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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

God's Gifts Solomon was distinguished from all other kings in the Old Testament by God's gifts to him. First, God appeared to him and told him to ask for a gift. Not many kings in Israel were honored by God in this way!

Solomon responded to God so beautifully! He asked for something all right, but it was not something worldly. He did not ask God for riches or long life. Instead, he asked God for wisdom to govern God's people well.

There is an inestimable spiritual richness in these gifts, more than Solomon knew to ask for.

And so he received God's first gift, which was the opportunity to ask God for something, in such a way that his asking made him worthy of what God gave him when God answered his prayer.

Because he pleased God by what he asked of God, God gave him the wisdom he asked for. And with that wisdom God gave him even more, namely, the gifts he had not asked for, things worthy of kings. In the text that continues the First Reading, God promised him the very worldly things he hadn't asked for—namely, riches and long life—in addition to the wisdom he wanted.

So Solomon was very great among the kings of the ancient Israel.

And yet what Christ gives to each one of his own people is greater than the gifts God gave Solomon. To each person who opens to Christ, Christ gives the indwelling Holy Spirit.

And with the Holy Spirit, he gives the seven gifts of the Spirit, too. The wisdom Solomon asked for is only the first of these. There are six more: understanding, counsel, knowledge, piety, fortitude, and fear of the Lord. There is an inestimable spiritual richness in these gifts, more than Solomon knew to ask for.

Furthermore, anyone who has these has not just long life, like Solomon, but everlasting life with the Lord. And even among the sorrows of this life, the consolations of the indwelling Spirit are present too, in the love, joy, and peace that are among the fruits of the Spirit.

And so Christ offers now to each one who will accept it from him something greater than the greatness of Solomon, not just wisdom but all the gifts and fruits of the Holy Spirit, and with them unending life in the kingdom of heaven.

As Christ says in the Gospel reading, this is treasure indeed.

Eleonore Stump

Vol 21 #29 **Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time**, July 26, 2020

Schedule of Masses

Sun	July 26	10:00 am	SP	Emma Kinhead
Tues	July 28	11:00 am	SP	General Intention
Wed	July 29	6:30 pm	SP	Carolyn Barrett
Fri	July 31	12:00 pm	SP	Fr Ken Schaefer
Sat	Aug 1	8:30 am	SP	Reparation of Sin
Sun	Aug 2	10:00 am	SP	Pat Cooney

Birthdays

Jul 26	Chuck Querrey
	Steve Widowski
Jul 29	Riley Slife
Jul 31	David Zmuda Sr

Liturgical Ministry Schedule

St Paul..... July 26 – Lector: Zachary Garrett **Aug 2:** Leslie Miller

STEWARDSHIP OFFERING July 19, 2020

SP: Envelope \$ 560.00 (12, Loose 40.00, Bld & Maint \$50.00

Total....\$650.00

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

THIS WEEK'S SCHEDULE

Sun Jul 26	St Paul Mass	10:00 am
Tue Jul 28	Weekday Mass.....	11:00 am
Wed Jul 29	Weekday Mass.....	6:30 pm
Fri Jul 31	Weekday Mass.....	12 pm
Sat Aug 1	First Saturday Mass & Devotions.....	8:30 am
	CCW Dinner meeting..Kitchen on Lafayette.	11am
	For non-standing reservations at Aug 2 mass, contact the rectory by phone or e-mail	
Sun Aug 2	St Paul Mass	10:00 am

Remember in Prayer the sick and hospitalized and recovering.
Please remember deceased parishioner family members: Ken
Dennison (brother in law of Pam Shallenberger); Carolyn Barrett
(sister-in-law of Fr Tom)



ORDINATION AND INSTALLATION OF BISHOP McGOVERN held July 22, 2 pm at the Cathedral in Belleville can still be watched on web at <https://www.ewtn.com/tv/shows/cathedrals-across-america>

BELLEVILLE DIOCESE MASS FOR YOUNG ADULTS Bishop Michael McGovern will celebrate a special "Mass for Young Adults" on Sunday, August 9, at 5:00 p.m. at the Cathedral of St. Peter in Belleville. All young adults, from high school graduates through age 35, are invited to attend, and meet the new Bishop. A light reception with cold drinks will be held after the Mass. This is a good opportunity for Catholic young adults to pray together with Bishop McGovern and to meet other young adults from the diocese.

