



CHURCH OF THE
BLESSED SACRAMENT

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

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 2020

25TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



“Are you envious because I am generous?’ Thus, the last will be first, and the first will be last.” - Mt 20:15-16

Church of the Blessed Sacrament

A Sign of Contradiction

I was in high school when I truly understood that Jesus is really present in the Eucharist. I had professed this belief from my youngest years, but it wasn't until high school that I understood the depth of love in that tiny little host. I remember looking up during adoration and seeing God for what felt like the first time in my life. Time seemed to stop, and I looked at Him as He looked at me, and in that moment, I knew without a doubt that the God of the entire universe knew me and loved me through and through.

As I reflect back on that moment what always strikes me most is the immense humility of God, that being all powerful He would lower Himself to this host in order to let my feeble mind understand His presence. As we hear in the first reading this weekend, His ways are far above ours. I have more in common with an ant than I have with God. Yet the same God whose thoughts are "as high as the heavens are above the earth," is the same God who freely chose to take on flesh in order to save me. The utter contradiction shatters any notion the human mind could create about what God should be. Somehow in this tension of near and far, we meet God. I find this so fitting as we navigate our world and its upheaval this year. God is speaking directly to our hearts to call on Him in our disrupted plans and to seek Him not as some far-off deity, but as the God who is near and who is deeply invested in our lives.



St. Paul echoes this tension when he reflects on the desire to at once be both living on this earth in order to serve God more while also desiring to be with Him in heaven. This seems like a contradiction to our ears. We often approach mortality with trepidation and fear. Illness and disease cause us to lose peace as we seek ways to increase our years on earth. What we learn from Paul is the reminder that while this life is good, it is not our final home. His call to conduct ourselves as "worthy of the gospel" is an implicit reminder that we are simply pilgrims here and on our way home as citizens of heaven.

Jesus teaches us in the gospel what that looks like. Again, He shares a contradiction. On a human level, we expect those who work the hardest to get the first and best reward. But Jesus flips this concept upside down and says rather that, "the last will be first, and the first will be last." At first glance, the parable might seem harsh and unfair. However, right before this the landowner says, "are you envious because I am generous?" Our God is a generous God, far beyond our human understanding. This line reminds me of the Garden of Eden and the temptation of Adam and Eve to be like God without God. God always shows His infinite love and generosity, yet we often struggle with the temptation to believe He is somehow holding out on us. Rather than holding out on us, He is actually giving us far more than we have earned. He is giving us His very life. His thoughts are far above ours, as is His generous love. Our love knows bounds, His does not.

The last will be first, which to our ears sounds backwards, but if we truly know who God is, we will be able to hear this as love.

The gospel is about reorienting our hearts back to God and being fully convinced of His passionate love for humanity and understanding that we are being called to lean into that mission and take part in it. If we truly love like God loves, by deeply desiring the good of humanity, then we would desire to always be last if it meant that many souls could reach heaven.

The contradictions we hear in the readings today then, are only contradictions if we think with the mind of the world. If we put on Christ and seek Him where He can be found, especially in the Eucharist, our outlook even during the darkest times will become a light for those around us.

Angie Windnagle

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The First Saturday healing Mass will resume in October

Healing Mass returns Saturday, October 3 at 9:00 am
Join us for Mass on the first Saturday of each month. Anointing is currently suspended while prayers of healing remain part of this Eucharistic celebration.

Cantors Needed

We are in need of more cantors to volunteer for the 4pm and 9am weekend Masses. If you have a desire and a love of singing to share with us, please stop by after Mass and talk with Jan Meulemans, our Music Director. Thank you and God Bless!



Tuesday, October 6th-1-7pm

We hope to be allowed permission to offer this at our facilities this year. 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!

How do I watch Mass live??

