

**Welcome Fr. Craig Morley!
July 2022**

We are delighted to welcome our new pastor, Fr. Craig Morley, to St. Paul Church. He comes to St. Paul's parish from Holy Family in St. Petersburg, FL. We are blessed to have him as our pastor.



**Annual Retreat with Holy Family
February 2022**

This year's annual St. Francis Retreat was held on the beautiful campus of the House of Prayer located at Marian Servants of Divine Providence in Clearwater. Joining us this year was the St. Francis Ministry from Holy Family parish in St. Petersburg. We were blessed to have both Fr. Tamil and Fr. Bob co-lead the retreat and concelebrate Mass followed by morning and afternoon sessions, peaceful meditation, and Stations of the Cross.



**Photos with the Easter Bunny
April 2022**

The second annual Pet Photos with the Easter Bunny at the Carrollwood Village Park was a huge success with a combination of over 40 pets and children photographed with the Easter Bunny. This was a great outreach effort by the ministry to promote the teachings of St. Francis and to bring joy to all who attended and



Our Regular Events

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

Upcoming Calendar of Events

- ◆ July 8 – Mass of Remembrance 7:30 – 7PM Rosary
- ◆ Sept. 25 – Oct. 3 – St. Francis of Assisi Novena – 7PM – St. Francis Shrine
- ◆ October 1 – Blessing of the Animals – Santo Niño Shrine – 9AM
- ◆ Oct. 4 – Feast of St. Francis Mass – 7PM

participated. Lots of fun and celebration as we prepared for Easter Sunday.



**Prayer Service in the Park
May 2022**

Members and their pets attended the St. Francis of Assisi Ministry third annual Prayer Service in the Park May 7, 2022, at the Carrollwood Village Park in Tampa, FL. Against a beautiful park backdrop, Fr. Tamil led us in a meaningful service celebrating all God's creations.



Holy Family Dedicates St. Francis of Assisi Shrine May 2022

The Holy Family, St. Petersburg, chapter of the St. Francis of Assisi Ministry held a dedication to the ministry namesake. This specially designated area is located next to the school on the Holy Family campus and will become a teaching shrine in conjunction with the school. Dedicating the statue was Fr. Bob Romaine, parochial vicar, along with Fr. Craig Morley, pastor, Fr. Tamil Selvam, parochial vicar St. Paul's Tampa, and Fr. George Gyasi, chaplain St. Joseph's Hospital in Tampa. Many blessings were bestowed on the shrine. It will always be available to all who visit.



Also, in attendance to help dedicate the shrine were members of the St. Paul St. Francis Ministry.



Reaching out and Helping Others End 68 Hours of Hunger – Tampa Bay June 2022

The Problem

Childhood food insecurity is a national problem, it occurs when children receive insufficient food on a regular

basis; in many cases missing meals entirely. After a while, these children also experience “fear of hunger” that affects their behavior as much as physical hunger affects their bodies. There are more than 16 million food insecure children in America today.



A Solution: End 68 Hours of Hunger

Our mission is to confront the 68 hours of hunger needy children experience on weekends, one school at a time. Through a district-approved program. Tampa's End 68 began working with schools in 2014. We pack and deliver bags of food to schools for children in need. Bags contain enough food for 7 weekend meals: 3 dinners, 2 lunches, 2 breakfasts, and snacks. The children remain anonymous. So far during the 21/22 school year we provided more than 130,000 meals to 28 schools. When the COVID crisis hit End 68 delivered over 12,000 meals directly to families; many needed food for the entire week. We initiated summer food services for breakfast and at least one other daily meal, and plan to do so again for families unable to access other food sources during the summer.

How End 68 Hours of Hunger Helps

This program puts nourishing food in the hands of school children to carry them through the weekend. Each bag of food costs \$10 each week and provides two breakfasts, two lunches, and three dinners for a child, with some left over to share!

Making a Difference

In recently completed studies, researchers have found that in schools with backpack programs:

- End of year reading and math scores have gotten higher, particularly in lower grades
- Improvements in nutrition have substantially reduced the performance gap experienced by economically disadvantaged students.
- Recipients' emotional health is better and they are happier and less anxious.



Be part of the Solution!

Community support is critical. We need food and monetary donations, as well as volunteers. Local churches, businesses, a TB Lightning grant, clubs, neighborhood groups and even a crew are supporting the cause with food drives, fundraising, and volunteers to pack and deliver food and get the word out. About \$10 feeds one child for a weekend. Since End 68 is run by 100% volunteer labor and donated space, our community plays an important role in helping children thrive in their environment.

