



Our Regular Events

- ◆ *Weekly Eucharistic Adoration*
7PM to 8PM Tuesday evenings
- ◆ *Monthly Meeting – Second Saturday at 9AM –*
St. Michael Building @St. Paul’s

Upcoming Calendar of Events

- ◆ September 25 – October 3 – St. Francis of Assisi Novena – 7:30PM - St. Francis Statue
- ◆ October 2 – Blessing of the Animals – 9am – St. Francis Shrine
- ◆ October 4 – St. Francis of Assisi Mass – Rosary 7PM, Mass 7:30PM

Welcome Fr. Tamil – Our new Chaplain!

Let’s get to know our new spiritual leader.



Fr. Tamil was born on March 23, 1985 in a small village by the name of M. Saveriyar Pattinam located in Mudukulathur Block in Ramanathapuram District of Tamil Nadu State, India. He lived in the southern region of India with his parents, father N.I. Jeyaraj and mother J. Viagammal. Fr. Tamil along with his four siblings, all boys, worked on their family farm. His village is in the interior and rural based region that is known for its dry and drought prone environment. There is a high scarcity for water and often people use salty water, especially when there is not enough rain. Although short on water, the people are rich in faith and labor.

Before becoming a priest, Fr. Tamil studied at R.C. Middle School and St. Xavier Cluny High School near his home. Later, he attended his higher secondary education at St. Arulanandar (near the shrine of St. John de Britto, a Jesuit Martyr from Portugal who was beheaded there) in Oriyur. It was his mother’s inspiration and influence for his decision to enter the priesthood. Out of all his brothers, she felt he was predestined to become a priest, more so than his brothers.

He recalls the Biblical stories and prayers that his mother taught him as a young boy. He also attended Mass daily and community prayer in the village church where he served as an altar boy and was a member of the choir.

It was several years later when he met his vocation promotor, Fr. Sengole Vedamanickam, who is also currently serving in the United States right now. As result, Fr. Tamil studied for 14 years, and several different seminaries in India, studying for the priesthood. Referred to as Year of Initiation, the language course; two years in Jammu and Kashmir and one year in Leo Justin Minor Seminary, Sivagangai. He received his bachelor’s degree in mathematics at Ananda College (the only college run by his diocese for rural students) in Devakottai. He studied philosophy at Christ Hall Seminary in Karumathur; Regency in parish at St. Theresa’s Church in Thangachimadam; Spirituality Course at St. Peter’s Seminary in Madurai; Theology at St. Paul’s Seminary in Trichy; and then his Diaconate ministry at Alangara Annai Church in Paramakudi. Fr. Tamil was ordained into the priesthood on May 1, 2016 at Alangara Annai Cathedral, Sivagangai.

Fr. Tamil’s first assignment was as assistant parish priest at Holy Rosary Church in Ramnad, Tamilnadu, India. His most recent position was as the bishop’s secretary for three and a half years for the Bishop of Sivagangai. Then before coming to the United States, he was assisting his former seminary professor, mentor, and guide Fr. Singarayar in a newly erected parish of Ulaganathapuram, where a new church is being built for

about the last four years in the Holy name of Infant Jesus. He befriended Fr. Bill through Facebook a couple of years ago and because of his invitation, Fr. Tamil arrived in the US on April 21, 2021, to begin his ministry at St. Paul Catholic Church in Tampa, FL on April 23, 2021.

Welcome to the St. Francis of Assisi Ministry, Fr. Tamil!

Featured Pet – Zoey, the Pet Therapy Dog By Jan Hoyt

After our previous dog died, my husband and I spent several months healing our hearts, then debating and praying about what to do next. We eventually felt called to adopt a dog we could train as a therapy dog with the goal of making hospital visits. Our hearts were led to Lab Rescue of Florida. We completed the vetting process and began the search to find "our" dog. I was convinced that God had already picked this dog and we just needed to patiently wait to meet him/her.



On May 6, 2017, we sat in the living room of a foster home waiting and hoping. Soon the foster Mom walked in with a dog who immediately came and sat at our feet. We knew at first sight that God had blessed us with this 2-year-old white female lab named Zoey. She had been abandoned in the Panhandle and has the scars on her face and ears that speak to her survival journey. Despite what she experienced, or possibly because of it, Zoey has the most gentle soul. Even though she seemed a perfect fit for therapy dog training we were advised to wait a year or two.

We began working with a trainer in October 2019. After months of initial training, we visited malls (including the children's play areas) and stores with many shoppers. Zoey was weeks away from her first encounter at a school for autistic children when Covid hit. She did not complete her training, but we plan to pursue that when the timing is right.

