



As disciples of Jesus Christ, we strive to grow in relationship with Him,  
live the Faith, and share His Good News with others.

***Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time***  
***Gen. 18:20-32; Col 2:12-14; Lk 11:1-13.***

Today's Gospel begins with Jesus praying in a certain place, and when He finishes, one of His disciples asks Him, "Lord, teach us to pray, just as John taught his disciples." In response, Jesus provides what has come to be known as the Lord's Prayer. This prayer is not merely a set of words to be recited but a pattern for our own prayers. It begins with an acknowledgment of God's holiness and His rightful place in our lives: "Father, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come." This sets the tone, reminding us to approach God with reverence and to align our desires with His divine will.

Following this, the prayer addresses our daily needs: "Give us each day our daily bread." This teaches us to rely on God for our provisions, acknowledging His sovereignty over even the mundane aspects of our lives. It speaks to a posture of dependence, trusting that God will supply what we truly need.

The prayer then moves to the crucial aspect of forgiveness: "And forgive us our sins, for we ourselves forgive everyone indebted to us." This is a powerful reminder that our forgiveness from God is intertwined with our willingness to forgive others. It challenges us to cultivate a heart of grace and reconciliation, reflecting God's own character.

Finally, the prayer concludes with a plea for guidance and protection: "And lead us not into temptation." This acknowledges our vulnerability and our need for God's divine guidance to navigate the challenges and spiritual battles of life.

Jesus further emphasizes the importance of persistent and confident prayer through two parables. The first parable, concerning the persistent friend,

illustrates that even an unwilling friend will eventually respond to persistent knocking due to sheer importunity. The application to prayer is clear: if human persistence can yield results, how much more will a loving God respond to the earnest prayers of His children? This parable is to highlight the need of unwavering faith and perseverance in prayer.

The second parable amplifies this message with even greater force: "Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you, for everyone who asks receives, and the one

who seeks finds, and to the one who knocks it will be opened." This is a direct and powerful promise from Jesus, assuring us of God's readiness to answer our prayers.

He then uses the analogy of a human father: "What father among you, if his son asks for a fish, will instead of a fish give him a serpent; or if he asks for an egg, will give him a scorpion? If you then, who are evil, know how to give

good gifts to your children, how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!" This comparison underscores God's benevolent and loving nature.

Jesus teaches us that prayer is not a burdensome duty but a privileged conversation with a loving Father. It is an act of dependence, a practice of humility, and an exercise in faith. We are encouraged to pray persistently and confidently, knowing that our heavenly Father delights in giving good gifts, especially the gift of the Holy Spirit, to those who ask Him.

Yours in Christ,

*Fr. Thomas Theneth, CMI*



Have you received a text message, phone call, email or message through Facebook messenger from someone claiming to be Fr. Thomas or any other religious and asking for money or gift cards, indicating it's an emergency or a gift? Don't give. It's a scam.

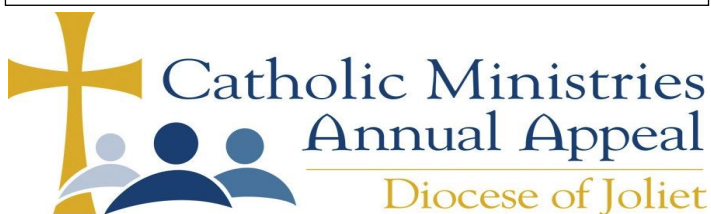
First, our pastor will never contact a parishioner directly with an emergency request for cash or gift cards. Messages asking parishioners to help fulfill a need would come through the parish's or the diocese's official communication channels or be accomplished through a collection approved by the diocese.

If you're not sure about a text or email you've received, do not engage or respond and call the parish office at 708 258-6917. In addition, please note that neither your parish nor the diocese will ever sell or give away parishioners' personal information.

**COLLECTION SUMMARY: July 19—20, 2025:**

Sunday Offertory*	\$3,280.00
Budgeted	\$3,205.53
Plus	\$ 74.47
Envelopes used / distributed	81 / 531
<i>*Includes 8 Online Givers</i>	
Providing for Our Future	\$ 631.00

Secure and convenient **ONLINE GIVING** is available at **GiveCentral.org**. Please put in zip code **60468** to find the St. Paul portal. A credit card or bank account can be linked.



**CMAA Pledge Report for  
St. Paul the Apostle Parish**

Monthly pledge payments for CMAA pledges should be made in the next few days. Since we have reached our goal in paid pledges, 70% of the amount over goal will be returned to our parish for our needs. As of 7/20/25:

<b>PARISH GOAL:</b>	\$15,600
<b>AMOUNT PLEDGED:</b>	\$39,417
<b>AMOUNT PAID:</b>	\$33,592
<b>REMAINING BALANCE:</b>	\$ 5,825
<b>NUMBER of DONORS:</b>	121
<b>2025 REBATE:</b>	\$12,594

