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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

Traveling Mercies In the Gospel Reading, Christ gives his disciples a last command before his ascension: go into the whole world and proclaim the Gospel. And in another Gospel (Mk 16:15-20), Christ adds a list of things that will characterize those of his followers who obey this command: they will drive out demons, speak new languages, handle snakes safely, drink deadly things without harm, and heal the sick by the laying on of hands.

Why this list? Isn't it supposed to be just love that characterizes Christ's followers?

Well, think of it this way.

Maybe it is only fair of Jesus to tell those who obey him that they don't need to worry.

When one of my children was traveling to Bangladesh, I made a list of dos and don'ts for him. It was a list intended to help keep him safe.

Finding housing with English speakers was on the list, so that there wouldn't be language problems. "Don't drink the water!" was definitely on the list, and so was "Stay away from people who are obviously sick!" The list finished with this prohibition: "Whatever you do, don't come into contact with the ground!" I know it sounds ridiculous; but hookworm is endemic in that part of the world, and you can get full of worms if you let a body part with an open wound come into contact with infected ground.

You can see that what was on my list of things to worry about are on Christ's list of things not to worry about: language problems, deadly drinks, sicknesses, even snakes—well, hookworms, anyway. (Demons weren't on my list, but maybe they would have been if I could have thought of anything to say about them.)

So the things on Christ's list are the things that you (or your mother) might worry about if you were traveling in dangerous places. Since Christ is commanding his followers to head out to all the world, maybe it is only fair of him to tell those who obey him that they don't need to worry about any of these things. Like a good mother, Christ has already thought about all these things for his traveling people, and in his mercy he has made provision for them all.

So here is one way to understand Christ's list of the things that characterize those who believe in Christ and obey him. Whatever roads the journey of your life takes you on, the care of the Lord encompasses you if you walk in his name. You can travel the road of your life without being anxious if you are working for him.

Eleonore Stump

Vol 21 #20 Ascension of Our Lord May 24, 2020

Schedule of Masses

Sun	May 24	8:00 am	SFD	No Service
		10:00 am	SP	For Parishioners
Mon	May 25	5:00 pm	St Francis Cemetery	
Tues	May 26	11:00 am	SP	For Parishioners
Wed	May 27	5:30 pm	SP	For Parishioners
Fri	May 29	12:00 pm	SP	Fr Don Blaes
Sun	May 31	10:00 am	SP	For Parishioners

Birthdays

May 25 Cameron Hustedde
May 26 Jenny Bergmann
May 27 Mike Ross
May 30 Fr Tom Barrett

Liturgical Ministry Schedule is suspended until public mass is resumed.

STEWARDSHIP OFFERING May 17, 2020

SP: Envelope \$350.00 (7), Seminarian Education 50.00, Bld & Maint 10.00
Total....\$410.00

SF: Envelopes **\$745.00**

Thank you to all who have faithfully continued your envelope contributions.

THIS WEEK'S SCHEDULE

Sun May 24 St Paul Mass(private).....10:00 am

Catholic Communication Collection

(Mass will be recorded and uploaded to Youtube by 2 pm)

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCh6kIQloQxLwZfOXW9DlqBQ>

Mon May 25 Memorial Day – Remember all the deceased

Prayer at St Francis DeSales Cemetery...5:00 pm

Tue May 26 Weekday mass SP.....11:00 am

Wed May 27 Weekday Mass SP.....6:30 pm

Fri May 22 Weekday Mass SP.....12:00 pm

Sun May 31 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.



GOVERNMENTAL AND CHURCH DIRECTIVES Updated directives from the Province and diocese make provision for celebrating Baptism, Marriage, Reconciliation, funeral services and Eucharistic Adoration after confirmation of training of ministers. Gathering in large numbers will be conditioned by assurances that the safety of all people can be provided for. The detailed directives can be viewed on the parish website or at diobelle.org. A team of trained volunteers must be in place before approval for opening church for celebrations. Steve Pobst and Zach Garrett have agreed to be co-leaders who will coordinate training and scheduling. Three captains will oversee the workers for a) Set-up of church, b) Ushering people in and out of the service and assuring that social distancing, masks and hand cleaning are observed, and c) clean-up – disinfecting all surfaces of church used during service. Jared Bergmann has agreed to be captain of set-up. We are seeking captains and helpers for ushering and clean-up (guidelines request those over 65 and other covid-vulnerable individuals not be enlisted as volunteers). A training video link is available at <http://www.diobelle.org/main-rotator/1405> If interested contact Steve, Zach, or Fr Tom

CATHOLIC COMMUNICATIONS CAMPAIGN COLLECTION that provides support for video, TV and other electronic and printed media, extending the message of the Good News will be accepted on May 24th in our diocese. A portion of the collection assists the continuation of the Diocesan Messenger.

