



CHURCH OF THE
BLESSED SACRAMENT

2119 STILLWATER AVE E ST. PAUL | 651.738.0677 | CHURCH@BLESSEDSACRAMENTSP.ORG

SUNDAY, AUGUST 30, 2020

22ND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



“Whoever wishes to come after me must deny himself, take up his cross, and follow me. For whoever wishes to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it.” - Mt 16:24b-25

Church of the Blessed Sacrament

The Good News of Discipleship

“Jesus began to show His disciples that He must go to Jerusalem and suffer greatly from the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed and on the third day be raised.” —Matthew 16:21

Recently, I had the opportunity to take part in a program with ordained and lay ministers representing a number of Christian traditions and nationalities. Although we spent a lot of time working as a large group, at times we were divided into smaller groups for guided discussion.

Within my small group, we discussed the reality of evil in the world and how each of us understood grace and salvation. Taking part in the conversation were Catholics and Lutherans from the United States, a Syro-Malabar Catholic priest from India, a Ge'ez Rite (Catholic) priest from Ethiopia, and a Presbyterian minister from Korea. Three of us were members of different Catholic religious communities. Despite the differences of culture and background, our common belief in the life and mission of Jesus Christ helped us to bridge those differences.



Another of our common beliefs was our understanding that each of us is called to be a disciple of Jesus. This goes beyond simply knowing what the New Testament tells us about Jesus of Nazareth. Instead, our commitment as Christians demands that we go deeper. As disciples we are called to foster our relationship with Jesus, to know Him in a personal way. And, as with any important relationship in our lives, our relationship with Jesus changes us, helps us to grow more into the woman or man that God wants us to be. The Gospel proclaimed this Sunday helps break open what this relationship can mean for our lives.

To begin with, this Sunday's Gospel picks up where the story from the Gospel for last Sunday left off: Simon has just made a profound statement of faith, acknowledging that Jesus is the "Christ, the Son of the Living God." In response, Jesus gives Simon a new name — Peter — and places him in a position of authority within the Christian community, giving him the "keys to the Kingdom of Heaven." It's a powerful and decisive moment for Peter and the entire Church.

But, as we hear this Sunday, the mood changes quickly as Jesus tells the newly named Peter and the other disciples that Jesus must suffer and die. Peter, always quick to speak, responds in a totally reasonable way: "God forbid, Lord! No such thing shall ever happen to you." It's almost impossible for him to believe that what Jesus is saying could be true. After all, everything seemed to be going so well.

But Jesus wants none of Peter's objections, declaring "Get behind me, Satan! You are an obstacle to me." Jesus tells Peter to stop thinking only about their friendship and the success of their mission. God's plans are bigger than anything we can imagine.

An important part of this passage is Jesus' instruction for Peter to "get behind" Him. In a sense, Jesus is reminding Peter that it's the disciple's job to *follow the teacher*. Peter has tried to take on the role of the teacher, dictating to Jesus what can and can't happen. By doing this, Peter "the Rock" has become a *satan*, a "stumbling stone" along the way that Jesus is leading His disciples. We know that that path of discipleship becomes the way of the Cross. But, we also know that the Way of the Cross leads into a garden and an empty tomb.


Peter could never have imagined any of this, however. In the passage we hear this Sunday, Peter simply hears his friend and teacher predicting that something horrible is going to happen. It makes perfect sense that he would try to prevent anything from happening to Jesus.

But what comes next is very important. Jesus reminds Peter — and us — that it isn't only His journey. Jesus tells us exactly what is expected of anyone who is going to continue to journey with Him: we must deny our own preferences and agendas and imitate Him.

These are hard words, but their meaning is unmistakable.

Gospel means "Good News" and, although it might not seem like it, even passages like the one we hear this Sunday are good news for us because as we accept the demands of discipleship we are being reminded that we aren't traveling alone. We aren't being asked to forge a new path to God because that work has been done by the one whom we follow and who reminds us by His own life that the darkness of Good Friday is followed by the bright light of Easter morning.

Br. Silas Henderson, S.D.S.



**Tuesday, October 6
1-7pm**

If you are interested in donating blood here at Blessed Sacrament, please call the Red Cross at 1-800-733-2767 and sign up.

If you have any questions regarding donating blood or the time you prefer to donate, please call Carol in the parish office.

Also remember, if you give a pint of blood you'll get a certificate to receive a free pint of Culver's Ice Cream!

