

DETACHMENT

DETACHMENT and the Gift of Contemplation

Last week, we read the Gospel account of Jesus visiting the home of Martha and Mary. Hopefully, we discovered the importance Jesus placed on the Virtue of Contemplation. On a surface-level reading of that Gospel, one could easily deduce that Jesus was scolding Martha for her busyness.

That certainly does not appear to be the intention of The Master. Rather, He was trying to bring to the fore a great truth in all of our lives — Don't let your busyness keep you from being a Contemplative. In other words, don't just be a "human doing," be a "human being!" Be in harmony with your Creator and provide an opportunity to become aware that He lives within!

With a superficial glance at this Gospel, it may appear that Mary's part was the easier one — all she had to do was sit there — and Martha's was the hard part. But, as one reflects more deeply on the passage it is easy to see Mary's part was much more difficult. It is not easy to set aside one's own work and give your undivided attention to another. Our world tends to regard busyness whether it is accomplishing some goal or not.

The real message of the Gospel may be that it is very easy to become frenetic with action and important things to do; so much so that we forget our Creator. We forget the source of our being and the purpose of our work.....the purpose of our lives! Our work and service of others can become shallow, and ultimately meaningless, and our religion sterile and hollow, unless it is connected to Him.

John Henry Newman wrote the following in one of his great sermons:

Perhaps the reason why the standard of holiness among us is so low, why our attainments are so poor, our view of the truth so dim, our belief so unreal, our general notions so artificial and external is this, that we dare not trust each other with the secret of our hearts. We have each the same secret, and we keep it to ourselves, and we fear that, as a cause of estrangement, which really would be a bond of union. We do not probe the wounds of our nature thoroughly; we do not lay the foundation of our religious profession in the ground of our inner man; we make clean the outside of things; we are amiable and friendly to each other in words and deeds, but our love is not enlarged, our bowels of affection are straightened, and we fear to let the intercourse begin at the root; and in consequence, our religion, viewed as a social system, is hollow.

The presence of Christ is not in it. (Sermon 9, Christian Sympathy)

Martha, Martha, you fret and worry about so many things.

July 24, 2016– Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

MASS INTENTIONS

JULY 25– JULY 31, 2016

7:30 am Monday: People of the Parish

7:30 am Tuesday: Eugene & John Gooch (RIP)

6:00 pm Wednesday: Ron Barry (RIP)

7:30 am Thursday: Norman Nelson (RIP)

7:30 am Friday: Delores Mandina (RIP)

5:30 pm Saturday: Joe Sammut (RIP)

8:00 am Sunday: People of the Parish

10:30 am Sunday: People of the Parish

Adoration This Week:

Monday-Friday: 8am-Noon

Wednesday: 6:30 pm-7:30 pm

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

PRAYER REQUESTS

SPECIAL INTENTIONS

Mary Jacq Easley

Matt Sweeney

Marie Cohen, mother of Stephen Cohen

Bobby Childers, son of Shearon Simpson

Jagger Demmick, newborn child of friends of Jo Bowden

Les Sackett, cousin of Kim Manieri



*Altar flowers are donated by Janie Romero
in loving memory of Robert Reckelhoff.*

Check out our new parish website:
(same address, new look, new features)
www.saintpaulcatholicchurch.com

This Week & Upcoming Events

July 24th — Children's Liturgy during the 10:30 mass.

July 30th — Altar Server Training from 9-11am. On site celebration after for those attending and current altar servers. Contact the church office if you plan to attend.

July 30th — Craft Meeting at 10 am in the Craft Room. All are welcome. Contact Suzanne Guillory @ 601-613-9701

August 6th — Therapeutic Foster Care Training 9:00 am at Catholic Charities on North Congress Street. Contact Ashanti @ 601-326-3762

August 20th — Hunger Banquet 7-10 pm sponsored by St. Richard Catholic Church to benefit several local food charities. Tickets are \$25. Contact Susan @ 225-931-3979 or by email seleming@gmail.com

September 8th — Following Christ Sessions begin on Thursday evenings. Register on our website or call the office if you need assistance.

September 13th — Following Christ Sessions begin on Tuesday evenings. Register on our website or call the office if you need assistance.

