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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

Trading Parched Grain for Manna In the First Reading, the Israelites are finally at the promised land. The Exodus is over, and they eat the parched grain from the produce of the land.

The Exodus was a tough time for the Israelites. But, almost from the start, there was one peril in the desert that the Israelites did not suffer from: lack of food.

That is because God himself fed them. A funny kind of food appeared on the ground, and the Israelites gathered it in. When that funny food first showed up on the ground, the Israelites said, “WHAT is THAT?”—“MAH NA”, in their language. (And ‘manna’ is what it came to be called by them, and by us.)

The consoling sweetness of manna came out of the harshness of the conditions of the Exodus.

The Israelites learned fast what the answer to their question was. The stuff on the ground, the manna, was like Tolkien’s lembas or Elvenbread. It was unbelievably nourishing. You could go a very long time on just a little of it. And it was delicious. It was light; it had something of the taste of coriander about it; and there was a suspicion of honey, too. It was magically good, and it came from the hand of God, who handfed his people in the wilderness.

Who would ever want to give up manna?

When the Exodus ended, the manna did too. One night the Israelites ate the parched grain of the promised land, and the next day there was no more manna.

I don’t know what parched grain is, but it doesn’t sound worth having by comparison with manna, does it? It doesn’t sound delicious. It doesn’t come from the hand of God; you have to get it for yourself. And you have to work to grow it. It doesn’t just magically appear on the ground in the morning. Who would ever want to trade manna for parched grain?

But the parched grain was the beginning of life in the promised land, where the Israelites found a home. The consoling sweetness of manna came out of the harshness of the conditions of the Exodus. Out of the sorrow of trading manna for parched grain there came the consolation of home.

And here is the lesson for us. The Lord’s goodness never fails. It changes in character, but it is always there for us. It just has to be waited for. Eleonore Stump

Vol 20 # 13 Fourth Sunday of Lent, March 31, 2019

Schedule of Masses

Sun	Mar 31	8:00 am	SFD	Marietta Moore
		10:00 am	SP	Bill Kinkead
Tue	Apr 2	9:00, 11 am		Shawnee , Vienna DOC
Wed	Apr 3	6:30 pm	SP	General Intention
Fri	Apr 5	12:00 pm	SP	General Intention
Sat	Apr 6	8:30 am	SFD	Reparation for Sin
Sun	Apr 7	8:00 am	SFD	Marietta Moore
		10:00 am	SP	Evelyn Ross

St Paul, Vienna

<p>Sun, Mar 31, 10 am Server: M, C Bergmann Lector: Rhi Slife Gifts: Matt & Rhi Slife Usher:*P Widowski, S Pobst R Beanland, L Hinton E. Minister S Belske A Dueker, D. Bishop Greeter S & P Widowski</p>	<p>Sun, Apr 7, 10 am Server: Riley Slife Lector: Steve Widowski Gifts: Children Liturgy Ushers*L Hinton, L Givens P Kalicki, M McMahan E. Minister L Stoerger P Widowski, B Palmer Greeter Geri Tesina</p>	<p>Sun, Apr 14, 10 am Server: M Bergmann, L Slife Lector: J Nelson, Z Garrett Gifts: Rick, Lynn Stoerger Usher:*L Hinton, D Bishop, J. Slife, G Tesina E. Minister M Nelson B Bishop, D Hopkins Greeter Katie Pobst</p>
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St Francis DeSales

<p>Sun, Mar 31: 8:00 am Server: Cecilia Parks Lector: Christine Deaton Gifts: M Hustedde family Usher David Parks E. Min: Mary Treat</p>	<p>Sun, Apr 7: 8:00 am Server: Christine Deaton Lector: Laverne Herbert Gifts: S Treat, D Parks Usher: Myron Cole E. Min: Cecilia Parks</p>
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THIS WEEK'S SCHEDULE

- Sun Mar 31 Catholic Relief Services Collection
 - Stations of Cross.....20 minutes before Masses
 - St Francis DeSales Mass8:00 am
 - St Paul Mass10:00 am
 - PSR Classes.....11:00 am
- Mon Apr 1 Parish Reconciliation Service at St Paul.....6:00 pm
- Tues Apr 2 Shawnee, Vienna DOC Mass.....9:00, 11:00 am
- Election Day
- Wed Apr 3 Weekday mass.....6:30 pm
- Fri Apr 5 Weekday mass12:00 pm
- St Paul Parish Fish Fry.....5-7:00 pm
- Sat Apr 6 First Saturday Mass & devotions at SF.....8:30 am
- Sacrament of Reconciliation at SP.....4:30-5:00 pm
- Sun Apr 7 Stations of Cross.....20 minutes before Masses
 - St Francis DeSales Mass8:00 am
 - St Paul Mass & Children Liturgy of Word..10:00 am
 - PSR Classes.....11:00 am
 - First Sunday Social in hall.....11:00 am
 - Liturgy Committee Mt...in hall following social



