

# Happy Thanksgiving to you all !!!

**We are featuring a General Audience by our Holy Father, Pope Francis, on November 8th. At this time of celebrating the Thanksgiving holiday, it is interesting that he chose to speak to the world about the Eucharist and the connection to thanksgiving.**

**Below is part 1 of 2.**

Dear Brothers and Sisters, Good morning!

Today we begin a new series of catecheses, which will direct our gaze toward the “heart” of the Church, namely, the Eucharist. It is fundamental that we Christians clearly understand the value and significance of the Holy Mass, in order to live ever more fully our relationship with God.

We cannot forget the great number of Christians who, throughout the world, in 2,000 years of history, have died defending the Eucharist; and how many, still today, risk their lives in order to participate in Sunday Mass. In the year 304, during the Diocletianic Persecution, a group of Christians from North Africa was surprised as they were celebrating Mass in a house, and were arrested. In the interrogation, the Roman Proconsul asked them why they had done so, knowing that it was absolutely prohibited. They responded: “Without Sunday we cannot live”, which meant: if we cannot celebrate the Eucharist, we cannot live; our Christian life would die.

Indeed, Jesus said to his disciples: “unless you eat the flesh of the Son of man and drink his blood, you have no life in you; he who eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day” (Jn 6:53-54).

Those Christians from North Africa were killed because they were celebrating the Eucharist. They gave witness that one can renounce earthly life for the Eucharist, because it gives us eternal life, making us participants in Christ’s victory over death. This witness challenges us all and calls for a response as to what it means for each of us to partake in the Sacrifice of Mass and approach the Lord’s Table. Are we searching for that wellspring that “gushes forth living water” for eternal life?; that makes of our life a spiritual sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving and makes of us one body in Christ? This is the most profound meaning of the Holy Eucharist, which means “thanksgiving”: thanksgiving to God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, who engages us and transforms us in his communion of love.

In the forthcoming catecheses I would like to answer some important questions about the Eucharist and Mass, in order to rediscover, or discover, how God’s love shines through this mystery of faith.

The Second Vatican Council was deeply inspired by the desire to lead Christians to understand the greatness of faith and the beauty of the encounter with Christ. For this reason it was necessary first of all to implement, with the guidance of the Holy Spirit, an appropriate renewal of the Liturgy, because the Church continually lives of it and renews herself thanks to it.

A central theme that the Council Fathers emphasized was the liturgical formation of the faithful, indispensable for a true renewal. It is precisely this renewal as well as the purpose of this series of catecheses that we are beginning today: to grow in our understanding of the great gift that God has given us in the Eucharist.

The Eucharist is a wondrous event in which Jesus Christ, our life, makes himself present. Participating in the Mass “is truly living again the redemptive passion and death of Our Lord. It is a visible manifestation: the Lord makes himself present on the altar to be offered to the Father for the salvation of the world” (Homily at the Domus Sanctae Marthae, 10 February 2014). The Lord is there with us, present. So often do we go there, look at things, talk amongst ourselves while the priest is celebrating the Eucharist ... and we do not celebrate close to Him. But it is the Lord! If today the President of the Republic were to come, or some very important world personage, it is certain that we would all be close to him, that we would want to greet him. But think: when you go to Mass, the Lord is there! And you get distracted. It is the Lord! We have to think about this. “Father, it’s that the Masses are dull” — “But what are you saying, that the Lord is dull?” — “No, no. Not the Mass, the priests” — “Ah, may the priests convert, but it is the Lord who is there!” Do you understand? Do not forget it. “Participating in Mass is living again the redemptive passion and death of Our Lord.”

(to be continued next week)



# November 26, 2017 Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus, King of the Universe

## Mass Intentions — November 27th~December 3rd

Monday @ 7:30 am — Patty Davis (RIP)  
Tuesday @ 7:30 am — Dale Givens (RIP)  
Wednesday @ 6:00 pm — Santa Crout (RIP)  
Thursday @ 7:30 am — Sean Hurley (RIP)  
\*Friday @ 10:00 am — Healing Mass  
Saturday @ 5:30 pm — Fr. Patrick Noonan (RIP)  
Sunday @ 8:00 am — Ed Shaw (RIP)  
Sunday @ 10:30 am — Josie Hege (RIP)

## New Prayer Requests

### **Special Intentions:**

Brenda Kuriger  
Gene Lafhameyer

See our complete prayer list on our website.

Submit prayer requests to:  
[office@saintpaulcatholicchurch.com](mailto:office@saintpaulcatholicchurch.com)

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### Altar Flowers this week

In Memory of: Tony Agosta  
Donated by: Rowena Agosta

### Blessed Mother Flowers this week

In Honor of: Cindy Allmon  
Donated by: Susan Schenk

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**Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament** Monday — Thursday, 8 am to 12 noon; Friday, 8 to 10 am, in the Chapel  
**Sacrament of Reconciliation** Saturday, 4:30 pm to 5:00 pm in the room next to the Chapel, or by appointment

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website: [www.saintpaulcatholicchurch.com](http://www.saintpaulcatholicchurch.com)

office phone: 601-992-9547

## Reminders ~ ~ ~ ~ ~

- December 1st — Healing Mass @ 10:00am followed by a Brunch.
- December 2nd — Armed Forces Support Ministry Rosary @ 4:45pm in the Chapel.  
— Young Adults Social @ 7:00-9:00pm; RSVP [lexiegosselin@yahoo.com](mailto:lexiegosselin@yahoo.com)
- December 3rd — First Sunday of Advent  
— Adult Study Group begins Bishop Barron's "Eucharist" program (3 sessions)  
— Blood Drive @ 7:30am - 1:00pm  
— Baptism Preparation Class @ 2:00pm
- December 5th — St. Dominic Ministry @ 10:00am
- December 9th — Ski Trip Meeting @ 4:00pm; 9th-12th grades  
— Big Deal Outdoor Movie Night after 5:30pm Mass: 7th-12th grades
- December 9/10th — Second Collection for Retired Religious
- December 13th — Diocesan Youth Conference forms & fees due; 9th-12th grades; call @ 601-292-6096
- December 18th — Advent Reconciliation Service @ 6:00pm
- December 20th-January 7th — No Religious Ed Classes; No Youth Group
- December 24th — No 8:00am Mass — (No Nursery & No Children's Liturgy Dec 24th & 25th)
- Christmas Mass Schedule — 5:30pm Christmas Eve Vigil; Midnight Mass; 10:30am Christmas Day

## New Notes ~ ~ ~ ~ ~

- Angel Trees — Select an ornament and return your gift or donation by December 10th
- [iGiveCatholic.org](http://iGiveCatholic.org) — Support our Early Learning Center on Giving Tuesday Nov 28