

**Mass Intentions ~ March 16-22, 2020**

Monday @ 7:30 am — Henry Ziemanski (RIP)

Tuesday @ 7:30 am — People of the Parish

Wednesday @ 6:00 pm — Lloyd Biehl (RIP)

Thursday @ 7:30 am — Fr. Eddie Balser (RIP)

Friday @ 7:30 am — Lalande Harkins (RIP)

Saturday @ 5:30 pm — Ronald Zebrowski (RIP)

Sunday @ 8:00 am — Risa White (RIP)

Sunday @ 10:30 am — Greg Begonia (RIP)

**New Prayer Requests**

**Repose of the Soul**

Elsie Hawkins, mother of Paul & Renee Hawkins

See the website & prayer board for full prayer list.  
Contact the Church office to add someone to our Parish Prayer List and to request Mass Intentions.

office @spaulcc.org  
601-992-9547

**Sacrament of Reconciliation:** Saturday @ 4:30-5:00 pm (or by appointment — call the Church office)

**Parish Reconciliation Service will be held Monday, March 16th @ 6:00 pm**

**Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament this week:** Monday — Friday, 8 am-12 pm

**ANNOUNCEMENTS ~ EVENTS ~ INFORMATION**

**Parish Reconciliation Service — March 16th @ 6:00 pm** Make plans to join us. We will have several priests here to help!

**Religious Ed Classes are on Spring Break!** Wednesday night Big Deal will resume on March 18th. Sunday morning CGS will resume on March 22nd.

**Women's Retreat —** There are still spots available if you are interested in the Women's Guild Retreat March 27-29. All women 18 years and older are invited. Please contact Renee Carpenter 601-214-9457, if you are interested and need further details.

**Easter Egg Hunt — March 29th after 10:30 Mass** sponsored by the Knights of Columbus. Children and parents, meet in the Early Learning Center cafeteria to join the fun!

**40 Days for Life — February 26-April 5** We pray for an end to abortion. We pray for all who have suffered with an abortion, and for all who are considering abortion. May they find hope, help, and healing.

**Catholic Relief Services project —** When Jesus fed the 5,000, he said, "Give them some food yourselves." Reflect on the challenge of global hunger. How can you contribute to support the hungry in your community? Pick up a Rice Bowl and help.

**Crisis Humanitarian Relief for Families of ICE Raid —** Sacred Heart Catholic Church has continued to facilitate a major Emergency and Support Ministry for the children and families of the workers who remain incarcerated and have been deported. Twice a month they provide food and money to pay rent, utilities, and legal fees for 70 families in Canton. They also have a homework ministry to help the children and provide them after school snacks. They are in need of volunteers and donations of rice, beans, canned meats, diapers, and more. Please contact [cantonrapidresponse@gmail.com](mailto:cantonrapidresponse@gmail.com) for more information.



"Keep your eyes fixed on the outstretched arms of Christ crucified, let yourself be saved over and over again. And when you go to confess your sins, believe firmly in his mercy which frees you of your guilt. Contemplate his blood poured out with such great love, and let yourself be cleansed by it. In this way, you can be reborn ever anew. Jesus' Pasch is not a past event; rather, through the power of the Holy Spirit it is ever present, enabling us to see and touch with faith the flesh of Christ in those who suffer." — Pope Francis, Lent 2020

**Offertory Collection for March 7/8:**

Regular collection \$19,387

Black & Indian Missions second collection \$441

2020 CONTRIBUTION ENVELOPES are here! Let's celebrate!!!

PLEASE pick yours up from the information table. Thank you!



**Our Parish Mission**

To think as Jesus did,  
To speak as Jesus did,  
To see as Jesus did,  
To act as Jesus did,  
To love as Jesus did.

**March 15, 2020  
Third Sunday of Lent**

ST PAUL CATHOLIC CHURCH PH: 601-992-9547 www.saintpaulcatholicchurch.com

**Diocesan Directives issued by Bishop Kopacz**



We want to assure everyone that the Parish and Early Learning Center are being responsive to the threat of this current virus and the flu. We offer our compassion, love and prayers for all who are affected by illness, and we are taking the following precautions:

- All Liturgical Ministers, including Fr. Gerry, will refrain from serving at Mass should they have any fever, cough, or other flu-like or virus symptoms.
- All Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist have been instructed to use hand sanitizer before and after the distribution of Holy Communion. Everyone is encouraged to receive the Consecrated Host in the hand if physically possible. We have suspended offering the Precious Blood to the congregation at all Masses until further notice.
- The Sign of Peace is to be exchanged without physical contact, parishioners are not to hold hands during the Our Father, and the Holy Water fonts will remain empty until further notice. Hand sanitizer dispensers will be placed near the two empty Holy Water fonts and throughout the Family Life Center.
- Our Early Learning Center will maintain normal hours until further notice. The staff continues to exercise diligent care in protecting against the spread of germs. We will follow the direction of the Mississippi State Department of Health, the Diocese of Jackson and the Rankin County School District regarding possible closure. Friday, March 13th is a pre-scheduled closure.
- All Religious Ed classes, RCIA, Nursery & Children's Liturgy, Friday night Stations & Fish Fry, Daily & Weekend Masses, Alpha, and all Parish programs will continue as planned until further notice. We will follow the direction of the Diocese of Jackson and the Rankin County School District regarding possible cancellations.
- Please check our website regularly for the latest updates — [www.saintpaulcatholicchurch.com](http://www.saintpaulcatholicchurch.com)
- Everyone who is experiencing any fever, cough, or other flu-like or virus symptoms is not obliged to attend Mass, and is urged to refrain from participating in any Church functions. Students will be excused from classes. In the event, you cannot attend Mass, we invite you to pray the following prayer.