CATHOLIC RELIEF SERVICES This weekend, our parish will take up the Catholic Relief Services (CRS) collection to help Jesus in disguise. Funds from this collection helps six Catholic agencies provide relief and support to struggling communities and work for peace and reconciliation among our marginalized brothers and sisters here and around the world. Prayerfully consider how you can support the collection. Learn more about the collection at www.usccb.org/catholic-relief.

PARISH RECONCILIATION SERVICE with members of First Reconciliation Class will be celebrated this Monday, April 1, 6 pm at St Paul Parish. All parishioners encouraged to use opportunity of Lenten renewal. An additional priest will be available.

FISH FRY. Our second Fish Fry will be sponsored on Friday, April 5, 5-7 pm. Profits of the Fish Fry will be committed to Blessings in A Back-pack, Vienna Baptist Food Pantry and Heather Treat Memorial Cancer Fund. Help is needed in kitchen, serving, frying fish and making desserts. A schedule is posted on the church bulletin board.

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.

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

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 20 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 \$3076.00 has been pledged. If you have not yet responded, please make every effort to do so. Additional pledge envelopes are in the church entrance.

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

REMEMBER IN PRAYER Verna Green, St Paul parishioner who passed away March 24 and was buried March 30th. Marietta Moore, parishioner at St Francis DeSales who was buried March 30th.

Respect Life Corner: The Spiritual Works of Mercy: During this Lenten season, instead of giving up something, perhaps a focus on giving yourself to others would be more beneficial to your soul. Just as Jesus attended to the spiritual well-being of those he ministered to, the Spiritual Works of Mercy guide us to help our neighbors and their spiritual needs. Learn, Act, Connect, Pray: The Spiritual Works of Mercy are counseling the doubtful (everyone has moments of doubt, how can you help guide them), instructing the ignorant (learn about our faith, volunteer with PSR or faith formation), admonishing the sinner (be supportive, we are all in need of God's loving correction), comforting the sorrowful (be open to listening, sometimes your presence is the biggest comfort), forgiving injuries (participate in the Sacrament of Penance), bearing wrongs patiently (try to let go of grudges, place your hope in God), and praying for the living and the dead (prayer is powerful, request a mass intention for someone going through a difficult time or someone who has recently passed).

Fourth Sunday of Lent -

Joshua 5:9,10-12; Psalm 34; 2 Corinthians 5:17-21; Luke 15:1-3,11-32

Homecomings should be warm and joyful experiences. What happens, however, if the one returning has hurt us? Our humanness might declare a boycott against the festivities. Today's readings suggest that Christians are called to the parade, no matter what.

The Book of Joshua describes the Israelites' arrival in the Promised Land. Despite sin and failure in the desert, God still welcomes the people to their new homes. Produce from the land replaces desert manna, symbolizing God's forgiveness and love.

Scripture's most famous homecoming is the parable of the Prodigal Son. Luke's account underscores God's infinite capacity to forgive. What about us? Are we closer to the forgiving father or to the pouting son? The father parties over the return, the elder son wants an accounting of credits and debits.

Pain, hurt, betrayal, and suffering are part of human experience. A Christian puts aside revenge and self-pity and is thankful for a God who throws parties for prodigals. To worship this God is to embrace those who may offend us. The Christian offers reconciliation because the offender is a new creation.

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

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QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION

This reading and the Gospel are about coming home. How does that idea relate to Lent? What is your spiritual home?

“And all this is from God, who has reconciled us to himself through Christ.” Some synonyms for reconcile are: forgive, restore harmony, rectify, patch up, reunite, bury the hatchet, appease, arbitrate. Wherever there is injustice in the world something is not reconciled. What might the Church do to change an unjust or unfair situation. What could your parish do? What can you do? Jesus responded with the parable of the Prodigal Son when the Pharisees accused him of eating with sinners. What was Jesus telling us about God's forgiveness? In the story did the son have to ask for forgiveness or did he just start on the road back home? Do you forgive easily? Is it easy or difficult for you to ask for forgiveness? What are your feelings about the older brother's behavior in this parable?

NEXT SUNDAY SCRIPTURES: Fifth Sunday of Lent Isaiah 43:16-21; Psalm 126; Philippians 3:8-14-21; John 8:1-11