



*Love one another as you love yourself.
Your strong love for each other will prove to the world that you are my disciples.*

Mass Intentions ~ May 14-20, 2018

Monday @ 7:30 am — Tommy Autrey (RIP)

Tuesday @ 7:30 am — Fr. Martin Ruane (RIP)

Wednesday @ 6:00 pm — Tommy Autrey (RIP)

Thursday @ 7:30 am — Mary McAleese (RIP)

Friday @ 7:30 am — Phyllis Clark (RIP)

Saturday @ 5:30 pm — Joan Goodman (RIP)

****NO 8:00 MASS****

Sunday @ 10:30 am — Tommy Autrey (RIP)

Adoration this week: Mon—Fri 8am-12noon

Sacrament of Reconciliation: Saturday, 4:30-5:00pm

New Prayer Requests

Special Intentions:

Ken Lively, brother of Jo Bowden

Michael Roberts, son of Nathalie & James Roberts

Repose of the Soul:

Robert Ackroyd, brother-in-law of Jo Bowden

More on our website www.saintpaulcatholicchurch.com Church office @ 601-992-9547
office hours: Tuesday — Thursday 8:00am-4:00pm; Friday 8:00am-12noon



Altar Flowers this week: In honor of Wanda Zebrowski, donated by Donna Lee Reiss

**Blessed Mother Flowers this week: In Memory of Rose Marie Morris,
donated by the Morris Family**



Happy Mother's Day !

— UPCOMING EVENTS — UPCOMING EVENTS — UPCOMING EVENTS —

May 13 — Second Collection for the Catholic Communications Campaign learn more at www.usccb.org/cc

— **Mother's Day Breakfast & bake sale** after 8:00 am & 10:30 am Mass; sponsored by the Knights; moms eat free; proceeds go to the Birthright Fund.

May 16 — Parish Dialogue on Church as Hospital / School 6:30 pm in the Family Life Center. Light fare will be offered. RSVP by Tuesday to the office so we can prepare an appropriate amount of food!

May 19 — Prison Reentry Training 8:30 am - 3:30 pm in the Family Life Center; learn more about helping prepare the incarcerated to be successful returning citizens through the "Getting Ahead While Getting Out" program. Register by calling Marvin Edwards 601-594-8254 or Sr. Madeline 213-215-6103.

May 20 — Pentecost Sunday 10:30 am Mass & picnic on the hill (No 8:00 Mass, 5:30 Vigil in the Church)
Dress in picnic attire; lunch & water & ice cream sandwiches & chairs for Mass will be provided; space castle for the kids; bring a cooler, lawn chairs or blanket for the picnic if you like.

June 1-3 — 40 Hours of Adoration sign up will begin on Pentecost Sunday! We invite everyone to sign up for one hour of Eucharistic Adoration during this time to pray for our Parish and your personal needs.



**May 13, 2018
Ascension of the Lord**



Church — Hospital — School

Father Hurley,

My reflection may be a little simplistic, but here it goes. This is coming from a so-called Catholic from birth. Thank you for challenging me to be a better Catholic.

Church as a Hospital:

I was born in a country where most of the people are Catholic. You are born and baptized Catholic, therefore you are so.

In my childhood and most of my young adult life, I have treated the Church as a Hospital. I only went to church when my parents made me go for either a wedding, a Baptism, a funeral or Easter. I figured, "what's the point? I can pray from home. God is all mighty and He will understand. If anything, I can ask for forgiveness and walk right into heaven (after explaining a couple of minor incidents of course)."

It wasn't until recently that I have changed my opinion on the mass and the Church. Having children started the change in my life; I then felt that it was my obligation to go to mass. Don't get me wrong, I was still just going because I felt I had to go and I was okay missing an occasional mass here or there. In other words, I just went to the hospital regularly for my checkups, or perhaps better said, I went to the hospital Emergency Room on Sundays.

Church as a School:

Here I am now all grown up, "kind of", attending weekly mass, just like I attended school. I was the kind of student that just breezed by in my classes; I paid just enough attention to complete the requirements and graduate. I did all of my homework in class, because I was not going to do it on my free time. This, too, is how I viewed the church. "Okay, Father, give me the bread and the wine so I can go on my way, and no, I am not doing any additional homework on my free time."

I had to work real hard to get to where I am professionally, and I sometimes do wonder how things might have been different had I applied myself in school.

Just like in school, when the teacher would ask a question to the class, I would look the other way as if I was busy. Hoping they wouldn't pick me. I found myself doing the same with you in the mass. Father Hurley, when you are up there preaching and asking questions I, too, was looking the other way.

It wasn't until I began reading in our small groups this past Lent that I learned that God planned my whole life from the womb, and I really had no say in the plan. Wait, what????!! So He wanted me to struggle and not apply myself?

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So I started to wonder what would happen if I applied myself in mass? Would this make it easier for me to get through the week? I asked myself a simple question. "What does the mass mean to me?" I was surprised and sad to discover that I did not have a real answer. I viewed mass as a place where I would see some of my friends, say hello, and spend an hour going through the motions. As a result I would then feel better after I left the church. Then my question became more complicated; "why did I feel better when I left the mass even though I barely participated?"

