

Mass Intentions ~ November 19-25, 2018

Monday @ 7:30 am – Robert Phipps (RIP)
 Tuesday @ 7:30 am – Francine & Bubba Gilmer (RIP)
 Wednesday @ 6:00 pm – Tommy Autrey (RIP)
 **Thursday @ 9:00 am – Thanksgiving Day Mass
 **Friday @ 9:00 am – Margaret Rose Smith (RIP)
 Saturday @ 5:30 pm – Johnnie Null (RIP)
 Sunday @ 8:00 am – People of the Parish (Sp Int)
 Sunday @ 10:30 am – Patrick Hurley (RIP)
Adoration this week: Mon–Wed 8am-12noon
Sacrament of Reconciliation: Sat 4:30-5:00 pm

New Prayer Requests

Special Intentions:

Jackie Hoey
 Michelle Lalo
 Josephine Cannon, mother of David Cannon
 Mary Christine Hart, friend of Melinda Cannon
 Nathan Allen, grandson of John & Helen DeCantillon

Repose of the Soul:

Joseph Harold Patrick, uncle of Crystal Bennett
 Mark Grindley, brother of Tricia Burke

Altar Flowers this week are in memory of Al & Sue Tillman, parents of Alison Lewis.

Blessed Mother Flowers this week are in memory of Jack & Donna Lewis, donated by John & Alison Lewis.

New Announcements

No Religious Ed & Youth Group November 18th, 21st, & 25th – Thanksgiving Break

Parish Office will be closed November 21st @ noon through November 23rd.

Thanksgiving Day Mass Schedule – Thursday & Friday @ 9:00 am (No 7:30 am Mass those days.)

Volunteers needed for 10:30 am Mass Nursery & Children’s Liturgy – Teens & adults are invited to help with these ministries. You will be placed on a rotating schedule. Stop by the information table to visit with Lucy & Blair about serving.

December 2nd – First Sunday of Advent

- ◆ **Parish Renovation Presentation 2:00-4:00 pm – Save the date!** All are invited to view the new architectural renderings for renovating the church, and hear the plans for making repairs and improvements to our existing facility.
- ◆ **Blood Drive hosted by the Knights of Columbus –** includes breakfast and pictures with Santa. See the Knight’s flyer for more information.
- ◆ **Angel Trees will be adorned with ornaments –** plan to choose one and help a needy child for Christmas.

Baptism Preparation Class December 9th @ 2:00 pm in Room 109 of the Family Life Center. This is open to all expectant parents and any parents planning to have a child baptized within the next few months. We only hold four classes per year. Call the Church office to register. 601-992-9547.

Reminders

Carmelite Monastery Open House Weekends begin November 17th featuring baked goods, gifts, Advent Supplies, Fontanini Nativities and more. Pick up a flyer from the Information Tables for more details.

Hospitality of the Soul Retreat Day December 1st 9:30 am - 3:00p.m at St. Mary of the Pines Retreat Center in Chatawa. Contact Renee Carpenter 601-214-9457 or email stpaulwg@gmail.com for details



*Give thanks to the Lord
 for He is good
 His love endures forever.
 -Psalm 107*

November 18, 2018

Thirty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

Staff Changes — Keeping you up to date!



Deacon John McGregor has been working as administrator at St. Paul Parish since November, 2016. His gifts of organization and administration have been invaluable in the first phases of our parish’s ongoing transformation into a parish of Missionary Disciples. However, increases in demands on his time as the Director of the Permanent Diaconate for the Diocese of Jackson, as well as his responsibilities at St. Jude Parish, have made it impossible for him to fulfill the increasing demands on his time at St. Paul.

Therefore, John is leaving his position here. We will miss him and his talents, but we will continue to look for the right combination of leaders to help St. Paul Parish better fulfill her mission “to invite everyone into a deeper relationship with Jesus Christ.” We are very grateful for his ministry and service to our parish community, and we look forward to a continued relationship with him as we, and he, move forward. We wish John the very best in his continuing Missionary endeavors.



Michelle Lalo is also transitioning out of her position as secretary/receptionist at St. Paul. She has been in that position for almost 15 months, and we are very grateful for her ministry and service to our parish community during her tenure here. We are grateful for the welcome and hospitality that she extended to parishioners and non-parish members during her time with us. We wish Michelle the very best as she transitions to her new experience.



Kevin Smith, as many of you already know recently had a recurrence of his previous cancer earlier this Summer. At that time after the diagnosis, Kevin went through major surgery, the had weeks of radiation treatment. He is doing good right now, and his doctors have given him a positive report. Kevin has retired from his position as Director of Maintenance here at St. Paul Parish. We are grateful to all the genuinely generous souls who pitched in during Kevin’s absence. We thank Kevin for his ministry and service to our parish, and we wish him the very best in his retirement.

