

It's not just a song...It's a way of Life!!

You know how a tune just keeps playing in your head every now and then, and it becomes almost impossible to dismiss it when it gets into the deep recesses of your mind/heart! Recently, I have had that tune in my head, and even waking up at night, the tune would come to me. One night I looked at my clock and it was 3:10 a.m. and there was that darn song playing in my brain. Eventually I just said, "Lord, surely not now! Why are you putting this tune in my head?" For the next 30 minutes or so, I just lay awake saying, or almost muttering to myself, "Why are you doing this to me God? What do you want me to know about this song?"

The song was, "**Come, Now is the Time to Worship**". What a beautiful little song- #539 in your Breaking Bread songbook:

***"Come, now is the time to worship.
Come, now is the time to give your heart.
Come, just as you are to worship,
Come, just as you are before your God. Come!***

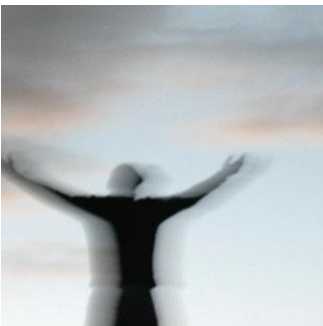
***One day ev'ry tongue will confess You are God
One day ev'ry knee will bow
Still the greatest treasure remains for those,
Who gladly choose you now."***

Then, I began to realize, yes, He was speaking to me through that song!

Having recently turned 65, I was reflecting a great deal on attaining that special age, my *Medicare Birthday*. Signing up for Medicare was significant! Twenty or twenty five years ago, I used to think that I can't wait to get to 65. Then, I will retire, and do what I want to do! Wow, how my views have changed! Back then I had grandiose ideas of travelling and going to places that heretofore I had only thought about. Nowadays things look so different. What was important then does not have the same weight now. "*My how suddenly life changes,*" we like to say, yet I don't think this was sudden at all. It was a slow gradual process. Maybe it is just maturing...growing up perhaps! It is realizing what *really* is important and not just what looks or appears important!

What is really important now is what is really important for our St. Paul Parish Family:

- ⇒ **Moving from Maintenance to Mission**
- ⇒ **Becoming the Body of Christ**
- ⇒ **Growing our Faith as Community**
- ⇒ **Growing our Personal Relationship with Him**
- ⇒ **Discovering Christ- Following Christ- Sharing Christ--- ChristLife!**
- ⇒ **Realizing that now is the time! Why wait any longer?**



Maybe it is just a keen awareness of the final line of the only verse in that song....

***"Still the greatest treasure remains for those,
who gladly choose you now."***

Yes, **NOW** is the time to **WORSHIP!** It doesn't mean that I have to cancel any, or all, of my other plans. It's just a matter of perspective. I am doing what I want to do! Why not join me?

Come, Now is the time to Worship!

- Fr. Gerry

Mass Intentions

Week of Feb. 13 – Feb. 19, 2017:

7:30 am Mon.: Nolen Hughes (RIP)
7:30 am Tues.: Jerry & Dotty Bach (special intentions)
6:00 pm Wed.: Anne Weathers (RIP)
7:30 am Thurs.: People of the Parish
7:30 am Fri.: Agnes Null (RIP)
5:30 pm Sat.: Stella Restivo (RIP)
8:00 am Sun.: Bill Carollo (RIP)
10:30 am Sun.: Edna Mangialardi (RIP)

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

Prayer Intentions

Joe Donovan

Repose of the Soul

Claiborne Morvant Sr., father of Tammy Schmitt

Adoration This Week: Monday—Friday 8 am- 12 pm;
Wednesday 6:30 pm—7:30 pm

New Announcements

**RCIA- Tuesday, Feb. 14th- Presentation begins @ 7 pm
- Christian Morality presented by Fr. Gerry**

*Our annual Catholic Service Appeal is well underway. Thank you to all those who have made a commitment. Each and every person's gift is important. It is not too late to send in your pledge. Please join us in supporting the programs and services of the Diocese. For more on information about the Appeal or to donate online please visit www.jacksondiocese.org.

*Monday, Feb 20th @ 7:00 p.m. The Women's Guild will be welcoming Sister Paula and Sister Catherine who will be speaking on Personal Devotionals in preparation for the Lenten season. Our charity box this month will be for the church kitchen. The complete wish list will be posted on the bulletin board in the vestibule.

JUNIORS & SENIORS:

Save the Date!!
Confirmation Retreat
March 3rd—March 5th!

