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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:

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

Hope and Exultation The second of the two epistles given as readings for this Sunday, 1 Peter, says that by the resurrection of Christ we are reborn into a living hope. But what is hope? By faith a person believes in Christ, and by charity a person loves Christ. What is left for hope to do, once faith and charity have done their work?

In the expectation of that triumphant loveliness, we can wait for that day with joy.

The reading from Acts says that after the resurrection the disciples ate their meals with exultation. That is not how we normally eat our meals, is it? When we eat, we are often anxious or sad. We worry about our weight, the healthiness of our food, the eating habits of our children, the cost of the meal, the unfriendliness of those around the table, or any of the many other things that are part of the stress of our days. What could possibly bring a person to eat his dinner with exultation?

But consider this. How would dinner go for a person who learned that he had won the lottery? Before the lottery check has come, of course, he has no more money than he did before he won the lottery. At the time of his dinner, while he is still waiting for the check, he is as poor as he always was. But he has won the lottery! And the check is in the mail. In the expectation of that check, he will certainly eat his dinner in exultation.

In the midst of our poverty, our lack of holiness, our lack of loveliness, we are promised that when the Lord comes to meet us, we will be like him (1 John 3:2). Then we will have our heart's desires, and we will be so lovely in the Lord that we will think we are dreaming (Ps 126:1). That day is one we still have to wait for. But we wait for it believing that the triumph won for us through Christ's passion and death, brought home to us in Christ's resurrection, that triumph is in the mail to us. We will think we must be dreaming then because the loveliness brought to us through Christ's suffering and rising is so much greater than we could ever have imagined. In the expectation of that triumphant loveliness, we can wait for that day with joy.

And that waiting with joy is what hope is. Who would not exult in it?

Eleonore Stump

Vol 21 #16 Easter Sunday, April 19, 2020

Schedule of Masses

Sun	Apr 19	8:00 am	SFD	No Service
		10:00 am	SP	For Parishioners
Tues	Apr 21	11:00 am	SP	For Parishioners
Wed	Apr 22	6:30 pm	SP	For Parishioners
Fri	Apr 24	12:00 pm	SP	For Parishioners
Sun	Apr 26	8:00 am	SFD	No Service
		10:00 am	SP	For Parishioners

Birthdays

Apr 22 Dylan Givens
Apr 23 Donna Irby
Dolly Hopkins
Apr 24 Tom Kruep
Dale Bishop

Liturgical Ministry Schedule is suspended until public mass is resumed.

STEWARDSHIP OFFERING April 12, 2020

SP: Envelope \$770.00 (6), Easter \$885.00 (7), Holy Land 50.00, Daystar Food 50.00, Mass 40.00
Holy Land 50.00, CRS 10.00, CS&MA 100.00, Bld & Maint 65.00 **Total....\$1970.00**

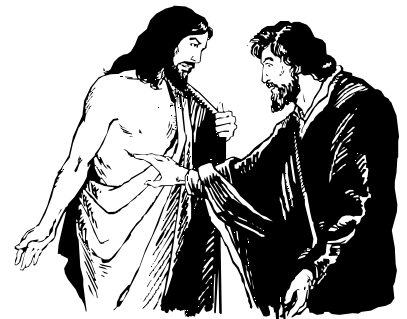
SF: Envelope 150.00

(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, sent through BillPay by bank, or dropped off at the parish office.) Thank you to all who have continued your envelope contributions.

THIS WEEK'S SCHEDULE

Sun Apr 19	Divine Mercy Sunday
	St Paul Mass(private)..... 10:00 am
Tue Apr 21	Weekday mass SP..... 11:00 am
	R.C.I.A session...(by Skype).....5:00 pm
Wed Apr 22	Weekday Mass SP.....6:30 pm
Fri Apr 24	Weekday Mass SP.....12:00 pm
Sun Apr 26	St Paul Mass(private)..... 10:00 am
	Catholic Home Mission Appeal

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.



WEEKLY REFLECTION I remember at least the title of a SI-FI movie of childhood days that was titled ‘The Day the Earth Stood Still’. At times the conditions under Covid-19 seem to make life stand still. But at other times, it has instilled creativity and times to reflect on what matters most. Rather than focusing on what we can’t do, look at opportunities we have. One example is opportunity for ‘Stay Home Retreat’ at <https://reconnected.church> It will be offered April 19-25 and doesn’t take all day, but it does mean committing real time. Here are the basic elements. Each of the seven days has its own content and materials, including mass, prayer, talk and meditation.. Some are basic, some are optional extras. Check out the website for speakers and schedule and an e-mail reminder if you wish.

DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY: (commemorated this weekend) From Creation, God has revealed his nature as love itself, in Sacred Scripture and most perfectly in the life, Passion, death and Resurrection of his Son, Jesus. Saints have also borne witness to God’s unfathomable love, e.g., in the writings of Augustine, Aquinas, Catherine of Siena, Francis of Assisi, Margaret Mary Alacoque and Therese of Lisieux.

