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Mission: Live Catholic teachings,

Participate in Sacramental and Liturgical Celebrations, Serve our Community

ST. PAUL 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: Lee Givens

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

The Desires of the Heart When Lazarus died, Mary of Bethany must have been heartbroken.

You can see why she would have been. She loved her brother Lazarus, and she trusted and loved Jesus. Like everybody else in her community, she knew that Jesus could heal sick people. So when her brother got sick and she knew that Jesus was nearby, she turned to him for help. Then she waited three desperate and increasingly miserable days. During those days Jesus didn't come, and Lazarus died.

In this story the Lord knows better than Mary what she herself actually wants. And so she was devastated. Her beloved brother was dead, and her beloved Jesus seemed to have disregarded her entirely in her time of need. She must have felt sure that she had lost the desires of her heart and lost them irretrievably.

But what the story of the raising of Lazarus shows is that a person can feel sure about such things and still be thoroughly mistaken.

Of course, Mary was right about some things. She had this much accurate insight into herself: she was right in thinking that it was her heart's desire to have her brother and to be loved by Jesus.

But she was mistaken about what the fulfillment of those desires would be. She thought that she could have the desires of her heart only in case Jesus came to her to heal her brother before he died. Consequently, when Lazarus did die, Mary thought that she had lost what she wanted most.

What the story makes clear, though, is that the Lord can know better than a human person does what she most wants. We are not surprised if the Lord knows better than we do what is good for us, and we generally expect that good to be something we don't want. But in this story the Lord knows better than Mary what she herself actually wants.

When Jesus raises Lazarus from the dead, Mary has her brother, and is loved by Jesus in a way more deeply fulfilling to her and more glorious than the mere healing of her brother in his sickness would have been.

And here is the thing to notice: Jesus was in the process of giving her what she wanted most even as she was firmly persuaded that she had lost it forever.

And so the story helps us see that the Lord can be trusted even with the deepest distress of the hearts of those who are his own. As the Psalmist promises (Ps 37:4), the Lord will give the desires of their hearts to those who put their trust in him.

Eleonore Stump

Vol 21 #13 Fifth Sunday of Lent, March 29, 2020

Schedule of Masses

Sun	Mar 29	8:00 am	SFD	No Service
		10:00 am	SP	For Parishioners
Wed	Apr 1	6:30 pm	SP	For Parishioners
Fri	Apr 3	12:00 pm	SP	General Intention
Sat	Apr 4	8:30 am	SFD	For Parishioners
Sun	Apr 5	8:00 am	SFD	No Service
		10:00 am	SP	For Parishioners

Birthdays

Mar 31 Curtner Bergmann
Apr 3 Josh Starratt

Liturgical Ministry Schedule is suspended until public mass is resumed.

STEWARDSHIP OFFERING March 22, 2020

Envelope \$100 (1), **Total....\$100.00**

(Note: Many people have been affected economically by the ‘shelter in place’ directives due to the spread of the corona virus. If you are able to continue your support of the parish, it is needed to meet budgetary expenses even when there are not regular religious services. Contributions can be made by mail, or dropped off at the parish office.)

THIS WEEK’S SCHEDULE

Sun	Mar 29	Stations of the Cross	Private
		St Francis DeSales Mass.....	cancelled
		St Paul Mass	(private)..... 10:00 am
		St Paul Parish Reconciliation (General Absolution).	4 pm
Tue	Mar 31	R.C.I.A session.....	5:00 pm
Wed	Apr 1	Weekday Mass SP.....	6:30 pm
Fri	Apr 3	Lenten Abstinence	
		Weekday mass at SP.....	12:00 pm
Sat	Apr 4	St Francis DeSales Mass.....	8:30 am
Sun	Apr 5	Palm Sunday	
		St Francis DeSales Mass.....	cancelled
		St Paul Mass	(private)..... 10:00 am



While public gatherings are restricted, spiritual or physical needs may be assisted on an individual basis with proper precautions. Contact the parish office for any requests.

UPDATE ON SCHEDULING PUBLIC CHURCH SERVICES

Bishop Braxton, at the advisement of medical and civil authorities, has extended through Easter, and until further notice, the restriction of gatherings at church. Parishioners are encouraged to use individual opportunities for prayer, spiritual enrichment and works of charity. Use of media and internet can also support individual efforts. Holy Week services will be made available on the Diocesan website <https://www.diobelle.org> Weekend and daily masses are also provided on numerous internet sites and TV stations.

