

PERCEPTION

“Things aren’t always what they seem to be.” I know you have often heard this expression. You may have even heard the song by Keke Palmer & Max Schneider of the same title.

How easily the words roll off the tongue, yet how deep a Truth those words hold. This is where **PERCEPTION** comes into play! If I settle for things the way they seem to be I may be settling for a lot less than life has in store for me, and a lot less than what God wants me to have in life.

*“If the doors of **perception** were cleansed, everything would appear to man as it is, infinite.”*

I love that line from William Blake’s poem, “The Marriage of Heaven and Hell”. But, the very next line may be even more telltale: *“For man has closed himself up, till he sees all things thro’ narrow chinks of his cavern.”*

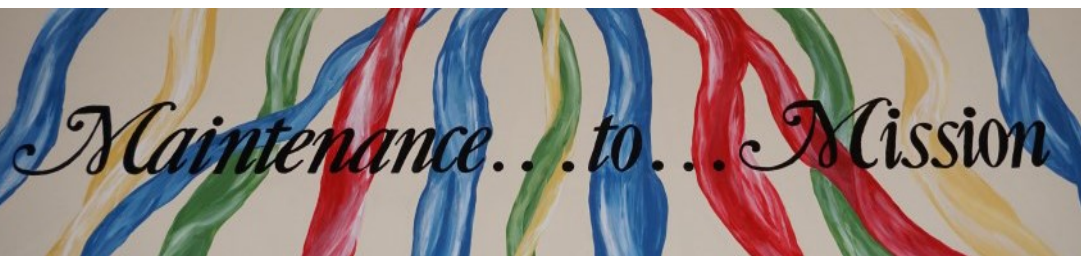
(The poem became the influence for C.S. Lewis’ work, *The Great Divorce*.)

I am amazed that Blake penned those words more than 220 years ago — it is clear that issues of **PERCEPTION** are not just a factor of our time. I believe that as a Church, we have many **PERCEPTIONS** that are very much out of harmony with reality. As Catholics, we belong to a Church where prevailing **PERCEPTIONS** seem to exist from a previous generation, and they obviously do not serve us well in this present age. There was a generally accepted adage that existed and took a great foothold from the John Henry Newman era that said members of congregations should “Pray, Pay and Obey!” This was nothing more than the ignorance and arrogance of some members of a hierarchical Church of the time.

Today, we clearly see the affect of such leadership. The idea that we can just show up at Church and take care of our individual responsibility (like having our card stamped) is the most insidious idea that has ever taken a foothold in “Church World” or “Church Business.” **The Church is the assembled community of Christ gathered to worship Him in Faith, and we proceed from the Eucharistic Celebration implementing in our families, our work, and our lives, what we have celebrated in Faith and action.** We celebrate the Eucharist as community, and bring it into action in our world.

In order for the Church to flourish and for us to pass on the power of the Eucharist to an upcoming generation, there are many **PERCEPTIONS** we must change. If we want to have the Church exist in a meaningful way for future generations, then we need to be engaged and invested now. The **PERCEPTION** that our kids and youth will be instructed if we just take them to Church is not a reality. We can only support that work by being engaged with our family members in that instruction.

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October 9, 2016

Twenty-eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Mass Intentions

Week of : Oct. 10— Oct. 16, 2016

7:30 am Mon.: USS Arizona (RIP)

7:30 am Tues.: Nolen Hughes (RIP)

6:00 pm Wed.: Bryan Pierce (RIP)

7:30 am Thurs.: Slodadan Milosevic (RIP)

7:30 am Fri.: Tom Harris Sr. (RIP)

5:30 pm Sat.: Steven & Rose Ann Gurbisz (Sp. Int)

8:00 am Sunday: People of the Parish

10:30 am Sunday: Kenneth Mitchell (RIP)



Prayer Intentions

Brenda Kuriger
Theresa Fluhr, niece of Maxine Miller
Jim Prator, father of Jennifer Henry

Rest of the Soul

Joann Noe, aunt of Suzette Antici

Adoration This Week: Monday-Friday: 8am-12pm
Wed. 6:30 pm-7:30pm



Sacrament of Reconciliation: Sat 4:30-5:00pm or by appt.
Lectio Divina- Tuesdays @ 10 am

New Announcements

***RCIA- Tuesday, October 11th. Meal at 6:30pm, class begins at 7:00pm**
Topic- Who is God?
ALL ARE WELCOME!



***Ministry Fair- October 22nd and 23rd after all masses.** Take a booklet home this weekend and pray about how you can use your gifts and talents with our church community. **The Ministry Fair Retreat** for all who sign up for a ministry will be held on **October 30th at 2pm in the Family Life Center.**



*** St. Paul Women's Guild Craft Fair -Nov. 12th & 13th. -Oct. 16th-** Craft Fair meeting in the FLC lounge from 3pm-5pm. Items need to be brought in no later than **Oct. 29th**, please. If items are dropped off in the craft room, please have them labeled with your name on it. Sign up in the back of church to help with setup, decorating and pricing!!



