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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

Trustees: Myron Cole, Stan Treat

**Righteousness** In the First Reading, God promised Abraham that his descendants would be innumerable, and Abraham trusted him and believed the promise. God counted that trust as an act of righteousness on Abraham's part.

Then God promised to give Abraham the land around him. In response, Abraham asked, "How am I to know that I will possess it?"

Trust in God came hard to Abraham. No sooner had he managed it, and gotten credit with God for it, then he lost it again.

If you were actually willing to honor my question, then you might try to allay my skepticism in some way. But here is what God did. He had Abraham sacrifice some animals, and then he sent Abraham a terrifying darkness and a vision of fire over the sacrifice. While Abraham was having that vision, God reiterated his promise to Abraham and developed it: God promised to give Abraham the land and told Abraham that his descendants would live in it.

God's response to Abraham's doubt is like this. Even with the fireworks in the vision, it still requires Abraham to trust God in just the way he wasn't willing to do when he asked, "How do I know that you will give them to me?"

What is the point of God's response then? In fact, what is the point of God's making the promise of the land in the first place? If God wants Abraham to have this land, why doesn't God just give it to him now?

The answer to all the questions is implicit in the answer to that last question. God wasn't trying to be Abraham's real estate agent. He was trying to develop a relationship with Abraham. But that relationship required trust in God on Abraham's part.

And trust in God came hard to Abraham. No sooner had he managed it, and gotten credit with God for it, then he lost it again, as the story makes clear.

Notice, though, how precious Abraham's trust was to God when Abraham finally did manage it: God counted it for righteousness. When we lament our sins and long for righteousness, this is a good story to remember.

Eleonore Stump

Vol 20 # 11 **Second Sunday of Lent, March 17, 2019**

**CELEBRATION OF EUCHARIST**

Sun	Mar 17	8:00 am	SFD	Marietta Moore
		10:00 am	SP	Helen Kubian
Tue	Mar 19	9:00, 11 am		Shawnee , Vienna DOC
Wed	Mar 20	5:30 pm	SP	General Intention
Fri	Mar 22	12:00 pm	SP	General Intention
Sun	Mar 24	8:00 am	SFD	Marietta Moore
		10:00 am	SP	Clement Kubian

<b>Birthdays</b> Mar 17 Bill Anderson Mar 22 Zoie Schaefer
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**St Paul, Vienna**

<p><b>Sun, Mar 17, 10 am</b>  <b>Server:</b> Riley Slife  <b>Lector:</b> Joan Galey  <b>Gifts:</b> Children Liturgy  <b>Ushers*</b>S Pobst, D Zmuda Sr  M. Palmer, J. Nelson  <b>E. Minister</b> M Nelson  P Kalicki, B Bishop  <b>Greeter</b> Janet Hacker</p>	<p><b>Sun, Mar 24, 10 am</b>  <b>Server:</b> C Bergmann, L Slife  <b>Lector:</b> Steve Pobst  <b>Gifts:</b> Alan, Ann Stachowiak  <b>Usher:*</b>S Widowski, G Tesina  J Bergmann, Mt Slife  <b>E. Minister</b> C Kruep  V Anderson, Z Garrett  <b>Greeter</b> Katie Pobst</p>	<p><b>Sun, Mar 31, 10 am</b>  <b>Server:</b> M, C Bergmann  <b>Lector:</b> Rhi Slife  <b>Gifts:</b> Matt &amp; Rhi Slife  <b>Usher:*</b>P Widowski, S Pobst  R Beanland, L Hinton  <b>E. Minister</b> S Belske  A Dueker, D. Bishop  <b>Greeter</b> S &amp; P Widowski</p>
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**St Francis DeSales, Stonefort**

<p><b>Sun, Mar 17: 8:00 am</b>  <b>Server:</b> Christine Deaton  <b>Lector:</b> Mary Treat  <b>Gifts:</b> M Hustedde, D Parks  <b>Usher</b> Stan Treat  <b>E. Min:</b> Myron Cole</p>	<p><b>Sun, Mar 24: 8:00 am</b>  <b>Server:</b> Mary Treat  <b>Lector:</b> Cecilia Parks  <b>Gifts:</b> M Hustedde family  <b>Usher:</b> Fred Deaton  <b>E. Min:</b> Christine Deaton</p>
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**THIS WEEK'S SCHEDULE**

- Sun Mar 17 Stations of Cross.....20 minutes before Masses
  - St Francis DeSales Mass .....8:00 am
  - St Paul Mass & Children Liturgy of Word.....10:00 am
  - PSR Classes.....11:00 am
  - 125<sup>th</sup>/History Committee Mt in hall.....11:00 am
- Tues Mar19 Shawnee, Vienna DOC Mass.....9:00, 11:00 am
- Wed Mar20 Ministerial Alliance Mt.....12:00 pm
  - Weekday mass.....5:30 pm
  - Joined Parish Council Mt.....6:00 pm
- Thr-Sat Faith Alive Thrift Store operated by St Paul 9am-3pm
- Fri Mar 22 Weekday mass .....12:00 pm
  - St Paul Parish Fish Fry.....serving 5 – 7 pm
- Sat Mar 23 St Paul Parish Workday.....8am - ?
  - Sacrament of Reconciliation at SP.....4:30-5:00 pm
- Sun Mar 24 Stations of Cross.....20 minutes before Masses
  - St Francis DeSales Mass .....8:00 am
  - St Paul Mass & CRS Update.....10:00 am
  - PSR Classes.....11:00 am
  - 1<sup>st</sup> Reconciliation/1<sup>st</sup> Communion Family Mt....12 pm

**The appearance of his face changed, and his clothes became dazzling white.**



**STATIONS OF THE CROSS** will be prayed 20 minutes before Sunday mass during Lent. Leaders are needed and welcomed to sign up on the bulletin board schedule.

