
23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

SEPTEMBER 10, 2023



THIS WEEKEND'S READINGS

First: Ezekiel 33:7-9

Second: Romans 13:8-10

Gospel: Matthew 18:15-20

FOCUS: *Jesus is present when we gather together and love one another.*

The liturgical gathering makes Christ present in numerous ways, such as through the proclamation of the Word of God and in the Eucharist. Perhaps the most overlooked reality of Christ's presence comes through the physical gathering of God's people, who are instructed to owe nothing to anyone except love. This love between us makes God's presence visible on earth.

LITURGY OF THE WORD:

Ezekiel, in today's first reading, is appointed watchman to guide his people in the ways of the Lord. In the second reading, Paul describes to the Roman Church how love fulfills the entire law and satisfies every commandment. The Gospel includes Jesus' instructions for navigating conflict and correcting those who sin. He concludes by saying that he is present when people gather in his name for prayer.



MASS INTENTIONS

5 p.m.: Thomas McHale, Anne McCarthy
and Maryanne Reynolds

10 a.m.: Maryanne Reynolds, Marie Carotenuto
and Walter Welch

PARISH COUNCIL NOMINATIONS

Along with being 18, Catholic and a registered parishioner, what you really need in order to serve as a **Parish Council** member is just a couple of hours a month to spare – and a voice.

At the monthly Monday evening meetings, ministry reports are given and there are discussions about what's going on, what's needed and what can be improved. The Parish Council serves as an advisory committee to Fr. Sean, offering fresh ideas and perspectives.

Now is the time to be thinking about who you'd like to nominate for the three seats that need to be filled in January of 2024. A term is three years with the option to run for a second three-year term.

Nomination forms are in the church vestibules and need to be returned to the office no later than **Monday, October 2.**

DISCOVERING CHRIST UPDATE

Discovering Christ, the first in the ChristLife series, begins **this Sunday, September 10**, for all those who have registered.

Registration is now closed and walk-ins cannot be accommodated. However, Discovering Christ will be offered at Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church in the spring.

Please note that the **start time has been changed** from that listed on the September calendar. The evening will begin with a meal served at **5 p.m.**

STEWARDSHIP REFLECTION

We extend our sincere thanks to the approximately 160 donors who are giving electronically. You may not notice them dropping an envelope in the collection box every week, but their consistent giving does not go unnoticed.

Each month, our parish receives a steady and predictable stream of income from those donors who have made the commitment to give to God first by having a designated contribution automatically transferred to our parish through our WeShare Online Giving Program

If you would like to learn more about this easy, safe and secure way of giving, please go to our website, www.stpaulsbullville.org, and click on the "online giving" link.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Regular Sunday Collection

August 27- September 3: \$ 6,282.84

Envelopes: \$ 3,383.00 – Online: 2,899.84

THANK YOU!

MASS ATTENDANCE

5 p.m.: 70

10 a.m.: 141

REL. ED. COORDINATOR NEEDED

We are urgently seeking a part-time Coordinator of Religious Education.

For more information, please visit Catholicjobs.com or call 845-361-5816 to arrange to speak with Jessica Carpino, the present coordinator.

BATHROOM SAFETY REMINDER

Although we have a safety team that is on the alert for intruders, parents also share in the responsibility to keep their children safe while in a public building.

Therefore, as mandated by the Safe Environment Program, **a parent or guardian must accompany a youngster to the restroom.**

THE BOOK CLUB IS BACK

James Finley, who frequently contributes to Fr. Richard Rohr's daily blog, is the author of "The Healing Path: A Memoir and an Invitation," the Book Club's next selection.

The book is largely written in the form of a memoir of his own spiritual journey and is a contemplative reflection on the spirituality of healing. While it draws on the lessons Finley learned from Thomas Merton, it is also an invitation to the reader to reflect on lessons that apply to their stories.

The first ZOOM meeting will take place at 10 a.m. next **Thursday, September 14**, and weekly thereafter. The book is available through Amazon and other booksellers.

New members, who are always welcome, should contact the office or email Deacon Carl directly at carlloc@yahoo.com

FOOD PANTRY COULD USE A HAND

Many of our pantry staples are low at this time. Know that your donations of **unexpired** and non-perishable foods are always greatly appreciated.

Monetary contributions are also welcome and can be made via check or through WeShare. Thank you.

SCAM ALERT

Sadly, the scammers keep trying.

Remember: "Fr. Sean" will **NEVER** text, email or call you with an urgent request for gift cards.

According to the Federal Trade Commission, **WHENEVER SOMEONE DEMANDS TO BE PAID WITH A GIFT CARD, THAT'S A SCAM.** Gift cards are for gifts, not for payments. But the scammers are skilled, convincing and conniving – and have sophisticated technological tools at their disposal.

Report gift cards used in a scam to the company that issued them, and a report should also be filed with the FTC at ReportFraud.ftc.gov. If money was lost in a scam, it should also be reported to the police.



WHERE ART AND FAITH WILL MEET

WHO: Brother Mickey McGrath

WHAT: A conference titled: "St. Titus Brandsma and His Fellow Carmelite Saints"

WHEN: 9:30 a.m.-3 p.m. Thursday, October 12
Deadline to register October 1

WHERE: The National Shrine of Our Lady of Mount Carmel, Middletown

COST: \$45, which includes morning coffee and cake, plus lunch

FOR MORE INFORMATION: Carol Bezak, Shrine director, 845-343-1879, Ext. 22

"We pray best before beauty."

- St. Francis de Sales

As reflected in the quote above from the patron saint of his religious community, artist and story-teller Brother Mickey McGrath firmly believes that beauty will heal and save this broken world.

Along with pursuing art, showing at many solo exhibitions and publishing 20 award-winning books, Brother Mickey has spent the last almost 30 years traveling to conferences and retreats throughout the United States and Canada sharing his faith and philosophy that are centered on that belief. And now he's coming to Middletown.

The Philadelphia native holds an MFA in painting and taught art on the college level. He has also taught and worked at the Grunewald Guild, an interfaith art community devoted to the intersections of art and religious faith in the Cascade Mountains of Washington.

Pope Francis has said that artists are apostles of beauty, and Brother Mickey takes that role seriously. "Art, one of the great gifts of the Holy Spirit, brings us joy and hope in these very broken and disturbing times in history," he says.

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