

Sts. Peter and Paul Ecumenical Catholic Church+USA
808 N. Mason Road
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November 2017 Parish Bulletin

Parish Web Site: www.sspp-eccusa.org

Parish Facebook Page: <https://www.facebook.com/Sts-Peter-and-Paul-Ecumenical-Catholic-Church-USA-196106814053967/timeline/>

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

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

CLERGY MASS SCHEDULE

All Mass Times 4:00 PM unless otherwise noted

November 5, 2017: 31 st Sunday in Ordinary Time	Bishop Carl
Mass Time - 2:00 PM	
November 12, 2017: 32 nd Sunday in Ordinary Time	Fr. Bill
November 19, 2017: 33 rd Sunday in Ordinary Time	Fr. Tom
November 26, 2017: Solemnity of Christ the King	Bishop Robert

Pastoral Staff:

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

Co-Pastor: Fr. Bill LaGrand, 314.650.9214, associate@stspeterandpaul-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.

Gospel Reflections

November 2017

Fr. Bill LaGrand, M.A.

November 5, 2017 – 31st Sunday in Ordinary Time: Jesus was consistent in his actions regardless of the opinion of others. He responded neither to their approval nor their disapproval. Are our actions consistent with what we profess? (*Matthew 23: 1-12*)

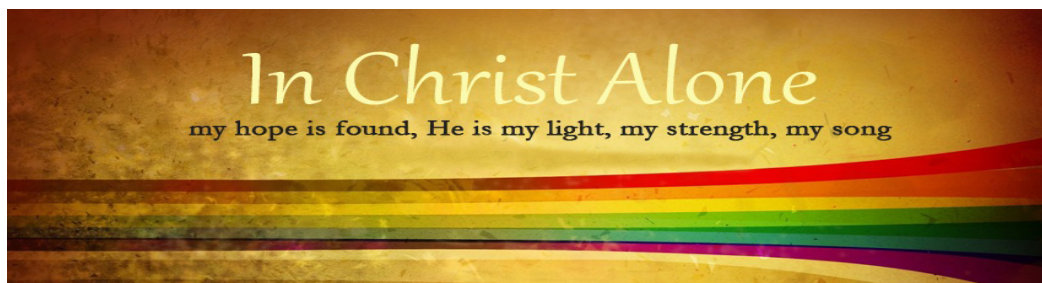
November 12, 2017 – 32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time: Being ready to meet the Lord is a daily activity, not something to be put off to a later date. Simply stated, if we met the Lord today, would we be ready? (*Matthew 25: 1-13*)

November 19, 2017 – 33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time: What we are expected to do is to use the talents God has given us to the best extent we can. Thankfully, we have Jesus Christ from whom all gifts and graces flow and by whom our weaknesses are redeemed. (*Matthew 25: 14-30*)

November 26, 2017 – Solemnity of Christ the King: How we are judged at the end of our life will depend on whether or not we model our lives after the Good Shepherd or not. We have been taught how a good shepherd operates. God sent Jesus as the Good Shepherd. We should imitate him.
(*Matthew 25: 31-46*)

From the Bishop's Desk

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



Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

What should be the Christian response to tragedies, like the October 1, 2017 shooting in Las Vegas? The following reflection, applicable to all of us as Christians, is a rework of the letter I sent a couple of weeks ago to our parishioners at St. Thomas ECC+USA, Las Vegas.

The tragedy that happened in Las Vegas on October 1st to the good citizens and so many visitors was humanly and spiritually shocking. This extreme inhumanity of one person to others enjoying life is becoming all too frequent and if we are not careful, it can dull our sensitivity and concern both as Americans and as Christians. We must take a personal and collective stand against that deterioration of our patriotic and spiritual psyche.

As Christians, we have our total trust in Jesus Christ as our source of faith and hope to both endure and maintain peace of mind while also motivating for societal change. The question is how do we grow and maintain “hope” in an improved future?

