



Sts. Peter and Paul Chapel

A Ministry of the Ecumenical Catholic Church+USA

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October 2020 Parish Bulletin

Parish Web Site: www.sspp-eccusa.org or www.peterandpaulchapel.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

In-Person Services Cancelled Due to COVID-19

October 4, 2020: Twenty-Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

October 11, 2019: Twenty-Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time

October 20, 2019: Twenty-Ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time

October 27, 2019: Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time

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

Diocesan 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. Bob Catlett, M.Div.

October 4, 2020 – 27th Sunday in Ordinary Time: What a contrast between this Sunday's readings! We see violence in conflict with peace, rebellion at odds with gratitude. Do similar struggles take place within us? Lord, help us to overcome our negative tendencies and follow the way of gentleness, gratitude, and peace. (Isaiah 5:1-7, Philippians 4:6-9, Matthew 21:33-43)

October 11, 2020 – 28th Sunday in Ordinary Time: God's kingdom is presented as a great banquet in today's selections from Isaiah and Matthew, who remind us to wear the wedding garment of a worthy life. St. Paul assures us that the Lord will supply whatever we need. Do we pray for his help? (Isaiah 25:6-10a, Philippians 4:12-14, 19-20, Matthew 22:1-14)

October 18, 2020 – 29th Sunday in Ordinary Time: Jesus urges his interrogators in today's Gospel to give to God what belongs to him. The prophet Isaiah tells of the Persian King Cyrus, who will allow the Israelites to again worship God in the homeland. St. Paul praises the Thessalonians for directing their faith, hope and love to the Lord. Do we give to God everything we should? (Isaiah 45:1, 4-6, 1 Thessalonians 1:1-5b, Matthew 22:15-21)

October 25, 2020 – 30th Sunday in Ordinary Time: We are reminded today that following the Lord requires more than devotion. This Sunday's Gospel and Old Testament selection call for love of neighbor. Meanwhile, St. Paul praises the Thessalonians for remaining steadfast in the face of persecution. Lord Jesus, enlighten us! How can we better live our faith? (Exodus 22:20-26, 1 Thessalonians 1:5c-10, Matthew 22:34-40)



~ Let us ponder this month ~

Ideologies striking at the heart of the Gospel

*From: Pope Francis, Apostolic Exhortation, Gaudete et Exsultate
March 19, 2018, Paragraphs 100-102*

I regret that ideologies lead us at times to two harmful errors. On the one hand, there is the error of those Christians who separate these Gospel demands from their personal relationship with the Lord, from their interior union with him, from openness to his grace. Christianity thus becomes a sort of NGO stripped of the luminous mysticism so evident in the lives of Saint Francis of Assisi, Saint Vincent de Paul, Saint Teresa of Calcutta, and many others. For these great saints, mental prayer, the love of God and the reading of the Gospel in no way detracted from their passionate and effective commitment to their neighbors; quite the opposite.

The other harmful ideological error is found in those who find suspect the social engagement of others, seeing it as superficial, worldly, secular, materialist, communist or populist. Or they relativize it, as if there are other more important matters, or the only thing that counts is one particular ethical issue or cause that they themselves defend.

Our defense of the innocent unborn, for example, needs to be clear, firm and passionate, for at stake is the dignity of a human life, which is always sacred and demands love for each person, regardless of his or her stage of development.

Equally sacred, however, are the lives of the poor, those already born, the destitute, the abandoned and the underprivileged, the vulnerable infirm and elderly exposed to covert euthanasia, the victims of human trafficking, new forms of slavery, and every form of rejection. We cannot uphold an ideal of holiness that would ignore injustice in a world where some revel, spend with abandon and live only for the latest consumer goods, even as others look on from afar, living their entire lives in abject poverty.

We often hear it said that, with respect to relativism and the flaws of our present world, the situation of migrants, for example, is a lesser issue. Some Catholics consider it a secondary issue compared to the “grave” bioethical questions. That a politician looking for votes might say such a thing is understandable, but not a Christian, for whom the only proper attitude is to stand in the shoes of those brothers and sisters of ours who risk their lives to offer a future to their children. Can we not realize that this is exactly what Jesus demands of us, when he tells us that in welcoming the stranger we welcome him (cf. *Mt 25:35*)? Saint Benedict did so readily, and though it might have “complicated” the life of his monks, he ordered that all guests who knocked at the monastery door be welcomed “like Christ”, with a gesture of veneration; the poor and pilgrims were to be met with “the greatest care and solicitude”.

From the Pastor's Desk

+Fr. Bob Catlett, M.Div.

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

Birthdays:

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

Anniversaries:

Rudy and Joan Schmid: 10/9 (66 years of marriage!)
+Fr. Bob Catlett: 10/23 (4 years – Episcopal Consecration)
Fr. Bill LaGrand: 10/23 (17 years - Ordination to Priesthood)

In-Person Services: We continue to anxiously await the day we are able to return to the church building to worship in-person as a family. We continue to work with the staff of St. Timothy's to establish a protocol which will allow us to return to church in a safe and healthy manner.

Synod Cancelled: Due to COVID-19, the Council of Bishops decided to cancel this year's Synod for everyone's health and safety. We are looking into some form of "virtual" meeting and liturgy. Details to follow.

Update on Fr. Bill: Fr. Bill and his wife, Debra, have moved to the Lake of the Ozarks. He hopes to establish some form of ministry in that area. He will remain as Associate Pastor for the interim. His new address is:

Fr. Bill LaGrand
64 Knox Road – Unit N206
Rocky Mount, MO 65072
Phone: (314) 650-9214
Email: eccsacerdos@yahoo.com

Please continue to keep them in your thoughts and prayers.