

**Mass Intentions ~ January 21-27, 2019**

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 — Patrick Hurley (RIP)  
Sunday @ 8:00 am — Ferlinda Everett (RIP)  
Sunday @ 10:30 am — Nolen Hughes (RIP)

**New Prayer Requests**

**Special Intentions:**

Vaughn Outman, brother-in-law of David Browman  
Pamela Dean, sister of Jennifer Henry

**Repose of the Soul:**

Diane Brechtel, mother of Mike Brechtel

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

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

**~ take note of these items & dates ~**

**End of the Year Giving Statements & 2019 Offertory envelopes** — please pick these up from the table on your way out. These are alphabetized by last name.

**Women's Guild Events:**

- **Monday, January 28th — Join us for Noon Mass** at St. Peter Cathedral, followed by lunch at The Capital Inn. All are welcome. Bring a spouse or guest. Pre-registration is required for lunch reservations. Sign up at the table near the offices or text 914-466-4627. Parking is very limited, so we will be carpooling. Meet in the back parking lot at 11:00 am.
- **Monday, January 28th @ 6:30 pm — Join us for Bunco Night** in the Family Life Center. Roll the dice with us — fun, fellowship, prizes, and snacks. Charity Box benefits the Opportunity Center — donate bug spray, rain ponchos, chapstick, socks, hats, gloves, snack bars, laundry soap, coffee, backpacks.

**Catholic Service Appeal 2019** — A letter from Bishop Joseph Kopacz was sent to all parishioners asking for your pledge to support the ministries of our Diocese. Please give prayerful consideration to your level of support to help fund the ministries and services supported by the Appeal. To learn more visit [www.jacksondiocese.org](http://www.jacksondiocese.org)



*New parish-wide study announcement coming soon.*

*For small group information contact:*

*[fellowship@saintpaulcatholicchurch.com](mailto:fellowship@saintpaulcatholicchurch.com)*

*change happens in circles, not pews*

**Church website: [www.saintpaulcatholicchurch.com](http://www.saintpaulcatholicchurch.com)  
Office phone: 601-992-9547**



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

*January 20, 2019*

# Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

## Let's Chat About It

We gifted books again this Christmas to everyone in the Parish, and to all our visitors who attended a Christmas Mass with us. We selected a great work by Edward Sri titled, *Into His Likeness — Be Transformed as a Disciple of Christ*, that goes perfectly with all the tremendous work we have done these past five years. We began with the plan / purpose to move from “Maintenance to Mission.”

These words are still written on the wall — an important reminder as we exit Mass going forth to love and serve the Lord and one another, sharing the Good News! Next we implemented ChristLife and have had hundreds complete the Series. We have learned valuable ways to grow in discovering a personal relationship with Jesus Christ, following Him as an intentional disciple, and sharing His plan of Salvation with others. Out of the ChristLife experience we grew into the Small Group experience, which many have joined. We have approximately 30 active Small Groups in place.

Sri's book is a nice fit to continue our journey together. Some Small Groups are meeting and discussing the book. But, I want to open this for dialogue among all of us. It's sort of like a “Large Small Group” experience. Many of you are not in a Small Group, and the book is set up with questions for sharing and exploring with our brothers and sisters — we are all His disciples.

One person shared that this book sparked one of the richest conversations their Small Group has ever had. As they were discussing living with Jesus at the center of my life, one member courageously admitted, “I have read the chapters, but I don't know what that really *looks* like.” Turns out a few others felt the same way! So, they batted around a few ideas, until one member quietly shared her personal story. She is going through a very difficult time in her personal life. The challenges that lay before her seem insurmountable. She said that most of her life she would have thought someone in her position had simply not been trying hard enough.

But, now she understands that having Jesus at the center of her life does not mean God will always shield her from heartache and tragedy. Rather, He sustains her in the midst of the pain. Sometimes all she can muster is to claim, “Lord I know You are here with me in this.” And, that is enough.....knowing Jesus and continually inviting Him to be the center of your life — in the good times *and* the bad times.

So, let's group — let's chat about it! Enter into the dialogue! Send in your thoughts on “Into His Likeness” — email it to [pastor@saintpaulcatholicchurch.com](mailto:pastor@saintpaulcatholicchurch.com) or drop a hard copy into the collection basket. Thank you! — *Read on for another great teaching on prayer!*



## PRAYING WITH SCRIPTURE

by Armand M. Nigro, S.J. & John F. Christensen, S.J.

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### **GOD SPEAKS TO US FIRST**

This fundamental truth makes it possible for us to pray to God. The Lord has been concerned for each of us long before we became concerned for ourselves.

