

Fifth Sunday of Easter

Acts 9:26-31; Psalm 22; 1 John 3:18-24; John 15:1-8

The word "Christian" generally brings warmth and good feeling to members of our Church. There are memories of first Communion and confirmation, there is commitment in adulthood to the sharing of the faith that was so generously given to us. Today's readings reflect the obligations inherent in the reception of baptism. Christianity demands productivity.

The passage from Acts shows how the Jerusalem community found it difficult to imagine that Saul had actually become a Christian. Saul's vision of the risen Lord led to his fearless proclamation of the Christian message in Damascus. The persecutor became a productive believer.

In the second reading the author of First John accentuates the positive. He points out that love must show itself in action. The community will receive from God whatever they ask because they are keeping God's commandments and doing what is pleasing in God's sight. The Christian is motivated by two realities: Jesus' divine sonship and the family relationship of all believers because of that sonship.

As the real vine, Jesus brings true life from God. The failure to bear fruit is the failure to share in divine life. Sharing in the vine is a commitment to give to others. The Christian's response is to live in Jesus and hence to be productive. To not live in Christ is to be a withered branch.

The Christian life is practical. In loving ourselves, our neighbors, and our God, we profess that God is love. In reaching out to the oppressed, we announce that God is the champion of the poor. In promoting honesty in government, we proclaim that God is the God of justice. In comforting the sorrowful, we state that God is the source of all consolation.

Each of these actions springs from baptism. Only those willing to live out the implications of baptism truly merit the title of Christian.

-- John Craghan, Th.D., S.S.L.

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QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION

What motivated Paul to speak out boldly? Think of examples of people who speak out in order to bring about changes in social justice. Name some ways you can "speak out" using your voice or not.

What would your world look like if every day you performed a kind deed for some unsuspecting person? Who would benefit from these acts?

You (the branches) remain in Jesus (the vine), whose life runs through you. How does his life running through you relate to your asking God for whatever you want and it being done for you? How could you use this Gospel to explain Paul's actions in the first reading?

NEXT SUNDAY SCRIPTURES: Sixth Sunday of Easter: Acts 10:25-26,34-35, 44-48; Ps 98; 1John 4:7-10; John 15: 9-17



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ST. PAUL'S CATHOLIC CHURCH

2020 State Rte 146 E, Vienna, IL – 62995

Sun - 10:00 a.m.

Weekdays – Wed 6:30 pm & Fri 12 pm

Parish Council Chair: Steve Pobst

Trustees: Matthew Slife, Jared Bergmann

ST. FRANCIS DE SALES CHURCH

Mulberry Street, Stonefort, IL – 62987

Sunday - 8:00 a.m.

& First Saturday – 8:30 am

Parish Council Chair: Mary Treat

Trustees: Myron Cole, Stan Treat

Be Fruitful and Multiply The first command God gave to human beings was “be fruitful and multiply” ([Gen1:28](#)). In the [Gospel](#) Reading, there is a kind of reiteration of this command. At any rate, the text describes the bad things that happen to people who are not fruitful.

In Genesis, the fruitfulness has to do with reproduction. It comes from union between a man and a woman, and it multiplies God's image in the production of children.

Love unites you and your beloved without either one of you losing your identity. The fruitfulness at issue in the Gospel comes from connection too, but connection with Christ. It comes when Christ is in you, and you are in him.

This reciprocal being-in is a funny state of affairs, isn't it? You can put a bowl in a box, or you can put a box in a bowl. But the box can't be in the bowl when the bowl is in the box!

Boxes and bowls can't manage reciprocal being-in. But persons can, because of love. Love unites you and your beloved without either one of you losing your identity. The union of love is not a fusing; it is a mutual indwelling.

In the Gospel Reading, Christ says that he always remains in his own. So if you yield to Christ in love, you have what is needed for the mutual indwelling of love. You are your beloved's, and he is yours. ([Song of Songs 6:3](#)) There is joy in this love, because Christ is so much with you that he is in you. There is peace, too, because there is rest for the heart in having your beloved with you.

Your sins and the storms of life retain their power to afflict you. But you can more easily put up with things, even your own troublesome self, if your beloved is yours and you are his.

In that mutual indwelling, then, there is love, joy, peace, patience and longsuffering. But these very things are fruits of the Holy Spirit. When they grow in you, you are bearing fruit.

Finally, consider: is there a more powerful witness than a life lived in love, joy, peace, patience and long-suffering? If you have the fruits of the Holy Spirit in you, you will multiply God's image in others too.

And so, by remaining in Christ, you are doing what will make you multiply and be fruitful.

