

Mass Intentions ~ February 3-9, 2020

Monday @ 7:30 am — People of the Parish

Tuesday @ 7:30 am — Ann Jackson (RIP)

Wednesday @ 6:00 pm — People of the Parish

Thursday @ 7:30 am — Margaret McAleese (RIP)

*Friday @ 10:00 am — Healing Mass

Saturday @ 5:30 pm — Rita McDonald (RIP)

Sunday @ 8:00 am — People of the Parish

Sunday @ 10:30 am — Terry Wray, Sr (RIP)

Sacrament of Reconciliation: Saturday @ 4:30-5:00 pm (or by appointment — call the Church office)

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament this week: Monday & Thursday, 8 am — 12 pm, Friday, 8-10 am

Altar Flowers this weekend were donated by Kristina Gamberini-Garland, in memory of Jasper Gamberini.

Blessed Mother Flowers are placed in honor of Fr. Gerry Hurley.

New Prayer Requests

Special Intentions

Bob Soukup

Repose of the Soul

Selby Cronen, son of Jesse Cronen

Heather Hester, niece of Charla Bowden

Contact the Church office to schedule Mass intentions
and to add names to our prayer list.



February 2, 2020

The Presentation
of the Lord

World Day for
Consecrated Life



“We too are called to welcome Jesus who comes to meet us. To encounter Him: the God of life is to be encountered every day of our lives; not now and then, but every day. To follow Jesus is not a decision taken once and for all, it is a daily choice.” — Pope Francis

The Presentation of Jesus in the temple shows him to be the firstborn Son who belongs to the Lord. With Simeon and Anna, all Israel awaits its encounter with the Savior—the name given to this event in the Byzantine tradition. Jesus is recognized as the long-expected Messiah, the “light of the nations” and the “glory of Israel,” but also “a sign that is spoken against.” The sword of sorrow predicted for Mary announces Christ’s perfect and unique oblation on the cross that will impart the salvation God has “prepared in the presence of all peoples” (CCC, no. 529).

In 1997, Pope Saint John Paul II instituted a day of prayer for women and men in consecrated life. This celebration is attached to the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord on February 2nd. This Feast is also known as Candlemas Day; the day on which candles are blessed symbolizing Christ who is the light of the world. So too, those in consecrated life are called to reflect the light of Jesus Christ to all peoples. The celebration of World Day for Consecrated Life is transferred to the following Sunday in order to highlight the gift of consecrated persons for the whole Church. Please pray for all those who have made commitments in the consecrated life and be sure to thank them on their special day. May they continue to be inspired by Jesus Christ and respond generously to God’s gift of their vocation.

We are thankful for Fr. Gerry answering God’s call to serve Him as a priest in the Diocese of Jackson. We are celebrating having him as our pastor for 10 years! Fr. Gerry officially took the helm of St. Paul Parish on February 1, 2010. May he continue to be blessed with good health and happiness!

We really have much to celebrate from these past ten years! Fr. Gerry built a staff and implemented a new vision for the Parish. He saw the great potential and room for growth as a community of believers. All the work and prayer and inspiration have increased the color, excitement, and engagement of our parish family. When he first arrived, Fr. Gerry brought his camera to Mass and took pictures of all of us.

More recent pictures tell a different story. Some of the faces are different, but the Mission remains the same — to be a community that is hospitable and missionary in our focus. The rate of attrition through death and relocation is significant, as is the influx of new families and members. We continue to move from MAINTENANCE to MISSION !!! It’s like seeing our parish logo in black & white, then seeing it in color. It is the same graphic, but we keep pushing forward into the light. We are the same community (St. Paul, Flowood), and hopefully we continue to move forward in His light and flourish.

Read more inside for Fr. Gerry’s reflection on these past 10 years.



ANNOUNCEMENTS ~ EVENTS ~ INFORMATION

World Marriage Day will be celebrated next Sunday, Feb 9th at 3:00 p.m. at St. Peter Cathedral in Jackson. All couples celebrating 25, 50, 60 years are more are encouraged to attend. Please call our office ASAP to let us know if you are celebrating one of these significant anniversaries.

February 7th — Healing Mass & Fellowship Brunch beginning at 10:00 am. All are welcome.

February 8th — Introduction to Genealogy @ 10 am to 12 noon is hosted by the Women’s Guild, presented by Paula Perez. Knowing our ancestors is one way to consider a spiritual genealogy. All women are invited.

February 8th — Youth Volunteer Day at The Mustard Seed — Email Cory: youth@spaulcc.org Text: @bigdeal to 81010

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.

