

Mass Intentions ~ October 1-7, 2018

Monday @ 7:30 am — Communion Service (RIP)
Tuesday @ 7:30 am — Tommy Autrey (RIP)
Wednesday @ 6:00 pm — Robert Phipps (RIP)
Thursday @ 7:30 am — Francine & Bubba Gilmer (RIP)
** Friday @ 10:00 am — Healing Mass

Saturday @ 5:30 pm — Mayrene Messer (RIP)
Sunday @ 8:00 am — Robert Phipps (RIP)
Sunday @ 10:30 am — People of the Parish

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 Patrick Hurley.

New Prayer Requests

Special Intentions:

Teresa Spain Donna Sabatini
Garland Wright Bill Port
Sandra Olson, sister of Clyde Staley
Linda Hawke, cousin of David Browman

Repose of the Soul:

Betty Benton, mother of Theresa Fuller
Thomas Oakes Sr., grandfather of Rene Garner

See website & prayer board for full prayer list.

New Announcements

Friday, October 5th — First Friday Healing Mass @ 10:00 am followed by Brunch with a tailgating theme. Everyone is invited to show your team support by wearing your team colors, shirts, etc.

Friday, October 6/7th — Second Collection for 2018 Disasters to support the efforts of Catholic Charities USA and Catholic Relief Services as they and their local agencies respond to immediate emergency needs for such necessities as water, food, shelter, and medical care and aid in long-term rebuilding and recovery efforts, and the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops for pastoral and reconstruction needs of the Church.

Reminders

Sunday Sept. 30th — Parish Back to School Picnic after 10:30 am Mass on the hill behind the church sponsored by the Knights of Columbus and the Religious Ed Program. Lunch & refreshments will be provided, plus fun games for the family. All are welcome. We will also have a raffle with proceeds going provide school supplies for students at St. Michael's Catholic Church in Forrest. If you have any extra school supplies you would like to donate, please bring them to the picnic! Thank you!

Thursday, October 4th — Sharing Christ begins! Registration closes Sunday night!

Saturday, October 13th — 33rd Habitat for Humanity Catholic Build Sign-up this weekend at the table near the office area. Our parish will help with the build and provide food items. We will also have a Second Collection for Habitat on Oct 13 & 14th. Contact Lonnie Graeber with any questions at l.pgraeber2@comcast.net.

Tuesday, October 16th — RCIA begins! Register online.


Tuesday, October 23rd — Discovering Christ begins! Register online.

Last weekend to sign up for 2019 Contribution Envelopes — 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.

**September 30, 2018
Twenty-Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time**

So — where is God? 

There was a man who was in the habit of going off by himself deeply into a remote wood. One day a friend, curious to know what he was up to, decided to follow him into the wood. When he came upon the man, he found him sitting silently on a log.

 "What are you doing?" the friend asked.
"I'm praying," came the reply.
"But, why come to this remote spot to pray?" the friend continued.
"Because I feel close to God here," he answered.
"But, isn't God to be found everywhere, and isn't God the same everywhere?" the friend inquired.
"God is, but I am not," he said.

The man understood a great Truth. While it is true that we can find and pray to God anywhere and everywhere — in the kitchen, in the street, on the farm, in the car, the office, my workshop — still it's a good idea to have a place to withdraw at times — the shore, the sea, the park, the mountains, the wood, the Chapel or Church. There is a whole lot of chatter in our world it seems every day. It is difficult to hear God's voice in the din. We are attached and connected, traceable always, and unless we cut ourselves off periodically (this especially includes social media), we gain little new perspective.



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



So — where is God?

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The Gospel, both last weekend and this weekend, give us a great insight into how Jesus is trying to instruct His Disciples. Last week, the issue was surrounding power and control, and who was the most important. This week, the issue is similar. It's about petty jealousy and power.

“ ‘Teacher, we saw someone driving out demons in Your name, and we tried to stop him because he does not follow us.’ Jesus replied, ‘Do not prevent him.’ ” (Mark 9:38-39)

- * How important is that directive of Jesus to His Disciples?
- * How important is that directive of Jesus in my life?
- * How often do I fall into the same trap as the Disciples?

Jesus' Disciples were attempting to explain their rationale to Him. They said, “We tried to stop him because he does not follow us.” — Sounds like a good reason! Jesus said, No — how can you be so small in your vision, you view, your perspective? He invites them to broaden their minds and their perspectives — to see things in a new way! See things, not as you see them, but as God sees them. (Just as Jesus directed Peter.) What beautiful sage advice!

- * Broaden your perspective, and you will also broaden your understanding of Jesus, the Father, and the Holy Spirit.

We tend to be like the Disciples of Jesus and rely very heavily on our own knowledge of a subject or an issue. Rarely do we give thought to the fact that our knowledge is limited, no matter how extensive it may be. We have all been conditioned by our family experience, our Church experience, our educational experience, our working and living experience. From that vast variety of experiences, we have developed a perspective about most things in life.

Recently while I was in Kinsale, Ireland, which is very close to my home, I was standing in the fort overlooking the bay and the broad Atlantic Ocean. I was remembering all of the history I was taught in school about the great Battle of Kinsale in the year 1601.

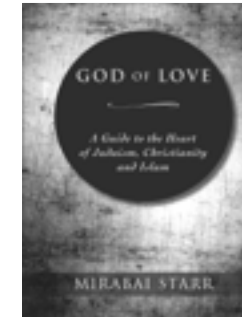
The Irish were overwhelmed by the British in that harbor, and it led to “the flight of the Earls” - the last of the royalty in Ireland.



We have an expression in Irish Folklore which goes: “ If it were not for the loose tongue of a drunken sailor, we would never have lost The Battle of Kinsale!” The lament still languishes! However, years later, when I read an English History account of the same battle, it was stunningly different. Broadening our perspective is a very rich grace!

This week, I have been following and thoroughly enjoying Richard Rohr's daily meditations from The Center for Action and Contemplation. How delightful and insightful his reflections have been throughout the week. (I know many of you also receive his reflections in your “inbox” — if you would like to subscribe, simply visit www.cac.org and an invitation will pop up!)

All week, Rohr has focused on “Islam” and he has brought to the fore many things I, personally, did not know and appreciate about that great, rich religious tradition. He began on Sunday with an excerpt from the book by author Mirabai Starr, titled God of Love: A Guide to the Heart of Judaism, Christianity, and Islam.



“Muslims do not worship Muhammad. He is a prophet . . . [and] because of his pure submission to God alone, [he] serves as the model of the perfect human being. His holiness lies not in his own being, but in his pointing away from himself and toward the Holy One.” — Mirabai Starr

Richard goes on to say, “There are a lot of misconceptions about Islam. Like Christianity and other religions, there is a great deal of variety within Islam. Just as not all Christians are extremists, the majority of Muslims are not terrorists. As many Christians disagree on theology and hermeneutics, so Muslims have different ways of interpreting their sacred text and tradition.”



Many of you are currently involved in Faith Sharing Groups, and you are studying Wisdom. I hope you are fully engaged and enjoying the experience. The ultimate personification of Wisdom is God Himself!

The great spiritual teacher of the 13th Century named Rumi observed:
“Two there are who are never satisfied — the lover of the world and the lover of knowledge.”

Wisdom, not knowledge, is the quest of a Christian. “For Wisdom is better than jewels, and all that you may desire cannot compare with her. I, Wisdom, dwell with prudence, and I find knowledge and direction.” (Proverbs 8:11-12) Ponder this during the course of the week. Next week — will explore more on Islam and our quest for God! —Fr. Gerry