

What Wondrous Love Is This?

As human beings we can miss the awesomeness of God's love. Our expectations, misconceptions, and preconceptions about love, about what God should do, blinds us to the reality of His love breaking through.

It can be easy to miss the love disguised as humility in Jesus, who doesn't come into Jerusalem as a king of earthly power, but "meek and riding on an ass."

We might miss God's love in the vulnerability of Jesus, who is not just a man caught up in a political struggle between two ideologies, but God, who has taken on human nature so as to unite our humanity with His divinity. We might miss God's longing for His wayward children in the suffering of Jesus, who did not just die as some infamous criminal on a Jerusalem hill, but was betrayed by His friends, mocked, spat upon, jeered at, rejected, drug through the streets, stripped naked, nailed to a cross, and left to writhe in pain for hours until exhaustion, asphyxiation, and a broken heart brings about His death.

God's love is sheer insanity!! What God would empty himself of His glory, His power, His divinity, and take on the form of one of His creatures in order to bring those creatures back to himself?

Sometimes our misconceptions may lead us to think that Christ died on a cross to pay some price owed to a vengeful God on behalf of His wayward children, when in reality it shows us the extent to which God is willing to go to show us that we are forgiven; we are reconciled; we are His children; and we are immensely loved. Our misconceptions and preconceptions make us seek justice in the form of revenge, blood, and punishment, so that we unleash our need for human justice upon the Person of Christ, railing at him for OUR sins, demanding that he pay for what WE have done.

And so how does God love?

**Christ Jesus, though he was in the form of God,
did not regard equality with God
something to be grasped.
Rather, he emptied himself,
taking the form of a slave,
coming in human likeness;
and found human in appearance,
he humbled himself,
becoming obedient to the point of death,
even death on a cross (Philippians 2:6-8).**

**What wondrous love is this, O my soul, O my soul! What wondrous love is this,
O my soul! What wondrous love is this...?**

Deacon John McGregor



Saint Paul
Catholic Church

To Live as the Body Of Christ

**April 9, 2017
Palm Sunday of the Lord's Passion**

Mass Intentions

Week of April 10, 2017:

7:30 am Mon.: Peggy Hamilton— special int.

7:30 am Tues.: Heath Barbre— special int.

6:00 pm: Wed.: John Reiss (RIP)

- *Holy Thursday*—
 Commemoration of the Lord's Supper: 7:00 pm
- *Good Friday*—
 Stations of the Cross: 12:00 pm
 The Passion Service: 7:00 pm
- *Holy Saturday*— *The Great Easter Vigil: 7:30 pm*
- *Easter Sunday*— *8:00 am & 10:30 am*

Prayer Intentions

Danny Hassin Anne Benandi

Josephine Bergeron, granddaughter of Carolyn Bergeron

Mary Ann Goldsmith, sister of Deacon John McGregor

Adoration This Week: *Monday and Tuesday only*
 8:00 am– 12:00 pm
Holy Thursday— see schedule on p. 3

New Announcements

*All are welcome to join the **Intercessory Prayer team** to pray for our parish and for the success of ChristLife. Meet in the *Family Life Center at Noon this Wed., April 12th.*

* ChristLife will not meet this Thursday. Please join our parish for our Holy Thursday Mass @ 7pm.

***St. Paul is hosting the AARP SMART DRIVER class on May 10, 2017, 12:00-4:30 PM. This class qualifies drivers over age 55 for a vehicle insurance discount under Mississippi Law (MSC 63-15-46). No tests! No driving required!**

Cost: \$20 (\$15 for AARP members) for class materials and certification, payable on the day of the class by cash or by check (preferable) to AARP. Bring your driver's license and membership card (if applicable)

Call Parish Office to reserve your place in the class.

Reminders

***St. Dominic's Ministry** will be providing lunch items for the families of patients in ICU on **Tuesday, April 18th.** Sign up sheets are in the back of church. Please have all lunch items to the Family Life Center before 10 am.

***Good Friday Stations CD**— It has been a tradition for Fr. Gerry to use the CD titled *Doing It Their Own Way* by Aaron Neville & Fr. Jeffery Bayhi on Good Friday—This is a Contemporary Meditation on The Way of the Cross. We have copies in the church office for anyone who would like to purchase one. They are \$20.

UPCOMING EVENTS

HOLY WEEK: *The church office will close at noon on Wed, April 12th.*

No religious education on Wed, April 12th or Sunday, April 16th.

- April 30th — *Holy First Communion Mass @ 2pm*
- May 3rd — *Confirmation Mass @ 6pm*

Weekly offering for April 2, 2017- \$17,805

Thank You!

*** Senior Adult Trip to see The Passion Play in Eureka Springs and The Moses Show in Branson.** June 29-July1. \$100 deposit due April 19th. Total cost of trip is \$375 per person. Call Monica with any questions.

***Nursery and Children's Liturgy** available at the 10:30am mass. **The Nursery** is located in the Early Learning Center (enter through the cafeteria before mass). **Children ages 2-5** will be called up during the mass for **Children's Liturgy.**
*****No Nursery and Children's Liturgy on Easter Sunday*****

***Baptism prep classes** are required for all those needing a child baptized. Please call the church office in advance. Our next class is **May 21st at 2pm.**

***SAVE THE DATE— Mom's Day 5K to benefit Birthright of Jackson.** May 6th @ Flowood Nature Park
Register @ www.birthright.org/jackson

Holy Week Schedule of Services



Chrim Mass — Tuesday , April 11th @ 5:45pm at St. Peter Cathedral



Holy Thursday — Commemoration of the Lord's Supper Mass @ 7:00 pm

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament 8:00 pm – midnight

We ask families to sit one hour in Adoration, by last name following this schedule:

8:00-9:00 pm (L-P) 9:00-10:00 pm (Q-Z) 10:00-11:00 pm (A-E) 11:00 pm-midnight (F-K)



Good Friday — Commemoration of the Lord's Passion and Death

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



Holy Saturday, The Great Easter Vigil – Mass begins @ 7:30 pm



Easter Sunday – Masses @ 8:00 am and 10:30 am

Children's Easter Egg Hunt after 10:30 Mass



St. Paul Knights of Columbus

Annual Easter Egg Hunt

After 10:30 mass

Please meet in the Learning Center Cafeteria



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

Pastor — Fr. Gerry Hurley
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