



Sts. Peter and Paul Chapel

A Ministry of the Ecumenical Catholic Church+USA

808 N. Mason Road

Creve Coeur, Missouri 63141-6306

(314) 968.7800

September 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>

CLERGY MASS SCHEDULE

All in-person services at 2:00 PM unless otherwise noted.

September 3, 2023: Twenty-Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

September 10, 2023: Twenty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

September 17, 2023: Twenty-Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

September 24, 2023: Twenty-Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Pastoral Staff:

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

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

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.

Sunday Scripture Reflections – Cycle A

+Fr. Bob Catlett, M.Div., Pastor

September 3, 2023 – 22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time: The theme of sacrifice runs through today's readings. It's a sacrifice for Jeremiah to bring God's message to those who mock him. It's a sacrifice for Christians of every era to take up the cross and not conform to the world around them. Have we conformed to the world or to Christ? "Be transformed by the renewal of your mind," St. Paul urges. (Jeremiah 20:7-9, Romans 12:1-2, Matthew 16:21-27)

September 10, 2023 – 23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time: "Owe nothing to anyone, except to love one another," writes St. Paul to the Romans. The first reading and Gospel remind us that sometimes, tough love is required. We may have to tell a loved one, clearly and tactfully (without nagging) that certain words, actions, or even a lifestyle are morally unacceptable. Are we able to do this? First, we must pray. (Ezekiel 33:7-9, Romans 13:8-10, Matthew 18:15-20)

September 17, 2023 – 24th Sunday in Ordinary Time: "None of us lives for oneself," writes St. Paul; "We live for the Lord." One way we live for the Lord is by repeatedly forgiving, as the Gospel stresses. Sirach points out that if we forgive, we will be forgiven. We should ask ourselves, "Lord, is there someone I need to forgive? Help me to become aware, to forgive, and to reconcile." (Sirach 27:30-28:7, Romans 14:7-9, Matthew 18:21-35)

September 24, 2023 – 25th Sunday in Ordinary Time: "My thoughts are not your thoughts," declares the Lord through the prophet Isaiah. Today's Gospel bears this out. The parable of the vineyard workers is said to refer to eternal life, a generous gift from God that none of us deserves. Do we look forward to heaven as St. Paul did? (Isaiah 55:6-9, Phillipians 1:20c-24,27a, Matthew 20:1-16)

The Gospel of Mark

MARK IS the Gospel featured at Mass in Year B of the three-year cycle of Sunday readings. Notable exceptions occur during Advent, Christmas, Lent, Easter, and across five weeks in summer, when we hear the Bread of Life discourse from John. Mark is the shortest of the four Gospels.

Mark was probably the first Gospel written. Parts of it appear in both Matthew and Luke, who also used other materials that do not appear in Mark. Because Mark included Jesus' saying about the destruction of the Temple, a prediction fulfilled in the year 70, the date of composition is thought to be around then.

This Gospel never identifies its own author. An early tradition gave him the name Mark, a companion of Peter in Rome. Although the work may have been written in Rome by someone who heard the stories of Jesus (already being circulated), the name of its author is uncertain. The Gospel author writes with a sense of urgency. The audience who first received the book was probably a community of gentile Christians, which would account for the author's frequent explanation of Jewish customs and Aramaic words.

Mark's main point is to proclaim that Jesus is the Son of God. We hear the proclamation in the opening verse and again near the end, from the centurion at the Cross. In the middle of the Gospel stands Peter's declaration that Jesus is the Messiah.

In the second half of the Gospel, Jesus predicts his passion, death, and Resurrection three times. The earliest version of Mark ended with the news of the Resurrection, but without stories of Jesus' appearances. Accounts of those events were later appended to Mark's conclusion. Mark does not relate the story of Jesus' birth. Mark is frequently symbolized as a lion, calling to mind the desert scene that opens his story.

From the Pastor's Desk

+Fr. Bob Catlett, M.Div.

Birthdays: None this month!

Anniversaries: None 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! You do **not** have to have a Facebook account to join us. Just go to our Facebook page www.facebook.com/ssppECCUSA at 2:00 PM on Sunday afternoons.

2023 Synod/Retreat – 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. This year's focus will be on the Eucharist. There will be a Eucharistic Devotion on Friday night, three (3) sessions and mass on Saturday, and, of course, a closing mass on Sunday morning at 10:15. If you would like to attend, please let me know.

Bulletin Inserts (page 3): We continue “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. Mark.