Bethany House

Apply now for September 2020 – May 2021

Bethany House applications are now being accepted for September 2020 to May 2021. Bethany House is a home for women who live in community, pray together, take meals together and discern whether they are called to consecrated life. Bethany House is sponsored by the Office of Vocations and is located in Northeast Minneapolis. We are currently taking applications for women interested in Bethany House. Qualities of a good candidate for Bethany House include single women, ages 20 – 27, who are interested in dedicating a year to intentionally discerning a vocation to religious life. Please visit www.10000vocations.org for more information.

May/Should I attend Mass again?

The short answer is YES. Public Masses started up in early June and we have been seeing 30 to 60+ people coming out to each of our weekend Masses, and an average of 20+ attending our noon Masses during the week (Tuesday – Friday.) You always need to use your own common sense to determine whether you should come to Mass. State officials recommend you should be in good health, and have not directly encountered anyone who has tested positive for the COVID-19 virus. In addition, if you have an underlying medical condition that makes you more vulnerable to catching the virus then you should refrain from coming; otherwise, we hope to see you back in church!

There is some misunderstanding with the meaning behind the “sign up” application on our web site. This strictly helps us know on how many we should expect to be at each Mass. It does NOT restrict you from attending Mass. It is Father’s intention to add an additional Mass on Sunday morning once we consistently reach our capacity of 80+ participants at each Mass.

We sanitize the church space after each Mass, we maintain the 6 foot social distance rule, we discourage socializing while in the facilities, and facemasks are required to be worn at all times during the Mass.

We will be extremely happy to attain the help of a few more young ushers who are under 65 years of age. We need the ushers to help with taking collections, helping people to find the seats that are available and sanitizing the pews after the Mass. If you are under 65, please pray about it and respond to this great ministry. See you in church!

Miriam Dinner – Save the Date!

Tuesday, September 29, 6 – 8:30 p.m., Holy Cross, Minneapolis

Archbishop Bernard A. Hebda and Father David Blume, Director of Vocations, invite women, ages 16 – 35, who are discerning consecrated life to join us for this event! Come for an evening of prayer and dinner with consecrated women sharing their vocations testimonies. Space is limited! It is typical for guests to be accompanied by their pastor, consecrated religious, or youth / campus minister. RSVP before September 24 at 10000vocations.org. Questions?

Email stpaulvocations@10000vocations.org or call the Office of Vocations at 651-962-6890.

FROM THE BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR

Lighting system update:

We have replaced the controls for the lighting system in the church space by a licensed electrician. The cost of this project was approximately \$2,500. Thanks to some very generous donations, we have already collected \$975 to go towards this project. Thank you!

Face Masks:

Thank you all for following the Governor’s statewide order requiring everyone to wear facemasks while inside of our facilities. We will maintain a modest supply of facemasks out on the Hospitality desk. We thank those who are able to make a small donation to help us offset this expense. Expect blessings.

Key Fob system update:

Changes over our main entrance area to the keyless key fob system have been completed. In addition, all exterior doors have been rekeyed as a security measure. The new key fob system electronically tracks which key fob is used, and we are now able to closely monitor the issuance and usage of any key fob. We are working on the protocols on how one goes about requesting a key fob. FYI: our current system of pushing the buzzer on the exterior of the building will remain operational, and we will be able to grant building access when staff are present.

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PARISH ADMINISTRATION 651-738-0677

- Rev. Benny Mekkatt, Pastor ext. 11
- John Florin, Business Administrator ext. 10
- Joy Hoffman, Administrative Coordinator ext. 12
- Deacon Jerry Saladin.....952-607-9636

PASTORAL MINISTRY 651-738-0677

- Carol McKenna,ext. 15

FAITH FORMATION 651-738-0677

- Connie Hill, Director ext. 14

MUSIC

- Jan Meulemans, Director.....651-307-7865

PRAYER LINE

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

CHURCH EMAIL: Church@blessedsacramentsp.org

PARISH COUNCIL: parishcouncil@blessedsacramentsp.org

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BAPTISM - Participation in the Baptism preparation program is a prerequisite for Baptism. Schedule with the Parish Office.

RECONCILIATION- Saturday 3:00-3:45pm

By appointment on other days

MATRIMONY- Make arrangements with the pastor at least six months before the date.

ANOINTING 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.

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- Blessed Sacrament Adoration, M-W-F 1-11pm & TH 6am-noon
- The Rosary is said just prior to all weekend Masses.

