



Pastor : Rev Thomas Barrett
Phone (618) 658 – 4501
E-mail: spccil@frontier.com
Website: www.stpaulvienna.org



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

Witnessing for the Lord In the First Reading, God appoints Ezekiel as a watchman for his people and he adds a threat. If Ezekiel does not warn sinners to mend their ways, God will hold him responsible for their fate.

Does God say this to Ezekiel only? Or does he say it also to all of us? Many of the great people in the Christian tradition—Augustine, Aquinas, Francis of Assisi, to name just a few—thought that God’s command to Ezekiel is meant to apply now to every one of the faithful too. It is a duty for every Christian to watch out for each one of God’s people in the way God spelled out to Ezekiel.

Your life can bear witness to the goodness of the Lord and the holiness of his commandments.

But this can look like a dreadful idea. Could it really be the case that a Christian is supposed to be a kind of busybody, continually nagging other people about their sins?

And what about the Gospel instruction to pay more attention to the beam in your own eye than to the speck of dust in somebody else’s?

Here we need to remember that there is more than one way to communicate with others. If you are concentrated in love and service to the Lord, your life will tell a story to everyone who crosses your path. When Francis of Assisi was asked about this passage in The First Reading, he said,

if that passage is supposed to be understood in a universal sense, then I understand it to mean that a servant of God should be burning with life and holiness so brightly that by the light of example and the tongue of his conduct, he will rebuke all the wicked. (St. Francis of Assisi)

Your life can bear witness to the goodness of the Lord and the holiness of his commandments. You don’t have to use words to do so.

So a Christian can and should concentrate on the beam in his own eye, just as the Gospel injunction says. But if he really does so, then the duty to witness to others, God’s command to Ezekiel, will be beautifully fulfilled.

Eleonore Stump

Schedule of Masses

| | | | | |
|------|---------|----------|----|--------------------|
| Sun | Sept 6 | 10:00 am | SP | Irene Kojder |
| Tues | Sept 8 | 11:00 am | SP | Carolyn Barrett |
| Wed | Sept 9 | 5:30 pm | SP | Ken Dennison & Fam |
| Fri | Sept 11 | 12:00 pm | SP | General Intention |
| Sun | Sept 13 | 2:00 pm | SP | Charles Hupe |

Birthdays

Sept 6 Mason Bishop
Sept 9 Steve Hupe

Liturgical Ministry Schedule - Lector

St Paul..... Sept 6: Madonna Slife **Sept 13** Steve Widowski

STEWARDSHIP OFFERING August 30, 2020

SP: Envelope \$ 1035.00 (20), Loose 60.00, Mass Int 10.00

Total....\$1105.00

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

THIS WEEK'S SCHEDULE

Sun Sept 6 Food Collection for Stonefort Pantry during Sept
St Paul Mass10:00 am

First Sunday Social in front of church...11:00 am

(Recorded Mass available on facebook on St Paul Youtube channel by 4pm)

Tue Sept 8 Weekday Mass.....11:00 am

Ministerial Mt....Vienna UMC.....1:00 pm

Wed Sept 9 Weekday Mass.....6:30 pm

Parish Council Mt...hall.....7:00 pm

Thr Sept 10 Eucharistic Adoration..church..... 4-7:30pm

Fri Sept 11 Weekday Mass.....12 pm

For reservations at Sept 13, 125th mass, contact
the rectory by phone or e-mail

Sun Sept 13 Retired Diocesan Priest Collection

Rescheduled Holy Land Collection (is you missed it)

St Paul 125th Anniversary Mass2:00 pm

Reception, historical articles, slideshow in hall

Early Bird Draw-Down drawing



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

FIRST SUNDAY SOCIAL will be held following today's mass outdoors in front of the church.

PARISH HISTORY BOOKS will be available for purchase at mass this weekend. The 96 page book combining parish histories of St Francis DeSales and St Paul is being offered at the subsidized price of \$5.00.

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.

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.

