

Mass Intentions ~ February 10-16, 2020

Monday @ 7:30 am — People of the Parish
Tuesday @ 7:30 am — Fr. Bob Olivier (RIP)
Wednesday @ 6:00 pm — Fr. Al Camp (RIP)
Thursday @ 7:30 am — US Armed Forces (Sp Int)
Friday @ 7:30 am — Communion Service
Saturday @ 5:30 pm — Joyce Kubik (RIP)
Sunday @ 8:00 am — Risa White (RIP)
Sunday @ 10:30 am — James Justice Jr. (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 — Friday, 8 am — 12 pm

*Altar Flowers are placed in honor of the People of the Parish.
Blessed Mother Flowers were donated by the Pipitone Family, in memory of Lois Cazeaux.*

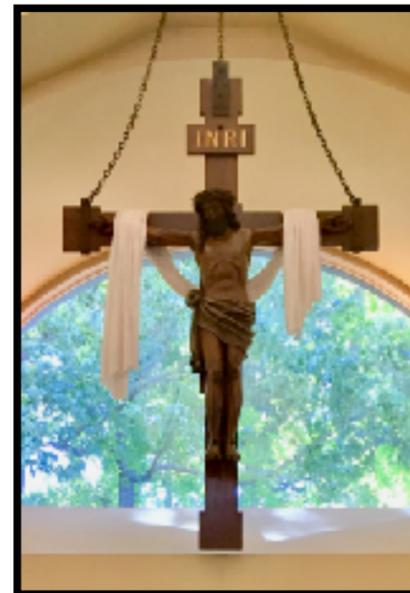
New Prayer Requests

Special Intentions

Frances Gordy
Marge Daly
Donna Reiss
Carmen Wolfe-Igleheart, friend of Martha Smith

Repose of the Soul

Blake Blackwell, cousin of Anthony Carpenter
Olga Kalbach, great aunt of Colleen Welch
Nan Christian, friend of Dianne Enis & Donna Reiss



February 9, 2020 Fifth 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.

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.

The theme for our Catholic Service Appeal is My Spirit Rejoices. The CSA gives us the opportunity to act together as a diocesan family by supporting programs and services no parish alone can offer. Every gift, regardless of the size, is important to the success of the Appeal. To reach our parish goal we are asking each of you to support the Appeal for the many gifts God has given to you.

Offertory Collection for February 1/2:

Regular collection \$20,396.00

Capital Campaign Collection \$1,620.00

Mississippi Catholic Collection \$100.00

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.

CONTACT THE CHURCH OFFICE

PH: 601-992-9547

www.saintpaulcatholicchurch.com

Office Hours:

Tuesday - Friday, 8:00 am to 4:00 pm

5971 Hwy 25 Flowood MS 39232



Building Committee Update

We extend our greatest appreciation to all who made a pledge to the Capital Campaign in support of building a new church. You were very generous in your support of the proposal of building a new church. Unfortunately, there simply was not enough financial support to move forward with this project.

We will not proceed with plans to build a new church. We had a goal of \$3,000,000 to build a new church. A total of 231 pledge cards were submitted. We received pledges totaling \$1,994,752, leaving a deficit of \$1,005,248. All pledges currently being drafted will stop immediately. Parishioners who have made contributions to the Capital Campaign will be contacted regarding the disposition of your contributions.

Of the 231 pledges we received, 213 were financial pledges and 18 were prayer pledges. This number represents about 40% of regular offertory contributors and roughly 30% of registered parishioners. A decision of this magnitude requires a much more substantial percentage of support from the parish overall.

We, the Building Committee, have been meeting for the past two years to research options, discern opportunities, and make recommendations to the parish. Our goal has always been to seek the guidance of the Holy Spirit and to be good stewards of the gifts the Lord has provided our Parish. We determined it would not be prudent to proceed with the original Renovation Plan based on the fact that we could build a brand new church and repurpose our existing structure at a very similar cost. We proposed to the Parish our recommendation to move forward with building a new church.

Our role was not to make decisions on behalf of the parish. Our role was to prayerfully consider best options. This included research, consulting with professionals, hours of discussions, and finally presenting the results of this diligent work. The challenges, the dynamics, the experiences, and the changes were all rather exhausting for us, the Building Committee, and certainly it was for some of you. Yet, at every stage we sought your input. We offered many opportunities to vote and engage. Although everyone on the committee felt this was the Lord's plan for our parish, and we personally felt this was the best plan for the future of our community, we do not have final say. You do. You have spoken and your response is clear. The lyrics of the song, *Free Will* by Rush are true, "If you choose not to decide, you still have made a choice."

