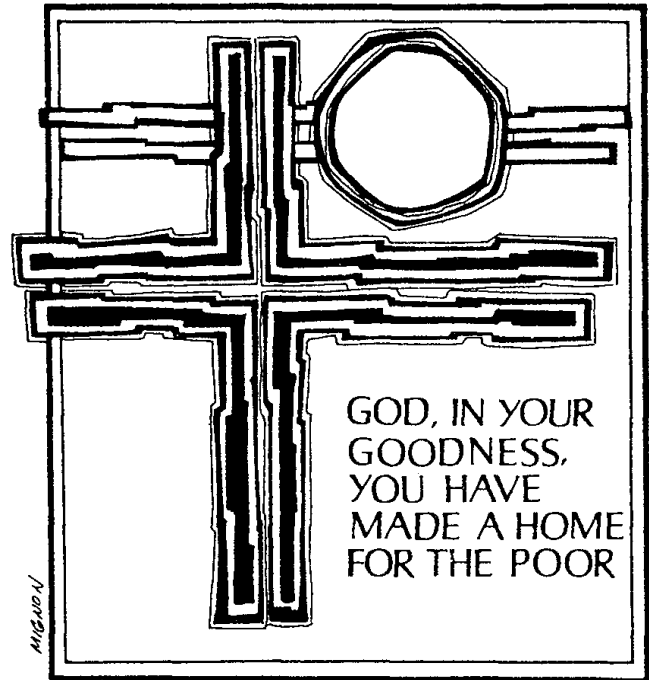


**AUGUST 28, 2016**  
**22ND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**  
**VOL. 127 #35**

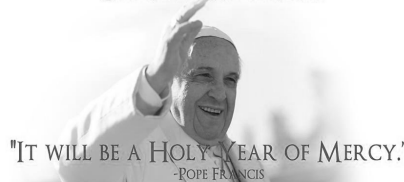
**STS. PETER & PAUL PARISH**  
**1919 South 7<sup>th</sup> Street**  
**St. Louis, Missouri 63104**



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**EXTRAORDINARY JUBILEE OF MERCY**

DEC. 8, 2015 - NOV. 20, 2016



"IT WILL BE A HOLY YEAR OF MERCY."  
-POPE FRANCIS

**CORPORAL WORKS OF MERCY**

**Feed the hungry, give drink to the thirsty,  
clothe the naked, welcome the stranger,  
heal the sick, visit the imprisoned, and  
bury the dead.**

**SPIRITUAL WORKS OF MERCY**

**Counsel the doubtful, instruct the  
ignorant, admonish sinners,  
comfort the afflicted, forgive offences,  
bear patiently those who do us ill, and  
pray for the living and the dead.**

**Our Mission: *Opening Hearts to Christ through  
Prayer, Fellowship & Service***

**STS. PETER AND PAUL PARISH**  
**A Catholic Parish in the Historic Souard**  
**Neighborhood Serving the Poor**

\*\*\*\*\*

Parish Office	314-231-9923
Shelter Office	314-621-5520
The Young Catholic Musicians	314-962-9260
Peter & Paul Community Services	314-588-7111
St. Frances Cabrini Academy	314-776-0883
Hall & YCM	314-773-8486
Franklin Room	314-664-7706

**MASSES**

<b>Saturday:</b>	5:00 pm
<b>Sunday:</b>	9:30 am
<b>Holydays:</b>	12:05 pm
<b>Holidays:</b>	9:00 am
<b>Weekdays:</b>	8:30 am in rectory – M, T, Thurs. 5:30 pm Mon. when Council Meets 12:05 pm in church — Wed.

**Reconciliation: the Sacrament of Reconciliation** is offered 15 minutes before the weekend Masses and by appointment.

**STAFF**

Father Bruce Forman, Pastor  
 Deacon Thomas Gorski  
 Deacon Dennis Chitwood  
 Phyllis Sandusky, Admin Officer -pssspeterpaul@charter.net  
 Roger Kleffner, Maintenance – Rectory & Church  
 Maintenance – Parish Hall & Grounds  
 Mary Smith, The Young Catholic Musicians

