

### Mass Intentions ~ October 14-20, 2019

Monday @ 7:30 am — Duane Chaisson (RIP)  
Tuesday @ 7:30 am — Greg Begonia (RIP)  
Wednesday @ 6:00 pm — Lois Deane Memorial Mass  
Thursday @ 7:30 am — People of the Parish  
Friday @ 7:30 am — Joan Millington (RIP)  
Saturday @ 5:30 pm — Lois Deane (RIP)  
Sunday @ 8:00 am — People of the Parish  
Sunday @ 10:30 am — Jack & Dylan Gordy (RIP)

### New Prayer Requests

#### **Special Intentions:**

Jeanette Britt  
Theresa Fluhr, niece of Maxine Miller

#### **Repose of the Soul:**

Michael Tummillo, brother of Debbie Goodman  
Karlene Slyman, cousin of Philip Jabour  
Fr. Bob Olivier



*Altar Flowers this week are in honor of the People of the Parish.  
Blessed Mother Flowers are donated by the Pipitone Family in memory of Joan McGraw.*

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

**Adoration this week:** Monday — Friday, 8 am - 12noon

## ANNOUNCEMENTS ~ EVENTS ~ INFORMATION

**RCIA begins Tuesday, October 15th @ 6:30 pm**

**Memorial Mass for Lois Deane, Wednesday, October 16th @ 6:00 pm**

**Bingo! Friday, October 18th, 7-9 pm** All adults are welcome to join us. Snacks provided. BYOB. Our Charity Collection will be Halloween Treats for the children in the shelter for families escaping domestic abuse. No candy, please. Bring small toys, coloring books, crayons, etc. Each child will receive a Halloween Treat.

**World Mission Sunday Second Collection for the Propagation of the Faith, October 19/20th**

**Discovering Christ begins Tuesday, October 22nd @ 6:30 pm**

**St. Dominic Ministry — Tuesday, October 22nd** — Sign up on the information table to donate lunch items for families of ICU patients. All items due in the Family Life Center kitchen before 10 am on October 22nd.

**6th Annual Trunk or Treat — Friday, October 25th @ 7:00 pm** Ghosts, Goblins, and Super Heroes are in need of volunteer Trunks (tailgates and tents), please sign up on the information table near the offices this weekend. Save the date to join the fun trick-or-treating, hayride, movie, hot dogs, popcorn! Dress up and

**34th Habitat for Humanity Catholic Build — Saturday, October 26th — Sign up this weekend!** Our Parish will be building at a new location this year, 534 Cedarhurst Dr, North Jackson.

**N2R (Night 2 Remember) - Big Deal Youth Lock-in- — Friday, November 8th-** Sign up at Youth Group on Wed. night!

**Diocesan SEARCH Retreat for 11th-12th graders — November 22-24** at Camp Wesley Pines. Students are highly encouraged to attend this Retreat. Spaces are available, but fill up quickly. Register at [www.jacksonsearch.com](http://www.jacksonsearch.com)

**Protection of Children** During the month of October, children and young people who are enrolled in Faith Formation classes will be presented the safe environment lessons for children and young people. Parents have the opportunity to review the lesson material. Contact Renee Borne for more information. If a parent elects to opt-out their child from the safe environment lesson, please see Renee to fill out the parent-opt out document. As a part of the ongoing efforts for the Diocese of Jackson Protection of Children Program, all volunteers and employees will have access to monthly VIRTUS Protecting God's Children training bulletins. The online bulletin format will require ongoing safe environment training for all clergy, religious, employees and volunteers who have significant contact with children and young people. Users will receive monthly email reminders from VIRTUS Online when a bulletin is available, which is within the first full week of each month.

## FINANCIAL REPORT

Offertory Collection for October 5/6: Regular collection \$22,714.00 Capital Campaign \$5,719.00  
Backpack Ministry \$60.00 World Mission Sunday (October 20th Second Collection) \$80.00

Office Hours: Tues-Fri, 8am-4pm PH: 601-992-9547 [www.saintpaulcatholicchurch.com](http://www.saintpaulcatholicchurch.com)



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

**October 13, 2019**  
**Twenty-Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time**

## **When Am I Most Thankful?**

*Jesus is entering the last leg of His journey to Jerusalem. This week, Luke highlights the third part of Jesus' instruction on the meaning of living the Christian way with a stop in Samaria and Galilee. We hear the story of the Cleansing of the Ten Lepers. This is the fourth miracle in Luke's travel narrative.*

*We can really begin to better understand that the miracles are less about the healing, and more about the teaching in them. The Samaritan in today's Gospel experiences a conversion. When he realizes he is healed, he recognizes God's salvation through Jesus. He immediately returns to give thanks to Jesus for extending His divine power and mercy upon him, to praise God, and to embrace this personal relationship with Christ. Since the thankful leper is a Samaritan, it shows that God's salvation is for ALL, not just the chosen people of Israel.*