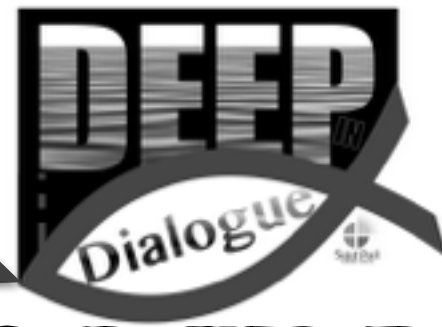
As my wife will tell you, when something gets in my head I must search until I find an answer. That's when I picked up this little book called The Lamb's Supper: The Mass as Heaven on Earth. Let me tell you that I felt as if my bald head was about to explode. There was a very short comment that said, the "Mass is Heaven!!!" Then it goes on to explain that the mass is the closest we will ever get to Heaven until the actual day.

Now, I sit in mass feeling that literally the Mass is Heaven. Last week as you asked the question about reflections. For the first time I did not feel like looking the other way. Instead I had my hand held high saying, "please pick me!"

Thank you.

Jose (Earl) Lopez

**Thank you for your responses!!
JOIN US WEDNESDAY
MAY 16TH @ 6:30 pm**



Dear Father Gerry,

Viewing the Church as a school where students do not learn is an instant connection for me. Having taught for thirty plus years, I spent most of my adult life striving to help my students learn. Many hours were spent agonizing over how I could improve my classroom practices in teaching state objectives so that all would learn.

Many of my teaching years were during the "No Child Left Behind" initiative, a noble yet flawed attempt to improve education in our country. All of a sudden teachers began spending more time preparing students for high stake tests than we spent teaching them to read, think, and write critically. Although we did not always want to, we *took our eyes off the prize*- instilling growth and a love of learning in our students using effective, engaging, and oftentimes fun teaching practices. We no longer had the time or freedom to do so. It was more important to score high on the tests so that we, our school, and district would achieve a high rating. (School districts are even today struggling with too much time spent on testing, leading to less challenging teaching practices in our classrooms.)

Has the Church also been forced to *take their eyes off the prize*? Have we forgotten the principles that our first, and most effective teacher, Jesus, taught us? Forgiveness, mercy, understanding, love for all (regardless of their power, money, or station in life) are some of his greatest teachings. Yet many of us struggle living up to or have failed to learn them. I include myself in this category.

Recently my husband and I spent four hours in a large emergency room in Jackson, waiting to be seen by a doctor. During that time I found myself moving closer to my husband so that people near me, who were clearly not well, would not share their illness with me. Later I reflected on my lack of empathy for others in that room. Jesus would surely have reached out to them and would not be worried that he would get sick. My fears then are not unlike the fears I experienced during my teaching years- the need for immediate success. Success of good test results, the success of surviving the emergency room. I needed to look past my fears and see the people in the room with me.

How do we achieve real learning? For me it is a lifelong journey that involves keeping my *eyes on the prize*- peace and justice for all. This thinking and writing challenge you have given us, Father Gerry, are the kinds of reflections that lead to real learning. If we really want to achieve no child being left behind, we need only look and reflect on the greatest teacher's words.

Debbie Wright

IS THE CHURCH A HOSPITAL?

But now there are many members, but one body. And the eye cannot say to the hand, "I have no need of you"; or again the head to the feet, "I have no need of you." 1 Corinthians 12: 20, 21

The "visible" church is tangible, organized, steepled, brick and mortar, managed with priests and staffs, with class rooms and worship centers. The other church, the "less visible" church, is the one Christ ordained, constituted by His followers, and proclaimed as one body of which we all are members. The one in which its members are sick, sloppy, smelly, yet saved.

Some belong to one church but not the other. Many belong to both. Both are important, but the less visible one, the wonderful, eternal one comes first. Does the less visible church need healing? You betcha! Is it a hospital? By all means! But, what about the visible church which seems so right and proper with programs, ministries, collection plates, hymns and nice, clean people? Is it a hospital? That depends. Some visible churches maintain, keeping folks right where they are, serving pabulum to its parishioners. They don't seem to need a hospital, so no hospital exists within its walls.

Other visible churches minister, striving for a mission. Those visible churches seem to understand the "less visible" church has members with needs, members whose lives are messy, whose relationships are estranged, whose finances are few. Members like me. Those churches promote transparency and honest dialogue and say, "come as you are". Are those churches hospitals? Yes, and thank you, Jesus.

Is St. Paul a hospital with too many patients who do not get well? While St. Paul is a hospital, the way is clear to be a thriving hospital. Our priest and our staff encourage transparency and honest dialogue. Those who need healing can find it here. Others can pray and support its broken members. I hope we at St. Paul always strive to be a hospital where wounds, external and internal, physical and emotional, may be healed by the Great Physician. And, we as His care-givers allow the wounded to enter without shame or masks and be treated, healed and blessed.

Open dialogue such as this is therapeutic. May it also be transformational. I must honor my fellow members of the Body of Christ. I want to listen more to the brave souls who have written you on this topic. Let's get well together. — Blessings to all. Lee Watt