



ORDINARY time

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

July 2017 Parish Bulletin

Parish Web Site: www.sspp-eccusa.org

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

CLERGY MASS SCHEDULE

All Mass Times 4:00 PM unless otherwise noted

July 2, 2017: Thirteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time Mass Intention: Carol Zadra	Bishop Carl*
July 9, 2017: Fourteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time	Fr. Bill
July 16, 2017: Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time	Fr. Tom
July 23, 2017: Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time	Fr. Bob
July 30, 2017: Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time	Fr. Bill

***We will have our quarterly healing service on Sunday, July 2, 2017, during the celebration of Mass. All are invited to receive this sacrament.**

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.

Sunday Gospel Reflections

Fr. Bill LaGrand, M.A.

July 2, 2017 – 13th Sunday in Ordinary Time: Jesus instructs his disciples, and us too, on the challenges, suffering, and support they will encounter on their missionary journeys.

July 9, 2017 – 14th Sunday in Ordinary Time: In the Gospel, Jesus praises God for revealing hidden things to simple people like his disciples, and he invites us to share his burden which is light.

July 16, 2017 – 15th Sunday in Ordinary Time: We are blessed to have heard the Word of God, yet often we resist this life saving message. For the times we have hardened our hearts, let us ask for forgiveness.

July 23, 2017 – 16th Sunday in Ordinary Time: Let us remember that St. Paul says that we don't know how to pray as we ought. Let us use this time of prayer to ask the Holy Spirit to fill us with the grace of true prayer that will carry us through the week.

July 30, 2017 – 17th Sunday in Ordinary Time: God has given each of us a 'true self' made in God's image. Let us turn to God to help us put aside the things that keep us from reflecting that image and likeness of God to those we encounter every day.

From the Bishop's Desk

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

On Wednesday through Friday, June 21-23, 2017, our Church's Council of Bishops had its 17th Annual Meeting at Sacred Cross Church in Floyds Knobs, Indiana. Bishop David Kocka, Bishop of our ECC+USA Diocese of St. Francis Assisi; Bishop Tom Coover, Bishop of our Diocese of St. Andrew; Bishop Robert Catlett, Bishop Pro-Tempore of our Diocese of the Good Shepherd; and I, as Presiding Bishop and Bishop of our Diocese of Sts. Simon and Jude; as well as Diocesan Chancellors Deacon Norm Eberhardt, Father Bill LaGrand, and Father Brian Spencer all participated in the annual meeting.

I want to use my space in this month's bulletin to tell you what we accomplished at the meeting. Besides the fellowship of just being together and catching up on what is happening in our geographically separated ministries, we celebrated Mass on Thursday and Friday praying particularly for all the people who are served by the ministries within the Church. I was Principal Celebrant for the Mass on Thursday and Bishop David fulfilled that role on Friday.

As we do at all our clergy gatherings (Synods, Ordinations, Funerals), we concluded the Friday liturgy by singing the beautiful Salve Regina, a hymn sung in Latin in veneration of Mary, the Mother of

Jesus. And, by the way, we still have pretty good voices, although compared to our Sts. Peter and Paul pastor, not so much.

So, what was accomplished? The Council approved a new clergy lapel pin that is similar to the one we've been wearing, but with "Ecumenical Catholic Church+USA" around the outside of the cross and laurel which represents Christ's victory over death. You will see us wearing the new pins once we return to our suit coats.

We spent considerable time correcting several errors that were unintended consequences of easily misunderstood statements in our Church Bylaws, which must be used in each organization related to the ECC+USA. When we first developed the "Bylaws" about 10 years ago, we tried to balance the responsibility roles in each of our ministries between the cleric (pastor or pastoral director) and the Parish Council (Corporate Board).

The misinterpretations led to the possibility that a Council could easily enough assume that the pastor was only its employee and that the Council alone could run the ministry. The Catholic Faith Tradition does not allow a pastor to be treated simply as an employee; the Catholic Faith Tradition always considers the cleric assigned as pastor to be in charge. So, our "Corrected Bylaws" reasserts that: the Pastor is in charge; the Council is charged with supporting the Pastor in both civil and spiritual matters related to the ministry; and, the Diocesan Bishop and the Council of Bishops will mediate appeals from either if a dispute develops.

Councils and Boards will begin implementing these Corrected Bylaws now and will have them completely implemented by September 1, 2017.

The Church Canons were also carefully reviewed and tweaked as necessary to correct possible misinterpretation as mentioned above.

The Council approved the Request for Incardination as a cleric of the ECC+USA by Luis Guitierrez. You possibly met Luis at the 2016 Synod last October. Two ordinations are planned for our 2017 Synod: Luis to the Sacred Order of Deacon and David Bursh to the Minor Order of Subdeacon.

Finally, we developed the Agenda for the 2017 Synod to be held in St. Louis at the same conference center as last year on October 20-22. The program will deal with an important and currently nationally talked about topic that has deep personal implications for everyone and has special implications for all clergy who often deal with people facing this difficult issue under distress in family or friend situations. The topic is entitled, "Beginning the Conversation" and deals with the theology and practicalities for end of life issues that are often not dealt with until people find themselves in a crisis situation. So, this topic will be practical for each of us as well as an important training session for clergy but also a training session for any of us if (when) we are asked for help and advice by friend or family.

We've designed our synod session so that this topic will be covered in three (3) sessions and all three sessions will be held on Saturday morning and afternoon so those of us from St. Louis, who are generally commuters, will be able to easily attend the full program. (Bishop Bob will be giving registration details soon.)

SURVEY QUESTIONNAIRE ENCLOSED: Deacon Imani Boyd from our St. Thomas Church congregation in Las Vegas is requesting your help. Deacon Imani is working on a Master of Divinity degree through our Vilatte Theological Seminary program; her project is a research study asking our congregation membership on attitudes, likes, dislikes, and beliefs as they relate to participation in an

ECC+USA congregation (St. Thomas Church, Sts. Peter and Paul Church, Sacred Cross Oratory, and Saint Benedict Oratory).

The survey document is enclosed for each member of your household who is a member of Sts. Peter and Paul. The more individual responses that the Deacon receives back the more accurate and useful will be her report.

Please complete the survey and put it in the collection basket at church next Sunday or at least by Sunday, July 9. You may also mail the survey directly to Deacon Imani Boyd, 8204 Willow Cabin Street, Las Vegas, NV 89131-1438.

Thanks so much for taking time to help Deacon Imani and her useful research for our Church.

Blessings,

Bishop Carl

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

Birthdays: July 10 - Margery Doss
July 14 – Fr. Bill

Anniversaries: Dwight & Emily Jacobi – July 9
Fr. Bob – July 20 (Priestly ordination, 2003)
Bishop Carl – July 28 (Episcopal consecration, 1995)

Congratulations and Best Wishes to all on your special day!

Mark Your Calendars! 2017 Synod – October 20-22, 2017: This year's Synod/Retreat will be held at Mercy Retreat and Conference Center, Frontenac, Missouri, from Friday afternoon, October 20, 2017, through noon on Sunday, October 22, 2017. This year's Synod will, once again, be full of prayer, learning and reflection. More details will follow in the coming months. If you are interested in attending, please contact me. The parish will pay the registration fee (commuter fee) for any parishioner wishing to attend, which includes lunches, dinners and materials.