In his second encyclical, *Rich in Mercy*, Pope Saint John Paul II offers an extended meditation on the mystery of God’s mercy, which he calls “the greatest of the attributes and perfections of God” (*Dives in Misericordia*, 13). He returned to this theme throughout his pontificate. As a gift to humanity, which sometimes seems bewildered and overwhelmed by the power of evil, selfishness, and fear, the Risen Lord offers His love that pardons, reconciles, and reopens hearts to love. It is a love that converts hearts and gives peace. How much the world needs to understand and accept Divine Mercy!

Mankind’s need for the message of Divine Mercy took on dire urgency in the 20th Century, when civilization began to experience an “eclipse of the sense of God” and, therefore to lose the understanding of the sanctity and inherent dignity of human life. In the 1930s, Jesus chose a humble Polish nun, St. Maria Faustina Kowalska, to receive private revelations concerning Divine Mercy that were recorded in her Diary. On May 5, 2000, five days after the canonization of St. Faustina, the Vatican decreed that the Second Sunday of Easter would henceforth be known as Divine Mercy Sunday.

Lord, who reveals the Father’s love by Your death and Resurrection, we believe in You and confidently repeat to You today: Jesus, I trust in You, have mercy upon us and upon the whole world.
(St. Pope John Paul II, *Regina Caeli* message prepared for Divine Mercy Sunday, April 3, 2005)

FINANCE COUNCIL REPORT Finance Council of St Paul meet recently and reviewed accounts and maintenance projects. Two air conditioning units (Education wing and rectory) which due to leaks were requiring semi-annual repair, have been replaced at a cost of \$8,063.00, paid from the Building & Maintenance Fund. The General Fund income over expenditures is still about \$2,900. Budget planning for next fiscal year is more challenging since expenses will increase by about \$15,000 to cover pastoral expenses previously paid by St Francis DeSales Parish.

VOCATION CORNER Today’s Gospel is the familiar story of Thomas’ declaration of unbelief in the Resurrection until “I put my finger in the nail marks”. These kinds of thoughts often attack the minds of those discerning a religious vocation. They are seeking that “definite” sign that the path they are pursuing is the right one. The Lord doesn’t always afford that. Let us pray, often and loudly, for these discerners that they “hear the call” of the Lord and continue to respond to it.

Second Sunday of Easter (Divine Mercy Sunday)

Acts 2:42-47; Psalm 118; 1 Peter 1:3-9; John 20:19-31

Easter morning images are vivid in the Christian imagination. We recall the visit of the women, the discovery of the empty tomb, and the subsequent appearance of the risen Lord. The problem with this comfortable familiarity is that we might become Easter spectators rather than Easter participants. Today's readings show that Easter is a call to action.

Luke, in this section from Acts, paints a picture of the Christian community in the aftermath of Easter. He reveals to his audience some of those basic elements that make the community specifically Christian. He shows that such a community finds its source of unity in the apostolic teaching. He also speaks of the breaking of the bread, which has clear Eucharistic overtones. In addition, he mentions prayer and attendance at the temple.

Luke, author of Acts, elaborates on the communal life, that fellowship by which one's goods are placed at the service of the needy. The basis for such sharing is Easter faith: Those who believe share all things in common. For Luke's audience, faith in the Resurrection means faith in action. Writing from Rome some eighty years after Christ's death, the author of First Peter addresses himself to rural gentile Christians living in what is now northern Turkey. He sets out to strengthen their Christian lives in a pagan atmosphere. He assures them that they "are being protected by the power of God through faith" (vs. 5). This tried faith will result in the joy of Christ's Second Coming. In the gospel reading, Jesus' Easter appearance to the disciples links faithful acceptance of the risen Jesus with the command to forgive. When Christian disciples act upon Easter faith by communicating forgiveness either to individuals or communities, they represent the Jesus who greeted the disciples with "peace."

To share with the less fortunate, to reject conformity with the world, to undo the shackles of pride in forgiving is to show that faith in the Resurrection means faith in action.

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

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QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION Second Sunday of Easter (or of Divine Mercy) – 19 April 2020

Acts 2:42-47. Psalm 118:2-4, 13-15, 22-24. 1 Peter 1:3-9. John 20:19-31.

Unrestrained by Locked Doors. Locked doors are not good enough for keeping the Risen Jesus from us. They are not good enough for preventing Jesus from breathing the Holy Spirit into us. How must we respond? With the devotion noted in the Acts of the Apostles: to the teaching, to Sunday Mass, to attending to those in need.

- ◆ What is Jesus, through Scripture and Tradition, teaching me today?
- ◆ With what does this Sunday Mass, with prayer and fellowship and Communion, fill me?
- ◆ What needs do I notice in others – and what will I do?

NEXT SUNDAY SCRIPTURES Third Sunday of Easter – 26 April 2020

Acts 2:14, 22-33. Psalm 16:1-2, 5, 7-8, 9-10, 1. 1 Peter 1:17-21. Luke 24:13-35.