



**Pastor : Rev Thomas Barrett**  
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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 – 8:00 am, 10:00 am  
Weekdays – Tue 11 am, Wed  
6:30 pm & Friday, 12 pm

**Love and Forgiveness** In the Gospel reading, Peter wants to know how many times he has to forgive someone who sins against him. What is the number of times, Peter wants to know, that he has to forgive that sinner? But this question is confused. There is no such number as the one Peter is looking for. There is no limit on the number of times we have to forgive someone who has sinned against us.

We are able to understand the point of this Gospel story if we see the connection between love and forgiveness. Refusing to forgive is refusing to love, and it is never acceptable not to love. That is why it is never right to withhold forgiveness either.

God's forgiveness is always there, and so is God's love.

The relation between love and forgiveness also helps us see the difference between forgiving a wrongdoer and enabling him to continue in his wrongdoing. Love wants the good for the beloved. A person who forgives a sinner loves that sinner; and because she loves him, she has a heart for his good. A wife who continues to live with a husband who beats her isn't forgiving him. She's helping him to get worse. There is nothing loving or forgiving about enabling a person to get worse. For her to forgive her husband is for her to want his good, even in the face of his bad treatment of her. But his good requires, first of all, that he stop hurting her, and then that he repent his terrible treatment of her.

If he is unrepentant, if he rejects goodness and love, then she can want the good for him anyway. But her forgiveness of him will be like a gift that can't be given because he won't receive it. Then the best she can do for him is to keep a distance from him, so that he doesn't get worse by continuing to hurt her.

God's love is like this, too. God's forgiveness is always there, and so is God's love. Because God loves every person, God offers the good to everyone too, no matter what that person's sins may be. God does not keep a careful distance from us when we sin. What stands between us and God is only our own unwillingness to receive the gift God is offering.

If we will only not reject it, the gift of God's love and forgiveness will be given to us and received.

Eleonore Stump

Vol 21 #36 **Twenty-Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time**, Sept 13, 2020

**Schedule of Masses**

Sun	Sept 13	2:00 pm	SP	Charles Hupe
Tues	Sept 15	11:00 am	SP	General Intention
Wed	Sept 16	5:30 pm	SP	General Intention
Fri	Sept 18	12:00 pm	SP	General Intention
Sun	Sept 20	8:00am	SP	Barrett-Waltz Families
		10:00 am	SP	For the Parishioners

**Birthdays**

Sept 16 Carolyn Johnson  
 Sept 17 Bill Johnson  
 Sept 20 Alex Ross

**Liturgical Ministry Schedule - Lector**

**St Paul..... Sept 13** Steve Widowski **Sept 20, 8am** tba **10 am** tba

**STEWARDSHIP OFFERING Sept 6, 2020**

**SP:** Envelope \$ 1335.00 (23), Loose 82.00, Votive Candle 5.00

**Total....\$1422.00**

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

**THIS WEEK'S SCHEDULE**

- Sun Sept 13 Retired Diocesan Priest Collection  
 Rescheduled Holy Land Collection (is you missed it)  
 St Paul 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Mass .....2:00 pm  
 Reception, historical articles, slideshow in hall  
 Early Bird Draw-Down drawing  
 (Recorded Mass available on facebook on St Paul Youtube channel by 9 pm)
- Tue Sept 15 Weekday Mass.....11:00 am
- Wed Sept16 Weekday Mass.....6:30 pm
- Fri Sept18 Weekday Mass.....12 pm  
 Women of parish begin retreat at Kings House
- Sat Sept 19 Baptism of Emilia Black.....5:30 pm  
 For reservations at Sept 20 mass, contact  
 the rectory by phone or e-mail
- Sun Sept 20 Sunday Mass at SP.....8:00 am  
 Sunday Mass at SP.....10:00 am



**Remember in Prayer:** All who are hospitalized and ill. Those asked to be remembered in prayer.

**125<sup>TH</sup> MASS AND RECEPTION** We welcome Bishop McGovern who will be main celebrant at St Paul this Sunday (the only weekend mass at St Paul). A reception with light refreshments, slide show, bookmark, historical displays, and availability of History Book will follow mass. Bishop McGovern will also meet parishioners following the mass. Our thanks to him and all who have made preparations for the 125<sup>th</sup> year and this celebration.

**SPECIAL COLLECTIONS** The collection to support Retired Diocesan Priests (assist with long term Nursing Home Care, supplemental health insurance, medications) is scheduled for Sept 13. Also the Vatican rescheduled the Holy Land Collection for Sept 13 (for those who weren't able to support it in April).

**FOOD COLLECTION FOR THE STONEFORT FOOD PANTRY** will be collected during the month of September. Items may be placed in the tub in church foyer

**PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES** of Sept 9<sup>th</sup> meeting are available in bulletin rack..