**125<sup>th</sup>/HISTORY COMMITTEE MT** will be held in the hall 11 am, following this Sunday's mass.

**JOINED PARISH COUNCIL MT** will be held in St Paul hall this Wednesday, March 20<sup>th</sup>. Council members are asked to pick up mt agenda at this weekend masses. Note the weekday mass is scheduled for 5:30 pm on Wednesday.

**LENTEN FOOD COLLECTION** is being taken up for DayStar in Cairo in Lent.

**FAITH ALIVE THRIFT STORE** will be staffed by St Paul Church, Thr-Fri, Mar 21-22, 9 am – 3 pm, and Sat, Mar 23, 9am-12 pm. Helpers to check out, sort and restock clothes are needed. See list on bulletin board.

**FISH FRY** The first of two SP parish fish fries will be March 22, 5-7 pm. A worker sign-up is posted on the bulletin board. The occasion is more than just a fundraiser. It provides an opportunity for many members of the parish to know and work together and provides an opportunity to welcome the wider community to experience our hospitality and ministry. Profits of the Fish Fry are committed to Blessings in A Back-pack, Vienna Baptist Food Pantry and Heather Treat Memorial Cancer Fund.

**PARISH WORKDAY** to trim trees, do odd repairs and Spring clean-up is scheduled for Sat, Mar 23, beginning 8 am. All help will be appreciated.

**SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION** will be offered on Saturdays of Lent 4:30-5 pm at St Paul Church.

**FAMILIES OF FIRST RECONCILIATION & COMMUNION MEETING** will be held at 12 noon after PSR Class on Sunday, March 24. First Reconciliation will be celebrated with the Parish Reconciliation Service on Mon, April 1, 6 pm. First Communion will be celebrated at the 10am mass on May 12.

**CATHOLIC RELIEF SERVICES RICEBOWLS** invite our support of those in need by contributing from our Lenten fasts. Rice bowls are available in church entrance.

**CATHOLIC SERVICES AND MINISTRY APPEAL** Thank you to the 17 households that have already pledged to support the mission of the Church to teach, preach, minister and serve in the name of Jesus through their financial support of the Catholic Service and Ministry Appeal. So far \$2801.00 has been pledged. If you have not yet responded, please make every effort to do so. Additional pledge envelopes are in the church entrance.

**LENTEN RETREAT** –Insights Into Evangelization by Fr Joseph Brown SJ on Sat, March 30, 9am-2 pm at Holy Spirit Church, Carterville. Registration (includes lunch) \$15. Registration deadline March 23 by calling Sr Phylis 618-985-2900.

**ESCAPING TO PRAY.** Jesus did it again. He stepped away from the hubbub of life to pray. He took three friends who were drowsed by sleep on this retreat. But pray he still did. And God spoke from the cloud. How is prayer filling my lenten retreat, my lenten journey? With whom will I go for some quiet and prayer? What am I doing to listen for God's voice?

## **Second Sunday of Lent** - Genesis 15:5-12,17-18; Psalm 27; Philippians 3:17--4:1;

Luke 9:28-36

The end of crisis is cause for celebration. No one enjoys hard times; we wish them away and, once gone, try to forget them. Two biblical heroes in today's readings show us that personal suffering can serve the good of the community.

Abraham, in the Genesis passage, is completely frustrated. God promised a great nation, yet he is still without a son. How could this man be confident in God's promise of a great nation when he could not even count a single son? In spite of the questioning, Abraham confirms again his faith in the Lord. Once Abraham opened himself completely by this act of faith, the promise took a new turn. Now Abraham would have not only countless descendants but also a huge tract of land. This faith in time of crisis became Abraham's heritage to Israel.

Jesus' crisis is his pending passion, death, and resurrection. This awareness leads to prayer so intense that his appearance is changed in the Transfiguration. The prayer leads to the reassuring presence of the Father and the Spirit. Moses and Elijah appear with Jesus. Both of them experienced crises and also found their solutions in God's presence. Jesus learned that his passion and death would not be the last word. They were steps leading to the glory of the Resurrection and Ascension (see Luke 24:26). Jesus' crisis is for the benefit of us all.

We all know brokenness in relationships, in health, in finances, in self-confidence. We join Abraham and Jesus in victory over crises by trusting God and serving one another. This joining of our crises to those of the Redeemer means that we are able to stand with him on the mountain, that we are able to transform our dying into rising. This is the three-sided nature of covenant: self, God, and community.

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

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### **QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION**

God asks Abraham to sacrifice a heifer, a she-goat ram, a turtledove and pigeon. Do you think God is preparing Abraham to offer the Son Isaac, whom he loves most, as a sacrifice (Gen 22:1ff)? Might God the Father be willing to let his own beloved son die in order to show how far God will go for humankind? Is Jesus willing to give his life (in union with the Father's willingness to give everything, even his son) to show how much God loves humankind?

Is your mind occupied with earthly things? Who or what helps you toward your "citizenship in heaven"?

Pope Francis reflected on the Transfiguration with pilgrims gathered in St. Peter's Square.

The mountain is the site of the encounter (of) intimate closeness with God—the place of prayer, in which to stand in the presence of the Lord. We, the disciples of Jesus, are called to be people who listen to His voice and take his words seriously. To listen to Jesus, we must follow Him.

**NEXT SUNDAY SCRIPTURES: Third Sunday of Lent** Exodus 3:1-8a, 13-15; Psalm 103; 1 Corinthians 10: 1-6, 10-12; Luke 13:1-9.