

Mass Intentions ~ September 3-9, 2018

Monday @ 7:30 am — Communion Service
Tuesday @ 7:30 am — Communion Service
Wednesday @ 6:00 pm — Communion Service
Thursday @ 7:30 am — Communion Service
Friday @ 10:00 am — Healing Mass
Saturday @ 5:30 pm — Martha Collins (RIP)
Sunday @ 8:00 am — Martha Collins (RIP)
Sunday @ 10:30 am — People of the Parish

New Prayer Requests

Special Intentions:
Steve Richardson
Chris & Cindy Haslob, son & daughter-in-law of Mary Haslob
Priscilla Maynor, daughter of Dennis & Suzette Antici

Rest of the Soul:
Linda Klein, mother of Rachel Westerfield

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

**Altar Flowers & Blessed Mother Flowers this week
are donated by John & Margaret McAleese, in memory of Margaret Rose Smith.**



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



St. Paul Happenings — Mark your calendars!

First Friday Healing Mass Sept 7th at 10:00 am, followed by a Potluck Brunch in the gym. Everyone is invited! Please bring a dish of your choosing to share. Contact Sarah at 601-292-6089 or fellowship@saintpaulcatholicchurch.com.

Baptism Preparation Class Sept 9th at 2:00 pm in the Office Conference Room (new location) for all parents wanting to have a child baptized in the next few months. This class is required for Baptism at St. Paul. Call the office to register.

2019 Contribution Envelopes Sign Up — If you are not currently receiving offertory envelopes, sign up at both main exits. You may also call or email Michelle at 601-992-9547 or office@saintpaulcatholicchurch.com to set up an automatic bank draft. If you received 2018 envelopes, yours will automatically be renewed. Envelopes will be ready in late November.

Happenings around the Diocese!

Catholic Charities Event featuring Jim Caviezel Friday, Sept 7th at Thalia Mara Hall — Actor, Producer, Philanthropist, & devout Catholic. Tickets are still available for groups with discounts of 10 or more people. Call Thalia Mara at 601-960-1535.

Save-the-Date for the 32nd annual St. Joseph Catholic Church Gluckstadt GermanFest on Sunday, Sept 30th 11 — 5
The family-oriented festival is best known for its delicious German food and authentic German Folk music provided by the band, Polkameisters from Tulsa, Oklahoma. Advance meal tickets are \$6 and are available from parishioners of St. Joseph Catholic Church or by calling 601-856-2054. Meals the day of the festival will be \$7.

ATTENTION PARENTS — CHANGE OF CLASS START DATE

Mandatory Parent & Student Orientation on the first day of classes!!!

Ages 3 years ~ 6th grade on Sunday, September 16th @ 9:15 am. One parent must attend with your child. We will begin in the gym for an overview of the program. Then, students and parents will visit their classrooms and meet their teachers.

7th ~ 12th grades on Wednesday, September 19th @ 6:00 pm. One parent must attend with your child. We will begin in the gym for an overview of the program. Then, students and parents will visit their classrooms and meet their teachers.



September 2, 2018 Twenty-Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

Registration opens Monday for RCIA & ChristLife. Read some personal reflections below. Then, turn to the next two pages and read the answers to some key questions. Registrations for RCIA and all ChristLife Sessions are available on our website.



People who have been through RCIA attend Mass because they want to be there, not because the Church says they must be there. I would encourage all members of the Church to attend RCIA and learn more about the Faith. A lot of work and prayer goes into RCIA every year. But at Easter, when you see the faces of these people light up with the Holy Spirit, it is so worth it. I think that I am a better person because each year I come closer to Jesus.

The entire ChristLife Series has had a very positive effect on our Church. Participants know more people and have more friends at Mass. With Discovering Christ, you are opened to a personal encounter with Jesus, which develops into a relationship. I had an encounter with Christ many years ago, but through ChristLife that encounter has turned into a personal relationship. It changed my life! Talk to someone who has made ChristLife.

This is for anyone who wants to grow in their faith, high school students to senior adults. Pray about it, and listen to what the Holy Spirit is saying to you. — Rodney Hipp (RCIA team 12 years; St. Paul RCIA team leader 8 years; St. Paul ChristLife leader 4 years)

Holy Saturday is such an awesome experience for everyone. It is deeply and spiritually moving to see the joy of Christ on the faces of all the newly baptized and those who have come into full communion with the Church. The unimaginable moment has come when they can receive the Body, Blood, Soul, and Divinity of Christ into their bodies. At Communion, they receive the Body of Christ, and they are the Body of Christ.

