

FYI

If you were raised in the 1960's or earlier, you may remember that Mass was celebrated in Latin, people received the Eucharist while kneeling at an altar rail. The baptismal font was hidden from view, and the priest celebrated Mass with his back to the congregation.

The Second Vatican Council (1963-1965) restored and renewed the authentic tradition of the Church. The Council recognized that Mass is not simply a devotional practice at which attendance is the sole requirement. Instead, Mass represents our collective desire to worship the Father through Christ and to see Him in ourselves and in each other. In the Eucharist, He is the center of our lives.

Our church building was renovated in 2003 to reflect these changes. The Baptismal font was placed in the center of the aisle to remind us of our Baptismal call. The altar was placed at the center of the church building, and the pews were reoriented around the altar to remind us that we come to the Table of Lord as a community, with Christ at the center. No pew is more than 50 feet from the sanctuary, and worshippers can now see the faces of other worshippers.

The Tabernacle was placed at the head of the church, immediately obvious to all who enter. Great care and attention were given to appropriate lighting and sound so that our participation is always invited.

The Altar

The altar is a freestanding table, the central focus for the celebration of the Eucharist. It is both altar and table. As altar, it is the place of sacrifice where Christ who was sacrificed on the cross for us becomes present again under the sacramental form of bread and wine. As table, it gathers the people of God to share the Body and Blood of Christ. Our altar is square, to be equally visible and accessible from all points in the church. The circles-in-triangles featured in the woodwork echo the circles-in-triangles in the ceiling in the original part of the church, and symbolize the eternity of God's Love (circles) and the blessed Trinity (triangles). The proper reverence upon entering the church is to bow to the altar and to genuflect to the tabernacle.

The Baldacchino

The early history of the baldacchino is obscure. At St. Paul's the baldacchino brings together the old and new areas of the church and focuses attention on the altar of sacrifice.

The Ambo

The Ambo is reserved for the Word of God. The Scriptures are proclaimed from the Ambo and the presider may preach from there. It has its own area in harmonious relationship with the altar and is accessible to all, including those with special needs.

The Presider's Chair

The presider's chair highlights a particular role of the Celebrant who presides over the gathering. This Chair shares the circles-in-triangles theme with the ceiling, altar, ambo, baptismal font and tabernacle.

The Stations of the Cross

Our Stations of the Cross are the originals from this church, but new frames were painted around them to make these beautiful images stand out.

To be continued

Mass Intentions

Saturday, August 8
4:30 pm

John Macdonald

Sunday, August 9
8:00 am

Helena White Davies

10:15 am

Gabriel Pacione

6:30 pm

Bentley Bedker

Monday, August 10
9:00 am

Rev. William Mullen

Tuesday, August 11
9:00 am

Mary Bartley

Wednesday, August 12
9:00 am

Ruth Dolan

Thursday, August 13
9:00 am

Helen Larkin

Friday, August 14
9:00 am

Mary Pearson

Saturday, August 15
4:30 pm

Eugene Sullivan

Sunday, August 16
8:00 am

Edmund Doyle

10:15 am

**Deceased Members
of the Jacques Family**

6:30 pm

Lucia Clemenzi

Please Pray For

Sophia Shaw, Sally Minich, Eutawna Clark, Rita Pooler, Thomas Queen, Carol LaMontagne, Carolyn Dutton, Marie Magill, David Sceggell, Lisa Carey, Beth Rebello, Paul Haggerty, Glen Brotchie, Donna Wilson, Linda Wilson, Terry Plourde, Isabella Buccafusca, and all who are ill, in nursing homes, and for those who are hospitalized.

Prayer For Our Troops

Father, hold our troops, especially Adrian O'Neill, in your loving hands and protect them as they protect us. Be with them and comfort them with your loving presence while they are away from their homes. Bless them and their families for the selfless acts they perform for us in our time of need and grant us all peace, both as individuals and as a world community. We ask this in the name of Jesus, your Son, with faith that you will hear and answer all our prayers according to your will. Amen

Second Collection

The second collection this weekend is for Catholic Relief Services. This collection supports emergency relief, human development, and peace initiatives in 99 countries around the world, where nearly half of the population lives on less than \$2.00 a day. The collection funds the ministries of five Catholic Church organizations: Catholic Relief Services, Catholic Legal Immigration Network, Inc. (CLINIC). Migration and Refugee Services, Social Development and World Peace, and The Holy Father's Relief Fund.

