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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

**Knowing Jesus** When Jesus was resurrected, many of those who saw him did not recognize him immediately. When Mary Magdalene encountered him at the empty tomb, she thought he was the gardener. At first, the disciples on the road to Emmaus thought that he was just a stranger who had caught up with them on the road. Why did Jesus appear to his friends and disciples in an unfamiliar form after his resurrection? Why didn't he simply appear to his beloved people in the same human form he had before he died?

Jesus was miraculously both greatly different from before and yet clearly the same person.

Well, what would have happened if he had? Then there certainly would have been people who were convinced that he had not been resurrected, wouldn't there? They would have believed only that he had never died, or that he had been resuscitated after only seeming to die. So the testimony of those people who saw Jesus in some unfamiliar bodily form after his resurrection wards off one of the ways in which the Gospel message can be distorted. They are a witness against the falsehood that Jesus was not resurrected after real death.

But this is not the only falsehood that can do damage to the Gospel. Another destructive falsehood is the claim that Jesus only seemed to suffer on the cross. Certainly, there were people who argued that Jesus had never suffered or died at all. Those people recognized that there were many witnesses to the crucifixion of Jesus, but they claimed that the appearance of Jesus on the cross was just a cleverly crafted illusion. This is the heresy called "docetism." In effect, that heresy implies that God does not love human beings enough to suffer and die for them.

If Jesus had looked exactly the same in his resurrected state as he did before his death, it would surely have been much easier for this heretical view to have gained currency, wouldn't it?

So there were people who recognized the resurrected Jesus by something other than the familiar human form he had before his death. Mary Magdalene knew that it was him only when he said her name. The disciples recognized him only in the breaking of the bread. To all these people, Jesus was miraculously both greatly different from before and yet clearly the same person. In consequence, the truth of Jesus' death and resurrection were given a powerful witness. It was clear that he had died. It was evident that the cross was no illusion. And yet it was also manifest that he lived!

So the love that led Christ to the cross and death also lies behind his mode of resurrection. In this, too, he is the Truth, the Life, and the Way.

Eleonore Stump

# Vol 21 #17 **Third Sunday of Easter April 26, 2020**

## **Schedule of Masses**

Sun	Apr 26	8:00 am	SFD	No Service
		10:00 am	SP	For Parishioners
Tues	Apr 28	11:00 am	SP	For Parishioners
Wed	Apr 29	6:30 pm	SP	For Parishioners
Fri	May 1	12:00 pm	SP	For Parishioners
Sat	May 2	8:30 am	SFD	For Reparation of Sin
Sun	May 3	8:00 am	SFD	No Service
		10:00 am	SP	For Parishioners

## **Birthdays**

Apr 28 Xennia Gruszczyk  
Apr 29 John Zawacki  
Melanie Hustedde  
May 2 Jo Ann Brown

**Liturgical Ministry Schedule is suspended until public mass is resumed.**

## **STEWARDSHIP OFFERING April 19, 2020**

**SP:** Envelope \$705.00 (12), Easter \$165.00 (3), Holy Land 15.00, Catholic Home Mission 35.00, Bldg & Maint 35.00 **Total....\$955.00**

**SF:** No report

Thank you to all who have continued your envelope contributions.

## **THIS WEEK'S SCHEDULE**

Sun	Apr 26	St Paul Mass .....(private).....	10:00 am
		Catholic Home Mission Appeal	
Tue	Apr 28	Weekday mass SP.....	11:00 am
		R.C.I.A session...(by Skype).....	5:00 pm
Wed	Apr 29	Weekday Mass SP.....	6:30 pm
Fri	May 1	Weekday Mass SP.....	12:00 pm
Sat	May 2	First Saturday Mass & devotions SFD.....	8:30 am
Sun	May 3	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.



**REFLECTION** In unusual circumstances, we often look to history to gain perspective and insight. Some have referenced the “Spanish Flu” of 1918-19 and its devastation on the populations of Europe and the US or the Cholera epidemic that killed thousands beginning in the 1830s, or the smallpox outbreak, and even AIDS. The history can both make us cautious and hopeful. History also has its lighter side which can enrich us with pleasant memories. During this 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary year of St Paul, it has been suggested we celebrate some of these blessings by highlighting them. The Marian statue which is placed in front of the parish center, and was restored this year was obtained from St Liborius Catholic Church in St Libory IL in 2000 through the intervention of Fr Jose Ancheril. The entrance sidewalk was widened and the statue pedestal installed in the center. Earlier than that, the Sacred Heart statue in the shrine east of the hall was a donation by Dr Fitzsimmons to St Paul. He was a doctor from Chicago who visited St Paul when in the area. He arranged for the granite statue from a closed church to be erected on our parish grounds. Another form of living memorial decorates the front of the parish rectory. The azaleas that are flowering beautifully now were originally Easter season decorations for the church, but Fr Dan Friedman while pastor planted them year after year in beds by the rectory. The left over Easter lilies from last year were also planted among the knockout roses in front of the parish center and are preparing to bloom as a delayed Easter decoration.

