

Mass Intentions ~ November 5-11, 2018

Monday @ 7:30 am – Hehir & McNamara Families (RIP)
Tuesday @ 7:30 am – Tommy Autrey (RIP)
Wednesday @ 6:00 pm – Robert Phipps (RIP)
Thursday @ 7:30 am – Francine & Bubba Gilmer (RIP)
Friday @ 7:30 am – Nolen Hughes (RIP)
Saturday @ 5:30 pm – Mary Null Hammond (RIP)
Sunday @ 8:00 am – People of the Parish
Sunday @ 10:30 am – Francine & Bubba Gilmer (RIP)

New Prayer Requests

Special Intentions:
Ray Butz
Maggie Brooks, mother of Bryant Brooks

Repose of the Soul:
John Gourlay, grandfather of Grace Gourlay

Adoration this week: Mon–Fri 8am-12noon
Sacrament of Reconciliation: Sat 4:30-5:00 pm

Altar Flowers this week are in memory of Jack and Dylan Gordy, donated by Frances Gordy.

Blessed Mother Flowers this week are in memory of Ellen Treadaway, donated by the St. Paul Early Learning Center Staff.

Announcements ~ Announcements ~ Announcements

Second Collection for Diocesan Missions November 3rd/4th – Supports our Mission Parishes and Schools in the Jackson Diocese. Yellow giving envelopes are available on the back counter, and on the information table by the Church offices.

November 10th & 11th – Rummage sale hosted by the Women's Guild in the Family Life Center gym. We will be accepting donations On Friday Nov 9th in the gym. If you have any large items to donate, please bring them on that day. The sale will begin @ 8:00 a.m. on both days and will also feature a bake sale, food sale and a children's craft table. Coffee and donuts will be offered after both Masses on Sunday. We look forward to seeing you!

St. Joseph Catholic School's Open House is Sunday, November 11th at 2:00p.m. This event is for anyone interested in knowing more about St. Joe. For more information, please contact Tricia Harris at 601.898.4803 or tharris@stjoebruins.com.

Mass of Remembrance – November 15th @ 6:00 pm Please RSVP by November 8th for the dinner. If you lost a loved one during the course of the year but did not receive a letter from Fr. Gerry, please call the church office.

Seeking helpers to serve in our Art & Environment Ministry – Would you like to help decorate the church and plan for our Liturgical Seasons? We need to build a team to help get the church ready for Advent & Christmas. Contact the office or email liturgy@saintpaulcatholicchurch.com

Sign up to be Gift Bearers for our Offertory during November. The sheet is on the back counter.

November 4, 2018
Thirty-First Sunday in Ordinary Time

Book of Life



The Book of Life contains the names of all our loved ones, family and friends, who have preceded us in death. If your family does not already have a card, please take one from the basket, fill in the names, and place it in the proper place alphabetically by your last name.

We keep this book, year to year, so please add names annually and keep it up to date. Our loved ones will be remembered and celebrated in a special way throughout the month of November.



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

Two Sides of the Coin — Good News / Bad News

Today, one of the great “Fears” has got to be that we are in danger of being drowned in bad news. The newspapers, television, and social media all seem to carry very little else other than stories of murders, robberies, assaults, famine, floods, hunger, poverty, shootings, pillage, and plunder. Many people find it all so depressing, so disconcerting. Many threaten to cut out all forms of media and communication — some actually do! The news seems to consistently draw attention to the very worst aspects of human nature.

This most assuredly is one side of the coin, and one side only. The other side of the coin is that there is most certainly a whole lot of good — great good — going on in our world every day, but we hear very little about it. We have to search for it. Why do we settle for such a situation in our lives? Why do we tolerate such a powerless influence in our lives? Why do we settle so readily for seeing only one side of the coin? We all know better, don’t we?

When was the last time you heard a really good human interest story on the national or local news — a story of somebody ministering to another, serving another, doing a good and kind deed for another?

In March of 2017, such a good news story went viral across Facebook with hundreds of thousands of views, likes and shares, and it was picked up by the Today Show and other media outlets in the U.S. and abroad. It was the story of two young boys who were pre-K classmates in Louisville, Kentucky. Five-year-old Jax, a white boy with blond hair, needed a haircut so he asked his mother if he could get it cut like his friend Reddy’s hair. “We’re going to trick the teacher,” Jax told her. He thought that if he & Reddy, a black boy, had the same haircut, no one would be able to tell them apart, including their pre-K teacher. Reddy apparently thought this prank was flawless as well. So when Reddy arrived at school before Jax, he told the teacher and his classmates he was Jax, and Jax pretended he was Reddy.

