



AUTUMN

**Sts. Peter and Paul Ecumenical Catholic Church+USA
808 N. Mason Road
Creve Coeur, Missouri 63141-6306
(314) 270.2452**

October 2017 Parish Bulletin

Parish Web Site: www.sspp-eccusa.org

Parish Facebook Page: <https://www.facebook.com/Sts-Peter-and-Paul-EcumenicalCatholic-Church-USA-196106814053967/timeline/>

National Church Web Site: www.ecc-usa.org

National Church Facebook Page: <https://www.facebook.com/eccusa2001>

CLERGY MASS SCHEDULE

All Mass Times 4:00 PM unless otherwise noted

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| October 1, 2017: Twenty-Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time | +Fr. Carl |
| October 8, 2017: Twenty-Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time | Fr. Bill |
| October 15, 2017: Twenty-Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time | Fr. Tom |
| October 22, 2017: Twenty-Ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time Mass to be held at Mercy Retreat Center, Frontenac, Mo. (TBA) | |
| October 29, 2017: Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time | +Fr. Bob |

Our quarterly Healing Service will be held on Sunday, October 1, 2017, during the celebration of Mass. All are welcome to receive the Sacrament.

Pastoral Staff:

Pastor: +Fr. Bob Catlett, 314.800.3456, pastor@sspp-eccusa.org

Associate Pastor: Fr. Bill LaGrand, 314.650.9214, associate@sspp-eccusa.org

Presiding Bishop: +Fr. Carl Swaringim, 636.240.7839, domcarl@ecc-usa.org

Prayer Intentions

If you would like us to remember a special intention for you at Mass, please contact one of our priests.

If you or someone you know is in need of spiritual assistance (prayers, Sacrament of the Sick, etc.), please contact one of our priests.

Inquiries regarding the administration of Sacraments or services (Baptisms, First Communion, Marriages, and Funerals) are welcomed.

Scripture Reflections

Fr. Bill LaGrand, M.A.

October 1, 2017 – 26th Sunday in Ordinary Time: One of the messages from today's Gospel is that faith without corresponding actions is empty and of little value. Does our faith inform our actions? **(Matthew 21: 28-32)**

October 8, 2017 – 27th Sunday in Ordinary Time: This story is not about the replacement of the Jews with the gentiles. It is about true discipleship which is not about being chosen or saying the right things; rather, it is about bearing good fruit at the proper time. **(Matthew 21: 33-43)**

October 15, 2017 – 28th Sunday in Ordinary Time: The wedding feast represents God's offer of salvation. Some refuse outright. Others are invited and respond. One does not have a wedding garment and is cast outside. God requires a fitting response (wedding garment). Salvation is free, but not cheap. **(Matthew 22: 1-14)**

October 22, 2017 – 29th Sunday in Ordinary Time: How are we to relate to God? Our external actions should be consistent with our internal beliefs. This can require us to step out of our personal comfort zones. **(Matthew 22: 15-21)**

October 29, 2017 – 30th Sunday in Ordinary Time: Our faith must lead to action. We demonstrate our love for God by our love for and actions toward our neighbor. As we are taught in the Gospel of John, how can we claim to love a God we cannot see and not love our brother whom we can see? **(Matthew 22: 34-40)**

From the Bishop's Desk

+Fr. Carl Swaringim, Ed.D., Presiding Bishop

Contemporary Reflections on the Virtue of TRUTHFULNESS.

The world in which we live is filled with many people who speak lies, half-truths, alternate facts, and, often, well thought out duplicitously crafted self-serving statements and opinions. For many people these days, lying is almost an art form intended to appear as pure logic. I don't think I would be overstating to claim that the lack of truthfulness in our society has reached epic proportions and is having dire consequences in many areas of human endeavor.

To this and to us, Jesus says, *"I am the way, the truth, and the life."* Matthew 5:37. The teachings of Jesus show that the fullness of truth is present when it is articulated with charity. "God is love." Our words and actions can reveal truth in its fullness only when it is accompanied by love.

One of the characteristics that separates humankind from animals is our ability to ask questions and seek knowledge. It is characteristics of human personhood to pursue truth and share it with others. The very dignity of being a child of God requires that every person pursue and speak the truth. Consequently, by virtue of the dignity of the human person, everyone deserves to hear the truth.

In order for society to function properly, truth must be the keystone of human and social relationships; it must be the defining characteristic of a government's obligation to promote and enable the common good of its citizens. There can be no peace; there can be no social progress, if people cannot trust their leaders and their fellow citizens.

All people have an obligation to speak the truth themselves and to speak out in defense of the truth. The truth is the glue that not only binds society together, but also binds us to Jesus, "the way, the truth, and the life."

So, in addition to being truthful ourselves, we have the obligation to seek out the truth not only in our interpersonal dealings with people, but also on the societal and governmental level of discourse. We need to seek out truth through reading, discussion, research, discernment and assessment of the discourse promoting various personal and societal causes; especially those which draw a significantly different response within our family, personal friends, and society at large. Doing our due diligence in regard to what we hear or read will enable us to identify and try to correct duplicity, dissimulation and hypocrisy.

Being honest and truthful in modern life is not easy, but our relationship to God who is the source of all truth provides us with an imperative to both personal and societal action.

Jesus said, *"If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples. Then you will know the truth and the truth will set you free."* (John 8:31-32). Only by the simplicity of an honest and truthful lifestyle can we have true fellowship with Jesus.

Blessings,

+Fr. Carl

From the Pastor's Desk

+Fr. Bob Catlett, M.Div.

Congratulations and Best Wishes to our parishioners who have reason to celebrate this month:

Birthdays:

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| Becky Kaley: | 10/1 |
| +Fr. Carl Swaringim: | 10/28 |

Anniversaries:

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| Rudy and Joan Schmid: | 10/9 (63 years of marriage!) |
| Fr. Bill LaGrand: | 10/23 (14 years - Ordination to Priesthood) |

Annual Synod/Retreat: Friday, October 20, 2017, through Sunday, October 22, 2017: Our Annual ECC+USA Church Synod and Retreat at the Mercy Retreat and Conference Center in Frontenac, Missouri. Parishioners are welcome to attend any or all parts of the Synod.

Congratulations to our newly elected Parish Council Members:

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|-----------------|--------------------------------------|
| President: | Joan Schmid (term expires 2018) |
| Vice-President: | Emily Jacobi (term expires 2018) |
| Secretary: | Marie Harbers (term expires 2019) |
| Treasurer: | Bob Catlett, Sr. (term expires 2020) |

Welcome new parishioners!

We welcome John and Mary Ann Howard to our parish family! John is a retired business owner and Mary Ann is a retired school teacher.

St. Louis Help

Included with this bulletin is a flyer seeking donations of used medical equipment (wheelchairs, hospital beds, etc.) or money to St. Louis Help, an organization helping to supply these items to those less fortunate.