

August 11/12, 2018

Nineteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

COVENANTS

“TAKE THIS ALL OF YOU, AND DRINK FROM IT, FOR THIS IS THE CHALICE OF MY BLOOD, THE BLOOD OF THE NEW AND ETERNAL COVENANT, WHICH WILL BE Poured OUT FOR YOU AND FOR MANY FOR THE FORGIVENESS OF SINS. DO THIS MEMORY IN MEMORY OF ME.” (EUCHARISTIC PRAYER I).

The First Reading from this past Thursday was from the Book of Jeremiah. In Chapter 31, God promises the house of Judah that He will establish a new covenant with them that will be unlike the covenants God made with their fathers. In this new covenant, God promises that He will write the law on their heart, that He will forgive their evildoing, and that He will remember their sins no more.

The Gospel Readings from the last two Sundays have been from the sixth chapter of the Gospel of John. I’m sure many of you recognize the super-abundant Eucharistic imagery in St. John’s account of the Feeding of the Multitude, the Bread of Life Discourse, and in the coming weeks, Jesus’ proclamation that the Bread of Life is His Body and Blood, a fact which causes many of His disciples to abandon Him. Together, all of these Readings invite deeper reflection on just what is the nature of this New and Everlasting Covenant that is our inheritance.



In my study of this, I derive the following unique aspects of the New Covenant:

- 1. God has proclaimed this covenant as everlasting.** God made many covenants with Israel throughout Sacred Scripture, but the nature of those covenants always required that the people of Israel obey God’s law. Anyone who is even remotely familiar with Scripture will recognize that human beings are miserable at keeping God’s law. God had to continually make new covenants with Israel because of their infidelity.
- 2. God will write the law in their hearts.** The old covenants of the law were written on stone tablets or papyrus scrolls, and as suggested above, these covenants were no more durable than the material they were written on. But God has now written this New Covenant on people’s hearts. The only law Jesus gave us was the Law of Love, which can only be written on the heart by God.
- 3. It is guaranteed by the blood of Christ.** The old covenants were sealed with the blood of animals, which did not withstand the test of time. It is interesting that the covenant God enters into is not a suzerain or vassal covenant in which God proclaims his superiority over His vassal servants. Rather it is a kinship covenant in which God adopts us as His children, His very special possession (See Romans 8).
- 4. The nature of the covenant is forgiveness.** How do you break a covenant in which the central tenant is forgiveness for breaking the covenant? In the past, the covenants with Israel were usually about land, possessions, protection from their enemies, or the law. The New and Everlasting covenant, guaranteed by God’s own word, written on our hearts, guaranteed by Jesus’ own blood is an unbreakable covenant. It is a covenant of forgiveness. How do you break a covenant of forgiveness?

—Deacon John McGregor

Mass Intentions ~ August 13-19, 2018

Monday @ 7:30 am — Communion Service

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**Wednesday @ 6:00 pm — Mass of the Assumption

Thursday @ 7:30 am — Communion Service

Friday @ 7:30 am — Communion Service

Saturday @ 5:30 pm — Marie Lodes (RIP)

Sunday @ 8:00 am — Philip Claire (RIP)

Sunday @ 10:30 am — People of the Parish

New Prayer Requests

Special Intentions:

Alice Mitchell

Blair Lewis, infant cousin of Kim Walker

Mike Sneed, friend of David Cannon

Michael Barrett, grandson of Martha Barrett

Repose of the Soul:

Nell Garrett- Grandmother of John David and Kim Walker

Elaine Gambino, great aunt of Craig Giamalva

Adoration this week: Mon—Fri 8am-12noon Sacrament of Reconciliation: Sat 4:30-5:00 pm

Altar Flowers this week are donated by John and Margaret McAleese in memory of The McAleese and Kyles Families

NEW ANNOUNCEMENTS — PLEASE TAKE NOTE

Accompanist needed for our Music Ministry — If you or someone you know has musical talent to play the piano and/or organ, we need you! This is a part-time paid position that requires Wednesday night rehearsals and Sunday 10:30 am Mass, plus special services. Contact Joseph Sabatini at music@saintpaulcatholicchurch.com or at 601-940-2812.

The Women's Guild will host Bingo Night on August 24th @ 7:00 pm — Snacks & drinks will be provided in the Family Life Center. All over the age of 18 are welcome! Please donate to the Charity Box for the Opportunity Center. Needed items are coffee, creamer, sugar, laundry detergent and dryer sheets.

The Food Pantry Ministry is in need of non-perishable food in family-size packages, as well as checks or gift cards which we will use to purchase food. Your donations support the Stewpot Food Pantry in Jackson, the Center for Violence Prevention Abuse Shelters in Pearl, as well as individuals who request food assistance directly from the Parish. Please place your contributions in the baskets at the Church doors.

— REMINDERS — REMINDERS — REMINDERS — REMINDERS — REMINDERS —

Religious Education Classes — Register Online Now!!! ages 3 years ~ 12th grade Classes begin the week of Sept 9
Ages 3 years ~ 6th grade meet Sundays @ 9:15 am. 7th ~ 12th grades meet Wednesdays @ 6 pm. Students must be registered. Registration Forms & the new schedule are posted on our website for new & returning students. An adult class meets Sundays @ 9:15 am. Registration is not required for the Adult Class.

Parent & Student Orientation and Open House on Sept. 9th @ 9:15 am & Sept. 12th @ 6 pm. This is the first day of class. We must have at least one parent attend with your child. Orientation will begin in the gym. We will discuss an overview of our program, then students and parents will visit their classrooms and meet the teachers.

Big Deal Braves Game on August 18th — All 7th-12th graders are invited to the ballgame! Sign up ends this weekend! Sheets are on the tables near the office. Questions? Email Cory Head at youth@saintpaulcatholicchurch.com.

Small Group Study begins on August 19th — The book study is *Wisdom: God's Vision for Life* by Jeff Cavins.
Contact Sarah O'Donnell at fellowship@saintpaulcatholicchurch.com to join or host a Small Group.

Early Learning Center Annual Golf Tournament — Save the Date — Friday, September 14th, at Bay Pointe Golf Club.
Please call the Early Learning Center at 601-992-2876 if you have any questions or email stpaullearningcenter@gmail.com.

ChristLife Sessions — Registration opens in September. Contact Rodney Hipp at adult.edu@saintpaulcatholicchurch.com.
Sharing Christ October 4—November 17, 2018 (Retreat Day Nov 17th) *must have completed Discovering & Following Christ*
Discovering Christ October 23—December 11, 2018 (Retreat Day Dec 1st)
Following Christ April 23 — June 4, 2019 (Retreat Day May 18th) *must have completed Discovering Christ*



Church website: www.saintpaulcatholicchurch.com Office phone: 601-992-9547
Office Hours: Tuesday - Thursday 8:00am-4:00pm; Friday 8:00am-12noon