**DRAWDOWN TICKETS** The Drawdown fund raiser for Oct 10 will be modified this year to be held without a physical gathering for meal. Tickets that may be shared with up to ten people will be \$100 and are available after mass, or from Madonna Slife, Dolly Hopkins, Steve & Peggy Widowski, and Joe & Marsha Nelson. Gift cards are needed for prizes to replace baskets. Check list on bulletin board. The Early Bird drawing will be held Sept 13.

**NEW WEEKEND MASS SCHEDULE** So that all can be welcome to mass each weekend, the parish council recommended adding an 8:00 am Mass beginning Sept 20<sup>th</sup>. Additional helpers with liturgical ministries and Covid-19 procedures (hand sanitizing, seating, disinfecting church after each service) will be needed. You may volunteer on bulletin board.

**CPR AND AED TRAINING** will be offered for those parishioners that are interested. There will be no charge for the training class and it will last approximately 2 hours. A sign-up sheet is available this Sunday or you can call (618-771-2077). There is no date or time yet for the class but will probably schedule it in early-mid October.

**FAITH ALIVE THRIFT STORE VOLUNTEERS** St Paul's turn to operate the Faith Alive Thrift Store will be Sept 24, 25, 9am-3 pm, and Sat, Sept 26, 9am-12 noon. You don't need to be available for the whole day. A sign-up list is on the church bulletin board.

**ST ANDREW DINNER** Bishop Michael McGovern and Fr. Nick Junker, Diocesan Vocation Director, are inviting young men interested in learning more about the Catholic priesthood to participate in a St. Andrew Dinner. Young men, ages 14 thru 25, are invited to attend; parents are also welcome. The first St. Andrew Dinner will be Sunday, September 27th, at Gibault Catholic High School beginning at 4:00 PM. The afternoon includes supper and input from a recently ordained priest, Fr. Nick Fleming, followed by Q&A about the life of a Catholic Priest. If you are interested in attending, please contact Fr. Nick Junker at (618) 722-5035 or e-mail njunker@diobelle.org

**SOUTH VICARIATE CCW** The ladies of Holy Spirit Church of Carterville will be hosting the fall South Vicariate gathering on Saturday, September 26, beginning at noon. All ladies of our South Vicariate parishes are invited to attend. We will be abiding by social distancing and masks protocol. The afternoon will include Catholic Trivia fun, meeting our Belleville Diocese Council of Catholic Women (BDCCW) president-elect Gina Einig, an update on our Oct. 14 virtual convention and our BDCCW Box of Joy initiative. The cost for a box lunch is 10 dollars. Attendees are also encouraged to bring small school items, socks, hats, toiletries, or a toy to include in a Box of Joy for an overseas child. Make reservations by signing up in church entry way or texting or phoning Betty Schnake at 201-2086 or Sister Phyllis Schenk at 925-5099.

## **Twenty-Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time**

Sirach 27:30--28:7; Psalm 103; Romans 14:7-9; Matthew 18:21-35

Hurt is not easily forgiven. Our impulse very often is to strike back, if not directly, then in more subtle ways -- denying forgiveness, giving the silent treatment. Reconciliation is today's theme. If we are to imitate divine mercy, then the challenge is to look beyond ourselves and our hurt to a God who never ceases to say, "I love you and, therefore, I forgive you."

At the beginning of the second century B.C., Ben Sira compiled a compendium of Israel's wisdom, commonly known as the Book of Sirach. In this section, especially Chapter 28:2-7, he considers the theme of forgiveness. He argues that forgiveness of neighbor brings God's forgiveness of our own sins. Two more motives for mercy are the thought of death and God's covenant.

The gospel passage is part of Matthew's discourse on Church order. Problems in community are presumed. The issue is whether or not there are limits to forgiveness. Peter's suggestion of the number of times the Christian should forgive appears generous, but it is short of Jesus' view for the kingdom. For Jesus, forgiveness is more than generous, it is boundless.

Ben Sira reminds us that the wrongdoer is our brother or sister and thus vindictiveness is unacceptable. The psalmist writes that the God of Israel rejects human estimates for pardon and therefore a less than genuine forgiveness is wrong. Jesus teaches limitless mercy as the norm rather than the exception. We should forgive, not like the first official in his parable, but like the king.

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

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## **Twenty-Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time – 13 September 2020**

Sirach 27:30--28:7. Psalm 103:1-2, 3-4, 9-10, 11-12. Romans 14:7-9. Matthew 18:21-35.

**Seventy-Seven Times.** When is enough enough? Can we be angry now? When can we stop forgiving? If we have to forgive the same person the same thing seventy-seven times, can we stop at seventy-eight? No! Because, as Paul declares in Romans 14, we live and die for God, to whom alone we belong. We do not live for ourselves.

- Who needs my forgiveness?
- Whom will I forgive – and for what – perhaps, again?
- And what forgiveness do I need?

## **Twenty-Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time – 20 September 2020**

Isaiah 55:6-9. Psalm 145:2-3, 8-9, 17-18. Philippians 1:20c-24, 27a. Matthew 20:1-16a.