

**Mass Intentions ~ October 29-November 4, 2018**

Monday @ 7:30 am — Carol Duggar (RIP)  
Tuesday @ 7:30 am — Jeff Baker (RIP)  
\*\* All Saints Vigil Wednesday @ 6:00 pm — Gary Harkins (Sp Int)  
\*\* All Saints Day Thursday @ 7:30 am  
Friday @ 10:00 am — Healing Mass (November Birthdays)  
Saturday @ 5:30 pm — Agnes Null (RIP)  
Sunday @ 8:00 am — Robert Reckelhoff (RIP)  
Sunday @ 10:30 am — People of the Parish

**New Prayer Requests**

**Special Intentions:**

Carolyn Rehm  
Amanda Port  
Connie Page  
Vivian Cauchi, cousin of Shirley Garrard

**Repose of the Soul:**

Cindy Haslob, daughter-in-law of Mary Haslob  
Jane Galdis, cousin of Shirley Garrard  
Sister Pauletta Overbeck, friend of Donna Reiss  
David Ballering, relative of Jim and Kathy Mathews

**Adoration this week: Mon—Thurs 8am-12noon; Fri 8-10am**  
**Sacrament of Reconciliation: Sat 4:30-5:00 pm**

**Altar Flowers this week are donated in memory of Jeffery Baker, donated by Marilyn Baker.**  
**Blessed Mother Flowers this week are in memory of Dorothy S. Galloway, donated by the Pipitone Family.**

**New Announcements**

**No Big Deal Youth Group this Wednesday, October 31st!**

**All Saints Holy Day Mass Schedule: Vigil Wednesday, October 31st @ 6:00 pm; Thursday, November 1st @ 7:30 am**

**First Friday Healing Mass, November 2nd @ 10:00am**, followed by Brunch. All are welcome.

**N2R Lock-in is back!! Friday, November 2nd @ 6:45pm -7:00 am** November 3rd. Youth can still sign up by emailing Cory at youth@saintpaulcatholicchurch.com Our Confirmation Class has been working hard planning a fun, spiritual night. This is open to grades 7th-12th. Come join us for a Night to Remember!

**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.

**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

**Reminders**

**November 10th & 11th — Rummage sale** hosted by the Women's Guild in the Family Life Center gym. The sale will also feature a Bake Sale, Food Sale, and a Children's Craft table. Donations accepted Oct 20th, 27th, and Nov.3rd, 9am-12pm.

**Mass of Remembrance — November 15th @ 6:00 pm** Please check the list for the name of your loved one who passed during the course of this past year. If they are NOT on the displayed printed list, please fill out the information sheet and place in the basket. You will receive a personal letter with details for our celebration of life.

**Food Pantry Ministry Needs** — Supports the Stewpot Food Pantry in Jackson, the Center for Violence Prevention Abuse Shelter in Pearl, and individuals who request food assistance at the Parish. Please donate non-perishable food to complement traditional holiday meals or canned stew, chili, and soup. Checks or gift cards also accepted. Please place your contributions in the baskets near the entrance doors.

**Church website: [www.saintpaulcatholicchurch.com](http://www.saintpaulcatholicchurch.com)**

**Office phone: 601-992-9547**

**October 28, 2018**  
**Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time**

**The Suffering Servant**

Oscar Romero (1917-1980) was made a saint in the Catholic Church on Sunday, October 14, 2018. There was little fanfare or celebration surrounding that event. It caught me by surprise only coming to know about it one day before it happened.

Since Romero's death on March 24, 1980, I always figured he would be raised to the order of saint. There is an excellent movie which is currently available on Amazon Prime which recounts, very dramatically, the final four years of his life.



I am reminded of that great passage in the Beatitudes recorded in St. Matthew's Gospel, Chapter 5, Verse 10: *"Blessed are those persecuted for holiness sake, the reign of God is theirs."*

And again in Matthew 5:12: *"Be glad and rejoice, for your reward is great in Heaven; they persecuted the prophets before you in the very same way."*

Those words of St. Matthew found real meaning in the life of Oscar Romero. Initially, when Romero became the Archbishop of El Salvador, he seemed to blend in well with the other bishops of his region. The government (which was led by many Catholics) was oppressive and corrupt. The Church appeared to turn a "blind eye" to the experience. When Romero interiorized the plight of his people, he became a strong public voice for his people. It is said that when he preached in the Cathedral on Sunday morning, the streets were empty and radios were on full volume to hear words of truth and sanity in a horribly insane and corrupt world.

Oscar Romero became a man who boldly took on the suffering of his people. He became a courageous leader and voice for his people, who unabashedly challenged the government for the atrocities inflicted on his people. His homilies were bold and courageous. He said things like:

*"The Shepherd must be where the suffering is."*

*"My soul is sore when I learn how our people are tortured, when I learn how the rights of those created in the image of God are violated."*

*"A Gospel that doesn't take into account the rights of human beings, a Christianity that doesn't make a positive contribution to the history of the world, is not the authentic doctrine of Christ, but rather simply an instrument of power. We . . . don't want to be a plaything of the worldly powers, rather we want to be the Church that carries the authentic, courageous Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, even when it might become necessary to die like he did, on a cross."*

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Finally, in his homily on March 23, 1980, the day before he died, Oscar Romero addressed the government directly:

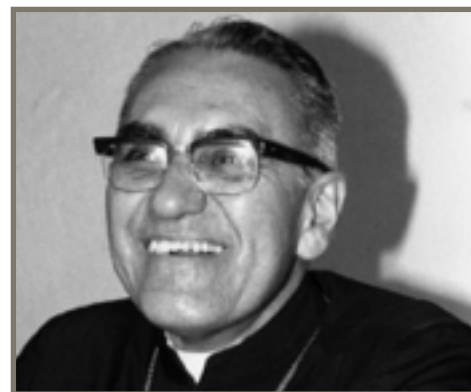
*“Brothers, we are part of the same people. You are killing your own brother and sister peasants and when you are faced with an order to kill given by a man, the law of God must prevail; the law that says: Thou shalt not kill. No soldier is obliged to obey an order against the law of God. No one has to obey an immoral law. And it is time that you recover your consciences. . . . In the name of God, then, and in the name of this suffering people whose laments rise up to heaven each day more tumultuously, I plead with you, I pray you, I order you, in the name of God: Stop the repression!”*



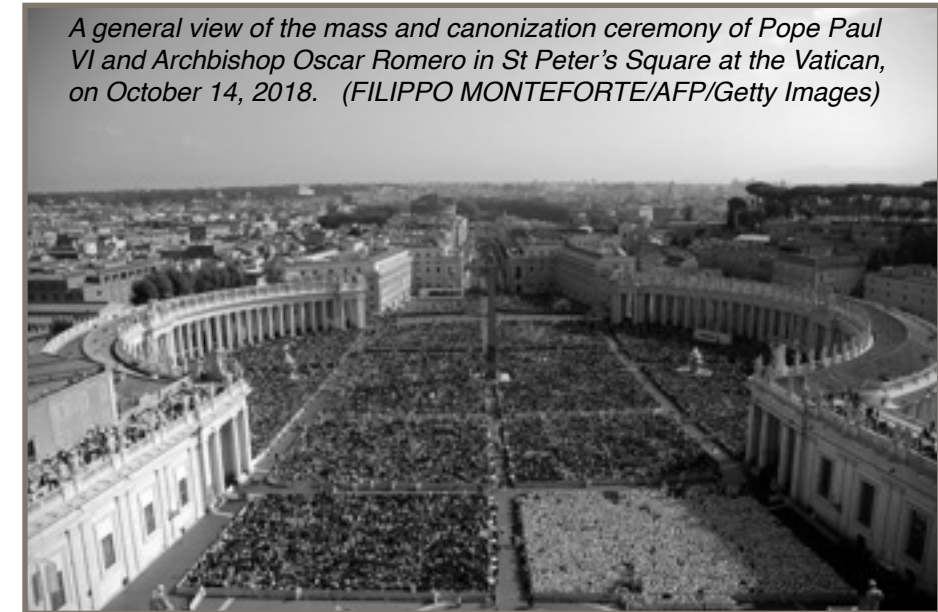
He was assassinated on the evening of March 24, 1980 while celebrating Mass with a local Community of Sisters. His supporters had regularly offered to provide armed protection. He refused, saying Christ had no protection. A few weeks before he died, Romero acknowledged:

*“I have often been threatened with death. I must tell you, as a Christian, I do not believe in death without resurrection. If I am killed, I shall arise in the Salvadoran people. I say so without boasting, with the greatest humility. . . . A bishop will die, but God’s church, which is the people, will never perish.”*

— Fr. Gerry



During the Mass for the canonization ceremony, Pope Francis said, “For his part, Archbishop Romero left the security of the world, even his own safety, in order to give his life according to the Gospel, close to the poor and to his people, with a heart drawn to Jesus and his brothers and sisters.”



*A general view of the mass and canonization ceremony of Pope Paul VI and Archbishop Oscar Romero in St Peter's Square at the Vatican, on October 14, 2018. (FILIPPO MONTEFORTE/AFP/Getty Images)*

### ***Did you know?***

The process for canonization in the Catholic Church can only begin five years after a person’s death. After the five years, the Bishop of the diocese in which the individual died can petition the Holy See to allow the initialization of a Cause for Beatification and Canonization. It may take several years, and the process follows these steps briefly described here:

- 1) Once a Cause has begun, the individual is called a Servant of God. During the first phase, documentation of the life and virtues of the holy man or woman must be gathered. The bound volumes of documentation are communicated to the Congregation for the Causes of the Saints.
- 2) The Congregation presents the information to an appointed Relator, whose task is to manage the Cause through the rest of the process. The theological commission votes on the Cause, and if the vote is affirmative, the recommendation of a Decree of Heroic Virtues is sent to the Holy Father, whose judgment is final.
- 3) Once the person's Heroic Virtues have been recognized by the Pope, they are called Venerable. The remaining step before beatification is the approval of a miracle, evidence of the intercessory power of the Venerable Servant of God and of his or her union after death with God.
- 4) With the Holy Father's approval of a Decree of a Miracle, the Servant of God can be beatified and he/she is declared Blessed.
- 5) After beatification the Church looks for a second miracle before proceeding to canonization.
- 6) By the Rite of Canonization the Supreme Pontiff, by an act which is protected from error by the Holy Spirit, elevates a person to the universal veneration of the Church. By canonization the Pope does not make the person a saint. Rather, he declares that the person is with God and is an example of following Christ worthy of imitation by the faithful.

If the saint has some universal appeal he may be added to the general calendar of the Church as a Memorial or Optional Memorial.