The annual Catholic Service Appeal collection will be next weekend. We must remember that we are one with other parishes in our diocese. Once a year, our Bishop asks us to respond in gratitude by making a commitment to support the work of our diocesan programs and ministries that provide services that no one parish could provide on its own. Through the CSA we all work together to care for the Church by sharing the gifts God has granted us. Let us celebrate our Catholic faith and work together to continue to build God’s kingdom.



Remember to reflect on the Beatitudes this week.

(Matthew 5:1-12)

We will pick up with Matthew 5:13 next weekend.

Offertory Collection for January 25/26:

Regular collection \$12,904.06

Capital Campaign Collection \$1,732.00

Mississippi Catholic Collection \$200.00

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.

Capital Campaign Pledge Report to Date:

Goal \$3,000,000.00

Pledged \$1,797,502.00

(195 financial pledges & 17 prayer pledges)

Balance \$1,202,498.00

(needed to reach goal)



PH: 601-992-9547 www.saintpaulcatholicchurch.com
Office Hours: Tuesday - Friday, 8:00 am to 4:00 pm



Fr. Gerry reflects on the past ten years as our pastor

When I first arrived, I sat back for some months to get to know the people of this parish. There was a lot of action, but I noticed there weren't enough people engaged in the action. It seemed to be the same people filling multiple roles and carrying many ministries. Being the third largest parish in the diocese, I believed we could do much better than that. I always sought ways to grow the people and the sense of community in every parish I have been in. With the sense that this would be my last full-time parish, I really wanted to bring about God's Kingdom and awaken the Holy Spirit in this community.

First tasks were to build up a staff of laborers for the vineyard, and spruce up our worship space with fresh, warm paint colors and adding that incredible Crucifix and Stations of the Cross. What a blessing to salvage them from storage up North. We began to build up our programs starting with our youngest disciples — the future of the faith! We adapted classrooms into atriums, provided extensive training to volunteers, and implemented the wonderful Catechesis of the Good Shepherd program. Our children begin to understand, at the tender age of 3 years, that they are loved and cared for by The Good Shepherd, our Lord Jesus Christ. They continue to grow in that experience, and have a much better understanding of knowing Him in a real and personal way when they receive Jesus in the Eucharist for the first time. Such a beautiful and meaningful difference maker.

Next, we beefed up the youth program. What a great program this is growing into with a more integrated and wholistic approach to meeting the needs of our older children. Our teens are engaging in Small Group discussions, service work, and growing into adult disciples. They are walking in faith and witnessing to others the Good News of the Gospel!

We further expanded the staff to better meet the needs of the Parish, and developed a new office space to accommodate the expanding work. The Lord led us to ChristLife as a way to lift us up as a people and grow our interaction with the Gospel. Hundreds have participated, and many lives have been changed. Some came to experience the presence and working of the Holy Spirit in their lives for the first time. We came to understand that simply going to Mass wasn't getting it! Our parish adopted the movement from Maintenance to Mission. Embracing a Mission approach takes effort and energy, whereas it is much easier to be content with Church on a maintenance level. ChristLife brought us into a space of growth, development, warmth, sharing, and processing. This naturally grew into the formation of Small Groups. Many have been flourishing and continue to engage and support each other on a regular basis. These are relationships of a lifetime journey growing into a deeper purpose of life.

Naturally, there is some resistance when change comes about. Building up a faith community stretches us. Some found it very difficult to expand their vision of what it means to be a disciple. But there is little doubt that a great number of our people have been willing to follow the Lord's lead, seek His plan, and engage in the challenging work of discovering what we really are about — individually, and as community.

We sought the wisdom and guidance of the leadership of Divine Renovation to gain from their experience of trying and succeeding in rejuvenating their parishes. We learned from them that The Gospel Vision is two-pronged: "Feeding the Sheep" and "Fishing for Disciples."

Now, we have moved into a greater mission of outreach and being intentional about reaching beyond ourselves. We are truly inspired to be a community that takes care of ourselves, and each other, and those beyond our walls. There is no denying the serious shortage of priests in the Catholic Church. The space we are entering helps us as a parish rely less on the sole leadership of the priest, and become healthy enough to sustain ministries and function well even without a priest present.

We have accomplished a great deal. Hundreds of people have been exposed to new opportunities. Together, we are bringing more people to personal relationship with Jesus Christ, and the experience of being open and guided by the Holy Spirit in making choices in life. A huge number of people have participated and been blessed by these experiences. It's hard work. It's not always joyful. But, it is certainly rich. As a parish, we have pushed ourselves and each other to be more and more the community God is calling us to be!