Sunday, August 30

Twenty-Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

Jer 20:7-9/Rom 12:1-2/Mt 16:21-27

Lacey Ramirez Cruz

Parish Mass

Monday, August 31

Weekday

1 Cor 2:1-5/Lk 4:16-30

Tuesday, September 1

Weekday

1 Cor 2:10b-16/Lk 4:31-37

† Bernard Bearth

Wednesday, September 2

Weekday

1 Cor 3:1-9/Lk 4:38-44

† Kathy Neuman

Thursday, September 3

Saint Gregory the Great, Pope and Doctor of the Church

1 Cor 3:18-23/Lk 5:1-11

† Gen Barthel

Friday, September 4

Weekday

1 Cor 4:1-5/Lk 5:33-39

† Cruz-Espenal Ancestors

Saturday, September 5

Weekday/Saint Teresa of Calcutta; BVM

1 Cor 4:6b-15/Lk 6:1-5 (Morning Readings)

† Nancy Cocchiarella

Sunday, September 6

Twenty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

Ez 33:7-9/Rom 13:8-10/Mt 18:15-20

† Yvonne Zeimet

Parish Mass

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Church of the Blessed Sacrament

SCHEDULE FOR THE WEEK

August 30– September 6

The celebration of public Masses has resumed
for a limited number of participants!
Please sign up online or call the parish office!

Other Schedule Information:

- Sacrament of Reconciliation on Saturday 3:00 - 3:45 PM in the building or call for an appointment.
- Livestream Mass—**Tuesday-Friday at Noon, Saturday at 4:00 PM and on Sunday at 9:00 am** on Facebook or watch later on our You Tube channel link via our website.

FINANCE

Gifts of Treasure

August 15/16, 2020

Sunday Envelopes & Plate:	\$ 2,241.00
Holy Day:	\$ 418.00
Other:	\$ 420.00
<u>Additional Operating Income:</u>	<u>\$ 240.00</u>
Total :	\$ 3,319.00

August 22/23, 2020

Sunday Envelopes & Plate:	\$ 3,129.00
Holy Day:	\$ 20.00
Other:	\$ 134.00
<u>Additional Operating Income:</u>	<u>\$ 5.00</u>
Total :	\$ 3,288.00

Movement and Meditation Classes available via Zoom

This Fall's Movement and Meditation Classes are scheduled to start on September 14. This 8 week session will last until November 2. Cost for the 8 week session is \$72.00 and it will be a "Zoom session." **Classes will not be held in the Robertson Room.**

To register and pay directly please click this link:



<https://yogadevotion.com/class/zoom-yogadevotion-with-nancy>

If you know someone who would like to attend these classes, have any questions, please contact Lisa @yogadevotion.com

HEALTH TIP

Silent Heart Attacks as dangerous as "regular" ones. The fact that they're so common should provide extra impetus to take steps now that are known to protect the heart: Keep your blood pressure, cholesterol, and blood sugar levels in the optimal range (using medication if warranted). Maintain a healthy body weight; don't smoke; eat a high-fiber diet that's rich in fruits, vegetables, whole grains, and legumes, with moderate amounts of heart-healthy unsaturated fats (as found in fish and nuts, for example). Limit your intake of saturated fat; get regular exercise; and follow good sleep practices. Consult your doctor if you experience unexplained sluggishness, fatigue, or dizziness; heartburn that gets worse during exercise; or unusual nausea or vomiting. These are all less typical symptoms that might indicate that a heart attack has occurred or is impending.



Minimizing Risk

For in-person classes, we will follow CDC and MDH recommendations for minimizing risk including: Frequent hand-washing, newly installed hand sanitizing pumps in classrooms, social distancing, limiting occupancy, limiting movement throughout the building, regular sanitizing of rooms and commonly-touched surfaces, face coverings (for ages six and up) per the Archbishop and Executive Order 20-81, and documented wellness screenings upon entering the building.

Registration deadline is today!

Avoid a late fee and contact Connie to register for any in-person or at-home Faith Formation options.

May the heart of Jesus, in the Most Blessed Sacrament, be praised, adored, and loved with grateful affection, at every moment, in all the tabernacles of the world, even to the end of time. Amen.

Catechesis of the Good Shepherd (CGS)

This child-centered faith formation program is based on Montessori teaching principles. From the age of three, the child uses beautiful materials to



cultivate prayer and a personal relationship with God. CGS offers sacramental preparations for First Reconciliation and First Communion beginning in first grade and culminating in second grade.

RCIA



Are you or someone you know looking to engage in the full sacramental life of the church? RCIA is an adult formation program that teaches the joy and the fullness of our Catholic faith. Candidates are "brought into the church" at the Easter Vigil Mass. For more information, contact the church office.

¿Estás buscando participar en la vida sacramental completa de la iglesia? RCIA es un programa de formación de adultos que enseña la alegría y la plenitud de nuestra fe católica. Los candidatos son "traídos a la iglesia" en la Misa de Vigilia Pascual. Para obtener más información, comuníquese con la oficina de la iglesia.



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