**PARISH COUNCIL**

<b>Pastor</b> - Fr. Bruce Forman	<b>314-231-9923</b>
revycm@charter.net	
<b>President of Parish Council</b> - Tim Hobart	<b>314-231-9923</b>
timh@hhhealthassociates.com	
<b>Secretary</b> - Phil Willman	<b>314-231-9923</b>
pwillman@bjpc.com	
<b>Finance Committee</b> - Gary Meyer	<b>314-231-9923</b>
<b>Worship</b> - Kathy Doerr	<b>314-231-9923</b>
<b>Education &amp; Community Formation</b>	<b>314-231-9923</b>
<b>Communications</b> – Brett Delaria	<b>314-231-9923</b>
bdelaria@slu.edu	
<b>Parish Life</b> - Michelle Heitmann	<b>314-231-9923</b>
<b>Stewardship</b> – Michelle Heitmann	
mmheitmann@sbcglobal.net	
<b>Social Services &amp; Social Justice</b>	
- Jan Meyer	<b>314-231-9923</b>
<b>Choir Director</b> - Kathy Doerr	<b>314-231-9923</b>
<b>Church Decorating&amp; Design</b> - Joe Thele	<b>314-231-9923</b>
<b>Dance</b> - Suzanne Tushar	<b>314-231-9923</b>
<b>Lectors</b> – Cary Stock	<b>314-231-9923</b>
<b>Eucharistic Ministers</b> – Tom Korte	<b>314-231-9923</b>
<b>Servers</b> – Cathy Weisbrod	<b>314-231-9923</b>
<b>Ushers/Greeters</b> –Frank Koishor, Chair	<b>314-231-9923</b>
<b>Ushers/Greeters</b> – Andy Alaska, Co-Chair	<b>314-231-9923</b>

**CONFESSION SCHEDULE FOR NEIGHBORING PARISHES**

**ST. WENCESLAUS PARISH** - (314) 865-1020  
 3014 Oregon Avenue, St. Louis, MO 63118  
**Saturdays 3:00 - 3:30 pm or by appointment.**

**ST. VINCENT DE PAUL CHURCH**– (314) 231-9238)  
 1408 S 10th St., Saint Louis, MO63104-3275  
**Saturdays 3:45 pm or by appointment**

**INFANT BAPTISMS:** Contact **Debbie Wedemeier** (6) six months before anticipated birth for Baptismal Preparation. **314-276-4578**

**PREPARATION FOR FIRST HOLY COMMUNION AND RECONCILIATION:** Contact **Deacon Dennis Chitwood.** **314-231-9923**

**PREPARATION FOR CONFIRMATION:** Contact **Kevin Kelly.** **314-231-9923**

**THE RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION FOR ADULTS (RCIA):** Contact **Kevin Kelly** with any interest in pursuing membership in the Catholic Church, in learning more about the Church, or returning to the Church. **314- 231-9923**

**SACRAMENT OF MATRIMONY:** Archdiocesan guidelines require engaged couples to prepare for their marriage at least **six (6) months** before the scheduled wedding takes place. Engaged couples planning marriage, contact **Deacon Thomas Gorski.** **314-231-9923**

**WEDDING MUSIC CONSULTANT:** Contact **Mary Smith** for all wedding Masses at Sts. Peter & Paul Church. Mary will advise couples in choosing music and musicians. All musicians, cantors, and vocalists for Mass must be approved by our Music Consultant. **314-962-9260**

**HOLY ORDERS AND CONSECRATED (RELIGIOUS) LIFE:** If interested, please call parish rectory or the Archdiocesan Office of Vocations.

**GROUP TOURS** of Historic Sts. Peter and Paul Church can be scheduled by contacting Phyllis Sandusky at the Rectory office. **314-231-9923**

**MEALS FOR THE NEEDY** are served in the Parish Hall from the 2<sup>nd</sup> to the 21<sup>st</sup> of each month. To help serve the poor and homeless, call **Felicia Clay of PPCS.** **314-588-7111**

**PARISH MID LEVEL HALL RENTAL:** Available for rental by parishioners only for receptions, banquets, parties, rehearsal dinners. Contact Phyllis Sandusky. **314-231-9923**

**PARISH SCHOOL OF RELIGION:** Exists to support parents with children in public school or home schooled in their efforts to evangelize and pass the Catholic Faith on to their children. Please contact **Fr. Leo J. Spezio, Director.**

**Email: scdpsr4200@sbcglobal.net 314.773-3070**  
**Website Below:**  
<http://sites.google.com/site/southcitydeanerypsr/home>

**STS. PETER & PAUL HAS A NEWLY FORMED YOUNG ADULTS GROUP (Ages: 20's & 30's).** They meet once a month. If you are in your 20's or 30's, we invite you to come. Please contact Ryan Sitki at rsitki@gmail.com

**PRAYER CHAIN REQUESTS:** If you would like to submit a prayer chain request, please submit them to Phyllis Korte at onthegopk@aol.com.

