

Speaking of Parables.....

*How wonderful to hear from you regarding my “Norma Parable” featured in last weekend’s Homily. (The audio and text are posted on our website.)
Keep them coming! Let us continue the dialogue! — Fr. Gerry*



Dear Father Gerry,

I have been contemplating your parable, and I thought of what happened to my granddaughter several years ago. It seems a little brown dog was dumped in their neighborhood and found its way to their yard. The dog was afraid of the humans and would shy away from them; however, he enjoyed playing with their little poodle. Of course they began to put food and water out for the dog, but he still did not want anything to do with the humans. One day when the weather was really bad my granddaughter, who was about 14 years old at the time, caught the dog and brought him into the house. The dog was very frightened and immediately ran to a corner under the dining room table. Reagan, my granddaughter, crawled under the table and offered her hand to the dog without touching him. She stayed under the table for several hours, never touching the dog but just offering him her hand. The poor dog finally stopped shaking and licked her hand once but was still not sure about her. She put him back in their yard, but this time he stayed in their yard all night and day. After school each day she and the dog would go through the same ritual. She would bring him in and he would run under the table where she would crawl under and offer her hand until after a week of this he finally let her pet him. Of course now he trusts her and is very happy in his new home where they spoil him unmercifully.

This said I think perhaps the same thing could be done in your parable. My first thought was for Norma to go to Bridget and tell her “I want to be your friend and this is going to happen. We will eat lunch together every day and be friends”. However learning to trust someone is not always that easy. We have no idea what she has been through in life so I think now that the “easy does it” approach my Reagan had is a much better idea. Perhaps she should just speak to her every day and show her she is sincere no matter her reaction. That will probably take a long time, but the reward will be worth the effort. Even if it doesn't work, continue to be kind to her.

Jesus did the same thing with us. He never gives up on us no matter where we have been in the past. His Hand is always waiting for us to take it and hold on. I think He wants us to do the same thing with those He puts in our life. I try to remember what St Frances of Assisi said, “preach the gospel everywhere and if necessary use words”. I'm not sure I quoted it exactly, but you know what I mean.

Thank you Father Gerry for being a true, caring pastor to us and bringing in so many ways we can grow in our faith and share our faith.

Love and blessings,
Teresa Davis



Fr. Gerry, here is how I would finish the Norma parable:

My first idea was just little simple, subtle things to do for Bridget. Like, compliment her on something once a week. Then, move to complimenting her everyday. Get her coffee once just out of the blue. Try to open Bridget up to become friends.

That hopefully makes Bridget happy at work and not so shy and awkward at the workplace. So, Bridget in turn will have a healthy experience as well as Norma.

If the other workers keep trying to get Norma to ignore Bridget, then she should ignore that. Norma will set the example and hopefully the others will realize -- Hey, that's a better way. Let's do that!

(submitted by one of our male, teenaged parishioners who wishes to remain anonymous)



February 4, 2018 Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Mass Intentions ~ February 5—11, 2018

Monday @ 7:30 am — Eddie Mahoney (RIP)

Tuesday @ 7:30 am — Jeffrey Simon (RIP)

Wednesday @ 6:00 pm — Carl Rainey (RIP)

Thursday @ 7:30 am — Wanda Belza (RIP)

Friday @ 7:30 am — Marie Lodes (RIP)

Saturday @ 5:30 pm — Carl Rainey (RIP)

Sunday @ 8:00 am — Betty Toten (RIP)

Sunday @ 10:30 am — Edna Mangialardi (RIP)

submit prayer requests by calling the Church office
@ 601-992-9547 or by email to:
liturgy@saintpaulcatholicchurch.com

New Prayer Requests

Special Intentions:

Ro Agosta Pete Canizaro

Jesse Spain JoAnn Giamalva

Annie Pleasants Mize, daughter of Blair & Bill Mize

Joni Hicks, mother of Mark Hicks

Clare Moran, friend of Jean & Owen Lalor

Harry Miller, husband of Maxine Miller

Rest of the Soul:

Earl Eubanks, Father of Mark Eubanks

Wayne Stewart, brother of Nancy Stewart

Sister Dorothy Ann Balsler, sister of Fr. Edward Balsler

Margaret Peggy Sloan, sister of Fr. Dan Gallagher

Stephen Bizzari, husband of Kathy Bizzarri

Altar Flowers this weekend are in Memory of all deceased members of St. Paul Parish.

Upcoming Events

Feb 3rd-4th — Catholic Service Appeal collection; Today our annual commitments to the Catholic Service Appeal are being offered throughout the Diocese. The CSA gives us the opportunity to act together as a diocesan family by supporting programs and services no parish alone can offer. Every gift, regardless of the size, is important to the success of the Appeal. To reach our parish goal we are asking each of you to support the Appeal for the many gifts God has given to you. For more on information about the Appeal or to donate online please visit www.jacksondiocese.org.

Feb 3rd — Armed Forces Support Ministry Rosary; in the Chapel at 4:45pm; all are welcome

Feb 5th — Small Group Leaders Meeting; 6:00 pm in the FLC; to review course & pick up materials

Feb 10th — St. Paul Drawdown; 7:00 pm — 11:00 pm; proceeds benefit Parish Outreach programs; \$125 ticket admits two adults; Contact Pat Scanlon for tickets: 601-953-6370

Feb 11th — No Religious Ed (Children & Adults) & No Children's Liturgy this day

— **What On Earth Am I Here For?** Small Groups begin meeting; sign up sheet to join a group is on the back counter in the church. Contact Sarah O'Donnell: 601-292-6089 or fellowship@saintpaulcatholicchurch.com

Feb 13th — Youth meet for Ash Wednesday Food Prep; 4:30-6:30 pm; in the FLC kitchen

Feb 14th — Ash Wednesday; Masses at 7:30 am & 6:00 pm; Big Deal Lenten Meal following evening Mass; Youth will be preparing and serving the meal; Youth should arrive at 4:00 pm

Feb 16th — Stations of the Cross; every Friday during Lent @ 6:00 pm in the Sanctuary; followed by a parish fish fry

Feb 16th-18th — Married Couples Retreat; St. Mary of the Pines, Chatawa; for reservations call Sister Sue Von Bank 601-783-0801 or by e-mail: retreatcenter@ssndcp.org

Feb 25th — Altar Server Training; 2-4 pm in the Sanctuary; all ages are welcome to join this ministry; must have received the Sacrament of First Holy Communion. Contact Dawn Clancy: dawn.clancy@rcsd.ms

Please pick up your 2017 Year-End Contributions Statements & 2018 Offertory Envelopes today!

website: www.saintpaulcatholicchurch.com

office phone: 601-992-9547