This program is for engaged couples preparing for marriage. St. Ferdinand Parish offers an alternative to Pre-Cana Conferences and Engaged Encounter Weekends. We are excited with the brand-new program entitled “God’s Plan for a Joy Filled Marriage”. Our purpose is to prepare couples in our homes for the living of their Sacrament of Matrimony. Our goal is to establish priorities and prepare the couples to protect and nourish their sacramental love. Our method is: a married couple, already living the Sacrament of Matrimony, shares specific areas of their marriage with the engaged couple. Each young couple is a new experience for us. The several married couples involved in this program share the same feeling: we receive much more than we give. If you are a married couple, living your sacrament and would like to share your experiences of that sacrament, please call.

Men's Club (Council of Catholic Men)

All of us at the St. Ferdinand's Council of Catholic Men would like to welcome you to the St. Ferdinand Parish family. We would also like to take this opportunity to invite all adult male members of your family to join us at one of our regular meetings, held on the first Wednesday of the month at 7:30 PM in the Duchesne Center. There are no dues, so all that you must do to become an active member is show up! During the course of the year, we do host several fundraising activities to help support scouting, athletics, the school, and our appetites. (We eat very well at our meetings!) So, a little volunteer work is all that may be asked of you if you join our organization, but the feeling of accomplishment and fellowship makes it worthwhile.

Music Ministry

The Music Ministry at St. Ferdinand consists of four groups - the adult choir, the contemporary choir, the youth choir, and the cantors. The Adult Choir is made up of college age people to "senior citizens" and rehearses every Thursday from 7:30-9:30 PM in church. They minister at the 11:00 AM Mass on Sundays as well as Holydays and special celebrations, at various gatherings at nursing homes, senior housing centers, and St. Ferdinand Shine; they have also had several benefit concerts for pro-life. The Contemporary Choir (elementary-college) also needs you! Rehearsal is before 9:00 AM Mass on Sundays. Contact Mike Miloshewski at 831-8468 for more information. The Youth Choir (grades 3 through high school) rehearses 1st & 3rd Wednesday of the month from 6:30-8:00 PM. They minister at 9:00 AM Mass on one Sunday per month. Both the Contemporary and Youth Choirs have sung programs around the Florissant area and beyond. The Cantors are people who minister as song leaders regularly as scheduled by the coordinator. We are hoping to form a Funeral Choir to minister at funerals during the week. If you are interested in any of the groups, please come and join us. You do not have to be able to read music, just love to praise God in song and minister to people. For Youth, Adult and Funeral Choir information, please call Mary Krummy at 741-1619. Come Christians, Join to Sing!

Online Giving

Our Online Giving system provides you the opportunity to give to our special collections in addition to regular offerings. You can choose to do a One Time Gift or a special remembrance or you can set up regularly scheduled contributions that are withdrawn on the date you specify in the system. Even if you typically use your offering envelopes, you may wish to contribute online to a particular collection. It is easy and it is convenient! Go to our parish website at www.stferdinandstl.org to sign up.



Great News! There is now an Online Giving App available for both your Apple and Android products. You can download it for free in the App Store, Google Play Store or go to OLGapp.com. If you are new to Online Giving, register by entering our church ID of 761.

Parish Council

Our Parish Council is being revamped! A parish council represents the first channel of communication available to link a parish to the larger church. Using our Mission Statement as a guide, the parish council strives to bring our parish family closer together for our common purpose while recognizing and respecting our individual differences. Our parish council currently consists of the chairperson and co-chairperson, pastor and associate pastors, religious representative, deacon, deanery representative, a secretary, and seven commission chairpersons. These commissions serve the parish by linking organizations and aspects of our parish together with a common focus. Our commissions currently include Liturgy/Worship, Christian Service, Quality of Life, Evangelization, Christian Education, Social and Administration/Finance.

Each commission holds a quarterly meeting of representatives from organizations within the commission, as well as any interested parishioners, to discuss problems and concerns of our parish family. The commission chair brings these concerns to the parish council at our monthly meetings. The council then may discuss issues, propose possible solutions, obtain help from outside the parish or investigate further, by inviting concerned parishioners to a council meeting.

Our parish council was installed in November 1993. Besides the monthly meeting, open council meetings will be scheduled several times per year and will be announced in the bulletin. Our parish family members should feel free to contact any parish council member with concerns or problems.

Parish School of Religion (PSR)

Our Parish School of Religion consists of kindergarten through 8th grade. Classes are held at St. Sabina on Tuesday evenings. The students receive the Sacraments of Reconciliation and Holy Eucharist in 2nd grade and the Sacrament of Confirmation in 8th grade. The program is set up so that the students receive a well-rounded religious education and therefore, they need to attend every year. Each class goes to confession twice during the school year, and report cards are given out three times a year. There is a fee to help cover the cost of expenses. If you have any questions, please give us a call.