**Act of Spiritual Communion**

My Jesus, I believe that You are present in the Most Holy Sacrament. I love You above all things, and I desire to receive You into my soul. Since I cannot at this moment receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace You as if You were already there and unite myself wholly to You. Never permit me to be separated from You. Amen.

To learn more about how virus spreads and ways to prevent illness, visit [www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov) and [msdh.ms.gov](http://msdh.ms.gov).

# EXAMINATION OF CONSCIENCE - LENT 2020

*We reflect on our Lenten Study Book "He Chose the Nails" and this Sunday's Gospel "The Samaritan Woman" to prepare.*

† The gifts of Easter are the most precious gifts any person could ever receive because they cost God so much to give. God's greatest gift of all – His greatest act of love for us – was sending Jesus into our world.

**REFLECTION: In what ways have I been more focused on what I can do for God, rather than receiving the joy and good things He is offering me?**

† The Season of Lent is a time to humbly reflect on our sinful condition, and a time to be hopeful that we will be changed by the experience with God.

**REFLECTION: When have I been closed off, felt defeated, or grown cold to God's presence in my life? Am I hope-filled by His promise of Salvation?**

† The path to The Cross and the nails in that Cross show us the lengths God will go to call us back, cover our sins, and restore our relationship with Him.

**REFLECTION: Do I find it difficult to believe in the truth and assurance of His forgiveness offered to me, and accept His invitation to be reconciled with Him? In what area of my life do I most need His peace, forgiveness and grace? Do I allow my guilt, shame, and pride to keep me from reconciliation?**

† God has given us the freedom to choose how we respond to life, and how we deal with the circumstances that befall us.

**REFLECTION: How do I respond when life seems unfair? When have I chosen the way of the world over the way of Jesus; resentment over thanksgiving; serving wealth over serving God? Do I cling to things instead of giving to others?**

† If we confess our sins to God, He can always be trusted to forgive us and take away our sins.

**REFLECTION: What bad moments, mad moments, anxious moments, bad habits, selfish habits, binges, and bigotries do I need to leave at the Cross? Do I allow pride and shame to keep me from being honest with myself and others? Do I feel unworthy of His love? Am I afraid that my sins are unforgivable?**

## JOIN US FOR OUR PARISH RECONCILIATION SERVICE MONDAY, MARCH 16TH @ 6 PM

† Jesus sat down at the well, tired from His journey. He asked the Samaritan woman for a drink of the water she drew from the well. She was amazed that He, a Jew, spoke to her, an outcast, a woman, a Samaritan.

**REFLECTION: Do I respect people who are of a different race, culture, social or economic status, lifestyle, religion? Do I judge others by hearsay, assumptions, gossip? When have I neglected to give to someone who is physically or spiritually in need?**

† Jesus promises us Eternal Salvation with Him. He told the woman at the well, "whoever drinks the water I shall give will never thirst; the water I shall give will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life."

**REFLECTION: Am I afraid to drink of the Living Water that Jesus is offering me? Do I feel unworthy? Do I trust in the Lord to take care of my needs and grant Eternal Life to me? Do I work through routines of prayer and rituals as a way to earn my way to Heaven, rather than freeing myself for true encounters and a personal relationship with Him? Have I made time to sit in stillness and silence, opening myself to hearing Him speak to my heart?**

† When Jesus revealed Himself to the woman, she could not contain her joy! She left her water jar and went through the town telling everyone. She believed and accepted His invitation to new life, freed from her shame and guilt. He chose the nails for her, for you, for every person.

**REFLECTION: Am I pretending to be something I am not, thinking others and God will not love me? Do I think and behave as a person who feels bitter and angry about my circumstances? Am I withholding forgiveness, love, and acceptance from someone? Do I see Jesus in the faces of my loved ones, my enemies, and strangers? What old habits do I need to surrender in order to more fully live a new life in Him?**

† Many Samaritans who heard the woman's testimony came to believe in Him.

**REFLECTION: How do I respond to the blessings God places in my life? Am I timid about sharing my story of the ways I know God is with us and loves us all? Do I avoid opportunities to evangelize others? Am I too busy? Too fearful? Too closed off?**