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. Individual Sunday or Standing reservations may be made at the church office for those intending to participate weekly in mass.

FIRST SATURDAY MASS & DEVOTION will be offered Aug 1, 8:30 am at St Paul

CCW DINNER MEETING will be held August 1, 11 am at Kitchen on Lafayette in Anna. Reservations required. Contact Pam Shallenberger 217-714-4568 by Mon, July 27 to participate..

RURAL KING CHURCH WEEK During Church Week, Aug 2-Aug 15, purchases at Rural King can earn 10% of receipts (less tax) for a registered 501(c)3 Christian organization. St Paul has been registered. Customers can choose a registered organization to donate to and upload their receipts to www.ruralking.com/churchweek by Sept 1, 2020.

FAITH ALIVE VOLUNTEERS St Paul Parish will operate the Faith Alive Store on August 13-15th. A list is on the bulletin board inviting parishioners to volunteer.

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.

VOCATION CORNER "Growing up, I had steadfast examples of always putting family and faith first. My father suggested that perhaps one day I would become a priest. At 15, I met the Oblates of the Virgin Mary at their parish near my home in Long Beach, Calif. I was attracted to their passion for preaching God's mercy and making the sacraments available around the clock. I maintained spiritual direction through the remainder of high school and a university program in computer science. Finally, only 10 days after my younger sister joined a Dominican congregation, I entered the seminary in Boston. I had embarked on an adventure that would take me to three continents on the path to ministry as an Oblate priest, just like those who had captivated me at 15 - and I love it!"
Fr. Paul M. Nguyen, O.M.V.' Oblates of the Virgin Mary, Alton IL; Columbia Feb.

Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

1 Kings 3:5,7-12; Psalm 119; Romans 8:28-30; Matthew 13:44-52

All of us have role models for planning and managing our lives. Those who aspire to beauty and glamour look to Hollywood; those who are attracted to power emulate business executives or politicians; those who are sports-minded look to the superstars of professional athletics. Disciples also need role models.

Solomon passes over desire for long life, wealth, and victory over enemies in favor of "an understanding mind to govern your people, able to discern between good and evil" (vs. 9). This is a request to govern well and provide for the people, especially the disenfranchised. As a matter of fact Solomon did not live up to this expectation (see 1 Kings 11:28), and hence is not a role model for just government.

Paul speaks of that plan for humans whereby they can arrive at the destiny God intended from the beginning. He uses five verbs (foreknew, predestined, called, justified, glorified) that capture God's benefits on behalf of Israel. But now humans who respond in faith can also share in those benefits. After "predestined," Paul adds a qualification: "to be conformed to the image of his Son" (vs. 29). The risen Lord is the exemplar of God's destiny for humanity. To be fully human is to be one with the lifestyle and death-style of Jesus.

In the parable of the buried treasure, Matthew offers a role model of how growth in the kingdom takes place. The first stage is normalcy, the day to day routine of the farmer. The second stage is the discovery of the treasure that opens a whole new world. The third stage is the overturning of the past -- the farmer sells all his possessions to purchase the field. The fourth stage is the new world that Jesus offers the disciple. Matthew calls for a radical commitment to the person of Jesus.

Solomon challenges our use of power. Matthew's true disciple reminds us of ultimate values. The Jesus role model of Paul urges us to make those values the guideposts for our living.

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

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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.

The Kingdom of Heaven. Living in the kingdom of heaven can be hard to fathom at times. It is a treasure, it is surprising, it is full of good and bad alike. The Letter to the Romans reminds us that for those who love God, all things work for good. It may not happen tomorrow, or next week, but it will happen. All will be well.

- While living in God's kingdom now, what treasure(s) do I seek?
- How will I share what I find?
- What in my storeroom can I share with others?

Eighteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time – 2 August 2020

Isaiah.55: 1-3 Psalm 145. Romans 8:35, 37-39. Matthew 14:13-21.