



*The deepest level of worship is praising God in spite of pain, trial, suffering, and temptation.*

**Mass Intentions ~ April 30-May 6, 2018**

Monday @ 7:30 am — James Abdou (RIP)  
 \*Tuesday @ 11:00 am — Funeral Mass for Francine Gilmer  
 Wednesday @ 6:00 pm — Tommy Autrey (RIP)  
 \*Thursday @ 6:00 pm — Confirmation Mass  
 \*Friday @ 10:00 am — Healing Mass

Saturday @ 5:30 pm — Carl Rainey (RIP)  
 Sunday @ 8:00 am — Paul Ozyck (Sp Int)  
 Sunday @ 10:30 am — Joan Goodman (RIP)

Adoration this week: Mon, Wed, Thurs, 8am-12noon;  
 Tues, 8am-11am; Fri, 8am-10am

Sacrament of Reconciliation: Saturday, 4:30-5:00pm

**New Prayer Requests**

**Special Intentions:**

Charles Bryan  
 Amber Monet Robertson, niece of Doug Falcon  
 Mary Christine Hart, friend of Melinda Cannon

**Repose of the Soul:**

Tina Henson  
 Martha Collins, mother of Karen Cox  
 Francine & Bubba Gilmer, daughter & son-in-law  
 of Jane & Rodney Hipp

( Arrangements for Francine Gilmer:  
 visitation ~ May 1st @ 9-11 am  
 funeral Mass ~ May 1st @ 11am )

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



Altar Flowers & Blessed Mother Flowers this week:  
 In Honor of all who have celebrated the Sacraments for the first time,  
 especially our St. Paul RCIA, First Communion, and Confirmation Classes.

**~ NOTE THESE IMPORTANT DATES & ANNOUNCEMENTS ~**

**Apr 29 — High School Senior Recognition Mass during 10:30 am Mass**  
 — **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**  
 — **Armed Forces Support Ministry Rosary @ 4:45 pm** in the Chapel; all are welcome to come and pray with us.  
 — **Family Movie Night featuring Disney's "CoCo"** after 5:30 pm Mass; nachos, popcorn & drinks provided; (margaritas for adults); sponsored by the Knights of Columbus

**May 6 — May Crowning of Mary** at the beginning of 10:30 Mass; all children are invited to participate; meet in the Family Life Center at 10:15 am to receive a flower and instructions.  
 — **Last day of Religious Ed;** Happy Summer Break!

**May 9 — Last day of Big Deal Youth Group;** Happy Summer Break!

**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 29, 2018  
 Fifth Sunday of Easter**



**Church – Hospital – School**

*Your reflections and responses to our discussion questions are so wonderful, and enlivening, and encouraging. The truth you are sharing is so rich and perceptive, and so in touch. I am in awe of your generosity of spirit, and your genuineness in writing with such openness and directness!*

*Due to the great level of interest shown in having an open dialogue / sharing on this subject, I have set a date for that gathering on Wednesday, May 16th @ 6:30 pm in the Family Life Center. My thought is you can join us for our daily Mass at 6:00 pm, if it works in your schedule. I plan to have food of some sort – a light fair for supper to begin our gathering – since it falls right into the supper time frame.*

*I do need to know ahead of time regarding your participation so that we can be appropriately prepared. Please call the office if you wish to be included. Thank you! — Fr. Gerry*

*"What are your wounds?" This is so personal. Wounds are personal and real and they are ugly. I don't want to show the world my ugly side. The side that can't let go of the guilt because I wasn't the mother I think I should have been. The side that wishes for a do-over of the years that were wasted in addiction. The side that sobs for a child who will never be whole, at least not this side of heaven. "Why the Pretense?" Because I want to be strong and I want to be funny and I want to put together. Because I want to be the person to listen to other people's problems and I want to lend a helping hand...not the other way around. Because I am proud. "Why the pretense?" Because when I am forced to answer the question "how are you?"...I may not be able to control the emotions. Not so much when someone just asks in passing (isn't that what people do?); but those few and far between times when someone who really cares and genuinely wants to know will ask "Kelly, how are you?"... then I know I won't be able to control the emotions. I take a lot of pride in being strong emotionally. But life has taken me down a certain path now, and I feel my armor can't withstand many more blows. God has indeed given me more than I can handle; my choice is to sink or to let Him carry me, and to let my friends carry me, let my loved ones carry me, let my small group carry me. I thank God for you who continue to lift us up in prayer.*

*Kelly McBride*

We appreciate your participation... ↓

Fr. Hurley,

It has been said that the Church is a hospital where patients never get well. A school where students never seem to learn. You challenged us with the question, why is this.

