

July 2017

Spirit

Your Parish Pastoral Council (PPC) continues to work alongside Father David and is adding many reasons to become more involved at Saint Paul the Apostle. Along with our parish organizations, the PPC continues to build and inspire community spirit

Saint Paul the Apostle
Parish Pastoral Council

UPDATE

July Devotion: The Precious Blood of Jesus
Holiday: Independence Day, July 4
Pope's Intention: Lapsed Christians

That our brothers and sisters who have strayed from the faith, through our prayer and witness to the Gospel, may rediscover the merciful closeness of the Lord and the beauty of the Christian life.



In June our high school youth headed down to McAllen, TX to serve the greater community. Our faithful teens served with selflessness as they do every year. We're so happy to be a part of SHINE Catholic Work Camp every year.

Independence & Freedom Two words often associated with the month of July

But these words are often misunderstood, especially when looked at through the lens of faith. Let's start with **freedom**. According to the Catechism of the Catholic Church,

“Freedom is the power, rooted in reason and will, to act or not to act...and so to perform deliberate actions on one's own responsibility. By free will, one shapes one's own life. Human freedom is a force for growth and maturity in truth and goodness; it attains its perfection when directed toward God... (CCC 1731)

With freedom comes the responsibility for one's actions. This freedom can only reach perfection when it is directed toward God. And freedom can only be exercised in our relationships with others. It is our right and it is also our duty to respect the freedom of others, especially in moral and religious matters (CCC 1738).

The very first Amendment to the Constitution, listed in the *Bill of Rights*, in part states:

“Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof.”

This is a two-edged sword, for it not only protects us in our ability to worship God in the manner He desires, it requires us to show respect to those who do not.

Independence is different than freedom. Freedom refers to our ability to make choices in our interactions with others and independence refers to our ability to live as a human being without interaction. Independence, then, is a lie. We cannot live totally separated from one another, and most certainly cannot live without a dependence upon God. In Genesis, God said, “It is not good for man to be alone.” And in the Gospel of John, Jesus warns, “Just as a branch cannot bear fruit on its own unless it remains on the vine, so neither can you unless you remain in me. ... (w)ithout me you can do nothing.” Our lives then depend on one another—and God. When we try to live without either one, we harm ourselves and the Body of Christ.

Sadly, many have abandoned their faith as a result of their pursuit of freedom and independence. And so, let us pray that our brothers and sisters who have strayed from the faith, through our prayer and witness to the Gospel, may rediscover the merciful closeness of the Lord and the beauty of the Christian life.

—Deacon Bob Bonomi

The seed that falls on good ground will yield a fruitful harvest. —LK 8:8

Our prayer for JULY

St. James said, *Whoever brings back a sinner from the error of his way will save his soul from death and will cover a multitude of sins.* —**JAMES 5:19-20**

Pope Francis asks us to pray for those who, for whatever reason, have chosen to abandon their faith in God, or who have chosen to live their lives away from God. Since we have all experienced the separation of family and friends from the faith, let us pray for those who have left the faith even as we respect the freedom of their choice:

*A*lmighty Father, You desire not the death of the sinner, but that he may be converted and live. Pour out upon us Your mercy and hear the prayers of Your servants. Soften the hearts of Your children who have strayed from the true path which You established for their salvation. They are now forgetful of their duties as Catholics, and pursue the pleasures of the world. Grant that they may quickly return to the practice of every Christian virtue, so that their lives may shine with the integrity of faith, the fervor of piety, and the ardor of charity. Restore them all to Your sacraments and the life of Your grace, through the merits of the most precious blood of Your Son, our Savior Jesus Christ.

Amen.

Summertime NEWS @ Saint Paul

Seminarians among us

At the invitation of Father Szatkowski, a handful of seminarians will be on campus this summer.

Nicholas Shelton will be here in July and August and then again for his Christmas break. He is currently studying Spanish for two months in Guatemala. He is entering his third year of seminary formation at Holy Trinity Seminary in Irving and is studying for the Diocese of Dallas. Father Szatkowski served as his formation advisor during his freshman year in seminary. Nicholas comes from St. Ann in Coppell.



Nicholas Shelton

There will likely be other seminarians that pop in from time-to-time, but Nicholas will be the only one here regularly for the coming year or so.

Prayer for Vocations

Father you call each one of us by name and ask us to follow you.

Bless your church by raising up dedicated and generous leaders from our families and friends who will serve your people as

Sisters,
Priests,
Brothers,
Deacons,
and Lay Ministers.

Inspire us as we grow to know you, and open our hearts to hear your call.

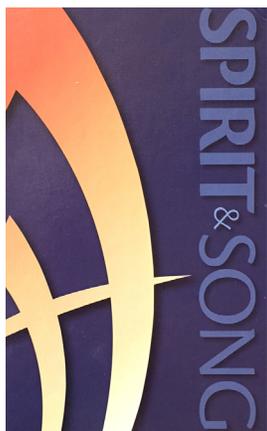
We ask this in Jesus name. Amen.

The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) is an assembly of the hierarchy of the United States and the U.S. Virgin Islands who jointly exercise certain pastoral functions on behalf of the Christian faithful of the United States.

New in the pews **Spirit&Song books**

Thank the Women's Guild for one of its annual gifts to our community this year: 300 hardback copies of the OCP Assembly Edition of *Spirit&Song*.

Remember the words of St. Augustine: *He who sings, prays twice.*



We welcome input from our readers. Send your comments and suggestions to: yourvoice@saintpaulchurch.org

Q: I need an ark to save two of every animal!
A: I Noah guy.

A woman went to the post office to mail the old family Bible to her brother.

Postal worker: Is there anything breakable in this package?

Woman: Only the Ten Commandments!



Spirit is produced by **Communication Ministry** members:

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