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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

**Practicing Spiritual Communion** - It’s important to recall that, although our obligation to attend Mass might be dispensed, we are never dispensed from honoring the Third Commandment to “keeping holy the Sabbath.” Sunday remains to be set apart as another opportunity to grow in communion with the Lord. When we are unable physically to attend Mass, we may consider the practice of “spiritual communion” — an act to which the saints have given a consistent witness.

Spiritual Communion is a traditional practice of expressing to the Lord our longing for him and our desire for him to enter our hearts. St. Teresa of Avila (1515-1582) said: “When you do not receive communion and you do not attend Mass, you can make a spiritual communion, which is a most beneficial practice; by it the love of God will be greatly impressed on you.”

St. Jean-Marie Vianney (1786-1859), the famous country priest from Ars, France, once said “when we feel the love of God growing cold, let us instantly make a spiritual Communion. When we cannot go to the church, let us turn towards the tabernacle; no wall can shut us out from the good God.”

How might we go about making a spiritual Communion? St. Peter Julian Eymard (1811-1868), the French “apostle of the Eucharist,” suggested the following format:

“If you do not receive (holy Communion) sacramentally, receive spiritually by making the following acts: conceive a real desire to be united to Jesus Christ by acknowledging the need you have to love His life; arouse yourself to perfect contrition for all your sins, past and present, by considering the infinite goodness and sanctity of God; receive Jesus Christ in spirit in your inmost soul, entreating Him to give you the grace to live entirely for Him, since you can live only by him; imitate Zacheus in his good resolutions and thank our Lord that you have been able to hear Holy Mass, and make a spiritual Communion; offer in thanksgiving a special act of homage, a sacrifice, an act of virtue, and beg the blessing of Jesus Christ upon yourself and all your relatives and friends.”

While there is no formula prescribed by the Church to make an act of spiritual communion, prayers composed by various saints are part of the Church’s rich treasury of devotions. One of the more popular acts of spiritual communion comes from St. Alphonsus Liguori (1696-1787):

“My Jesus, I believe that you are present in the most Blessed Sacrament. I love You above all things and I desire to receive You into my soul. Since I cannot now receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace You as if You were already there, and unite myself wholly to You. Never permit me to be separated from You. Amen.” Michael R. Heinlein

# Vol 21 #14 Palm Sunday, April 5, 2020

## Schedule of Masses

Sun	Apr 5	8:00 am	SFD	No Service
		10:00 am	SP	For Parishioners
Wed	Apr 8	6:30 pm	SP	For Parishioners
Thr	Apr 9	7:00 pm	SP	For Parishioners
Fri	Apr 10	7:00 pm	SP	Good Friday Service
Sat	Apr 11	8:30 am	SP	For Parishioners
Sun	Apr 12	10:00 am	SP	For Parishioners



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

## STEWARDSHIP OFFERING March 29, 2020

Envelope \$1060 (10), Catholic Relief Services 125.00, CS&MA 275.00, Messenger 25.00 Fish Fry Sales 105.00, Bld & Maint 100.00 **Total....\$1690.00**

(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.)

## THIS WEEK'S SCHEDULE

Sun	Apr 5	Palm Sunday	
		St Francis DeSales Mass.....	cancelled
		St Paul Mass .....	(private)..... 10:00 am
Tue	Apr 7	R.C.I.A session.....	5:00 pm
Wed	Apr 8	Weekday Mass SP.....	6:30 pm
Thr	Apr 9	Holy Thursday Eucharist.....	7:00 pm
Fri	Apr 10	Lenten Fast & Abstinence	
		Good Friday Service at SP.....	7:00 pm
Sat	Apr 11	Easter Vigil Service.....	8:00 pm
Sun	Apr 12	Easter Sunday	
		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 April 30 and until further notice, the restriction of gatherings at church including Holy Week and Easter. By directive of Bishop Braxton, palm are to be blessed for distribution at a later announced time. 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.

An article giving encouragement and guidance for commemorating Holy Week at home will also be added to the bulletin files on the website.