You know, when you think about it, when you hold the Sacred Host, you are holding the God of the Universe in the palm of your hand. He has made Himself completely vulnerable and available to you. We just can't get more God than that, this side of the Beatific Vision." — Dcn John McGregor (RCIA team 27 years; St. Jude RCIA director 10 years)

As a new parishioner at St. Paul, I went to RCIA to renew myself in the Catholic Faith. Consequently, I was asked to become a sponsor for a person who is now a very dear friend of mine — we are like family. My involvement in RCIA never fails to increase my faith through the witness of others truly seeking Jesus Christ. We share how He is active in our lives, and we dig deeper into God's Word through the others preparation.

The ChristLife Sessions have moved many to fulfill their God-given mission through service to others. I have seen a surge in people wanting to be involved in ministries and outreach to those less fortunate. There are many wonderful fruits from these sessions, but according to the evaluations we receive, the ChristLife Retreat Day and the Sacrament of Reconciliation are major highlights.

Personally, I have learned "to let go, and let God." I can't accomplish anything without His help. For me, (a person who likes to control everything) I am learning to put complete faith and trust in my Father, to let Him lead and guide me. — Cecilia Carlton (RCIA team leader 5 years; St. Paul ChristLife leader 4 years)



Having been reared in Protestant Churches, I received heavy doses of anti-Catholic views. But, as I was exposed to more Catholics, I found the Church's commitment to family, tradition, Holy Sacraments and Holy Scripture intriguing and strangely appealing. Plus, I noticed blacks and whites worshiped together, and were commonly united. I sensed God ushering me from Protestantism to Catholicism, so I read Scott Hahn's book, "Rome Sweet Home," and began exploring Catholic beliefs online. I read more and began asking God to pave the way.

Rhetta and I started RCIA in 2014, but the timing felt awkward. In January 2017, Rhetta and I knew we wanted to be in full communion. We were received into the Church last Easter. For us, RCIA was as natural as attending an adult education class. It is a non-threatening, open environment where you can ask questions and learn alongside others who are also curious.

Do you ever wonder, "Is there more to the Church, to being Catholic, to being a Christian?" God may be tapping your shoulder, nudging you to try RCIA or ChristLife. Are you willing to be willing...willing to see for yourself? Our Parish is blessed to have a tremendous resource for you! A chance to experience both at one time. I hope to see you there. Let's experience Christ together! — Lee Watt (Lee & Rhetta will serve as our new leaders of Discovering Christ)

RCIA — What is it?

RCIA = Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults — This process is a study of Catholic beliefs and practices for adults, baptized and unbaptized, who are searching for Faith instruction and a place of worship. The RCIA was developed, following Vatican II, as a way of initiating non-Christians into the Catholic Church. The first English translation was issued in 1975. The special commission appointed by Pope Paul VI to develop the RCIA closely followed the process used in the early Church by St. Augustine and St. Cyril of Jerusalem (4-5th Century). In the early Church, converts were mainly people who knew nothing about the Jewish Old Testament, and had only an initial conversion to Christ because someone had evangelized them.

Who might want to register for RCIA?

RCIA is open to everyone. But, it will be especially suited for anyone who is interested in learning more about the Catholic Faith, anyone considering becoming Catholic, anyone in need of celebrating any of the Sacraments of Initiation — Baptism, Confirmation & Eucharist.

While most people who join the Catholic Church through the RCIA process are already baptized, the RCIA process of Baptismal catechesis is still very meaningful. Not only are candidates (baptized people from other Christian denominations) invited to an even deeper relationship with God through community and discipleship formation, they also come to a new understanding of the Sacraments already received.

The Catholic theology of Baptism is called Baptismal Regeneration. Following Romans 6, the Church teaches that in Baptism, a person truly dies with Christ and rises with Him. This is symbolized by being immersed in the waters of Baptism (dying) and coming out of the water (rising) as a new creation. When a person is baptized, the Church teaches that they are no longer who they were before, but they are now a new creature in Christ and an adopted son or daughter of the Father.

Some of the reformers held that Baptism only covers over our sins like a “snow-covered dung hill.” But as Catholics, we believe that all of our sins are washed away. That is why catechumens (people who have not been baptized) do not have to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Reconciliation is for those baptized people who have become “ship-wrecked” in their discipleship, and wish to be restored to their former Baptismal purity.

What should I expect from the experience of RCIA?

RCIA builds community in the form of “little church” as we become family on the journey to the Easter Vigil. It is an opportunity to learn about key tenets of the Catholic faith and its history, to ask questions, to inquire about any doubts and concerns, and to discuss different aspects of the faith.