**ENCOUNTER GOD IN THE SACRED SCRIPTURE**  
 If you promise to spend five (5) minutes a day reading the bible, take a bible free. Bibles can be found in the vestibule of church at the bible display.

**We welcome all of our parishioners, neighbors and visitors.** If this is your first time visiting our parish and you like what you see and hear and it fills your need, please consider making this your home parish. Our Mission is **“Opening Hearts to Christ through Prayer, Service and Fellowship.** We invite you to join our parish as a **full-time member or you may make this your associate parish by attending at least once a month and supporting our parish through your contribution envelopes.** To do so, please ask one of the ushers for a Membership Profile Questionnaire to complete and return to the rectory office or place it in the collection basket or on the piano after Mass. If you have any questions, please feel free to call the parish office at 314-231-9923. We are grateful for all of our members and visitors.

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## Mass for the Intentions Week

Saturday	Aug 27	Parishioners
Sunday	Aug 28	Pat Bartlett
Monday	Aug 29	Jim Thale
Tuesday	Aug 30	Katherine “Kay” Rataj
Wednesday	Aug 31	Donna Sikorski
Thursday	Sept 01	Rev. John McEnter

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### PREACHING SCHEDULE

Aug 27 & 28	Deacon Tom Gorski
Sept 03 & 04	Fr. Bruce Forman
Sept 05	Fr. Bruce Forman (Labor Day) 9:00 a.m. in Church
Sept 10 & 11	Deacon Tom Gorski

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### READINGS FOR THE WEEK August 29 – September 4, 2016

Monday:	1 Cor 2:1-5; Ps 119:97-102; Mk 6:17-29
Tuesday:	1 Cor 2:10b-16; Ps 145:8-14; Lk 4:31-37
Wednesday:	1 Cor 3:1-9; Ps 33:12-15, 20-21; Lk 4:38-44
Thursday:	1 Cor 3:18-23; Ps 24:1bc-4ab, 5-6; Lk 5:1-11
Friday:	1 Cor 4:1-5; Ps 37:3-6, 27-28, 39-40; Lk 5:33-39
Saturday:	1 Cor 4:6b-15; Ps 145:17-21; Lk 6:1-5
Sunday:	Wis 9:13-18b; Ps 90:3-6, 12-17; Phlm 9-10, 12-17; Lk 14:25-33

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### GENERAL OFFERTORY COLLECTION

Unrestricted Offertory Gifts	\$2,870.09
Current Budget	\$3,400.00

**Thank you for your gifts to God and to our parish**

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### LITURGICAL ASSISTANTS

**All schedules for Eucharistic Ministers, Lectors and Servers, Ushers & Greeters are posted at the information center.**

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### REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS...

Chuck Hejkal, Steve Ippolito, Al Niehoff, Andy Alaska, Jim Mottershead, David Hackmann, Diane Koishor, Sister Rose Marie, George Darner, Mike and Gail McDonough, Dawn Butler, Dennis Chitwood, Margaret Rallo and Cierra Rogers. **Also include in your prayers all their caregivers.**

Please pray for strength, courage, patience and healing for **all** those mentioned above and also for all the people in the world who need physical and emotional healing.

**PLEASE NOTIFY THE OFFICE TO REMOVE OR ADD SOMEONE TO THE PRAYER LIST.**

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### AUDITIONS FOR THE YOUNG CATHOLIC MUSICIANS

The choir and orchestra of The Young Catholic Musicians will hold auditions during August in preparation for its 43<sup>rd</sup> Year of Service to the Church. These young people (aged 9-17) represent over 40 parishes and schools in the St. Louis area. They learn quality liturgical music and lead the music for Mass once each month at different parishes. Singers and instrumentalists (Brass, Woodwinds, Strings, and Percussion) call Fr. Bruce Forman (314-231-7464) or Mrs. Mary Smith (314-962-9260) for additional information and to schedule an audition. Visit our web page at [www.archstl.org/musicians](http://www.archstl.org/musicians).