Reminders

*The Women's Guild will be hosting a Valentine Luncheon this Sunday Feb 12th immediately after the 10:30 Mass in the FLC. Entertainment will be provided by The Bells of Faith. *All are welcome!*

*Feb. 19th- The Big Deal Youth Group is hosting a FREE concert for our parish and other church youth groups in our area. Dinner served at 5pm and concert to follow. See our website for more information about who is coming!!

*Register now on our website or call the church office for our next **Discovering Christ Session in March!** This is the first session of the ChristLife series.

***Living Everyday with Passion & Purpose** led by Matthew Kelly March 11th- 2pm- 6:30pm at Madison Central High School. We have a few tickets left in the office or you can get them online at www.dynamiccatholic.com

Weekly offering for Feb. 5th: \$24,765

Thank You!

*The Food Pantry Ministry needs your contributions of non-perishable food in unbreakable family size packages. The food collections go alternately to the Stewpot Food Pantry and the South Rankin Food Resource Center. **The greatest need is for high-protein foods such as meat-based stews and soups, tuna fish, peanut butter, dried beans, etc. Rice and pasta, especially in boxed meals, are also suggested, as are healthy quick-food snacks for children such as boxed fruit juice, dried fruit, fruit or pudding cups, and crackers.** Checks, money orders, cash, or gift cards are also welcomed.*

Altar flowers are placed in honor of World Marriage Day!



Thank you for joining us today! We hope you have a blessed week!

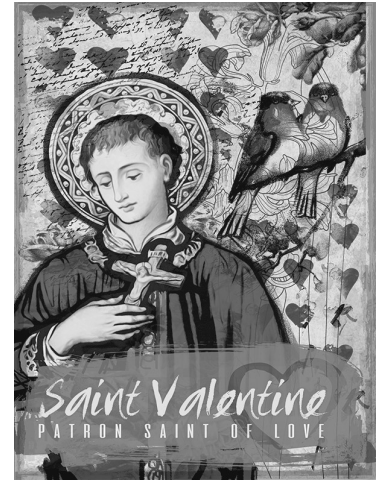
****Catholic Charities Disaster Ministry News** Catholic Charities Biloxi will be assisting those affected in Forrest, Lamar, Perry and Jones counties. They are accepting monetary donations at: 1450 N. Street, Gulfport, MS 39507 Attn: Catholic Charities Disaster. For those affected in the counties of Lauderdale, Pike, Franklin and Wilkinson, contact the Jackson Catholic Charities office at 601-326-3785. Monetary donations to Catholic Charities Jackson can be sent to 850 E. River Place, Jackson, MS 39202 or www.catholiccharitiesjackson.org, Attn: Disaster Ministry.

****Jeans, Jazz and Bruin Blues,** Saint Joseph Catholic School's 24th Annual Draw Down is set for February 18, 2017, 6:30 p.m. - 9:30 p.m. To sponsor or purchase tickets, visit the Saint Joseph Catholic School website at stjoebuins.com or call the school office at 601-898-4800.

Applications are now being accepted at Saint Joseph Catholic School for the 2017-2018 school year. Registration has begun.

World Marriage Day will be celebrated this Sunday, Feb. 12, 2017 at 3 p.m. at the Cathedral of St. Peter the Apostle in Jackson. Congratulations to the following couples from our parish who will be recognized for having a special anniversary this year.

- Feb. 27th- *Margaret and John McAleese*- 63 years
- May 16th- *Carol and Mark Hicks*- 25 years
- Oct. 23rd- *Karen and Chris Cox*- 25 years
- Nov. 18th- *Ann and Earl Chastant*- 50 years



Congratulations to our 2017 Drawdown Winners

- \$250.00 Neva Jefcoat
- \$750.00 Barbara Thornton
- \$1,000.00 Rebeca Harris
- \$3,000.00 Joyce & Gary Franco
- \$5,000.00 Cliff & Linda Russell

We are offering night sessions, 6:30 - 9:00 pm on **Thursdays March 30th, April 6th, 20th, 27th, May 4th, 11th & 18th.**

We will not meet on April 13th so all may participate in our Holy Thursday Services.

The Retreat will be Saturday, May 6th 8:30 am - 4:00 pm.

Visit our website for videos, testimonies, and more information.

discovering
Christ



I would very much appreciate you joining us, and I assure you that God will bless you abundantly should you choose to step out and participate in "Discovering Christ." - Fr. Gerry

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Church Office Hours: Tuesday — Thursday, 8 am - 4 pm /Friday 8am - 12pm
www.saintpaulcatholicchurch.com (601) 992-9547

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