PARISH COUNCIL will meet this Wed, Sept 9, 7 pm in the parish hall. Members are asked to pick up the agenda at mass this weekend.

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION will be offered this Thursday, Sept 10, 4:00-7:30 pm. Participants are encouraged to sign the schedule on the bulletin board.

125TH MASS AND RECEPTION On Sept 13, 2 pm a mass with Bishop McGovern will be celebrated at St Paul (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. Beside parishioners, former pastors, staff, parishioners and families will be welcomed. Due to Covid 19 requirements, we are asking for reservations. Please pass word onto anyone you think might be interested. A reservation sheet is posted for parishioners on the bulletin board or you may call or e-mail the rectory.

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).

PARISH SCHOOL OF RELIGION St Paul parish is committed to providing religious formation for the youth of the parish. The Diocesan Office of Education is requiring parishes to submit their plan for offering religious formation (in person sessions, on line or combination) assuring it provides for the health and safety of all participants. Parents are asked to respond to the survey to provide understanding of your preferences.

VOCATION CORNER As our country honors Labor this weekend, we can rejoice in the goodness of work for the Lord. We are each called to spread the Word and promote our Catholic Church. This is the vocation of ALL of us. We can do this effectively in following the exhortation of Jesus in today's Gospel. We are shown that we need to be forgiving and forgiven. Our formal path for forgiveness is through the Sacrament of Reconciliation. With the priest "in persona Christi", we meet with the Lord and he cleanses us. We need to encourage our loved ones to make use of the sacraments. We also need to encourage them to consider the priesthood so that these sacraments remain available to us.

Twenty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

Ezekiel 33:7-9; Psalm 95; Romans 13:8-10; Matthew 18:15-20

We're in this together. As difficult as it might be to embrace the idiosyncrasies of all our brother and sister believers, that is our mandate. Salvation is not "me" but "us."

Ezekiel entered upon a new phase in his prophetic career around the year 585 B.C. Earlier he was the scolder (see Ezekiel 3:26); now he is sentry for God's people in exile. In this passage he dramatizes the tension between individual and community.

Paul considers the obligations of charity. The focus is duties, not rights. Charity is the very center of Christian life. Paul sees love as the fulfillment of the Mosaic law. All the commandments are summarized under one: "Love your neighbor as yourself" (vs. 9).

Chapter 18 is one of the five great sermons recorded by Matthew. He deals in this passage with problems affecting the local Christian community. The community has a course of action when dealing with the sinner: First, there is private correction. If this fails, then witnesses are called upon to help make the point. As a last resort, the person is excommunicated. Justice is a communal experience.

How do we react to bad news? A natural reaction at times is to shield ourselves, to become oblivious to people in pain. Ezekiel would urge us to energize ourselves through involvement with the downtrodden. What about people we don't like? Rather than expel them from our world of concern, Paul demands that we incorporate them into our arena of responsibility. Do we allow sinners to continue in their wrong or do we support them in conversion? Matthew's view of community calls for embracing.

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

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Twenty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time – 06 September 2020

Ezekiel 33:7-9. Psalm 95:1-2, 6-7, 8-9. Romans 13:8-10. Matthew 18:15-20.

Christ Is Present. The readings today lay out our duty to dissuade the wicked from their ways (Ezekiel); to not harden our hearts (Psalm); to love, love, love (Romans); and to lead sisters and brothers out of sin (Matthew). Important. Necessary. Baptismal duty. But let the last gospel sentence become our guide this week: "For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there I am in the midst of them." Christ is always present. Christ is surely with us now in the liturgy, in Communion, in all the sacraments, in his word proclaimed, in the praying and singing Church – and in this pandemic. As few as two or three of us assures his presence.

- What is God saying to me about un-hardening my heart?
- Let me read a Bible passage each day this week, either reprising the Sunday readings or using this week's gospels of Luke 7 and 8. What is Christ saying to me each day?
- With whom can I gather, even if kept from the church building, to sing God's praise?

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.