

Mass Intentions ~ March 11-17, 2019

Monday @ 7:30 am — Mary Valentine (RIP)
Tuesday @ 7:30 am — Patrick Hurley (RIP)
Wednesday @ 6:00 pm — Tommy Autrey (RIP)
Thursday @ 7:30 am — Fr. Maurice Boulanger (RIP)
Friday @ 7:30 am — US Armed Forces (Sp Int)

Saturday @ 5:30 pm — Edith Granger (RIP)
Sunday @ 8:00 am — Patrick Hurley (RIP)
Sunday @ 10:30 am — Tommy & Kenneth Mitchell (RIP)

New Prayer Requests

Special Intentions:

Christine Weikum
Pete Canizaro
George Ferguson
Eileen Balmes
Kristi Griffin and unborn child
Dennis McFadden, father of Robert McFadden
Ron Zebrowski, father of Donna Reiss
Nancieanne Blan, niece of Sarah O'Donnell
Joe Hill
Patricia Ann Sciumbato

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

Sacrament of Reconciliation: Saturday 4:30-5pm
Adoration this week: Monday—Friday 8:00 am — 12:00 noon



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

First Sunday of Lent

March 10, 2019

~ notes ~ dates ~ events ~

March 9/10 — Second Collection THIS weekend for Black and Indian Missions.

Religious Ed Classes on Spring Break — NO Big Deal Youth Group on Wednesday, March 13th.
— NO Sunday Morning Classes on Sunday, March 10th & 17th.



Fridays during Lent beginning March 8th — 6:00 pm Stations of the Cross
All are welcome to attend Stations in the Church, followed by a fish dinner. Join us!
Daily Reflection Videos posted to our Website, Facebook, YouTube — tune in!
Like, Share, Comment — Join the Conversation, and invite others to join in too!

March 20th — Wednesday night Mass will begin at 5:30 pm, rather than 6:00 pm. Please note this change for Mar 20 only.

Raffle to benefit the St. Paul Early Learning Center — Win a 5 Day/4 Night Vacation in an ocean front condo in Perdido Key, Florida. Tickets are \$10 each. Drawing will be held on March 14, 2019. Call 601-992-2876 and ask for Jennifer or Darlene to get your tickets. Thank you for supporting the St. Paul Early Learning Center.

Catholic Service Appeal 2019 — To date, St. Paul Parish has raised \$50,716 of our \$70,519 goal through 132 pledges. For more on information about the Appeal or to donate online please visit www.jacksondiocese.org.

40 Days for Life — March 6 to April 14 — Some St. Paul parishioners will gather to pray at the local abortion clinic on Wednesday, March 27th. Please contact Linda Granger @ 601-260-5326 to sign up for a one-hour time slot and for details.

