January 29, 2017 Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time Soint Poul

I am always gratified by your responses to my questions, queries, and requests for information/dialogue in the bulletin.

My thought is that the bulletin should be a healthy forum for parishioners and pastor alike to share dialogue about topics that really matter in their lives. Such a healthy process has the ability to broaden our perspectives and open our minds to new and expanded views. Everything does not have to be about right and wrong. Broadening perspectives is a wonderful experience, even at my age.

Please, **join the dialogue and share your perspectives**. Thanks to all who have already done so.

- Fr. Gerry

Dear Fr. Gerry,

Your message in the bulletin on Sunday motivated me to change the amount we've been giving to the church. I have not increased it in several years and should have, so thanks for the reminder! We have been set up for an automatic payment to be deducted from our bank account at the first of every month. So easy! If anyone is interested in donating to the church but sometimes forget your checkbook or envelopes at home, this is the answer. I'd also like to add that it is the most "painless" way. When it comes out automatically for me, it is like money I never had, and therefore money I never miss.

I would also like to say to anyone out there who is thinking about increasing their donation or maybe starting for the first time, please remember you can't out-give God. We all have obligations to our children, our parents, or just paying bills. But remember, there is nothing that you have that wasn't given to you by God. I promise you that anything you give to the church or to other charities, you will not miss. As a matter of fact, when you give, you will find that your blessings increase. That may seem hard to believe, but I've seen it happen over and over again. Trusting God, loving your neighbors and having a grateful heart leads to generosity. And generosity leads to more blessings, which makes you want to be even more generous. Hard to believe? Give it a try and see for yourself!

Blessings to all, Debbie Goodman

> www.saintpaulcatholicchurch.com 601-992-9547

Turn to p. 3 to read another response.

<u>Mass Intentions</u>

Week of January 30– February 5, 2017: 7:30 am Mon.: Cindy Miller (RIP) 7:30 am Tues.: communion service 6:00 pm Wed.: People of the Parish 7:30 am Thurs.: People of the Parish *10:00 am Fri.: HEALING MASS- People of the Parish 5:30 pm Sat.: Sam Iupe (RIP) 8:00 am Sun.: Bill Carollo (RIP) 10:30 am Sun.: Edna Mangialardi (RIP)

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

New Announcements

*2017 Catholic Service Appeal Feb. 4th-5th: Next week is the annual Catholic Service Appeal weekend collection. The theme is Share His Light. For those who have not made a pledge by mail, you can fill out a pledge card and place it in the second collection. Your pledge to the CSA is a way to share His light with others. Thank you for your generous support. For more information about the Appeal or to donate online please visit www.jacksondiocese.org.

*We encourage any **new parishioners** to please fill out a **New Parishioner Form** and join our parish! Forms can be found in the back of church or you can also register on our website.

*Living Everyday with Passion & Purpose led by Matthew Kelly March 11th– 2pm- 6:30pm at Madison Central High School. Tickets are sold on a first come, first serve basis in the office and after all the masses.



Weekly offering for Jan. 22nd: \$16,203

<u>Prayer Intentions</u>

Dorothy Gross, mother of Deb Scott

Repose of the Soul

Mary Hitchins Harold Brown Sr, grandfather of Brandy Gordon Elaine Noblin, aunt of Deb Scott

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

Reminders

Faith Formation:

 Sunday Religious Education and Adult Religious Education
 WILL NOT meet this Sunday, Jan. 29th for the DRAWDOWN
 weekend. Children's Liturgy and Nursery WILL BE
 AVAILABLE for the 10:30 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. (see p.3)

Baptism Class– Feb. 5th @ 2pm in the FLC for all parents needing to have a baptism in the next 4 months.

*The Food Pantry Ministry needs your contributions of non-perishable food in unbreakable family size packages. The food collections help those in our community. More information and suggestions can be found on our website. Please place items in the basket in the back of church.

Altar flowers are donated by Betty Cochran in memory of her mother Juanita Daley Thompson. Blessed Mother flowers are donated by Linda & Cliff Russell in memory of Mrs. Doris Jones.



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

****Catholic Charities Disaster Ministry News** Catholic Charities Biloxi will be assisting those affected in Forrest, Lamar, Perry and Jones counties. They are accepting monetary donations at: 1450 N. Street, Gulfport, MS 39507 Attn: Catholic Charities Disaster. For those affected in the counties of Lauderdale, Pike, Franklin and Wilkinson, contact the Jackson Catholic Charities office at 601-326-3785. Monetary donations to Catholic Charities Jackson can be sent to 850 E. River Place, Jackson, MS 39202 or <u>www.catholiccharitiesjackson.org</u>, Attn: Disaster Ministry.

<u>Healing a Father's Heart</u>: Post abortion healing for men beginning on Jan. 31st at 7pm. Located at the Center for Pregnancy Choices 601-713-3113. For further information contact Gene Valentine 769-572-7030 or Cheryl Hourguerres 601-209-5686.

Applications are now being accepted at Saint Joseph Catholic School for the 2017-2018 school year. Registration begins Feb. 1, 2017 .

SAVE the DATE: "Jeans, Jazz and Bruin Blues," Saint Joseph Catholic School's 24th Annual Draw Down is set for February 18, 2017, 6:30 p.m. - 9:30 p.m. To sponsor or purchase tickets, visit the Saint Joseph Catholic School website at <u>stjoebruins.com</u> or call the school office at 601-898-4800.

Save the Date: Krewe de Cardinal Mardi Gras Carnival Ball- February 24, 2017 Old Capitol Inn Downtown Jackson 7:00 PM-11:00PM For sponsorship and ticket information please contact Chris Lombard <u>clombard@strichardschool.org</u> Fr. Gerry,

I have never seen a continuum with fear on one side and love on the other. Hate and love or fear and courage seems more logical. Perhaps the message is people who lack generosity live in fear.

Observation has shown me that generosity is a personality trait that shows up in childhood, but can develop later. Optimists have a better chance at being generous than pessimists, but pessimists can be generous too. Upbringing, experience, and conditioning all play a factor.

I remember watching a Cardinal Cushing sermon and later hearing that he was an incredible fund raiser for the church. There was nothing in that sermon about giving or money. He just inspired people. That is a great gift.

Mental illness does not discriminate against the avaricious. Maybe those who are more centered on self are more prone to it.

It has become obvious to me that all the money in the world will some day be worthless. The art of life is to recognize that money is a tool to be used in worthy causes.

The parable of the talents seemed harsh to me when I was a child because the man with one talent thought only of keeping it safe. This made good sense to me. I knew nothing about investment. One thing is certain. Our Lord was sinless and came as a savior. The rest of us are here as sinners so that we may realize how much we have in common. Then the love can grow.

Steven Larkin



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.

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



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

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