

*Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to people of good will.*

*We praise you, we bless you, we adore you, we glorify you, we give you thanks for your great glory, Lord God, heavenly King, O God, almighty Father. Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son, Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us; you take away the sins of the world, receive our prayer; you are seated at the right hand of the Father, have mercy on us. For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.*

### Mass Intentions ~ August 26-September 1, 2019

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 — Communion Service  
Saturday @ 5:30 pm — Kenneth & Josephine Cannon (RIP)  
Sunday @ 8:00 am — Pat Hurley (RIP)  
Sunday @ 10:30 am — People of the Parish

### New Prayer Requests

#### **Special Intentions:**

Michelle Summers  
Lee Watt  
John Lawson  
Zac Berger, nephew of Monica Walton

#### **Repose of the Soul:**

Joan Becker Millington  
Greg Begonia  
Finn Blaylock, St. Richard School student

Altar Flowers this weekend were donated by Edward and Sueann Prybylski, in memory of Eileen Prybylski and Dorothy Semanek.



Blessed Mother Flowers this weekend were donated by Jack and Marion McKee, in memory of Alex McKee.

**Sacrament of Reconciliation** — Saturday @ 4:30-5:00 pm (or by appointment — call the Church office)  
**Adoration this week:** Monday — Friday, 8 am - 12noon

## Important Notes & Announcements

**St. Dominic Ministry** — Tuesday August 27th @ 10:00 am — Sign up today to donate lunch items to the families of I.C.U. patients. Anyone interested in helping serve the families is welcome to join us. Meet in the Family Life Center on Aug. 27th.

➔ **Religious Ed registration is now open on our website! Classes begin September 8th & 11th**

- **Big Deal Youth Group** ~ ages 7th thru 12th grades ~ Meets Wednesday evenings @ 6pm. Begins Sept 11th with **mandatory** Parent/Youth Orientation @ 6pm. At least one parent or grandparent must attend with child.
- **Catechesis of the Good Shepherd** ~ ages 3 yrs thru 6th grade ~ Meets Sunday mornings @ 9:15 am. Begins Sept 8th with **mandatory** Parent/Child Orientation @ 9:15am. At least one parent or grandparent must attend with child.

**SMALL GROUPS**  
BECOMING BETTER DISCIPLES TOGETHER

**Small Group sign up is also open on our website!** We will begin a new parish-wide Small Group study on September 22nd. We have openings for to join an existing group, or you can form a new group! Contact fellowship@spaulcc.org today!

### FINANCIAL REPORT

Weekly Offertory Collection for August 17/18: Regular collection \$24,945.63 Capital Campaign \$4,406.33

**Contact us: 601-992-9547 [www.saintpaulcatholicchurch.com](http://www.saintpaulcatholicchurch.com)**  
**Summer Office Hours: Tues-Thurs, 8:00 am-4:00 pm; Fri, 8:00 am-noon**



*Our mission is to invite everyone into a deeper relationship with Jesus Christ.*

*August 25, 2019  
Twenty-First Sunday in Ordinary Time*

## *Along the Way*

So much is happening on the Journey to Jerusalem. Hopefully, you are still following along and reading the passages between the Sunday Gospels. This past week, the “in-between” passages are Luke 12:54-13:21. In those verses, Jesus encounters hypocrites, He settles matters with an opponent, calls us to Repentance, and teaches three Parables. Woven in these passages are the accounts of Jesus curing a crippled woman, humiliating His adversaries, calling out the hypocrites — these pages are rich with excitement!

The encounters with Jesus that Luke chronicles along the way to Jerusalem are vastly different from our present day encounters with Jesus. Many Biblical scholars encourage us to place ourselves in the stories of the Bible that we may hear Jesus speaking to us. It is a great way to become familiar with hearing Him and responding. Let us focus on the very first sentence of today’s Gospel — “He passed through towns and villages, teaching as He went and making His way to Jerusalem.” (Luke 13:22) Think of all those people in the many towns and villages where Jesus visited. He blessed all of those people as He passed through a moment in their lives. He didn’t merely race through only thinking of His destination. He was present to all He met who wanted relationship with Him along the way. Imagine all the questions, the requests for favors and healings, the challenges, the confrontations He faced. Yet, He remained open, and continued to give the people the freedom to go to Him with all of it — the good and the not-so-good. He didn’t bypass the people who weren’t so kind or who contradicted Him. Jesus is always loving and teaching.

Let’s immerse ourselves in this scene. What if we heard rumor that Jesus would be passing through Flowood along Highway 25? Would we drop everything to see Him? Would we be captivated by Jesus, hanging on His every Word? Who among us would dare to speak to Him? If given the chance to ask Jesus one question in person this week, what would you say to Him? Picture yourself asking Him — *Lord, in what Ministry should I serve our community? How much should I give to our Parish Capital Campaign? What should we do when we disagree with a decision made by the leadership in our Church? How can I be a better parent/daughter/brother/spouse/neighbor? Why is there so much violence in the world? Will there ever be no more cancer? What are the winning numbers to the next Powerball? What would you say to Him face-to-face?*

The beauty of relationship with Jesus is that we have that very chance, anytime we are willing to encounter Him — and especially in the experience of the Mass. We meet Jesus in person — Word, Body, Community — true Blessing! He is here, traveling with us on our own journey. Listen to the words we say each Mass, listen with a new “ear” from your heart. Notice the times we speak directly to God. We dare to address Him, so let us be more purposeful in our participation of the Liturgy. Let us speak the words from our hearts that they may rise up to meet Him. Then, let us open ourselves to hear what He wants to say to us. It takes focus!

Certainly every one of us has had the experience of finding ourselves halfway through the Gloria, speaking or singing every word correctly, yet we aren’t mindful of what we are saying. It is so easy to be distracted by other thinking during the most familiar parts of the Mass. The words are old, familiar, and comfortable rolling off our tongues. They may not spark excitement any longer, so our minds wander — *Oh, it’s good to see him back in church! I am sad my friend has passed and we will never see her in her regular pew again! I wish my children would return to the Church! I have so much to do this week! I hope the lines aren’t long at the store! Lord, help me find a friend, a spouse, a job, a new home....* — It is a reality. We can so easily be distracted!

This week, take some time to ponder the beautiful words we speak in the Gloria (printed on the reverse side). This ancient hymn is an encounter the Divine. **We Speak to Him, not about Him.** He is listening!