

Commitment — God is calling us — Let us call each other

As I prepare to return again and begin a new year with you, I would like to speak a little about commitment — that which nurtures and supports us in our journey of Faith. Let me begin by expressing my gratitude to all who have accepted our invitations to register and participate in our many programs and offerings here at St. Paul. Your commitment has been very inspiring! You are an example of great commitment and what it means to answer God's call to be Intentional Disciples.

Pope Francis teaches, "My life, my attitude, my way of living, must truly be a concrete sign that God is close to us." He said committing oneself to something means we "assume a responsibility, a task toward someone; and it also means the style, the attitude of fidelity and dedication, of special attention with which we carry forward this task."

I am grateful for your response to the ChristLife Series which has provided a huge impetus to our spiritual and social growth here at St. Paul. Your commitment to these processes is so important because in committing yourself to personal growth and communal growth of our Parish, you are committing yourself to support the growth and development of those other 7 people at your table in a very specific way. Your presence and support of them is a large commitment. That is why we put such an emphasis on participation in the whole program as well as the day of Retreat. The day of retreat has proven to be a huge piece of the growth in faith for all who have participated.

There has got to be something in the irony that we ask you to spend **7 sessions** with **7 other people** sharing your life and your faith and growing in Christ. Then, we provide you a full day of Retreat. I understand and appreciate the magnitude of the commitment you are making to these other people at your table. I know each of them also appreciates the huge nature of your commitment. It would be easy for an individual to be light on their commitment because there are so many other responsibilities. But, I ask you sincerely as you participate in the ChristLife Series to please take it very seriously. God has a great work in this process for you!

An empty chair at a table changes the dynamics and conversational pattern greatly. Your presence is extremely important to your table confrères. It encourages and supports them always. So, I encourage you to please try and clear all would-be obstacles from your calendar so that you can be a fully and committed participant. Don't let little social events or football diminish your commitment! Inspire your table friends by your commitment!



Catechesis of the Good Shepherd

Big Deal Youth Group

Adult Study Group

Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults



Saint Paul
Catholic Church

**Religious
Education**

I would also like to speak about commitment to the Religious Education Program for our children and youth. The enrollment this year is very low when considered in light of the number of students in our Parish.

Why are these numbers lacking?

What is wrong? Are we missing something?

Are we not on the same page?

Classes begin next Sunday!

Please, if your children/youth are not registered — I ask you to please help them register.

The Catechism states, "In our own time, in a world often alien and even hostile to the faith, believing families are of primary importance as centers of living, radiant faith...It is in the bosom of the family that parents are by word and example...the first heralds of the faith with regard to their children." (CCC, 1656).

This year, let us make a commitment to show up and be present!

Sincerely, Fr. Gerry

September 3, 2017

22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

Mass Intentions

Prayer Requests — Special Intentions

Week of September 4-10, 2017

*9:00 am Mon: *Labor Day Communion Service*

7:30 am Tues: *Communion Service*

6:00 pm Wed: *Communion Service*

7:30 am Thurs: *Communion Service*

7:30 am Fri: *Daily Mass (Fr. Gerry returns)*

5:30 pm Sat: *Fr. Patrick Noonan (RIP)*

8:00 am Sun: *Jane Corbitt (RIP) & Robert Hitchens (RIP)*

10:30 am Sun: *Celia Purser (RIP)*

*Dot Autrey
Carol Guthrie
Jerry Guthrie
Jacinto Arellano-Conde*

Submit prayer requests to: liturgy@saintpaulcatholicchurch.com

Adoration This Week: Monday – Friday 8:00 am – 12:00 pm
(No Wednesday evening adoration during the summer months)

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

★ **Many, many thanks to Fr. Frank Cosgrove for celebrating with us all these weeks!** ★

New Announcements — Visit our website for more details.

- * **Labor Day Communion Service Monday, Sept 4th @ 9:00 am** (no 7:30 am Service)
- * **Sharing Christ begins Thursday, Sept. 7th** — We have one open seat in the Morning Session and twelve open seats in the Evening Session. Call the Church office @ 601-992-9547 to join this cohort — 1st Come, 1st Served!
- * **Extension Society 2nd Collection** — We will take up a 2nd Collection at the weekend Masses on September 9/10. This organization supports and strengthens poor mission dioceses across the U.S.
- * **Hurricane Harvey Relief** — We will have a Special Collection at the weekend Masses on September 16/17. Please make checks payable to St. Paul Catholic Church and we will forward the collection to the Diocese of Jackson.
- * **Regional “Faith in Action” Workshop** — To be held at St. Therese Catholic Church in Jackson on September 16th, 8:30-11:30 am. Topics include Catholic Social Teaching, Parish Social Ministry, and Advocacy. Contact Sue Allen @ 601-383-3849 or by email sue.allen@catholiccharitiesjackson.org

Reminders

- * **The Early Learning Center 4th Annual Golf Tournament will be held on Friday, Sept. 8th.** Flyers are in the back of church to register your team or you may call the Early Learning Center @ 601-992-2876 for more information.
- * **Tickets are on sale to win a 4-night, 5 day stay in Perdido Key, Florida.** Tickets are \$10 ea/3 for \$25. Proceeds go to the Early Learning Center. Winner will be announced at the Golf Tournament.
- * **Seminarian Education Brunch Fundraiser — 9:00 am Mass followed by Brunch Saturday, September 9, 2017** here at St. Paul Church. Catholic Extension is offering a \$25,000 match for dioceses who raise \$100,000. RSVP to Pam McFarland @ 601-960-8479 or email pam.mcfarland@jacksondiocese.org . Donations accepted if you cannot attend the brunch.
- * **Religious Ed classes begin September 10th @ 9:15 am** — Online registration closes Tuesday. Ages 3-6th grade meets in the Atriums. Adults meet in the Front Lounge — Adults will study C.S. Lewis' book, *Mere Christianity*.
- * **Big Deal Youth Group begins September 13th** — Ages 7th–12th grades meets every Wednesday @ 6:00-8:30 pm
- * **Discovering Christ will begin September 12th @ 6:30 pm** — Will be combined with the first movement of the RCIA class. Two weeks of RCIA introduction, followed by six weeks of ChristLife, plus a Saturday Retreat on October 28th. Dinner & childcare included! (No child care for the Retreat Day) Register online today! All are welcome.



Altar Flowers & Financial Report

Altar Flowers

*In memory of parents, L.C. & Kathy Jenkins
donated by: Donna O'Brien*



(Altar Flowers may be reserved on our website under Registration Forms)

Weekend Collection

*Weekly offering for August 26/27
\$17,928*

