

Mass Intentions ~ May 20-26, 2019

Monday @ 7:30 am — Dr. Carl Moran (RIP)

Tuesday @ 7:30 am — Wanda Zebrowski (RIP)

Wednesday @ 6:00 pm — Patrick Hurley (RIP)

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

Friday @ 7:30 am — Sue Conn (Sp Int)

Saturday @ 5:30 pm — People of the Parish (Sp Int)

Sunday @ 8:00 am — Pedro Moscoso (RIP)

Sunday @ 10:30 am — Sarah Favara (RIP)

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

Adoration this week: Monday — Friday, 8 am - 12 pm

New Prayer Requests

Special Intentions:

Kathleen Witt, sister of Christine Weikum

Cyndy Bernhardt, sister of Christine Weikum

Elouise Winstead, sister of Dot Autrey

JW Searcy, father of Jimmy Searcy

Rick Sanders, friend of Linda McKinion

Marie Murphy, friend of Linda McKinion

Repose of the Soul:

Carolyn Cagle, aunt of Alan Black

Nancy Willard, friend of Alan Black

Bobby Ward, co-worker of Elizabeth Lee

(full prayer list on our website & prayer board)



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

May 19, 2019 ~ Fifth Sunday of Easter

~ upcoming events ~ save the dates ~

Senior Recognition Mass, May 19th @ 10:30 am Mass. Join us to honor and celebrate our graduating senior class!

Our Home Open House, May 23rd @ 5:30 pm in the Family Life Center — This event is hosted by the St. Paul Capital Campaign Committee. We will begin at 5:30 p.m. with a social and refreshments. There will be a brief presentation at 6:00 p.m., with time for questions, input, and discussion. Members of the Committee will be on-hand to answer any questions you may have regarding the fundraising campaign for our Renovation and Expansion Project. If you are unable to attend this event, a second Open House will be held on Sunday, June 2nd at 2:00 pm.

Ascension of the Lord will be celebrated at the June 2nd weekend Masses.

First Friday Healing Mass & Brunch, June 7th
Armed Forces Support Ministry First Saturday Rosary, June 8th

Annual Pentecost Outdoor Mass & Celebration, June 9th @ 10:00 am

Big Deal Youth Group Summer Fun: Open to all upcoming 7th graders through graduating seniors!

- Geyser Falls June 22nd
- Canoe Trip July 20th
- Brave's Baseball Game August 17th

FINANCIAL REPORT

Weekly Offertory Collection for May 11/12: General Fund = \$34,338

Catholic Home Missions 2nd Collection = \$225

Catholic Service Appeal Update: The final mailing for the Catholic Service Appeal will be this week, sent to anyone who has not made a pledge so far this year. We hope everyone will prayerfully consider how much to give, and make a pledge to help reach our parish goal of \$70,519.

To date, St. Paul has 166 pledges for a total of \$62,886.54. Thank you! Surely, we can meet and even exceed our parish goal! Remember, whatever we attain over and above that amount will go toward our \$148,041.75 Cathedral payment, an annual fee for the operations of the diocese taxed to parishes based on their annual income. CSA envelopes are available on the back counter and information table.

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

Meet the St. Paul Senior Leadership Team

Today, we hear from Janie —

When I moved to Mississippi in 1991, I hadn't been attending Mass for the previous 10 years. As God would have it, I rented an apartment, sight unseen, not knowing it was only a block from St. Richard Church in Jackson. Within the first couple of months, I met someone who invited me to come to a "prayer meeting" at St. Richard. I told her that I hadn't been going to Mass and she said, "That's OK, just come to the prayer meeting."

The first time I went, I met Father Richard Somers as it was his Catholic Charismatic Renewal prayer meeting held in the cafeteria at the school. I tried to hide in the last row at the meeting, but as we were praying, he walked down the center aisle and told me, "You need prayer. Come up to the front." The group laid their hands on me, and prayed for me that night. I was terrified, but I was also hooked! The unconditional love I felt there that night brought me back to Mass, and I became a regular at the Thursday night Prayer Meeting.

Later I attended a six-week Life in the Spirit Seminar. At the end I was being prayed over to receive the Holy Spirit, and the person said, "The Lord has put on my heart to tell you that He was with you in your room." She didn't know what that meant, but I did—I had been worried that I wasn't worthy to be baptized in the Spirit, and I prayed every night in my bedroom to be worthy of this Blessing. So began my development of a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. I felt the Holy Spirit in my life.

This is why I am so happy to be part of the Senior Leadership Team. I am excited to help Fr. Gerry bring our Parish from Maintenance to Mission. I want to help other people experience what has been such a blessing in my life — a personal relationship with Jesus Christ and welcoming The Holy Spirit in their lives.

I hope you have had time to take a look at the Divine Renovation website divinerenovation.net. I encourage everyone to install the Divine Renovation APP on your smart phones and tablets. So when you have time, explore the DR APP and take a look at some of the videos. I was in the Atlanta airport this week, and watched "Tree Planting for Parish Renewal"—it's not about trees! It's about the symbolism of the Three Keys as the new DR logo. The keys stand for 1) the primacy of evangelism; 2) the empowerment of the Holy Spirit; and 3) the best of leadership principles. Enjoy!

