

Mass Intentions ~ December 31-January 6

New Year's Mass Schedule:

- ~ **Monday Vigil Mass @ 6:00 pm** (Don Harris RIP)
- ~ **Tuesday Mass @ 9:00 am** (People of the Parish)
- Wednesday @ 6:00 pm** — (Stu Murphy RIP)
- Thursday @ 7:30 am** — (Michael & Agnes Hehir RIP)
- ***Friday @ 10:00 am** — (Healing Mass)
- Saturday @ 5:30 pm** — (People of the Parish)
- Sunday @ 8:00 am** — (Linda Klein RIP)
- Sunday @ 10:30 am** — (Phyllis Harris RIP)

(see the full prayer list on our website & prayer board)

Sacrament of Reconciliation: Saturday 4:30-5pm

Adoration this week: Wednesday & Thursday 8am-12noon; Friday 8-10am

New Prayer Requests

Special Intentions:

Mike Kuriger
Tommy Hoey

Repose of the Soul:

Blanche Stauss

— — — Date Announcements and Reminders — — —

- **The parish office reopens Wednesday, Jan 2.**
- **The Big Deal Youth Group will resume on Wednesday, January 9th;**
- **Sunday morning classes will resume on January 13th.**

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.**



*O Virgin Mary, Queen of peace,
you who stood at the foot of the cross,
obtain from your Son pardon for our sins;
you who never doubted the victory of his resurrection,
sustain our faith and our hope;
you who are enthroned as Queen in glory,
teach us the royal road of service and the glory of love.
Amen.*

**Church website: www.saintpaulcatholicchurch.com
Office phone: 601-992-9547**

December 30, 2018

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph

Dear Father Gerry,

As I reflected on the questions, “who is God” and do I have a relationship with Him, I can say without a doubt that Jesus is my Savior, and the Holy Spirit, (the Spirit of the risen Christ) is in my heart, and is always with me! BUT there has always been a disconnect from God the father for me!! Although I always pray to God the father in the name of Jesus, there was no real relationship as with Jesus and the Holy Spirit!

Let me explain. I was raised in a home with an earthly father who was an alcoholic. I never felt that he loved me, and he was never there for me. He was very physically abusive to my mother which made me hate him! So, I grew up with a disconnect to and fear of my earthly father. My mother, however, was the other side of the coin. She loved and acted as a buffer between my daddy and me.

But thanks be unto God, my story did not end in loneliness, fear and distrust. At the age of 12, a friend told me about JESUS; I invited him to come into my heart, and I knew I was saved. I made a public profession of faith and was baptized at Pearson Baptist Church in Pearl. Finally, I had some joy in my life.

Fast forward to my junior college years, and meeting the love of my life, Tommy Autrey. His passion was coaching baseball and football. We got married on November 1, 1963. Together, we made the decision to join the Catholic Church.....which was the best decision we ever made. Then Father Michael O’Brien came into our lives. We were the first candidates to which he gave instructions. I must admit, however, I sometimes questioned if he was Christian since I was taught to accept the Bible literally! At my first confession after joining church, I forgave my father for all he had done to us. At that time we had only one son, Thomas (Trae). Andrew (Andy) was born 13 years later after Tommy changed his profession from coaching to insurance executive.

It was during the early years after Andrew’s birth that God began to move in our lives in a powerful way. Father Richard Summers was our priest at St Therese Catholic church in south Jackson. We heard about charismatic prayer meetings at the Carmelite Monastery and I was so excited to attend. We received the Baptism of the Holy Spirit after finishing the Life in the Spirit seminar....what a gift!!! I have never been the same. God blessed me with His Grace, peace and joy.

Tommy retired in 1995 while we were living in Texas after a serious illness and surgery. We moved back to Brandon, Mississippi, and I joined St Paul Catholic Church. Father Hurley was the third priest we had after I joined and thank God he brought ChristLife to our parish. I was so humbled when I got a call from Cecilia to be part of the Intercessory Prayer Team. There were seven of us on the team at that time (seven is a perfect number in Hebrew numerology). Our mission was/is to pray for the success of ChristLife. We were formed 9 months before the first session was held.

I volunteered to be a facilitator, but did not think I would get too much out of it since I had already received the baptism in the Holy Spirit. How PRIDEFUL was that and how WRONG I was!

After attending one of the sessions, The Holy Spirit woke me at 3 in the morning and I felt compelled to go into the den to pray. As I prayed, God revealed to me that my life’s PURPOSE was Intercessory prayer. Not only was I to pray as long as I am on this earth, but that I will continue to pray when I go to heaven!!! The joy flooded my soul and filled me to overflowing with the love of Jesus. But, I still had the inner struggle of how I could love God, the Father as I loved Jesus AND to allow Him to love me.

Thank you Jesus that I had a breakthrough at one of the training sessions. We watched a video that focused on God the father. I shared my problem with one of my table mates. She had the same problem and began to share her experiences of how God healed her of that hurt. There was now a “crack “into a door in my heart that had been off limits to the love of the Father. This was the beginning of my acceptance that God is my loving father, and the beginning of my journey with God the Father.