Among the announcements of cancellations and restrictions comes a glimmer of good news. The appointment of Fr Michael McGovern as the new bishop of the Belleville Diocese was announced on Friday. Due to the limitation of public gathering and travel restrictions, his arrival to the diocese has been postponed. The announcement with some personal background is posted on the parish website. Any other updates will be posted on the homepage of St Paul Website [www.stpaulvienna.org](http://www.stpaulvienna.org)

**WORDS OF GRACE** daily scripture reflections for April;-June have arrived. Copies will be left in the prayer room to the left of the hall entrance for pick-up at any time.

**FOOD COLLECTION FOR DAYSTAR** In the midst of much shutdown, the need of food assistance has increased. If you are able to assist with non-perishable food, it may be left in the hall prayer room or call the rectory.

**RICE BOWL** collection may be made more difficult to return. You may drop them off or continue to share empathy with those in need and return them when restrictions are lifted.

**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. A reminder that. 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

**CATHOLIC SERVICES AND MINISTRY APPEAL** Thank you to the 22 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 (17) \$2549.00 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](http://diobelle.org) under Catholic Service & Ministry Appeal.

**VOCATION CORNER** "I was born to a Catholic family that valued family prayer and the rosary. It was through an informational brochure that I first heard God's call. I took my final vows in 1997. My parents were supportive because they knew my vocation had truly come from God. I believe the words of Christ: "Everyone who has given up houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or children or lands for the sake of my name will receive a hundred times more" (Mt 19:29)." Sister Jossy Jacob, Sisters of Mary Immaculate, Leechburg, PA, Columbia Dec. 2015, pg. 34.

## **Passion (Palm) Sunday**

Matthew 21:1-11; Isaiah 50:4-7; Psalm 22; Philippians 2:6-11; Matthew 26:14--27:66

In the face of violence, the human tendency is to strike back. If we are put down by stronger opponents, we retaliate; if we are innocent victims of prejudice, we lash out. Today's readings discourage revenge and urge that, even in the face of pain and frustration, we arm ourselves with compassion.

The passage from Isaiah describes the prophet as a servant obedient to God's Word, but not all obeyed the call of Isaiah. This refusal led to frequent humiliations (beating, plucking of the beard, buffets, spitting). Yet the servant did not react with violence. Rather, he continued to hope that God would support him in his trial and utterly vindicate him.

Jesus' attitude toward violence is clear in the Sermon on the Mount. Jesus calls blest those who are insulted and persecuted because of him (Matthew 5:11). At the time of his arrest, Jesus practices what he preached on the mountain. Jesus rejects the use of violence to save himself. He could have called down legions of angels, but he did not. Matthew explains Jesus' strategy for combating violence: the force of truth.

In the scene of the mockery by the soldiers, Matthew highlights the escalating violence. Rather than strike back, Jesus teaches that the purpose of power is to serve others. "Just as the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life a ransom for many" (Matthew 20:28).

The uses of violence are many in our modern society. Some are subtle, such as refusing to speak when we have been hurt by friends or family. In the world, we witness the escalation of violence. We take it for granted that only violence can overcome violence. Bigger and better arms and better planned strategy appear to be the only reasonable response.

Jesus urges us to review our ways of violence. Jesus' way is one of patience, endurance, and even death if necessary. Jesus' message is to arm yourself with compassion, not violence.

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

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### **QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION Palm Sunday –April 5, 2020**

PROCESSION: Matthew 21:1-11. MASS: Isaiah 50:4-7. Psalm 22:8-9, 17-18, 19-20, 23-24.

Philippians 2:6-11. Matthew 26:14–27:66.

**Being Humble.** Jesus Christ shows us how to be humble today. So humble, that he “emptied himself”. This brought on entry into Jerusalem, passion, death, burial, and risen life.

- How will I, an empty and humble self, do some mercy work this Holy Week?
- How will I be a sign of humility to the elect preparing for Baptism?
- Let me save the times and be engaged with the Church for the celebrations of Holy Thursday, Good Friday, Holy Saturday, and Easter.

### **NEXT SUNDAY SCRIPTURES: Easter Sunday –April 12, 2020**

Acts 10:34a, 37-43. Psalm 118:1-2, 16-17, 22-23. Colossians 3:1-4. Sequence – Christians, to the Paschal Victim. John 20:1-9