

Mass Intentions ~ March 4-10, 2019

Monday @ 7:30 am — Rose & Nicholas Valentine (RIP)

Tuesday @ 7:30 am — Fr. Clarence Boucher (RIP)

*Ash Wednesday @ 7:30 am & 6:00 pm

Thursday @ 7:30 am — Ruth Marquez (RIP)

Friday @ 7:30 am — Patrick Hurley (RIP)

Saturday @ 5:30 pm — Thomas Ticknor (RIP)

Sunday @ 8:00 am — People of the Parish

Sunday @ 10:30 am — Blanche Stauss (RIP)

New Prayer Requests

Special Intentions:

Sam Roth, cousin of Linda McKinion

Jason Kyzar, grandson of Maxine Miller

Nathan Allen, grandson of John & Helen DeCantillon

Repose of the Soul:

Donnie Shippel, friend of Fr. Gerry & Jennifer Henry

(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

Altar Flowers & Blessed Mother Flowers are in honor of the People of this Parish.



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

March 3, 2019

Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Happy Lenten Season to You!

Time for another wonderful Spring-Time (Lenten Season) — a special time for pruning and personal growth. I used to hate the Lenten Season when I was growing up. I always questioned, ‘why should we have to do this.....go to more masses throughout the season, give-up something, usually chocolate or candy, take on some other chore? Why do all of this ‘stuff’? The answer was usually, ‘because I said so’ — Turns out that reason was good enough.....for health reasons.....if you get what I mean! Talking back, and/or questioning were not looked upon in any kind of favorable manner. The old adage” “To a Blind Horse, a Nod is as good as a Wink” was very much in play.

I reflect now on those days, and muse to myself, why did anybody not give a meaningful answer to such questions? Why did it all have to be so meaningless? I am aware that even if I had the benefit of some meaningful explanation, it still may not have sufficed to changed my perspective. I saw it, ‘Lent,’ as punishment, and I am pretty sure that even a healthy doctrine may not have been sufficient to change my mind. Giving up chocolate/candy was just not a good idea then, (perhaps even now)! I like chocolate, and I like candy so why give it up ????

Realistically, I now know that for a good or higher reason, one may be open to giving up ‘most anything.’ I have seen some great people make extraordinary sacrifices. I realize now that the Lenten Season can be a truly powerful time for each one of usif we choose to let it be. It can be a wonderful time of pruning, and trimming, and new growth.....If we let “Him” work in us.

As we move into our Lenten Season this year, we are studying a very special text in all of our Small Groups. Some of the groups have already begun to meet, all of the others will begin meeting this week. As most of you know by this time, the text we have chosen is: “Respectable Sins” the sub-title is extremely subtle “Confronting the Sins We Tolerate.”

(continued on next page)

~ notes ~ dates ~ events ~

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



Ash Wednesday is March 6th — 7:30 am & 6:00 pm Mass

Join us for meatless meal following our 6:00 pm Mass in the Family Life Center and let the youth serve you. This is a fundraiser for the youth ski trip. Thank you for your donation.

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 Videos posted to our Website, Facebook, YouTube — tune in!

Religious Ed Classes on Break — NO Big Deal Youth Group on Wednesday, March 6th & 13th.

— NO Sunday Morning Classes on Sunday, March 10th & 17th.

Catholic Service Appeal 2019 — We thank all those at St. Paul Parish who have generously responded to the annual Catholic Service Appeal. We ask those who have not sent in your pledge to please consider a gift. Each of us is called to respond in faith, knowing and trusting that God recognizes your willingness to live out the message of the Gospel.

To date, St. Paul Parish has raised \$41,349 of our \$70,519 goal. 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 — A global prayer event. Join us in praying these 40 days that, with God’s help, there will be an end of abortion in our city — and beyond. Learn of more ways to participate at 40daysforlife.com

Lenten Day of Reflection — Saturday, March 23rd @ 8:30 am – 2:30 pm in the Family Life Center

Register by March 18, so that we may have an appropriate headcount for materials and lunch. Day includes praise & worship music, motivational speaker, healthy you information, Pilates basics, lunch, and much more! Contact: stpaulwg@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.

