

Mass Intentions ~ July 22-28, 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 – People of the Parish
Sunday @ 8:00 am – Diana & Jeff Crowder (Sp Int)
Sunday @ 10:30 am – Sarah Favara (RIP)

New Prayer Requests

Special Intentions:

Ken Graeber, cousin of Lonnie Graeber

Repose of the Soul:

Mickey Pogue, brother-in-law of Jim Suber
Gregory Wineland, former parishioner
Louise Manton, former parishioner

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

Our Saint Paul Early Learning Center Annual Golf Tournament will be held on Friday, September 6th at Bay Pointe Golf Club. For more information, please call the Learning Center at 601-992-2876, or pick up a brochure on the information table near the Church offices.

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.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Weekly Offertory Collection for July 13/14:

General Fund = \$20,235.63
Second Collection = \$25.00
Building Fund Collection = \$24505.33



Stop by
the Church office
to see the
stained glass
window featuring
Martha & Mary
of this Sunday's
Gospel.

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 21, 2019
Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

And God Said, “No.”



I asked God to take away my pride,
and God said, “No.”
He said it was not for Him to take away,
but for me to give up.

I asked God to make my handicapped child whole,
and God said, “No.”
He said, “Her spirit is whole; her body is only temporary.”

I asked God to grant me patience, and God said, “No.”
He said that patience is a by-product of tribulation;
it isn't granted, it's earned.

I asked God to give me happiness, and God said, “No.”
He said He gives blessings; happiness is up to me.

I asked God to spare my pain, and God said, “No.”
He said, “Suffering draws you apart from worldly cares
and brings you closer to Me.”

I asked God to make my spirit grow, and God said, “No.”
He said I must grow on my own, but He will prune me to make
me fruitful.

I asked God if He loved me, and God said, “Yes.”
He gave His only Son, Who died for me, and I will be in Heaven
some day because I believe in Him, because I love Him.



So I asked God to help me love others
as much as He loves me.
And God said, “Ah, finally, you have the
idea – the right idea!”

The Journey Isn't Always Far From Home

As we focus on Jesus' journey to Jerusalem as recounted in the Gospel of Luke, so far we have looked at companions and obstacles along the way. This week, Luke takes us into a very personal space — our own homes. Living as a Christian disciple isn't just about how we treat strangers, the ones beaten and left for dead on the side of the road. It starts at home. How do we treat those we are closest to, those we live with?

Luke recounts the story of two sisters, Martha and Mary. Jesus is a guest in their home. Naturally, we would want everything to be just right if Jesus were our houseguest! So, Martha is busy with preparing a wonderful meal to share with Jesus. Mary is just sitting with Jesus and listening to Him. How conflicting! We want to do both — serve Him and listen to Him — both are very important! Finally, Martha has had enough. She is bearing the brunt of the work and wants the discrepancy corrected. So, she takes her worry to Jesus.

We read in Luke 10:40-42:

“Martha, burdened with much serving, came to Him and said, ‘Lord, do you not care that my sister has left me by myself to do the serving? Tell her to help me.’ The Lord said to her in reply, ‘Martha, Martha, you are anxious and worried about many things. There is need of only one thing. Mary has chosen the better part and it will not be taken from her.’”

Jesus is cautioning Martha about her worry and anxiety, not about her serving. Serving God is demanding. It takes work, time, and dedication. He isn't saying Martha's behavior is bad, and he's not saying that Mary's behavior is all there is.

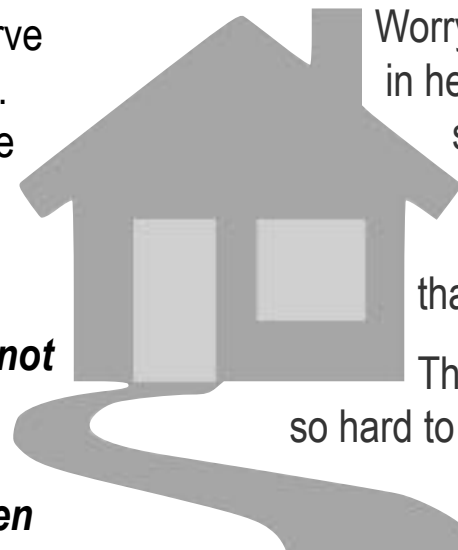
St. Gregory the Great commented on this very Scripture saying, “Note carefully that the part of Martha was not blamed, but that of Mary was praised. He didn't say that Mary had chosen the good part: He said it was the best, in order to show that Martha's part was still good. He made it clear what He meant by the ‘best’ part of Mary when He specified that it would not be taken away from her. For the active life comes to an end with the death of the body.....(but) the labor of good works must never be abandoned while we are in this life.”



Notice the first two verses in today's Gospel:

“Jesus entered a village where a woman whose name was Martha welcomed Him. She had a sister named Mary who sat beside the Lord at His feet listening to Him speak.”

Martha welcomed Him — hospitality. Mary listened to Him — worship. Both are about relationship with Christ. It's about balance. First, we sit with Him and listen to Him, then we serve Him by serving others without worry or anxiety.



Worry and anxiety get in the way of relationship for Martha. She is so caught up in her preparation and serving, that she forgets to be hospitable to her own sister, and she fails to sit and enjoy her guest. It starts at home! Do I get so busy preparing for a guest that I am short with my spouse/child/roommate/neighbor? Do I focus on doing things for my guests — being hospitable — that I fail to sit with them and enjoy their company?

Think of the short journey we regularly take to get to church. Are we working so hard to get everyone ready to go see Jesus that we lose patience with them? Do we fail to sit in silence and hear/adore the One we are preparing to worship?

Slow down. Embrace the journey from the starting point — home. Jesus sat with the sisters. He had a long way to go, and He could have just popped in to re-fuel then head out again. But, He didn't. He sat with them and engaged them.

He sits and waits for us to listen as well.

Prayer for the Journey

As Jesus sought the quiet of the desert, teach us to pray.

As Jesus washed the feet of his disciples, teach us to love.

As Jesus promised paradise to the thief on the cross, teach us to hope.

As Jesus called Peter to walk to him across the water, teach us to believe.

As the child Jesus sat among the elders in the temple, teach us to seek answers.

As Jesus in the garden opened his mind and heart to God's will, teach us to listen.

As Jesus reflected on the Law and the prophets, teach us to learn.

As Jesus used parables to reveal the mysteries of the Kingdom, teach us to teach.