Other Outreach Opportunities Following in the steps of St. Francis

- Participate in an environmental cleanup, such as beaches, rivers, parks, your neighborhood
 - <https://www.keeptampabaybeautiful.org/annual-cleanups/>
- Volunteer at a food pantry or homeless shelter
 - <http://www.thecommunityfoodpantry.com/>
- Help area pet rescue organizations and shelters
 - <https://humanesocietytampa.org/>
- Create toiletry bags for the homeless
 - <http://www.thecommunityfoodpantry.com/>
 - <https://www.metromin.org/>
- Volunteer at a special needs facility
 - <https://macdonaldcenter.org/>

For a complete list of volunteer opportunities, check out:

- <https://www.volunteermatch.org/>

St. Francis Ministry – St. Paul’s Birthdays and Anniversaries

The following people and couples will be celebrating birthday and/or anniversaries this summer.

July

4 – Val and Chris Merimee Anniversary

6 – Laura Gregory Birthday

19 – Alex and Becca Anniversary

August

30 – Mike Hayes Birthday

September

11 – Chuck and Maria Glass Anniversary

October

27 – Pat Pedota Birthday

These Stories of Amazing Times Wild Animals Saved People in Need

OneGreenPlanet.org

Domestic animals have often been known to save their human companions from danger. From the quick thinking of Duke, the dog who alerted his guardians to their baby’s need for urgent medical attention, to the smart actions of service dog Yolanda – who rescued her vision-impaired human from a house fire by dialing 911 – there are many animals out there who have earned the eternal gratitude of their human friends.

However, it is truly astonishing to hear about undomesticated animals who are compelled to rush in and save the day, when they have had little to no prior experience with humans. Prepare to be amazed by the stories of these wild animals who – without any apparent reason – stepped in and saved humans from imminent death.

1. Three Lions Save Girl from Kidnappers



In June 2005, a twelve-year-old girl was snatched by four men in rural south-west Ethiopia as she made her way home from school. A week after the kidnapping, her captors were attempting to move her, with police in hot pursuit, when three lions chased the men off.

The lions remained with the terrified girl until police officers arrived to escort her to safety. She told them that although she had been beaten by her kidnappers – who it is believed had been attempting to sell her into a forced marriage – the lions had not touched her.

Sergeant Wondmu Wedaj said, “They stood guard until we found her and then they just left her like a gift and went back into the forest. Everyone thinks this is some kind of miracle because normally the lions would attack people.” An Ethiopian wildlife expert claimed that the lions may have spared the girl because her cries had sounded like the mewing of a cub.



2. Pod of Dolphins Protect Lifeguard and Family From Shark Attack



In late 2004, lifeguard Rob Howes and his family were out swimming at Ocean Beach, near Whangarei, New Zealand, when seven bottlenose dolphins approached and herded them together.

“They were behaving really weird,” Howes recalled, “turning tight circles on us, and slapping the water with their tails.” He and his daughter’s friend Helen had drifted about twenty meters away from his daughter and another friend before a dolphin swam straight at them and dived back down into the water before them. “I turned in the water to see where it was going to come up,” Howes went on, “but instead I saw this great big grey fish (later revealed to be a great white shark) swim around me. It glided in an arc and headed for the other two girls. My heart went into my mouth because one of them was my daughter. The dolphins were going ballistic.”

The dolphins then herded the swimmers together and circled protectively around them for another forty minutes, fending off the shark.

Dr. Rochelle Constantine from the Auckland University School of Biological Science said, “From my understanding of the behavior of these dolphins, they certainly were acting in a way which indicated the shark posed a threat to something. Dolphins are known for helping helpless things. It is an altruistic response and bottlenose dolphins in particular are known for it.”

3. Beavers Comfort and Save Orphaned Boy

Rheal Guindon, a young boy in Ontario, Canada, was out on a camping trip with his parents when they decided to go fishing. Rheal stayed onshore but was appalled to witness his parents’ boat tip over, and his parents tragically drown. Panic-stricken, he attempted to walk to the nearest town to get help, but as the sun set, he realized he would have to spend the night outside.

As he lay on the ground, traumatized by this ordeal, he felt “a warm, furry body” press up against him. Thinking it was a dog, he fell asleep. On waking up the next morning, he found three wild beavers snuggled up against him. They had saved him from freezing to death overnight when temperatures had dipped below zero.



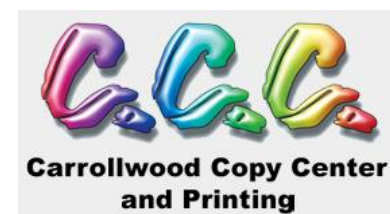
These incredible stories illustrate that, contrary to certain popular perceptions of wild animals as threats or pests who must be removed to make way for human advancement, we have much more in common with non-human animals – and are a lot more dependent on them – than we realize. They, too, are capable of altruism and compassion. They, too, have been known to step in and save those weaker than themselves at the most unexpected times, and in ways that humans often fail to predict. They, too, deserve to live out their lives on their own terms.

**“The deeds you do may be the only sermon some persons will hear today”
— St. Francis Of Assisi**



For more information about the St. Francis of Assisi Ministry at St. Paul’s Catholic Church, email to st-francis-ministry@stpaulchurch.com.

Also check out our web page at <https://stpaulchurch.com/345>.



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