Go to Facebook and type in Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church. You can also subscribe on Facebook to get notifications when we go live! Please note you must have a Facebook account. If you don't have Facebook, watch it later on YouTube. Go to YouTube and type in Blessed Sacrament Church in St. Paul, MN

Religious Retirement Fund Update:

Your parish contribution of \$1,519 will enable many religious communities to meet their pressing retirement needs, while continuing to serve the People of God. Your generosity also contributes to the retirement of planning of newer religious communities.

On behalf of all retired men and women religious, priests and brothers, thank you for your support of the annual Religious Retirement Appeal: your generosity is a blessing to those who have given a lifetime!

FROM THE BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR

CSAF (Catholic Services Appeal Foundation) update:

As of 9/14/2020 our parish has pledged a total of \$24,987 to the CSAF. Given that our goal this year is \$21,358 this means we will be receiving a rebate from the CSAF early next year. Our rebate is based on 50% of all pledges that exceed our goal. Although both our goal and the amount pledged is less than in years past we are thrilled to be able to contribute to this fund. Expect blessings!

It's Landscaping time!

Thank you to our landscaping laborers: Joe Peisert, Kathy Zawislak and Michele Peloquin for coordinating the spreading of the black dirt on the hill area, for the seeding around the campus, and for the hours they have been pulling out all those weeds (hmm, I wonder who planted those weeds?! We are ready to move on to removing the bushes along Stillwater Avenue up against the building. Please let John Florin know if you are interested in helping.

Concrete update

After carefully reviewing a number of bids from licensed contractors, we have made the decision to go with Eberhard Construction to remove and replace the broken concrete at the entrance to the parish. The timing of this project may stretch out to next Spring. FYI: our bid is much lower than originally thought, coming in at \$10,200. If you wish to contribute toward this project, we will gladly accept it on your behalf. Simply reference "CONCRETE PROJECT" on the memo line of your contribution. God bless.

CFIC Children's Mission

We invite you to join a few of your fellow parishioners in helping financially support a child in the CFIC Missions. Simply log in to the following site: CFICNORTHAMERICANDELEGATION.COM, then go to the CFIC Children's Mission section. Your contribution can be either a one-time donation, or as an ongoing monthly donation that a few of us have elected to do. They children will greatly benefit by your generosity.

Looking for Volunteers

We are looking for volunteers to help out in the following areas:

- We need extra help for leading the rosary before Masses on Wednesday, and on both weekend Masses
- We need people to sign up to help with weekend hospitality of directing people where to sit in church, helping take up the collections, and sanitizing after the Saturday 4:00pm Mass

Please let us know if you are willing to Lector on weekend Masses Please contact the office and talk with Joy or John if you are interested in getting on our regular schedule. "See you in church."

Electronic Funds Transfer

One of the easiest ways you can make your contributions is to sign up for our monthly electronic funds transfer. We currently have 15% of our families who contribute using this method of giving. Your donation is transferred directly from your bank. You have total control of how much you wish to contribute. Funds are automatically transferred on the 1st day of the month. To learn more please call John Florin or Joy Hoffman in the office @ 651-738-0677.

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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.....612-594-1290

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, September 20

Twenty-Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Is 55:6-9/Phil 1:20c-24, 27a/Mt 20:1-6a

† Barbara Luna

Parish Mass

Monday, September 21

Saint Matthew, Apostle and Evangelist

Eph 4:1-7, 11-13/Mt 9:9-13

Tuesday, September 22

Weekday

Prv 21:1-6, 10-13/Lk 8:19-21

† Connie Bieza

Wednesday, September 23

Saint Pius of Pietrelcina, Priest

Prv 30:5-9/Lk 9:1-6

† Al & Joan Bierwerth

Thursday, September 24

Weekday

Eccl 1:2-11/Lk 9:7-9

† Cruz Espenal Ancestors

Friday, September 25

Weekday

Eccl 3:1-11/ Lk 9:18-22

† Rev. Robert E. Keane

Saturday, September 26

Weekday/Saints Cosmos and Damian, Martyrs; BVM

Eccl 11:9-12:8/Lk 9:43b-45 (Morning Readings)