I may have a little insight from my own experiences. I was a A-B student, mostly B throughout most of my youth. I came from a family of 6 kids where my older (probably genius) brother had extreme ADHD that greatly affected his ability to make good marks. Thus, I flew under the radar with my satisfactory grades. My parents insisted I do my best and would certainly discipline me for C's etc, but never was I challenged, so this was my norm.

I got to college and this continued, but now those A's and B's became C's. It wasn't until early in my 3<sup>rd</sup> year at the University of South Alabama that I realized there was a problem. I had fallen in love with the perfect girl and was ready to make a life-long commitment to her. I looked at what she would be getting and it was average at best. What kind of life would a guy with a lackadaisical attitude toward school or for that matter anything, be able to provide for a wife and family? That's when I got inspired to give this education thing my all.

From that point forward I made my studies important to me. I had a reason. I challenged myself to be the best in my class. I was truly inspired with the fact that this would affect the rest of my life, and my hope-to-be bride's. She deserved to get better than average or lazy. I had found the inspiration and ran with it. From that point on I was on the Presidents list or Deans list each quarter though to graduation. (By the way, she said YES!)

Let's put this into prospective. It wasn't too many years that past when I realized that I needed to do the same with my Faith and commitment to God. I knew all along that worshiping and serving the Lord was far more important than any earthly goals I may have. It just had to seep into my soul to give my all to God. I dare to say that I'm on God's dean's list. Although I falter often, my inspiration is there.

The issue with God's pupils never seeming to learn is in our inspiration. Our failure to realize that this relationship with Him is the very most important aspect BY FAR of our very short time on earth. The solution starts with parents instilling this in their children by instruction and more importantly by example. Let them know how much God loves them and that striving daily to live the life He has planned for us is the #1 thing we could ever do. If we plant this seed, this fire in their hearts early and kindle it constantly, their desire to know God will flourish.

It is not too late for us old folks either. By asking God to lead us and by listening to His Word, we can transform our lives so that we too can share in His grace and reach our true and only real calling, to live in eternity with the Father in heaven. We simply have to open our hearts to the real meaning of this life he has given us.

It took falling in love and the readiness to devote the rest of my life to my girl, and wanting to be deserving of her to get that kick in the back side to apply myself in school. Learning became my passion. I think it's time we all fall in love with Christ. My wife has been there for me every minute of my worldly journey, God will definitely be there for us all in our journey in faith.

Kevin O'Donnell

*"The church, often described as a hospital contains too many patients who fail to get well."*

*The reason we don't get well is because we don't take our wounds and illnesses (sins and burdens) to God. Sometimes we think we can handle these things alone. The truth is, we can't. We will never "get well" without him. God is our healer. He is our medicine. Thankfully, He loves us and will never abandon us - especially when we struggling with those wounds and illnesses!*

Keegan Foxx

*Engage in the dialogue* ←

### **The Church as a Hospital**

#### **Why do too many patients fail to get well in the Church Hospital?**

##### **Answer**

**The late Father Kevin Johnson, Retreat Master, said there is a lot of needless suffering that goes on in hospitals. Perhaps it seems to me that suffering without purpose is meaningless, a prelude to despair.**

**As followers of Christ we are all called to imitate Him. Jesus suffered and died with a purpose — to redeem us of our sins. When we join our sufferings to the sufferings of Christ on the Cross then our suffering has meaning and purpose and as a result our suffering gives us an opportunity to deepen our personal relationship with Jesus and also deepen our intimacy with Him. Being in the hospital is an opportunity for me to trust in His mercy who mends my brokenness and makes me spiritually healthy and whole.**

**Gene Valentine**



*Your response is welcome & valuable too!*