

Epiphany — Showing — Revealing

During the Advent Season, we reflected on the question, “Why do I go to Church?”

During the Christmas Season, we reflected on the great mystery that our God has chosen to become one like us in “all things but sin.”

Now, we celebrate the Feast of the Epiphany which closes out the Christmas Season. “Epiphany” essentially means “revealing” or “showing.” — In the case of this feast day, we are celebrating the showing/revealing of the Christ to the rest of the world (beyond the Jewish world) to the Gentiles. We believe this is an opportune time for us to reveal the next growth-filled adventure we are providing in our Parish.

ChristLife was introduced as an opportunity for personal and communal growth, and your very generous response and participation was very gratifying. This provided us a viable forum we had hoped for to begin the process of small, faith-sharing groups.

In the Early Church small, faith groups were essential to the Church’s growth and development. Indeed, the small group experience has continued to be essential to the very existence of the Christian Church throughout our history. A great deal of study, reflection and research, has shown us that one of the hallmarks of flourishing Christian communities today is small, faith-sharing groups, not unlike the Early Church. It just makes sense that larger communities flourish because of the experience individuals have in the smaller groups.

People are hungering for the Lord, as in every age, and while the large gathering is very essential, most of the genuine growth and faith development comes from sharing and processing in small groups. So, we stand on the threshold of a new and wonderful opportunity here at St. Paul. This has been developing for four years, now.

The only essential requirement for participation is a willingness to lead or to join a small group. Our plan is to have all of the groups meet in homes, just as they did in the Early Church, rather than meeting in a classroom here at the Church. Extensive research has shown the fruits and the value of meeting in the homes far exceeds that of meeting rooms.

“They went as a body to the Temple every day but met in their houses for the breaking of bread; they shared their food gladly and generously, they praised God and were looked up to by everyone.” — Acts 2:46-47

So, for our premiere experience, we begin with a powerful book titled, **“What on Earth Am I Here For?”** More than 32 million copies of that text have been sold. Our small groups will meet one night/day a week for six weeks during Lent.

We have cards available for those of you willing to lead a group in your home. Take a card and invite others to join your group. Complete and return your card within two weeks (by Jan 21st). Should your group have space for more members we will have the opportunity for participants to sign up.

Don’t miss out on this powerful adventure for Lent!

— Fr. Gerry



a 40-Day Spiritual Journey
beginning the week of
February 11th

January 7, 2018 *The Epiphany of the Lord*

Mass Intentions ~ January 8-14, 2018

Monday @ 7:30 am — Communion Service

Tuesday @ 7:30 am — Communion Service

Wednesday @ 6:00 pm — Communion Service

Thursday @ 7:30 am — Communion Service

Friday @ 7:30 am — U.S. Armed Forces

Saturday @ 5:30 pm — Kathryn Turner (RIP)

Sunday @ 8:00 am — Betty Toten (RIP)

Sunday @ 10:30 am — Christopher Overman (RIP)

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament Monday - Friday — 8 am to 12 noon

Sacrament of Reconciliation Saturday, 4:30 pm to 5:00 pm in the room next to the Chapel, or by appointment

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

website: www.saintpaulcatholicchurch.com

office phone: 601-992-9547

January 2018

Jan 6 & 7th — Second Collection for Saltillo, Mexico Mission

Jan 10 & 14th — Religious Ed classes will resume this week beginning this Wednesday at 6:00 p.m. with the Big Deal Youth for grades 7-thru-12, and next Sunday morning at 9:15 a.m. for the adult class and ages 3 years to 6th grade.

Jan 13th-16th — Big Deal Ski Trip!

Jan 17th — Annual Catholic Day at the Capitol. This year's focus is on the Mental Health crisis in Mississippi. There is a flyer on the bulletin board and information on our website to register for this event.

Jan 21st — Special Parish-wide Event in the gym 2:00-4:00 p.m.; watch for details to come!

Jan 22nd — Women's Guild Activities; all women of the parish are invited

At 11:00 a.m., they will have popcorn and show the movie "Saint Ralph" followed by a light lunch and meeting.

At 7:00 p.m. in the Family Life Center Lounge they will welcome Deacon John McGregor as guest speaker help us prepare for the upcoming Lenten season. in the Lounge in the FLC.

February 2018

Feb 2nd — Healing Mass & Brunch; begins @ 10:00 a.m. All are welcome!

Feb 2nd-4th — Ablaze Youth Convention in Vicksburg

Feb 3rd — Armed Forces Support Ministry Rosary @ 4:45 p.m. in the Chapel

Feb 11th — Small Group Faith-Sharing begins; see bulletin cover for details; join us; all are welcome!

Feb 14th — Ash Wednesday; Lent begins!



Altar Flower Reservations is open on our website. Please register now for specific dates throughout the year.

We offer Altar Flowers for \$70 & Blessed Mother Flowers for \$40.