



**February 19, 2017**  
**Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time**

I received a lot of interest in Soren Kierkegaard's Theory from last Sunday's homily so I am outlining the 3 Stages here. You will see the response in each stage to Law, Sin, and Reconciliation. I find it to be a very helpful tool in understanding where an individual is coming from.

- Fr. Gerry

Soren Kierkegaard (1813-1855) was a Danish theologian and philosopher who concerned himself with the steps by which one becomes a true Christian. He said there is no such thing as "being Christian" -- only "becoming Christian." He identified 3 Stages of Moral Growth, sometimes referred to as "Stages of Life's Way."

## Stages of Moral Growth

	<b>Law</b>	<b>Sin</b>	<b>Reconciliation</b>
<b>Stage 1</b> Aesthetic Stage	restriction to freedom	violation of restriction	distasteful task
<b>Stage 2</b> Ethical Stage	guide to growth	infidelity to growth	valuable tool
<b>Stage 3</b> Religious Stage	invitation to love	refusal to love	celebration of reconciliation

### Stage 1 -- The Aesthetic Stage

This stage is self-centered. We view law in an impersonal way, as a restriction to our freedom. We view sin in an impersonal way, as a violation of a restriction. Sin is breaking a law and nothing more.

### Stage 2 -- The Ethical Stage

This stage is other-centered. We view law in a personal way, as a guide to our personal growth. We view sin in a personal way, as an infidelity to personal growth. Sin is living irresponsibly.

### Stage 3 -- The Religious Stage

We progress to this stage when we discover our personal relationship with God. Once we progress to this stage, we become personally and spiritually mature. We become happily attached to Jesus -- The Vine and the Branches.

We view law (moral teaching) in an interpersonal way, as an invitation to love God!

We also view sin (moral failure) in an interpersonal way. It is a refusal to love God. It is saying no to God.

## Mass Intentions

Week of Feb. 20 – Feb. 26, 2017:

7:30 am Mon.: Alwin Lopez Jarreau (RIP)  
7:30 am Tues.: Eugene & John Gooch (RIP)  
6:00 pm Wed.: Christine Tranchina (RIP)  
7:30 am Thurs.: People of the Parish  
7:30 am Fri.: HE & Roselyn and Jon Pickett (RIP)  
5:30 pm Sat.: Doris Moody (RIP)  
8:00 am Sun.: People of the Parish  
10:30 am Sun.: Debbie Killingsworth (RIP)

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

## *New Announcements*

**RCIA- Tuesday, Feb. 21st- Vocations Part 1/ Marriage and the Single Life Presentation begins at 7pm**

\*Your gift to the CSA supports the education of our seminarians, promotes the lifelong formation and education for Catholics involved in youth and adult ministry, helps those served by Catholic Charities, and other important ministries of our diocese. God calls each of us in a special way to Share His Light. Your generosity in prayer and through your sacrificial gift, make it possible to provide these services, and more importantly, to bring the message of the Gospel to all people. For more information about the Appeal or to donate online please visit [www.jacksondiocese.org/in-action/stewardship-development](http://www.jacksondiocese.org/in-action/stewardship-development).

\* **St. Dominic's Ministry** will be providing lunch items for the families of patients in ICU on **Tuesday, Feb. 28th**. Sign up sheets are in the back of church. Please have all lunch items to the Family Life Center before 10 am.

\***Ash Wednesday - Masses @ 7:30 am & 6:00 pm**; The Big Deal invites everyone to their annual Lenten supper in the gym after the 6:00 pm Mass.

**The Food Pantry Ministry** needs your contributions of non-perishable food in unbreakable family size packages. The food collections go alternately to the Stewpot Food Pantry and the South Rankin Food Resource Center. **The greatest need is for high-protein foods such as meat-based stews and soups, tuna fish, peanut butter, dried beans, etc. Rice and pasta, especially in boxed meals, are also suggested, as are healthy quick-food snacks for children such as boxed fruit juice, dried fruit, fruit or pudding cups, and crackers.** Checks, money orders, cash, or gift cards are also welcomed.