In all truthfulness, Zoey has always had the demeanor of a therapy dog. Our trainer identified this immediately. Despite the fact that she is not yet certified she has used her natural skills to help during the Pandemic. My husband and I walk daily with Zoey and she is a calming,

loving presence to everyone she meets. If neighbors are stressed, lonely or sad Zoey meets them with her gentle loving presence, allowing them the time they need to stroke her amazingly soft fur. She waits patiently in their silence or stays with them if they share their worries, loneliness, or tears. It's as if she creates a safe space for people's feelings. Children will ask to see Zoey when they walk by our house.

I asked our grandchildren how they would describe Zoey. They said, "She is very soft, gentle, calming, patient, loving and an awesome dog!" I would say Zoey and her beautiful soul are God's gift to us and everyone who chooses to meet her. We are very blessed and thankful for the gift of Zoey.

St. Francis Ministry in the St. Paul Pumpkin Patch

To be a volunteer at the St. Paul Pumpkin patch is fun! Our ministry participated last year, and we are back again this year!

The Ministry will be sponsoring pictures with pets in the pumpkin patch. Some of you may remember Pet Photos with Santa in the park; and if so, we will be following the same format. Our Ministry photographer, Mike Hayes, will photograph you and your pet in the pumpkin patch after the Blessing of Animals on Saturday, October 2 from around 10:30am to noon.

The St. Paul's priests will also be in the patch providing story time for all to hear. Join Fr. Tamil, our chaplain, for "Listening with Fr. Tamil" the morning of October 14 from 9 – 9:30 and that evening from 6:30 to 7:15 and there will also have pictures with pets that evening. Story time is free, and it will be fun and maybe the priests will pose for pictures too. For more information on story time visit www.stpaulchurch.com/pumpkin.

Volunteers are always needed so if you want to volunteer sign up here:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/70a0a4fa5a72ba0ff2-20211>. Help spread the word about the amazing pumpkin patch!

Photos with Pets Opportunities:

Oct. 2 - after Blessing of the Animals
Oct. 12 - Show and Tell with Fr. Peter 6:15 – 6:45 PM
Oct. 14 - Listening with Fr. Tamil 6:30 – 7:15 PM
Oct. 20 – Story time with Deacon Carlos 6:15 – 6:45 PM
Oct. 27 - Rocking and Reading with Fr. Tim 6:15 – 7 PM

This pumpkin patch fundraiser benefits St. Paul's High School Youth Group by providing funding for our teens to attend youth group retreats and summer camps that include Good Samaritan Project (GSP), Panama Mission Trip, Steubenville Orlando, March for Life, and other activities. Photo donations benefit the St. Francis of Assisi Ministry.

Saint Francis of Assisi Feast Day - October 4 The Story of St. Francis (1181 or 1182 – October 3, 1226)

Stfrancismedia.org

The patron saint of Italy, Francis of Assisi was a poor little man who astounded and inspired the Church by taking the gospel literally—not in a narrow fundamentalist sense, but by actually following all that Jesus said and did, joyfully, without limit, and without a sense of self-importance.

Serious illness brought the young Francis to see the emptiness of his frolicking life as leader of Assisi's youth. Prayer—lengthy and difficult—led him to a self-emptying like that of Christ, climaxed by embracing a leper he met on the road. It symbolized his complete obedience to what he had heard in prayer: "Francis! Everything you have loved and desired in the flesh it is your duty to despise and hate, if you wish to know my will. And when you have begun this, all that now seems sweet and lovely to you will become intolerable and bitter, but all that you used to avoid will turn itself to great sweetness and exceeding joy."

From the cross in the neglected field-chapel of San Damiano, Christ told him, "Francis, go out and build up my house, for it is nearly falling down." Francis became the totally poor and humble workman.

He must have suspected a deeper meaning to "build up my house." But he would have been content to be for the rest of his life the poor "nothing" man actually putting brick on brick in abandoned chapels. He gave up all his possessions, piling even his clothes before his earthly father—who was demanding restitution for Francis' "gifts" to the poor—so that he would be totally free to



say, "Our Father in heaven." He was, for a time, considered to be a religious fanatic, begging from door to door when he could not get money for his work, evoking sadness, or disgust to the hearts of his former friends, ridicule from the unthinking.

But genuineness will tell. A few people began to realize that this man was actually trying to be Christian. He really believed what Jesus said: "Announce the kingdom! Possess no gold or silver or copper in your purses, no traveling bag, no sandals, no staff" (Luke 9:1-3).

Francis' first rule for his followers was a collection of texts from the Gospels. He had no intention of founding an order, but once it began, he protected it and accepted all the legal structures needed to support it. His devotion and loyalty to the Church were absolute and highly exemplary at a time when various movements of reform tended to break the Church's unity.

