

Mass Intentions ~ November 11- 17, 2019

*Monday @ 9:00 am — US Veterans

Tuesday @ 7:30 am — Claude Tanner (RIP)

Wednesday @ 6:00 pm — JW Searcy (RIP)

Thursday @ 7:30 pm — People of the Parish

Friday @ 7:30 am — Nolen Hughes (RIP)

Saturday @ 5:30 pm — Mildred Jordan (RIP)

Sunday @ 8:00 am — Sister Fatima Starks (RIP)

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

Contact the Church office to schedule Mass intentions and to add names to our prayer list.



*Altar Flowers this week are donated by Marilyn Baker, in memory of Nolen Hughes.
Blessed Mother Flowers are donated by Alice Mitchell, in memory of Kenneth & Tommy Mitchell.*

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

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

New Prayer Requests

Special Intentions:

Ben Ticknor

Susan Irby

Paula Morgan

Repose of the Soul:

Gladis McQuitty, mother of Kathy Mathews

Ruth Martz, mother of Michael Martz



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

November 10, 2019 ~ Thirty-second Sunday in Ordinary Time

“To be or not to be, that is the Question” — Hamlet

The above is the opening line of Hamlet’s soliloquy in Act 3 of Shakespeare’s play by the same name. It is the question For us, it is a similar question: **To Build or not to Build.**

As I previously reported to you, the Building Committee members were shocked by the huge projected price increase in our Renovation Project. I promised you that we would work hard and pray about what we felt God was directing us to do. We did that, and tried to do it as expediently as possible in order to maintain momentum. However, it appears to some people that we may have been too expedient. They have more questions that they would like addressed before making a decision. We consider that to be very reasonable. We have heard some of those questions, and accordingly will attempt to provide these answers. To be perfectly frank and honest, we weren’t overlooking these questions. We were intensely focused on the questions regarding our choices based on the current information, and we didn’t want to tarry on that front.

Here are some questions with the answers:

1. How much have we spent on the project thus far?

- \$168,251 has been paid to JH&H Architectural Firm for fees and services; this includes fees for engineers and other contractors whom they had to engage on our behalf.
- \$ 15,500 was paid to Guest Consultants — Land Surveyors/Topography.
- \$ 13,000 was paid to Burns Cooley Dennis Inc. for Geo-Tech studies.
- The total amount spent thus far is \$196,751. Some of this total is valuable and usable for our future endeavors.

2. Do we actually know what it will cost to build a new church?

No, we don’t! We believe a new structure of 13,500 sq.ft. could be built for \$6 million or so. This is basic structure. That cost naturally changes depending on how elaborate and detailed we want the interior and exterior finishes to be.

3. What will the design of the new building look like should that be the preferred option?

We do not know! We would require a whole lot of input from you, our members, and we would narrow down the looks and style based on your input.

4. Where would a new church be built on our property if that were the plan ?

A new church would be built on the additional 10 acres we purchased 7 years ago. The property is to the northeast on Highway 25 and it aligns with our current property. We will be seeking the prime spot for building a new church on that acreage.

5. How do we plan to repurpose the current sanctuary ?

We do not have an answer to that question at this time. We see that issue as Phase 2 of this process. We see a lot of viable opportunities, but we are not offering any at the present time since such details can be misconstrued as promises. We plan to carefully study the possibilities at the appropriate time. We pledge to you that we will repurpose in accordance with our needs at that time.

—Fr. Gerry

ANNOUNCEMENTS ~ EVENTS ~ INFORMATION

Armed Forces Support Ministry Collection - November 9/10th — Please make a donation to the Ministry to help them send care packages and cards to our deployed service members who are parishioners, and family of parishioners. Read the notes of appreciation on our website from some of the deployed members. Thank you!

Veterans Day Mass — Monday, November 11th @ 9:00 am — We will honor our veterans at this Mass. All are welcome!

Prison Ministry Training, November 15th & 16th — here at St. Paul Parish. MARC, Mississippi Association for Returning Citizens, helps returning citizens break the cycles of incarceration and poverty through accountability, building resources, and learning opportunities. Participants will receive comprehensive training to help these citizens in their transition. Training is free and includes lunch. Register by November 11th by calling Marvin Edwards 601-594-8254 or Sister Madeline 213-215-6103.

Mass of Remembrance, November 21st — Please check the posted list of names for your family members who passed away since last November. If someone is not included, please fill out a card. You will receive a personal invitation to this very special annual Mass and celebration.

Book of Life — We ask everyone to update your family card in the Book of Life as we remember our deceased throughout the month of November. Blank cards are next to the book for new families. Please keep them in alphabetical order by last name.

Looking for a job? — Look who’s hiring!

Our St. Paul Early Learning Center is looking for a high school junior/senior who loves playing and caring for infants to work in the Nursery on Monday, Wednesday and Friday, 3:00-6:00. Call Jennifer or Darlene at 601-992-2876.

St. Dominic Hospital Chapel is seeking a pianist to play at Mass every Saturday at 4:30 p.m. and/or at St. Catherine’s Village every Sunday at 9:00 a.m. For more information please call 601-750-4885.

Curious about Alpha? Registration will open on our website November 16th. Alpha is a series of sessions exploring the Christian faith, typically run over eleven weeks. Each talk looks at a different question around faith and is designed to create conversation. Alpha is run all around the globe, and everyone is welcome. We begin on January 9th! Who will you invite?

