

April 30, 2017
Third Sunday of Easter



Hidden in Plain Sight

On Easter Monday my wife, Kelly, and I left for a ten-day pilgrimage to Italy to celebrate our 40th wedding anniversary. We had been to Italy twice before on pilgrimage, and each time some place or something special stood out as the most memorable and profound faith encounter.

We visited the major basilicas of Rome: St. Peter, Mary Major, John Lateran, and St. Paul Outside the Walls. We went to San Giovanni Rotunda and saw the uncorrupted remains of St. Padre Pio. We traveled up the Adriatic Coast to Lanciano, Loretto, and eventually to the interior town of Assisi. In Assisi, we visited the two basilicas of St. Francis and St. Clare, and walked through the little church of the Porzunculo in the basilica of St. Mary of the Angels.

The land was beautiful and the city was exciting, but the most memorable, most holy encounter happened in a most unusual way. We were in St. Peter square on Wednesday, April 19th for the Pope's weekly audience. In a crowd that easily exceeded 30,000 people, we sat in plastic chairs waiting for our glimpse of the Pope riding by in the Pope-mobile. We had strategically placed ourselves at one of the barricades behind a young couple with two small children, hoping that the Holy Father would stop and maybe even embrace and kiss one of the children. After waiting for almost two hours, the Pope's special white vehicle turned down the lane where we were standing, and sure enough he motioned for it to stop right in front of us. With my camera ready, I took several shots of the Pope's back as he first embraced a child on the side opposite from us. Then I saw the parents hand their child over to the Pope's security guard, and I got a great shot of the Pope. But my close moment, the one that still touches me even now, is the expression on the guard's face. I had expected to see the grandfatherly glimmer in the Pope's eyes. I had expected to have a sense of excitement to be less than twenty feet from the Holy Father, but I did not expect to see this expression on the face of the security guard.

The layers of security that surround the Pope are obvious from the security screening and bag check as you enter St. Peter square, to the Swiss Guard in their medieval uniform, to the men in dark suits with listening devices in their ears that surround the Pope as he moves through the crowd. I am sure that these men take very seriously the grave responsibility to protect the Pope at all costs, even if it means giving their lives.

But, I was struck by the genuine joy on the face of the one security guard who took the baby from the couple standing in front of us so that the Pope could embrace the child. His joy seems to perfectly reflect the joy on the face of the Pope. Like Pope Francis, this man is full of the joy of life, of encountering people, and of serving Christ with the gifts he has been given. The Pope, the Vicar of Christ, is obviously gifted with a great pastoral sensitivity that is evident in all those around him, even those who bear the grave responsibility of protecting his life.

This may seem strange, but I am still moved by this man, living out his faith, in his everyday job. I'm sure that he is often captured on videos and photographs, but rarely seen.



A simple man, living his faith, hidden in plain sight.

--Deacon John McGregor

Mass Intentions

Week of May 1, 2017:

7:30 am Mon.: People of the Parish

7:30 am Tues.: People of the Parish

6:00 pm Wed.: Confirmation Class

7:30 am Thurs.: Peggy Hamilton (RIP)

***10:00 am Fri.: Healing Mass**

5:30 pm Sat.: Elliot Thomas Sr. (RIP)

8:00 am Sun.: Johnny Gauthier (RIP)

10:30 am Sun.: Sisters in Faith— special intentions

Sacrament of Reconciliation:
Sat 4:30-5:00pm or by appt.

Prayer Intentions

Karen Mohindroo, sister of Michelle Lalo

Beverly Kehle, sister-in-law of Betty Heathman

Lacy Madden, friend of Paula Perez

Pray for the Repose of the Souls

Michelle Glover, daughter of Maurice Thomas

Adoration This Week: Monday- Thursday 8:00 am- 12:00 pm
Wednesday 6:30 pm-7:30 pm
Friday- 8:00 am- 10:00 am

New Announcements

*Congratulations to our First Communion Class and Confirmation Class. Your St. Paul Family is proud of your dedication and commitment to your faith!

***Following Christ Sessions will begin on Tuesday, June 6th for all who have completed a Discovering Christ Session.**

Sessions will be held June 6, 13, 20, 27, July 11, 18, 25.

Retreat will be on Saturday, July 15th. Registration will soon be open on our website!