St Paul Parish also has a free subscription to Formed.org which provided religious movies, study courses, sacramental preparation and webinars on various topics. Login to <https://FORMED.ORG> Select "I belong to a Parish or Organization", then in box 'Find your parish or organization' type in StPaulCatholicChurch,ViennaIL and click on dropdown listing with 2020 State 146 E Follow directions to record name and email. You then have access to all recorded media. There are also apps available for Apple and Android devices. Video directions at <https://leader.formed.org> Any other updates will be posted on the homepage of St Paul Website www.stpaulvienna.org

PSR Since regular sessions of the Parish School of Religion for youth has been halted by requirements of social distancing, parents are asked to continue lessons at home. Student books will be made available. Lesson plans for parents can be accessed on the Our Sunday Visitor website <https://calltofaith.osv.com/parish> clicking on Call to Faith at Home then choosing the desired grade level and lesson #. The website also offers a variety of supplemental options like lesson and unit quizzes, family activities and the Sunday scripture readings and reflections on the readings

ST PAUL PARISH RECONCILIATION SERVICE will be March 29 at 4 p.m. incorporating social distancing, Bishop Braxton has granted permission for General Absolution during pandemic (while observing the requirements for preparation for the sacrament and use of opportunity to individually confess and receive absolution at an occasion when the emergency has passed).

CATHOLIC SERVICES AND MINISTRY APPEAL Thank you to the 19 households who 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 (15) \$2299.00 has been pledged of SP goal of \$4430.00 and(5) \$500 of SF goal of \$918.00. If you have not yet responded, please make every effort to do so. Additional pledge envelopes are in church entrance. You may also make an online pledge at diobelle.org under Catholic Service & Ministry Appeal.

VOCATION CORNER I grew up in Haiti as the first child in a family of cradle Catholics. I heard stories about how my dad discerned the priesthood before he married my mom, and I witnessed the humanity of religious sisters who taught me in school. This faith-filled environment sowed the seeds of my religious vocations, and as a young girl I believed I was called to be a sister. Years later, after my family settled in the United States, I became a lost sheep on a college campus. In 2008, I began to go to daily Mass, participate in Eucharistic adoration, and found a spiritual director. My discernment journey took me to many communities until, in 2010, I knew that the Lord was asking me say "yes" to him through the Sisters of Mary, Mother of the Church."

Sister Christiana Marie Rene; Sisters of Mary, Spokane Wash. Columbia November 2018

Fifth Sunday of Lent

Ezekiel 37:12-14; Psalm 130; Romans 8:8-11; John 11:1-45

In today's Word of God we deal with the very real problems of anxiety and hopelessness. When life's shocks paralyze us, when self-pity becomes the expression of our misery, then we must call upon the God who becomes involved in human tragedy. This is the God whose concern for the living is a manifestation of life itself.

Preaching in the aftermath of the destruction of Jerusalem, Ezekiel personally experienced the frustration of that of an exile. He even quotes their expression of despair: "Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost" (Ezekiel 37:11). His response is a vision in which he is transported to a valley littered with dry human bones. At the prophet's word, the breath/spirit/wind brings the bodies to life. For God's despondent people this means that Yahweh will call them back to new life in their own land of Israel.

In Romans 7:19 Paul describes the plight of those who attempt to be totally self-reliant: "For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I do." Now in Chapter 8 Paul develops a theme of new hope: God's power enables a genuine moral life, the threat of condemnation is lifted. When the Spirit determines our moral values, we are allied with Christ. Physical death is not removed, but the Spirit brings to human life God's justice leading to resurrection.

John recounts the raising of Lazarus as a sign that transforms the tragedy into hope. Lazarus' illness and death are the occasion for the manifestation of God's glory. Faith goes hand in hand with glory. To accept Jesus is to make oneself open to that whole process of transformation. The disciple glorifies God just as the Son did by his death and resurrection.

To experience the presence of God makes hope possible and life livable. Breathing life into the weary downtrodden is in the tradition of Ezekiel; caring for the elderly and the shut-ins is in the spirit of Paul; alleviating hunger for the world's starving poor follows the Gospel of John. All these deeds manifest the glory of God.

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

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QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION Fifth Sunday of Lent –March 29, 2020

Ezekiel 37:12-14. Psalm 130:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 7-8. Romans 8:8-11. John 11:1-45.

Dying with Christ; Dying to Self. Even when his friends are disappointed with him and his disciples misunderstand him, Jesus is clear and resolute. No one's death is everlasting. We believe that just as Baptism graces us with new life in Christ, physical death transmits us to newer life with God for ever.

- ◆ What "death" is sucking the life out of me? What will I do about it?
- ◆ What will I do, as one loved by Christ beyond all measure, for those in need of mercy works? How will I be a sign of Christ-filled life for the elect preparing for Easter Baptism?

NEXT SUNDAY SCRIPTURES: Palm Sunday –April 5, 2020

Isaiah 50:4-7. Psalm 22:8-9, 17-18, 19-20, 23-24. Philipians 2:6-11. Matthew 26:14–27:66.