FINANCIAL REPORT

Offertory Collection for November 2/3:

- Regular collection \$19,061.00
- Capital Campaign Collection \$3,838.00
- Diocesan Missions Second Collection \$1,325.00

OFFERTORY COLLECTION OPTIONS

If you wish to begin receiving envelopes, stop receiving envelopes, begin auto-draft, or make any change to your method of giving please sign the list on the Information Table and someone will contact you. No need to sign up if you have no change.

Office Hours: Tues-Fri, 8am-4pm PH: 601-992-9547 www.saintpaulcatholicchurch.com

Step Eight — Be Not Afraid

We have reached the final step in our Small Group Study, reflecting and discussing the Eight Steps to help us more authentically walk the Disciple's Path. What a valuable tool for every Christian. Linda Rooney's writing brought the Scriptures to life. She expanded our imaginations, placed us right in the middle of the story, and brought the Word of God to light in our modern world. She broke down the historical meaning of the core teachings and opened up the relevance to walking with Jesus. Hopefully our lives have indeed been changed. When one life is changed, the world in turn is changed.

I have known that truth since my mother died during my freshman year of college. The prognosis had not been good three years prior — brain cancer. My poor Mama endured radiation treatments, several strokes and emphysema. My older siblings had married and moved out of the house. So, as one of the last two children still living at home (and the last remaining girl), there was quite a large weight of responsibility on me to provide much of her care. After she became paralyzed, it was uncomfortable and frightening to have to bathe and care for her in this way. Such a parent/child role reversal is very challenging. I wasn't always the loving, compassionate, mature daughter I wanted to be. Sometimes, I selfishly thought I was missing out on "the best years of my life" — my Friday nights were spent in the hospital, not hanging out with my friends. The truth is I was afraid of losing my Mama — I didn't want her to die!



My mother did die, and our family's world was forever changed. We drove out to the rural Istre Cemetery in South Louisiana — still the most peaceful place I have ever been. The road is long and winding with beautiful trees and farms along the way. Cars stopped as the funeral procession passed. Folks came out of their homes to stand in respect of our lost loved one. I was struck by this act of selfless love and felt covered by their prayers. These people understood that the world was different. My Mama would no longer walk the earth, cook her wonderful gumbo and fried chicken, dance with my Daddy, sit with a friend in need, attend my graduation, help me on my wedding day, read to my children.

I wanted the entire world to just stop for one moment of silence, and as they took their next breath to notice that the world was changed. I was afraid to live life without her. But, I had no doubt she was with the Lord, and that He was with me as I continued my journey in this life. I was only 18. I still had a lot of living to do!

Linda Rooney concludes the book by navigating the deep waters of fear. She features the story in Matthew's Gospel, Chapter 14: 22-33, when Peter and the disciples show great fear as Jesus walked on the sea to be with them in their fear. When Jesus spoke, **"Take heart, it is I; do not be afraid,"** Peter needed proof. Peter responded, **"Lord, if it is You, command me to come to You on the water."**

Rooney writes, **"Because Peter is impetuous and walking not in faith and trust in Jesus but in fear for his life, he takes his eyes off Jesus and focuses instead on his problem. The faith that originally spurred him to surrender his nets in order to follow Jesus flounders when he allows his problems to be more powerful than trust in Jesus' saving presence."** (pg 140)

It makes sense to make Fear the topic of the final chapter to wrap up this wonderful book. Each of the other Seven Steps hinge on this one. If we are afraid, we honestly cannot **Surrender Our Nets, Live as a Blessing, Love Our Enemies, Cultivate a Generous Spirit, Pray Like Jesus, See the Good, or Heal All We Meet.**

When I find myself in a tizzy and stressing over life issues, afraid things will not end well — I can stop, sit in silence, be still, and know He is with me. He is in control of my life, not me. Fear is paralyzing. Fear is a liar and keeps us from being what He has called us to be. The Lord knows it is a great reality for us to be fearful of stepping out in Faith and relying on Him who we cannot see. That is why Jesus repeated this message to "Be Not Afraid" more than any other in the Gospels.

It is so much easier to feel faithful, joyful, and close to God when life is going great. But, those feelings can seem to fade away when my reality doesn't quite live up to what I had hoped for — when I don't get the things I want, the life I want. Then, I may not trust that He is still present with me in the struggle, and that He knows and wants what is best for me. My vision can become clouded, and I may not recognize God's love and mercy in those dark, frightening times.

So, how do we recognize Him when we are afraid? How do we draw on God's strength and regain our sense of trust in His Divine Providence?

This book has given us great direction. We can revisit the Eight Steps:

What do I need to surrender to move past this?

Am I living my life as a blessing at this time?

Am I loving my "enemy" in this situation?

How can I cultivate a generous spirit toward this person?

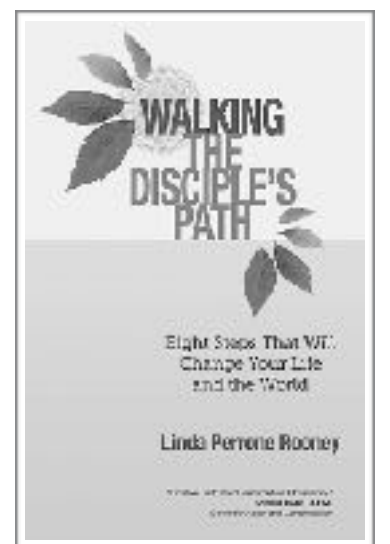
Have I prayed over this like Jesus?

Do I see the good in this?

How can I be a source of healing to others here?

Is this problem having too much power over my life?

Am I afraid to put my trust in His power over this problem?



—Monica Walton