Perpetual Adoration

In June 1982, on the Feast of the Sacred Heart, Monsignor Holland initiated Perpetual Adoration in the Manresa Chapel (now the Duchesne Chapel). Until recently, someone is there 24 hours a day, 7 days a week to worship our Eucharistic Lord, and ask for His help, while enjoying His quiet presence. The chapel is still open 7 days a week, but the hours are currently limited. Please refer to the Chapel's website for hours. Members of Perpetual Adoration volunteer to make holy one hour of their week or to substitute hours when someone cannot come for their assigned hour. Many people feel great blessings have come into their lives and our parish because of all the holy hours that have been offered to Jesus. For more information on how you can join Perpetual Adoration, please call the coordinator.



Prayer Line

Our prayer line is found on the St. Ferdinand website (www.stferdinandstl.org). Anyone can submit a prayer request and then we forward the request to our prayer team. We are looking for people to join our prayer team and pray for these requests. Email Debbie Henderson at debbiehenderson@mac.com and your name and email address will be added to the internet prayer team. When a prayer request comes through it will be forwarded to the team. We pray 30 days for each request. I hope many of you will join our prayer team. Our prayers can help so many people. This committee formed in March 1988 consists of teams of parishioners who pray for the special intentions of the parish community. An Intention Book is also located in the vestibule of the church where you may write your intentions. A list is distributed to the prayer teams who will pray for these intentions during the month. Everyone is invited to call with his or her special needs, or to join the prayer line team.

Quilting

This group meets every Monday in the basement of the Duchesne Center. The morning Quilting group starts at 8:30, the rosary is prayed together at 10:00, brown bag lunch (microwave available) at noon and quilting ends at 2:00 with members staying all or only part of the day. A group of quilters meet on Monday evenings from 7:00 PM TO 9:00 PM. These groups start quilting the Monday after Labor Day and continue through the end of April and sometimes into May. The goal is 13 quilts for the Quilt Bingo held on the first Sunday in November. We are always looking for new members, so if you are interested in learning to quilt, or can already quilt, feel free to join the group. Also, we are looking for volunteers to put quilt tops together, patchwork or embroidered blocks. We have a large supply of donated material and embroidered blocks to choose from. Any help is greatly appreciated. The chairman reports monthly to the members of the Ladies Sodality, its parent organization. Membership to the Ladies Sodality is not required.

Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (R.C.I.A.)

R.C.I.A. is a process offered to non-Catholic adults who are interested in becoming Catholic, and for Catholics interested in learning more about their faith or those preparing for confirmation. Participants meet with the teaching team on Thursday evenings from 7:00-9:00 PM in the Duchesne Center beginning in September and continuing until the end of May. The R.C.I.A. team is looking for people in our parish to dedicate time this year as sponsors for the candidates wishing to become Catholic. A sponsor assists and guides the candidate throughout the year as teacher, counselor and friend. This ministry can be very rewarding in that the sponsor becomes very close to the candidate while the candidate, preparing to profess their faith, comes closer to God.

Room at the Inn

St. Ferdinand Parish is one of about 70 Congregations in the St. Louis area that help by providing a place to sleep, food and fellowship. Room at the Inn is an emergency shelter to homeless families and single women. The Sisters of Divine Providence provide emergency shelter and a stabilizing support system to women and families in St. Louis County. We provide them dinner on Friday night, a place to sleep and breakfast on Saturday morning. We pick them up at Providence Center, off of McKelvey on the fourth Friday of each month and return them on Saturday morning. We have about 20 parishioners that help transport our guests, give them food, fellowship and a place to sleep. If you would like to help us, contact Kathy Costello at 484-1804.

Sacred Heart Enthronement

The Men of the Sacred Heart is an organization that promotes the enthronement of the Sacred Heart in the home. This is done by placing a picture or statue of the Sacred Heart in a place of honor in the home and consecrating all the family members to Him, giving Christ primacy in their lives by more devotedness to Christ in the Eucharist and daily family prayer, asking in return for His guidance and protection.

Scouts

Boy Scouts

St. Ferdinand is the institutional sponsor of Troop 939, a chartered unit of the Boy Scouts of America. The Boy Scout program in the U.S. has been in existence more than 75 years and is designed to help young men become responsible citizens through the principles of duty to God, duty to country, duty to others, and duty to self. This is achieved through a variety of programs; many of which stress outdoor activities such as camping, hiking, biking and swimming. Our troop is open to any young man in the parish who is at least 11 years old (or has completed 5th grade) and has not yet reached his 18th birthday.

