

The Church of the Blessed Sacrament

TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

SEPTEMBER 8, 2019



Whoever does not carry his own cross
and come after me
cannot be my disciple.

"In our daily life, we strive to know, love, and serve God and others, as Catholic disciples of Christ."

2119 Stillwater Avenue East Saint Paul, Minnesota 55119-3508 Website: blessedsacramentsp.org
Phone: 651-738-0677 Fax: 651-738-6492 Check us out on Facebook at: www.facebook.com/blessedsacramentsp
To Register: Please pick up a New Parishioner Packet in the Gathering Space or call the Parish Office.

Church of the Blessed Sacrament

Giving it All Up for God

One of the major turning points in my life was in college when I visited rural Central America. I walked among some of the physically poorest of the poor. Yet in the depths of their hearts, I saw a love that I had never seen before in my life. Although they had almost nothing, they were eager and ready to share their food with us. Despite not owning a Bible or a missal, they joyfully participated in prayer times and Masses. They were a walking contradiction, somehow despised by this world and all its glamour, but rich in faith and living a simple yet vibrant spiritual life. It opened my eyes and heart to the Gospel in a more profound and tangible way. I saw firsthand that no earthly want or need could ever be more filling than a heart in love with God.



This Sunday's readings bring to mind the same theme of contradiction. In the Gospel, we hear Jesus speak about hating and leaving family, when usually we desire to put family in a place of priority. He speaks about embracing our cross and leaving this world behind, when we usually worry about earthly sufferings and how we will alleviate them to live more comfortably in this world. They are opposed forces on the surface, and my challenge is to meet Jesus in these seemingly contradictory words and find the pearl of wisdom that will bring me new life.

What I find most striking about the Gospel is that it begins and ends with a call to detachment, with a message of preparation sandwiched in the middle. How does hating mother and father relate to preparing to lay a foundation? What does giving up all earthly possessions have to do with a king preparing for battle? In the index of the Ignatius Bible, it says that the call to hate mother or father is about being "prepared to part from anyone who prevents [us] from serving [God]." Instead of trying to downplay what Jesus is saying, we can see that the strong word choice helps us understand the radicalness of the call to be a disciple. If anything gets in my way of serving and following Christ, I need to detach from it.

The reality Jesus shows us is that discipleship is not easy or nice. It requires a determined decision to prepare and commit to life with him. Just like the builder or the king, we need to understand our goal and how we will get there. Life with Christ is beautiful and radical, but it's not won without detachment. A builder plans ahead so he has enough supplies to finish the job. A Christian plans ahead and is ready to embrace the inevitable crosses that come and live as a citizen of heaven on this earth. To live a life in Christ, we have to be ready to give up what is of this earth, so that we are free to be open to what is not of this earth but of what is of God.

In the second reading, St. Paul beautifully shares his lived experience of this detachment and preparation. Though in prison, he is joyfully living a life in Christ. His hatred of the world

has been replaced by joy rooted in God alone. And though physically lacking, spiritually he is so full that his love and joy overflows into the early Church as he pastors and guides them even from prison. The first reading starts with "Who can know God's counsel, or who can conceive what the Lord intends?" God's ways are not our ways. If we follow the ways of the world, we will never taste the sweetness of God. The call to discipleship is a call to live a life of contradiction, always ready to let go so we can receive.

In one of my favorite books, "Happy Are You Poor," Fr. Thomas Dubay writes: "If we wonder why, despite the millions of us who follow Christ, the world has not long ago been converted, we need not look far for one solution. We are not perceived as men on fire. We look too much like everyone else. We appear to be compromisers, people who say they believe in everlasting life but actually live as though this life is the only one we have."

The challenge for myself then is to look at my life with Gospel eyes and see what in my heart still belongs to this world, what in my heart seeks to run from suffering and daily crosses, and what in my heart I haven't fully given to Christ. Then, to make a plan, renounce it all and live radically for Christ.

Angie Windnagle



**There will be a Blessing of the Pets
at Noon on Sunday, October 6th.**

**Please bring your animals on a leash or in a kennel and
Father will administer a blessing to all our family pets.**



Looking to volunteer? We are looking for someone to help be the face-of-the-parish by managing our phones and front door access on Wednesdays. The individual will sit at the Hospitality Desk during normal business hours and offer this valuable help to staff. We are looking for help in the morning [9:30-noon] and in the afternoon [12:30-3:00]. If interested please contact John Florin at the parish office. God bless.