God desires communication with us —

- through Jesus Christ, the Word of God;
- through the Church, the extension of Jesus in the world (because we are joined together in Christ, God speaks to us through other people);
- through visible creation around us, which forms the physical context of our lives. (Creation took place in the Son, and is God's self-revelation.);
- through the events of our lives;
- through Holy Scripture, a real form of God's presence. This is the mode of communication we are most concerned with in prayer.

### **GOD INVITES US TO LISTEN**

Our response to God's initiative is to listen to what the Lord is saying. This is the basic attitude of prayer.

### **HOW TO GO ABOUT LISTENING**

What you do immediately before prayer is very important. Normally, it is something you do not rush right into. Spend a few moments quieting yourself and relaxing, settling yourself into a prayerful and comfortable position. In listening to anyone, you try give them undivided attention.

*In prayer this is done best in silence and solitude. Select a passage from Scripture. The fewer verses, the better. Put a marker in the page. Try to find a quiet place where you can be alone and uninhibited in your response to God's presence. Try to quiet yourself interiorly. Jesus would often go off by Himself to pray with His Father.*

In an age of noise, activity, and tensions, it is not always easy or necessary to forget our cares, commitments, and excitement of our environment. Never feel constrained to blot out all distractions. Anxiety in this regard could hinder our prayer.

Rather, realize that the Word did become flesh—that the Lord speaks to us in the noise and confusion of our day. In preparing for prayer, relax and listen to the sounds around you. God's presence is as real as they are.

Be conscious of your sensations and living experiences of feeling, thinking, hoping, loving, of wondering, desiring, etc. Then, conscious of God's unselfish, unconditionally loving presence in you, acknowledge simply: **"Yes, You do love life and feeling into me. You do love a share of Your personal life into me. You are present to me. You live in me. Yes, You do."**

God is present personally, in you, through the Spirit, who speaks to you now in Scripture, and who prays in you and for you. Ask God the grace to listen to what God says. Begin reading Scripture slowly and attentively. Do not hurry to cover much material.

- **If it recounts an event of Jesus' life, be there in the mystery of it. Share with the persons involved, e.g. a blind man being cured. Share their attitude. Respond to what Jesus is saying. It is meant for you.**
- **Some words or phrases carry special meaning for you. Savor those words, turning them over in your heart.**
- **You may want to speak or recite a Psalm or other prayer from Scripture. Really mean what you are saying. Make it your own.**

When something strikes you, e.g. when:

- **you feel a new way of being with Jesus, (He is present for you in a new way; e. g. you sense what it means to be healed in Jesus)**
- **you experience God's love,**
- **you feel lifted in spirit,**
- **you are moved to do something good,**
- **you are peaceful,**
- **you are happy and content just to be in God's presence.**

This is the time to **PAUSE**.....Pause also when you feel disturbed, puzzled, or even repelled by something in Scripture. These are times when God may be speaking directly to you in the words of Scripture. Do not hurry to move on. Wait until you are no longer moved by the experience.

Don't get discouraged if nothing seems to be happening. Sometimes God lets us feel dry and empty in order to let us realize it is not in our own power to communicate with Him or to experience consolation. God is sometimes very close to us in His seeming absence (Ps. 139: 7-9) God is for us entirely in a selfless way. The Lord accepts us as we are, with all our limitations — even with our seeming inability to pray. A humble attitude of listening is a sign of love for God, and a real prayer from the heart.

Remember the words of Saint Paul: *"The Spirit, too, comes to help us in our weakness, for when we cannot choose words in order to pray properly, the Spirit Himself expresses our plea in a way that could never be put into words."* (Romans 8:26-27)

Relax in prayer. Remember, God will speak to you. *"Yes, as the rain and snow come down from the heavens and do not return without watering the earth, making it yield and giving growth to provide seed for the sower and bread for the eating, so the word that goes from my mouth does not return to me empty, without carrying out my will and succeeding in what it was sent to do."* (Isaiah 55: 10-11)

Spend time in your prayer just being conscious of God's presence in and around you. If you want to, speak with Him about the things you are interested in or wish to thank Him for — your joys, sorrows, aspirations, etc. But preferably, just be there and love God and let yourself be loved by God.

### **SUMMARY: 5 "P'S"**

- **Pick** a passage from Scripture. Have it marked and ready.
- **Place** — where you are alone and uninhibited in God's presence.
- **Posture** — relaxed and peaceful. A harmony of body with spirit.
- **Presence** of God. Be aware of it, acknowledge and respond to it.
- **Pray** the passage from Scripture. Read it very slowly aloud; listen carefully and peacefully to it.

Read aloud or whisper in a rhythm with your breathing --a phrase at a time —with pauses and repetitions when and where you feel like it. Don't be anxious; don't try to look for implications or lessons or profound thoughts or conclusions or resolutions, etc.

Be content to be like a child who climbs into a parent's lap and listens to their words and their story. When you finish, remind yourself that God continues to live in you the rest of the day and forever.