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## **PARISH FAMILY NEWS**

### **Happy Birthday!**



Aug 29 Nathan Tushar  
Aug 30 Jim Rothery  
Aug 31 James Garvey  
Aug 31 Kelsey Herzog  
Sept 01 Michelle Heitmann

### **Happy Anniversary!**



Aug 31 Jim & Dianna Antonacci

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### **MARRIAGE MOMENTS**

"Conduct your affairs with humility." (Sirach 3:17) Who is the more humble - you or your spouse? Now that's a fool's question! Don't debate this, just try to defer to you beloved today in quiet ways.

### **PARENTING POINTERS**

"The one who humbles himself will be exalted." (Luke 14:11) It's hard for kids to be humble. They usually want to be first, highest, best. Perhaps try a humility game for a day. Let others go first, offer another the best dessert, first choice of toy, book, game.

[www.SusanVogt.net](http://www.SusanVogt.net)

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### **HUMILITY**

Have you ever been in a group of people--maybe on a tour, at a social gathering, or at church--and discovered that you have just been talking with a well-known author, corporate CEO, great scholar, or politician? Your first thought is the hope that you didn't say anything to embarrass yourself; but your second thought is how much they seemed like such "regular" folks. What is it that makes people seem so "regular"? Today's readings give us a clue when they stress the importance of humility.

It is so hard for us not to tell the first person who will listen how busy we are, how hard we work, how much money we donate, and how important our job titles are. We think these accolades make a difference to people, and if we don't tell them, how will they ever know? But if our actions demonstrate our values, people will recognize our worth on their own. The words of Jesus show us how much better it is to let someone else recognize our worth than to be embarrassed because someone did not. Copyright (c) J. S. Paluch Co.

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### **INTERCESSIONS FOR LIFE**

For the most vulnerable among us: May they be respected and loved according to their God-given dignity; We pray to the Lord:

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## **RE-THINKING SUNDAY MASS**

### **Amy Marter OSV Daily Take**

For many Catholics, Sunday Mass is simply a matter of habit. For others it's more of a begrudging observance. Still others find joy in service to the parish community, whether as a lector, usher or member of the choir. But Mass attendance in general can remain a check-the-box part of the weekend that many Catholics don't think about. This makes the recent pastoral exhortation on the importance of the Mass by Bishop Joseph E. Strickland of the Diocese of Tyler, Texas, all the more essential reading.

It's an invitation out of the mentality of seeing Sunday Mass is as something "we have to do." It's a short step from that point to thinking that if we have to be there for an hour a week, it might as well be something we enjoy. Then it's all too easy to become critics instead of members of a parish, whether it is the music, the priest's homily, church décor or anything else that might not be to our liking.

Bishop Strickland shows the way out of this mental trap by turning the attention from ourselves to Christ. He begins the exhortation not by citing recent parish statistics, which especially tend to fall off in summer months, or by looking at the needs of the diocese, financial or otherwise. He begins with creation, with God's Sabbath rest and goodness in creating the world and how he continued to manifest that goodness through the Old Testament people of Israel and the coming of Christ.

Christ is at the heart of the bishop's exhortation. It is Christ who offers the perfect sacrifice to God which we are granted to partake in. And the Mass, Bishop Strickland writes, "is the true and perfect means of worship established by Christ, given to the Apostles and handed down to us today through their successors, the bishops, so that we can abide in Christ, and him in us (Jn 6:56)."

Bishop Strickland gives particular attention to families, urging parents that "Mass should not be presented as a burden or something to be done before the fun can begin, but rather as a true source of joy and unity for your family." He adds, "I encourage you to use Sundays as an opportunity for true recreation to build up your family relationships; perhaps this can be done by taking the opportunity to practice the Works of Mercy as a family." So Sunday Mass should not be a check-the-box affair. Nor is it a time for us to find fault with our parish for not catering to our preferences. It is a time for us to be present at Calvary with Christ, uniting ourselves with him in his perfect offering, growing closer to one another and learning how to respond mercifully to the world. As Bishop Strickland writes, it is nothing "less than the moment when heaven and earth meet." Our obligation to attend deserves this level of thought.

