

Mass Intentions ~ February 17-23, 2020

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 — Rita McDonald (RIP)
Sunday @ 8:00 am — Danny Hassin (RIP)
Sunday @ 10:30 am — People of the Parish

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

Altar Flowers & Blessed Mother Flowers are placed in honor of the People of the Parish.

New Prayer Requests

Special Intentions
Shannon Falcon Joe Hill
Kate Medlock Ricky Accardo
Kate Morris Lonnie Graeber
Mary Weiden Case
Jim O'Donnell, father of Kevin O'Donnell
Doreen Antanelli, cousin of Chris Giordano
Tricia Hightower O'Neill, former parishioner

Repose of the Soul
Danny Hossley, brother of Marguerite Wall
Dr. Howard Clark, grandfather of Doyle Jefcoat




**February 16, 2020
Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time**



ANNOUNCEMENTS ~ EVENTS ~ INFORMATION

February 21st — Bingo! @ 7p.m. All Adults are welcome. Light refreshments & (BYOB) Charity Box will collect 2 lb bags of dried black beans, pinto beans, and rice to aid the ICE RAID families. Gift cards for Walmart and Kroger are also accepted.

February 24th — Deadline to register for the Women's Weekend Retreat All women of the Parish are invited. Retreat dates are March 27-29. The theme is "Full of Grace," event is hosted by St. Paul Women's Guild. Space is limited, please contact Renee` Carpenter 601-214-9457 for details and registration information, or pick up a form on the table by the church office.

 **Ash Wednesday is February 26th — We will offer two Masses that day, at 7:30 am & 6:00 pm. with a meal. The Big Deal Youth Group will be preparing and serving a meatless meal for the Parish. They will accept donations to help fund trips throughout the year. Please make plans to join us & support our youth disciples.**

March 6th — First Friday Healing Mass & Brunch beginning at 10:00 am. All are welcome!

March 7th — Armed Forces Support Ministry Rosary at 4:45 pm in the Chapel. Join us to pray for our troops & our nation!

March 8th — Baptism Preparation Class @ 9:15 am in Room 110 of the Family Life Center All parents wishing to have a child baptized within the next few months will need to attend this class. Call the Church office to register.

Our annual Catholic Service Appeal is well underway. Thank you to all those who have made a commitment to the Appeal. Each and every person's gift is important. It is not too late to send in your pledge, please join us in supporting the programs and services of the Diocese.



On Feb 8th, our Big Deal Youth Group had a great visit to The Mustard Seed. We were given a tour of their campus, helped them with some much needed maintenance around their facility - pulling weeds out of flower beds, picking up sticks, and general clean up of the exterior - and helped them package their Valentines gifts to each other for their Valentine Party on Friday. The best part, by far, was getting to meet and talk with The Seedsters. They are the most kind and sweet people imaginable. We got to eat lunch with them and play with them in Basketball, Air Hockey, and Foosball. It was a great way to, not only serve our brothers and sisters, but to make many wonderful, new friends as well.

Offertory Collection for February 8/9:

Regular collection \$17,181.66
Capital Campaign Collection \$30.00
Mississippi Catholic Collection \$80.00
Saltillo Mission Collection \$25.00

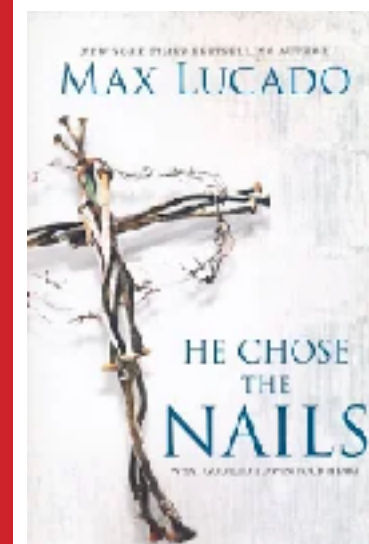
2020 Contribution Envelopes delayed — Please fill out your information on the generic envelopes, or write your envelope number on the memo line of your checks.



Donate your palms from last year and we will burn them and turn them to ash for Father to bless for our Ash Wednesday Services! We need them by next Sunday! Thanks!

CONTACT THE CHURCH OFFICE

PH: 601-992-9547
5971 Hwy 25 Flowood MS 39232
www.saintpaulcatholicchurch.com
Office Hrs: Tues - Fri, 8:00 am to 4:00 pm



NEW SMALL GROUP STUDY FOR LENT

We will begin a Lenten study of Max Lucado's book, *He Chose the Nails* the week of March 1st. We hope everyone will join us for this 5-week Lenten study into "what God did to win your heart."

This study explores the many gifts that Jesus provided for us in His Passion — the thorns, the nails, the seamless robe, the cross, the tomb. We will unwrap these gifts and hear His voice whisper, "I did this just for you." How powerful to make this Lenten journey with a small group of friends! Small Groups bring our Faith beyond the larger Sunday experience and into close relationship with friends who will support one another. Jesus didn't make His journey alone, and neither do we!