Church website: www.saintpaulcatholicchurch.com
Office phone: 601-992-9547

Contemplative Prayer

We continue our reflections on the practice of Contemplative Prayer this week. All I can say is "Thank You, God" for those great contemplatives who broke outside of the walls of their monastic communities to share with us the fruits of their prayer and labor.

For so many years, there was a perception that once monks joined a cloistered community, they stayed inside the confines of that community and did not leave for any reason except to abandon the practice of Monasticism. A prevailing belief was that monks did not go to the outside world to share their fruits, often for fear of contamination. The very sad reality in that perspective was that the outside world was contaminated with temptations, and they believed they would not be able to maintain their spiritual purity and practices. Withdrawing to the desert and avoiding the distractions seemed like a wise choice in order to be able to stay focused. But, that just is not a reality for most people. Thank God for the change of heart and mind, because they really had a whole lot to share with us. They were able to move out of that perspective and break through the "we have it, you don't" mindset.

In its Decree on Ecumenism during the Second Vatican Council, the Church invited all religious and laity alike to engage in dialogue and healthy relationship with our separated brethren, those churches / communities separated from the Roman Catholic Church over extended periods of time. The Decree acknowledged that such engagement was fraught with difficulties, but there were extraordinary fruits available from those dialogues and relationships.

"The differences that exist in varying degrees between them and the Catholic Church — whether in doctrine and sometimes in discipline, or concerning the structure of the Church — do indeed create many and sometimes serious obstacles to full ecclesiastical communion. The ecumenical movement is striving to overcome these obstacles. But even in spite of them it remains true that all who have been justified by faith in Baptism are members of Christ's body, and have a right to be called Christian, and so are correctly accepted as brothers and sisters by the children of the Catholic Church." (Decree on Ecumenism #13)

What a powerful declaration of the Church after remaining so long without this compassionate feeling and perspective. In fact, on the contrary, remaining hostile to our separated brothers and sisters, and maintaining that we (the Catholic Church) held the whole truth. The Council Fathers recognized that we were limiting God in such a process, and that God's Truth and Wisdom was available to all of His people. We reclaimed that domain that had become mainly an Eastern tradition.

Fr. Thomas Keating, whom we highlighted last week, spent much of his life helping bridge that gap. He published many works to assist us in embracing the beautiful gift of Contemplative Prayer which opens our hearts and minds to a greater awareness and more intimate closeness with God. We will speak more in the next few weeks on the practice of Contemplative Prayer — what it is, and what it is not.

— Fr. Gerry



Bishop Kopacz has asked all parishes to publish the following letter in this weekend's bulletin:

To: Priests, Deacons, Lay Ecclesial Ministers
From: Bishop Joseph R. Kopacz
Topic: Response to federal financial investigation

Federal agents served search and seizure warrants on the chancery office and on St. Joseph Parish in Starkville on Wednesday, November 7. Their investigation centers on the financial activities of Father Lenin Vargas. As of this email, no charges have been filed.

On Saturday, Nov. 10, and Sunday, Nov. 11, Father Jeffrey Waldrep shared the following statement with the parishioners of St. Joseph in Starkville and Corpus Christi Mission in Macon:

Earlier this week the government began an investigation of the financial administration of Saint Joseph in Starkville. Saint Joseph Parish and the Diocese of Jackson are cooperating with the investigation. Pending the resolution of the investigation, Father Lenin Vargas will not engage in any public ministry, and has been removed from all pastoral and financial administration. In the interim, Father Jeffrey Waldrep, the pastor of Annunciation in Columbus, will serve as administrator and Father Rusty Vincent will be responsible for all pastoral ministry at St. Joseph, Starkville and Corpus Christi, Macon. The continued spiritual and financial well being of St. Joseph Parish and Corpus Christi Mission is of the utmost importance, and we will continue to aid you both in sound fiscal management of all of your resources. Let us pray with trust that the Lord Jesus will shepherd us through this difficult time of upheaval and uncertainty.

After receiving complaints, Bishop Joseph Kopacz ordered an internal accounting audit of the Starkville Parish's finances. After Bishop Kopacz' staff conducted the audit, the Diocese placed fiscal constraints on Father Vargas' spending and found that he was violating diocesan policy concerning soliciting charitable donations and demanded that he stop these activities and conduct no further charitable fundraising without first informing the diocese of these planned activities. Federal law, the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act, better known as HIPA, prohibits our discussion of Father Vargas' medical condition -- not only when we first learned of it, but also throughout the time period mentioned in the affidavit. In fact, HIPPA law continues to bind us today in that we can neither admit nor deny anything related to Rev. Vargas' medical condition.

Media inquiries should be directed to the office of communication at 601-969-3581.

We ask that you pray for everyone involved as we continue to work toward a resolution.

Sincerely yours in Christ,
+Joseph R. Kopacz
Bishop of Jackson