—Janie Romero



Come, Holy Spirit, Come

We will soon celebrate Pentecost, when The Holy Spirit descended upon the Apostles and the Church was born. Jesus says The Holy Spirit is our Advocate to teach and lead us. To have a relationship with The Holy Spirit means to move beyond words and into an experience. Opening up to the Holy Spirit is unlike any other relationship we can ever know. We open our hearts and ask for this Grace, and our lives are changed from the inside out. The power of The Holy Spirit doesn't prevent us from having problems, rather we are liberated and equipped to face them.

Receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation renews us in the Holy Spirit, and strengthens the Grace bestowed on us at Baptism. As we stated last week, Bishop Kopacz and many who attended this year's Confirmation Mass, found it to be an extraordinary experience.

Read the Faith Stories of some of our 2019 Confirmation Class ~

.....

"In my journey of Faith, I have always been raised to go to Mass every Sunday and religious ed classes even when I didn't want to. We would never miss a Sunday, but when I was younger it didn't matter how many times I would go to church, I wouldn't feel like I do now. Since youth group on Wednesdays started, I came every week and loved every minute of it. Being a part of Youth Group has really made an impact on my life. Having my family guide me in the importance of going to church has really helped me understand that it's not only about being inside of a church on Sunday or when we are supposed to go. My youth leaders have really pushed me to be the best version of myself. Faithfully attending Mass, being a part of a ministry, being actively involved in religious ed and youth group has really helped me feel a part of something at St. Paul. Now that I am Confirmed, I am excited to travel on this Faith Journey as an adult in the Church."

.....

"These past two years of Confirmation preparation have grown me in ways that help me make smarter decisions in my life. It helps me pave my path to the willingness of the Lord."

.....

"The main things that have helped me in growth of maturity in the Faith is the support of the 'family' of friends and adults in our Youth Group that help me challenge myself to live in the Lord's Light."

.....

"I was speechless when the Bishop anointed me with the Holy Spirit. I could not say anything else except 'Amen' – meaning I believe!"

.....

"I feel the Holy Spirit will help me in my life journey in the times when I get challenged the most, to help me think about the decision that will be made and how to curve that in the right path."

.....

Read of this year's Confirmation experience from the perspective of a few of their leaders ~

"They say it takes a village to raise a child, and in our Big Deal Youth Group, our tribe is special. Our 'villagers' (adult volunteers) do an amazing job looking out for our youth. They are called to be teachers, but also leaders and mentors.

Through the power of /the Holy Spirit, ChristLife found our parish five years ago, and close to 100% of our adult volunteers have been involved. (This includes volunteer teachers, adults in the Youth Band, and our cook team.) Not only have they participated in ChristLife, they are now in faith sharing study groups. Since this movement, our leaders have felt the Holy Spirit working in their lives and they have been on fire to share their change! They have encountered Christ and share this every Wednesday evening! They are committed to mentoring our youth and helping them develop their own personal relationship with Christ.

This year, our Confirmation Class had an amazing experience. This group has really been committed to their Faith and being a part of our youth group. Because of this, they are a very close group. The class participated in Alpha where they were mentored by adults and heard faith stories from the senior students in our parish. How amazing it was to see actively engaged small groups led by our youth!

Their Confirmation Retreat was more engaging than ever because they had shared and formed relationships in their small groups. These young people found and developed a personal relationship with Christ and were drawn even closer to Him on the Retreat weekend! I have no doubt that the Holy Spirit is moving in our parish, and it excites me to witness the ripple effect it is having on our younger generation here at St. Paul!"

"One of the real pleasures for me as a Confirmation teacher is being able to watch the students in the class grow in their understanding of our faith and grow in their relationship with God. I definitely saw that with this year's class. Through them, my relationship with God grew as well. One of our main goals is to teach them that Christianity is not about a set of rules or a philosophy or about social justice. But rather, Christianity is really about a relationship. The rules, philosophy, and social justice are parts of and/or fruits of that relationship. If we concentrate on a relationship with Jesus Christ, the rest will fall into place. During the year, we focus on the tools of that relationship, i.e. Prayer, Scripture, Sacraments, Mass, God's rightful place in our lives etc. As the year went on, I had a feeling that they were thinking about their relationship with God and that they were working on it. But, I can never really be sure because I only see them for about 1-2 hours a week. About a month before their Confirmation Mass, they had to write a letter to the Bishop telling him why they wanted to be confirmed. Almost all of them in some form or another mentioned that they wanted to be confirmed to strengthen their relationship with God. It was special to me that they were focused on that.

Every year at the Confirmation Mass, I am just bursting with pride at what that class has done during the year. This year, we asked the class to do more than we have ever asked before. They stepped up and did it all with a great attitude, and it really showed at their Mass. When they were all standing as a group and the Bishop was talking to them, I looked at their faces. They were all smiling. I thought, "How happy they are to be standing here today!" and "How blessed we are to pass on our Faith to such a great group!"

Finally, I want to recognize the senior class for the role they played. The Retreat they put on this year was outstanding. The Retreat is always one of the highlights of my year. I really look forward to going. It amazes me how my spirit is renewed by teenagers. I was so proud of the way this year's seniors talked so openly about their faith journeys and their relationship with God. They have also been great mentors and friends to this year's Confirmation Class. Our program would not work so well without the participation of our seniors."

"Watching the seniors live out the promise they made when they received the Sacrament of Confirmation has been such a blessing. They did an amazing job planning and leading the Confirmation Retreat for the junior class. The Holy Spirit was truly present! I have loved watching them grow in their faith over the past year!"

Come, Holy Spirit, Come