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Sunday, April 30th — Holy First Communion Mass @ 2pm
- Wednesday, May 3rd — Confirmation Mass @ 6pm
- Sunday, May 7th — Senior Recognition Mass @ 10:30 am

Altar Flowers

(included with our baptismal font display)

*In memory of Lee & Irma Bourdier
~ Paula Young*

Weekly offering for April 23, 2017- \$19,984

2nd collection this weekend: Catholic Home Missions

Reminders

*** Please help us keep your records up-to- date!** If you have a change of address, phone number, email address, or a new member to add to your family, please email the office.

***SAVE THE DATE— Mom's Day 5K to benefit Birthright of Jackson. May 6th @ Flowood Nature Park. Register @ www.birthright.org/jackson**

***St. Paul is hosting the AARP SMART DRIVER class on May 10, 2017, 12:00-4:30 PM.** This class qualifies drivers over age 55 for a vehicle insurance discount under Mississippi Law (MSC 63-15-46). No tests! No driving required!

Cost: \$20 (\$15 for AARP members) for class materials and certification, payable on the day of the class by cash or by check (preferable) to AARP. Bring your driver's license and membership card (if applicable) Call Parish Office to reserve your place in the class.

***Baptism prep classes** are required for all those needing a child baptized. Please call the church office in advance. Our next class is **May 21st at 2pm.**

*** Senior Adult Trip to see The Passion Play in Eureka Springs and The Moses Show in Branson.** June 29-July1. \$100 deposit due NOW! Total cost of trip is \$375 per person. Call Monica with any questions.

***Nursery and Children's Liturgy** available at the 10:30am mass. **The Nursery** is located in the Early Learning Center (enter through the cafeteria before mass). **Children ages 2-5** will be called up during the mass for **Children's Liturgy.**

***If you would like to honor a loved one or celebrate a special event, altar flowers and Blessed Mother flowers can be reserved through our website.** You can find it under to *Registration Forms* tab. A special thank you to everyone who made donations for our Easter flowers and adding beauty to our altar for the Easter season!

The Story of the Rosie's Community Garden

By: Michele Harris

It all started one year ago with the seed money from winning the grand prize at the St. Paul Drawdown. While I had been introduced to the idea of a community garden by a friend 7 years ago, it wasn't the right time to pursue it. When this opportunity arrived, Thomas and I knew immediately what the winnings would be used for.

The garden is named in memory of Thomas' mother, Rose Harris, who passed away 15 years ago. His father, Tom Harris, was a master gardener, who passed away this past September just before his 80th birthday. Rose and Tom were among the founding members of St. Paul Parish back in 1978. Tom and Rose were wonderful examples of servants for St. Paul and the local community. For example, Rose was always ready to cook a meal full of fresh fruits and vegetables for someone in need. They both taught and blessed many people through their years of service and we would like to continue their example.

Rosie's Garden is even further connected to our St. Paul family as it sits on land purchased from parishioners George and Peggy Hamilton. Tom and Rose knew the Hamiltons very well and served with them on many charity boards. I visited with Peggy before her passing and explained how this piece of their family homestead would be used. She was thrilled to know that it would bless so many people.

The purpose of Rosie's Garden is twofold. The main goal is to grow fresh produce with all volunteer labor, and donate it to food banks and shelters. What really gets to the heart of the mission of Rosie's Garden is how the community comes into play to make it happen. Our motto says it best... Grow Love, Show Love! It is the journey of serving others by growing the food from God's Earth. Over this past year, Rosie's Garden has attracted hundreds of volunteers of all ages and walks of life, and has received support through cash donations, in-kind materials, and skilled labor surpassing \$50,000 in value and providing a beautiful, divinely inspired space for all to enjoy.

The second goal of the garden is to educate our Youth and give them an opportunity to learn how and where we get our food. It's about connecting this young generation with older generations to show them how to plant a seed in the ground, water, fertilize, and carefully tend it, and watch it grow into an edible fruit or vegetable.

We invite everyone to join us this Sunday afternoon from 2:30- 4:30, as we gather at the garden at 161 Fannin Landing Circle (weather permitting.) We will enjoy food, refreshments, music, tours, and a blessing of the garden. Many thanks to the St. Paul members who have already been involved as board members and the dozens of St. Paul families who have been digging with us and making themselves available anytime something was needed to be done.



Michele Harris, Head Cabbage
Thomas Harris, Tractor Boss
(logo designed by Lori Brechtel)
Learn more at www.rosiesgarden.org

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