



Sts. Peter and Paul Ecumenical Catholic Church+USA
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February 2018 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

February 4, 2018, Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time:	+Fr. Carl*
February 11, 2018, Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time:	Fr. Bill
February 18, 2018, First Sunday of Lent:	Fr. Tom
February 25, 2018, Second Sunday of Lent:	+Fr. Bob

***Blessing of Throats at this Mass**

Pastoral Staff:

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

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

Presiding Bishop: +Fr. Carl Swaringim, Ed.D., 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 Scripture Reflections

Fr. Bill LaGrand, M.A.

FEBRUARY 4, 2018 – 5TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME: Job was stripped of everything. We, too, have been stripped of things in a similar way. Job loss, relationship ends, a life changing diagnosis. Job felt hopeless until he surrendered control of his life to God. The gift of surrendering to God is also our way to peace. (Job 7: 1-4, 6-7)

FEBRUARY 11, 2018 – 6TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME: The account of the cure of the leper is more than a story about healing. We have been created for community and are called to live our lives of faith in and with community. Isolation and independence are contradictions to Christianity. (Mark 1:40 – 45)

FEBRUARY 18, 2018 – 1ST SUNDAY OF LENT: Powerful images are present today: water, rainbows, covenants, provision, life, death, temptations, Noah and Jesus. Water is life giving, but can be life taking. Rainbows capture our imagination. Deserts are places of quiet and beauty they also can be life threatening. Throughout the readings, God is with us, in our trials, and in our triumphs. (Genesis 9: 8-15, Mark 1: 12-15)

FEBRUARY 25, 2018 – 2ND SUNDAY OF LENT: Through the ages, humans have recognized God's influence in their lives in a variety of ways. No matter how we experience the divine, we should be led to an increase of trust and faith in God. (Mark 9: 3-10)

From the Presiding Bishop's Desk

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

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

Last month, we reflected on the important place that "joy" has in our lives as Christians. As Christians, we have within us the very presence of God the Holy Spirit who fills us with all the joy that comes from, simply being children of God. St. Paul, in his letter to the Romans, expresses his hope for "his" Christians in this blessing: May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. (Romans 15:13)

The task that we face in living a life of "joy in our heart" is dealing with the human condition; being faced with the realities of life: happy events and sad events; good health and bad health; good moods and bad moods; etc. and etc. You know what I mean, the vicissitudes of living life simply because we are human beings.

So, what are we to do? Prayer, of course, is always a good place to start in our spiritual efforts to keep our mind, soul, and spirit focused on God and the joy that He brings into our lives.

Here are some "joy" prayers that I found; I hope you will find them useful:

Serenity Prayer. God, give me grace to accept with serenity the things that cannot be changed; Courage to change the things which should be changed; and the Wisdom to distinguish the one from the other.

Living one day at a time; Enjoying one moment at a time; Accepting hardship as a pathway to peace. Taking, as Jesus did, this sinful world as it is; Not as I would have it,

Trusting that You will make all things right, if I surrender to Your will; So that I may be reasonably happy in this life; And supremely happy with You forever in the next. Amen.

Prayer for Joy in Life. Loving Lord, how grateful I am for the many joys in life that You in your grace have bestowed on me in such abundance. Thank You for the simple things in life and those that I so often take for granted – for flowers and food, for mountains and streams, for my senses and the many joys that I gain from seeing, hearing, smelling, tasting and touching.

Thank You for the joy of friends and family, for the sun and rain the seasons and the many phases of the weather that bring such variety, refreshment, warmth and healing. Thank you for the joy of singing praises to you, and thank you Father for the Lord Jesus in whom is the fullness of joy. Amen.

Lord, take my heart on a journey.

(A prayer for happiness and joy) Lord, take my heart on a journey, Into your goodness and grace. Where I walk on grass soft with forgiveness and wait by the everlasting lake. Lord, take my mind to a new place Filled with the promise of life. Where I rest with great dreams of your kingdom And wake with a new joy inside. Lord, take my soul to adventure May I find greater freedom in you. Where I run with great vision and insight And trust that my dreams are from you. Lord, take me into your promise Where eternity awaits at the door. And I find I'm renewed, redeemed and restored Oh Jesus, I'm alive now for you!

We'll conclude this month with verse 11 of Psalm 16: "You will make known to me the path of life. In your presence, of Lord, is the fullness of joy."

Blessings,

+Father Carl

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

Parishioner donation statements were mailed out the first week of January. If you did not receive yours, please contact me.

Blessing of Throats: Our Annual St. Blase Blessing of Throats will be held on Sunday, February 4, 2018. Everyone is welcome to receive this blessing. *"Saint Blase was the Bishop of Sebaste in Armenia during the fourth century. Very little is known about his life. According to various accounts, he was a physician before becoming a bishop. His cult spread throughout the entire Church in the Middle Ages because he was reputed to have miraculously cured a little boy who nearly died because of a fishbone in his throat. From the eighth century, he has been invoked on behalf of the sick, especially those afflicted with illnesses of the throat."* (From *The Book of Blessings*.)

Our Priests Thank You! As you know, unlike many churches, our priests do not receive a salary or stipend for their services to our parish. In return, our parish supports its priests by paying their annual clergy dues to the National Church (\$120 each priest). On behalf of +Fr. Carl, Fr. Bill and Fr. Tom, we say, "Thank you for your generosity! It is our privilege to serve you."

Get Well Soon! Our parishioner, and my dear friend and mentor, Rita Kreutz, was hospitalized over the Christmas holiday and is now undergoing rehabilitation (physical and occupational therapy) at Delmar Gardens of Meramec Valley in Fenton, Missouri. Please keep Rita and her family in your thoughts and prayers.

Welcome Home! Welcome home to parishioner, Becky Kaley, who was hospitalized after an auto accident in early January. It was great to see and welcome her back to church on January 21, 2018!

Parishioner Birthdays: None this month!

Parishioner Anniversaries: None this month!