

Mass Intentions ~ January 27-February 2, 2020

Monday @ 7:30 am — People of the Parish

Tuesday @ 7:30 am — People of the Parish

Wednesday @ 6:00 pm — People of the Parish

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

Friday @ 7:30 am — Risa White (RIP)

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

Sunday @ 8:00 am — Nolan Hughes (RIP)

Sunday @ 10:30 am — People of the Parish

New Prayer Requests

Special Intentions

Marcy Hill

Theresa Fluhr, niece of Maxine Miller

Repose of the Soul

Richard Viberg

Richard Benton, brother of Theresa Fuller

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

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 last weekend were donated by Susan Weldy, in memory of Emily J. Newberry.

Altar Flowers & Blessed Mother Flowers this weekend were donated by John McAleese, in honor of “the angels of St. Paul Church.”

ANNOUNCEMENTS ~ EVENTS ~ INFORMATION

January 26th~31st — St. Paul Early Learning Center is celebrating Catholic Schools Week Thank you, Fr. Gerry and the parishioners of St. Paul Catholic Church, for your guidance, prayers and support. Take a few minutes to view the St. Paul Early Learning Center Art Show, “What I like About St. Paul Early Learning Center” on the cafeteria windows.

January 31st — Deadline to turn in your New Capital Campaign Pledge Cards Please pick up a white envelope from the information table if you do not have one. If you support building a new church, read the letter, complete the pledge card, and return it to the Church by this Friday. See the Progress Chart for funds collected.

February 1st — Armed Forces Support Ministry invites all to join us in the Chapel @ 4:45 pm to pray the Rosary with us.

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.

Catholic Service Appeal — Your gift supports the education of our seminarians, promotes the lifelong formation and education for Catholics involved in youth and adult ministry, helps those served by Catholic Charities, and other important ministries. These needs of our diocesan ministries are real. Your generosity in prayer and through your sacrificial gift, make it possible to provide these services, and more importantly, to bring the message of the Gospel to all people. Please prayerfully consider giving generously to this year's Appeal. Pledge weekend will be February 8/9.

Offertory Collection for January 18/19:

Regular collection \$21,128.72

Capital Campaign Collection \$1,797.83

2020 Contribution Envelopes still not here — We have generic envelopes available on the information table for your use until our new envelopes arrive. Please fill out your information on these envelopes, or write your envelope number on the memo line of your offertory checks.

Capital Campaign Pledge Report to Date:

Goal \$3,000,000.00

Pledged \$1,169,368.00

(126 financial pledges & 12 prayer pledges)

Balance \$1,830,632.00

(needed to reach goal)

NEW Pledge Cards due by January 31st!



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



DOMENICA DELLA PAROLA DI DIO



January 26, 2020

**Sunday of the
Word of God**

**Third Sunday in
Ordinary Time**

Pope Francis instituted the Third Sunday in Ordinary Time as Word of God Sunday to emphasize the role of the Sacred Scriptures in our lives and in the liturgy.

In his Apostolic Letter, *APERUIT ILLIS*, our Holy Father encourages the entire Church to celebrate in unity of purpose, this Sunday of the Word of God. He declared that the Third Sunday in Ordinary Time is to be devoted to the celebration, study and dissemination of the Word of God. Pope Francis said it is, “a fitting part of this time of the year when we are encouraged to strengthen our bonds with the Jewish people and to pray for Christian unity. This is more than a temporal coincidence: the celebration of the Sunday of the Word of God has ecumenical value, since the Scriptures point out, for those who listen, the path to authentic and firm unity.”

He wrote, “The relationship between the Risen Lord, the community of believers, and Sacred Scripture is essential to our identity as Christians. Without the Lord who opens our minds to them, it is impossible to understand the Scriptures in depth. Yet the contrary is equally true: without the Scriptures, the events of the mission of Jesus and of his Church in this world would remain incomprehensible. Hence, Saint Jerome could rightly claim: ‘Ignorance of the Scriptures is ignorance of Christ.’”

“Regular reading of Sacred Scripture and the celebration of the Eucharist make it possible for us to see ourselves as part of one another. As Christians, we are a single people, making our pilgrim way through history, sustained by the Lord, present in our midst, who speaks to us and nourishes us. A day devoted to the Bible should not be seen as a yearly event but rather a yearlong event, for we urgently need to grow in our knowledge and love of the Scriptures and of the risen Lord, who continues to speak His Word and to break bread in the community of believers. For this reason, we need to develop a closer relationship with sacred Scripture; otherwise our hearts will remain cold and our eyes shut, struck as we are by so many forms of blindness.”

Don't just place the Bible on the shelf as one of many books, perhaps filled with dust, but as an instrument that awakens our faith. The Living Word in Scripture contains inexhaustible richness that comes from God's constant dialogue with His people.

(more inside)



An update from the Capital Campaign Committee....



