

Mass Intentions ~ July 15-21, 2019

Monday @ 7:30 am — People of the Parish
Tuesday @ 7:30 am — Fr. Joseph Balfe (RIP)
Wednesday @ 6:00 pm — Fr. Patrick Noonan (RIP)
Thursday @ 7:30 am — Barry Carpenter (RIP)
Friday @ 7:30 am — Pat Hurley (RIP)
Saturday @ 5:30 pm — People of the Parish
Sunday @ 8:00 am — Paul & Dovalice LaPlume (RIP)
Sunday @ 10:30 am — Dianne Brechtel (RIP)

New Prayer Requests

Special Intentions:
O.E. Gardner, father of Stephen Gardner
Teresa Whiteside, friend of Jim and Amy Blair

See complete prayer list on our website
and prayer board.

Sacrament of Reconciliation — Saturday @ 4:30-5:00 pm (or by appointment — call the Church office)
Adoration this week: Monday — Friday, 8 am - 12noon

Announcements

Kayak Trip last weekend to sign up — All youth, 7th thru 12 grades, are invited to our Annual Chunky River Kayak Trip on Saturday, July 20th. Sign up sheet on information table by Church offices. Questions? Contact Cory at youth@spaulcc.org

Discovering Christ Daytime Session will be offered at St. Richard Catholic Church Foley Hall. The 7-week Series will be held on Thursday mornings, 10am-Noon, August 29th to October 10th. Lunch will be provided. Childcare provided, if needed. Register ASAP at www.saintrichard.com/christlife Questions: Call Nancy at 601-942-2078 or Tiffany at 601-842-0151.



We wish a fond farewell to Fr. Gerry as he leaves for Ireland on July 19th. May he, and all who will be on the tour, be granted safe travels and great adventures!

FINANCIAL REPORT

Weekly Offertory Collection for July 6/7:
General Fund = \$18,721.50 Second Collection = \$3,509.50

Building Fund:
Goal = \$3,000,000.00 Total Pledges to date = \$1,876,234.00 Total Collected to date = \$135,573.66
Pledges thus far represent 42% of regularly contributing households.

Office phone: 601-992-9547 Summer Hours: Tues - Thurs, 8:00 am - 4:00 pm; Fri, 8:00 am- noon
www.saintpaulcatholicchurch.com



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

July 14, 2019 ~ Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS

Heavenly Father,

We praise You and we thank You for the gift of the Church. We trust that You have created each person in Your image, and You set a path for every person's vocation — be it married, single, or religious life. May we all serve You in whatever path we walk in this life.

We especially thank You for all the men and women who faithfully serve our world as priests, deacons, brothers, and sisters. May they continue to assist us in our journey of Faith by sharing Your Word and Your Love.

Confident that You continually guide Your Church just as You promised, we pray to You asking the blessing of an increase in vocations to the priesthood and religious life, especially for the Diocese of Jackson. May more young men and women say yes to Your invitation to shepherd us.

Open the hearts of those in our Parish who are being called to a religious vocation. May they be encouraged by the support and prayers of our Parish. May Your Holy Spirit energize and inspire them to open the door, discern these special vocations, and follow the example of Our Blessed Mother in proclaiming Your will be done in their lives.

We ask this in the name of Your Son Jesus Christ our Savior.

Amen.

What is in our way?

Last Sunday, Jesus sent the 72 out as laborers for the harvest. (Luke 1-20) We, too, are called and sent by Him. The harvest is abundant, even today – or maybe more so today! What does being sent to labor for the harvest look like in our modern experience of living?

This week as we continue the journey to Jerusalem recounted in Saint Luke's Gospel, we become more aware of the people placed in our path as we strive to be intentional disciples of Jesus. Luke shares Jesus' teaching of the Great Commandment, "You shall love the Lord, your God, with all your heart, with all your being, with all your strength, and with all your mind, and your neighbor as yourself." Then, Jesus teaches the parable of "The Good Samaritan." – A man fell victim to robbers who stripped him, beat him, and went off leaving him half-dead. A priest, a Levite, and a Samaritan traveler came upon the man. But, only the Samaritan stopped to help. (Luke 10:25-37)



Recalling the Waze App as discussed last week and used by many to navigate modern travels, how would we respond if someone posted on Waze that a homeless person was injured and lying on the side of the road ahead?

- How many would cross into the other lane and pretend not to notice, like the priest and the Levite?
- How many would feel too rushed or busy to stop, but whisper a prayer for him?
- How many would call 911, and let someone else help?
- How many would be moved with compassion like the Samaritan traveler and stop to help?

The Samaritan approached the beaten man, lifted him up, and cared for him. But, that's not all – he remembered to follow up and check on him on his return trip.

Under what circumstance would we do such a thing today? It may not literally be a person lying on the side of the road, but rather a person on the edge of society – one who is beat down by hurtful words or discrimination, one who has been abandoned, and left uncared for.

Do we see them? Do we lift them up, care for them, and extend God's love and mercy to them? Do we remember to follow up with people we care about who are going through a difficult time? Or, are we too busy and only whisper a prayer instead?

When someone comes to mind whom I haven't connected with in a while, do I follow the prompting of the Holy Spirit and reach out to them?

When I make eye contact with a stranger, do I follow the lead of the Spirit and speak to them?

All of these people are the abundant harvest. We are the laborers called to the harvest for the Kingdom of God. As a Christian, I am called to love the Lord, my God, with all my heart, with all my being, with all my strength, and with all my mind, and my neighbor as myself!

Pope Francis said, "The Good Samaritan indicates a lifestyle, the center of which is not ourselves, but others, with their difficulties, who we meet on our path and who challenge us."

*May I love my neighbor as myself for the love of You, God.
May I forgive all who have injured me,
and ask pardon of all whom I have injured.
May I grow into this life of love more and more each day.*

