

Lent is right around the corner. We need to start thinking about what each of our Lenten journeys should look like? With this in mind we want to cover some basic aspects of prayer.

We must pray. There is no bad way to pray and no single starting point for prayer. The important thing we must do is to pray, regularly. For many it is not that they do not want to pray but they fail to take the time to pray. It is often the discipline that we need and not the faith or desire.

We need to be able to find quiet or solitude. We know for many especially with small children this may seem like an impossible task. Ideally this means being alone and quiet for some time to be able reflect on our own life and to place ourselves in the presence of the Lord. This will be accomplished easily by some and much more difficult for others. It may mean that we try to become more reflective on our daily tasks and how God is at work in all that we do. If we can set aside some time for solitude, commit yourself to 10 to 15 minutes a day and you will find yourself increasing as your prayer grows.

We must look within ourselves. Our society tends to keep us distracted and entertained so that we are not encouraged to reflect on what is going on inside ourselves. In prayer we need to shut out the outside noise and distraction so that we can focus on ourselves and listen to God.

We must be honest in prayer. We may have encountered people who use prayer to pray positive, comforting words that in no way express the actual turmoil they feel day to day. God desires us to simply open our heart, even if that is messy or negative. If we are questioning or angry let that be expressed in prayer. If we get distracted, examine what is distracting us and maybe we need to pray the distraction rather than the prayer we are praying. Be honest and open so that God can guide our prayer and open our heart.



Listen for God's voice and accept God's love. A large part of prayer is being willing to listen which can be very scary because many of us do not deal well with quiet and waiting. We are used to immediate clear answers and with God, sometimes, those answers may be slow in coming or may come in ways that are hard to understand. God often uses the people or circumstances of our lives to speak to us but we must have the ears to hear and the eyes to see.

St. Augustine once said, "You have made us for yourself, Lord, and our hearts are restless until they rest in you." The "restless" of our lives can show us the areas of prayer that we need the most. Restlessness, if we will acknowledge it, can lead us deeper into prayer and closer in our relationship with God.



Hopefully we all realize that prayer is essential for our lives and therefore are willing to work on improving our prayer. We have many books available either at the parish office or at the adoration table, please feel free to take a book and read it and then bring it back when you are finished. Let us promise to pray for one another and for the parish and the diocese that we may be open to the power of the Holy Spirit especially during our upcoming Lenten Season.

Thank You: The Saints Peter and Paul Catholic School KUNA group would like to thank our parish for their generous contributions. With your help, our bake sale raised **\$1,063.00!** We would also like to thank those who made "goodies" for us to sell. Be watching the bulletin as they will also be selling T-shirts.



Bishop Medley's Anniversary: Bishop William Francis Medley will be celebrating his 8th Anniversary as fourth Bishop of the Diocese of Owensboro on Wednesday, February 10th. Please keep him in your prayers. If you would like to send him a card, send the card to Bishop William Francis Medley, John McRaith Center, 600 Locust Street, Owensboro, KY 42301.

Anointing of the Sick: Pope John Paul II designed February 11th as World Day of the Sick. Because of this, we will celebrate the Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick at all Masses the **weekend of February 24th and 25th**. The prayers, antiphons, and texts focus on the mercy and



forgiveness of God. So, pray with these prayers and scripture readings and ask God to bring you healing – both, mind and spirit. Consider inviting an elderly person to Mass with you on this weekend so they can receive this Sacrament of healing as well!

Religious Education Classes 2017-2018
PSR (Parish School of Religion) – Pre-School thru 5th Grade: Our Religious Education program continues this **Sunday, February 4th** beginning at 9:00 a.m. in the School Building.

February Schedule :

February 4 – Class	February 11 – Class
February 18 – No Class	February 25 – Class

First Communion Parents: If you have a child who will receive their First Holy Communion this April, please remember the special parents meeting that will be **Sunday, February 4th at 11:30 a.m. (immediately after the 10:30 a.m. Mass) in the church.** At least one parent from each family is expected to be present. **No make-up meeting will be offered.**



Youth Ministry

Our Middle School and High School Youth program continues this week with classes on Wednesday, February 7th. Remember we begin with Mass at 5:30 p.m., continue with dinner and class. Our program concludes at 8:00 p.m.