Amy Marter is an OSV Newsweekly intern.

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## COLLECTIONS FOR SHELTER NEEDS

**Peter and Paul Community Services** (PPCS) operate a men's shelter in the basement of our Church for seventy men, 365 days per year. During the **Month of September**, we will collect **Twin sheets: fitted or flat** for our clients in the shelter.

Please drop your donations in blue plastic tubs at church when you attend Mass. By targeting an individual item each month, we will be able to donate the items that are short in their supplies. Thank you for your generous support of this project. If you have any questions, please contact Jan Meyer through the parish office number 314-231-9923.

**Services & Social Justice Ministry**

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## UPCOMING WEDDINGS

Dave Nozar & Allison Wagner	9/17/2016
Enmanuel Perez / Jennifer Brazill	11/12/2016
Stephen Backer / Laura Whitmire	11/26/2016

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## TREASURES FROM OUR TRADITION

Perhaps the most familiar traditional symbol that identifies bishops is the crosier that they carry. We see the shepherd's staff and immediately rich images from scripture come to mind, as well as the recollection that the first to respond to Christ's presence in our world were the shepherds. The staff is more than a walking stick; its crooked top is useful in snaring errant sheep but also in keeping the flock united. Bishops carry the curve outward, indicating their ministry to the wider flock, while abbots (and some abbesses, too) carry the crosier with the curve pointing in, indicating that their ministry is to the monastery alone.

The crosier was once also carried by the pope, but was phased out centuries ago. You may recall that in pre-"popemobile" days, the pope was often carried around on a portable throne called a *sedia gestatoria*. Since he didn't do much walking, the need for a crosier was minimal. Pope Paul VI introduced the innovation of a walking staff in the 1960s, and everyone remembers Pope John Paul II's walking staff, not a crook, but a delicately sculptured crucifix. Thus, the pope carries a "pastoral staff" rather than a crosier. Precisely because the pope's ministry is universal, to the whole world, popes will likely leave crosiers in the hands of the bishops they commission for care of specific flocks.--  
Rev. James Field, Copyright (c) J. S. Paluch Co.

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## JUST PUNISHMENT

The punishment of the wise who refuse to take part in government is to live under the rule of the foolish.  
--Plato

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## The FLEA MARKET is fast approaching! September 23<sup>rd</sup>, 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup>

This is one of our major fundraisers for the parish! Please check your calendar now and schedule some time to help with this event! It takes many hands to pull this off! There is sorting, pricing and staging that needs to get done. Please see Jeanne Marie or Kevin Kelly after Mass and ask how you can help! WE NEED ALL OF YOU! The Kelly's are working hard all year long collecting and picking up donations. Please support them for all of their work throughout the year on the Flea Market.

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## SWEET CELEBRATIONS COLLECTION DRIVE

Sweet Celebrations: *The last day to donate to this wonderful organization is Sunday, Sept 4th.* Help to create a special birthday party for a child/teen living in a shelter in the St Louis area by picking up some party supplies. If you don't have time to shop, we'll be happy to shop for you, just drop a donation in an envelope marked "Sweet Celebrations" and we'll shop for you. \$5 gift cards are always welcomed by teens to use on their outings. Thank you so much for your support. If you would like to volunteer or learn how you could help in other ways, contact [volunteer@sweet-celebrations.org](mailto:volunteer@sweet-celebrations.org) or call the office at 314-387-0395 to see how you could get involved. If you would like to learn more about this organization please check out their web site at [www.sweet-celebrations.org](http://www.sweet-celebrations.org) Thank you, The Social Justice Committee Jan Meyers and Gerry Berviller

- crepe paper streamers
- disposable plastic table cloths (round & rectangular)
- wrapping paper and gift bags
- juice boxes
- teen gift items
- teen boys-ear buds or ear phones, games, puzzles, knit hats or gloves, adult coloring books & colored pencils, T-shirts M & L men's (no red), sports related items & clothing, school supplies, books, socks and gift cards.
- teen girls-scarves, cosmetics, head bands, costume jewelry, barrettes, cosmetic bags, purses (small), tote bags, knit hats & gloves, adult coloring books & pencils, puzzles, games, books, school supplies, socks, tights and t-shirts (S, M, L), bath gel, cologne and lotion.

