

Mass Intentions ~ January 7-13, 2019

Monday @ 7:30 am — Communion Service
Tuesday @ 7:30 am — Communion Service
Wednesday @ 6:00 pm — Robert Phipps (RIP)
Thursday @ 7:30 am — Tommy Autrey (RIP)
Friday @ 7:30 am — Communion Service
Saturday @ 5:30 pm — Bernard & Mary Lawson (RIP)
Sunday @ 8:00 am — People of the Parish
Sunday @ 10:30 am — James Prator (RIP)

New Prayer Requests

Special Intentions:

George Ferguson
Barbara Pezet
Ed George Klein
Sarah Elizabeth Favara, mother of Lisa Luley
Diane Brechtel, mother of Mike Brechtel

Repose of the Soul:

Mary Ray, sister of Joe Donovan

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

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

***Altar Flowers for the Solemnity of Mary were donated by Pat Amos,
in loving memory of Gerrit and Eric Amos***

— — — Reminders — — —

- The Big Deal Youth Group will resume on Wednesday, January 9th;
- Sunday morning classes will resume on January 13th.

Altar Flowers & Blessed Mother Flowers Sign up is now open on our website. Please call the office if you need assistance.
Gift Bearer Sign up for January is posted on the back counter. Register your family / friends to bring up our offertory at Mass!
Offertory Envelopes need to be picked up on the table near the offices. Please check to see if your name is on a box.



And behold, the star that they had seen at its rising preceded them, until it came and stopped over the place where the child was.

They were overjoyed at seeing the star, and on entering the house they saw the child with Mary his mother.

They prostrated themselves and did him homage.

Then they opened their treasures and offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

Matthew 2:9-11

**Church website: www.saintpaulcatholicchurch.com
Office phone: 601-992-9547**



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

January 6, 2019

Today we celebrate The Epiphany of the Lord



Happy new Year one more time!

As we approached the New Year, I invited you to consider resolutions that are typically associated with the beginning of the new year. I reflected on the fact that just 8% of people achieve their New Year's Resolutions, and 80% of New Year's Resolutions fail by February. Those are very daunting figures!

Then on New Year's Day, I asked you to consider as a Resolution for the New Year the idea of becoming more like Mary in her role in her family — she was intensely REFLECTIVE, and not very REACTIVE.

Saint Luke puts it so succinctly: ***“Mary kept all these things, reflecting on them in her heart.”*** (Luke 2:19)

Imagine what a different world this would be if we were more **reflective** and less **reactive** !!! The difference would be **ENORMOUS** !!!

I have felt very blessed lately by many wonderful reflections and meditations coming across my path. The one on the next page just sort of ‘took my breath away’ because it stated so well many things that I have talked about and reflected upon during the past few months.

Please take some time and reflect on it. And, if you would be kind enough to share the fruits of your reflection with me, we can engage in dialogue about it. I would very much like to use the bulletin as a tool for your reflections in the new year. It sure would mean a great deal to me, and I am sure it will also mean a great deal to our Parish Family members.

—Fr. Gerry

Richard Rohr's Daily Meditation from the Center for Action and Contemplation Week One — Jesus: Modeling an Evolving Faith



Thursday, January 3, 2019 — Our Priority Is Love

Brian McLaren, a dear friend and fellow public theologian, shares my concern and hope that Christianity can evolve. In his book *The Great Spiritual Migration**, he writes:

For centuries, Christianity has been presented as a system of beliefs. That system of beliefs has supported a wide range of unintended consequences, from colonialism to environmental destruction, subordination of women to stigmatization of LGBT people, anti-Semitism to Islamophobia, clergy pedophilia to white privilege. What would it mean for Christians to rediscover their faith not as a problematic system of beliefs, but as a just and generous way of life, rooted in contemplation and expressed in compassion, that makes amends for its mistakes and is dedicated to beloved community for all? Could Christians migrate from defining their faith as a system of beliefs to expressing it as a loving way of life? . . .

For centuries, Christians have presented God as a Supreme Being who showers blessings upon insiders who share certain beliefs and proper institutional affiliation, but who punishes outsiders with eternal conscious torment. Yet Jesus revealed God as one who “eats with sinners,” welcomes outsiders in, and forgives even while being rejected, tortured, and killed. Jesus associated God more with gracious parental tenderness than strict authoritarian toughness. He preached that God was to be found in self-giving service rather than self-asserting domination. What would it mean for Christians to let Jesus and his message lead them to a new vision of God? What would it mean for Christians to understand, experience, and embody God as the loving, healing, reconciling Spirit in whom all creatures live, move, and have their being?

For centuries, Christianity has presented itself as an “organized religion”—a change-averse institution or set of institutions that protects and promotes a timeless system of beliefs that were handed down fully formed in the past. Yet Christianity’s actual history is a story of change and adaptation. We Christians have repeatedly adapted our message, methods, and mission to the contours of our time [for example, the Second Vatican Council within Catholicism]. What might happen if we understood the core Christian ethos as creative, constructive, and forward-leaning—as an “organizing religion” that challenges all institutions (including its own) [as Jesus did] to learn, grow, and mature toward a deepening, enduring vision of reconciliation with God, self, neighbor, enemy, and creation? . . .

If such a migration is possible, how would we describe that way of life toward which we are moving?

If we are to be truly Christian, it makes sense to turn to Jesus for the answer.

Of the many radical things said and done by Jesus, his unflinching emphasis on love was the most radical of all. Love was the greatest commandment . . . his prime directive—love for God, for self, for neighbor, for stranger, for alien, for outsider, for outcast, and even for enemy, as he himself modeled. The new commandment of love [John 13:34] meant that neither beliefs nor words, neither taboos, systems, structures nor the labels that enshrined them mattered most. Love decentered everything else; love relativized everything else; love took priority over everything else—everything.

*Brian McLaren, *The Great Spiritual Migration: How the World’s Largest Religion Is Seeking a Better Way to Be Christian* (Convergent: 2016), 2-3, 42. Image credit: *Christ and the Woman Taken in Adultery* (detail), Nicolas Poussin, 1653, Louvre Museum, Paris, France.

Richard Rohr has chosen “Old and New: An Evolving Faith” as the theme for his 2019 Daily Meditations.

His website introduces this year’s theme as follows: “You witness so much division, fear, and suffering in our world, you may wonder what path—if any—there is toward healing and hope. Perhaps your church or faith has been important to you, but now you may be questioning if it is still a trustworthy or relevant guide. Does Christianity have anything of value left to offer?”

Franciscan Richard Rohr suggests that there are good, beautiful, and true gems worth holding on to. At the same time, there are many unhelpful and even harmful parts of what has passed for Christianity that we need to move beyond. In his Daily Meditations, Fr. Richard helps us mine the depths of this tradition, discerning what to keep and what to transcend. Each week builds on previous topics, but you can join at any time!

Thankfully, the church—just like our own faith—is living and evolving. While Christianity has stood the test of time, it’s not static. Drawing from his own study and experience, as well as other trusted teachers, poetry, politics, psychology, science, and faiths, Richard offers fresh insights to ancient wisdom. He’s like the householder Jesus described who ‘brings out of their storeroom new treasures as well as old’ (Matthew 13:52).”

Visit www.cac.org to sign up and receive the daily or weekly meditations by email.