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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
Parish Council Chair: Steve Pobst
Trustees: Matthew Slife, Jared Bergmann

Sundays – 10:00 am
Weekdays – Tue 11 am, Wed
6:30 pm & Friday, 12 pm

The Wheat and the Weeds In the Lord's field, there is the wheat and the weeds. Some people are good wheat and are gathered to the Lord. And then there are people who are weeds. It isn't good to be the weeds. The weeds get gathered into bundles for burning.

So how do we know which people are those bad, destined-for-burning weeds?

If I can't tell the wheat from the weeds, how can I tell whether I am wheat or weeds?

We don't, the Lord says. At least, we don't, not now. For all we know, the rudest, proudest, worldliest person sitting so smug in the next pew might be among the wheat when the angels come at the end to gather the wheat to heaven. The most despicable sinner might be wheat too. You can't tell the weeds until the end when the angels come, the Lord says.

By the same token, of course, the humblest, most hard-working person, sitting there so meekly in the next pew, might be among the weeds. The most admirable and saintly person might turn out to be weeds too. We don't know the wheat any more than we know the weeds.

The Lord knows his own. But we don't. We can judge thoughts, choices, acts, and habits; but we don't know enough to judge a person's final resting place when the angels come at Judgment Day.

And so the Lord's parable about the wheat and the weeds can raise a terrible question: what am I? Am I weeds, too? If I can't tell the wheat from the weeds, how can I tell whether I am wheat or weeds?

The problem with finding an answer to that question is that the question is confused. You are not the judge, not for the other guy and not for yourself either. Nietzsche said derisively of Christians, "They don't even look like the redeemed!" But how would we know what the redeemed look like? (For that matter, how would Nietzsche know?) Our job is not the job of judge, because we are not up for that job.

Our job is to come to Christ and cleave to him. His job is first to save us, weeds that we are, and then to judge us the wheat his salvation has made us be. Eleonore Stump

Vol 21 #28 **Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time**, July 19, 2020

Schedule of Masses

| | | | |
|---------|----------|----|-----------------|
| July 19 | 10:00 am | SP | Caryn Zmuda |
| July 21 | 11:00 am | SP | No Mass |
| July 22 | 6:30 pm | SP | No Mass |
| July 24 | 12:00 pm | SP | Fr Roger Karban |
| July 26 | 10:00 am | SP | Emma Kinkead |

Birthdays

| | |
|--------|---------------------------------|
| Jul 23 | Harper Widowski |
| Jul 26 | Chuck Querrey Steve Widowski |

Sun
Tues
Wed
Fri
Sun

Liturgical Ministry Schedule

St Paul..... July 19 – Lector: Steve Pobst **July 26 – Lector:** Zachary Garrett

STEWARDSHIP OFFERING July 12, 2020

SP: Envelope \$ 1210.00 (20), Loose 130.00, Bld & Maint 160.00
Total....\$1500.00

Thank you to all who have faithfully continued your envelope contributions.
Thanks also to the ushers keeping us in compliance with Covid-19 regulations and the sanitizing volunteers who disinfect all used spaces in the church after each service.

THIS WEEK'S SCHEDULE

Sun July 19 St Paul Mass10:00 am
Welcome Msgr Joseph Lawler, mass celebrant

Tue Jul 21 No Mass

Wed Jul 22 Ordination of Bishop Michael McGovern....2 pm

Fri Jul 24 Weekday Mass.....12pm

Sat Jul 25 Parish sponsored Lake Glendale Outting.....11am
For non-standing reservations at July 26 mass, contact
the rectory by phone or e-mail

Sun July 26 St Paul Mass10:00 am



Remember in Prayer the sick and hospitalized and recovering.
Remember in prayer Msgr Ken Schaefer, and Rev Roger Karban who have recently died.

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. Zach Garrett and Craig Levesque will be our parish representatives. The mass will also be broadcast live on EWTN television or on web at <https://www.ewtn.com/> A personal welcome card from St Paul Parishioners is in church foyer this weekend for people to sign that will be sent to him.

LAKE GLENDALE PARISH PICNIC is planned for Sat, July 25, beginning 11 am at Pine Point Picnic Area (East of Swimming beach). Lunch at 12 noon with Hot dogs, sausage, chips and water. Other foods welcome. Optional activities include swimming, boating, fishing, hiking and socializing. Please notify Cathy Kruep (618-304-4841) message or text by July 22 with number of participants .