Please **DO NOT WRAP** items, please deposit into Birthday box in the Information Center. You may put your donations in the large gift wrapped box marked "Happy Birthday" by the information center. Thank you in advance for your support to this wonderful organization which shows these children there are people who care. Please contact Gerry Berviller with any questions' at 314-606-5699 or email her at [gerryberv@gmail.com](mailto:gerryberv@gmail.com). Thank you, Jan Meyer and Gerry Berviller

## FROM: STEWARDSHIP ALIVE

### STEWARDSHIP AND GEESE

Thanks to **Fr. Mitch Doyen** and **Jeannette Hamann** from **Assumption of O'Fallon, MO** for sharing this stewardship article with me entitled "**Ever Wonder Why Geese Fly in 'V' Formation?**" Great insights on team work, attentive & intentional responses and leading and being led.

- **Set High Expectations:** as each goose flaps its wings, it creates an "uplift" for the birds following. Flying in the "V" formation the whole flock has a 71% greater flying range than each goose has individually.
  - People who share a common direction and sense of community can reach their goals quicker and easier by lifting each other up.
- **Chart the Course:** when a goose falls out of formation, it feels increased drag and resistance from flying alone. It quickly moves back into formation to take advantage of the lifting power of the goose in front of it.
  - When we are willing to accept help and give help to others, we stay in formation with others headed the same way.
- **Find a Way:** when the lead goose tires it moves to the back of the flock to take advantage of the flock's lift.
  - Take turns doing hard tasks and sharing the lead; people are interdependent on each other's skills and abilities.
- **Inspire Others:** the geese flying in formation "honk" to encourage those up front to keep up their speed.
  - Group members that encourage each other usually produce more.
- **Support Each Other:** When a goose is sick, wounded or shot down, two other geese drop out of formation and follow the wounded goose to help and protect it. They stay with the stranded goose until it dies or recovers, then they start out to rejoin the flock.
  - We need to stand by each other in difficult times as well as the good times.

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### "MESSAGE OF HOPE"

*Dear Lord,*

*When I am worried, send me your gift of hope  
to calm my fears.*

*When I am burdened, send me your gift of hope  
to lighten my load.*

*When I am lonely, send me your gift of hope  
to brighten my day.*

*And when all seems hopeless, send me your gift of  
hope to inspire me and fill me with your love.*

*Amen.*

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### PERSONAL COMMUNICATION TIPS

Watching our politicians interact with each other is a great example of how not to communicate. In **Sarah Young's** daily devotional titled "**Jesus Calling**", she gives some wonderful thoughts on personal communication.

- "Watch your words diligently. Words have the great power to bless or wound."
- "When you speak carelessly or negatively, you damage others as well as yourself."
- "Though the world applauds quick-witted retorts, Jesus's instructions about communication are quite different: 'be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to anger'". (James 1:19)
- "Ask the Holy Spirit to help you whenever you speak. Pray 'Help me, Holy Spirit' before you speak."

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### STEWARDSHIP THOUGHTS

- "We need to be who God called us to be in our own time and place, not who God called someone else to be in that person's time and place (stop comparing ourselves to other people)." **Archbishop Robert J. Carlson**
  - "For my thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are my ways your ways, says the Lord. For as the heavens are higher than earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts higher than your thoughts." **Isaiah 55:8-9**
  - "We are not the sum of our weaknesses and failures, we are the sum of the Father's love for us and our real capacity to become the image of Jesus Christ." **St. Pope John Paul II**
  - "The real purpose of prayer is to align our will with God's will. We partner with the Lord and in that way together we try to accomplish His will on earth." **Catholic Stewardship Consultants**
  - "Our best inheritance is not monetary wealth or good genes, but the sensitivity of genuine compassion for others." **Ed Markquart**
  - "When I know that I am loved by God then I follow the commandments with greater ease. When I doubt God's love for me, following God's commandments becomes much more difficult." **Fr. Tom Pastorius**
  - "Help me, O Lord, that my eyes may be merciful so that I may never suspect or judge from appearances, but look for what is beautiful in my neighbors' souls and come to their rescue." **St. Faustina**
-

### **MARRIAGE ON TAP- SAINT LOUIS**

Married couples are invited to an evening out; just call it a date night! Be with other couples who care about a good marriage growing better and want to enrich themselves. September 20, the Pasta House Company at 8231 Delmar Blvd, University City, 63130.

