



*All of you together are Christ's body, and each one of you is a separate and necessary part. 1Cor 12:27*

**Mass Intentions ~ April 23-29, 2018**

Monday @ 7:30 am — Tommy Autrey (RIP)  
 Tuesday @ 7:30 am — Tommy Autrey (RIP)  
 Wednesday @ 6:00 pm — Tommy Autrey (RIP)  
 Thursday @ 7:30 am — Mayrene Messer (RIP)  
 Friday @ 7:30 am — People of the Parish  
 Saturday @ 5:30 pm — Carl Rainey (RIP)  
 Sunday @ 8:00 am — Jeffrey Simon (RIP)  
 Sunday @ 10:30 am — Wayne Stewart (RIP)

Adoration this week: Monday-Friday, 8am-12noon  
 Reconciliation: Saturday, 4:30-5:00pm

**New Prayer Requests**

**Special Intentions:**  
 Tina Henson

**Repose of the Soul:**  
 Eydie Winkel, mother of Carrie Cullum  
 Fran Leber, mother of Scott Leber

submit prayer intentions to the Church office  
 see full prayer list on our prayer board & website

More on our website [www.saintpaulcatholicchurch.com](http://www.saintpaulcatholicchurch.com) Church office @ 601-992-9547



Altar Flowers this week: In Memory of Edna Mangialardi on her birthday, donated by David & Michelle Mangialardi

Blessed Mother Flowers this week: In Memory of Lois Pipitone, mother of Pat Pipitone Sr. donated by the Peptone Family

**~ EVENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS ~ EVENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS ~ EVENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS ~**

**Apr 22 — First Communion Mass during 8:00 am Mass**

**Apr 23 — Soothing Bath Products Demonstration @ 7:00 pm;** hosted by the Women's Guild. Learn how to make your own bath salts. Our Charity box will be for Birthright. Items such as diapers, wipes, powder, lotions, bibs, will be very much appreciated.

**Apr 24 — St. Dominic Ministry — have lunch items in Family Life Center before 10:00 am**

**Apr 27 — Bingo Night @ 7:00pm;** hosted by the Women's Guild. All parishioners over the age of 18 are welcome! Come join the fun! Win cash prizes! Snacks and beverages will be provided!

**Apr 29 — High School Senior Recognition Mass during 10:30 am Mass** followed by a special luncheon in the FLC. Please RSVP by April 20th to [rel.edu@saintpaulcatholicchurch.com](mailto:rel.edu@saintpaulcatholicchurch.com)

— **Second Collection for Catholic Home Missions** - The Diocese of Jackson covers 65 counties in Mississippi. Only 5% of the diocese's population is Catholic and we face great challenges serving such a large area where Catholics are few. The diocese only has 34 active diocesan priests and 35 religious priests serving 73 parishes & 19 missions, and the average age of these priests is 60 years. With your support of this Appeal, you help provide formation for the next generation of priests, and help continue to spread the Gospel message and ensure the sacramental life of communities well into the future.

**May 3 — Confirmation Mass @ 6:00 pm;** All are welcome! (no 7:30 am Mass this day)

**May 4 — Healing Mass @ 10:00 am;** followed by Fellowship Brunch; all are welcome.

**May 5 — Following Christ Retreat**

— **Family Movie Night featuring Disney's "CoCo"** after 5:30 pm Mass; snacks provided; sponsored by the Knights

**May 19 — Prison Reentry Training 8:30 am - 3:30 pm** in the Family Life Center; learn more about helping prepare the incarcerated to be successful returning citizens through the "Getting Ahead While Getting Out" program. Register by calling Marvin Edwards 601-594-8254 or Sr. Madeline 213-215-6103.

**May 20 — Pentecost Sunday 10:30 am Mass & picnic on the hill** (No 8:00 Mass, 5:30 Vigil in the Church)



**April 22, 2018 — Fourth Sunday of Easter  
 ~ Good Shepherd Sunday ~**

**The dialogue continues.....Church – Hospital – School**

Thank you so very much for your very generous response to my invitation to dialogue about such important items. The Church as hospital, the Church as school, and how we are doing. Your reflections are wonderful and challenging! Keep them coming! We will have a dialogue for interested parties in May. — Fr. Gerry



**Hello Fr. Gerry,**

I was thinking a lot during your homily about the quote you prompted us with "the church is like a hospital filled with too many patients who don't get well..." You asked, "what can the church do to rectify this?" This question, along with your story about the woman on the plane who wouldn't open up about her sadness until she learned the man next to her was a priest, got me thinking about what I would need from the church.

One thing that came to mind was the thought of how the church is always encouraging everyone to trust God's plan, stay positive and have faith when times are difficult. Don't get me wrong- I 100% agree to put faith in the Lord. I simply feel that there's a piece missing. Like the woman on the plane who wouldn't open up about her feelings, I often believe that we are not encouraged to share our true selves with God. When you think about it, that doesn't make any sense, because who knows us better than God? Sometimes I think it would be nice to have reminders from the church that it's okay to be upset with God from time to time, and He will know it, so you shouldn't pretend that you're not. Talk to Him about your anger like you would work through an argument with any close friend.

