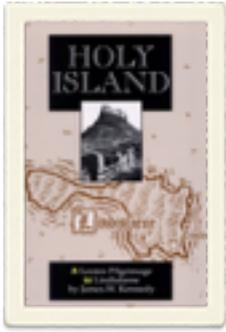


Why Am I Here? Why Do I Go To Church?

Last week, I invited everyone to reflect on the following quote from the booklet, "Holy Island: A Lenten Pilgrimage to Lindisfarne" by James W. Kennedy. The booklet was first published in 1958.



"The Church, which is often described as a hospital, contains too many patients who fail to get well. The Church, often described as a school, contains too many pupils who fail to learn. Is this then, the Church's witness to the world, sick and ignorant disciples who know not the Christ whom they claim as Lord?"

Read Kelly's response below. I welcome more of you to enter into dialogue regarding Rev. Kennedy's striking observation of the Church which still rings true today.



Hey Father,

I just wanted to send you my view on how things are going in our parish. Last night while listening to your homily, I was moved to include my input in the dialogue that we've been having as a parish. Not necessarily regarding my WHY as far as why I attend Mass but more of the general direction it seems the church is going, especially in light of the letter that you read in church.

I officially became a Catholic almost 8 years ago coming from a Protestant background. As much as I love the beliefs and traditions of the Catholic church, up until Christ Life I felt that something was missing. I am not saying it is our parish's fault or the Catholic church's fault, but Christ Life was a turning point...one I felt in my heart was in the right direction. A true, deep, and personal relationship with Christ that somehow I had been missing since joining the church. I started to see the Holy Spirit at work, and a challenge and conviction to change to how I was living my life. Did people I was around day to day know that I was a Christian? No, probably not. Did my life reflect the faith I claimed that I had? Sadly, most of the time no.

Since you have been pushing us and challenging us and, yes, even seeming angry with us sometimes, I have been convicted to try to conform my life more to the Gospel instead of the other way around, as you talked about in this week's homily. I have been that pupil who wasn't learning and that patient who just stayed sick and sometimes I still am. I commend you for your strong stance and for challenging us to look at the hard things...we have been comfortable for too long.

The world should know us by our fruits...they should know we are different, we should stand out, people around us should know that we are not of this world. My life has not and does not always reflect that.

Thank you Father Gerry for standing up for what is right, for not conforming to the status quo and for imploring us not to either.

Kelly McBride



January 28, 2018 Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Mass Intentions ~ Jan 29 - Feb 4, 2018

Monday @ 7:30 am — Michael Hehir (RIP)
Tuesday @ 7:30 am — Ross Wiggers (RIP)
Wednesday @ 6:00 pm — Pearlina Reckelhoff (Sp Int)
Thursday @ 7:30 am — Maria Tummillo (RIP)
*Friday @ 10:00 am — Healing Mass
Saturday @ 5:30 pm — Jeffrey Simon (RIP)
Sunday @ 8:00 am — Ed Shaw (RIP)
Sunday @ 10:30 am — Billy Brechtel (RIP)

New Prayer Requests

Special Intentions:

Donna Delmas
Donna Clemons, friend of Melinda Cannon
Iva Beth Lindsey, cousin of Melinda Cannon

Repose of the Soul:

Randy Thibodeaux, cousin of Phyllis Giamalva
Eddie Mahoney, relative of Eileen & John Lawson
Walter Winzen, uncle of Cheryl Gardner
Suzanne Woody, sister of Marcia Butz
Loretta Kaiser, aunt of Amy Kaiser

Altar Flowers this weekend are in Memory of Mr & Mrs Bill Jones, donated by Cliff & Linda Russell

Happy Catholic Schools Week! St. Paul Early Learning Center would like to thank Fr. Gerry, Deacon John and St. Paul Catholic Church for the great support and love. We are very blessed to be a part of such a wonderful parish. Please view the children's artwork by the cafeteria and see what we love about St. Paul Early Learning Center.



Upcoming Events

Jan 28th — Protection of Children Training @ 2pm in FLC Lounge for any NEW volunteers that have not been through the training. Email Renee Borne for questions: rel.edu@saintpaulcatholicchurch.com

Feb 2nd — Healing Mass & Brunch; begins at 10:00 am; all are welcome

Feb 2nd-4th — Ablaze Diocesan Catholic Youth Conference in Vicksburg; grades 9-12;
Contact Cory Head for information: youth@saintpaulcatholicchurch.com

Feb 3rd-4th — Catholic Service Appeal collection We must remember that we are one with other parishes in our diocese. Once a year, our Bishop asks us to respond in gratitude by making a commitment to support the work of our diocesan programs and ministries that provide services that no one parish could provide on its own. Through the CSA we all work together to care for the Church by sharing the gifts God has granted us. Please experience the joy of giving and join us as we work to continue God's work. To learn more about the appeal visit www.jacksondiocese.org

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

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 — 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 14th — Ash Wednesday; Masses at 7:30 am & 6:00 pm; Big Deal Lenten Meal following evening Mass

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



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Bookmark our website — It is updated regularly with new announcements, full prayer lists, staff contact information, bulletin archives, ministry info & schedules, Fr. Gerry's homilies, calendar of events, registration forms, helpful links, and more!

website: www.saintpaulcatholicchurch.com office phone: 601-992-9547