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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

What Must I Do In the Gospel Reading, a lawyer asks Jesus, “What must I do to inherit eternal life?” Jesus says to the lawyer, Well, how do YOU read the law? Without hesitation, the lawyer gives Jesus the answer, which he, the lawyer, already knew: Love God wholly and your neighbor as yourself. Right!, Jesus tells him. You do that, and you’ll live. But wait, the lawyer says, who is my neighbor?

Giving everything in love for God is a holiness we can find only through Christ’s unstinting outpouring of love for us.

And then Jesus tells the lawyer the parable of the bad priest and the bad Levite and the good Samaritan. Then Jesus finishes with another question to the lawyer: which of these was the neighbor of the robbery victim?

The lawyer gives the answer he has to give: the good neighbor was the Samaritan.

Notice the oddness of the lawyer’s first question. He doesn’t ask: what is best way to soar in love of God? He asks: what must I do to inherit eternal life? He is looking for the minimum necessary to get into heaven, isn’t he?

But eternal life is a union, a marriage, with God. Who would want to get married to someone who said, “what’s the minimum I can do for you and with you and still get you to marry me?”

So Jesus gets the lawyer himself to answer his question, and the lawyer gives the right answer. What you have to do, the minimum necessary, is everything. Love God wholly, and love your neighbor as yourself.

This is a disconcerting answer, of course, because in this life none of us is ever going to do everything. So if everything is the minimum necessary, then none of us is getting in.

And so the lawyer expresses his original anxiety with a variation on his odd question. Who is my neighbor, he asks? He wants a definition of neighbor which gives him the minimum number of people to count as the neighbors he has to love.

But Jesus upends the lawyer’s continuing desire for a minimum by giving him another maximum: everyone you can love is your neighbor. If you can do good to him, he counts as your neighbor.

And that is why what we must do to inherit eternal life is come to Christ, as Christ tells people elsewhere in the Gospels (John 6:27-38). The lawyer’s own answers to his questions are right. But giving everything in love for God is a holiness we can find only through Christ’s unstinting outpouring of love for us which transforms us into the body of Christ.

Eleonore Stump

Vol 20 # 27 **Fifteenth Sunday of the Year, July 14, 2019**

Schedule of Masses

Sun	Jul 14	8:00 am	SFD	For Parishioners
		10:00 am	SP	Rosemarie Zawacki
Tue	Jul 16	9, am	Shawnee DOC Mass	
Wed	Jul 17	11:30 am, 1 pm	BOP Masses at Marion	
		5 :30 pm	SP	General Intention
Fri	Jul 19	12:00 pm	SP	Fr Bernie Goedde
Sat	Jul 20	5:30 pm	SP	For Parishioners
Sun	Jul 21	8:00 am	SFD	For Parishioners
		10:00 am	SP	Philip, Leola Barrett

<p>Birthdays Jul 14 Cathy Kruep Joseph Bowers Jul 15 Edna Goddard</p>

St Paul, Vienna

Sun, Jul 14, 10 am
Server: M & C Bergmann
Lector: Leslie Miller
Gifts: Joe, Becky Bowers
Usher:*M McMahan, D Bishop,
 S Widowski, R Stoerger
E. Minister M Miller
 S Belske, L Stoerger
Greeter Janet Hacker

Sun, Jul 21, 10 am
Server: Riley Slife
Lector: Rhi Slife
Gifts: Glenn, JoAnn Brown
Usher:* M Palmer, D Zmuda
 R Beanland, Mt Slife
E. Minister M Nelson
 V Anderson, A Dueker
Greeter C & M Query

Sun, Jul 28, 10 am
Server: M Bergmann, L Slife
Lector: Joe Nelson
Gifts: Ruth Brown, Jerry Cecchi
Usher:*S Pobst, G Tesina
 J Bergmann, J Nelson
E. Minister S Widowski,
 P Widowski, F Dueker

St Francis DeSales, Stonefort

Sun, Jul 14: 8:00 am
Server: Christine Deaton
Lector: Cecilia Parks
Gifts: Hustedde family
Usher: Myron Cole
E. Min: Brenda Morse

Sun, Jul 21: 8:00 am
Server: Cecilia Parks
Lector: LaVonne Herbert
Gifts: Morse Family **Usher**
 Fred Deaton
E. Min: Christine Deaton

THIS WEEK'S SCHEDULE

Sun Jul 14	St Francis DeSales Mass	8:00 am
	St Paul Mass	10:00 am
	Council of Catholic Women (CCW) Mt.....	11:00 am
Mon Jul 15	Blood Drive at Fellowship Baptist Hall...	12-6:00 pm
Tue Jul 16	Mass at Shawnee DOC.....	9.& 11 am
Wed Jul 17	Marion Penitentiary Masses.....	11:30 am, 1 pm
	Weekday mass.....	5:30 am
	Merged Parish Council Mt..at St Paul Hall...	6:00 pm
Thr Jul 18	Eucharistic Adoration at SP.....	4:00-7:30 pm
Fri Jul 19	Weekday Mass at...SP.....	12:00 pm
	Parish Merger Steering Committee Mt.....	5:00 pm
Sat Jul 20	Saturday mass at St Paul.....	5:30 pm
Sun Jul 21	St Francis DeSales Mass	8:00 am
	St Paul Mass	10:00 am



COUNCIL OF CATHOLIC WOMEN will take up collection for ministry following mass and invite all ladies of the parish to join the meeting in the hall at 11 am. You're encouraged to complete the ministry service form on the bulletin board and either place in manila envelope or bring to the meeting.