"I am the bread of life. Your ancestors ate the manna in the desert, but they died; this is the bread that comes down from heaven so that one may eat it and not die." - Jn 6:48-50

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD

Prep 2009 - 2010 Enrollment

If you are new to the parish or have a child entering Grade 1, please email Jeanne Abbott at jeanne.abbott@verizon.net. If you are new to the parish and have a child entering Grades 7 - 10, please contact jackiemartin101@verizon.net

PREP registrations are now due

PREP forms and calendars have been emailed to all families who are currently enrolled in religious education classes. Please send in forms ASAP so that we can plan classes for the fall. Forms can be sent to Jeanne Abbott at The Church of St. Paul, 50 Union Street, South Hamilton, MA 01982.

First Communion Portraits are ready.

Please pick up your portraits outside of the PREP office located in the church hall.

The Men's Prayer Group meets Saturday mornings at 7:30 am in the church. Please join us.

Presentation of Gifts at Mass

If you are having a Mass said for a deceased family member or deceased friend, please see an usher five minutes before Mass if you would like to bring up the gifts during the Offertory of the Mass.

Eucharistic Adoration

The Blessed Sacrament will be exposed for your adoration in the chapel on Saturdays from 9:00 am - 3:00 pm. The Blessed Sacrament will be reserved in the tabernacle in the chapel for your adoration at all other times. The lit sanctuary lamp is always a sign of the presence of the Lord and is an invitation to all who wish to come and spend some quiet time with the Lord.

We Welcome New Members to The Church of Saint Paul

If you are new to our parish, we wish to welcome you and hope that you find St. Paul's to be a warm and caring community. To register as a member of our parish, please call the rectory office at 978-468-2337. Registration can be completed in a few minutes over the phone or a form can be mailed to you.

The Year For Priests June 19, 2009 to June 19, 2010

Peoples' Prayer for Priests

Dear Lord,
we pray that the Blessed Mother
wrap her mantle around your priests
and through her intercession
strengthen them for their ministry.
We pray that Mary will guide your priests to
follow her own words,
"Do whatever He tells you." (Jn 2:5)

May your priests have the heart
of St. Joseph, Mary's most chaste spouse.
May the Blessed Mother's own pierced heart
inspire them to embrace all who suffer at the
foot of the cross.

May your priests be holy, filled with the fire of
your love seeking nothing but your greater glory
and the salvation of souls.

Amen

Assumption of The Blessed Virgin Mary August 15, 2009 - not a holy day of obligation this year.

Mary understood God's power. She loved and respected
God. Everything Mary had belonged to God.
He was happy to share good things with her.
God deserves your respect and your love, too.
When you are humble like Mary, God will do amazing
things through you.

Prayer

God, help me to be humble like Mary.

Mission for the Week

Mary was a humble girl, and God chose her to be Jesus'
mother. David was a humble shepherd, and
God chose him to be a great king. Name one other
humble person in the Bible that God lifted up and
used powerfully.

19th Sunday In Ordinary Time

Perhaps you've heard the story of the atheist who while out hiking fell off the side of a cliff, only to grab on to a branch that stopped him from falling to a certain death. He held on for dear life, with nothing between him and the canyon below. He decided at that moment to give prayer a chance, asking God for salvation from his fate. A voice from above told him to let go of the branch; his new faith would save him. The man thought for a moment, and then looking skyward asked, "Is there anyone else up there I can talk to about this?" When we are offered the gift of eternal life, do we ignore it?

We listen to the words of Jesus as he admonishes a crowd of grumblers: "No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draw him, and I will raise him on the last day." We are drawn to God; on Sundays we are drawn to Mass. Our parishes draw us in from the parking lot or the street; our pastor draws us to the altar to receive the holy Eucharist. At times, we may feel as if we are holding on for our dear lives, barely able to make it through each day. It is at these times that we quiet ourselves and listen to God. We are drawn into loving arms, and we are safe.

Underlying Jesus' message that he is the bread of life is that in order for us to receive eternal life, we must live in love. To live in love means to seek Jesus, and through him God, in contemplative prayer. We seek him, because doing so is the beginning of true love (CCC 2709). In the sharing of the Eucharist at every Mass, we are reaffirming our vow to live a life of love. Today, as you approach the altar, leave behind your anger and bitterness. Let go of that branch, and you will be saved.

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