

Mass Intentions ~ November 4-10, 2019

Monday @ 7:30 am — Vocations to the Priesthood (Sp Int)

Tuesday @ 7:30 am — People of the Parish

Wednesday @ 6:00 pm — Joan Millington (RIP)

Thursday @ 7:30 pm — People of the Parish

Friday @ 7:30 am — People of the Parish

Saturday @ 5:30 pm — Hehir & McNamara Families (RIP)

Sunday @ 8:00 am — Joan Millington (RIP)

Sunday @ 10:30 am — Kenneth Mitchell (RIP)

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



Altar Flowers this week are donated by Susan Weldy, in loving memory of Risa White.

Blessed Mother Flowers are donated by Julie Barry, in memory of Albert Waguespack.

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:

Alison Lewis

Alice Mitchell

Debra Montgomery, friend of Donna Ennis

Repose of the Soul:

JW Searcy, father of Jimmy Searcy

ANNOUNCEMENTS ~ EVENTS ~ INFORMATION

Second Collections: November 2/3rd — Diocesan Missions The Diocese of Jackson has 17 missions, church communities which are not financially self-sustaining. This collection stays in the diocese.

N2R (Night 2 Remember) - Big Deal Youth Lock-In — This Friday, November 8th Grades 7th-12th. Check in from 7-8 pm. Breakfast served Saturday morning at 6 am and pick up at 7 am. Join us for a fun night. Games, music, bonfire, small group talks and more! If any parents/adults would like to help throughout the night, please email Cory Head- youth@spaulcc.org

Armed Forces Support Ministry Collection - November 9/10 — Please plan to make a donation to the Ministry for sending 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. Their photos are posted on the board near the Information Table near the offices. Donations will be collected at the Information Table.

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.

Now 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 Fridays, 3:00-6:00. Call Jennifer or Darlene at 601-992-2876.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Offertory Collection for October 26/27:

- Regular collection \$16,519.00
- Capital Campaign \$6,289.00
- Habitat for Humanity Second Collection \$2,070.00

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.



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

November 3, 2019 ~ Thirty-first Sunday in Ordinary Time

STEP SEVEN: HEAL ALL YOU MEET

Ron Rolheiser tells a marvelous story in his book, “The Holy Longing,” about a four-year-old child who awoke one night frightened, convinced that in the darkness around her there were all kinds of spooks and monsters. Alone, she ran to her parents’ bedroom. Her mother calmed her down and, taking her by the hand, led her back to her own room, where she put on a light and reassured the child with these words: “You needn’t be afraid, you are not alone here. God is in the room with you.” The child replied: “I know that God is here, but I need someone in this room who has some skin!”

We are God in skin, listening and responding to each other. Being truly present. I recently spoke with a trusted brother in Christ about the Ministry of Presence. I believe this is a prerequisite for healing. From situation to situation, discerning what is causing the impulse of the situation, may be the first step in healing — and this requires listening. It requires *true presence*. On page 115 of our Study Book, *Walking The Disciples Path*, Ms. Rooney contrasts the Master’s approach to healing with our own: “... *Jesus is utterly self-confident in His ability to heal, saying, “I will come and cure..... Not, I’ll come and assess the situation”*”

The true Ministry of Presence occurs when we are fully in the presence of a problem — emotional, mental, or physical. We discern the dis-ease by listening to the person and to God. True Presence also places us simultaneously and fully in the presence of the solution; which is the power of God through Jesus Christ. We are filled with peace and knowledge that we are empowered, even duty bound, to connect the problem with the solution. Unless the recipient rejects it, healing will occur, however the healing isn’t always immediately recognizable or in the form we anticipate. It may not be a cure.

After His Death and Resurrection, Jesus returned to heal a Pharisee on the road to Damascus. This man didn’t know he was sick, and didn’t think he was in need of healing. This man, Saint Paul, was healed and grew to become arguably the greatest evangelist in history. (Acts 9) According to this Scripture, we are also called to heal those who don’t wish to be healed. At first glance, this idea might seem pretentious. If we act on our own perception of need or our own power, it would be pretentious.

How do we approach divine healing today? Do we approach it at all? If we do, do we pick our candidates for God’s healing from among our own cultural, financial, or spiritual clones? Perhaps we simply dodge the idea by saying, “I’ll just let the priest handle that. It’s his job.” Our priests do bring one form of healing through the Sacrament of Reconciliation. But all Christians are called to bring healing to others. Every follower of Christ, every believer who aspires to discipleship, is also called to emulate Christ under His power and authority, regardless of our individual spiritual gifts. Jesus healed lepers, blind beggars, and Centurions. Today, we are called to bring healing to the people in our everyday lives — Chiefs of Police, Republicans, Democrats, Libertarians, Communists, Capitalists, aids patients, drug addicts, alcoholics, plus people suffering with depression, cancer, mental illness, or bad moods — we are called to heal all we meet.

Ms. Rooney writes about the marriage of authority and power in the person of Jesus. This same authority, this same power, He delegated to us through our Baptism. Our authority to act is without question. The power to effect outcome, to literally change the course of certain events or lives, comes when we step out boldly, standing on faith in our delegated authority through Christ.