February Schedule:

February 7 – Class

February 14 – **No Class**

February 21 – Class

February 28 - Class

Inclement Weather

Please be advised when the **Hopkinsville/Christian County School System** is closed on a **Wednesday** due to inclement weather, Middle and High School Youth Programs are cancelled at Saints Peter and Paul.



Youth 2000: YOUTH 2000 is responding to the call of Pope John Paul II who continually called upon the youth of the Church to be instruments and leaders of a new effort to bring the Gospel to the world. Pope Francis continues this challenge, “Jesus speaks in silence in the mystery of the Eucharist and each time reminds us that following him means to come out of ourselves and not make our life our possession, but a gift to him and to others.” Youth 2000 continues to respond to these challenges through Eucharistic centered retreats. This is the 21st anniversary of Youth 2000 in the Diocese of Owensboro. If you are a high school youth, you are invited to join us for this YOUTH 2000 Retreat scheduled for March 9th-11th on the Brescia University Campus Center. This retreat is being sponsored by the Diocesan Offices of Youth Ministry and Faith Formation and the Diocesan Marian Shrine Committee. Youth should register through a Parish, School or other Group. For registration forms, see Libby this Wednesday at youth. The deadline to submit your registration for the parish is Wednesday, February 21st. The cost is \$60.00 per participant and chaperone plus hotel expenses. If you would like to help sponsor a young person, please see Libby. We will need adult chaperones for this event as well.

Cold & Flu Season is here. If you are “coming down” with a runny nose, cough, sore throat, or just do not feel well in general please be considerate of others. We would like to ask that you please refrain from shaking/holding hands at the “sign of peace,” and choose not to receive the Precious Blood from the cup at Communion time.



Spring Women’s Retreat: Martha and Mary:

“Essential Questions: What Martha and Mary Can Teach Us” is the theme of a **March 16-18** spring women’s retreat at Mount Saint Joseph Conference and Retreat Center

(located 12 miles west of Owensboro on Hwy. 56). Most discussions of these two Gospel women focus on the frazzled worker Martha compared to her quiet, prayerful sister Mary. We will consider these stories from a different approach. During presentations that peel back the layers of the Gospel stories, quiet reflection, group sharing and celebration of the sacraments of Reconciliation and Eucharist, retreatants will explore the links between Mary and Martha and their own lives.

The retreat leader is Ursuline Sister Cheryl Clemons, Vice President for Academic Affairs/Academic Dean for Brescia University. The \$180 fee includes meals and accommodations. Commuters can attend for \$130. Take 10 percent off if paid in full by February 16. To register, contact Kathy McCarty, 270-229-0206 or e-mail kathy.mccarty@maplemount.org. A brochure can be found at ursulinesmsj.org.

Next Saturday:

When: February 10, 2018

Time: 6:00-10:00 PM

Place: Meredith Hall

Sponsored by the Saints Peter and Paul PTO

Proceeds will benefit our Saints Peter and Paul School.

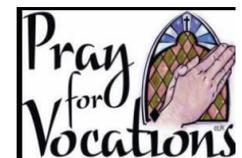


Please join us for a night of festive fun and food as we stroll down Bourbon Street for the Mardi Gras! A live auction and reverse raffle will be held and a chance to win \$2,500.00!

Tickets for the raffle are \$50.00 each and include a Cajun dinner and chance to win \$2,500.00. These tickets are on sale this weekend after Masses or in the School or Parish Offices.

All this I do for the sake of the gospel, so that I too may have a share in it.

In the 2nd reading today, St. Paul talks of his mission to preach the Gospel and bring others to Christ. All Catholics are called to this same mission. Some are called to this mission in a particular way - as Catholic Priests or as religious brothers or sisters. To learn more about discerning a vocation to priesthood, please contact the Diocese of Owensboro Office of Vocations; Phone 270.683.1545; Email jason.mcclure@pastoral.org; Website owensborovocations.com



Petition: Let us pray that all Catholics will recognize that they are entrusted with the commission to pray for vocations and so beg the Holy Spirit to guide the deep searching of all who are discerning their vocation in Christ ... *We to the Lord.*