



How wonderful it is to introduce our final word for the year and how important and delightful that word is— **HOSPITALITY**. I am sure the first mention of the word brings to mind gatherings, serving drinks and eats, and happy participants who are mingling and enjoying the company and pleasantness of the environs! It could be a **Hospitality** Tent where similar things are taking place. (Perhaps a good ole tailgate!) The Gospel experience which may include the above, certainly goes much deeper than that. Now think about all the many powerful words and experiences that come from that single root word:

Hospital:

Hospitalist

Hospitable

Hospice

Hostel

and then the opposite end of the spectrum: **Hostile**

Shortly after he was called to be our Holy Father, Pope Francis granted an interview with his confreres, The Jesuits, and over three private meetings the Holy Father laid out much of what was going to be really important during his Papacy. It could easily be identified as an integral part of his **Mission Statement**. Here is some of what he had to say:

*"I see clearly that the thing the Church needs most today is the ability to heal wounds and to warm the hearts of the faithful; it needs nearness, proximity. **I see the Church as a field hospital after battle.** It is useless to ask a seriously injured person if he has high cholesterol and about the level of his blood sugars! You have to heal his wounds. Then we can talk about everything else. Heal the wounds, heal the wounds....and you have to start from the ground up.*

"The Church sometimes has locked itself up in small things, in small-minded rules. The most important thing is the first proclamation: Jesus Christ has saved you. And the ministers of the church must be ministers of mercy above all. The confessor, for example, is always in danger of being either too much of a rigorist or too lax. Neither is merciful, because neither of them really takes responsibility for the person. The rigorist washes his hands so that he leaves it to the commandment. The loose minister washes his hands by simply saying, 'This is not a sin' or something like that. In pastoral ministry we must accompany people, and we must heal their wounds."

Pope Francis further said, "Let us try also to be a Church that finds new roads, that is able to step outside itself." How beautiful is that?!

As we begin another Liturgical Year, I am delighted to extend **HOSPITALITY** to our newest staff member Rev. John Mc Gregor (Deacon). I invite you to extend that same **Hospitality** to him as he joins our team. We have been praying and discerning this process over the past four years and now, at last, it is coming to fruition. John has been working along with our staff as a consultant and guide over the past two years. We are delighted to welcome him to our team. As our new St. Paul Parish administrator, John will be a wonderful leader and guide as we move into new stages of growth and development. We have wonderful plans and opportunities in place which will be shared with all of you as we move along! We will experience significant growth in our movement from **Maintenance to Mission!** Our goal is going to be centered on making **Missionary Disciples** which is fundamentally why any parish community exists.

More to come---Stay tuned!

—Fr. Gerry



December 4, 2016
Second Sunday of Advent

Mass Intentions

Week of Dec. 5th– Dec. 11th:

7:30 am Mon.: Abu Maysara (RIP)

7:30 am Tues.: Shimon Perez (RIP)

6:00 pm Wed.: Mary Valentine (RIP)

7:30 am and 6:00 pm Thurs.: Holy Day- Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary

7:30 am Fri.: Alan Henning (RIP)

5:30 pm Sat.: Mary & Bernard Lawson (RIP)

8:00 am Sunday: Frank Tilmann (RIP)

10:30 am Sunday: Sisters in Faith– special intention



Prayer Intentions

Al Holman

Ashlyn McIntyre

Abigail Buelow

Lucious Fouche, friend of Eddie Borne

Rest of the Soul

Frances Plaia, great aunt of Kevin Smith

James Murphy, uncle of Joe Donovan

Jo Ann Eagle, mother of Angela Lawrence

Wanda Zebrowski, mother of Donna Reiss

Adoration This Week: Monday–Friday 8 am–12 pm;

Wednesday 6:30 pm–7:30 pm

We need one more volunteer for the 10:00 hour on Fridays.

New Announcements

*RCIA class Tuesday, Dec. 6th– Topic: Trinity and Holy Spirit by Fr. Gerry.

***This Sunday, Dec. 4th- Annual Blood Drive** to benefit Saint Paul parish sponsored by the Knights! 7:30 am– 1:00 pm. Complimentary breakfast and a commemorative long sleeve t-shirt to all donors. Sign up in the back of church.

*Please join The Women's Guild this Monday, Dec. 5th @ 7pm (rescheduled from last Monday due to inclement weather) for "Decking the Halls"! Join us to learn table settings, napkin folding and many other decorating ideas! We will be collecting coffee, creamer, sugar and laundry detergent for The Opportunity Center.

*Angel Tree is here! Gifts can be placed under the tree or brought to Room 107 in the Family Life Center on Dec. 11th before 11:30 am. We are sponsoring the Prevention of Violence Center and families from the Forest-Morton-Brandon area. The gift should be wrapped and the ornament needs to be on the outside of the gift.

***SAVE THE DATE!!!** Sunday, December 18th 2pm– 4 pm. Women's Guild Christmas Party in the Family Life Center. All women of the parish 18 and over are invited...and bring a guest! Lots of refreshments and musical entertainment.

*Your 2017 offering envelopes are here. You may pick up your box on the tables in front of the Early Learning Center cafeteria. If you are interested in receiving an annual boxed set or would like information about Automatic Withdrawal for your offering, please contact Renee Carpenter - finance@saintpaulcatholicchurch.com or 601-292-6083.



Reminders

** Important Upcoming Dates:

*December 12th– Parish Reconciliation Service– 6:00pm

*Christmas Mass Schedule: Dec. 24th– 5:30 pm and Midnight Mass (Choral Presentation begins at 11:30 pm); Dec. 25th– 10:30 am mass– **There will be no Nursery or Children's Liturgy on the holidays of December 25th and January 1st.**

*Following Christ Registration is now available **online** for those that have completed the Discovering Christ session. Jan. 12th-Feb. 23rd at 7pm. Retreat Day: Feb. 11th. If you are interested in a Daytime session, please email the church office and let us know. If we have enough interest, we will hold a daytime session on the same Thursdays, 10am-12pm. (see p. 3)

*Let the Youth serve you breakfast **NEXT Sunday, December 11th** after both masses. Members of the Big Deal Youth Group will host a **Pancake Breakfast** to raise funds for the Youth Ski Trip!

*Altar Flowers and Blessed Mother Flowers sign-up for 2017 is now available on our website. Simply go to our website and go to the registration form tab. (see p. 3)

*St. Dominic Lunch for families of patients in ICU– Thanks to you, our sign-up for Dec. 6th is complete. Please have all items to the FLC kitchen by 10 am.

*Santa pictures from the Craft Fair are ready to be picked up in the back of church!



Thank You

Weekly offering for November 27th: \$20,981

2nd collection next weekend for Support of Retired Religious

***MAKE-UP MINISTRY TRAINING** this weekend, Dec. 4th from 2pm-4pm in the Family Life Center.

***10:30 MASS**– Nursery for children ages infant to 2 years old and **Children's Liturgy** for ages 2-5 years old.

* Visit the Carmelite Gift Shop for your Advent and Christmas needs. Holiday Hours & Open House Weekends with Bake Sale: Nov. 18-Dec. 24 Mon– Fri 9-4, Sat 10-5, Sun Noon-5. Pick up a flyer with a 10% off coupon!

***Please check the back counter in church for lost items. We have eyeglasses, sunglasses, and jewelry that have lost their home!!!



**BULLETIN: Information must be submitted in writing by note or email to the parish office no later than 12:00 noon on Wednesdays for the following weekend. When sending an email, please put "BULLETIN" in the subject line. Thank you for your cooperation!

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