*Altar flowers are placed in honor of YOU!*

Thank you for joining us today! We pray you have a blessed week!



\*Congratulations to Stephanie and Charlie Julian on the birth of their first child, Cecelia Averi Julian. Cecelia was born on January 31st!



\***Living Everyday with Passion & Purpose** led by **Matthew Kelly** *March 11th– 2pm- 6:30pm at Madison Central High School.* We have a few tickets left in the office or you can get them online at [www.dynamiccatholic.com](http://www.dynamiccatholic.com)

Applications are now being accepted at Saint Joseph Catholic School for the 2017-2018 school year. Registration has begun.

## Prayer Intentions

Michelle Summers

### Rest of the Soul

Trudy Hill, aunt of Philip Jabour  
Tom Wentland, brother of Dan Wentland  
Janice Paolini, aunt of Heather Marceau  
Anna Mae Salvatore, friend of Gene Valentine  
Toni Holcomb, mother of Tonya Sweeney

**Adoration This Week:** *Monday–Friday 8 am- 12 pm;  
Wednesday 6:30 pm–7:30 pm*

## *Reminders*

\***Feb. 19th– This Sunday, The Big Deal Youth Group** is hosting a FREE concert for our parish and other church youth groups in our area. Dinner served at 5pm and concert to follow.

**ALL ARE INVITED!!** Bring the family! [www.jacobderusha.com](http://www.jacobderusha.com)



\***This Monday, Feb 20th @ 7:00 p.m. The Women's Guild** will be welcoming Sister Paula and Sister Catherine who will be speaking on Personal Devotionals in preparation for the Lenten season. A daytime meeting will be held on **Monday Feb 27th @ 11:00**. Upcoming events will be discussed. Lunch and movie will be provided. All women over the age of 18 are invited!

\*Register now on our website or call the church office for our next **Discovering Christ Session in March!** This is the first session of the ChristLife series.

Weekly offering for Feb. 19th: \$22,583

*Thank You!*

Thank you very much, Lee, for accepting the invitation to join in the dialogue. We Catholics are slow in entering dialogue but hopefully we are getting there. Your input is very valuable. (Lee and his wife, Rhetta are both in R.C.I.A and hopefully will join us in full Communion at Eastertime. They have been attending St. Paul for nearly 2 years now.)

*Fr. Gerry,*

*I write with some hesitation, not only as a first timer, but also on the subject matter which is usually fraught with misunderstanding. But inasmuch as you request open dialogue, I share two thoughts on giving.*

*First, I theorize that money follows mission. Granted, folks give to their churches for various reasons, such as obedience to Holy Scripture, e.g., returning to the storehouse (Mal. 3:10). But, money flows readily from wallets when mission-mindedness leads. For me, giving to preserve and promote a mission is empowering and a natural outflow of being connected within the Kingdom. Hence, I commend your philosophy of moving from maintenance to mission.*

*Second, and more intuitively, am I listening to God? What is He saying? What should I hear? What is He showing me? What should I see? Am I attuned to Holy Spirit's urgings? Am I hearing and seeing what He is presenting me? If the answer is yes, or even close to yes, then I dare not follow God's leading. And, when I follow, God provides. Abundantly. Exceeding my expectations. My giving then is as natural and affirming as falling asleep after a good day's work.*

*As a friend has challenged me to think, "God always pays for what He orders".*

*Peace,*

*Lee*

We are offering night sessions, 6:30 - 9:00 pm on **Thursdays March 30th, April 6th, 20th, 27th, May 4th, 11th & 18th.**

We will not meet on April 13th so all may participate in our Holy Thursday Services.

**The Retreat will be Saturday, May 6th 8:30 am - 4:00 pm.**

Visit our website for videos, testimonies, and more information.

discovering  
Christ



*I would very much appreciate you joining us, and I assure you that God will bless you abundantly should you choose to step out and participate in "Discovering Christ." - Fr. Gerry*

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

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