

SOMEBODY'S KNOCKING — WHO'S ANSWERING?

The family, often described as the domestic church, is called to proclaim, celebrate, and live the Gospel as a unit, just as each of us are also called as individuals. The strength of the Church is only going to be as strong as the combined membership of the domestic churches that make up her membership. Parents are entrusted with a special role and responsibility in forming their children in Faith.

Parents are the Primary teachers of their children in the ways of faith! The Church is a secondary teacher that exists to support the parents in their work. The Church can never supplant the parental role in the raising up of their child in the ways of faith. This is a God-Given role, an integral part of the acceptance of the invitation from God to be Co-Creator with Him in bringing a new child into the world. My “yes” to procreation in communion with God is my “yes” also to all of the attendant responsibilities.

Unfortunately, this does not always work! Consequently, the Church is faced with a major dilemma. Do we as Church try to take on the total responsibility for the child's faith formation? Many would say yes, perhaps based on the adage “half a loaf is better than no bread” others would clearly say no, perhaps based on the adage “A responsibility that is entrusted specifically to one cannot adequately be carried out by another.”

Sadly, the Church has often attempted to take on the parental role, and while it has been beneficial in some circumstances and situations, for the most part it really hasn't worked — and that really should not be surprising to us — because the primary focus in the Catholic Church is not knowledge, and it is not the number of classes or grades I have been through. It is about bringing individuals to a personal, loving relationship with my Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Having the quality of people and the process to bring that about is extremely important to us here at St. Paul. Accordingly, we will no longer enroll students for just one year of Sacramental preparation (example: just for First Communion, or Confirmation).

This weekend, we celebrate Catechetical Sunday and we acknowledge our wonderful Catechists. What a generous and devoted group of individuals offering themselves in service of our children and youth! To put it as succinctly as we possibly can, we would not exist as a parish without the commitment of these generous people. I know some might say that is ridiculous but it is true! Without these generous volunteers we would be unable to carry out a fundamental function of being a Community of Faith — to instruct people (esp. children and youth) in the ways of our faith. As we pray a blessing over our Catechists at each of the Masses this weekend, I invite you to be aware of the extraordinary nature of their work. I encourage you to be truly grateful for their ministry.

Additionally, I would like to invite many more of you to join them in this excellent Ministry — perhaps the greatest Ministry of all — raising up our Young, so that the Church may continue to flourish after us. We are not seeking professionals or theology experts, we are simply seek people who love the Lord.

Each year about this time, we always make a pitch for more teachers, more assistants, more helpers, more guides — the response has always been disappointing. **Maybe this is the year that things will change, and we will have more people to evangelize our upcoming generations.** Your assistance would be beneficial to us in myriad ways — whether you can help all the time, some of the time, seasonally, or just periodically — we can celebrate your commitment. Please join us in this great Ministry of raising up the next generation.

Sarah O'Donnell, and Renee Borne will be thrilled to hear from you, and will be so glad to have you join them in any capacity whatsoever — whether teaching, leading, supporting, assisting, gathering supplies, or witnessing to one individual. If you are for Jesus, then you are just the one we need!

— Fr. Gerry

Contact Sarah or Renee at rel.edu@saintpaulcatholicchurch.com or call 601-992-9547.

September 17, 2017

24th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Mass Intentions Week of September 18-24

7:30 am Monday — Carl March (RIP)
7:30 am Tuesday — Nolen Hughes (RIP)
6:00 pm Wednesday — Henry Ziemianski (RIP)
7:30 am Thursday — William Ryan Owens (RIP)
7:30 am Friday — Janet Reno (RIP)
5:30 pm Saturday — John Reiss (RIP)
8:00 am Sunday — Gula Guillory (RIP)
10:30 am Sunday — Josie Hege (RIP)

Prayer Requests — Special Intentions

Dunlap Peebles
Santa Crout
Michael Noonan, brother of Fr. Patrick Noonan

Prayer Requests — Repose of the Soul

Dale Givens, brother-in-law of Joel & Pat Barber
Hazel Rhodes, mother of LaVerne Finley
Helen Wray, aunt of Rita Wray & great-aunt of Tamika Wray

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.

New Announcements — Visit our website for more details.

- * **Habitat for Humanity 33rd Catholic Build will be held on Oct. 7, 2017.** Sign up this weekend in the back of church to help with the build or to provide food items. Contact Lonnie Graeber @ l.pgraeber2@comcast.net or 769-798-4694.
- * **Confirmation Retreat on Sept. 24th-10:30-4pm** All Confirmation Students are to meet for Mass at 10:30am and join us for lunch and retreat day in the Family Life Center.
- * **Big Deal Concert Event — Air 1 Positive Hits Tour on Oct. 8th 7:00pm** - Cory Head has a limited number tickets for \$20 each. We will meet at the Family Life Center and travel together to the concert. See Cory on Wednesday night or email him- youth@saintpaulcatholicchurch.com
- * **Women's Guild Meet & Greet on Sept. 25th @ 11am** — Lunch provided, discussing upcoming events & plans for the year.
- * **Women's Guild Annual Wine Tasting on Sept. 25th @ 7pm** — Wine & food pairing. All ladies over 21 are invited. We will be collecting coffee, creamer, sugar, laundry detergent, and individually wrapped snacks for the Opportunity Center.

Reminders

- * **Hurricane Harvey Relief 2nd Collection** — this weekend — Please make checks payable to St. Paul Catholic Church and we will forward the collection to the Diocese of Jackson.
- * **Silver Rose Service on Wednesday, September 20th @ 6:30 pm** — all are invited to pray the Rosary in the Chapel after 6:00pm Mass, led by the Knights in honor Our Lady of Guadalupe.
- * **Altar Server Training on Sunday, September 24th @ 2:00 pm** — everyone who has made their First Holy Communion is invited to serve in this Ministry. We need more Altar Servers at all the Masses — boys and girls in grades 3-12 are welcome. After training, all new servers will be scheduled with an experienced server for their first months.
- * **RCIA/Discovering Christ Tuesdays @ 6:30 pm** — RCIA has begun, but registration is still open. Discovering Christ begins Sept 26th for seven Tuesdays, plus a Saturday Retreat on October 28th. Dinner & childcare included! (No child care for the Retreat Day) Last week to register! All are welcome.
- * **Religious Ed classes Sundays @ 9:15 am** — Ages 3yrs-6th grade meet in the Atriums. Adults meet in the Front Lounge — Adults are invited to join us and study C.S. Lewis' book, *Mere Christianity*.
- * **Big Deal Youth Group Wednesdays @ 6-8:30pm** — Ages 7th–12th grades

Altar Flowers / Blessed Mother Flowers & Financial Report

Altar Flowers this week *In Memory of Kevin J McQuitty, beloved brother ; Donated by Kathy & Jim Mathews*
(Altar Flowers may be reserved on our website under Registration Forms)

Weekend Collection

Weekly offering for September 9/10 — \$20,628