*It is good to give thanks to the LORD, to sing praise to your name, Most High,
To proclaim your kindness at dawn, and your faithfulness throughout the night.
Psalm 92*

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

Naturally there are many people who may be put off at first glance. It is easy for us to say — there is no such thing as a respectable sin all sin is sin.... it is bad ... it is evil. While that is true the old adage may ring through here, “Never judge a book by its cover!” The adage is an invitation to look inside the pages and to not be afraid to see, hear, touch, or feel what you may discover. There may be riches untold between these covers! We believe the adage holds true here.

Our leadership at St. Paul has put a great deal of time and energy into this selection for our Lenten Season. We trust Jesus’ invitation to “put out into deep waters.” This opportunity has the potential to yield “a rich harvest.”

While there are some obvious issues that come up in the book that are not in harmony with our Catholic Teaching, there are also some wonderful teachings that are really inspiring and challenging.....and present a marvelous opportunity that could be life-changing.

While the book title may be a little ‘tongue in cheek’ — an attention-grabbing experience, it is certainly not the case in the sub-title. The premise of the author may well be summarized as this: While most Christians recognize the ‘Large Sins’ and may not be guilty of those, there tends to be a very significant number of Christians who tolerate the presence of sin in their own lives, and make very little effort to rid themselves of those sinsthus, Respectable Sins —

Pride Selfishness Unthankfulness Impatience
Judgmentalism Sins of the Tongue
.... just to mention a few.

The proposition of the author is that if I do not pay attention to these sins, these realities in my own life, and if I do not resolve to do something about them, they are going to continue to remain a real part of my life.

“If nothing changes then nothing Changes!”

The obvious question is:

As a ‘Growing Christian,’ how can I live comfortably with that reality?

—“To a Blind Horse ... A Nod is as good as a Wink” —

In other words, if I remain blind to these issues in my life all the preaching, teaching, and knowledge I have remains of very little value in my journey.

My Screen Size?



My Screen Size?

My Screen Size?



The two ‘Respectable Sins’ for this week’s reflection are:

**Ungodliness
and
Unthankfulness**

UNGODLINESS — It is my impression that in Evangelical teaching or sermons, one hears a great deal about ‘Ungodliness,’ but in Catholic circles we may not be familiar with the term at all. While it may not be very common in our everyday parlance, we are all very familiar with what it really means. It means how conscious am I of God’s presence throughout my everyday experience! If I were to personally assess my day before I retire at bedtime, and look back over my experiences, my encounters, my driving, my decisions, etc. I would ask:

**How much was I aware of God’s presence in each of those moments?
How much did I grow in my personal relationship with Jesus during this day?**

The very natural questions to follow are:

**How can I consciously improve that experience tomorrow?
How does this become more and more the thought and plan for my life?**

UNTHANKFULNESS — I believe that from our very birth, each one of us carries inside of us, a sense of the importance of being Thankful. We are created in Him, and in “His image and Likeness” and so have a natural affinity to want to be like Him! However, we all know it is so easy to lose that focus. We live in a world that has a huge attachment to ‘the self’ as we grow in life. What I want, what I need, and any spirit of Thankfulness that I have, can become veiled, and ultimately diminished or snuffed out.

The experience of GreedGreed and more Greed can ultimately shut down any spirit of Thankfulness in our lives. The big questions for each of us daily are:

How thankful am I?

On a continuum, where do I find myself in terms of a spirit of Thankfulness?

Am I experiencing myself advancing on that continuum?

What am I consciously doing to accomplish that?

Happy Lent to you! May you find wonderful experiences for growth in your Small Group sharing and processing!! — Fr Gerry