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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 Promises of God** When God told Abraham to leave home, God was asking a lot of him. The world was not a global village then. Travel wasn't easy; there were no planes, taxis, or hotels. Furthermore, leaving home was a decisive break with all the good of home, because going back for a visit was difficult or just out of the question entirely. So leaving home then was a loss that we can't imagine well anymore, in our era of video calls and texting.

Still, when God told Abraham to leave, Abraham went.

Maybe Abraham is the father of faith because he was willing to stake his life on a promise.

Why did he go? Presumably because he wanted what God offered him. If Abraham left, God told him, then Abraham would become a great nation, and all the communities of the earth would find blessing in him. That is a fairly stunning reward.

So Abraham, who had a great desire for that reward, obeyed God, left what was familiar and beloved to him, and wandered off as a stranger in a strange land.

And then notice what happened. Abraham lived a very long time after this promise of God's and he stayed faithful to God's commands his whole life. But by the time Abraham died, this is all Abraham had: one son to carry on his posterity under this promise and two grandchildren. By anybody's estimation, this is a very small family. Certainly, one son and two grandsons is not a great nation. Furthermore, hardly any communities knew Abraham at all, let alone found a blessing in him. The idea that all the communities of the earth would find blessing in Abraham really would have been completely laughable at that time, wouldn't it?

Of course, as we now see it, all Jews, Christians, and Muslims are the Abrahamic peoples. Many great nations are included among the Abrahamic peoples. All of them know Abraham and think that they find blessing in Abraham.

And so God's stunning promise to Abraham has been completely fulfilled. But Abraham did not live to see it. He had to take the fulfillment of God's promise to him on faith. So maybe Abraham is the father of faith because he was willing to stake his life on a promise whose fulfillment did not come in his lifetime on earth.

In this, he is not only the patriarch of the family of faith but also a pattern to follow for all those in his family.

Eleonore Stump

Vol 21 #10 **First Sunday of Lent, March 8, 2020**

**Schedule of Masses**

Sun	Mar 8	8:00 am	SFD	Britney Deaton
		10:00 am	SP	For Parishioners
Tue	Mar 10	9am, 11am		Shawnee, Vienna DOC masses
Wed	Mar 11	11:30am, 1 pm		Marion Penitentiary
		6:30 pm	SP	Rev Richard Mohr
Fri	Mar 13	12:00 pm	SP	General Intention
Sun	Mar 15	8:00 am	SFD	For Parishioners
		10:00am	SP	For Parishioners

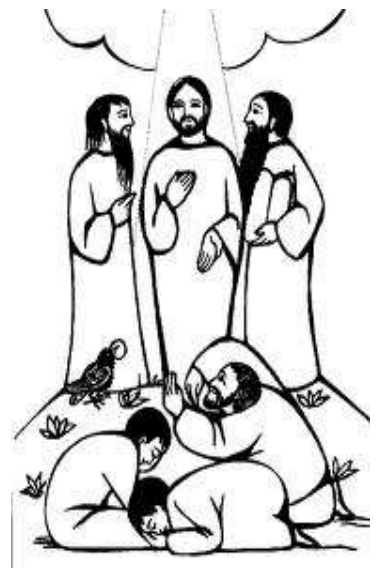
**Birthdays**

Mar 8 Pat Kinkead  
Taylor Ames  
Ella Bergmann  
Mar 9 Bill Porter  
Mar 10 Beverly Bishop  
Nathan Zmuda  
Mar 13 Anna Mae Street  
Matt Slife  
Mar 15 Christine Ross  
M.G. Jones

