



Saints Peter and Paul Ecumenical Catholic Church+USA
808 N. Mason Road
Creve Coeur, Missouri 63141-6306
(314) 270-2452

June 2017 Parish Bulletin

Parish Web Site: www.sspp-eccusa.org

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

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

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

Clergy Mass Schedule

(All Masses 4:00 PM unless otherwise noted)

June 4, 2017: Pentecost Sunday	+Fr. Carl
June 11, 2017: Solemnity of the Most Holy Trinity Mass Time: 2:00 PM	Fr. Tom*
June 19, 2017: Solemnity of the Body and Blood of Christ Mass Intention: Fathers of the Parish	+Fr. Bob
June 26, 2017: 12th Sunday in Ordinary Time	Fr. Bill

Pastoral Staff:

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

Associate Pastor: Fr. Bill LaGrand, 314.650.9214, associate@stspeterandpaul-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.

June 4, 2017 – Pentecost Sunday: With the gift of the Holy Spirit which we have received, we are also called upon to give. Can we let go of past hurts that hold us back? Can we free ourselves from our own prejudices and pride? Can we expand our forgiveness from our immediate circle to the entire world?

June 11, 2017 – Solemnity of the Most Holy Trinity: Friends and lovers clearly reveal themselves to others. So, too, the doctrine of the Trinity is God's loving revelation to us. When we turn this mystery into an abstraction or unsolvable riddle, we deprive ourselves of one of the great treasures of our faith.

June 18, 2017 – Solemnity of the Body and Blood of Christ (Corpus Christi): While the Eucharist is beneficial to us as individuals, we are called to reach out to everyone and share its effects. God is with us to empower us to perform this work.

June 25, 2017 – 12th Sunday in Ordinary Time: We share in the work of the prophets and the apostles by bringing the good news to those we meet. This work is to be action oriented. Pious thoughts and words are insufficient if we are serious about bringing the kingdom of God to everyone.

From the Presiding Bishop's Desk
+Fr. Carl Swaringim, Ed.D., Presiding Bishop

The Sacrament of Confirmation

This year we celebrate Pentecost Sunday on June 4. It is appropriate to continue our reflections on the Seven Sacraments with the Sacrament of Confirmation.

It is evident from the celebration of the rite of Confirmation that the effect of the Sacrament of Confirmation is the special outpouring of the Holy Spirit as once granted to the apostles on the day of Pentecost.

In the Western Catholic Faith Tradition, the Sacrament of Confirmation is now conferred on boys and girls at about fourteen years of age. There is no hard and fast rule about the age of a person receiving Confirmation; adults who have not been Confirmed also are always invited to receive this sacrament. The Sacrament of Confirmation can only be received once in a person's lifetime.

In the Early Church, and still in the Eastern Orthodox Faith Tradition, Confirmation was administered as part of the Sacrament of Baptism and was called *Chrismation*; Baptism (and Chrismation) was always administered by a bishop. However, the practicalities of travel distance and the number of baptisms made it impossible for a bishop to preside at each baptism in his diocese. In the West, the two sacraments were separated reserving the administration of Confirmation to the bishop. In the Orthodox Tradition, priests were given permission to administer the Sacrament of Confirmation (Chrismation) along with baptism.

In the Ecumenical Catholic Church+USA, because we include rites from both the West and Eastern Catholic Traditions, our priests baptizing a child at any age may ask the parents if they also want to have the child confirmed as part of the rite of becoming a Christian.

The Sacrament of Confirmation brings an increase and deepening of baptismal grace:

- ❖ it roots us more deeply in the divine filiation which enables us to raise our minds and hearts to Almighty God and call him "Father." (see *Romans 8:15*);
- ❖ it unites us more firmly to Christ;
- ❖ it increases the gifts of the Holy Spirit in us;
- ❖ it renders our bond with Christianity more perfect;
- ❖ it gives us a special strength of the Holy Spirit to spread and defend being a Christian by word and action as true witnesses of Christ, to confess the name of Christ boldly, and always be faithful to His command to "love God and neighbor."

Through the Sacrament of Confirmation, a person receives the spiritual seal, and the Seven Spiritual Gifts of the Holy Spirit to help him or her to be true and faithful Christians in their lives:



the gifts of wisdom and understanding,

the gifts of right judgment and courage,

the gifts of knowledge and reverence,

the gifts of holy fear (awe struck) in God's presence.

We should love and value what is received in the Sacrament of Confirmation: God the Father has marked us with his sign; Christ the Lord has confirmed us and has placed his pledge, the Spirit, in our hearts.

Some Christians seem to think or act like the Sacrament of Confirmation is an optional sacrament. Actually, it is not optional because it completes the initiation of a person into the Christian life; completes his or her relationship and configuration to the Holy Trinity; and provides the grace and gifts needed to fulfill Almighty God's purpose for both that individual and for humankind in general.

Anyone who has not been confirmed in the Catholic Faith Tradition and wishes to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation, as well as anyone who has a child that they want to have confirmed are encouraged call our Church Office at 314-270-2452 to talk with one of our priests.

From the Pastor's Desk

+Fr. Bob Catlett, M.Div.

(returning home from TDY FBI National Academy on June 11, 2017 – I can't wait to see everyone!)

***Happy Father's Day!** The parish extends its best wishes to all fathers in the parish who will celebrate Father's Day on Sunday, June 18, 2017. A special blessing will be conferred on all fathers present at mass that day.

Birthdays: June 11 – Matthew Jacobi
June 17 – Fr. Bob Catlett
June 23 – Marie Harbers

Anniversaries: None in June!

Mass Time Change: Due to a scheduling conflict, mass on Sunday, June 11, 2017, will be at 2:00 PM.