Our faith in Jesus gives us that promise of hope. When such events make us feel empty and demoralized, we need to ask the Holy Spirit to renew and fill that void with his Divine gift of hope and confidence in a brighter future.

Jesus is the *light of the world* that shines even in the darkest of times. (*John 8:12*) We are called as his followers to defend that light; to protect it; and make that light ever-present in our world. Jesus says to us, “*Let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.*” (*Matthew 5:16.*)

Christians are expected to be people of the light approaching our world with ideals, confidence, hope, love, and caring for others. That is how the people of Las Vegas, Christians or not, are meeting the carnage and injury inflicted on men, women, and children that resulted from this senseless happening. We are each and all called to join with them in prayers, good works, and giving of ourselves for the greater good of all of God’s people.

We proceed together into the future with hope and confidence in Jesus Christ. “*If God is for us, who can be against us?*” (*Romans 8:31.*) The Lord God said to Abraham and to us, “*Do not be afraid, for I am with you.*” (*Genesis 26:24.*)

Let us have faith, hope, and love as we are visited by personal or societal turmoil; and let’s be moved to action. Let us pray and work for peace in our own daily lives and pray and take action for the common good that leads for the safety and protection of all in our great nation.

And, let us continue to pray for all those who have been killed or damaged through all tragedies in both natural (as in hurricanes, earthquakes, and forest fires) and those tragedies perpetrated by humankind. And let us be sure, of course, to remember each other at Mass and in our daily prayers.

Blessings,

+Fr. Carl

PS. Our Church’s 17th Annual Synod, just completed a week or so ago, was a big success in accomplishing our synod goals of prayer, education, and fellowship. Our presenters (Bishop Tom Coover and Father Steve Lodesky) were interesting and their teaching was fact-filled. Their personal dedication to hospice and end of life care of patients was informative, motivational, and inspirational. Seven of our parishioners attended Saturday’s Mass, presentations, as well as lunch and dinner. Thanks for spending the day with our Church’s clergy (4 bishops, 5 priests, 4 deacons, and 3 Subdeacons.)

We ordained two clerics: Dave Bursh, M.B.A., from Ohio to the Minor Order of Subdeacon; and Luis Gutierrez, M.A., M.Div., from Chicago to the Sacred Order of Deacon. The Council of Bishops anticipates ordaining both of these clerics to the Sacred Priesthood at the next Synod.

And by the way, mark your calendars, our 2018 Synod will be held on the weekend of October 19-21, 2018, at Sacred Cross Church in New Albany, Indiana. We had our 13th (2013) Annual Synod at Sacred Cross. All of our Sts. Peter and Paul clergy and six of our parishioners attended that Synod. Pictures from the 13th Synod are posted on our Ecumenical Catholic Church+USA website at: www.ecc-usa.org/synod_13/index.html.

Blessings,

+Fr. Carl

From the Pastor's Desk

+Fr. Bob Catlett, M.Div.

Mass Time Change – Due to a schedule conflict at St. Timothy's, Mass on November 5, 2017, will be at 2:00 PM. All other Sundays will be 4:00 PM.

Congratulations to our parishioners who have reasons to celebrate this month:

Birthdays:

Cindy Catlett: 11/1

Joan Schmid: 11/23

Anniversaries:

None this month!

Sympathies: The parish extends its deepest sympathies to our parishioner, Marie Harbers, on the death of her husband (and our parishioner), Richard ("Dick") Harbers, on Sunday, October 8, 2017. The Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated in our church on Tuesday, October 18, 2017, immediately followed with burial with full military honors at Jefferson Barracks National Cemetery. +Fr. Bob presided at the mass, with +Fr. Carl and Fr. Bill concelebrating. Marie was deeply touched and grateful at the love and support she received from the members of our church during this very difficult time.

2017 Synod: I would like to thank all our parishioners who participated in this year's Synod and echo Bishop Carl's earlier comments. Your presence means so much to our clergy. The Council of Bishops also appreciates your participation in our Annual Synods.