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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

Death The Gospel reading this week is focused on death. In it, Jesus tells his disciples not to be afraid of those who can kill them. Those people are not to be feared, because death itself is not to be feared.

No doubt, there is always something sorrowful about dying, because death separates the dying person from his family and his friends; and they still have to slog through their lives in this world without their companion. But Jesus is not telling people to accept death without sorrow. He is telling them not to fear death.

How can Jesus tell us not to be afraid of death?

If you were walking alone down a dark street late at night, and you saw a small knot of strangers gathered menacingly at a corner, wouldn't you be afraid? Shouldn't you be afraid? If the cancer doctor tells you that you have only months to live, wouldn't you—shouldn't you—be afraid?

How can Jesus tell us—actually, command us—not to be afraid of death?

Well, think about it this way. If you are surprised when you discover that you are dying, you just haven't been paying attention. None of us is getting out of this alive. Everyone of us will die. It is just a question of when. Or maybe better: it is just a question of how.

Here is how it will be if you love the Lord. In dying, you will move through the veil that separates you, in this world of sorrow and suffering, from the Lord's own presence.

There, on the other side, you will find all tears wiped away—the tears you have already wept and the ones that are stuck in your heart right now. All those tears will be wiped away by your Creator with a tenderness so great that you will think you must be dreaming. The beauty and the goodness of that new world will surpass your every desire. And you yourself will be something lovelier than you ever imagined you could be. Surrounded by beauty and goodness, bathed in the love of the Lord, transformed, yourself, in the beauty of holiness, you will join the angels in singing for joy at what the Lord has done.

Are you afraid now? Is this scary to you? What is worth fearing is losing all of this beauty and goodness on the other side of death because you will not now surrender to the love of the Lord who calls you to himself. But this is a kind of death that comes only from sin, as the Second Reading says. No one else can force it on you; only you can cause this death in yourself. And that is why the Lord tells his disciples not to fear those who can kill the body.

Eleonore Stump

RECOGNITION OF FATHERS AND MOTHERS We wish to recognize all fathers this weekend, and since restriction on public gatherings on Mothers' Day didn't allow recognition, Mothers with Fathers will be honored this weekend.

REOPENING CHURCH FOR MASS With the approval of the diocese, the new directives allowing up to 25% of capacity of church will allow participation in Mass beginning Sunday June 6th. Saturday evening mass will be delayed until sufficient volunteers are available. A disposable order of service will be provided for mass. Please cooperate with direction of ushers for the sake of confidence and safety of most vulnerable. To assure space for social distancing is allowed, those want to attend mass on Sunday are asked to call or email the parish office to reserve a seat.

We are still seeking 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. The dispensation from Sunday mass will continue to be offered. Also the recorded Mass will continue to be available for those who do not get out to church.

ST FRANCIS DESALES HOMECOMING Thanks to Brenda Morse, Christine Deaton, Cecilia Parks and all who shared in the preparations for the Homecoming meal June 14th. Copies of the slideshow on CD are available this weekend. Copies of the parish history book are still available for \$5.

MERGED PARISH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES from June 18 are available at mass this weekend

FAITH ALIVE THRIFT STORE will be staffed by volunteers from St Paul , June 26-28, Thr & Fri, 9am-3 pm, and Sat, 9am-12pm. If you can assist, please contact Madonna Slife 967-5164 or Arlene Dueker 559-7803. Masks are optional, but encouraged.

HOPE UNLIMITED VIRTUAL BABY BOTTLE CAMPAIGN The annual Baby Bottle collection from Mothers Day to Fathers Day wasn't permitted this year. In its place a Virtual Baby Bottle Campaign is initiated to sustain operation of Hope Unlimited in Metropolis and Paducah providing pregnancy care and family support. They are requesting \$30 donation. You may text 'Bottle' to 270-398-9995 or donate on line at www.hopeunlimitedfcc.org or mail check to Hope Unlimited, 1101 Jefferson St, Paducah, KY 42001.

PRIESTHOOD ORDINATION Three young men, Nicholas Fleming, Carl Schrage, and Joel Seipp, will be ordained priest on Sat, July 11, 10:30 am. The mass will not be open to public attendance, but will be livestreamed at <http://www.cathedralbelle.org/> Please support them in your prayer.

ORDINATION AND INSTALLATION OF BISHOP McGOVERN will be held July 22, 2 pm at the Cathedral in Belleville. Because of Covid-19 restrictions, seating will be limited. One delegate from each parish is able to attend the mass.(If you wish to be considered, contact Fr Tom by June 28). The mass will also be broadcast live on EWTN television or on web at <https://www.ewtn.com/>

UPCOMING EVENTS...

.....Last Mass at St Francis DeSales Parish...June 29, 8 am

Opening Merged Parish mass and blessing of St Francis artifacts at St Paul July 5, 10am
(Note: The official date for the Peter Pence Collection has been rescheduled to Oct 3-4)

Twelfth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Jeremiah 20:10-13; Psalm 69; Romans 5:12-15; Matthew 10:26-33

Nothing worthwhile ever comes easy. We are told this as we grow up, and we tell our youth the same thing. But do we believe it? Do we look for the easy way out of problems? Do we work hard, help others, and presume we are entitled to "the good life"?

Because Jeremiah's message was one of gloom and doom for the people who refused to honor God, it was understandably not well-received. He found himself the object of persecution because he proclaimed the Word of God, and yet he carried on.

In Matthew's gospel, Jesus assures us that Christian life won't be easy: "Do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul" (Matthew 10:28). "Tell in the light," he says (Matthew 10:27).

Paul's message on freedom and life reminds us that nothing worthwhile ever comes easy. Only through the ultimate sacrifice of Jesus were we liberated from sin and death. Life eternal was won for us at a great price -- the passion and death of our Savior.

"The good life" may often seem an unattainable one, as we struggle to love God and neighbor and self in a manner worthy of the name Christian. We too live in a world that refuses to honor God. We live among those who abuse and ridicule and those who kill, but we must carry on. Eternally good life awaits us. As seen in today's gospel, we have Jesus' very Word on it.

-- Elsie Hainz McGrath

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Twelfth Sunday in Ordinary Time – 21 June 2020

Jeremiah 20:10-13. Psalm 69:8-10, 14, 17, 33-35. Romans 5:12-15. Matthew 10:26-33.

"Do Not Be Afraid." Who would count every single hair on our heads? God, who knows us better than we know ourselves. And loves us, too. Though we may be afraid of some things in life, afraid of the shape of the world, even afraid of some persons, we need never fear God – who is with us like a mighty champion.

- Of what and of whom am I afraid?
- How will I trust that divine power is superior to earthly power?
- How can I, like God, tend to at least one who is poorer than me?

Next Sunday - Thirteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time – 28 June 2020

2 Kings 4:8-11, 14-16a. Psalm 89:2-3, 16-17, 18-19. Romans 6:3-4, 8-11. Matthew 10:37-42.