

The Belle of the Ball

The Belle of Amherst is a play written in 1976 by William Luce. The British actress, Julie Harris, played the role of the poet Emily Dickinson whom I mentioned in last week's bulletin, for her observation regarding God and our relationship with Him:

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

The play, a one-woman performance, delves into the life and eccentricities of the poet. In the First Act, the audience is made aware of Emily's issues in regard to religion. She grew up Amherst, Massachusetts, in a household that was rigorous, rigid, and puritanical, in which her father was lord. Although this was a prominent family in the community, Emily lived much of her life as a recluse.

Church attendance was compulsory, and daily prayer exercises a requirement. A spirit of rebellion took hold of the young Emily at one point, and she began to question many of the teachings and customs she had grown up with. While such a rebellion can be very troublesome to some parents, especially parents who have grown accustomed to the placid nature of a son/daughter, this process of pushing out or pushing against is a very healthy process. It is really an important stage of growth/development where one comes to test what they really believe.

I have the feeling that this experience in the life of Emily was very fruitful. While she did generally stay indoors, baking cakes and writing poems late into the night, she makes the following very powerful declaration in the play:

"You see, I have never had to go anywhere to find my paradise. I found it all right here — the only world I wanted — here in Amherst, Massachusetts. Massachusetts!

Now, there's a word to lift your hat to! Paradise is no journey, because it is written.

But for that very cause, it's the most arduous of journeys. I travel the road into my soul all the time."

What a profound thought — I guess we keep saying it all of the time, the "journey within." But, how many really genuinely make that "most arduous" journey? It is much less threatening, and certainly much less fearful, to make other journeys. The journey within is in essence the great question that we have focused on these 40 Days of Lent, and all of the great questions posed to me (each one of us as individuals) in the material presented so well by Rick Warren in "What On Earth Am I Here For" !! I hope it has really caused you to push out, and push against, many of the thoughts, beliefs, and concepts that are presented, as well as many that you have always held untested.

I find Emily Dickinson to be amazing in the fact that she remained a deeply religious woman throughout her life. Her poetry reveals a great depth (a by-product of questioning) and a keen awareness of God's presence in the world, along with a deep consciousness of the great master of life and death. Emily wrestled with doubts and fears about God and religion, as we all tend to do from time to time.

But, the zenith of her faith comes in the play when she declares:

"I'm sure that no person will be truly happy until that person can say, 'I love Christ.'"

That's why we have Easter.

That's why we celebrate this coming week the great mysteries of our Faith!

*Please be sure
to take time out
to join us* →

—Fr. Gerry

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)

Mass Intentions ~ March 26-April 1, 2018

Monday @ 7:30 am — People of the Parish
Tuesday @ 7:30 am — People of the Parish
Wednesday @ 6:00 pm — Marie Lodes (RIP)
Holy Thursday @ 7:00 pm The Lord's Supper
Good Friday @ 7:00 pm Passion Service

Saturday @ 7:30 pm — The Great Easter Vigil Mass
Sunday @ 8:00 am — Easter Sunday Mass
Sunday @ 10:30 am — Easter Sunday Mass

Adoration this week: Monday-Wednesday, 8am-12noon
Thursday, 8pm-12midnight **
None on Friday

**See page one for Holy Week schedule details.

More on our website www.saintpaulcatholicchurch.com

New Prayer Requests

Special Intentions:

Sharon Farner
Jo Baggett, wife of Roy Baggett
James Layton Sr. father of Jessica Smith
Jacob Davis, grandson of Sally Jordan
Bobby Latham, nephew of Maxine Miller
Arllys Kyzer, daughter of Maxine Miller
John Otto, brother-in-law of Christine & Ken Weikum
Ian Cochran, nephew of Vanessa Cochran

Repose of the Soul:

Mayrene Messer
Mary Ellen Harmon Morrissey, mother of Pat Harmon

Church office @ 601-992-9547

Note: The Church office will be closed Wednesday @ noon through Friday.



It's in Christ that we find out who we are and what we're living for.

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.

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.**

- | |
|--|
| <p>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</p> |
| <p>Mar 27 — Chrism Mass at the Cathedral @ 5:45pm; Bishop Kopacz will bless and consecrate the Oils to be presented to our Parish and used for Sacraments throughout the year.</p> |
| <p>Mar 28 — No Big Deal Youth Group; resumes Wednesday, April 4 @ 6:00pm; grades 7-12.</p> |
| <p>Mar 29 — Holy Thursday Mass @ 7:00pm; The Holy Oils will be presented; Fr. Gerry will wash the feet of 12 parishioner disciples; The Blessed Sacrament will be transferred to the Chapel for Eucharistic Adoration through midnight; all are invited to keep watch one Holy Hour by last name:
(8-9pm "A-E") (9-10pm "F-K") (10-11pm "L-P") (11pm-12am "Q-Z")</p> |
| <p>Mar 30 — Good Friday Stations of the Cross @ 12noon; Passion Service @ 7:00pm remembering the death of Christ and our loved ones; veneration of the Cross; we leave in silence; Second Collection for the Holy Land</p> |
| <p>Mar 31 — The Great Easter Vigil @ 7:30pm; begins outdoors with the lighting of the fire; all proceed into the dark church bringing in the light; our newest members will receive the Sacraments and be welcomed into the faith.</p> |
| <p>Apr 1 — Easter Sunday Masses celebrating the Resurrection of our Lord @ 8:00 & 10:30am; no Children's Liturgy, no Nursery, no Religious Ed Classes this day.</p> |
| <p>Apr 5 — Following Christ begins @ 7:00pm; please sign up today on paper registration form at either entrance.</p> |
| <p>Apr 6 — Healing Mass @ 10:00am; followed by Fellowship Brunch; no 7:30am service this day.</p> |
| <p>Apr 7 — Armed Forces Support Ministry Rosary @ 4:45pm in the Chapel. All are welcome.</p> |