Francis was torn between a life devoted entirely to prayer and a life of active preaching of the Good News. He decided in favor of the latter, but always returned to solitude when he could. He wanted to be a missionary in Syria or in Africa but was prevented by shipwreck and illness in both cases. He did try to convert the sultan of Egypt during the Fifth Crusade.

During the last years of his relatively short life, he died at 44, Francis was half blind and seriously ill. Two years before his death he received the stigmata, the real and painful wounds of Christ in his hands, feet and side.

On his deathbed, Francis said over and over again the last addition to his *Canticle of the Sun*, "Be praised, O Lord, for our Sister Death." He sang Psalm 141, and at the end asked his superior's permission to have his clothes removed when the last hour came in order that he could expire lying naked on the earth, in imitation of his Lord.

Halloween safety tips for pets

Pet costumes can be fun—if you consider them from your pet's point of view

The Humane Society of the United States

Some pets love the hustle and bustle of Halloween, while others will find this spooky holiday a bit stressful. We recognize that animals are individuals, so while you while enjoy the festivities, consider it from your pet's perspective:

“A dog’s natural instinct is to protect their home or to alert you that a stranger has arrived,” reminds Amy Nichols, Vice President of Companion Animals and Equine Protection at the Humane Society of the United States. “And cats typically prefer a quiet environment with their family. Trick-or-treaters continually knocking on the door or ringing the bell can be very stressful to both dogs and cats.”

Read on for our tips and tricks on taking the terror out of your pet's Halloween!

1. Halloween hype causes pet stress

Before the trick-or-treating starts, put your pets in a quiet room where they will be safe from all the Halloween activity. If your pup is likely to try to run out the front door and is comfortable in a crate, consider putting them in the crate with a treat-filled toy and some soft music playing in the background. A spritz of Feliway (find it on [Amazon!](#)) can help keep cats calm.

Minimize noise by sitting outside to keep trick-or-treaters from knocking on the door or ringing the bell.

Even if you are just having friends over for a Halloween party, keep your pets away from the festivities in their safe room. Masks and costumes change how people look and smell to a pet, so even familiar people may become frightening. Put a sign on the door to the safe room so your guests know it’s off-limits.

When going out trick-or-treating, leave your dog at home. Dogs can be easily excited by the Halloween commotion, and a bite or a lost dog will quickly end the evening’s fun.

2. Halloween candy—a treat for you, a trick for your pet(s)

Pre-Halloween and during trick-or-treating, keep candy safely stashed in a high cabinet secured with a lock or child-safety latch. Many foods, such as chocolate, gum and xylitol (a sweetener used in many foods) are hazardous to pets.

Keep the 24-hour [ASPCA Animal Poison Control Center hotline](#) handy: 888-426-4435. (The hotline may charge a consultation fee.) If you suspect your pet has eaten something that's bad for them, call your veterinarian or the Poison Control Center immediately.

3. Steer your pets away from dangerous Halloween decorations

Introduce your pets to their safe room before you decorate indoors. Changes to your home can make your

pets, especially cats, nervous or frightened. Or they may decide those fake spiders pose an existential threat and need to be killed.

Be aware of which decorations pose threats. Some hazards are obvious, like lit candles (fire hazards and toxic to birds if scented). Other potentially dangerous decorations include rubber eyeballs (choking risk), glow sticks and fake blood (possible poisons), fake cobwebs (can choke or entangle pets and wildlife), potpourri (toxic to birds) and strung lights. Watch out for those candy wrappers and plastic packaging too!

Create pet-friendly holiday décor.

4. Be cautious with pet Halloween costumes

If you do choose a costume for your pet, consider your pet’s personality and what type of costume they may tolerate and for how long. Masks and hats that fit around the face, for example, may be OK for the length of time it takes to snap a quick pic, but they can pose dangers and make your pet feel uncomfortable. Best to keep pet costumes minimal.

Keep an eye on your costumed pet to make sure the costume is comfortable and allows your pet to move freely. Also be sure to remove any chewable parts or objects that could come off and choke your pet.

If your pet appears uncomfortable, take off the costume. Signs of discomfort include folded down ears, eyes rolling back or looking sideways, a tucked tail or hunching over.



5. Protect your pets from outdoor dangers

Bring your pets indoors before night falls. Cats are always safest inside with you, but on Halloween it’s especially important to secure all pets inside so they don’t run away out of fear of adults and children in costumes.

In case they escape, make sure that all your pets are wearing tags with current IDs and that their microchip is registered with your most up-to-date information. Opening the door repeatedly for trick-or-treaters creates plenty of opportunities for a pet to slip outside and disappear into the night. Proper ID will help you reunite with your lost pet and take a recent picture of your pet that can be used for lost flyers just in case they get lost.

For more information on the St. Francis of Assisi Ministry, contact st-francis-ministry@stpaulchurch.com.