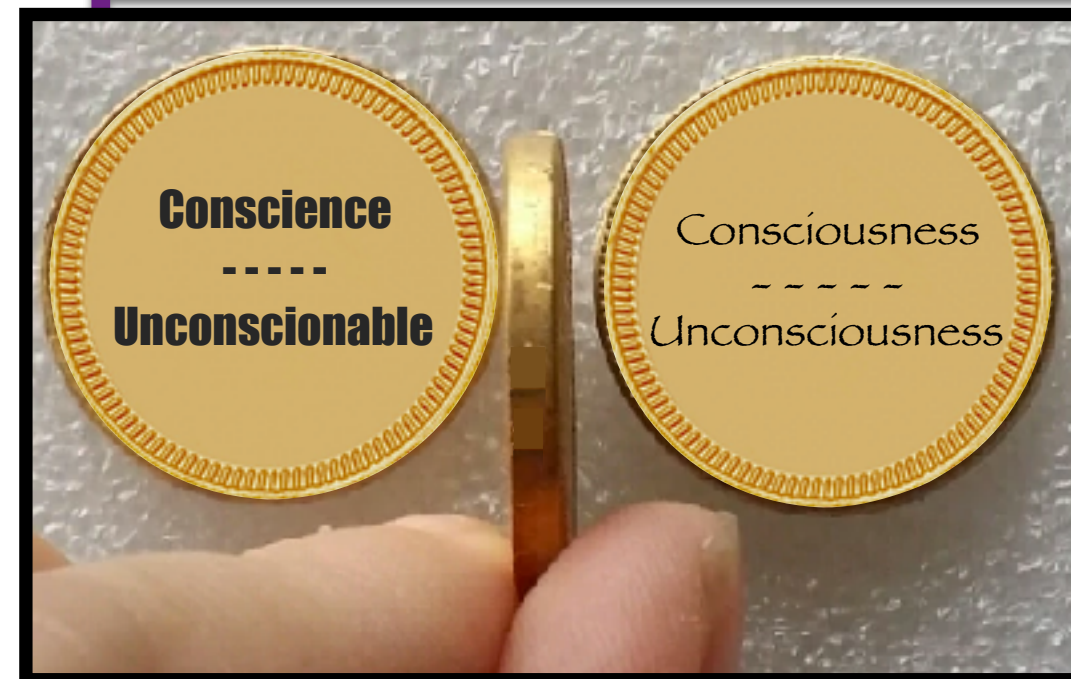
Women's Lenten Day of Reflection — Saturday, March 23rd @ 8:30 am – 2:30 pm in the Family Life Center
Register by March 18th to ensure appropriate headcount for materials and lunch. No cost for the day which will include praise & worship, along with presentations on caring for mind, body, and spirit. Donations accepted for our March Charity: "Adopt A Room" Catholic Charities Domestic Violence Center. Contact Reneé Carpenter @ 601-214-9547 or email wgstpaul@gmail.com

Baptism Preparation Class — Sunday, March 24th @ 9:15 am in Room 110 of the Family Life Center
For all parents wishing to have a child baptized in the near future. Expectant parents welcome.



A huge thank you to all those who attended and donated to the Ash Wednesday Meatless Meal this past week. We cannot tell you how much it means to us that you showed up to share the meal with us and your church family. The Big Deal wishes you a Happy Lenten Season.

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



I thought I would once again visit the idea of the coin, which we have spoken about many times throughout the year. I would like for you to imagine this coin. One side of the coin would be “Conscience & Unconscionable” (they represent degrees of conscience). The other side of the coin would be “Consciousness and Unconsciousness” (representing degrees of consciousness).

As we have previously reflected, the thickness of a coin serves as a reminder to us that there may not be a whole a lot between these two sides. (Our imaginations have the capacity to expand and reduce that distance.)

I reflected on this particular coin, and mused to myself, I wonder which side has been more prominent in my life's journey? There was no doubt that I had much more teaching, instruction, and direction on the side of Conscience / Unconscionable. I have a feeling that many of us as “Cradle-Catholics” would be inclined to that same side of the coin! Most likely, this is true because, from our earliest days we were made pretty familiar with those words and the concept. Perhaps we know the words best of all, from the idea of an ‘Examination of Conscience’ — which has been an integral part of our experience since the beginning of our Christian formation and education.

How many times have you been exhorted to ‘Examine your Conscience’ ??? You may have experienced it as a caveat when you were challenged by a parent, grandparent, teacher, or other adult. Sometimes, it may have been in the context of adjudication, where the inference was, “Look at your pitiful self! You lied, you cheated, you deceived, and I don't approve of such behavior.” Possibly there was even an intimation of, “I am withholding my love/appreciation/respect until you rectify this situation!!!!”

(continued on next page)

Last week, I acknowledged that I didn't like Lent — in fact, I hated lent, because I never had a really meaningful understanding of the value of such a season. I must confess that I had a very similar perspective in regard to the 'Examination of Conscience' as I was growing up. It was a rather purposeless experience in my obscure world, where meaningful understanding was hard to come by. A task (taught to me as finding your faults and confessing them) that was, in and of itself, not a very tasteful task. Additionally, the significant amount of unsolicited input into my 'Examination of Conscience' often amounted to just more unnecessary stress. (Not that I don't get plenty of unsolicited input today, but I now regard it as a much more valuable instrument.)

