

What Goes Around, Comes Around!

From our earliest days, I believe one of the great truths we learned was, **“God is everywhere.”**

Perhaps that was meant to be a consoling thought. However, due to the image of God that I possessed, an image that was carefully crafted in my home and school environments, and all the teaching and instruction I received from there, I realized that “God is everywhere” was not good news! It was frightening!

I was just busted too many times — way too many! First, my teachers. Then, they relayed it to my Dad. He relayed it to my grandparents (and that could mean the withholding of the weekly wages they generously gave to each of us.) All of these main characters assured me, “God saw this, too.” (Whatever my most recent episode entailed!)

It didn't lead to a very amorous relationship with God! In fact, it had the opposite effect — I thought maybe I could hide from Him. Maybe, like me, He couldn't see in the dark. — Nah — He could! He wasn't anything like me! And, I wasn't much like Him!

It is rather a surprise, really, to think we survived such conflicts and still maintained our sanity (or at least, some semblance thereof) — God wasn't supposed to be like me. I was supposed to be, or become, like Him. Whatever happened to all of that? This was all supposed to be transcendental, or supernatural, or something like that. Whatever it was, it didn't seem to be working.

Soon, I began to think that maybe He isn't everywhere — and I thought, Thank God! What I didn't realize, and what “they” had not told me is, **“God doesn't push, or force, or obligate anyone into relationship with Him. He only invites and encourages!”** Not understanding that makes a big difference, I think. Maybe I was just not willing to contain or hold such a truth at that time. Maybe I wasn't capable of holding such a truth at that time! When I begin to believe or trust that He is not everywhere, then I begin to ask, is He anywhere?

Emily Dickinson, that delightful author and poet, once wrote a friend and observed:

“They say that God is everywhere, and yet we always think of Him as somewhat of a recluse.”

Wow! What a stunning thought! Maybe the natural result when I choose to not believe that “He is everywhere” is — He slowly moves from being everywhere, to anywhere, to somewhere, and maybe eventually nowhere! At that point, we've got to reconstruct the whole plan! Perhaps that is the very nature of Life!

This is why the work we are doing here at St. Paul Parish is so very important.

— **ChristLife — Small Groups — Personal Faith Development**

ChristLife was an invitation for us to reflect again more deeply on what we really believe regarding God. It provided us an opportunity to share our faith, our growth, our experience with others at our tables. It provided us the forum for launching Small Groups in homes, where members and friends could continue to share, and challenge, and be challenged in regard to what we believe about our God, our Faith, our Journey.

The question, **“What on Earth am I here for?”** is a very important question. Rick Warren raises many, many questions that we have to struggle with. They are worth the struggle, because hopefully, it all leads us back to the beginning: **“God is Everywhere!”** He is all around us! — Fr. Gerry

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Mass Intentions ~ March 19-25, 2018

Monday @ 7:30 am — Fr. Leonard Elder (RIP)

Tuesday @ 7:30 am — People of the Parish

Wednesday @ 6:00 pm — Wayne Stewart (RIP)

Thursday @ 7:30 am — US Armed Forces (Sp Int)

Friday @ 7:30 am — People of the Parish

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

Sunday @ 8:00 am — Agatha & Jeffrey Wolf, Nina Volk (RIP)

Sunday @ 10:30 am — James Everette Toten (RIP)

more on our website www.saintpaulcatholicchurch.com

New Prayer Requests

Special Intentions:

Kayleigh Cohen

Mayrene Messer

Ed Hayes

Ray Butz

Jo Baggett, wife of Roy Baggett

Rest of the Soul:

Sheila Alleman, cousin of Monica Walton

Church office @ 601-992-9547



*There are three barriers that block our total surrender to God:
Fear, pride, and confusion.*

following
CHRIST
a seven-week journey

*****NOTE: the dates have changed! Following Christ will be held on THURSDAYS, beginning April 5th. Pick up an information card & register on the sign-up sheet at both entrances.**

The Food Pantry Ministry at St. Paul supports the Stewpot Food Pantry in Jackson, the Center for Violence Prevention Abuse Shelter in Pearl, and individual requests for food assistance. We welcome non-perishable food in family-size packages, checks or gift cards to purchase food. Please place your contributions in the basket by the information table.

Mar 18 — Spring Break; No Religious Ed Classes

Mar 18 — Religious Goods Store open; Spring Sale! Find great First Communion, Confirmation, and Graduation gifts!

Mar 19 — Parish Lenten Reconciliation Service; 6:00pm

Mar 21 — Youth Group resumes @ 6:00pm

Mar 23 — Living Stations of the Cross; presented by the Confirmation Class @ 6:00pm; followed by parish fish fry

Mar 25 — Religious Ed Classes meet @ 9:15 am (No Class on Easter Sunday)

— **Easter Egg Hunt** after 10:30 am Mass, children & parents meet in the Early Learning Center cafeteria, sponsored by the Knights of Columbus



March 29-31 ~ Holy Week Schedule

Holy Thursday: Mass of the Lord's Supper @ 7:00 pm
Adoration @ 8:00 pm to midnight, by family last name
8:00 pm A – E 9:00 pm F – K 10:00 pm L – P 11:00 pm Q – Z

Good Friday: Stations of the Cross @ 12noon
Passion Service @ 7:00 pm

Easter Services: Easter Vigil Mass @ 7:30 pm
Easter Sunday Masses @ 8:00 am & 10:30 am (no Nursery; no Children's Liturgy)