I am a young adult, and have had several health issues, leading to four surgeries. When I had my 3rd surgery at age 22, the Physician Assistant at my follow-up essentially told me that I should get pregnant ASAP because I may not be able to have kids when I got older. As a single, Catholic, young woman who always dreamt of having children, this didn't go over well. I tried to stay positive, but it lasted a mere 4 days before the dam broke, and I had a full on screaming match with God. Right before I went to bed, I prayed Psalm 13: "How long, Lord? Will you utterly forget me? How long will you hide your face from me? How long must I carry sorrow in my soul, grief in my heart day after day? How long will my enemy triumph over me? Look upon me, answer me, Lord, my God! Give light to my eyes lest I sleep in death, lest my enemy say, 'I have prevailed,' lest my foes rejoice at my downfall. I trust in your faithfulness. Grant my heart joy in your help. That I may sing of the Lord, 'How good our God has been to me!'"

This psalm seemed to accurately describe my rollercoaster of emotions in trying to be faithful, but still feeling so abandoned by the Lord. That night I went to sleep, and awoke in the middle of the night to the feeling of the bed caving to someone's weight. Being confused, I rolled over, and saw a tall, thin, man with strawberry blonde hair and red beard that I had never seen before sitting on my bed watching over me, but I wasn't afraid. I looked at him and said, "who are you?" He got this shocked look on his face and replied, "You can see me?!" I told him I could, and that I was going back to sleep. Before back asleep, though, I realized that he was an angel that God sent me. Maybe he's actually always with me, but in my lament, God decided to give me the ability to see him.

That may be the only time I've seen my angel, but every time I have one of my fits with God, He somehow sends me a sign that He is with me, and He cares. I'm not suggesting anyone should try to be angry with God in an attempt for a miracle - God is good all the time- but maybe if people were better able to admit when they are frustrated, they will come to learn God's grace and mercy firsthand. This will help faith to grow. It will allow people to heal. Maybe the church can have at least a few more patients who are getting well again.

Blessings,  
 Adrian Eddy

Father Gerry,

As they say in radio, long time listener and first time caller. You asked us to reflect on your question of the church as a hospital or school and I feel the question has been posed with negative connotations. I feel we need to look at it differently and in not such a negative light. We aren't meant to be well or to have knowledge... not yet anyway.

I for one would much rather be in a hospital or school than the alternatives, the morgue or an asylum. The difference between the two is HOPE, the hope to be well or the hope to be knowledgeable. In a morgue or an asylum, hope is lost and nothing further is done in the fight for improvement.

In a school or hospital we strive for betterment. In medicine, I encounter patients all the time with illness, disease, or ailment. Sometimes there's a cure or improvement and sometimes there isn't. The difference in how patients handle what is thrown at them is whether they possess an inner strength or hope. This may be for improvement or just for the needed grace and fortitude to carry their cross. And that's what the church provides, HOPE.

As long as we realize the only time we will be truly cured or attain full knowledge is once we leave this earth and enter into eternal life with Christ and our Heavenly Father, we can remain pupils and patients together and help each other along the path to what we are destined for.

Yours in Christ,  
Christopher Boston

*join the dialogue!*

### Church As Hospital

I had become a fairly regular visitor to the hospital in recent years...came, prayed, did a little chatting but for the most part dined and dashed, took Communion and left before the official end of Mass.

Then in the Fall of 2015 I became somewhat ill - I needed to come to the hospital for some help, though I portrayed myself as being fine; strong and able to handle the illness my husband Bert was enduring. After all, I really WAS fine, wasn't I?

On January 28, 2016 I got hit very hard with the biggest head, body, heart and soul sickness ever! My world crashed down and I fought mightily not to fall because if I fell, maybe I couldn't get up again.

The head doctor, Fr. Gerry Hurley, who had come to the other hospital for Bert and me, first delivered a beautiful Mass and then a month and a half later, he called me out after 5:30 Mass and told me, in front of so many of you, that ChristLife would be good for me - and many others as well. And he was so 1,000% right ...THAT was the treatment he was dispensing that I needed so desperately!

So the treatment began...on my soul and my heart. I met so many terrific YOUs...the doctor kept good tabs on me as he does on all of us, doing check-ups in his own quiet observant way. Combine our Lord, continue through Christlife and on to a Bible study, making friends and not just church acquaintances, but people who are now a part of my new life and my new health these 2-plus years...can you believe how fast the time has flown?

So now when I visit the hospital, I see friends and some people I don't even know who are ailing like I once was. Sometimes I reach out, many times I just nod at them and hope they know someone thinks about them and prays for their recovery. Our doctor Fr. Gerry will always be my spiritual physician and he continues to watch and know. They say hospital food is good - well, at the St. Paul Hospital, it is extraordinary for it is the Eucharist! You will never find a more exquisite feast that you treasure each time you partake! And there's no more ducking out early!

When you stay, you never know what might happen...you get called to the hospital for treatment and you get called to share that treatment with the other patients.

And so my fellow patients, let God do his work, let the head of the hospital reach out to you, let us reach out to one another. Heal and never fail to follow up on your treatment!

Mary Wieden Case

*What do you say?*

*Your thoughts?*

I believe the church offers absolutely everything anyone needs to "get well". It provides every opportunity to "learn". There isn't anything lacking in the church.

The problem is the PEOPLE who don't take advantage of what is offered freely to us all. If you don't take your medicine, follow your doctors advice, follow through with discipline, you don't get well. If you don't read, study, or apply yourself, you won't learn.

The problem is not with the church, it's with lazy and smug people with a sense of entitlement who just want to sit and be handed things without any effort on their part. (Sorry if I sound vehement, but I got kind of angry about all this).

Andy Suber

**RESPOND — WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU, TOO!**