Ms. Rooney writes on page 119, “*The ability to heal is not a ‘gift’ given to the few, but a mandate given to every member of the Body of Christ.*” When we move past our natural timidity into True Presence, we become a conduit for God’s healing. My wife Andy, the really perceptive one in our family, likens it to an extension cord. I have to be present to perceive the darkness. I have to know where the power source is, and I must use the knowledge of my delegated authority to move past my timidity and heal the dark with the power of Christ. That is healing. That is discipleship. That is Jesus.

—Jim Suber

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

Dear fellow parishioner,

Members of the Building Committee, Capital Campaign Committee, and Senior Leadership Team have been meeting with Fr. Gerry and the architects to discuss and discern best options for moving forward with our Parish Renovation Plan. As recently reported to the parish, the cost of the proposed renovation and expansion project has risen significantly from the original \$5 million estimate.

These are the primary reasons for the rising cost:

● *Unforeseen issues with Building Code compliance and Foundation/Structure*

● *Rising construction costs*

● *Aesthetic Additions recommended by the Building & Design Committees and parishioners*

With the unforeseen added expenses of a new addition to our existing 30-year-old sanctuary, the Building Committee members no longer see the proposed Renovation Plan as a viable option for our parish. The cost does not justify the estimated \$7 million price tag. The Building Committee members think this is simply not a reasonable plan, and is not acting as good stewards of the money pledged to our Capital Campaign. We ask for your continued support, and pray that you vote for and support a New Plan. With your pledge of prayerful and monetary support, we will continue to move forward.

As members dedicated to the future of our parish, we have spent many hours in prayer, research, and discussion. The guiding questions in our work continue to be:

- **Where is God leading us?**
- **What is His plan for St. Paul Parish?**
- **Do our facilities meet the needs of our Parish, both now and in the future?**
- **How can we best serve all members of our St. Paul family, and bring everyone to a deeper relationship with Jesus Christ?**

We believe all of the information we have received and discussed leaves us with two options. Based on the four questions mentioned above, we strongly recommend Option 1.

OPTION 1 – BUILD A NEW CHURCH ON THE PROPERTY TO THE EAST OF THE CURRENT CHURCH

- **PRICE:** The original budget for renovation was approximately \$5 million. The projected cost of a new church building is \$6-7 million depending on the selected styles, finishes, and furnishings. New construction allows for more control in spending, and fewer unforeseen problems as expected when renovating and adding to existing structures.
- **GROWTH:** There would be a future “Phase 2” to this Option, as there must be repairs made to the current structure. Building a new church would afford us the opportunity to repurpose the existing church, and allow more space for growing programs and ministries.
- **CONVENIENCE:** Building a new church would eliminate the need to hold Mass in the gym as we would stay in our current facility during construction.

OPTION 2 – ONLY ALLOWS FOR REPAIRS TO EXISTING CHURCH

- **NO NEW CONSTRUCTION:** Proceed with only needed repairs to our current facility. Repairs are absolutely necessary due to extensive water and termite damage on much of the wood. There would be no plan for renovations, or expansions to our current sanctuary.
- **DISPLACEMENT:** We will most likely need to vacate the church for some of the major repairs, particularly window replacement and HVAC work. Mass and all activities would be held in the Family Life Center during the duration of the repair work.
- **UNCERTAINTY:** The final cost of those repairs cannot be determined until the work begins and demolition reveals what lies behind the walls. Based on the amount of known damage, repairs are estimated to be around \$1 million.
- **MAINTAIN:** Our church would have no change in size, design, or general appearance.

We invite each and every person in our parish to unite with us in prayer. Take those four vital questions to the Lord, and seek His guidance in your decision. During the course of this week, reflect on the Decision Card shown on the next page. We will hand out printed Decision cards during NEXT weekend’s Masses (Nov 9/10). Please come prepared with your decision, as we will complete the cards during Mass! Each card must have at least two boxes checked; “yes” or “no” to Option 1, and your choice regarding your Capital Campaign pledge, complete with your full name and contact information. Anonymous responses will not be accepted. Thank you.

(Decision Card side one)

MY DECISION

- Yes, I support Option 1: Build a New Church!**
 - I will honor my current Capital Campaign Pledge.
 - I would like to increase my pledge in support of the new Church.
 - I am ready to make a pledge commitment to the Capital Campaign.

- No, I do NOT support building a new church.**
 - I will honor my current Capital Campaign Pledge if it is applied to making needed repairs to our existing church as outlined in Option 2.
 - Please refund my Capital Campaign donations and discontinue my pledge.

please PRINT your complete information below

Full Name _____

Address _____

Email _____

Phone _____

Each card must have at least two boxes checked; “yes” or “no” to Option 1, and your choice regarding your Capital Campaign pledge. Please print your complete information. Anonymous responses will not be accepted.

(Decision Card side two)

QUESTIONS TO GUIDE OUR PARISH PLANS

- ◆ ***Where is God leading us?***
- ◆ ***What is His plan for St. Paul Parish?***
- ◆ ***Do our facilities meet the needs of our Parish, both now and for future generations?***
- ◆ ***How can we best serve all members of our St. Paul family and bring everyone to a deeper relationship with Jesus Christ?***

