



Sts. Peter and Paul Chapel

A Ministry of the Ecumenical Catholic Church+USA

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November 2023 Bulletin

Parish Web Site: www.sspp-eccusa.org

Parish Facebook Page: www.facebook.com/ssppECCUSA

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

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

CLERGY MASS SCHEDULE

All Worship Services are 2:00 PM unless otherwise noted.

November 5, 2023: 31st Sunday in Ordinary Time

November 12, 2023: 32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

November 19, 2023: 33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

November 26, 2023: Solemnity of Christ the King

Pastoral Staff:

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

Founding Bishop: +Fr. Carl Swaringim, 314.650.1487, domcarl@charter.net

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

November 2023

+Fr. Bob Catlett, M.Div.

November 5, 2023 – 31st Sunday in Ordinary Time: It isn't enough to be a religious person, both Malachi and Jesus declare. We're called to be impartial, humble, and – following St. Paul's example – both gentle and generous. Jesus, help us to see where we especially need to grow. (Malachi 1:14b-2:2b, 8-10, 1 Thessalonians 2:7b-9, 13, Matthew 23:1-12)

November 12, 2023 – 32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time: Although we might think that the five wise virgins should have shared their oil, the point of the parable is not charity but prudence. Jesus stresses the importance of this virtue, which is also mentioned in the first reading. Both the Gospel and the second reading speak of the Lord's return. Jesus, we ask for the wisdom and prudence to stay focused on you, as we await our encounter at the end of our lives. (Wisdom 6:12-16, 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18, Matthew 25:1-13)

November 19, 2023 – 33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time: In today's second reading, St. Paul reminds us to stay alert. The first reading and the Gospel provide examples of the industriousness of the diligent disciple. How alert and industrious are we? Can we improve? How? (Proverbs 31:10-13, 19-20, 30-31, 1 Thessalonians 5:1-6, Matthew 25:14-30)

November 26, 2023 – Solemnity of Christ the King: All three of today's readings show Jesus as king. The Old Testament and Gospel selections describe him as a shepherd whose concern extends to the needy and weak. We recognize that we, too, are called to reach out to those in need. How well have we been performing this duty of charity? (Ezekiel 34:11-12, 15-17, 1 Corinthians 15:20-26, 28, Matthew 25:31-46)

The Gospel of John

WHATEVER HAPPENED to John? *The Lectionary for Mass* rotates the Gospel passages on a three-year cycle. Each year features one Evangelist: Matthew, Mark, and Luke. What did John do wrong?

It's what John did right. The other three Gospels are called the "synoptics"; they are Gospels that see through a common eye. Their structure and content are remarkably similar. We think Mark wrote first, and Matthew and Luke expanded Mark to produce their proclamation of Christ.

But John is different. The style, structure, and content do not resemble the others. Longer stories filled with sublime imagery of important themes in Christianity make his Gospel a unique treasure. Consequently, the lectionary treats him differently.

We hear the specific Gospel of a cycle most frequently during Ordinary Time. Throughout this season of green vestments, we hear the work of one Evangelist pretty much in order. We start near the beginning of Jesus' public life and proceed toward the end, story by story, making a few omissions and abbreviations along the way. In the other seasons

of the church year, the principal Gospel receives assistance from one or more of the others.

Because of its style, John's Gospel suits those other seasons of the year. Every Christmas, Lent, and Easter season you can count on hearing lots of John. His themes inspire our reflection on the truths of our faith that we celebrate at those times. John does not have his own year because he appears so frequently in all three years of the lectionary cycle.

The second year of the cycle creates a special place for John. Mark, the shortest of the four, steps aside in late summer and makes room for five Sundays of John. During those weeks, we interrupt Mark's story at the multiplication of the loaves and insert the sixth chapter of John, which includes his version of that story and Jesus' extended discourse on the bread of life.

As Ordinary Time gets underway each year, John always appears on the second Sunday. In subtle and bold ways, John's voice resounds in our churches even without his own year.

From the Pastor's Desk
+Fr. Bob Catlett, M.Div.

Congratulations to our parishioners who have reasons to celebrate this month:

Birthdays:

Joan Schmid: 11/23

Anniversaries:

None this month!

Masses on Facebook Live! Just a reminder...we are now able to livestream our Sunday masses on our Chapel Facebook page. If you are unable to attend in person, join us virtually...we would love to "see" you! You do **not** have to have a Facebook account to join us. Just go to our Facebook page www.facebook.com/ssppECCUSA at 2:00 PM on Sunday afternoons.

Bulletin Inserts (page 3): We continue "getting to know the church, its practices and other pressing issues" with *Bulletin Inserts for the Liturgical Life of the Parish*. The short bulletin inserts provided in this resource cover a variety of liturgy-related topics that aim to assist the parish in the liturgical formation of the assembly. The author, Fr. Paul Turner, provides short catechesis on a wide variety of topics to help the reader gain a better understanding of the "what, how, and why" of the liturgy. Each insert is designed to help the reader engage the liturgy and manifest it in their lives. Fr. Paul Turner is pastor of the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Kansas City, Missouri, and director of the Office of Divine Worship for the Diocese of Kansas City–St. Joseph. He holds a doctorate in sacred theology from Sant'Anselmo in Rome. ***This month, we learn about the Gospel of St. John.***

Congratulations to one of our own: The parish extends its sincerest congratulations to one of our beloved parishioners, Dr. Nathaniel Murdock, MD, as he was recently recognized as the 2023 Homer G. Phillips Lecture Series Honoree on Friday, October 6, 2023.

Dr. Murdock is a renowned Ob-Gyn and has practiced medicine in the St. Louis Metro area for over 50 years! He has also been an instrumental part in the education of many physicians who received their medical education at Washington University's School of Medicine here in St. Louis.

Here is a link to the story on Dr. Murdock's prestigious career and accomplishments:

https://www.stlamerican.com/your_health_matters/health_news/nathaniel-murdock-md-2023-homer-g-phillips-lecture-series-honoree/article_60544666-645e-11ee-937c-7fd256fd905e.html#:~:text=Nathaniel%20H.%20Murdock%2C%20MD%2C,University%20School%20of%20Medicine%20campus.

Congratulations, Dr. Nat! We are very proud to know you and call you our friend!