Michael Doyle, Mary Ellen Hanlon, Judy Strubin, Ashley Doody, Luke Payne, Dave Castaneda, Greg Nalepka, Norman Andrews, Fr. Marty Gable, Fr. Richard Prodehl, Kathleen Callahan, Deacon Mark Otten, Jeff Furtek, Charles Claxton, Tina Butler, Mary Jane Szewka, Elaine Doyle, Karen Haave, Joyce Svatos, Dorothy Simikowski, Deacon Milt Leppert, Joe Ladislav, Scott Rosenberg, Arline Clark, Mary Jo Fry, Gerald Adcock, Laura Valenti, Samantha Digiaco, Julie Szudarski, Owen Ruhbeck, Sharon Andrews, Sue Gomez, CJ Ogalla-Arebalo, Aris Tomac, Bob Johnson, Pete Henrisey, Claudia Merrifield, Harry & Pam Carpenter, Ray Romito, Francesca Librera Biondo, Mike Wilczynski, Fran Rewers, Geri Mokry, Pastor Richard Young, Jeanne Vinezeano, Frances Librera, the Adamsick Family, Cassidy Novak, Laverne Sigrist, Charlie Kooy, Rita Hall, Rose Bailey, Julie Hayes, Emily Klamkin, Lorianne Mihelic, the Robert Polacek family, Rich Harms, TJ Stefanski, Linda Galica and those that go unnamed.

*Please note that only names given with permission of the person or family member will be added to the list.*



Thanks to everyone who supported the CCW "**Catholic Charities Back to School Fair**" — \$504 was collected.

*Thank you for your continued support!*

The Holy Father has chosen the theme of the 5th World Day of Grandparents and the Elderly, to be held this year on Sunday, July 27: "**Blessed are those who have not lost hope**" (cf. Sir 14:2).

These words, taken from the Book of Sirach, express the blessedness of the elderly and indicate hope placed in the Lord as the way to a Christian and reconciled old age.

In the Jubilee year, the Day, established by Pope Francis in 2021, is intended to be an opportunity to reflect on how the presence of grandparents and the elderly can become a sign of hope in every family and church community.



*Our deepest sympathy is extended to the family and friends of*  
**MR. DAVID E. NEYBERT, 53, who passed away July 21, 2025.**  
*He was the son of Donald (Jeanette O'Grady) Neybert.*  
**+ May he rest in peace. +**



# Mass Intentions For The Week

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Sat	7/26	3:00 pm—	<b><u>CONFESSION</u></b>
		4:00 pm—	+ <b><u>Mike Koomar</u></b> req by Family & Friends
Sun	7/27	11:00 am—	<b><u>Grandparents and the Elderly</u></b> and <b><u>People of the Parish</u></b>
Mon	7/28	8:30 am—	<b><u>COMMUNION SERVICE</u></b>
Tue	7/29	8:30 am—	+ <b><u>Father Richard D. Sullivan</u></b>
Wed	7/30	8:30 am—	+ <b><u>Father Michael Ginter—</u></b> <b><u>19th Anniversary</u></b>
Thr	7/31	8:30 am—	<b><u>COMMUNION SERVICE</u></b>
		6:00 pm—	<b><u>ADORATION</u></b>
		7:30 pm—	<b><u>CONFESSION</u></b>
Fri	8/1	8:30 am—	+ <b><u>David M. Urbanek</u></b> req by the Parish Family
Sat	8/2	3:00 pm—	<b><u>CONFESSION</u></b>
		4:00 pm—	<b><u>In Thanksgiving</u></b> req by Parishioner and <b><u>People of the Parish</u></b>
Sun	8/3	11:00 am—	+ <b><u>Hubert G. Bishop</u></b> req by Bob & Helen Lewis

*If you are attending a Mass that you requested an intention to be said for, please sign the gift bearer book in the rear of the church and let an usher know you are here if you wish to bring up the gifts.*

Are you a Catholic man 18 or older? Do you want to volunteer for your church and community? Are you ready to put your Faith into Action? Come learn about the Knights of Columbus! You can obtain information by contacting Membership Coordinator Dan Mott at 708 277-7086 or [mottd@rushenterprises.com](mailto:mottd@rushenterprises.com); contacting Grand Knight Patrick Frencl, visiting with any current member of the Knights or visiting our website at [www.kofc.org](http://www.kofc.org).



There will be a **SPECIAL BLESSING** for all students and school personnel starting a new academic year at each Mass the weekend of August 16—17.

Information on the 2025—2026 **Religious Education / Faith Formation** year will be sent to families via email, using email addresses on file soon. If you don't receive anything, please contact Deacon Jim at 708 258-9580.



The **O.C.I.A. (Order of Christian Initiation of Adults) PROGRAM** is the ordinary way by which adults who were not raised in the Catholic faith become fully initiated—through the Sacraments of Initiation—into the one, holy, Catholic, and apostolic Church. Perhaps someone who was baptized Catholic but never received any other sacraments or instruction, maybe someone was baptized into a different faith—or for that matter, was never baptized at all—and is now curious about the Catholic church. Or maybe a fully initiated Catholic simply wants to learn more about the Catholic faith. The O.C.I.A. program is open to all these people!

Please contact the Religious Education Office at [StPaulRe@att.net](mailto:StPaulRe@att.net), call the office at 708 258-9580 or speak with Deacon Jim if you are interested in learning more *or if you have children in need of sacraments.*

*Classes are scheduled to begin in September.*