Blessed Sacrament T-shirts

Our parish t-shirts are here and they look amazing! They're available in gray or white, in sizes small – XXL. Quantities of some sizes are limited after sales at the FunFest, so pick up your t-shirt soon before they run out! Available at the parish office and after some weekend Masses at the Hospitality Desk.



HEALTH TIPS

Movement & Christian Meditation

If you are interested in participating in the September 9—October 28
Please let Carol McKenna, 651-738-0667.
Cost for an 8 week session is \$72 per participant.
The instructor will be Nancy Calderon. Thanks, Carol

Even if you quit smoking more than 15 years ago, you should ask your doctor about having a CT scan for lung cancer if you otherwise meet current screening criteria, suggests a study recently in the *Journal of Thoracic Oncology*. Guidelines from the US Preventive Services Task Force advise screening with special low-dose CT scans for people ages 55 to 79 who either currently smoke or quit smoking in the past 15 years, with at least 30 “pack years” of smoking (an average of one pack a day for 30 years, for instance, or two packs a day for 15 years). In the new study, researchers from the Mayo Clinic analyzed data from nearly 6,000 people with lung cancer and found that a sizable proportion of them had quit smoking 15 to 30 years before their diagnosis.



RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults)

Interested in becoming Catholic or completing your Confirmation as an adult? RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults) is an initiation process for:

- Those who have never been baptized
- Those who have been baptized but have not completed initiation sacraments of Eucharist and/or Confirmation
- Those who have been baptized in another faith tradition and wish to become Catholic
- Those who have celebrated Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist but are interested in learning more about their faith

Classes will be beginning soon in English and in Spanish, so we invite you to find out more by calling the parish office at 651-738-0677, (English)

RCIA (rito de iniciación cristiana de adultos)

¿Interesado en convertirse en católico o completar su confirmación como un adulto? RCIA (rito de iniciación cristiana para adultos) es un proceso de iniciación:

- Aquellos que nunca han sido bautizados
- Aquellos que han sido bautizados pero no han completado los sacramentos de la iniciación de Eucaristía y/o confirmación
- Aquellos que han sido bautizados en otra tradición de la fe y desean convertirse en católica
- Aquellos que han celebrado el bautismo, confirmación y Eucaristía, pero está interesado en aprender más sobre su fe

Las clases se empezarán pronto en inglés y en español, por eso lo invitamos a conocer más por llamar a la oficina parroquial en 651-738-0677, (inglés) o Daisy Carlson en 651-442-9438 (español).

S PARISH ADMINISTRATION 651-738-0677
T Rev. Benny Mekkatt, Pastor ext. 11
A John Florin, Business Administrator ext. 10
F Joy Hoffman, Administrative Coordinator ext. 12
F Deacon Jerry Saladin.....952-607-9636
D PASTORAL MINISTRY 651-738-0677
I Carol McKenna, Parish Nurseext. 15
R FAITH FORMATION 651-738-0677
E Julie Taylor, Director..... ext. 14
C MUSIC
T Jan Meulemans, Director.....651-307-7865
O
R
Y

PRAYER LINE

Please call Carol McKenna.....651-492-2778

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BAPTISM - Participation in the Baptism preparation program is a prerequisite for Baptism. Schedule with the Parish Office.
RECONCILIATION- Daily: M-F immediately following Mass & Saturday 3:00-3:45 pm
MATRIMONY- Make arrangements with the pastor at least six months before the date.
ANOIDING OF THE SICK - Please call the parish office if you or a family member is going to be hospitalized. Also, if you are home-bound and wish to receive the Eucharist or a friendly visit, please call the parish office.
LOW-GLUTEN HOSTS ARE AVAILABLE- Please come to the Sacristy before Mass to arrange to receive one.

- Blessed Sacrament Adoration, 6AM to 11PM
- The Rosary is said just prior to all Masses.

Sunday, September 8

Twenty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time
Wis 9:13-18b/Phlm 9-10, 12-17/Lk 14:25-33

8:30 am † Anthony Sowada
 10:30 am Parish Mass

Monday, September 9

Saint Peter Claver, Priest
Col 1:24-2:3/Lk 6:6-11
 9:00am † Catherione Kobilka

Tuesday, September 10

Weekday
Col 2:6-15/Lk 6:12-19
 9:00 am † John & Gen Ewald

Wednesday, September 11

Weekday
Col 3:1-11/Lk 6:20-26
 9:00 am Art Heutmaker Family, Living & Deceased

Thursday, September 12

Weekday/Most Holy Name of Mary
Col 3:12-17/Lk 6:27-38
 9:00am Joe & Margaret Bianconi

