

Mass Intentions ~ September 16 -22, 2019

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

Tuesday @ 7:30 am — Nolen Hughes (RIP)

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

Thursday @ 7:30 am — Sister Robyn Huster (Sp Int)

Friday @ 7:30 am — Sister Patricia Parker (Sp Int)

Saturday @ 5:30 pm — Edna Lodes (RIP)

Sunday @ 8:00 am — People of the Parish

Sunday @ 10:30 am — Jack & Dylan Gordy (RIP)



Blessed Mother Flowers are donated by Tim & Margaret Corbitt, in honor of Our Lady of Sorrows.

New Prayer Requests

Special Intentions:

*Elsie Lalor, stepmother of Owen Lalor
Anna Taylor, friend of Colleen Welch
Martha Martin, co-worker of Joseph Curro*

Rest of the Soul:

Beverly Cazenave, friend of the Borne Family

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

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

ONLINE REGISTRATIONS OPEN NOW FOR THE FOLLOWING:

RCIA — Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults *Register on our website today!*

- **What is it?** The study of Catholic beliefs and practices for adults, baptized and unbaptized, who are searching for a Faith instruction and a place of worship.
- **When is it?** Classes meet weekly on Tuesday evenings beginning October 15th @ 6:30 pm

Small Group sign up is open on our website! New parish-wide Small Group study on September 22nd. The book title is "Walking the Disciple's Path." We have openings to join an existing group, or you can form a new group! Call the Church office or email fellowship@spaulcc.org for more information.

UPCOMING EVENTS & SAVE THE DATES:

September 25 ~ November 3 — 40 Days for Life Jackson join the worldwide movement through prayer and fasting, peaceful vigils and community outreach. Learn more at <https://www.40daysforlife.com/Jackson-2>

Sunday, September 29th — Baptism class @ 9:15 am, Room 110 — All parents wishing to have a child baptized in the next few months must attend this class.

Sunday, September 29th — 2nd annual Back to Religious Ed Family Fun Event to be held immediately following 10:30 mass. Join us in the back parking lot for food, fun, and fellowship. Children bring a change of clothes to enjoy the fun & games!

Thursday, October 3rd — St. Richard Special Kids Golf Tournament at Deerfield Golf Club. Sponsorships, golf teams, and donation opportunities are available. Mother's Day Weekend in Florida Raffle. Visit www.saintrichard.com for more info.

Saturday, October 19th — Walk For Life to benefit Pro-Life Mississippi. Check in @ 8:00 am at St. Richard Catholic Church. Registration information at www.ProLifeMississippi.org

Tuesday, October 22nd — Discovering Christ — 7-week Series. Details on our website. Registration opens next week.

Saturday, October 26th — Habitat for Humanity Catholic Build — watch for sign up information coming soon!

FINANCIAL REPORT —

**Offertory Collection for September 7/8: Regular collection \$28,915.63 Extension Society \$1191.00
Capital Campaign \$7368.33**

Contact us: 601-992-9547 www.saintpaulcatholicchurch.com

Office Hours: Tuesday-Friday, 8:00 am-4:00 pm



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

September 15, 2019

Twenty-Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time



This Sunday, the Church includes the entire text of the 15th Chapter in Luke's Gospel. There are three Parables packed into these Scripture passages, with a common theme of "Lost and Found" — the Lost Sheep, the Lost Coin, and the Lost Son. If we judge the stories by title only, we might assume they have an unhappy ending. But, read through them and see that these 32 verses are flooded with joy!

The words **JOY, REJOICE, and CELEBRATE** are mentioned 9 times — but **lost** appears only 5 times in the verses. Luke is reminding us that God's mercy breaks through all situations. All who are lost can be found in Him. No one is outside the limits of His mercy. It is His joy to gift us Salvation, and He celebrates when we accept.

It seems most workplaces, schools, and churches have a "Lost and Found" bin filled with miscellaneous items, some which might appear to be useless. We just don't like to throw stuff away. We have this sense of hesitation to not discard it in case it has special meaning to the owner who left it behind. Most of the time, the items are found by one person, but never found or reclaimed by the rightful owner. Likewise, nearly every home has what's fondly called a "junk drawer" — a designated space for things that are lost or have no particular place they belong. There is a huge business in self-storage spaces for rent. Some people pay a monthly fee to store things they may never use again. It's difficult to let go of our things, in case we may need them again one day!



Do we have the same sentiment for people who might be considered "useless" — living what we consider to be unproductive, less-than-admirable lives? Do we put them in a mental "junk drawer" or "lost and found bin" — never to be reclaimed? Thankfully, God considers each of us a treasure. He will never discard anyone. Even when we stray, like the sheep and the son, even when we feel completely lost like the coin, He will seek us until we know we are found.

The Lost Sheep — Some may think it's crazy to risk losing more of the 99 sheep to search for only one when you have made that kind of investment, and have that many sheep to watch over. The Shepherd cares deeply for every single one, no matter how many He has. That includes you. That includes the person nearest and dearest to you. That also includes the people we dislike or disapprove of. There is great rejoicing, here on Earth and in Heaven, when the lost one is found.

The Lost Coin — Some may think, big deal....one lost coin. It's not worth searching for it. What if it was your only coin; your only chance to eat that day? It would be worth finding, and cause for much celebration. There is great rejoicing, here on Earth and in Heaven, when the lost one is found.

The Lost Son — Picture him as the homeless person seen under the bridge or on the street corner with a sign begging for food. Some may think, he/she has made their bed, made their own bad choices to land them there. But, what if that was your long lost child? If you caught sight of them and recognized your own child in that condition, would you run to them and embrace them? There is great rejoicing, here on Earth and in Heaven, when the lost one is found.

Our Heavenly Father says to all of His children, "Everything I have is yours." His mercy knows no boundaries. We are all His sons and daughters....every single one. May we help find the lost and let them know they are found. May we all rejoice and celebrate the treasure in one another. May we all one day return home to the embrace of our Loving Father. There will be great rejoicing, here on Earth and in Heaven!