

Mass Intentions ~ November 25-December 1, 2019

Monday @ 7:30 am — Agnes Azarra (RIP)

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

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

*Thursday @ 9:00 am — Greg Begonia (RIP)

**Friday @ 9:00 am — Risa White (RIP)

Saturday @ 5:30 pm — Marie Lodes (RIP)

Sunday @ 8:00 am — People of the Parish

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 placed in honor of the People of the Parish.

Blessed Mother Flowers this week are donated by Donna Reiss, in memory of Wanda Zebrowski.

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

Adoration this week: Monday & Tuesday, 8 am — 12 pm. No adoration Wednesday — Friday.

New Prayer Requests

Special Intentions:

John Provine, son of Kathy & Charles Provine

Carmen Jabour, sister of Philip Jabour

Repose of the Soul:

Ann Jackson, wife of Tommy Jackson

Fr. James Gilbert, great uncle of Collice Hamburg



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

November 24, 2019 ~ Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe

Crown Him King of Hearts and our Parish

We traveled with Saint Luke following Jesus' journey to Jerusalem all these weeks of Ordinary Time. Jesus arrived last Sunday and He foretold of the destruction to come (Luke 21:5-19). We were left on our own to read the remainder of Chapter 21 and the whole of Chapter 22 this past week, and hopefully many of you did. There is so much covered in those verses that prepare us for the ultimate goal of the journey of Jesus — to offer Himself for our Salvation. Those 89 verses of Scripture are packed with incredible material for our reflection: *Description of The Great Tribulation and the Coming of the Son of Man....the Lesson of the Fig Tree....Conspiracy.....Preparations for the Passover.....The Last Supper.....Jesus foretelling what was yet to come.....The Disciples fear.....Arguments.....The Agony in the Garden.....Judas' Betrayal.....Jesus is Arrested.....Peter Denies Him.....and finally, Jesus is brought before the Sanhedrin....* Jesus had much to teach in Jerusalem as He bid His farewell.

“During the day, Jesus was teaching in the temple area, but at night He would leave and stay at the place called the Mount of Olives. And all the people would get up early each morning to listen to Him in the temple area.” (Luke 21:37-38)

This week, we pick up with Chapter 23 and we find Jesus hanging on the cross nearing His last breath — quite a leap! We hear of His impending death as we are on the verge of celebrating His birth. Today's celebration is “The Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe.” What a beautiful image — King of the Universe! What do you envision as you take a moment to reflect on Jesus as King? We might picture a man with a glorious crown and a beautifully adorned robe, yet He wore a crown of thorns. What does the Kingdom of such a King look like?

We speak of His Kingdom every time we pray the *Our Father* — “*Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in Heaven.*” Let us celebrate His Kingdom on earth, His Kingdom in our hearts, His Kingdom here at St. Paul Parish. This week, as we prepare for visitors and elaborate meals on this Thanksgiving Holiday, may we be truly thankful for the abundant Blessings He has poured out over our St. Paul Church Family.

Thank You God for:

- **our place of worship, and the freedom to gather every day of every year**
- **our pastor & bishop who shepherd us to deeper relationship with You**
- **our small groups, classmates, family, and friends who journey with us**
- **our RCIA, ChristLife, and Alpha Sessions that continue to enrich our fold**
- **our Catechists and Youth Leaders who help grow our youngest disciples**
- **our trust in Your Holy Spirit to guide and lead us in Your ways**

ANNOUNCEMENTS ~ EVENTS ~ INFORMATION

Religious Ed classes will be out for Thanksgiving Break. Please note CGS will not meet on Sunday, Nov 24th & Dec 1st. Big Deal will not meet on Wednesday Nov. 27th. CGS resumes Dec 8th. The Big Deal resumes Dec 4th.

Thanksgiving Mass Schedule — Thursday, November 28th @ 9:00 am; Friday, November 29th @ 9:00 am

Advent begins next weekend — Here are some ways to participate in the Season:

- **Gift Bearers** Sign up on the back counter to bring forth the gifts during the Offertory at Mass.
- **Angel Trees** will be up next weekend. Choose and ornament and return with an unwrapped gift specified on the ornament.
- **Parish Reconciliation Service** — Monday, December 16th @ 6:00 pm

St. Dominic Ministry — December 3rd Please sign up to bring needed lunch items to feed the families of ICU patients.

Women's Guild Fundraisers:

— **Comedy Dinner Theatre “All I Want for Christmas” December 7th** in the Family Life Center. Tickets \$35 each. Appetizers start at 6:30 pm; dinner and entertainment at 7 pm. Ugly Christmas Sweater Contest. 50% of all net proceeds will go to local charities that support women, children and families in our community. Tickets on sale before and after Mass at the Information Desk, or by contacting a Women's Guild Board member. No childcare will be available.

