

Moving from




Saint Paul
Catholic Church
February 26, 2017
Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time

I am grateful to hear your feedback on my homily of the past two weeks and many of you have expressed a gratitude for Soren Kierkegaard's Theory on the Stages of Moral Growth on the front of last week's bulletin. (If you missed it, check it out on our website.)

Personally, I have found it to be an extremely helpful tool in monitoring my own experience of growth and development. I would have to say it is really difficult for us Catholics to get beyond Stage I in our Moral Growth and Development. The reason is very simple and clear-- we have placed more emphasis on **behavior** (Following Law) than we have on **transformation**. (Encountering Christ)

We have been more satisfied with counting numbers in the pews, and numbers in the collection, than the numbers who are **being transformed through a personal relationship with Jesus Christ**.

That is what **Maintenance to Mission** is about----

What is the point or purpose of turning up at Mass Sunday after Sunday if it is not related to a personal relationship with Jesus Christ who desires to transform our lives?!
Where is the **FRUIT** we are bearing?

Thank you, Ann, for your very well presented reflections in your letter below.

- Fr. Gerry

Father Gerry,

My name is not important but perhaps the message is as I feel a need to express my feelings after hearing your homily last Sunday. It gave cause to reflect on the different periods of my faith formation from infancy to now. As a "cradle Catholic", it began with the great sacrifice of my parents to see that their children received 12 years of Catholic education, a gift for which we are extremely grateful. It was "packaged" neatly into Mass before class, the Baltimore catechism, recitation of worship prayers, and frequent reception of the Sacraments. Scripture reading was left to hearing the Word at Mass. This prepared us well into future periods of our lives in the world.

Then Vatican II happened resulting in a more welcoming feeling and understanding of my faith beliefs. My "package" was still neatly wrapped but with a few welcomed changes. The altar was turned around, Latin began to disappear replaced by my native language, and the Communion rail eventually disappeared. It was during this period that our "cradle Catholic" children gave us cause to be closer by participating actively in their religious education even to the extent of my completing two theology courses at Springhill. The "package" remained beautiful, but the contents remained elusive; something was missing.

Fast forward to the 4th quarter of my life, and THERE IT WAS! I had known all along that Christ is here in good times and in bad (you know, Ask and it shall be given unto you, seek and you shall find.) But the "it" still eluded me. Then you introduced ChristLife to us, and it was in the Discovering Christ series that my "package" is finally open and real in my life! The gift inside is my personal relationship with Him! He was there all along! The leaders, the facilitators, and prayer teams exhibited what I had been missing; I wanted and asked for what they have. Through the work of the Holy Spirit, I at last knew what had been in my "package" all along! What a difference in my life! Thank you for bringing ChristLife to our community!

Mass Intentions

Week of Feb. 27 – March 5, 2017:

7:30 am Mon.: Mary Hammond (RIP)

7:30 am Tues.: Nolen Hughes (RIP)

****ASH WEDNESDAY:** 7:30 am: People of the Parish
6:00 pm: Ron Barry (RIP)

7:30 am Thurs.: People of the Parish

10:00 am Fri.: HEALING MASS

5:30 pm Sat.: Tom Wentland (RIP)

8:00 am Sun.: Bill Carollo (RIP)

10:30 am Sun.: Richard Coogan (RIP)

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

Prayer Intentions

Mary Alice Foster

Johnny Gauthier, father of Holly Smith

Repose of the Soul

James Douglas Finley, cousin of Tommy Autrey

Troy Steven Pourciau, nephew of Sr. Paula

Adoration This Week: Monday—Thursday 8 am- 12 pm
Wednesday 6:30 pm—7:30 pm; Friday 8 am -10am

New Announcements

***RCIA- Tuesday, Feb. 28th- Presentation begins at 7pm- Vocation and Holy Orders Part II- Fr. Gerry/ Lent- Meaning and Explanation**

***US Armed Forces Ministry**—Join us on Saturday, March 4th at 4:45pm in the chapel to pray the rosary for our US Armed Forces.

***Stroke Scan Plus** will be here on Friday, March 10th for their ultrasound screening event. Pre registration is required and will be held after mass next weekend on March 3rd, 4th, and 5th.

***Stations of the Cross- Every Friday** during Lent at 6pm. Join us in the FLC following Stations of the Cross for a meatless meal provided by the Knights of Columbus.

*Countless lives are touched by every contribution to the **Catholic Service Appeal**. We ask that God grant us a renewed sense of responsibility for the work of our parish, diocese and the church throughout the world. For more information about the Appeal or to donate online please visit www.jacksondiocese.org.

Reminders

* A Women's Guild meeting will be held this **Monday Feb 27th @ 11:00am**. Upcoming events will be discussed. Lunch will be provided and we will watch the movie, Taking Chances. All women over the age of 18 are invited!

* **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.

*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. Following Christ and Sharing Christ will be offered later this year.

Weekly offering for Feb. 19th: \$22,426
2nd collection next weekend for Black & Indian Missions

Thank You!

*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.***

Baptism prep classes are required for all those needing a child baptized. Please call the church office in advance so you can find out about the next class!

Blessed Mother flowers are donated by Alice Mitchell in memory of Tommy Mitchell!



***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

Saint Joseph Catholic School fosters a school community rooted in the values of Catholic education. If teaching in a Christ-centered environment is calling you, **Saint Joseph is currently accepting applications for faculty positions for the 2017-18 school year.** If interested, please email a resume to djones@stjoebruins.com.

Thank you, Steve & Scarlet Larkin for sending in a response to last week's bulletin cover on the "Stages of Moral Growth" by Soren Kierkegaard.

"This has to be about the best thing I have seen. Thank you for sharing this with us. We hear about people who leave the Church and give wild reasons. The most common reason I hear is that there are too many restrictions. A woman once told me that she left the Church because her mother did not get canonized a saint. There was nothing I could think of to say. Later, it came to me that her mother did not require any Church action to be a saint!"

Too many people fall away because they get stuck in Stage 1. (The self-centered Aesthetic Stage) Kierkegaard was ahead of the secular world we have today, by far. People are drawn to the secular positions, and this has robbed them of the opportunity to advance in their spiritual development. The Church résumé includes 2,000 years of experience. That certainly makes a difference."



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.

We ask that you please register **by MARCH 15th.**

"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



TUNE IN TO OUR **DAILY LENTEN REFLECTIONS** BEGINNING ON ASH WEDNESDAY. VIDEOS WILL BE POSTED ON OUR WEBSITE AND ON OUR FACEBOOK PAGE, "ST. PAUL CATHOLIC CHURCH"

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<p>Church Militant .TV "Set your hearts on his kingdom first, and on God's saving justice, and all these other things will be given you as well. So do not worry about tomorrow: tomorrow will take care of itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own." Dynamiccatholic.com Catholiconline.com</p>	<p>COLDWELL BANKER</p> <p>Jayne Welch 601.832.8884 cell 601.607.4777 office Jayne Welch Parishioner</p> <p>GRUBEN & ASSOCIATES, INC., REALTOR</p>	<p>SNIPPERS Hair & Nails</p> <p>Full Service Salon & Barber Shop 601.825.2332 1208 Hwy 90E Pearl, MS The Haircut You've Always Wanted</p>	<p>HARKINS REALTY, INC. COMMERCIAL REAL ESTATE OFFICE AND RETAIL SPACE Lakeland Dr. Office Space At River Bend Pt. "We'll Build TO SUIT" 601.932.4663 Parishioner</p>
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