CHRISTIAN INITIATION Chris and Megan Cain (registered at St Francis DeSales) having completed a time of preparation ask to be admitted to full communion with the Catholic Church and receive Confirmation. Please remember them in prayer and support.

SOUTHERN ILLINOIS HEALTHCARE, Community Benefits Department, has added more free CDSMP/ DSMP Self Management Program classes online. It is for those managing chronic conditions like Heart Disease, Diabetes and Lung Disease. Please visit the link below and share with others that you think may be interested. <https://www.hsidn.org/upcoming-workshops>

PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES from May 20th will be attached to e-mailed bulletin this week (or in hard copy if you don't have mail).

VOCATION CORNER This weekend we gratefully and prayerfully remember all those who sacrificed their lives serving our country. This ultimate giving of oneself is the most selfless act of love we humans perform. That raises the question - are we that giving of our spiritual selves? Today provides an opportunity for us to take a moment to reflect on how well we are fulfilling our vocation in life – ordained, married, consecrated, or single. Perhaps a prayer of recommitment is appropriate as we give thanks for those who have sacrificed so much for us.

REMEMBER IN PRAYER Bishop elect **Michael McGovern**. He will be making a retreat in preparation for ordination June 8-12. The date of his consecration as bishop has been set for July 22, 2 pm at the cathedral in Belleville. If you would wish to send a note of welcome, his address is 40000 North US Hwy 45, Old Mill Creek, IL 60046

HISTORY QUIZ- Who with local church connections had his novel made into a movie? Joe P McEvoy, son of Patrick and Mary Ann McCabe McEvoy of New Burnside wrote Show Girl in 1929 and was made into a movie. The Carrier Mills Theater manager took Mary Ann McEvoy to see it when it was scheduled at his theatre .

Ascension of our Lord

Acts 8:5-8,14-17; Psalm 66; 1 Peter 3:15-18; John 14:15-21

Ascension of the Lord: A Meditation

Imagine you are at the Ascension (Acts 1:1-11). How does it feel to watch Jesus leave?

It was probably difficult for the disciples to see Jesus go. Yet, if he stayed, they would not receive the promised baptism with the Holy Spirit. We must surrender our "treasures" to God before we can open ourselves to faith and trust.

Here is a meditation on letting go from "Nine Ways to Reach God" by Bridget Meehan, SSC, D.Min.:

If you see life and people as being on loan to you, you can see all as gifts. It is not good to cling tightly to relationships or to hoard earthly treasures. Revere all that you have with deep gratitude, and hold everything in open hands.

Reflect on the symbol of open hands. During your prayer time, open your hands and surrender all the important treasures and relationships of your life to God. Do you experience any obstacles in letting go and giving everyone and everything to God? Be aware of your feelings. Are you joyful? Anxious? Sad? Afraid? Share these feelings with God. Spend time expressing your gratitude to God for each gift and relationship. What does the perspective of "all is on loan" say to you in your present relationships and in your present circumstances? Find concrete ways to express your love and gratitude to people you often take for granted, including Jesus.

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The Ascension of the Lord – Sunday 24 May 2020

Acts 1:1-11. Psalm 47:2-3, 6-7, 8-9. Ephesians 1:17-23. Matthew 28:16-20.

Doubt No Longer. On the last mountain encounter with his disciples before his ascending, Jesus uses the "I AM" language reserved to God. This Son of God will be with them always. After Christ is lifted up, the angel has to remind them: Stop standing around. Stop looking up. The implication: get to work! Make more disciples!

- ◆ How do I know Christ is with me always? What does my experience tell me?
- ◆ Because of the strength of his presence, what mercy works will I do?
- ◆ What will I do to bring even one more person to Christ?

Pentecost Sunday (at the Mass during the Day) – Sunday, 31 May 2020

Acts 2:1-11. Psalm 104:1, 24, 29-30, 31, 34. 1 Corinthians 12:3b-7, 12-13. Sequence – Veni, Sancte Spiritus / Come, Holy Spirit, come! John 20:19-23.