

### Mass Intentions ~ December 3 - 9, 2018

Monday @ 7:30 am — Eugene & John Gooch (RIP)

Tuesday @ 7:30 am — Tommy Autrey (RIP)

Wednesday @ 6:00 pm — Margaret Rose Smith (RIP)

Thursday @ 7:30 am — Francine & Bubba Gilmer (RIP)

\*\*Friday @ 10:00 am — Healing Mass

\*\*Saturday @ 9:00 am — Holy Day (Immaculate Conception)

Saturday @ 5:30 pm — Celia Purser (RIP)

Sunday @ 8:00 am — Patrick Hurley (Sp Int)

Sunday @ 10:30 am — People of the Parish

### New Prayer Requests

#### **Special Intentions:**

Brian Frederick

Allie Vandiver

Blanche Stauss

Nathan Allen, grandson of John & Helen DeCantillon

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

Arlene Edgington, stepmother of Cathy Mansell

See the website & prayer board for complete prayer list.

**Adoration this week:** Mon—Thurs 8am-12n, Fri 8 am-10am    **Sacrament of Reconciliation:** Sat 4:30-5pm

## — — — Announcements and Reminders — — —

### December 2nd — First Sunday of Advent

◆ **Parish Renovation Presentation 2:00-4:00 pm** — Please join us to view the new architectural renderings for renovating the church, and hear the plans for making repairs and improvements to our existing facility. Presentation begins @ 2:00.

◆ **Blood Drive & Breakfast with Santa** — all are invited after both Sunday Masses

◆ **Angel Trees** — Choose an ornament today and help a needy child this Christmas.

**December 4th — St. Dominic Ministry** — Please have items here before 10 am to deliver to families of St. D ICU patients

**December 7 — First Friday Healing Mass @ 10:00 am** followed by a Brunch. Everyone is encouraged to bring a dessert to share. All are welcome!

**December 8 — Holy Day Mass @ 9:00 am** — the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary

**December 9th — Second Collection for Retirement Fund for Religious** — Please give to our senior Catholic sisters, brothers, and religious order priests who have given a lifetime in service to the Church.

— **Baptism Preparation Class @ 2:00 pm** in Room 109 of the Family Life Center. This is open to all expectant parents and any parents planning to have a child baptized within the next few months. We only hold four classes per year. Call the Church office to register. 601-992-9547.

**December 17 — Parish Advent Reconciliation Service @ 6:00 pm** — We will have several priests hearing confessions. Please join us in this wonderful opportunity, as we anticipate the Christmas Season.

**Christmas Mass Schedule — Monday, December 24th Christmas Vigil Mass @ 5:30 pm;**  
**Midnight Mass (choral presentation begins @ 11:30 pm)**  
**Tuesday, December 25th Christmas Day Mass @ 10:30 am**

**Food Pantry Ministry** — Thanks to your generosity in November, especially the children, parents, and staff of the Early Learning Center, we were able to make substantial deliveries to the Center for Violence Prevention shelters and to Stewpot in time for Thanksgiving. We hope that you'll continue that generosity so that we can make repeat deliveries before Christmas, and have ample food for all who request food assistance from the Parish. Non-perishable food, cash, & store cards welcome.

**World Marriage Day 2019 will be held Sunday, February 24, 2019** at the Cathedral of St. Peter the Apostle in Jackson. Mass will be celebrated by Bishop Joseph R. Kopacz at 3:00 pm, with a reception immediately following. All married couples celebrating their 25th, 50th, and 60th anniversaries, or any significant anniversary are asked to call our church office so you can be included in this wonderful celebration.

**Church website: [www.saintpaulcatholicchurch.com](http://www.saintpaulcatholicchurch.com)**  
**Office phone: 601-992-9547**

# December 2, 2018 First Sunday of Advent

## HAPPY NEW YEAR

As we begin the New Liturgical Year with the First Sunday of Advent, it provides us a rather unique opportunity to look at our Spiritual lives. While the annual New Year brings with it the hopes and dreams for new expectations and New Year's Resolutions — I thought it would be a good opportunity for us to look at our personal resolutions for growing our Faith and relationship with Jesus as we embark on the New Liturgical Year.

Each of us, as proclaimed followers of Jesus in this journey of life, has a personal invitation as well as a personal responsibility, to respond to Him as our Creator. The Church can assist us in this process, but it can never take care of our personal responsibility. The Church can provide us many opportunities for growth and development within His Community, but ultimately the invitation of Jesus requires a personal response on my part.

In order to be engaged in that response, it really helps to have a plan. Elements of that plan certainly include the issues of:

*Who is God to me?*

*Who am I to Him?*

*Is He a personal God?*

*Do I believe I can have a personal relationship with Him?*

Accordingly, I would like to refer back to the questions I raised with you in last weekend's Homily. I provided these questions as a way of reflecting on your own plan for nurturing your relationship with Him. We used these questions last weekend as a way of looking back over this past year.