† Bernhard Drutschmann

Sunday, September 27

Twenty-Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Ez 18:25-28/Phil 2:1-11 or 2:1-5/Mt 21:28-32

Carrie & Darryl Stout

Parish Mass

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Church of the Blessed Sacrament

SCHEDULE FOR THE WEEK

September 20— September 27

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

FINANCE

Gifts of Treasure

September 12/13, 2020

Sunday Envelopes & Plate:	\$ 4,789.00
Holy Land	\$ 1,072.00
Additional Operations:	\$ 230.00
Total :	\$ 6,091.00

Kentucky Tree News

Due to COVID-19 it has been decided to modify this year's Kentucky Christmas Tree gift giving program to Our Lady of the Mountains Catholic Church in Stanton, Kentucky. Father Benny has approved a second collection be taken for this worthwhile cause. The collection will then be sent to Kentucky to help those families from the parish of Our Lady of the Mountains where Sister Mary Jane will then distribute the funds.



**Please Save the Date for our Annual Pet Blessing
on the Feast of Saint Francis of Assisi,
Sunday, October 4th at 12:30pm**

NOTE TIME CHANGE

Blessed Sacrament's Prayer Line is available via phone or email.
You need only request a prayer using ONE of the following Options.

For either **Option**, please know that you do not need to leave a name or a full name. Messages can be left with out a name or details. We are here to pray for whatever needs you or a loved one has. Members of the Prayer Line will keep your request in their prayers for 18 days (9 days of petition and 9 days of thanksgiving).

For the Phone Option: There are parishioners praying daily for people who are ill or in need. It is through our prayers that God is able to work His wonders. To make a prayer request contact the Prayer line directly. Call the church office:
651-738-0677 Monday - Friday from 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM or call:
Carol McKenna at 612-594-1290. **PLEASE NOTE NEW NUMBER!!**

For the Email Option: The purpose of the Prayer Line Email is to provide 24/7 availability to submit prayer requests and to participate in this ministry by praying for all requests sent our way. All requests are handled in a sensitive and confidential manner.

Prayer is a gift of the Holy Spirit. **You are invited** to join this ministry to pray for the various requests received. Prayer requests are communicated to members of this ministry as requests are received. You may join this ministry or request prayers by sending an email to Carol McKenna, (rheanita@gmail.com) or leaving a message on her voicemail in the parish office.

Twenty-Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time



CHURCH OF THE
BLESSED Sacrament
FAITH FORMATION

Upcoming

Sun., Sept 27 – Confirmation – for one hour after Mass

Sun., Sept 27 – Family Formation – for one hour after Mass

Tues., Oct 6 – CGS – 10:00 am to 11:30 am

Wed., Oct 7 – CGS and Family Formation – 6:15 pm to 7:45 pm

Sun., Oct 11 – Confirmation – for one hour after Mass

Sun., Oct 11 – Family Formation – for one hour after Mass

Tues., Oct 20 – CGS – 10:00 am to 11:30 am

Wed., Oct 21 – CGS and Family Formation – 6:15 pm to 7:45 pm

Sun., Oct 25 – SAVE THE DATE – Outdoor Family Retreat of Service and Prayer

We are happy to accommodate schedules and sacramental prep needs for each and every family. Call or email Connie at ca-hill@blessedsacramentsp.org



What is Family Formation?

Family Formation is parents and kids learning and living the faith together with the support of parish catechists and at-home materials. It is families of all ages coming together for prayer, study, and discussion. It is what every family needs during these times of uncertainty and unrest.

¿Qué es la Formación Familiar?

La Formación Familiar es que los padres y los niños aprenden y viven la fe junto con el apoyo de los catequistas parroquiales y los materiales en el hogar. Son familias de todas las edades que se unen para orar, estudiar y discutir. Es lo que toda familia necesita durante estos tiempos de incertidumbre y malestar.

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.

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 info, contact the Connie.



¿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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