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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

What Is Owed to the Laborers In the parable in the Gospel Reading, the laborers who work all day receive the same wage as those who work just one hour, and so they complain.

What God gives to people who work for God in this way is gift.

You can see their point. Justice is giving a person what is owed to him. A person who works many hours deserves a bigger wage than a person who does the same work but for only one hour. Or so it seems.

But think about how Jesus might have unpacked this parable if he had explained it to his disciples in the way he showed some of his other parables to them.

Here's one possibility. The vineyard owner is God. The laborers are human beings who are doing God's work in this life. The wage given is eternal life in union of love with God in heaven.

If we think about the parable this way, the laborers' complaint looks a lot less reasonable. When it comes to eternal life, what is justice? What does any human person deserve? What, actually, does God owe him?

Well, here is the first thing to see: No one—that is, absolutely no one—is owed eternal life in union with God.

To think otherwise is to suppose that you can work your own way to heaven. And you can't. Salvation is God's free gift. He gives it generously to anyone who will receive it, but it is still God's free gift.

The problem with the laborers who complain, then, is that they think the vineyard owner owes them something. In their eyes, their work deserves a reward, a really big reward, more than the vineyard owner gives them. And so here is what we can see about them: they were working for themselves, to get that big reward for themselves.

And that is why they are last, not first, in the final distribution of God's rewards. God's people are meant to work for God, and not for what they can get from God for themselves.

What God gives to people who work for God in this way is gift. It isn't deserved payment. What's more, the gift is God himself. There is no greater reward than this, and joy is the only right response to the gift.

Those who understand their work and God's wage in this way may have come late to their labor, but they are the ones who are first in God's eyes. Eleonore Stump

Vol 21 #37 **Twenty-Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time**, Sept 20, 2020

Schedule of Masses

Sun	Sept 20	8:00am	SP	Barrett-Waltz Families
		10:00 am	SP	For the Parishioners
Tues	Sept 22	11:00 am	SP	General Intention
Wed	Sept 23	5:30 pm	SP	General Intention
Fri	Sept 25	12:00 pm	SP	General Intention
Sun	Sept 27	8:00am	SP	Ken Dennison
		10:00 am	SP	For the Parishioners

<p>Birthdays Sept 20 Alex Ross</p>

Liturgical Ministry Schedule - Lector

St Paul..... Sept 20, 8am	Leslie Miller	Sept 27 8 am	Mitch Miller
10 am	Zach Garrett	10 am	tba

STEWARDSHIP OFFERING Sept 13, 2020

SP: Envelope \$ 850.00 (15), Loose 20.00, Dio Priest Retirement 285.00 Bld & Maint 159.00
History books 180.00 **Total....\$1494.00**

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

THIS WEEK'S SCHEDULE

Sun Sept 20 Sunday Mass at SP.....8:00 am
 Sunday Mass at SP.....10:00 am
 (Recorded Mass available on facebook, St Paul Youtube channel by 5 pm)
 Mon Sept 21 Blood Drive at Fellowship Baptist Hall.....12-6 pm
 Tue Sept 22 Weekday Mass.....11:00 am
 Wed Sept23 Meet Me at the Poles- Vienna High School...7 am
 Weekday Mass.....6:30 pm
 Thr-Fri. Faith Alive Thrift Store staffed by St Paul.9am-3pm
 Fri Sept25 Weekday Mass.....12 pm
 Sat Sept 26 Faith Alive Thrift Store Volunteers...9am -12 pm
 South Vicariate CCW Fall Mt..Carterville..12:00 pm
 For reservations at Sept 27 mass, contact
 the rectory by phone or e-mail
 Sun Sept 27 Sunday Mass at SP.....8:00 am
 St Paul CCW Ladies Mt.....9:15 am
 Sunday Mass at SP.....10:00 am
 Parish School of Religion.....11:00am



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

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

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 Dolly Hopkins, Steve & Peggy Widowski, and Joe & Marsha Nelson. Gift cards are needed for prizes to replace baskets and should be given to Peggy Widowski. Ticket proceeds can be turned in to Steve Widowski. Check list on bulletin board. The Early Bird drawing prize went to Zach Garrett.

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 20th. Additional helpers with liturgical ministries and Covid-19 procedures (hand sanitizing, seating, disinfecting church after each service) are needed. You may volunteer on bulletin board.

CPR AND AED TRAINING Thursday, October 15 from 5-7 PM has been set for the CPR/AED training class for the Parish. There is no fee for the class unless you want a certification card from the American Heart Association (AHA). The certification card requires a fee of \$20 to the AHA. Those who want the card will have to remain approx. 20 minutes after the class to complete a check list for the card. If there are any questions on the class, please contact Peggy Widowski (618-771-2077).

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.

CONGRATULATIONS Emilia Black, daughter of Nickalaus and Sarah Black, who was welcomed into God's family through Baptism on Sept 19th.

THANK YOU..... to Frank Dueker for Chairing the 125th Anniversary Committee, and all supporting subcommittees; musicians, singers, ministers, decorators, food serving, presenters, photographers and to Bishop McGovern for coming to be the main celebrant.

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. Sign-up for car pool on bulletin board.

NAMI is the nation's largest grassroots mental health organization, dedicated to building better lives for the millions of Americans affected by mental illness. On September 22, at 6:30 pm there will be a National Alliance on Mental Illness virtual program that is open to the community. NAMI Family and Friends is a 2 hour seminar that supports people who have loved ones with a mental health condition. This program is offered by NAMI Jackson County, an affiliate of NAMI Illinois. The program is FREE but registration is required – to register visit: <https://namiillinois.org/nami-family-and-friends/> Questions can be sent to: namijcil@gmail.com.

Twenty-Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Isaiah 55:6-9; Psalm 145; Philippians 1:20-24,27; Matthew 20:1-16

Freedom generally implies the ability to provide for ourselves, to move about at will, to be independent. Freedom is a basking in self-sufficiency, free of all debt -- financial or otherwise. Today's readings suggest another concept of freedom. They speak of a God who chooses to give to the most unlikely and undeserving because that is the nature of God.

Isaiah urges the people to repent, to have a change of heart, to return to Yahweh. Israel is slow to accept God's plan, they are skeptical that God can create something new out of the chaos of exile. How can the depressed break into song? Isaiah must teach a new way of thinking, a vision of God that gives new meaning to success and failure.

Jesus' original parable appears to have included only verses 1-13 of this passage from Matthew. This embraces the hiring of the five groups (vs. 1-7) and the paying of the same wage to each group, starting with the last (vs. 8-13). Verses 14-16 are perhaps the work of Matthew himself. He reminds his audience that God is free to reward merely on the basis of God's own goodness.

God's generous giving of surprises is a divine paradox that invites all believers to participate in the same adventure. Today's biblical passages suggest that this invitation is a sure path to sanctity. We are called to focus on those who seem to have no demand on our generosity, our compassion, and our love. The surprise is that we are most generous to those least able to claim our kindness.

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

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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.

How Things Work in the Kingdom of Heaven. This parable about kingdom living may rile us up. God is as generous to the late-comers to kingdom work as to those who labored longer and, perhaps, harder. Really? It is true. God is so generous, so loving, so good – with ways above our ways and thoughts above our thoughts (reread Isaiah).

- What work will I do to help bring on the Kingdom of Heaven?
- How will I pour myself into Christian living without grumbling?
- How can I be generous to a fault like God this week?

Twenty-Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time – 27 September 2020

Ezekiel 18:25-28. Psalm 25:4-5, 6-7, 8-9. Philippians 2:1-11. Matthew 21:28-32.