- ◆ Join a Small Group — We can connect you with an existing Group.
- ◆ Form a Small Group — Gather friends and meet in someone's home.

Registration is open on our website.
Contact Sarah at fellowship@spaulcc.org or 601-292-6089

Continuing our Reflection on the Gospel of Matthew

Hopefully, everyone has been able to devote time to reading through Matthew with us. It is so rich to study the Sunday Gospel before we hear it proclaimed at Mass.

The Word of God really comes alive, and the Lord reveals a message to each of us. We pray for a greater awareness and openness to His Word. Let us listen and seek Him with open hearts.

This week, we hear Jesus helping His disciples better understand their purpose and the new way of living as a follower of Christ. Matthew's Gospel focuses on how the life of Jesus fulfilled what was spoken by the prophets. Here, in Chapter 5 verses 17-37, Matthew features Jesus' approach to the law. The word *law* translated from the Hebrew word *Torah*, refers to the Ten Commandments, but also refers to a way of life in a covenant relationship with God.

Christians were being accused of abandoning the law at that time. In the ever-changing social conditions, they were having a difficult time understanding that Jesus brings a new way of abiding by the law. He didn't come to undo what had been done, but to bring deeper meaning.

Jesus said,

“Do not think that I have come to abolish the law or the prophets. I have come not to abolish but to fulfill.” (MT 5:17)

Jesus is saying let's go deeper. He is inviting them, and us, to not get stuck in following rules out of obligation or fear. Let's follow the law out of love! His concern was to enable people to experience the freedom of living the Kingdom experience. The purpose of rules and laws is to live in harmony with one another. We don't need a law to force us to act in kindness and love, do we? The very purpose of our lives is to love. God is love, and He made us to love Him and each other. It's a personal choice to follow Him out of His love for us, and our love for Him.

There were 613 precepts (laws) in the Old Testament. Matthew presupposes those who hear his Gospel have an understanding of the Jewish law. In the Scripture verses this Sunday, Jesus refers to the old teachings saying, ***“You have heard....”*** (the rules) and He counters with, ***“But I say to you....”*** Jesus isn't saying the laws are wrong. He is opening them up, correcting misinterpretations, and showing that the traditional way of thinking is inadequate.

Jesus said,

“You have heard that it was said to your ancestors, You shall not kill; and whoever kills will be liable to judgment.

But I say to you, whoever is angry with his brother will be liable to judgment.” (MT 5:21-22)

For most of us, the law isn't the reason we don't commit murder. On the surface, this may be an easy commandment to keep. “I would never KILL anyone!” But, anger? Well, that one is a whole lot harder to keep at bay. We can easily kill another's mood and spirit with our anger toward them. So, Jesus brings us into a deeper level of living the Commandment “You shall not kill.” He equates it with the more common and relatable experience of anger. He brings it home to a space every human being can relate in their life. Likewise with the commandments on adultery and divorce. These words can sting.

(Read MT 5:27-32)

Broken relationships hurt. Divorce and Adultery are extremes. Maybe we can stand and say we have done neither. But, Jesus brings them deeper to the level of intentions. He offers a new way of looking at our decisions, choices, and priorities. How we are treating one another on a daily basis? It is so much more than merely staying within the parameters of strict laws and perfect ideals. His vision of marriage is a covenant of personal love between spouses reflecting the covenant love between God and His people. How does that look in our lives?

This week's Gospel closes with the importance of being direct in our speech.

Jesus said,

“Again you have heard that it was said to your ancestors, Do no take a false oath, but make good to the Lord all that you vow. But I say to you, do not swear at all.....Let your ‘Yes’ mean ‘Yes,’ and your ‘No’ mean ‘No.’ ” (MT 5:33-37)

Simple and Direct. At that time, Oaths were expressions of power and weren't necessarily lived. Some were empty of meaning — saying one thing, yet doing another. It had become common to swear an Oath on an object, rather than in the name of God. All of creation is from God and is dependent on God. All of creation is a reflection of Him and His great glory.

Jesus clearly says, speak in truth. Live in truth. Then, there is no need for swearing by an Oath. Your word is witnessed by God if you are a believer and follower. Others can trust your word or promise because they know your intention and integrity. What a beautiful way to bring greater meaning to everything we do in our lives.

These are great exercises in breaking down the Scripture and growing with His Living Word:

- Discover the historical context
- Place yourself in the story to better connect with the experience
- Reflect on how it makes you feel
- Ask the Holy Spirit to reveal what the Lord is teaching you in the passage
- Return again and again to prayer, seeking deeper understanding and guidance

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

- ***Does my anger or mood sometimes “kill” the energy in the room?***
- ***Do my words and actions hurt others?***
- ***Do I bring my gift to the altar while harboring unreconciled conflicts?***
- ***Do I treat others with respect, even behind their back?***
- ***Do I say what I mean, and mean what I say?***
- ***Do I cater my words to what I think the others want to hear, or out of fear of not fitting in?***
- ***Do I allow God's love to guide my choices?***