Eleonore Stump

Vol 19 # 17 **Fifth Sunday of Easter, April 29, 2018**

CELEBRATION OF EUCHARIST

Sun	Apr 29	8:00 am	SFD	Vincent Seidler
		10:00 am	SP	Bill Kinkead
Tue	May 1	9am, 11 am	Shawnee, Vienna DOC	
Wed	May 2	6:30 pm	SP	Leola Barrett
Fri	May 4	12:00 pm	SP	General Intention
Sat	May 5	8:30 am	SFD	Reparation of Sin
Sun	May 6	8:00 am	SFD	For the Parish
		10:00 am	SP	Loretta Petges

Birthdays

Apr 29 John Zawacki
Melanie Hustedde
May 2 JoAnn Brown
May 4 Lonnie Hinton

<p>Sun, Apr 29, 10 am Server: L Slife, R Slife Lector: PSR Students Gifts: PSR Children Ushers D Zmuda, F Dueker M McMahan, L Hinton E. Minister D Hopkins V Anderson, A Dueker Greeter: PSR Students</p>	<p>Sun, May 6, 10 am Server: M Bergmann, A Webb Lector: Arlene Dueker Gifts: Ron & Marilyn Beanland Ushers: D Bishop, J Nelson G Tesina, P Widowski E. Minister P Widowski, P Kalicki, S Belske Greeter: Vickie Anderson</p>	<p>Sun, May 13, 10 am Server:C Bergmann, B Bertram Lector: Sarah Black Gifts:Sandy Belske, JoAnn Brown Ushers: J Bergmann, S Hupe, P Kalicki, M Palmer E. Minister L Stoerger B. Bishop, D. Bishop Greeter: Sandy Belske</p>
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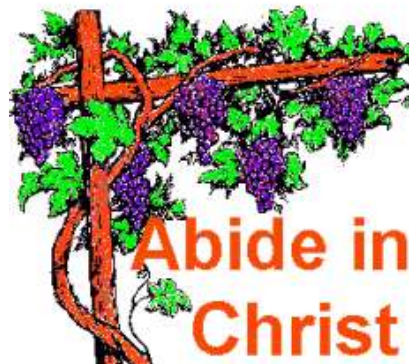
STEWARDSHIP OFFERING April 22

Envelope \$1065.00 (33), Loose 44.27, Bld & Mt 10.00

Total.....\$1119.27

THIS WEEK'S SCHEDULE

Sun	Apr 29	Catholic Home Mission Appeal
		St Francis DeSales Mass.....8:00 am
		St Paul Mass & PSR ministries.....10 am
		Closing PSR Picnic for the parish.....11 am
Tues	May 1	DOC Masses at Shawnee and Vienna....9am & 11am
Wed	May 2	Scripture Study at SP.....3:30-4:30pm
		Weekday Mass.....6:30 pm
Thr	May 3	National Day of Prayer at 1 st Methodist.....6:00 pm
Fri	May 4	Weekday Mass.....12:00 pm
Sat	May 5	First Saturday Mass and Devotion at SFD....8:30 am
		Faith Alive Board Mt./.....10:00 am
Sun	May 6	Time & Talent + Questionaire
		St Francis DeSales Mass.....8:00 am
		St Paul Mass10 am
		First Sunday Social at SP.....11 am



CATHOLIC HOME MISSION APPEAL will be taken up this Sunday, April 29th. Right now over 40 percent of dioceses in the United States are considered home mission territory because they are unable to fund the essential pastoral work needed in their communities. Your support of this appeal helps ease the struggle of these dioceses. Please prayerfully consider how you can support this appeal.

CLOSING PSR MASS AND PICNIC, for students and all parishioners will be held April 29, 11am. Our thanks to the students who serve as liturgical ministers during today's mass. And a grateful appreciation to catechists Amanda Widowski, Rhi Slife, Beth Palmer, Marsha Nelson, and subs Sarah Black and Elizabeth Moore who have worked with students this year. All are encouraged to join for the closing picnic at the hall following mass..

SURVEY FOR PARISH COMMUNITY OUTTINGS was included in last bulletin. You are encouraged to complete it and put survey in container in foyer.

LITURGICAL MINISTER SCHEDULE for the month of May is available in the foyer.

BIBLE SCRIPTURE STUDY – Six sessions with New Testament Acts is planned for the Wednesdays, 3:30-4:30pm with light refreshments; See sign-up sheet on bulletin board, or contact Arlene Dueker 559-7803.

BISHOP BRAXTON OPEN HOUSE The bishop will have an open house at his residence in Belleville on Sun, June 24 in the afternoon. If you would like an invitation, contact Fr Tom by May 6th.

WEDDING ANNIVERSARY RECOGNITION Bishop Braxton would like to invite couples celebrating 25, 30, 40, 50, 60 and over anniversaries to a diocesan mass. Please notify the office if you commemorate one of these anniversaries by May 6th..

SECRETARY/BOOKKEEPER POSITION will become available beginning July 2018 at St Paul with projected 16 hrs per week. Basic computer (word processing, spreadsheet and database) and bookkeeping skills required. Inquiries for job description, pay rate, and application should be directed to parish office. Invitation will be extended outside parish if there is no parishioner interest by end of April.

125TH ANNIVERSARY OF ST PAUL AS A PARISH will occur in 2020. There is interest in celebrating this event. If you would be willing to serve on a planning committee, please contact the office or parish council chairman, Steve Pobst.

THANK YOU.....To planning committee of the Ladies Luncheon for a social and cultural event.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Marian Conference May 4 (4-9:30pm) and May 5 (6am – 6 pm) at St Vincent Catholic Church, 1913 Ritter Dr, Cape Girardeau Mo. Registration & schedule svcape.com/Mary or call 573-837-5106

Euchaistic Adoration at St Paul, Thursday, May 10, 4 – 7:30 pm

Faith Alive Volunteers from St Paul operate store May 10-12, 9am-3 pm (see sign up list)

Baby Bottle Campaign for Hope Unlimited, begins May 13 and ends June 17th.