Am I where I want to be??? NO, cause I will always be a work in progress. Romans 8:28 tells us, “All things work together for the good of those that love the Lord and are called according to His Purpose”. God used a bad situation in my life to transform me by His Amazing Grace. And now I know in my heart that GOD the Father loves me, and He will never leave me nor forsake me. Amen

Dot Autrey

From our Family to Your Family: Happy New Year!



~ it is so important to be well-fed ~

Hard to believe we are on the threshold of another New Year. Wow, it seems to go by so quickly! As the great adage goes “Time flies, Eternity approaches.” Maybe it just appears to be ‘flying’ at a greater speed as we mature.

As we enter a New Year, what special plans do you have? Do you have hopes and dreams for some things to be better during this year of your life? The hope of a New Year has always been filled with ‘New Year Resolutions’! We can have the very best of intentions for renewing our devotion to this or that throughout the new year, and yet how difficult it is to maintain the energy or enthusiasm to keep to the plan to stay the course! Why is that the case do you think?

I decided to ‘Google’ the question, after all isn’t that what we do in today’s world in order to find critical information?

The first article boldly proclaims: **“Just 8% of People Achieve Their New Year’s Resolutions. Here’s How They Do It.”**

The next article says: **“80% Of New Year’s Resolutions Fail By February. Here’s How To Keep Yours.”**

None of that is very exciting news. I was musing to myself that maybe it has something to do with just basic human weakness! We all have great hopes great intentions great expectations. But, it is just so darn hard to bring them all to fruition. I don't have any question about the desires, the hopes, the expectations — my question is — Why do we find it so difficult to muster up what it takes to follow through? Is it what we call “Original Sin” in our great Catholic teaching? Is it pure selfishness? Is it that we are just lacking motivation? Is it that we are short on self-will, self-power?

I wondered to myself, could it be that, just like the Apostles and His many Disciples, we are ‘slow to believe’? He said to them, “O, foolish men so slow of heart to believe in all that the prophets have spoken.”

But, He promised them the Gift that would keep them from being ‘slow to believe’ Yes, an extraordinary Gift, a Gift that had a profound affect on them and on their ministry.... yes, that Gift of the Holy Spirit.

Here is what He said to them in John 14: 15-21:

“If you love me, you will keep my commandments. And I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Advocate to be with you always, the Spirit of truth, which the world cannot accept, because it neither sees nor knows it.

But you know it, because it remains with you, and will be in you. I will not leave you orphans; I will come to you. In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me, because I live and you will live.

On that day you will realize that I am in my Father and you are in me and I in you. Whoever has my commandments and observes them is the one who loves me. And whoever loves me will be loved by my Father, and I will love him and reveal myself to him.”

This is the same Gift He is offering to each of us. We have been talking about the importance of that Gift these past 5 years. This is what ChristLife is all about — making ourselves ready to receive His Special Gift.

May 2019 be the year when we receive His abundance and a rich outpouring of His Holy Spirit. The First Reading for New Year’s Day Mass from the Book of Numbers puts it so very succinctly:

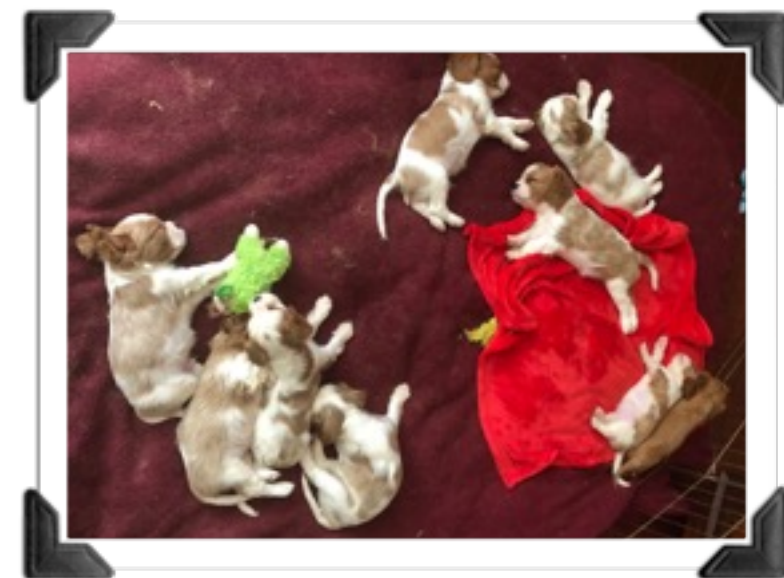
“May the LORD bless you and keep you!

May the LORD let His face shine upon you, and be gracious to you!

May the LORD look upon you kindly and give you peace!”

May this be the experience of our Church, our Family, and our Friends throughout this New Year!

—Fr. Gerry



~ it is also important to know Peace ~