



Saints Peter and Paul Ecumenical Catholic Church+USA
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June 2018 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>

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

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

Clergy Mass Schedule

(All Masses 4:00 PM unless otherwise noted)

June 3, 2018: Solemnity of the Body and Blood of Christ <i>Mass Intention: Joseph Patrick "Pat" English</i>	+Fr. Carl
June 10, 2018: 10th Sunday in Ordinary Time	Fr. Tom
June 17, 2018: 11th Sunday in Ordinary Time <i>Mass Intention: Fathers of the Parish</i>	+Fr. Bob
June 24, 2018: Nativity of St. John the Baptist	Fr. Bill

Pastoral Staff:

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

Associate 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.

Sunday Gospel Reflections

Fr. Bill LaGrand, M.A.

June 3, 2018 – Solemnity of the Body and Blood of Christ: In the Eucharist, we affirm our identity as disciples of Jesus. It is not enough to take part in the religious ritual of the Mass. We must fulfill our commitment to strive to live as Jesus lived. (Mark 14: 12-16, 22-26)

June 10, 2018 – 10th Sunday in Ordinary Time: We are reminded to place our total confidence in God despite whatever difficulties we experience in being a Christian. (Mark 3: 20-35)

June 17, 2018 – 11th Sunday in Ordinary Time: Jesus stresses the seeming ordinariness of the kingdom of God. The ability to plant and harvest is a gift from God; however, the ordinary days of growth far outnumber the highlight days of planting and harvesting. (Mark 4: 26-34)

June 24, 2018 – Nativity of St. John the Baptist: John the Baptist's life, proclaiming the coming of the Messiah, foreshadows our own lives in Baptism. His parents named him in a new way, understanding that God would have a plan for him. At Baptism, we, too, are given a new Christian name that foreshadows our growth in the life of Christ. (Luke 1: 57-66, 80)

From the Presiding Bishop's Desk
+Fr. Carl Swaringim, Ed.D., Presiding Bishop

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

I hope you are enjoying the return of Spring flowers and beautiful green trees. The new birth of nature at this time of the year, especially when it happens during the Easter Season, reminds us of Christ's rising from the dead. Jesus freely endured death; his resurrection from the dead is the promise of our own at the end of time.

This is my 150th article for our Sts. Peter and Paul monthly bulletin. Over the years, these articles covered most aspects of Catholicism and provided particular information about the beliefs and happenings (e.g., Synods and Council of Bishops meetings) of the Ecumenical Catholic Church+USA. During these twelve years, I have even received a few comments and questions and a couple of suggestions for articles.

This will be my last regular monthly article. However, occasionally, I may submit something to our Pastor for inclusion in the parish bulletin when I am moved to do so by the Holy Spirit or when someone asks a question that I think others may find informative or interesting.

This article is a report of our just completed 18th Annual Council of Bishops Meeting at Sacred Cross Church in New Albany, Indiana. The following are especially noteworthy items from the May, 2018 Council of Bishops (COB) meeting attended by Bishops David Kocka, Tom Coover, Robert Catlett, and Carl Swaringim as voting members. Also attending as consultants were our Diocesan Chancellors, Fathers Bill LaGrand and Brian Spencer, and Deacon Norm Eberhardt.

1) The COB agreed to begin implementing a change of our Church "branding" from "An Old Catholic Church" to "An Independent Catholic Church."

While some of our theological roots are in Old Catholicism, the fact is that we have not been recognized by the Old Catholic Church of Utrecht and, indeed, at the 2007 Synod, we agreed to be "Old Catholic in name, spirit, and polity", but not to pursue Utrecht membership. At this annual COB meeting, the bishops agreed that calling ourselves Old Catholic is not completely accurate and, especially calling ourselves "An Old Catholic Church", has been a put off for people who do not know what "Old Catholic" really implies. Most Americans do not know anything about the Old Catholic Church. Many inquirers have presumed that it means that we are an old Roman Catholic (pre-Vatican II) church with Masses in Latin and that we strictly adhere to everything that pre-Vatican II Roman Catholicism implies. Branding ourselves as "An Independent Catholic Church" will still bring questions, but it is a much easier to explain and understand concept.

2) The COB voted unanimously for the following personnel changes:

- the COB accepted my intended retirement as Presiding Bishop effective October 1, 2018, while remaining the Diocesan Bishop of the Diocese of Sts. Simon and Jude into 2019, and while remaining a voting member of the COB indefinitely.
- Bishop Robert Catlett was elected by the COB to be Coadjutor Presiding Bishop with right of succession upon my retirement on October 1.
- The COB appointed Father Bill LaGrand as the Rector of the Vilatte Theological Seminary effective June 1, 2018. Father Brian Spencer will continue as Vice-Rector.
- Bishop Tom Coover volunteered to attempt over the next year to renew and re-activate the Church's Order of Mary Theotokos, which has been inactive for the last several years.
- Bishop David's request that the COB suppress the Hermits of St. Francis as a ministry of this Church was also granted. (The one current member may continue his association with the Church and Bishop David.)

3) The dates and venues for the 2018 through 2023 Annual Synods, always held in October, were decided as follows:

2018, 2021 at Sacred Cross Oratory in New Albany, Indiana.

2019, 2022 at St. Thomas Church in Las Vegas, Nevada.

2020, 2013 at Mercy Conference Center in St. Louis, Missouri.

4) The dates for the 2018 Synod to be held at Sacred Cross are October 19-21. Several sessions of the synod will be about Eastern and Western Catholic Christianity and its implications for the Independent Catholic Movement. One session will deal with methods of church advertising through social media.

At this Synod, the COB is anticipating the ordination of a deacon (Subdeacon David Bursh) from the Diocese of St. Francis and a priest (Deacon Luis Gutierrez) from the Diocese of Sts. Simon and Jude.

Bishop Robert will be sending lodging and cost information within a month or so.

If you have any questions or comments about the above or any aspect of the Church, please do not hesitate to ask me or Bishop Robert.

Blessings,

+Carl

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

Happy Father's Day! The parish extends its best wishes to all fathers in the parish who will celebrate Father's Day on Sunday, June 17, 2018. A special blessing will be conferred on all fathers present at mass that day.

Birthdays: June 11 – Matthew Jacobi
June 17 – +Fr. Bob Catlett
June 23 – Marie Harbers

Anniversaries: None in June!

Thank you, Bishop Carl! As pastor, I want to take this opportunity to personally thank Bishop Carl for his service to our church and parish. He has certainly been a dear friend and mentor to all of us, especially to me, your pastor. While his intended retirement as Presiding Bishop later this year is bittersweet, his service to our parish and our church will continue. I also want to thank him for his 150 monthly articles he contributed since we began publishing a monthly bulletin 12-1/2 years ago! We will miss his monthly insightful columns, but as the saying goes, "All good things must come to an end!"