Cub Scouts

St. Ferdinand is the institutional sponsor of Cub Scout pack 939, a chartered unit of the Boy Scouts of America. The Cub Scout program attempts to teach a young boy good citizenship and social responsibility, based on the principles of duty to God, duty to country, duty to others, and duty to self. This is accomplished through a program geared to a variety of group activities such as crafts, skits, games, a food drive, pinewood derby, field trips, and other fun-type endeavors. The emphasis is placed on self-improvement (“doing your best”), rather than winning or losing. Membership is open to any boy in the parish in 1st through 5th grade (between the ages of 7 and 10).

Girl Scouts

St. Ferdinand is the institutional sponsor of a chartered troop of the Girl Scouts of America. Girl Scouting is open to all young ladies from kindergarten through high school and is broken down (by age) into five categories: Daisies, Brownies, Juniors, Cadettes, and Seniors. The purpose of Girl Scouting is to teach our girls service to God, to country, and to others. This is accomplished through a variety of activities designed to help the girl learn about herself and what is important to her, and to discover that she has skills and talents that can be used to make a difference in her life and the lives of others. A general sign-up for new scouts is held once a year (watch the bulletin for details); the troop’s major fundraiser is the yearly Girl Scout Cookie Sale.

St. Ferdinand Thanksgiving Dinner

A parish organization which brings together volunteers from area churches to serve a free Thanksgiving Day dinner to the community. We invite all faith traditions to join with us to give thanks for our blessings and share a meal.

This organization has its roots in the visit of Pope John Paul II to St. Louis, January 26-27, 1999. The Pope placed a high priority on interfaith and ecumenical relations. Pat von Nida, a parishioner from St. Ferdinand, was very moved by the Pope’s words about helping others and religious unity. She went to other churches in Florissant, asking them to help sponsor a Free Thanksgiving Dinner, on Thanksgiving Day, for those in need, lonely, or who just want a good dinner. She worked to organize the Ecumenical Thanksgiving Dinner. Today the mission and tradition continues as the St. Ferdinand Thanksgiving Dinner.

The St. Ferdinand Thanksgiving Dinner (SFTD) is an organization made up of volunteers from our home parish of St. Ferdinand and many area churches working together to provide a Free Thanksgiving Dinner. Area churches currently represented on our planning committee include: Halls Ferry Christian Church, Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd, St. Angela Merici, St. Martin de Porres, St. Norbert, St. Sabina and our parish home, St. Ferdinand. Our dinner volunteers represent churches across St. Louis Metro and Metro East communities and our region.

As our mission statement explains, we invite the community to share in this holiday meal. The dinner is served at St. Ferdinand Church in Florissant and we also provide a takeout service.

As a parish organization of St. Ferdinand, we are solely dependent on donations from local businesses and individuals. All food purchased for the dinner is paid for through the generous donations we receive. Among our generous sponsors is Krause Katering & Kakes who cook our turkeys.

We have volunteers working year-round to plan for the annual event. We also have volunteers on THANKSGIVING DAY that provide help to serve the dinner. If you are interested in being a part of an ecumenical group which comes together in service to our community, we invite you to provide your contact information to the Parish office. We will contact you to better understand how you can be of service to this important community event serving the people of our area.

St. Sophia Volunteers

Volunteers do many things, but first and foremost, they share their joy and love with the residents of St. Sophia's Nursing Home. They visit and spend time with the resident, helping them in any way they can to make their day a little brighter. The volunteers gather the residents together for activities, so that all who wish to be there can attend. They lead the rosary, take the residents to Mass in the Chapel, while communion ministers take communion to the rooms of those who are unable to come to the Chapel. Volunteers help keep up the spirits of the residents.

St. Vincent De Paul Association

This organization is committed to helping people in our parish boundaries when they find themselves in need of emergency help. Two members go together to visit the family and discuss how they can help, and what can be done, if anything. The funds for St. Vincent De Paul Society come exclusively from the generous donations of the parishioners at the Holy Day collections and at the 5th Sunday Masses. The members of our own parish contribute to helping the needy in our parish and community.

Scrapbooking/Crafters

A group meets once a month in the Duchesne Center to work on scrapbooking, card making or crafts. You are invited to come and work on your own projects at your leisure. Bring your own supplies.

Servers

The servers are a group of boys and girls ranging in age from 5th grade to high school. They are given an invitation to serve in the beginning of 5th grade. After some family discussion they undergo a training period. After completion of the training period, they are prepared to serve weekday and weekend Masses. It is not until they are more experienced that they begin to serve special functions such as weddings or funerals, which require a thorough knowledge of the ministry of serving. New servers' schedules are distributed about twice a year.

Ushers

The ushers committee is at St. Ferdinand to help parishioners in any way they can at Mass, whether it is to find a seat or assist the elderly or someone who is ill and take up the collection. The committee always welcomes new members. Any adult member of our parish (*male or female*) interested in becoming an usher, please contact the coordinator.