



Why Am I Here? Why Do I Go To Church?



Below are a few more stimulating expressions of "Why I go to Church."

Why do I go to church? I go to church for 3 reasons.

1. I go to church, because I always have. At first blush that may sound silly, but church is my community. As the African proverb indicates, church is my "village" where I was raised. To return to my village is to return to the roots of my identity. Through the years the name of my church has changed numerous times. The people now are not the ones who reared me as a child. Another group of people nurtured me while in school, and others mentored me as a young adult. But, the people now and then are all one in Christ. So, I return regularly to my village.

2. I go to church to worship. I am reminded the God is the Almighty and a Father who assures me I can rest in His Hands. I am reminded He is in control and not me. I am compelled to give Him honor and reject my selfish worries. At church I confess sins, state my beliefs, pass the peace, kneel in reverence, hear the Gospel, pray for others and sing. I reconnect and recharge. I am renewed and re-purposed. I am simultaneously humbled and honored to be with Him and His people.

3. I go to church because it is not about me. Church is His community. I am a part. So is everyone else. Part of His body. And I hear that "the eye cannot say to the hand, 'I don't need you.' And the head cannot say to the feet, 'I don't need you.'". I Corinthians 12:21. I go to church, because I need to worship, pray, live, exist, survive and thrive with the other members of the body of Christ.

This is my reality of attending church. But, there's another reason and benefit. By intentionally going to church, I help preserve it, the church, the body of Christ. We need communion with Him and with each other. We are not individual islands in a vast sea. We are a huge land mass sharing, consuming and replenishing His resources. We need communal worship. We need each other. We need to meet God together. Regularly. —Lee Watt

I have reflected on this for several weeks. I go to honor our Lord and Savior. Jesus desires a personal relationship with each one of us. I am telling him that is what I want, too.

Sunday is the first day of the week. That is the first fruit of our week. God says to give us his first fruits. Oh the blessings we receive throughout the week because we brought God praise and love on the first day.

I go to church on Sunday to accept Jesus's gift—his body and blood. I am so thankful for this precious gift.

I go to church to feed my body, mind, and soul. God says to fellowship with other believers. I hope to glean blessings to help me through the week, ideas to reflect on, and I hope I leave a glimpse of how much I love our Lord to those I come in contact with. Have a good week Father Gerry. Your homilies are right on. They talk to me and leave me with a lot to ponder. —Paul McInnis

Fr. Gerry,

I have been pondering your question of why we go to church for many weeks. I wanted to share my ideas in the hope that they be added to other comments you have received to be shared by us all.

I have had a lot of trouble with my back for several months and that has limited my mobility for a while. I am very grateful for the pain and loss of mobility since it has given me time to seek out and listen to the Holy Spirit. One of the books I have read while being stuck at home is Mathew Kelly's new book "Rediscover the Rosary". I did not appreciate the rosary until recently and felt it was mindless chanting. Matthew Kelly said that praying the rosary works and why it works is not as important as that it works. I have been trying it and agree with Mr. Kelly that it is practical and does work. I know this is a rambling letter but now I will get to the point.

One of the rosary prayers is the Apostles Creed. Part of the creed refers to the "communion of saints". That never made much sense to me, so I looked it up. I understand that it means we are connected and that God intends for us to belong together. Now I have a new insight as to why I go to mass. I go to take part in communion of the saints. I have always gone to church because I have a deep longing to share in the body and blood of Christ. The "new" reason that is really clear to me now is the joy I feel sharing the experience of the mass with my church friends. We greet each other before mass; worship together during mass; say goodbye after mass. So I go to mass to SHARE communion and the body and blood of Christ. — Jim Mathews

January 21, 2018 Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

Mass Intentions ~ January 22-28, 2018

Monday @ 7:30 am – Michael Hehir (RIP)
Tuesday @ 7:30 am – Fr. Patrick Noonan(RIP)
Wednesday @ 6:00 pm – Juan Carlos Romero (RIP)
Thursday @ 7:30 am – Edgar Mitchell (RIP)
Friday @ 7:30 am – Michael Hehir (RIP)
Saturday @ 5:30 pm – Carmelo Sultana (RIP)
Sunday @ 8:00 am – Betty Toten (RIP)
Sunday @ 10:30 am – Christopher Overman (RIP)

New Prayer Requests

Special Intentions:

Keeley Frederick Judy Owen
Mike Medlock, son of Michael & Kate Medlock

Rest of the Soul:

Joan Goodman Jeffrey Simon
Faye Baker Smith, mother of Cathy Smith
Craven & aunt of Amy Mize Blair
Jim Oyen, uncle of Jason Richardson
Ben Maynor, father of Jobe Maynor
George F Brown Jr, father of George Brown III

Altar Flowers January 14 ~ In Memory of Emily J. Newberry, donated by Susan Weldy

Altar Flowers January 21 ~ In Honor of Fr. Gerry's Birthday this week

See our website for announcements, full prayer list, contact information, and more!

website: www.saintpaulcatholicchurch.com office phone: 601-992-9547

January 2018

Jan 21st – Parish Community Gathering in the gym 2:00-4:00 p.m. All are encouraged to attend!

Jan 22nd – Women's Guild Activities; all women of the parish are invited in the Lounge in the FLC.
11:00 a.m., we will have popcorn & movie "Saint Ralph" followed by a light lunch & meeting.
7:00 p.m., guest speaker Dcn John McGregor will help us prepare for the upcoming Lenten season.

Jan 25th – Mental Health First Aid offered at Alcorn University in Natchez; contact Ann Kaiser for information and registration: annelizabeth.kaiser@catholiccharities.org

Jan 28th – Protection of Children Training @ 2pm in FLC Lounge for any NEW volunteers that have not been through the training. Email Renee Borne for questions: rel.edu@saintpaulcatholicchurch.com

February 2018

Feb 2nd – Healing Mass & Brunch; begins at 10:00 am; all are welcome

Feb 2nd–4th – Ablaze Diocesan Catholic Youth Conference in Vicksburg; grades 9-12; Contact Cory Head for information: youth@saintpaulcatholicchurch.com

Feb 3rd – Armed Forces Support Ministry Rosary; in the Chapel at 4:45pm; all are welcome

Feb 10th – St. Paul Drawdown; 7:00 pm – 11:00 pm; proceeds benefit Parish Outreach programs; \$125 ticket admits two adults; Contact Pat Scanlon for tickets: 601-953-6370

Feb 11th – What On Earth Am I Here For? small groups begin meeting; opportunities to sign up and join a group will be available the weekend of Jan 27/28 & Feb 3/4; stay tuned! Contact Sarah O'Donnell for more information: fellowship@saintpaulcatholicchurch.com

Feb 14th – Ash Wednesday; Masses at 7:30 pm & 6:00 pm; Big Deal Lenten Meal following evening Mass