“It is just two innocent boys,” said Jax’s mother. “Obviously, they see they are different colors, they just don’t care. It is not important.” The boys thought the only real difference between them was their hair. So, after their haircuts, those young boys thought they looked just the same. What a beautiful way to see both sides of the coin — very different in appearance, yet connected with so much in common! (See their story on YouTube or Facebook)

If we keep feeding bad, negative, lifeless stories onto our screens, then what can we expect? If my life-screen is full of negative, depressing, demoralizing stories, then I am most assuredly going to feel negative, depressed, demoralized. The danger we face is the Good News — the Gospel — Jesus’ saving work in our lives — is going to also become Bad News in my life experience because it will become difficult for me to deal with the Passion, Death, Resurrection of Jesus. Real suffering, death and rebirth (Resurrection) are the integral realities of the life of Jesus. He promised that it would also be the reality in our lives.

As we begin the month of November, the month of remembering all of our deceased loved ones in our Catholic tradition, how do you feel about the issue of Death & Resurrection? Is it a hopeful experience, or a hopeless one? When I sometimes hear people speak of the sense of hopelessness that they feel in the face of death and suffering, I am not surprised.

Look at our history, our tradition — when I was growing up, a funeral was a terrorizing experience. We proclaimed Resurrection, but everything we did decried that faith. The priest wore black vestments, they adorned the space with black candles, black altar cloths, the mourners all wore black, we sang dirges, there was wailing and grieving — this all contributed to a moribund experience.

Thank God the experience has changed greatly, at least the externals. The bigger question is, has it changed my interior experience of death and suffering? If only the externals change, what difference does that make in my life?

As we begin the “Month of Remembering the Holy Souls” do we remember with joy — gratitude — appreciation? I invite you to join us in a renewed sense of joy and hopefulness as we move through the month of November. I encourage you to pray for, to, and with “all of those who have gone before us marked with the sign of faith” as is written in the preface of the Eucharistic Prayer. We pray for all of our loved ones, family and friends, who have gone before us in God’s Mercy. Those are the ones who taught us our faith, led us in the way of life and the way of God, no matter how limited that may have been. We profess our faith in “the Communion of Saints” and that is the Virtue of Hope.

Each Wednesday of November, our 6:00 pm Mass will be celebrated in memory of all of our brothers and sisters whose names are recorded in the Book of Life, which is set up at the foot of the Altar. Let us really intercede for them and to them. Let us join in that “Communion of Saints” here as the St. Paul Community. I especially invite you to place the names of your loved ones on your family card in the Book of Life. We will pray for them, especially on each Wednesday night, but I invite you to also make a very special effort to come and pray with us at that Mass each week.

There is not a great deal of value in asking us to pray for them if you are not in Communion with us. I understand that many of you may not be able to make the 6:00 pm Mass for various reasons, but certainly many of you can — and I trust you will. Let’s make it a period of hopefulness for our Parish Community by earnestly praying and being in communion with the saints.

Pope Francis says of November 1st (All Saints Day) —

“The Feast of All Saints reminds us that the goal of our existence is not death, it is Paradise. During their earthly existence, the saints lived in profound communion with God. In the face of the humblest, and least of our brothers (and sisters), the smallest and most despised brothers (and sisters) they saw the face of God, and now they contemplate Him face to face in His glorious beauty.”

*On Tuesday night, the local news reported another great human interest story out of Las Vegas, Nevada: **Two high school teams came together to give the spotlight to a young man with special needs, allowing him to score the last touchdown of the season. He had served as the team water boy for three years, and this meant so much to him. He told reporters, “When I made that touchdown! All the football players gathered around jumping and it made me proud.” The coach said it was his team’s idea, and he fully supported them.***

That small act of kindness seen on the field was the highlight of the game, and this news went viral. There are plenty more great stories like these all over the internet. Perhaps that proves we are starved for more “everyday good news” — stories of ordinary saints living in communion.

Find the good stories. We have to search for them, but we can find them. —Fr. Gerry

