

A STUDY INTO PAUL'S LETTERS — AN INVITATION

by Tim McCormick

This year, Pope Leo is devoting his weekly Public Audiences in Rome to examining the various documents of the Second Vatican Council. He has spent the first few weeks of 2026 looking at Dogmatic Constitution on Divine Revelation, also known as Dei Verbum. Yesterday, he made this insightful comment regarding the importance of Scripture reading:

"The Conciliar Constitution Dei Verbum, on which we are reflecting during these weeks, indicates in the Sacred Scripture, read in the living Tradition of the Church, a privileged space for encounter where God continues to speak to the men and women of every time, so that, by listening, they can know him and love him."

Indeed, Scripture is a privileged space where we can encounter Jesus daily. And as we find ourselves in this period of discernment regarding the restructuring of our local church in Detroit, it is a great time to get back to those sources that help us see what the role of the Church is for us, both locally and universally. Not surprisingly, the Scriptures, and in particular Paul, have quite a bit to say about the matter. This Lent, you are invited to join us as we look at three of Paul's letters: Ephesians, Colossians, and Philemon. Over our six meetings, we will see how Paul writes these



letters from prison, as "an ambassador in chains" for preaching the gospel, demonstrating how struggle and resistance can unite believers and enhance their witness to Christ.

The cost of the study is \$10, in order to cover the materials. Please contact the Guardian Angels Parish Office at (248) 588-1222 to RSVP. We will be meeting in the Solanus Casey Room at Guardian Angels beginning on Monday February 23 at 7PM.

If you have any specific questions about the course, feel free to contact me via email at mccormick@bishopfoley.org.

SAVE THE DATE!

Scripture Study
PAUL'S LETTERS

February 23, 2026
6-MEETING SERIES

Guardian Angels Parish
7 PM | \$10

"PUT ON THE MIND OF CHRIST" — A LENTEN DISCUSSION

by Ken Pullis

Grace is God's free gift to us. It is through this gift of grace that we draw closer to God. We are able to develop a personal relationship with Him through prayer and the sacraments. The sacraments are **"efficacious and visible signs of God's grace, instituted by Christ and entrusted to the Church by which divine life is dispensed to us."**

The Eucharist is the "source and summit of the Christian life" because in this sacrament we receive Jesus Christ, truly present Body, Blood, Soul, and Divinity. This is the closest we can be to God in this world. Jesus gives us His Body and Blood in the Eucharist as spiritual nourishment for our souls. Just as we regularly nourish our bodies with good food and drink, so we should attend Mass regularly on Sunday to nourish our souls with God's Word and the heavenly bread of the Eucharist.

One of the hardest things to do for us as humans is to forgive someone who has wronged us. When we are hurt by someone, it is a natural instinct for us to lash out at that person or seek revenge. **It is only with the eyes of faith that we can see Christ in every person, especially in the person who has caused us harm.** Forgiveness is a gift that God gives us in the sacrament of Reconciliation. When we go to Confession, we humble ourselves by admitting our sins and repenting of them with a sincere heart filled with a firm proposal to avoid those sins in the future. God wipes away our sins, restoring us to a right relationship with Him. *What an amazing gift God's forgiveness is!* Not only does Jesus suffer and die in our place to save us from sin, but He also offers us this sacrament to wipe away our sins as often as we need it.

Together, these two sacraments of the Eucharist and Reconciliation are like food and medicine for our souls. In less than two weeks, we will begin the holy season of Lent. This is a time for each of us to examine our lives, to see how healthy our relationship with Jesus is. We are invited during Lent to turn away from sin and to turn towards Christ. "Repent and believe in the Gospel."

May we use this time of conversion to leave behind our old ways of thinking and "put on the mind of Christ" as St. Paul tells us, nourishing our souls with the "Bread of Life" which is the Eucharist, and entrusting our wounded hearts to the Heavenly Father who is "rich in mercy" in the sacrament of Reconciliation.

THE BEATITUDES: PART VI

Reflection by Steve Petty

The human heart longs for peace. We are forever in search of that peace that is fundamental to our very being. The key to finding this peace can only be found through our relationship with God. St. Augustine said it best in his spiritual autobiography, The Confessions, when he wrote, "You made us for yourself O Lord, and our hearts are restless until they rest in you." Simply put, **we are made for God.** This is why we feel unrest in our souls when we don't nurture our relationship with God or we do ungodly things. God calls us to be like he is; to be holy as he is holy (1 Peter 1:16). Our first step down this path is to foster the spiritual dispositions that Jesus teaches us in the Beatitudes. All the Beatitudes are important, especially, mercy.

"Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy." Matthew 5:7

To be "merciful" is not just an action, but a quality of character. A merciful disciple is one who forgives; he/she is also one who is mild, kind, sympathetic and compassionate with others. Jesus tells us that if this is how we treat others, we will be treated this way by God. It would be good to recall the final judgement in Matthew 25:40: "Truly I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brethren, you did it to me." When we are merciful to others, we are merciful to God himself. God, in-turn, sees our merciful actions and returns our generosity superabundantly. The following quote from the late Pope Francis expresses this very well:

"Giving and forgiving means reproducing in our lives some small measure of God's perfection, which gives and forgives superabundantly. For this reason, in the Gospel of Luke we do not hear the words, "Be perfect" (Mt 5:48), but rather, "Be merciful, even as your Father is merciful. Judge not, and you will not be judged; condemn not, and you will not be condemned; forgive, and you will be forgiven; give, and it will be given to you" (6:36-38). Luke then adds something not to be overlooked: "The measure you give will be the measure you get back: (6:38). The yardstick we use for understanding and forgiving others will measure the forgiveness we receive. We should never forget this."

In just a few short weeks we will be celebrating Ash Wednesday. As we approach the Season of Lent, let me make a suggestion. In addition to the normal ascetical disciplines that you practice during Lent (giving up chocolate, pop, chips, time on the computer, or whatever), I would suggest intentionally trying to become more merciful. God is merciful, and he calls his disciples to be the same. The more merciful we are, the more peace we will experience in our souls.