**UPDATED GOVERNMENTAL AND CHURCH DIRECTIVES** According to most recent announcement of extending shelter in place through the end of May, public church services and group meetings will not be permitted for the next month.

**VIRTUAL CLOSING PSR MASS & PICNIC** This Sunday would have been our official celebration of closing formal PSR sessions with mass and picnic. Online hamburgers and hot dogs and games are a poor substitute for the real thing. I do want to recognize the efforts of continuing at home the religious studies after the formal classes were interrupted.

**CATHOLIC SERVICES AND MINISTRY APPEAL** Thank you to the 23 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 (18) \$2774.00 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 the church entrance. You may also make an online pledge at [diobelle.org](http://diobelle.org) under Catholic Service & Ministry Appeal.

**PROJECT RACHEL** is a support ministry that accompanies or counsels people who have been involved in an abortion and seek healing. The contact number is 618-722-5068. A confidential e-mail address is also available for men and women who may wish to reach out and aren't free to talk at [projectrachel@diobelle.org](mailto:projectrachel@diobelle.org)

**REMEMBER IN PRAYER Bishop elect Michael McGovern.** He will be making a retreat in preparation for ordination June 8-12. If you would wish to send a note of welcome or support, his address is 40000 North US Hwy 45, Old Mill Creek, IL 60046

**THANK YOU** Dear St Paul Catholic ‘Church Family’, Thank you kindly for the donation of food and various items. We are most grateful each and everyday for assistance from others who are helping the poor, the elderly, the disabled, the children and anyone else in need. Again we thank you. During this difficult time in our country we have to put God, our sensibility and our safety to its best and God will take care of us all. Thoughts, blessings and prayer to all. Sherry Miller, Director of Daystar (Cairo)

# Third Sunday of Easter

Acts 2:14,22-28; Psalm 16; 1 Peter 1:17-21; Luke 24:13-35

Life is not just a matter of blind fate. Even though we are tempted to see our experiences as random chance happenings, there is a divine plan at work. Today's readings speak of a God who is intimately involved in the fabric of our lives.

In Peter's Pentecost discourse, the Book of Acts enumerates Jesus' credentials as God's emissary: miracles, wonders, signs. Those who rejected this identity went so far as to crucify the Lord. This passage from Acts does not describe Jesus' death as mere chance. God's plan included death as the necessary condition for new birth in the Resurrection.

In the second reading, the author of First Peter continues to exhort his audience to live lives worthy of their baptisms. Recalling the biblical tradition of Israel's desert wandering, he speaks of the Christian life as a period of exile, yet one sustained by Christian hope. In the Exodus, the blood of the Passover lamb spared Israel from the tenth plague. But "you were ransomed ... with the precious blood of Christ" (1 Peter 1:18-19). The author quickly notes that this Christian liberation is not a chance occurrence. Christ was "destined before the foundation of the world" (1 Peter 1:20). Since God raised him from the dead and gave him glory, Christians enjoy confidence and hope.

The gospel continues this affirmation of divine providence. Jesus responds to the discouragement of his disciples: "Was it not necessary that the Messiah should suffer these things and then enter into his glory?" (Luke 24:26). For Luke, the Scriptures reveal God's plan for Jesus and so for all humankind.

The modern Christian faces many reverses. Behind the maze of tragedy a divine plan is at work, a plan that only faith can reveal. As we seek to discover a God who will enter into the fabric of our lives, we move from the abandoned figure on the cross to the transformed Lord of Easter.

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

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## QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION 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.

**Mystagogy on the Emmaus Story.** ("Mystagogy" = to be led to, to encounter mystery.) Two dejected disciples, abandoning Jerusalem, encounter Jesus in the Breaking of Bread. With burning hearts, they return to the community of believers to recount this meeting. That is what Sunday Mass and Communion of Blood and Body does for us. In returning week after week to the faithful believers, to our fellow parishioners, we meet the Risen Lord in the Body of Christ the Church.

- ◆ With what does my heart burn this Easter Day?
- ◆ Why do I keep coming to Sunday Mass and receiving Body and Blood?
- ◆ What will this sacred Meal strengthen me, impel me to do?

## NEXT SUNDAY SCRIPTURES Fourth Sunday of Easter – 03 May 2020

Acts 2:14a, 36-41. Psalm 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6. 1 Peter 2:20b-25. John 10:1-10.