COVID 19 REQUIREMENTS Illinois Phase 4 directives don't change church gatherings, since exception had been granted earlier for 50 or fewer people to gather indoors with proper social distancing. Reservations for Sunday are still required to assure no more than maximum limit is permitted, but also to implement contact notification in case of exposure to a positive case. Standing reservations may be made at the church office for those intending to participate weekly in mass.

CATHOLIC SERVICE AND MINISTRY APPEAL I write to express my personal gratitude to each of you for your outstanding support of the 2020 Catholic Service and Ministry Appeal. I also offer my warmest congratulations on exceeding your parish financial goal. You have, indeed, accepted the challenge put forth by Our Holy Father Pope Francis to "share the blessings which God has provided us: and it is only through your Christian caring and generosity that our diocesan ministries and agencies are able to give hope to those in need throughout southern Illinois. Thank you again so very much. God's richest blessings to each of you and your families: know that you are remembered always in my prayers. Most Sincerely and appreciatively yours in Christ, The Most Reverend Edward K Braxton.

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.hopeunlimitedfc.org or mail check to Hope Unlimited, 1101 Jefferson St, Paducah, KY 42001.

Respect Life Corner- In Matthew's Gospel, Jesus reminds us of the evil that is in the world as He shares the parable of the weeds and the wheat. Even though sometimes it seems that evil is everywhere, Jesus assures us that His love and goodness will triumph! In the end, the angels of God will sort the good from the bad and evil will be destroyed forever. Because of Christ's cross and resurrection, He has set us free. Evil has no power over us, as long as we stay united with Our Lord. With every prayer, act of charity, good deed and strong faith, you are personally helping to create God's kingdom on earth. Learn, Act, Connect and Pray-Become involved in your community to build up the esprit de corps of agape love, willing the good of the other. Join Respect Life Ministry in our Diocese of Belleville to serve on the Racial Harmony Initiative and or the Homeless Aid Plan. You can reach me at 722-5048. Let's build up those around us with Christ's love. A homeless individual should never be vulnerable to abuse because he or she has no shelter. No one should be treated differently based on their race or where they are from. We can make a difference and it starts today!

Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Wisdom 12:13,16-19; Psalm 86; Romans 8:26-27; Matthew 13:24-43

Today's first reading, responsorial psalm, and gospel consider the theme of leniency. The image is of a God who chooses to demonstrate control by means of kindness and patience. This is a God who governs not by power or force but by compassion.

Writing for Alexandrian Jews in the first century B.C., the author of the Book of Wisdom emphasizes God's special care of Israel during the Exodus. He also takes up the problem of the just and the unjust. God's power does not result in blind rage but in clemency. In this way God manages a balance between justice and mercy. We are to imitate this balance by showing strength through the exercise of leniency.

Psalm 86 presents a person who has suffered from persecution. The persecutors are intent upon taking the life of the psalmist. This bleak situation of the victim demands God's immediate action. "Show me a sign of your favor, so that those who hate me may see it and be put to shame" (vs. 17). The psalm does not speak of revenge on the persecutors but rather God's power in leniency. The parable defines the kingdom as one that embraces both wheat and weeds, both good and evil. The owner confronts two problems: (1) how to save the wheat and (2) how to outwit the enemy. He resolves the first by permitting the wheat and weeds to grow together until harvest. He resolves the second by using the weeds as fuel. The owner realizes that violence (killing the weeds) will only endanger the common good. In the kingdom, the common good demands patience and forgiveness. Swift action plus compassion make the owner a symbol of the kingdom: strength through leniency. Power is given to help others. Power, if destructive rather than constructive, must be carefully examined.

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

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Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time – 19 July 2020

Wisdom 12:13, 16-19. Psalm 86:5-6, 9-10, 15-16. Romans 8:26-27. Matthew 13:24-43.

Growing Together. We live in the time between Jesus' ascension and his second coming. In this kingdom of heaven that is begun but not yet complete, the bad and the good (seed) grow up together. How do we put up with this reality? The answer is in the Romans reading: grace, divine activity, life in God.

- How will I trust grace this day?
- How will I let some small act (some small seed) nurture and grow to benefit others?
- How will I grow strong and not be smothered by enemy's weeds?

Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time – 26 July 2020

1 Kings 3:5, 7-12. Psalm 119:57, 72, 76-77, 127-128, 129-130. Romans 8:28-30. Matthew 13:44-52.