Friday, September 13

Saint John Chrysostom, Bishop & Doctor of the Church
1 Tm 1:1-2, 12-14/Lk 6:39-42
 9:00am † Nancy Cocchiarella

Saturday, September 14

The Exaltation of the Holy Cross
Nm 21:4b-9/Phil 2:6-11/Jn 3:13-17 (Morning Readings)
 4:00 pm † Huey Henriksen

Sunday, September 15

Twenty-Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time
Ex 32:7-11, 13-14/1 Tm 1:12-17/Lk 15:1-32

8:30 am Parish Mass
 10:30 am † Darrell Novak

Church of the Blessed Sacrament

SCHEDULE FOR THE WEEK

September 1—September 8

Sun, Sept 8:	Hospitality after both Masses
Mon, Sept 9:	6:00-8:00pm Faith Formation Registration 6:30-7:30pm Movement & Christian Meditation 7:00-8:30pm Monday Night Book Club
Tues, Sept 10:	8:00-9:00am Divine Mercy Cenacle
Wed, Sept 11:	Young at Heart after Mass 6:30-8:00pm Women's Club Meeting
Sat, Sept 14:	10:00am-Noon Choir Rehearsal 6:30-8:30pm Hispanic Prayer Group
Sun, Sept 15:	Hospitality after both Masses 1:00-3:00pm Mexico Pilgrimage Meet and Greet

FINANCE

Gifts of Treasure

August 31 & September 1, 2019

Sunday Envelopes & Plate:	\$ 5,976.00
<u>Other :</u>	<u>\$ 115.00</u>
Total :	\$ 6,091.00

55 CLUB LUNCHEON

55 Club - Forever Young Luncheon

Join us for our monthly luncheons.

Along with members of Presentation Parish, we will again be hosting a monthly gathering here at Blessed Sacrament, starting September 24.

All parishioners interested in participating in the 55 Club Monthly Luncheons are encouraged to attend. Invite a friend, neighbor or family member to share in the fun. All are welcome!

Menu for Sept. 24

- Chicken Marsala, garlic red mashed potatoes, candied baby carrots, salad, dinner roll with butter, cookies for dessert.

Cost: \$10.00

Guest speaker will be Fr. Peter Ly.

Reservations are needed by the third Friday of the month. Call Wayne Jurmu, at 651-484-8377. Payment is made the day of the gathering.

Funeral Planning Workshop

Saturday, October 26th

9-11 am

Please call the parish office to register to attend.

This is a FREE event.

Saint Thomas the Apostle Eucharistic Adoration Chapel



The Adoration Chapel committee asks you to prayerfully consider signing up for the following open hour:

Sunday afternoons 2 - 3pm

Please contact Kathy Ebert 651-247-5185
or Patty Germain 651-788-3876

or the Parish office for more information.

Twenty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

FAITH FORMATION



Last chance to register for Faith Formation without a late fee is this Monday!

Registration for our Faith Formation classes has begun! We offer classes for ages 3 through high school on Wednesday evenings, as well as classes for ages 3 to Grade 2 on Sunday mornings. You can find the registration forms online at www.blessedsacramentsp.org under the Faith Formation tab or in the Gathering Area. Classes begin in late September; register by September 9th to avoid a late fee. For more information, please contact Julie Taylor.

Catechesis of the Good Shepherd Age 3-year-old to Grade 3 Sunday mornings and Wednesday evenings

This child-centered faith formation program is based on Montessori teaching principles, providing children with a chance to work with wonderful learning materials and focusing on the unique relationship of the child with God. Sacramental preparation for First Reconciliation and First Communion take place within this program. Find out more on our parish website at www.blessedsacramentsp.org under "Faith Formation," and contact Julie at the parish office to register!



The Nursery Is Open During 10:30 Mass



The Nursery is located in the classroom wing just past the restrooms and is available for children ages 1 – 5. Children read, play games, and have a wonderful time with an adult/teen volunteer team who love children and have background checks and training. No pre-registration necessary, so stop in!

Nursery Leaders Needed

Nursery leaders can be adults or teens ages 12 and above. All adult volunteers who work with children are required to have VIRTUS training and a background check. If you're interested in becoming a volunteer leader, please contact Julie Taylor at jtaylor@blessedsacramentsp.org.

**The September
Women's Club Meeting is
scheduled for
WEDNESDAY,
September 11th due to
another scheduling conflict.
Our normally scheduled
meetings will continue to be
on the second Tuesday of every month.**





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