<p><b>Sun, Mar 8, 10 am</b>  <b>Server:</b> C &amp; M Bergmann  <b>Lector:</b> Mitch Miller  <b>Gifts:</b> Chuck, Lynn Stone  <b>Usher:</b> *F Dueker, D Bishop  R Stoerger, P Widowski  <b>E Minister:</b> M Nelson  P Widowski, P Kalicki  <b>Greeter:</b> Cathv Kruep</p>	<p><b>Sun, Mar 15, 10 am</b>  <b>Server:</b> E Zmuda, M Bergmann  <b>Lector:</b> Steve Pobst  <b>Gifts:</b> Children Liturgy  <b>Usher:</b> *L Hinton, J Bergmann  M Palmer, D Zmuda, Sr  <b>E Minister:</b> F Dueker  D Bishop, L Stoerger  <b>Greeter:</b> Laurie Coleman</p>	<p><b>Sun, Mar 22, 10 am</b>  <b>Server:</b> M Palmer, C Bergmann  <b>Lector:</b> Arlene Dueker  <b>Gifts:</b> G Tesina, P Kalicki  <b>Usher:</b> *S Widowski, G Tesina  J Nelson, Jr Nelson  <b>E Minister:</b> C Kruep  S Widowski, V Anderson  <b>Greeter:</b> Sandv Belske</p>
<p><b>Sun, Mar 8, 8am</b>  <b>Server:</b> Mary Treat  <b>Lector:</b> Myron Cole  <b>Gifts:</b> L Herbert, C Parks  <b>Usher:</b> Fred Deaton  <b>E. Minister:</b> Christine Deaton</p>	<p><b>Sun, Mar 15, 8 am</b>  <b>Server:</b> Christine Deaton  <b>Lector:</b> LaVonne Herbert  <b>Gifts:</b> F Deaton, S Treat  <b>Usher:</b> Myron Cole  <b>E. Minister:</b> Mary Treat</p>	

**THIS WEEK'S SCHEDULE**

Mar 8	Time Springs Forward 1 hr
	CS &MA Pledge Sunday
	Stations of the Cross .....20 minutes before mass
	St Francis DeSales Mass.....8:00 am
	St Paul Mass..... 10:00 am
	PSR Classes.....11:00 am
Tue Mar 10	Shawnee, Vienna DOC masses.....9:00 am, 11 am
	R.C.I.A session..... 5:00 pm
Wed Mar 11	Masses at Marion Penitentiary.....11:30 am, 1 pm
	Weekday Mass SP.....6:30 pm
Thr Mar 12	Eucharistic Adoration at SP.....4 – 7:30 pm
Fri Mar 13	Weekday mass at SP.....12:00 pm
	St Paul Fish Fry.....5 – 7 pm
Sat Mar 14	St Paul Parish Workday.....8:30 am-?
	Sacrament of Reconciliation SP..... 5:00-5:30pm
Sun Mar	Stations of the Cross .....20 minutes before mass
	St Francis DeSales Mass.....8:00 am
	St Paul Mass & Children Liturgy of Word... 10:00 am
	PSR Classes.....11:00 am



**STATIONS OF THE CROSS** will be every Sunday of Lent 20 minutes prior to Mass. If you would be willing to lead the Stations there is a sign up sheet for leaders posted on the Bulletin board.

**CATHOLIC SERVICES AND MINISTRY APPEAL** This weekend our parish, along with all other parishes in the diocese, will conduct our Catholic Service and Ministry Appeal. The CSMA provides a convenient way for all of us, no matter what our time limitations, to take an active role in the mission of our diocesan Church. If you did not receive a pledge card in the mail or forgot to bring it, please use one of the envelopes in the church entrance. Please be as generous as you are able.

**EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION** will be provided Thursday, March 12, 4 – 7:30 pm. A special opportunity to “watch and pray with Me” for a period of time. A schedule is posted on the bulletin board to allow participants to sign to assure that someone is always present.

**FIRST PARISH FISH FRY** will be hosted by St Paul, Friday, March 13, 5-7 pm. Help is needed in frying area, kitchen and hall. Please try to bring desserts by 4:30 pm. Invite friends to have a good meal and support worthwhile causes. Adults \$10, Child \$5, Under 3, free. Grilled Cheese w/Fries \$4. Carryouts available at 771-2926.

**PARISH WORKDAY** at St Paul will be held Saturday, March 14, beginning 9:30 am. Some projects are drain oil from fish fry, repair top of trash bin, trim bushes by church AC, build up dirt by church entrance sidewalk, clean leaves from driveway ditch, clean windows of church and hall. A sign up list is posted on the bulletin board.

