

Mass Intentions ~ February 25 - March 3, 2019

Monday @ 7:30 am — Joan Goodman (RIP)
Tuesday @ 7:30 am — Patrick Hurley (RIP)
Wednesday @ 6:00 pm — Jim Prater (RIP)
Thursday @ 7:30 am — Joseph Kiely (Sp Int)
*Friday @ 10:00 am — Healing Mass — Ron Barry (RIP)

Saturday @ 5:30 pm — People of the Parish (see the full prayer list on our website & prayer board)
Sunday @ 8:00 am — Jim Peacock (RIP)
Sunday @ 10:30 am — Leroy Salazar & Arnold Espinoza Jr (RIP)

Sacrament of Reconciliation: Saturday 4:30-5pm
Adoration this week: Monday—Thursday, 8am-12noon; Friday 8-10 am

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

New Prayer Requests

Special Intentions:
Maggie Peacock

Rest of the Soul:
Mark Schilling, friend of Carol Hicks

~ notes ~ dates ~ events ~

First Friday Healing Mass & Brunch — March 1st @ 10:00 am

US Armed Forces Rosary — March 2nd @ 4:45 pm in the Chapel



Ash Wednesday is March 6th — 7:30 am & 6:00 pm Mass
Join us for meatless meal following our 6:00 pm Mass in the Family Life Center and let the youth serve you. This is a fundraiser for the youth ski trip. Thank you for your donation.
Fridays during Lent beginning March 8th — 6:00 pm Stations of the Cross
All are welcome to attend Stations in the Church, followed by a fish dinner. Join us!
Daily Videos posted to our Website, Facebook, YouTube — tune in!

St. Anthony Catholic School is now accepting applications for new students entering K4-6th grade. Visit stanthonyeagles.org for more information, or contact Michele Warnock at 601-607-7054.

Catholic Service Appeal 2019 — Countless lives are touched by every contribution to the Catholic Service Appeal. Our St. Paul Parish has raised \$28,372, and our goal is \$70,519. We ask that God grant us a renewed sense of responsibility for the work of our parish, diocese and the church throughout the world. For more on information about the Appeal or to donate online please visit www.jacksondiocese.org.

Women's Guild Lunch & Movie on Monday, February 25th @ 11 a.m. in the Family Life Center. Bring your own brown bag lunch. Beverages and popcorn provided. Movie TBA.

St. Dominic Ministry — Thank you to all who helped fill our list of needed items! Please have drinks and food delivered to the Church by 10am on Tuesday, February 26.

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

Jesus said to His disciples:

“To you who hear I say, love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who mistreat you. Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful. Stop judging and you will not be judged. Stop condemning and you will not be condemned. Forgive and you will be forgiven.” (Luke 6:27-28, 36-37)



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

February 24, 2019

Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

Looking Inward

We begin our Lenten Study a little early in order to be able to cover the whole book, **Respectable Sins** by Jerry Bridges. It really is a great work for us as His disciples to look inward and become reflective of our own hidden sins that we may be overlooking — those that we have kind of tolerated and accepted. After all, it is easy to keep in check with the “big sins” — such as stealing, rape, and murder. We can easily operate in the space of “I am a sinner, but I’m not as bad as that person.” But, do we recognize those respectable ones — such as irritability, discontentment, unthankfulness, impatience, and anger? The author invites us to be more aware of how we can easily see fault in others, and in doing so encourages us to turn that judgment back toward ourselves.



This is what we will be exploring in our Small Groups during Lent. Please let us know if you are not connected with a Small Group and would like to join in the discussion. It really is a rich experience to be with a small gathering of brothers and sisters in Christ, exploring these areas together. The fruits are tremendous deepening our Faith and our relationship with Him.

For those who for some reason cannot or choose not to sign up with a Small Group, you are welcome to pick up a book from the office and read through the material on your own. That way, we can all be on the “same page” during this Season of Lent. Our daily videos will also follow along with the book study. We are taking a slightly different approach to our video program this year. Rather than asking people to prepare scripted reflections, we will record some candid video clips — sort of a “man/woman on the street” style.

We will have a few people after each of the Masses ready with their phone cameras and a question of the week. We ask you to please be open to taking a moment to stop and share your thoughts and reaction to those questions. Each day will feature a montage of very short clips featuring a few responses from various people. No one will have a featured solo in the videos. Therefore we need a lot of people to participate. Your willingness to briefly share your thoughts is most appreciated. We all have different experiences and ideas — every one has something of value to offer!

