



Sts. Peter and Paul Chapel

A Ministry of the Ecumenical Catholic Church+USA

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August 2023 Parish Bulletin

Parish Web Site: www.sspp-eccusa.org or www.peterandpaulchapel.org

Parish Facebook Page: www.facebook.com/ssppECCUSA

National Church Web Site: www.ecc-usa.org

National Church Facebook Page: <https://www.facebook.com/eccusa2001>

PASTORAL STAFF:

Pastor: +Fr. Bob Catlett, 314.800.3456, pastor@sspp-eccusa.org

Founding Bishop: +Fr. Carl Swaringim, 314.650.1487, domcarl@charter.net

MASS SCHEDULE

All worship services are at 2:00 PM unless otherwise noted.

August 6, 2023: Eighteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

August 13, 2023: Nineteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

August 20, 2023: Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time

August 27, 2023: Twenty-First Sunday in Ordinary Time

PRAYER INTENTIONS

If you would like us to remember a special intention for you at Mass, please contact one of our priests.

If you or someone you know is in need of spiritual assistance (prayers, Sacrament of the Sick, etc.), please contact one of our priests.

Inquiries regarding the administration of Sacraments or services (Baptisms, First Communion, Marriages, and Funerals) are welcomed.

SCRIPTURE REFLECTIONS – AUGUST 2023 – CYCLE A

+Fr. Bob Catlett, M.Div.

August 6, 2023 – 18th Sunday in Ordinary Time: “Heed me, and you shall eat well...Listen, that you may have life,” proclaims the Lord through Isaiah. In the Gospel, Jesus provides a banquet for the crowds that have sought him as teacher and healer. Thus does God show his love – a love so strong, writes St. Paul, that nothing can separate us from him. Lord, keep us close to you! (Isaiah 55:1-3, Romans 8:35, 37-39, Matthew 14:13-21)

August 13, 2023 – 19th Sunday in Ordinary Time: Today, Elijah, Paul and Peter experience God in various ways. Elijah hears “a tiny, whispering sound,” and receives instructions about what to do next. St. Paul remembers God’s past goodness to his people and knows that the Lord is still with Israel. Peter and his companions are saved from a storm by Jesus’ presence and power. When and how have we experienced God’s presence? (1 Kings 19:9a, 11-13a, Romans 9:1-5, Matthew 14:22-33)

August 15, 2023 – Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary: Today’s first and second readings celebrate the victory of God over the evils of sin and death. Mary’s Gospel canticle looks forward to this victory – which has begun with her. Mary was Jesus’ temple. Do we recognize that we, too, have the grace of being a temple of God? (Revelations 11:19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab, 1 Corinthians 15:20-27a, Luke 1:39-56)

August 20, 2023 – 20th Sunday in Ordinary Time: Today, Isaiah foretells that God’s “house” is to be “for all peoples.” While Jesus has been “sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel,” the Gospel hints at a goal far more extensive. St. Paul speaks of his longing for the incorporation of all his countrymen into the Church. Is there someone we can lead or draw closer to the Catholic faith? (Isaiah 56:1, 6-7, Romans 11:13-15, 29-32, Matthew 15:21-28)

August 27, 2023 – 21st Sunday in Ordinary Time: God’s ways are “unsearchable,” writes Paul to the Romans. We see this event in the persons he singles out in today’s first and third readings. We may wonder why he has placed certain individuals in our own lives. Yet God knows the reason, so we rely on him to help us deal with our own salvation. (Isaiah 22:19-23, Romans 11:33-36, Matthew 16:13-20)

The Gospel of Matthew

CHANCES ARE you know Matthew's Gospel better than you know the other three. It contains the Sermon on the Mount with the Beatitudes and the Lord's Prayer. It highlights the ministry of Peter. In it, Jesus urges the disciple to works of mercy because "just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me" (Matthew 25:41). It records stories about the birth of Jesus, the coming of the Magi, the flight into Egypt, and the slaughter of the innocents. Its account of the death of Christ thunders with an earthquake. For centuries, Matthew's popular Gospel dominated the Scripture readings Catholics heard at Mass. However, when the lectionary was revised in 1969, it became associated with the first of a three-year cycle of readings. During Ordinary Time of year A, we expect to hear Matthew when we attend Sunday Mass.

Most people assume that the author of this Gospel was the tax collector who decided to follow Jesus. However, this is not likely. Many Scripture scholars

believe an anonymous Jewish Christian who lived at Antioch in Syria wrote the Gospel late in the first century. The author borrowed much of Mark's Gospel—a pointless method if the writer had been an eyewitness to the events. The Gospel circulated long before the name "Matthew" became attached to it.

Matthew's Gospel seems intended for an audience of Christians very familiar with the Jewish way of life: believers who came from a prosperous area, but who were threatened by persecution. Its central message is embedded in the title associated with Jesus at his birth, "Emmanuel," "God is with us." In Jesus, God is with us. To Jesus, we respond as disciples.

The writer of Matthew's Gospel is sometimes symbolized as a man or an angel, recalling the genealogy that opens the book. Even though this Gospel was probably written after Mark's, it appears first in the New Testament and first in the lectionary cycle.

From the Pastor's Desk
+Fr. Bob Catlett, M.Div.

Birthdays: August 11 – Barbara Butchart
August 22 – Erlaine Eltomi

Anniversaries: August 31 – Dr. Nathaniel and Sandra Murdock

Best wishes to all who have special days to celebrate this month!

Masses on Facebook Live! Just a reminder...we are now able to livestream our Sunday masses on our Chapel Facebook page. If you are unable to attend in person, join us virtually...we would love to “see” you!

2023 Synod – October 20-22, 2023: This year's Synod/Retreat is scheduled to be held at Mercy Retreat and Conference Center here in St. Louis, from Friday afternoon, October 20, 2023, through noon on Sunday, October 22, 2023. More details will follow in the coming months.

Bulletin Inserts (page 3): Beginning this month, we will begin another round of “getting to know the church, its practices and other pressing issues” with *Bulletin Inserts for the Liturgical Life of the Parish*. The short bulletin inserts provided in this resource cover a variety of liturgy-related topics that aim to assist the parish in the liturgical formation of the assembly. The author, Fr. Paul Turner, provides short catechesis on a wide variety of topics to help the reader gain a better understanding of the “what, how, and why” of the liturgy. Each insert is designed to help the reader engage the liturgy and manifest it in their lives. Fr. Paul Turner is pastor of the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Kansas City, Missouri, and director of the Office of Divine Worship for the Diocese of Kansas City–St. Joseph. He holds a doctorate in sacred theology from Sant'Anselmo in Rome. This month, we learn about the Gospel of St. Matthew which we use quite a bit in this liturgical year.