



Sts. Peter and Paul Chapel

A Member of the Ecumenical Catholic Church+USA

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September 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

September 6, 2020: Twenty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

September 13, 2020: Twenty-Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

September 20, 2020: Twenty-Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

September 27, 2020: Twenty-Sixth 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.

Sunday Scripture Reflections

+Fr. Bob Catlett, M.Div.

September 6, 2020 – 23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time: “Owe nothing to anyone, except to love one another,” writes St. Paul to the Romans. The first reading and Gospel remind us that sometimes, tough love is required. We may have to tell a dear one, clearly and tactfully (without nagging) that certain words, actions, or even a lifestyle are unacceptable. Are we able to do this? First, we must pray. (Ezekiel 33:7-9, Romans 13:8-10, Matthew 18:15-20)

September 13, 2020 – 24th Sunday in Ordinary Time: “None of us lives for oneself,” writes St. Paul; “We live for the Lord.” One way we live for the Lord is by repeatedly forgiving, as the Gospel stresses. If we forgive, we will be forgiven. We must ask...Lord, is there someone I need to forgive? Help me to become aware, to forgive, and to reconcile. (Sirach 27:30-28:7, Romans 14:7-9, Matthew 18:21-35)

September 20, 2020 – 25th Sunday in Ordinary Time: “My thoughts are not your thought,” declares the Lord through the prophet Isaiah. Today’s Gospel bears this out. The parable of the vineyard workers is said to refer to eternal life, a generous gift from God that none of us deserves. Do we look forward to heaven as St. Paul did? (Isaiah 55:6-9, Philemon 1:20c-24, 27a, Matthew 20:1-16)

September 27, 2020 – 26th Sunday in Ordinary Time: Jesus’ parable illustrates the selection from Ezekiel: the obedient son is the one who wins the father’s favor. In the second reading, St. Paul encourages the obedient attitude that Jesus himself manifested. What does the Lord expect of us? Are we striving to obey him wholeheartedly, using our gifts in his service? (Ezekiel 18:25-28, Philemon 2:1-11, Matthew 21:28-32)



Let us ponder Jesus as presented in the ***Gospels of Matthew, Mark, and Luke***, and in the ***Gospel of John and the Letters of St. Paul***. They have a significantly different emphasis.

The emphasis in John and Paul **is the message about Jesus** (that is, ***what he did***). The emphasis of Matthew, Mark, and Luke **is the message of Jesus** (that is, ***what he said***).

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Paul and John's message is aimed at our individual lives and our eternal reward: to be with God forever in the Kingdom of Heaven. However, Matthew, Mark, and Luke's message presents the teachings of Jesus aimed at Him and us together building the Kingdom of God right now in this world of ours.

Note that these two competing emphases are not mutually exclusive and they do exist side by side in the New Testament of the Bible. However, often in church teaching and preaching, the sole emphasis has been on our personal salvation rather than Christ's own total message to his followers. He tells us to join him in building the world as the earthly Kingdom of God: a kingdom of love, justice, and peace.

The problem is that most Christian churches today teach mainly *about Christ*; they lead us to believe that we have been redeemed; but, the fact is that our lives are not necessarily transformed just by "being saved". We can continue to lead self-absorbed lives ignoring the cries of the poor. We can easily find ourselves captive to a personal and civil culture of selfishness, greed, hate, and violence.

But, what Jesus said in the Gospels invites us to go beyond ourselves and live for others. Listening to what Jesus said, we do not do good works just to get to Heaven. Listening to what Jesus said, we **live** lives of charity, service, commitment to peace, love of neighbor, as well as personal and societal integrity. ***"The kingdom of God is not about personal redemption; it is about social transformation. It is about engaging in a conspiracy of love to change the world."*** page 45

Pondering based on:

An Unorthodox Faith. A New Reformation for a Postmodern World
by Kurt Struckmeyer, 2017, [Chapter 2.] A book worthy of your read. +CTS

From the Pastor's Desk

+Fr. Bob Catlett, M.Div.

Birthdays: None this month!

Anniversaries: None this month!

In-Person Worship Update: We (and our friends at St. Timothy's) are anxiously awaiting the decision by the Episcopal Bishop, Dean Johnson, to allow in-person worship services beginning the first Sunday in September. As of this writing, we have not received the "official" word, but will keep you advised as soon as we learn of the news. I know everyone is very eager to return to worshipping together, albeit in a socially distant manner.

Synod Details: This year's Synod has been cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic. We are trying to figure out how to do some sort of "virtual" retreat. More information will be forthcoming as it becomes available.

Prayers: Let us continue to pray for those affected – in any way – by the COVID-19 pandemic. Let us pray for the medical community as they research a vaccine and cure.

Please continue to remember Fr. Bill in your prayers as he continues his leave of absence for personal reasons.

Finally, let us pray for peace and civility in our country.

Welcome to St. Louis and St. Timothy's: The parish extends its warm welcome wishes to Reverend Elizabeth "Liz" Meade as the Interim Rector of St. Timothy's. Mother Liz will serve as Rector of St. Timothy's for two (2) years as they search for a new Rector after the retirement of Fr. Marvin Lee Foltz. Mother Liz comes to St. Timothy's from the Chicago area. Welcome, Liz+; we look forward to working with you!