



Lent

Sts. Peter and Paul Ecumenical Catholic Church+USA
808 N. Mason Road
Creve Coeur, Missouri 63141-6306
(314) 270.2452

March 2017 Parish Bulletin

Parish Web Site: www.sspp-eccusa.org

Church Web Site: www.ecc-usa.org

CLERGY MASS SCHEDULE

All Mass Times 4:00 PM unless otherwise noted

March 5, 2017: First Sunday of Lent	Fr. Bill
March 12, 2017: Second Sunday of Lent	+Fr. Carl
March 19, 2017: Third Sunday of Lent	Fr. Tom
March 26, 2017: Fourth Sunday of Lent	+Fr. Bob

Mass Time: 2:00 PM

Pastoral Staff:

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

Associate Pastor: Fr. Bill LaGrand, 314.650.9214, associate@sspp-eccusa.org

Presiding Bishop: +Fr. Carl Swaringim, 636.240.7839, domcarl@ecc-usa.org

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

Fr. Bill LaGrand, M.A.

March 5, 2017 – 1st Sunday of Lent: The temptation of Jesus in the desert shows the humanity of Jesus. Because he had a human nature, he feels our struggles as we are bombarded by all the temptations of the modern world and their false promises.

March 12, 2017 – 2nd Sunday of Lent: In contrast to last weeks' reading that showed the humanity of Christ; today, we are taught about the Transfiguration. This occurs before the eyes of some of the apostles. At that place, Christ is revealed to them as the Son of God.

March 19, 2017 – 3rd Sunday of Lent: In today's Gospel, Jesus teaches us about mercy and inclusion. The fact that he spoke to a woman alone, much less a Samaritan woman, violated all the cultural and religious norms of that time. By doing this, Jesus shows us that we need to be merciful and inclusive towards those who are not the same as us.

March 26, 2017 – 4th Sunday in Lent (Laetare Sunday): In the story of the man born blind, some people react negatively to this miracle of healing. We might find this response to be curious; yet, sometime we obfuscate the wonders of God's world, wonders that occur right in front of us.

FROM THE PRESIDING BISHOP'S DESK

+Fr. Carl Swaringim, Ed.D., Presiding Bishop

We continue our review of the Seven Sacraments of the Catholic Faith Tradition with a general review of each Sacrament and any unique emphases within our Church.

The Sacrament of Baptism

Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you." (Matthew 28:17-19)

The Sacrament of Baptism is often called "The Door of the Church," because it is the first of the Seven Sacraments not only in time, but also in priority. The reception of all other Sacraments depends on our having been baptized. Baptism is the first of the three Sacraments of Initiation, the other two being the Sacrament of Confirmation and the Sacrament of Holy Communion. Once baptized, a person becomes a Christian and a member of the Church founded by Jesus.

All member Ecumenical Catholic Church+USA congregations' baptisms are normally celebrated during Mass. Christian initiation is the sacramental act by which the community welcomes others into its life. A major goal of our Church is to welcome all to our celebration of the Sacraments and to be available to bring Jesus Christ and his saving grace to whomever asks at key moments of their lives, particularly for baptism, marriage, and funerals.

We believe that the greatest gift, along with life itself, that a parent can give a child is the gift of Baptism where the child formally and permanently becomes a child of God and heir to eternal life. Further, the grace that comes to a person at Baptism continues throughout his/her entire life. Even if a person fails or drifts from the Great Commandment of loving God and neighbor, the grace of Baptism is working to bring him/her back to the Christian life. An unbaptized person simply does not have the beautiful spiritual advantages that come with Baptism.

For those reasons, our Church never puts a fence between any person and the Sacrament of Baptism. Even if the parent(s) have not been coming to Church, our priests will welcome their child to the Sacrament of Baptism without placing any hardship or recriminations on the parents. We actually do not check a person's church participation or contribution. The parent and the child are simply welcomed to the Sacrament of Baptism.

Any parent who wishes to have his/her child baptized is invited to call our Church Office at (314) 270-2452 to discuss arrangements for Baptism of their child with a priest.

Blessings,

+Fr. Carl

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

+Fr. Bob Catlett, M.Div.

New Parish Website and Phone Number: Check out our new parish website at www.sspp-eccusa.org. Bishop Carl has been working very hard on transitioning our previous parish website to a more comprehensive and informative website. We also have a new parish phone number, which is now answered in person rather than just voice mail. Our new parish phone number is (314) 270.2452.

Lent begins March 1, 2017: The Lenten Season begins with Ash Wednesday, March 1, 2017. While the ECC+USA does not subscribe to the mandates on Fasting and Abstinence from certain foods, nor do we teach you must make a "sacrifice" during Lent, we do encourage you to practice your faith as much as is comfortable to you. We do encourage you to focus on your prayer life and Jesus' journey to his death and resurrection. Our parishioners will receive a daily meditation booklet with this bulletin to aid in their 2017 Lenten Season prayer lives. Additional copies will be available at church.

Mass time change: On **Sunday, March 26, 2017, our mass time will be 2:00 PM** due to a scheduling conflict. This will be my last mass with you until I return from Quantico in June.

Stations of the Cross, Eucharistic Adoration and Benediction: As part of our Lenten journey, we will join our brothers and sisters of St. Timothy's Episcopal Church on **Tuesday, March 28, 2017, at 7:00 PM** in the church to celebrate the Stations of the Cross, Eucharistic Adoration and Benediction.

Special blessings to our parishioners who celebrate birthdays and anniversaries this month:

Birthdays:

Dwight Jacobi: March 6

Anniversaries:

Bishop Carl: March 30: Ordination to the Priesthood (54 years!)