

## Mass Intentions ~ November 26-December 2, 2018

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

Tuesday @ 7:30 am — U.S. Armed Forces (Sp Int)

Wednesday @ 6:00 pm — Kevin & Sue Smith (Sp Int)

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

Friday @ 7:30 am — Sean Hurley (RIP)

Saturday @ 5:30 pm — Mary Null Hammond (RIP)

Sunday @ 8:00 am — People of the Parish (Sp Int)

Sunday @ 10:30 am — Patrick Hurley (RIP)

## New Prayer Requests

### **Special Intentions:**

Joe Hill

Fr. Kevin Slattery

Please see the website and prayer board  
for the complete prayer list.

Submit prayer requests to the Church office.

**Adoration this week:** Mon—Wed 8am-12noon

**Sacrament of Reconciliation:** Sat 4:30-5:00 pm

**Altar Flowers this week are in memory of our departed loved ones listed in the Book of Life.**

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

## — — — Announcements and Reminders — — —

**No Religious Ed on November 25th** — Youth Group resumes on Nov 28th & Religious Ed resumes on Dec 2nd.

**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. Contact the Church office to learn more about serving in this Ministry.

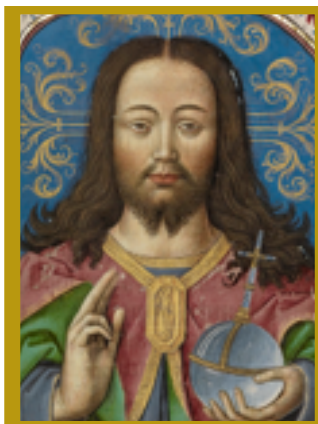
### **December 2nd — First Sunday of Advent**

- ◆ **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.

**December 4th — St. Dominic Ministry** — Please sign up today to donate lunch items we will deliver to the families of ICU patients in St. Dominic Hospital. We need sandwiches, chips, fruit, drinks, etc. List is on the information table near the offices.

**December 9th — Baptism Preparation Class @ 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.

## SOLEMNITY OF CHRIST THE KING



On the last Sunday of each liturgical year, the Church celebrates the Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe, or Christ the King. Pope Pius XI instituted this feast in 1925 with his encyclical *Quas primas* ("In the first") to respond to growing secularism.

In 2018, the Church faces pressures from without and crisis from within. In addition to the challenges that Christians in a secular society must confront, the body of Christ must also tend to the wounds inflicted on the Church by priests and bishops who either committed acts of sexual abuse themselves or failed to respond to abuse with justice when they had the opportunity. The Solemnity reminds the faithful that Christ reigns as king of the entire world forever. Let us rededicate ourselves this year to recognizing the reign of Jesus Christ and his Sacred Heart in every aspect of our lives.

# November 25, 2018

## Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe

### CONTEMPLATIVE PRAYER — TWO-WAY COMMUNICATION

While the practice of Contemplative Prayer may still be unfamiliar to so many, it is one of the oldest practices present during the first 16 centuries in the history of Christianity. After the Reformation, it seems to fade from widespread use by the laity and was mainly reserved for those living in cloistered communities.

But, as we stated last week, the tradition resurfaced in the 20th Century, and is gaining widespread use. One of the great leaders in sharing the Christian contemplative tradition across denominations was Trappist Monk, Fr. Thomas Keating, who died last month. His many writings and workshops enabled many to better understand and embrace the transforming experience of intimate relationship with the living Christ.

In his book, *Open Mind, Open Heart*, Keating begins Chapter One with what Contemplation is NOT. "There is so much popular misinformation in people's minds about what contemplation is. Saying what it is not may help to put a perspective on what it is." he writes.

Keating outlines what it is not:

- *It is not a relaxation exercise*
- *It is not a technique*
- *It is not designed to bring you to a 'high'*
- *It is not a form of self-hypnosis*
- *It is not a charismatic gift*
- *It is not a parapsychological experience*
- *It is not mystical phenomena*



Keating teaches that contemplation is primarily relationship with intentionality. "When we say 'let us pray' we mean 'let us enter into a relationship with God' or 'let us deepen the relationship we have' or 'let us exercise our relationship with God,'" he said. "What is the essence of contemplative prayer? The way of pure faith. Nothing else. You do not have to feel it, but you have to practice it.