All of this is really to say that my inclination to that side of the coin — Conscience / Unconscionable — really came from a rather rigid, moralistic perspective. Sadly, it was, at best, a very limited and selective perspective. Today, I must say that I find the other side of the coin— Consciousness / Unconsciousness — to be exceedingly helpful.

I mentioned last week, George Aschbrenner's powerful transformation of the old traditional experience of the great Jesuit practice, 'The Examen.' St. Ignatius of Loyola, founder of the Society, was pretty clear that none of the community members should skip a daily Examen at the end of each day.

Aschbrenner realized that the experience of the practice of The Examen had, in practice, degenerated into something that it never was meant to be. For many, it had become an Examination of Conscience, with each individual searching diligently for their personal faults, sins, and failures, and then confessing them to God. Sometimes, such examination was followed by self punishment (flagellation).

George suggested a whole new approach instead of an 'Examination of Conscience' — why not call it an 'Examination of Consciousness'? In other words, why not ask ourselves, "To what extent was I conscious of God's presence throughout my day?"

When I began my day, how conscious was I of God's presence and His desire to be with me throughout the many challenges of my day?

Was I conscious of His desire to be with me in all of my activities, my drive to work, my varied experiences at work, the many encounters I had with people throughout my day, my drive home, my experience at home with family, or with friends, or on my own?

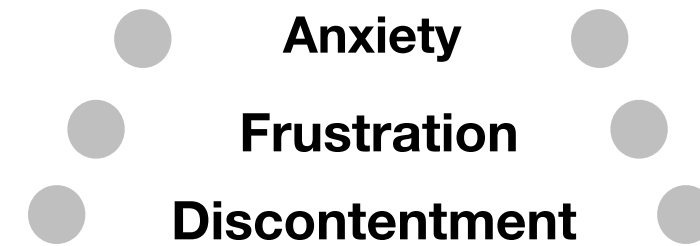
George's proposal was that I could then have a much more fruitful experience of The Examen, and naturally a much healthier examination of myself and my awareness of God and His Presence in my life. A simple reflection at the end of my day balancing the "I" and the "We"! In what actions or engagements did I consciously invite Him, my Creator/Savior to be a part of my day?" Pretty helpful for a growing experience, eh?

Here's the beautiful prayer I recalled from my seminary days: (Author unknown)

Time to Pray

I got up early one morning and rushed right into the day;
 I had so much to accomplish that I didn't have time to pray.
 Problems just tumbled about me, and heavier came each task.
 "Why doesn't God help me?" I wondered. He answered, "You didn't ask."
 I wanted to see joy and beauty, but the day toiled on, gray and bleak;
 I wondered why God didn't show me. He said, "But you didn't seek."
 I tried to come into God's presence; I used all my keys at the lock.
 God gently and lovingly chided, "My child, you didn't knock."
 I woke up early this morning, and paused before entering the day;
 I had so much to accomplish that I had to take time to pray.

The three 'Respectable Sins' for this week's reflection are:



What wonderful feedback we are receiving from those who have been very courageous and actually confronted those sins we tolerate! Many of you have already reflected well on 'Ungodliness' and 'Unthankfulness.' Some rich material indeed! How easily we can tolerate those realities, and yet never realize how much that diminishes our capacity to experience the fullness of the relationship He desires for us to have.

Really, the extent to which I tolerate Ungodliness and Unthankfulness in my life is directly proportionate to the experience of Fullness of Relationship that He desires for me to have!

This week, the sins we are reflecting on are much more subtle. At first view, most people might be inclined to say, "Heck everybody experiences Anxiety, everybody experiences Frustration, and certainly everybody experiences Discontentment (at least from time to time)!"

That is a great observation.....and indeed a wise and true acknowledgement. The problem presents itself when we add an addendum: "Therefore, it couldn't possibly be a sin since everybody does it."

Ah.... there's the rub let us look carefully at this! It is a marvelous insight into the very nature of sin and indeed how the very same thing in one expression may not be a sin at all and yet the very same thing in another expression can be a significant sin!

May our discussions and sharing lead to great Truth, Insight, and Understanding!

— Fr. Gerry