September 9-11th — Lectio Divina Retreat at the Dwelling Place in Brooksville. Presented by Mary Louise Jones & Claudia Addison. \$180 donation to attend. Contact Clare @ 662-738-5348 or visit dwellingplace.com for more information.

September 25th — 30th annual St. Joseph Catholic Church GermanFest from 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Advance meal tickets are \$6. Meals the day of the festival will be \$7. Contact St. Joseph parish office at 601-856-2054.

*Thank
you*

Weekly offering for July 17th: \$19,872

Save the Date:

Sept. 9th

**3rd Annual Early Learning
Center Golf Tournament**

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 can be used by the two food pantries to buy perishable food.

Job opening: The Diocese of Jackson is hiring a new Family Life Minister. This is a full-time position requiring a BS or BA; Master of Theology desired. Minimum 3 years experience in related ministry. Contact fran.lavelle@jacksondiocese.org



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1. Daily Personal Prayer
2. Hearing God in Scripture
3. The Power of the Sacraments
4. The Importance of Forgiveness
5. The Spirit-Empowered Life
Retreat: The World, the Flesh, & the Devil
6. Advancing the Mission of the Church
7. Celebration!

DATES, TIMES, LOCATION	COST/REGISTRATION	MORE INFO
Thursdays 7-9 pm Sept 8-Oct 20 Saturday Retreat Oct 8th	Register free online at saintpaulcatholicchurch.com	Open to all who have completed one of the 7-week Series of Discovering Christ.
Tuesdays 7-9 pm Sept 13-Oct 25 Saturday Retreat Oct 15	Call the office for assistance @ 601-992-9547	



Be Still and know that I am God. (Psalm 46:10)

CONTEMPLATIVE PRAYER

We may think of prayer as thoughts or feelings expressed in words. But this is only one expression. In the Christian tradition contemplative prayer is considered to be the pure gift of God. It is the opening of mind and heart — our whole being — to God, the Ultimate Mystery, beyond thoughts, words and emotions. Through grace we open our awareness to God whom we know by faith is within us, closer than breathing, closer than thinking, closer than choosing, closer than consciousness itself.

CENTERING PRAYER

Centering Prayer is a method designed to facilitate the development of contemplative prayer by preparing our faculties to receive this gift. It presents ancient Christian wisdom teachings in an updated form. Centering prayer is not meant to replace other kinds of prayer; rather it casts a new light and depth of meaning on them. It is at the same time a relationship with God and a discipline to foster that relationship. This method of prayer is a movement beyond conversation with Christ to communion with Him.

WISDOM SAYING OF JESUS

*Centering Prayer is based on the wisdom saying of Jesus in the Sermon on the Mount: "when you pray, go to your inner room, close the door and pray to your Father in secret. And your Father, who sees in secret, will reward you." (Mt 6:6) It is also inspired by writings of major contributors to the Christian contemplative heritage including John Cassian, the anonymous author of *The Cloud of Unknowing*, Francis de Sales, Teresa of Avila, John of the Cross, Therese of Lisieux, and Thomas Merton.*

Church Office Hours: Tuesday — Thursday, 8 am - 4 pm /Friday Summer Hours 8am - 12pm (Closed Mondays)

Pastor — Fr. Gerry Hurley — pastor@saintpaulcatholicchurch.com or office@saintpaulcatholicchurch.com

Receptionist — Renee Borne — office@saintpaulcatholicchurch.com

Faith Formation — Sarah O'Donnell — rel.edu@saintpaulcatholicchurch.com

Finance/Bookkeeper — Renee Carpenter — finance@saintpaulcatholicchurch.com

Grounds/Maintenance — Kevin Smith — office@saintpaulcatholicchurch.com

Learning Center — Jennifer Henry, Director —stpaullearningcenter@gmail.com

Liturgy, Prayer Requests, Births, Baptisms — Monica Walton — liturgy@saintpaulcatholicchurch.com

Music Ministry — Ed Thomas — est5271@gmail.com

R.C.I.A. — Rodney Hipp — adult.edu@saintpaulcatholicchurch.com

Senior Adult Ministry — Monica Walton — sradults@saintpaulcatholicchurch.com

Youth Group — Cory Head — youth@saintpaulcatholicchurch.com

Church Office: Phone: 601-992-9547 — www.saintpaulcatholicchurch.com
Early Learning Center: Phone: 601-992-2876 — www.saintpaullearningcenter.com

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