Keep in mind, there are no right or wrong answers. It is just entering into a parish-wide dialogue, and we want your honest reaction to the questions. They won’t be theological quizzes or a mini-course on apologetics. Rather, they will be one or two simple questions each week relating to Fr. Gerry’s Homily and the Lenten Study.

There will be no pressure to participate, but we need about 25-30 people to help us out each week in order to have multiple people each day. Hopefully, no one will have to go twice! You also do not have to be participating in a Small Group, or even have read the book to answer. This material is designed to help get us all thinking and living on a deeper, more meaningful level so that we continue to move from **Maintenance to Mission.**

Good to hear from you!

Dear Father Gerry,

It began with your question a while ago of who we prayed to more: The Father, the Son, or the Holy Spirit.

I found myself thinking while listening to your homily then, "What does it matter? They are one and the same." It was a question I was happy to dismiss as trivial at the time, or perhaps one that I knew wasn't but did not want to worry about. But it nagged me, so much so that I had to speak with a friend about it. And as fate would have it, she shared with me that her sisters prayed to the Holy Spirit all the time. She even joked that if you asked the Holy Spirit for something, to be prepared to receive – maybe because He's not as busy?

At a time when I was struggling deeply with my own prayer life, I decided to start talking to Him. It turns out, there's a direct correlation between who you address your prayers to and how you pray. As a parent, this should have been pretty evident to me. After all, unlike what some school and doctor's office forms would have us believe, my husband and I are not parent 1 and parent 2; we're collectively simply the parents. No important decisions concerning our children are made, or permissions granted without our mutual consent. And yet, our children, despite their young age, know to approach us differently and for different matters. Because I am mom and my husband is dad.

I go to the Father with my heavy burdens, when I have doubts about His plans, when I am losing my faith in the world. But there has always been a formality in the way I approach Him and restraint in what I feel I can unload on Him. People are dying and suffering, asking Him to help me get through bedtime for three little kids by myself seems selfish and silly in comparison. The Holy Spirit, on the other hand, has opened up a less formal line of communication that has given me the courage to approach Him with burdens big and small. He is not unlike the apps on my smartphone that I don't bother closing and simply leave open in the background because I will use them again several times in the day. I "open" Him in the morning when I wake up, before I let my daughter out of the car to go to school, and pick Him back up after carpool, or at naptime, or while doing laundry, or teaching my kids, and after they have gone to bed. To be clear, I don't feel a lesser degree of reverence for Him. He is fully God after all. But much like my kids not hesitating to come to me with every little thing that happens throughout their day, I, too, am beginning to learn to go to the Holy Spirit with almost everything that happens throughout my day. His response is always instantaneous. He is in the lightness of heart I feel despite a persisting problem; in the absence of anxiety during a very stressful deployment year; in the grace I accept for myself even though I continually fall short as a wife, parent, daughter, and friend; in the spirit of gratitude when motherhood sometimes feels like 90 percent doing chores; and yes, even in the extra 30 minutes of patience I manage to muster at bedtime after a very long day.

As a cradle Catholic who knows a multitude of prayers by heart but has struggled throughout my adult life with the question: How do you talk to God? The answer has been surprisingly simple and obvious: You just do.

Vanessa Cochran

My Small Group experience has been incomparable to any other adventure in my life so far. My Small Group family provides me with a supportive environment where I can escape the hustle and bustle of everyday life and surrender to the One Who is more precious to me than anyone else, and more vital than anything in the world. In discussions with my Small Group members, we delve ever more deeply into the mysteries of the Catholic faith, the overarching truths of Christianity, and the valuable connection that my fellow members and I share with each other and with Jesus, our Savior.

In a world in which so much violence and hatred proliferates, Small Groups create a positive, resolute response to evil by strengthening the members of the body of Christ through allowing us to encounter the Christ every week. In these special, priceless encounters each week, we forge ourselves anew as ever more, self-actualized defenders of the Faith and recipients of God's love. As we all grow together, we are continuously inspired to spread the Gospel message to all whom we encounter and, in those encounters with others, to do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly with our God (Micah 6:8).

I can honestly say that my Small Group meetings are the best part of my week every week. These brothers and sisters in Christ have undoubtedly made me a better person and a better Christian as their passion in faith inspires me every day.

— Edgar R. Meyer

It's not too late!

There's a place for you!

A few notes on Small Groups:

Commitment —

- **You may join for this Lenten Season, only.**
- **No long-term commitment required!**

Hosting —

- **Gather a few friends and do the study in the privacy of your own home.**
- **Open your home to other parishioners seeking a Group to join.**
- **We will guide & support you as a host.**

Contact —

- **Sarah O'Donnell or Kelly McBride**
fellowship@saintpaulcatholicchurch.com