Turn the page to read more about what Contemplative Prayer IS



**Church website: [www.saintpaulcatholicchurch.com](http://www.saintpaulcatholicchurch.com)**  
**Office phone: 601-992-9547**

Here is an experience a friend shared with me:

*“Usually my time in silence is not some extraordinary event, rather it is a chance to be calm and uninhabited by the burdens, worries and struggles I am facing that day. It feels like true freedom.*

*At times, the sense of peacefulness fills me inside — head-to-toe. Other times, the sense of His Love fills the room cushioning me. Sometimes, He gives me a thought that just makes sense in my life, gives me new perspective, and equips me to be a better person. What gifts!*

*But, every once in a while it is something so much more.....like recently — I was seated in the Chapel. I had knelt in prayer, offered this hour to Him, invoked His blessings on myself, my family and friends, our Parish, etc. I read the daily Mass Readings then sat down, closed my eyes, and opened my heart.*

*I absolutely felt the presence of Jesus as my dearest friend and protector. I could actually feel and see with my heart Jesus sitting next to me, His left arm draped over my shoulders, He was holding me in perfect love and protection. It lasted at least 20 minutes, but felt timeless. I was not aware of the time truthfully.*

*It was real, and peaceful, and the best feeling ever! I have no doubt He loves me!”*

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We can't have those beautiful experiences if we are too “busy” during our prayer time. I can find myself very “busy” and “productive” with reading, writing, & reciting, — all important pieces. But, sitting intimately with God — knowing that I am loved and protected by Him — being aware that He may be speaking to me in that moment of quiet, giving me direction on the prayer I had just completed.

That is awesome — we need that time, too!



We will continue to explore and develop our practice of Contemplation, and we invite you to avail yourself of the great gift of Eucharistic Adoration.

Our Parish offers Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament in the Chapel every Monday through Friday, 8:00 am to 12:00 pm. Feel free to drop in and try the experience. Sit in His Presence. He is inviting each of us!

Regular attendance has slacked off of late, and we hope to restructure the schedule and bring more people to the experience of a weekly Holy Hour.



## THE TWO SIDES OF THE COIN

For the past six weeks, I have been preaching, either directly or indirectly, on the importance of trying to see both sides of the coin. We tend to be so attached to one side only, even sometimes to the total exclusion of the other. (How sad a reality.) It is pretty impossible for me to have any semblance of balance in my life when I desire only half of the information — half of the Truth, or some proportion thereof.

Why is it so hard for me to sit with the question?

The question is where the greatest Grace is!

Sitting in loving tension, not really knowing, is a profound space for the believer — the follower of Jesus Christ — as expressed by John of the Cross in “The Dark Night of the Soul.”

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Bishop Kopacz wrote us priests this week, in the midst of the revelations that have surfaced as allegations of wrong-doing in regard to a fellow priest. I was so appreciative of the Bishop's words:

***“Let us hold one another in prayer in response to the disheartening negative news of the past week. We know all too well that when one among us suffers, or causes suffering or scandal, we all suffer. This is a heavy burden for us, and for our faithful people who have been shaken to the core. As we head into the first weekend since the airing of the recent troubles, I encourage you to lead your people in Eucharistic prayer with the conviction that the crucified and risen Lord is gathering us, forgiving us, and restoring us in his love and truth. The Evil One scatters; the Good Shepherd gathers.”***

Those words resonated deeply with me, and I couldn't help but think of them in the context of the Gospel for this weekend, the Feast of Christ the King. (Also the last Sunday of the Liturgical Year.)

The Gospel presents us Jesus standing before Pilate in the Judgement Scene. Peter, His friend, by His side (impetuous as ever), and Jesus calming Peter's churning spirit. “Put your sword back in your scabbard.” There are two sides to this coin! Be patient, Peter. You will see!

In order to quiet my own restless spirit regarding all of the sad allegations this week — I needed to ask myself, “Was I more like Peter or Jesus in my response?”

— Fr. Gerry