**CRS Rice Bowl** is Catholic Relief Services’ Lenten faith-in-action program. It offers opportunities for your family to engage daily with the spiritual pillars of Lent: prayer, fasting and almsgiving. And it’s an opportunity for us as a parish/PSR to come together as a community and reflect on what it means to live out our Gospel call to go out and encounter those most in need. CRS Rice Bowl offers an app to accompany your Lenten journey? You can download it

**FOOD DRIVE DONATIONS FOR CAIRO DAYSTAR** will run through Lent. Your donations are very much appreciated.

**THE SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION** will be offered every Saturday during Lent from 5-5:30 pm at St. Paul. Examination of Conscience reflection material is placed this on the table with other Lenten materials.

**REMEMBER IN PRAYER...**Rev Richard Mohr, diocesan priest who died March 3  
.... Wayne Mott, husband of deceased parishioner Betty, who died March 2.. Wayne donated time and equipment to landscape for parking lot and new church in 2003

**THANK YOU...**Cathy Kruep for hosting 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of month social last Sunday  
...all the volunteers who assisted with operating Faith Alive Thrift Store Thr-Sat

### **UPCOMING EVENTS**

**March 17...CCW ladies** dinner meeting at 4:30 pm

**March 21...Spring CCW Vicariate Mt** at Holy Spirit Carterville..9am-1 pm

**March 29...St Paul Parish Reconciliation Service** at 4 pm at church.

## Second Sunday of Lent

Genesis 12:1-4; Psalm 33; 2 Timothy 1:8-10; Matthew 17:1-9

Pain + service = blessing. We prefer to isolate ourselves from others' needs. We count it a blessing if we can be left alone, left out of suffering. How difficult it is to see the union of our pain and our call to service as the way to real blessing. Yet this is the view taken in today's readings! Abram is asked in today's passage to endure the pain of leaving his father's house in order to travel to the land of Canaan. The author carefully links Abram's movements with a message of blessing for others "I will bless you, and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing" (Genesis 12:2). The author of Second Timothy presents Paul as a model of apostolic devotion in the preaching of the gospel. He exhorts the recipients of the letter to "join with me in suffering for the gospel" (1:8). He adds that God's call is a free gift that should benefit others. There is pain associated with preaching the Good News. Paul suffers as a criminal in chains "but the word of God is not chained" (2:9). The Transfiguration of Jesus captured a moment of very intense prayer. Matthew, by describing Jesus' face and clothes, makes him a part of the heavenly realm. Jesus is acknowledged as the Son of God, and so Peter addresses him not as rabbi but as Lord. The descent from the mountain links the glorified Son of God with the suffering Son of Man. The transfigured One of the heavenly realm is also the humiliated One of the earthly sphere.

Each day we seek our identity by interacting with others and by becoming partners with them, especially with their pain and frustration. By accepting baptism we accept the cross of others. We are not isolated; rather we are involved, and so the words spoken to Abram are also applicable to us. "In you all the families of the earth shall be blessed" (Genesis 12:3). Pain + service = blessing.

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

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### QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION Second Sunday of Lent –March 8, 2020

Genesis 12:1-4a. Psalm 33:4-5, 18-19, 20, 22. 2 Timothy 1:8b-10. Matthew 17:1-9.

**It Is Good to Be Here.** God says to each of us today: I will bless you; live a holy life. Thus, it is good to be here in this holy Lent. Like the three apostles on the mount, we listen to Christ, we witness his divine glory, and we keep our eyes on the promise of heaven while living in merciful ways today.

- ◆ How will the radiant Christ shine through my thoughts and actions?
- ◆ What will I do to listen more intently to Christ each day this week?
- ◆ Because of God's mercy to me, what mercy works will I do today and tomorrow?

### NEXT SUNDAY SCRIPTURES: Third Sunday of Lent –March 15, 2020

Exodus 17:3-7. Psalm 95:1-2, 6-7, 8-9. Romans 5:1-2, 5-8. John 4:5-42.