Thank You!

Weekly offering for October 2nd: \$21,632



Altar flowers are donated by Roni Trout in loving memory of Bill Trout.

Blessed Mother flowers are donated by the Pipitone family in memory of Dorothy Galloway.

****Religious Education for ALL AGES has begun!**

- Adult Education & Religious Education- Sundays at 9:15am; Wednesday night youth classes- 6:00 pm-8:30pm

Introduction to Centering Prayer October 15th- Centering Prayer is a form of Christian Prayer rooted in the ancient Christian contemplative tradition. Its purpose is to foster a deeper intimacy with the Divine through silence and stillness. This retreat is for those seeking to learn this practice of prayer for the first time or for those who want to renew or strengthen their practice during this weekend of silence and reflection. Begins at 9:00 a.m. and ends at 3:00 p.m. Donation: \$50 includes lunch. For more information contact The Dwelling Place at 662-738-5348 or email us at dwellpl@gmail.com.

St. Richard Catholic School Open House- October 16, 2016 11:30 AM- 1:30 PM

Light lunch will be provided as families tour throughout the school, talking with teachers and administration.

****BULLETIN:** Information must be submitted in writing by note or email to the parish office **no later than 12:00 noon on Wednesdays** for the following weekend. When sending an email, please put **"BULLETIN"** in the subject line. Thank you for your cooperation!

Reminders

***Adoration Times** - We have one more space that needs to be filled for Adoration. **Fridays 10am -11am.** Please call the church office if you are available to sign up for either of these times.

***Our Yearly Protection of Children Parent Meeting will be next Sunday, 10/16 at 9:30 am** in the gym. This will allow you to review the material your child will be presented in their classroom.

***Young Adults** first session will begin on 10/17 @ 6:30 pm in the Family Life Center. Open to young adults 21 and older. Contact Lexie Gosselin for more information: lexiegosselin@yahoo.com

***The Knights of Columbus will be hosting Trunk or Treat on Oct. 28th at 7pm.** See a Knight after mass to sign up or get more information!

*** Join our Big Deal Youth Group on Thursday, November 3rd @ 6pm for a 5K Color Race!!** Register now for the race on our website.



September 28 - November 6, 2016

We are able to provide educational programs for children, youth, and adults only when we have sufficient volunteer and support people to provide such programs. A prevailing **PERCEPTION** is that there is always enough people to lead, support, or engage — that is simply untrue! **The greatest issue we have at St. Paul Church right now is a lack of volunteers.**

Imagine what a difference it would make if all parents gave some of their time to helping in their children's programs, at all ages. (We have a volunteer form on our website under "Religious Ed & Youth" so you may easily do so!)

There has been a movement afoot for a number of months now to have a Nursery Ministry during the 10:30 Mass. After months of recruiting, we have only 7 volunteers. It really *is not* possible for those 7 people to carry such a valuable program throughout the year. We need more volunteers. I believe the program can work extremely well if we have sufficient volunteers and support people. I am convinced it works best when the parents of families who use such services become part of the volunteer group. The greatest people to be invested in such a program are the parents and families who use such a service. By having sufficient volunteers who are committed to this process, we could provide a Nursery where each person would be responsible for working in it no more than four times a year.

The Nursery during 10:30 Mass would be held in the Early Learning Center for children ages 8 weeks - to - 2 years. At 2 years old, we could transition the children into participating in the Children's Liturgy program. The Children's Liturgy Ministry has been working very well, but as with other programs we are short on volunteers. Without an increase in the number of volunteers, this program is also in jeopardy.

We are asking all parents of children who use the Children's Liturgy Ministry to commit to assisting us. Again, if we have a great response the heavy burden would be lifted from the few and shared by many. We will provide the training and tools you need to manage this very effectively.

We will have sign up for all St. Paul Ministries at the Ministry Fair October 22-23 after all three Masses. Please give special consideration to these two ministries (Children's Liturgy & Nursery during 10:30 Mass) if your children are benefiting, or will someday benefit from these two programs!

—Fr. Gerry

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

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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

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