MERGED PARISH COUNCIL MEETING of St Francis DeSales and St Paul will be Wed, July 17, 6 pm at St Paul hall. Members are reminded to pick up agenda at weekend mass.

JOINT PARISH PICNIC AND OUTING will be held at Lake Glendale (Pine Point Picnic Area) on Saturday, July 27, beginning 11 am. Lunch at 12 noon with Hot dogs, sausage, chips and water. Other foods welcome. Optional activities including swimming, boating, fishing, hiking and socializing. Please sign-up at church with # attending. More info posted on bulletin boards.

BLOOD DRIVE sponsored by the Red Cross will be held at the Fellowship Baptist Hall on Senior Dr in Vienna this Monday, noon to 6 pm. You can share the gift of life.

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION has been moved to the third Thursday this month due to the VBS last week. A sign-up list is posted on the bulletin board, encouraging anyone who can participate to indicate a time so all times can be covered. Hours are 4 pm – 7:30 pm.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL was a joyful learning event with eighteen young members participating. Special thanks to adults organizing and helping with event: Lee and Taylor Givens, Zach Garrett, Marsha and Jeremy Nelson, and Steve Pobst. We thank Miles Brothers Grocery for donation of hot dogs and buns and special discount on chicken strips.

NEXT SCHEDULED FAITH ALIVE STORE operation by volunteers of St Paul Parish, will be Thr-Sat, July 25-27. A sheet is on the church bulletin board to indicate if you can help.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL AT COBDEN St Joseph Parish, Cobden invites interested people to VBS July 15-20 on theme: The Early Church and Building Church Community. Mon, Tues & Wed, 6:30-8:30 pm. Special presentations are planned for adults on Monday – Healing our Communities (three speakers will talk about prison ministries, addiction and recovery, and how our children are affected by the incarceration and addictions of those around them) and Tuesday – Presentation by Sr Janet McCann ASC on ministries in Pennsylvania, Kansas and Illinois. Wednesday – meal at 6:30 pm followed by Marketplace (turn in donations for Parable of the Talents). Thursday – celebration of Mass at 7 pm. Saturday – Pool Party at Anna City Pool 6-7:50 pm.

LOVING MEANS ACTING. In the First Reading, Moses pleads for us to heed the voice of God – it is not that hard. In the Gospel, a scholar poses two worthy questions to Jesus. How do I get to heaven? What do I do and with whom do I do it to get there? Jesus tells a story to provoke suitable answers. The good Samaritan, this good foreigner, puts the natives to shame. He has the right motive – compassion. It causes him to act with mercy.

When will I set aside time each day to heed God's voice? What will I do and not do to keep my sights on heaven? Since to love is to act, whom will I treat with mercy today?

Fifteenth Sunday of the Year

Deuteronomy 30:10-14; Psalm 69; Colossians 1:15-20; Luke 10:25-37

Unconditional love is an other-worldly ideal. Forces here on earth limit our generosity. Business teaches us debits and credits, law enacts statutes of limitation, athletics value strictly enforced rules of the game. No wonder we struggle to accept the reality of a God infinite in mercy and compassion.

Deuteronomy talks today about the people of Israel who have suffered a curse rather than blessing because of their violations of the covenant. The author, however, is unequivocal in reminding the wayward that God's capacity for forgiveness cannot be exhausted. Yahweh's arms are outstretched to those seeking forgiveness; God requires only the resolution to try again.

Paul, in our passage from Colossians, is making a point: God restored harmony to the universe through the action of Christ. In Christ, God has destroyed all those barriers that keep humans from God, from the created world, and from themselves. Unity is the result of Christ's act of reconciliation. The price of this compassion is high: "Making peace through the blood of his cross" (Colossians 1:20; also Romans 5:9-11; Ephesians 2:13-18).

Luke, as opposed to Matthew and Mark, has the lawyer speak the great law of love for God and neighbor. The lawyer asks: "And who is my neighbor?" (Luke 10:29). The evangelist wants to teach us that all who show mercy are able to belong to God's family.

The parable illustrates this teaching. The legalism of the society prescribed a ritual impurity for anyone touching the corpse of a Jewish traveler. Thus the priest and the Levite passed by the man victimized by robbers. The Samaritan becomes the unlikely hero. As a non-Jew he is an outcast or a "non-neighbor," yet he alone opts for the higher law of compassion. He is a hero because he is a genuine neighbor.

What kind of neighbors are we? If the measure is "How far do I have to go?" then ours is a this-world compassion. If the measure is "What more can I do, especially for the poor and abandoned?" then ours is an other-worldly and Godlike mercy.

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

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QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION

Where does any person find God's commands? According to Jesus they consists of this: love God and love your neighbor. Do you find yourself relying on codes and guidelines more than on this underlying commandment?

This reading says that Christ reconciled all things, making peace by the blood of his cross. In the Gospel's story of the Good Samaritan, what are the things that need reconciling? What still needs reconciling in the besieged environment today? In the arena of human rights? Will you be a passer-by or will you share in the work of creation, redemption and renewal?

Think of the Good Samaritan story in terms of today's world. What groups need some Good Samaritans right now? The immigrants? The trafficked? Gun control groups? The homeless? The hungry? Whether it be large or small, is there anything you can do to help any of these?

NEXT SUNDAY SCRIPTURES: Sixteenth Sunday of Year Genesis 18:1-10a; Psalm 15; Colossians 1:24-28 Luke 10:38-42