I now present them as a way of looking forward to this coming year, and to provide you support for developing your plan to grow that relationship. See the next page for homework to start your new year off right!

— Fr. Gerry

1) How has Jesus manifested Himself as Lord over my life during the course of this past year?

◆ **What new hopes / awareness am I seeking to know Him as Lord over my life, beyond my Sunday Mass experience?**

2) What growth have I experienced in my relationship with Him during this past year?

◆ **How can I be more active in expanding my relationship with Him — perhaps attending an extra Mass once a week / month?**

3) What opportunities have I chosen or availed of in order to grow my relationship with my Creator during this past year ?

◆ **What opportunity will I seek this year to encounter the Lord in a new way and grow in relationship with Him — perhaps taking time away from the busyness of my life by attending a directed or communal Retreat, or simply shutting down my technology for a set period of time each day / week? This creates a space of Holiness. By blocking out all the distractions, I open myself to hearing Him speak to me and feeling His love for me.**

4) What book(s) have I read or studied during the course of this past year in order to extend my relationship with my God and His relationship with me?

◆ **What Spiritual book(s) will I read this coming year to guide and direct my relationship with Him?**

5) What courses of study, community gathering, faith sharing, have I chosen to participate in during the past year in order to extend my awareness of His love and care for me ?

◆ **What opportunities will I avail myself during this new year — perhaps participating in a Bible Study group, a Prayer group, a Lectio Divina group, or the Sunday morning Adult Class?**

6) Finally, what time have I consciously given to growing my personal relationship with God ?

◆ **We have 168 hours in a week, 8,760 hours in a year. How many hours in my week would I like to dedicate to growing and expanding my relationship with the Lord — perhaps devoting one hour a week / month to Eucharistic Adoration? We are Blessed to offer Adoration every Monday through Friday, 8:00 am - 12:00 pm in the Chapel.**

**There are many ways to bear fruit in a Holy Hour of Adoration.**

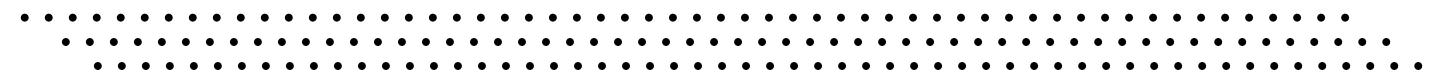
**Here is a nice process for the Hour:**



**20** Read — fill yourself with prayers & inspired reading for the first 20 minutes

**20** Receive — put down the reading & let God speak for the next 20 minutes

**20** Rest — sit in the silence with a thankful heart for the final 20 minutes



Thank you, Debbie, for sharing your experience of Adoration with us!!

Dear Fr. Gerry,

I started going to weekly Adoration about 5 years ago. At first I just went when I felt like it but after a year or so decided it was time to commit to a time slot. So I've been going every Monday morning now for some time. After receiving Jesus in the most intimate way in the Eucharist on Sunday, I find myself longing to spend more time alone with him. A couple of incidents have happened when I felt his Presence profoundly. But even on the days I don't, it is always a peaceful experience and I always come away refreshed and ready to start my week. One meditation I do is Psalm 46:10. It is my favorite Psalm and I have it on a plaque in my living room. I was happy to see it in the bulletin the past few weeks. I pray it with my eyes closed. Take a deep breath and pray:

Be still and know that I am God. (deep breath)

Be still and know that I am. (deep breath)

Be still and know. (deep breath)

Be still. (deep breath)

Be.



After however long a time it is (I never know) I pray it forward. Be. Be still. Be still and know. Etc.

Once a few months back I was really missing my mother. She passed away almost two years ago. I had just finished reading a book you often quote from, "The Gift of the Red Bird". I used to have a lot of cardinals in my yard and for a time they disappeared. I remember wishing I could see one. Somehow I felt it would help with my sadness of missing Mom. That week I went to Adoration and was sitting praying near the window. I heard a noise at the window and looked up. It wasn't a red bird. It was a blue bird! I glanced across the aisle at Jo. She was deep in prayer. I looked back and the bluebird was still there, fluttering around the outside of the window. Somehow it filled my heart with joy. I knew it would stay as long as I needed it to. After several minutes I looked away and sure enough when I looked again it was gone.

After our hour was up, Jo and I walked out and stood outside the door for a few minutes talking. A bluebird flew up between us and then flew away. I asked her if she had seen it outside the window. She hadn't but she had heard something hit the window. I was so glad it flew up while we were talking or I might've thought I'd imagined it. I can't explain why, but I felt as if the blue bird was a gift from God, just letting me know Mom was fine and watching over me.

Another prayer I usually say is the Rosary. It is wonderful to meditate on the mysteries. A group from the Armed Forces Ministry meet and pray the Rosary on the first Saturday of every month in the chapel at 4:45. All are welcome!

I would encourage everyone to try to make it to Adoration at least once a month. Start like I did, just come when you can. Hopefully one day, commit to a time and come every week. You will be blessed and truly refreshed!

Yours in Christ,

Debbie Goodman