



***Sts. Peter and Paul Chapel***

*A Ministry of the Ecumenical Catholic Church+USA*

**808 N. Mason Road**

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***September 2024 Parish Bulletin***

Parish Web Site: [www.sspp-eccusa.org](http://www.sspp-eccusa.org) or [www.peterandpaulchapel.org](http://www.peterandpaulchapel.org)

Parish Facebook Page: [www.facebook.com/ssppECCUSA](https://www.facebook.com/ssppECCUSA)

National Church Web Site: [www.ecc-usa.org](http://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 1, 2024: Twenty-Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

September 8, 2024: Twenty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

September 15, 2024: Twenty-Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

September 22, 2024: Twenty-Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

September 29, 2024: Twenty-Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

**Pastoral Staff:**

**Pastor:** +Fr. Bob Catlett, 314.800.3456, [pastor@sspp-eccusa.org](mailto:pastor@sspp-eccusa.org)

**Founding Bishop:** +Fr. Carl Swaringim, 314.650.1487, [bishopcarl@protonmail.com](mailto:bishopcarl@protonmail.com)

## 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 B

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

**September 1, 2024 – 22<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time:** “Be doers of the word and not hearers only,” writes St. James. The Ten Commandments, given by God at Mount Sinai, are perennially valid. However, Jesus reprimands some religious leaders for uselessly multiplying laws. Have we set up “rules” for our daily lives that make genuine love for God and neighbor more difficult to practice? (Deuteronomy 4:1-2, 6-8, James 1:17-18, 21b-22, 27, Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23)

**September 8, 2024 – 23<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time:** Isaiah’s prophecy finds fulfillment in Jesus, who goes about healing the needy and poor. St. James reminds us that the poor have been chosen by God to be rich in faith. How can we show God’s loving concern for persons who are materially or spiritually poor? (Isaiah 35:4-7a, James 2:1-5, Mark 7:31-37)

**September 15, 2024 – 24<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time:** In this week’s oracle from Isaiah, the servant of the Lord declares: “I have not rebelled, have not turned back.” The servant has his cross and – obeying Jesus’ exhortation – we have ours. One aspect of our cross is to do good deeds. With St. James, we want to demonstrate our faith...from our works. (Isaiah 50:4c-9a, James 2:14-18, Mark 8:27-35)

**September 22, 2024 – 25<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time:** This week’s passage from the Book of Wisdom seems like a preview of Jesus’ passion, which he foretells in the Gospel. And the excerpt from St. James resembles a commentary on the disciples’ rivalry, which is also described in the Gospel. Lord, help us to avoid jealousy and selfish ambition, which make you suffer so much! (Wisdom 2:12, 17-20, James 3:16-4:3, Mark 9:30-37)

**September 29, 2024 – 26<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time:** This week’s readings call our attention to two vices: jealousy and greed. Joshua wants Moses to stop two men from prophesying, but Moses instead wishes that all the people would prophesy. In the Gospel, St. John wants to prevent someone who isn’t a disciple of Jesus from expelling demons. The second reading focuses on the vice of avarice. Lord, help us to examine our lives in regard to these capital sins. (Numbers 11:25-29, James 5:1-6, Mark 9:38-43, 45, 47-48)

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## Exaltation of the Holy Cross

**THE CROSS** could have become a symbol of shame for Christians. It brought about the death of Jesus Christ. However, faith in the Resurrection made the Cross a symbol of pride. The worst weapon of Jesus' enemies could not overpower him. Through the Cross, Jesus triumphs over death.

Pride in the Cross soon turned to veneration of the Cross. Since no record from the time of the apostles indicates that the Cross of Christ was preserved, zealous Christians later searched for its remains. They had already honored the general location of Calvary and the Sepulcher, so new basilicas were built over those sites under the reign of Constantine in the early fourth century. Around this same time, people believed they had identified relics of the Cross of Christ, and these diffused throughout the Christian world. John Calvin sarcastically noted that if all the splinters of the Cross were gathered together, they would fill a ship— three hundred people could not carry the Cross which one person carried up to Calvary.

It is difficult to verify splinters of the true Cross of Christ. However, legend has it that in 322, Helena, the mother of Constantine, uncovered three Crosses in the excavations for the new basilicas in Jerusalem. She assumed them to be the Crosses of Jesus and the two wrongdoers. Macarius, the bishop of Jerusalem, brought in a dying woman and had her touch the Crosses. The third one cured her, and that Cross was proclaimed the Cross of Christ. It became an object of veneration in Jerusalem until it was stolen in the seventh century, but Heraclius of Constantinople captured and returned it in 629, bringing it into the city, where it was lifted up for all to venerate again. This "exaltation" of the Holy Cross gave us a feast day on September 14 every year.

In recent decades, our calendar changed its title from the Exaltation of the Holy Cross to the Triumph of the Cross and back to Exaltation again. It is still celebrated on September 14 to commemorate both the victory of Christ and the dedication of the Basilica of the Holy Sepulcher in Jerusalem in 335. As a feast of Christ, when it falls on Sunday, it replaces the regular liturgy for Ordinary Time.

## 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](http://www.facebook.com/ssppECCUSA) at 2:00 PM on Sunday afternoons.

**2024 Synod/Retreat – November 1-3, 2024:** This year's Synod/Retreat is scheduled to be held at Mercy Retreat and Conference Center here in St. Louis, from Friday afternoon, November 1, 2024, through noon on Sunday, November 3, 2024. A closing mass will be held 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 Feast of the Exaltation of the Cross which is celebrated on September 14<sup>th</sup>.**