We have already met with a reputable company regarding the necessary repairs to our current building, and we will continue to lay out a plan in that regard. We will continue to trust in the Lord and seek His will.

***Where is God leading us? What is His plan for St. Paul Parish?
How can we best serve all members of our St. Paul family,
and bring everyone to a deeper relationship with Jesus Christ?***

Continuing our Reflection on the Gospel of Matthew

Salt and Light (MT 5:13-16) — Salt and light are essentials for living. This teaching follows the Beatitudes to show how followers of Jesus living the Beatitudes really matter, and are essential to bringing life to the world. Salt and light change their environment.

Salt can preserve food, and add flavor. Salt can also overpower. Christians can help preserve what is good in the culture. Salty Christians can be abrasive and negatively affect the culture. Matthew states that if salt goes bad, it isn't good for anything. Strictly speaking, if salt loses its taste and goes bad, it can no longer be considered salt. In the Jewish tradition, salt is to be thrown out if it becomes unclean. Matthew again links to some Old Testament themes.

“You are the salt of the earth.

But if salt loses its taste, with what can it be seasoned?

It is no longer good for anything but to be thrown out and trampled underfoot.

Salt of the Earth is a reference from Numbers 18:19, “...covenant of salt to last forever before the Lord,” and 2 Chronicles 13:5, “...the God of Israel has given David kingship over Israel forever, to him and to his sons, by a covenant of salt.”

Light brings warmth and helps calm our fears of things we can't see in the dark. Light can also be burning and blinding if it is too intense. Being a light to others, sharing our stories and gifts, is acting in confidence of our faith. Like those first Disciples of Jesus, we must not shrink from our mission to bring the Good News of His love and mercy to others that they may come to know and love Him in a real and personal relationship. Again, true to Matthew, this theme refers to some ancient Scripture.

You are the light of the world. A city set on a mountain cannot be hidden.

Nor do they light a lamp and then put it under a bushel basket; it is set on a lampstand, where it gives light to all in the house.

Just so, your light must shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your heavenly Father.

Light of the World is an Old Testament reference from Isaiah 42:6, “...I formed you, and set you as a covenant for the people, a light for the nations,” and Isaiah 49:6, “...I will make you a light to the nations, that my salvation may reach to the ends of the earth.”

Notice the language Jesus uses to describe the covenant work of discipleship — TO LAST FOREVER, TO THE NATIONS, TO THE ENDS OF THE EARTH. We are called to this. Our primary purpose is to be salt of the earth and light of the world. This is big territory, yet sometimes we even fail to be salt and light in our own family system and community. We fail to shine a light on the goodness of ourselves and others. We need to celebrate and preserve that goodness.

In her book, *Naked, and You Clothed Me*, Sr. Simone Campbell SSS writes, “When we know our interconnectedness and that we are all part of the problem and the solution, then the Spirit can shine in our lives and world.” Sr. Campbell is a passionate advocate for social justice and Executive Director of NETWORK, Nuns on the Bus.

These Catholic nuns have driven thousands of miles across the United States to prophetically speak for justice and advocate for adequate federal policies. She says people have described their visits as “journeys of light,” and that the warmth of light is like a magnet drawing others in.

Sr. Campbell wrote, “We are all called to be a vessel for light itself. What joy to embrace the vibrant mystery of God and to live in loving relationship with all those who struggle!” What a journey!

We aren't all called to be on a bus tour. We are called to welcome others and be a light to those living in darkness, wherever our location and circumstances. We can do this on foot in our homes, our neighborhoods, workplaces, social gatherings everywhere. These are the places we meet people we don't see in church. These, too, can be places for Sacred Encounters. There is an old expression — Everywhere a true believer walks is Holy Ground!

*Let us be **Salt of the Earth and Light of the World!***



Salt & Light



**REFLECTION
QUESTIONS**

Do I change my environment for the better, or allow others' negativity to change me?

Do I preserve the good in the world?

Do I add flavor to what is bland?

Do I bring light into the darkness?

Do I shine so others see my good deeds and glorify God, or do I shine light on my good deeds to bring attention to myself?