— **Spirit Basket Drawing December 7** Tickets \$5 each or 5 for \$20. You do not have to be present to win. Tickets on sale before or after Mass at the Information Desk, or by contacting a Women's Guild Board member.

Knights of Columbus Events:

— **Christmas Cards & magnets for sale** at the information table.

— **Annual Blood Drive & Visit with Santa** — **December 8th** Sign up now to donate blood on Dec 8 from 7:30-1:30. Join us for breakfast with Santa after the 8:00 Mass, and lunch with Santa after the 10:30 Mass — visits and photos with Santa, all on Dec 8th! All proceeds go to Coats for Kids.

Parish Advent Reconciliation Service — Monday, December 16th @ 6:00 pm

FINANCIAL REPORT

Offertory Collection for November 6/17:

Regular collection \$ 14,077.00 Capital Campaign Collection \$1,729.00

The Church office will be closed Wednesday — Friday for the Thanksgiving Holiday.
PH: 601-992-9547 www.saintpaulcatholicchurch.com

God's Kingdom at St. Paul Catholic Church in Flowood, Mississippi

We have quite an active Parish! There is something for everyone — whether your passion is praying, teaching, learning, listening, feeding the hungry, consoling the bereaved, visiting the sick or imprisoned, welcoming the stranger, decorating, gardening, cleaning, babysitting, sharing the Faith, studying the Word.....we have a place where you fit in and can be involved.

There is much to celebrate here! We see the fruits of the great work God has done in our Parish over these past several years. We want to highlight and celebrate some of the happenings among our Parish family that touch many lives, and directly involves our mission to invite everyone into a deeper relationship with Jesus Christ — especially in our Religious Education Programs that are offered for all ages. Our Sunday morning adult class explores various teachings and facets of our Catholic Tradition, and has grown significantly in attendance. We continue to welcome new people who are engaged in our RCIA and ChristLife Sessions, and we anticipate a great response to our upcoming Alpha Sessions. May God continue to bring more people to know Him, and live in deeper relationship with Jesus Christ.

What an extraordinary Grace to witness the faith of our young people who are involved in the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd (CGS). Beginning at 3 years of age, the children are immersed in the atrium experience. They work in small groups, read Scripture, and model what happens in the Word. It is so much more than teachers giving information and students completing exercises in a workbook. The children are engaged and participate in their Faith. They see the Scripture as it relates to themselves. They are taught that Jesus is the Good Shepherd, and come to discover through their own understanding that they are His sheep. At the First Communion Mass, the children are asked to tell about their experience of the Good Shepherd. Each child has a unique and personal answer. You can see the joy in their faces. They know Jesus. They know they are receiving the ultimate gift of His love. This year's 7th graders who moved up to the Big Deal Youth Group are the first class who have been engaged in the full CGS experience. These young people are more knowledgeable about their faith, they have a better understanding of what we do in Mass and why, and most importantly, they

have an experience and an understanding of a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. The number of participants in Youth Group has increased, and participation in events is at its highest. These students are eager and ready to put their faith into action. Our 7th through 12th graders are volunteering at Rosie's Garden, helping parishioners with yard work, and have plans to help at Mustard Seed, Stewpot, and participate in a one-week Summer Work Camp in Birmingham to assist the needy, elderly, and homeless.

Each year, our high school senior class plans and facilitates the Confirmation Retreat for the junior class. That weekend experience calls them to sacrifice their time, surrender their cellphones, and focus on their personal relationship with Christ in anticipation of the next step into their adult faith. When the seniors are asked what they would like to do to make the weekend even better for the next class, the most consistent answer is to make the experience last longer — give them extra time. What a testimony that these young men and women want the next group to be even more filled!

Since implementing our two-year Sacramental programs, students in our First Communion and Confirmation classes, and their parents, have a better understanding of the commitment and purpose of these Sacraments. It's not just a mandatory step to be completed at that particular juncture in their lives. The Confirmandi are given more time to discern their personal decision to be confirmed or not. During those two years of preparation, they are discerning a commitment to their Faith (not their parents' Faith), and they serve in a ministry in our Parish rather than performing community service hours, enabling them to use their gifts as active members of our Faith community. Seeing our teens grow and serve in this way is a great model for the younger children, and a wonderful testimony to the future of the Church.

Parents are asked to be present and assist in both of these programs. This gives parents a chance to witness their child's religious education experience, making them more inclined to be sure their children attend each week. It becomes a family priority, one they are excited about it! The catechists and parents say they also gain deeper insight to the Word from the children's perspectives, and it deepens their own relationship with Christ!

All are welcome to be more involved in these beautiful pieces of our parish life we celebrate today.

You are welcome to visit and observe any of these classes and witness the goodness firsthand. Who knows, you may be moved by the Spirit to come again!