Of our **\$3,000,000** goal, our parish has currently **raised \$1,169,368** in pledges. To date, we have received a **total of 138 pledges**, which includes 12 prayer pledges and 126 financial pledges. Of these financial pledges, 84 are a recommitment of pledges submitted last summer, 24 represent a recommitment and an increase to a prior pledge, and 17 are totally new pledges. **As of this weekend, our shortfall is \$1,830,632.**

We set a deadline of January 31st for turning in the new pledge cards. While this is a large amount of money to raise in such a short amount of time — it ain't over til it's over — as the saying goes! **You still have until Friday to submit a pledge toward building a new church. We will continue to collect cards and tally pledges turned in through January 31.**

If you turned in a pledge card last summer, but did not turn in a new pledge card this month, your pledge was not counted. The vote on the yellow Decision Cards showed **333 people supported building a new church**. The only way to know if the parish would financially support the new plan was to run a New Pledge Campaign. Financial pledges from the previous project could not be counted toward this new project. Therefore, the New Capital Campaign Pledge Card was made available to everyone. A final report of this Capital Campaign will be provided to you in February. Please continue to pray for the Lord's blessings and guidance over our Parish community.



LECTIO DIVINA is one of the best prayer practices to delve into Scripture and encounter the Lord in His Living Word.

The Latin term “Lectio Divina” translates to “Divine Reading.” Here are the basics of praying Lectio Divina.

*Listen deeply with your heart.
Be present in each movement.
Take time to savor the process.*

***It is best to find a quiet,
comfortable space and set aside
time devoted to this prayer.***

*Be attentive to your breathing.
Let go of distractions.
Open yourself to this encounter with God.*



Key Elements

Allow the Lord to lead this prayer time.

- * be open to hearing God speak through His living word
- * surrender to His message for you at this moment
- * accept the challenge to wrestle with and grow into the word that God gives you
- * allow His word to nourish and transform you

HERE ARE THE FOUR MOVEMENTS OF LECTIO DIVINA:

1. LECTIO = READING

- ~ read the Scripture passage slowly
- ~ listen for a word or small phrase that beckons, unnerves, disturbs, shimmers
- ~ gently focus on that word in silence

2. MEDITATIO = REFLECTING

- ~ read the same Scripture passage again
- ~ focus on the word or phrase that shimmers
- ~ accept any images, feelings, and memories that stir in your heart

3. ORATIO = RESPONDING

- ~ read the same Scripture passage again
- ~ listen for what connects with your life
- ~ record the prayer, awareness, call to action that arises from your reflection

4. CONTEMPLATIO = RESTING

- ~ read the same Scripture passage once more
- ~ slow your thoughts and rest in the presence of the Holy Spirit
- ~ offer gratitude for His presence and this time of prayer, stillness & communion

Reflections on the Gospel of Matthew

Most Bibles have a little “Introduction” at the beginning of each Book. These are very helpful to read, as they provide the background to the text contained within that one section. It gives you a little insight into who the author is, and it usually includes some historical context — when it was written, who was the audience, and what was happening in their part of the world at that time.

As we stated last week, Matthew’s Gospel was written around the year 85 by an unknown author, likely an educated Jewish Christian residing in a community made of Christians who fled the Roman occupation and fighting. This book begins with a narrative prologue. First, Matthew supplies us with the long genealogy of Jesus to establish Him as “Son of David, Son of Abraham” in order to establish His Kingship. This Gospel has heavy references to the Old Testament in order to affirm that the prophecies have been fulfilled in the person of Jesus, the long-awaited Messiah, the royal Anointed One.

We are introduced to Jesus in the first 3 Chapters, covering His genealogy, His birth, the visit of the Wise Men, the flight to Egypt, the slaughter of the Innocents, the return to Egypt, the preaching of John the Baptist, and the Baptism of Jesus. Our Sunday liturgy did not include the Temptation of Jesus at the beginning of Chapter 4, but it is worth reading and reflecting on this encounter. Jesus shows us how to put God first above all worldly desires. Continuing the historical context, all of Jesus’ answers are quotations from Deuteronomy 6-8.

Today, we pick up our Ordinary Time Reading with Matthew 4:12-23 — the Beginning of the Galilean Ministry and the Call of the Disciples.

“When Jesus heard that John had been arrested, He withdrew to Galilee. He left Nazareth and went to live in Capernaum by the sea, in the region of Zebulun and Naphtali, that what had been said through Isaiah the prophet might be fulfilled....”

Beginning with verse 18, Jesus begins to call His Disciples. He finds ordinary men, carrying about their ordinary duties. For these, it is fishing. He calls them to do extraordinary things with their lives. Jesus loves these fishermen.

He says, ***“Come after me, and I will make you fishers of men.”*** He beckons them as a teacher calls students to follow their lead and learn, to be in relationship with them and grow. Let me teach you, He says. I see great things in you. I know you will do great things. Trust me. They leave what they are most comfortable with, and live in communion with Jesus.

Reflect

How is God calling me to relationship with Him in my “ordinary” life?

Am I allowing the time and space to hear Him calling me to His plan?

Do I seek Him as my teacher, and trust in His love and guiding care for me?

Will I follow Him, even if it means leaving my “nets” — my comfort zone?

Next Sunday, we celebrate the Presentation of the Lord which is featured in Luke’s Gospel. Let us continue reading Matthew through this week with Chapter 4, verses 24-25 as Jesus continues His travels, and large crowds begin to follow Him. He brings great teaching and healing to the multitudes along the way. Then, Jesus moves up the mountain and delivers The Sermon on the Mount. Let us study the Beatitudes over the course of this week and ask, ***“Lord, to which of these are You calling me at this point in my life?”***

This reading will keep us on track when the Gospel of Matthew is picked back up next Sunday at Chapter 5:13, for the Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time on February 9th.

Happy reading and reflecting!