There are also various welcoming ceremonies held throughout the process to include the parish family in seeking God’s Grace and guidance for you, and to pray for you as you go through this process. Classes will be held on Tuesday evenings beginning on October 16, 2018, and will run through Holy Saturday on April 20, 2019. Our usual format will be a shared meal, then instruction and discussion. This is a great commitment, but the time spent is very necessary and is always found to be a time of great fruit and growth for all, regardless of where you may be on your faith journey.

The first seven weeks of RCIA will be held in conjunction with the Discovering Christ Sessions, and includes a Saturday Retreat on December 1, 2018. This is a period of inquiry and will help you determine the next step in your faith process. You will make new friends, meet some of our St. Paul family and encounter Jesus Christ personally.

Will I have to make a commitment right away?

Joining RCIA does NOT mean you HAVE to join the church. You are always welcome to just come and learn. But, you may decide it’s not for you — or maybe you just aren’t ready yet. Each person has a unique experience. If you feel God is inviting you, give it a try! He knows what you need, and He will provide.

We do ask all to attend all the Discovering Christ Sessions however, as table discussions are dependent on everyone being present. If one person is missing from the table, it affects everyone and something is missing from the discussion. So, we do need a firm commitment for the first 7 weeks (Oct 23–Dec 11, 2018) and the Retreat Day (Dec 1, 2018).

RCIA Dates: October 16, 2018 through April 20, 2019

ChristLife — What is it?

ChristLife makes missionary disciples by helping people discover Jesus Christ personally, follow Him in their daily lives as Catholic disciples, and share Him with others.

ChristLife is designed to be the “core curriculum” for evangelizing and forming adults as missionary disciples. Once a person discovers Jesus, begins to follow Him, and learns to share Him, they naturally want to invite more people on a life-changing adventure with Jesus Christ! There are three essential steps: Discovering, Following, and Sharing. You do not have to be Catholic to join us!

What are the benefits of the ChristLife experience?

All adults can benefit regardless of where you are on your Faith journey. We all have room to discover or rediscover the depth of the Lord’s love, and the beauty of His love. People from our Parish who gave feedback from their ChristLife experience reported newfound joy in their lives and say they met wonderful people they would have not connected with otherwise. Some discovered the power and freedom of forgiveness, others discovered new meaning and direction in their life, many deepened their prayer life and worship experience, and made new life-long friends. Most participants have made strong bonds with people who have similar questions, struggles and experiences. The Holy Spirit is truly present at our ChristLife Sessions. It is exciting!

Who might want to register for Discovering Christ?

Anyone and everyone, from the baptized in the pews to the unbaptized! We invite all to hear the Good News and personally encounter Jesus Christ. Discovering Christ helps people enter into or renew a personal relationship with Jesus Christ, experience the love of God the Father, and be empowered by the Holy Spirit to live as God’s children. We have had 513 people participate in Discovering Christ here at St. Paul Parish, from age 18 to folks in their 80’s. This truly is an enriching experience for all adults.

If you have completed Discovering Christ, prayerfully consider who the Lord wants you to invite — and invite them to Discovering Christ! He may prompt you to invite a neighbor or co-worker. You could accompany them and repeat the sessions yourself. You will gain something new from the experience, as it varies by table dynamics! Perhaps you would like to be a table facilitator or co-facilitator. Perhaps you want to help with the meals. Let us know if you would like to be involved.

Do I have to attend every session?

Yes! It is vital to have everyone present every week. This needs to be a priority for the 7 weeks. We provide childcare, and we will help you find a ride if needed. There is no cost, and we provide dinner each week. So, really there is no reason not to come! The online registration will capture your special needs and we will tend to them!

Who can participate in Following Christ and Sharing Christ?

Following Christ is available for those who have completed Discovering Christ. This 7-week Series (Apr 23–June 4, 2019) helps us continue to grow in relationship with Jesus Christ. We see the fruits through the grace of God by praying together, studying Scripture and the Sacraments, and immersing ourselves in some of the basic disciplines and truths practiced by Christians since the early Church. This includes a Saturday Retreat Day on May 25, 2019. 304 people have participated in Following Christ here at St. Paul Parish.

Sharing Christ is for all who have completed Following Christ. This 7-week Series (Oct 4–Nov 17, 2018) focuses on personal or friendship evangelization, sharing our relationship with Jesus in our daily encounters with people. The course helps to develop an attitude of the heart that moves us to be open to share the Good News we have experienced anytime and anywhere. The final session is a Retreat Day on November 17, 2018. 156 people have participated in Sharing Christ here at St. Paul Parish.

Following Christ: Begins April, 2019 Sharing Christ: Begins October 4, 2018