*Our modern-day experience of following Christ doesn't involve a dramatic healing of leprosy, but we are surrounded by God's goodness. Do I take note of the good things and give Him thanks for the ordinary blessings in my life? Or, might I have become complacent with the gifts He gives me daily — home, family, food to eat, a bed to rest, means to get around, access to the world at my fingertips — do I see these as gifts?*

*When I take the everyday goodness in my life for granted, there is a danger of feeling entitled. When something is suddenly stripped from my hands—the death of a loved one, a health scare, the loss of employment, a debilitating injury....then, I may run to the arms of Jesus and ask for His Mercy and Healing in my life. When my prayers are answered and a terrible situation is diverted, I am likely to see the ordinary as blessing, and give thanks to Him. But, what about the times when it's all going pretty OK, and there are no major hardships in that season of my life? Do I realize I have been saved by Jesus? Do I turn to Him daily, giving thanks and praise for my life blessings? It seems the more we have, the less aware we are of exactly what we do have!*

*This ties in perfectly with the fourth step of our book study featured inside the bulletin. Rooney encourages us to create a "gratitude list" and add to it every day. Think of the many blessings God has poured out into your life.*

*May we give an honest, heart-felt, resounding THANKS BE TO GOD!*

## Walking the Disciple's Path

This week marks the midpoint of our parish-wide book study, *Walking the Disciple's Path*. I thank you for taking this journey with us, and hope you are finding these steps helpful as you continue your own daily walk with Christ.

**Jesus tells us in John 10:10 that He came so that we may have life, and have it abundantly.** Step Four in our walk to living a disciple's life is to Cultivate a Generous Spirit. To me, this means remembering that all we have is given to us by God and for His purpose, and we are to give back as generously as we have received. We are probably all quite familiar with the call to give of our time, talent and treasure, but *Jesus also calls us to give by "opening ourselves to others in such a way that the ordinary barriers of race, differing creeds and ideas, and economic status are no longer formidable."* (pg 60) Personally, I find it much easier to give of my time, talent and treasure because it involves an outward, tangible act. Being vulnerable and opening myself to others requires self-examination and an attitude shift on my part. This requires an openness to receiving, as well as giving.

I am much more comfortable with being the giver, but there was a time in my life when I was the recipient of others' generosity. My focus was shifted from myself, and my priorities were dramatically reordered. Early on in our marriage, my husband and I were faced with the premature birth of our daughter. I had to take leave of my job and go live in a Ronald McDonald house to be near our baby. We also had a three-year-old daughter who needed our care. Needless to say, in those months we were living on a shoestring. It was only through much prayer and accepting the generosity of others that we were able to make it through that difficult period in our lives. Since then, we feel convicted to do the same for others, and we have made it a priority to give to our church and a number of charitable organizations.

When Father Hurley recently challenged the parish to consider making a pledge to the Capital Campaign for our building renovation fund, my husband and I weren't sure how we would be able to manage another expense. However, St. Paul Parish has meant a great deal to our family over the past twenty years. Our two daughters received most of their sacraments here, including marriage, and less than a month ago, Father Hurley baptized our first grandchild. We have been so blessed by our St. Paul family, and we knew we wanted to give back. We have made adjustments in our budget and are committed to giving to this fund. We are aware that financial giving is not an option for everyone, however, there are many other ways to be a generous giver.

## Step Four: Cultivate a Generous Spirit

I see many kinds of true generosity lived by others. I witness the gift of time, presence, and sharing given by the members of my Small Group, and I hear the same from other Small Group leaders. People lead very busy lives these days, with many demands on their time and energy. Yet, we all take the time to be with God during the week, to examine the material from the book, and to open ourselves to the discussion. We are respectful of others' opinions when they differ from our own, and we are sensitive to the unique situations and experiences that have led them to those opinions.

The small group community growing through the people of St. Paul over these last two years is indeed a great catalyst for parishioners to be vulnerable in a safe and loving atmosphere. We learn to share faith and scripture with a support system that holds you accountable for living God's will. One of the suggested actions in our book is joining a small group of disciples in your Christian community to encourage and challenge you to generous giving. As Rooney puts it, *"In a small Christian community, our decisions for generous giving find support. We are challenged by both the spiritual life of the group and the witness of others."*

This extraordinary practice of Faith leads to evangelization and has a tremendous ripple effect. In the Small Group setting, we become more comfortable discussing our Faith and living in relationship with Christ. We return to our homes, workplace, neighborhood and naturally begin to share the Good News and the ways God is working in our lives. We can begin to be more generous in a number of ways to people who have unfamiliar (even uncomfortable) beliefs and experiences, rather than defaulting to judgment or avoidance. We cultivate relationships based on our commonalities, rather than our differences.

**Step Four presented me with a challenge** I am happy to accept that I may grow in my life as a true disciple of Jesus Christ. Our study book affirms the great work the Lord has been doing in our Parish as we have been moving from Maintenance to Mission. Step by Step, we are walking the disciple's path together. So, if you are studying the book on your own, I encourage you to consider joining a Small Group for our next parish-wide study. The abundance of blessings you will receive is well worth the commitment. The Lord's generosity cannot be outdone!

—Sarah O'Donnell

SMALL groups  
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