6:00PM dinner, \$20 per person buffet dinner (cash bar available); 7:00PM is a dynamic talk by Fr. Paul Hoelsing, Dean of Seminarians and Director of Human Formation at Kenrick Seminary. You will enjoy his insights on receiving God's promise of abundantly blessing every sacramental marriage through intimacy, clarity and freedom.

RSVP required: [marriageontapstl@gmail.com](mailto:marriageontapstl@gmail.com). Please visit our Facebook page: Marriage On Tap STL

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### **STEWARDSHIP**

*"Rather, when you hold a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind; blessed indeed will you be because of their inability to repay you." LUKE 14:13-14*

We have a difficult time with the concept of giving without expecting something in return. Even when we give to charity we often want something in return – a raffle ticket, a dinner, or a chance to play golf. Yet, as Christian stewards we need to remember that the true reward for our giving awaits us in heaven.

That through our generous giving, we can help those in need share in the gifts that God has bestowed on us.

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### **ANNUAL ASSEMBLY OF THE MISSOURI CATHOLIC CONFERENCE**

Celebrate the Year of Mercy! Plan on attending the Missouri Catholic Conference's 2016 Annual Assembly on Saturday, October 8, at the Missouri State Capitol building in Jefferson City. This free event is sponsored by the Missouri bishops and everyone is invited. The keynote speaker will be the new bishop of Springfield-Cape Girardeau, Bishop Edward Rice. Workshops will be offered on a number of issues, including how virtue meets a culture of violence and how Catholics can approach decisions for the 2016 election. Lunch is provided and the day will end with a Mass concelebrated by the bishops. Please pre-register for the event by going to [MOCatholic.org](http://MOCatholic.org) or calling 1-800-456-1679. See you on October 8!

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### **NO SURPRISES**

We are told by all spiritual writers that one important point to bear in mind, as we seek to attain humility, is not to be surprised by our own faults and failures. --François Fénelon, archbishop of Cambrai

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### **TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

Humility is a virtue we don't see much in our times. It seems that bragging, swaggering, and arrogance dominate our fashion for everything and our Internet conversations. Who hasn't been irritated by the "trolls" who try (usually with bad grammar and poor spelling) to start an online fight with those whose opinions do not align with theirs? Our stores, catalogs, and online shopping sites are full of useless items geared in use and price to the very rich, as ordinary, useful things seem to fade off the sales scene. As the rich get richer, the poor get poorer and the middle class is fading away. What is the antidote to this? Humility is a good place to start. Devotion to God is worth more than riches. "The father of orphans and the defender of widows is God in his holy dwelling. God gives a home to the forsaken; [God] leads forth prisoners to prosperity."

### **THE PLEASURE OF YOUR COMPANY**

Today's Gospel relates the story of a rich Pharisee who has invited Jesus to his home for a banquet. Jesus teaches him and his guests a lesson in humility. Take the lowest place and do not exalt yourself. "Then you will enjoy the esteem of your companions at the table." We see in the papers stories about lavish banquets, "fund-raisers" for good causes. Some of these are little more than the social life of the rich, raising a small percentage of their cost for the poor and needy, and giving glory to their organizers. People pay hundreds of dollars per person to attend these functions, tens of thousands on gowns and clothing of every kind. Often they include auctions of donated, extravagant trips, the use of yachts and private planes that go for donations of tens of thousands of dollars. These events often raise fifty to one hundred thousand dollars for the cause, while costing a million dollars to stage and attend. To this, Jesus might say, "When you hold a lunch or a dinner, do not invite your friends or your brothers or your relatives or your wealthy neighbors, in case they may invite you back and you have repayment."

### **HUMILITY**

Contrast this with the people who work hard to feed the hungry at food banks, minister to the homeless and lonely at lunches and dinners at church halls, and prepare lunches to be distributed to the homeless. These actions get no coverage in the society sections of newspapers, yet they are more valuable to God than all the lavish banquets of the rich. "When you hold a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind; blessed indeed will you be because of their inability to repay you. For you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous."

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### **BURNED**

Who sacrifices the conscience burns the picture to obtain the ashes. --Chinese proverb

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