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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

The Foolish In the Gospel parable, there are ten women waiting for the Lord. But when the Lord comes, half of these women are rejected. As the parable explains it, the problem is that five of the women are off shopping for oil when the Lord comes, and so they're left out. They are the foolish ones. The other five women are the wise ones, welcomed by the Lord.

How are we to understand this parable?

Love for others isn't one of the virtues of the foolish either.

Well, notice that when the ten women originally arrived at the place where they were to wait for their Lord, the five foolish women did notice that the wise women had brought extra oil with them. But humility doesn't seem to have been one of the virtues of the foolish women. When they saw that the wise women had brought extra oil for their lamps, the foolish ones apparently just felt they knew better than the wise: the oil in their lamps would not run out.

And maybe, after all, it didn't seem very important to the foolish women whether the oil in their lamps would last. When the foolish discovered that they were wrong and were short on oil, they didn't lament their mistake. Their first thought was just to demand some of the oil of the wise.

The foolish didn't care if the wise suffered in consequence. The foolish were willing to risk the welfare of the wise, provided only that the foolish had a chance of getting something for themselves. Love for others isn't one of the virtues of the foolish either.

What would have happened if the foolish women had not risked missing the Lord by going after the oil they wanted but had just waited for him instead, without oil? What would have happened if their Lord had found them in darkness but also in humility, not trying to climb to safety on the backs of others, but just acknowledging their mistakes and hoping in the Lord? Does anyone really think that their Lord would have cast them out?

Their folly lies in their insistence on having just what they want when they want it, no matter what the risk or the cost to anyone else. And that is why they are cast out.

Eleonore Stump

VETERAN RECOGNITION We wish to recognize and thank those who have provided freedom for our country through military service. Living veterans from St Paul are Dale Bishop, Jerry Cecchi, Myron Cole, Frank Dueker, Jim Goddard, Carolyn Johnson, Anthony Kolb, Mike McMahan, Mitch Miller, Bill Porter, Chuck Querrey, Alan Stachowiak, Steve Widowski, and Paul Widowski. A gift certificate given by CCW is a token of appreciation.

PLACEMENT OF TIME CAPSULE – CLOSING 125th ANNIVERSARY A collection of documents related to St Paul Parish and its history have been sealed in the time capsule and with a prayer service, will be placed in the cavity of the Blessed Mother Statue following the 10 am mass this Sunday. This event will officially close our 125th celebration. After Sunday anyone wishing a History Book should contact the rectory.

BOX OF JOY Last sweep collecting any delayed Boxes of Joy this Sunday.

BOOK OF REMEMBRANCE During the month of November, commemorating all souls, a book to list deceased family and friends will be in the church foyer, then carried to the altar to remember in prayer those listed. The book is available in the foyer for recording names.

FOOD COLLECTION FOR VIENNA FOOD PANTRY. Will be conducted during the month of November. A container for donations is in the church foyer.

COUNCIL OF CATHOLIC WOMEN DINNER MEETING is Saturday, Nov. 14, 11:30 am at The Kitchen on Lafayette in Anna. Pat Kalicki will inform about Eagle House Thanksgiving and Christmas meal delivery as well as short business meeting and lunch. Cost is 15 dollars. Sign up sheet on bulletin board or call Pam 217-714-4568.

FALL DIOCESAN HARVEST BLESSING, will be held this Wednesday, Nov 11, 2 pm at Kabat Farm, 2510 N. Scheller Lane, Sheller, IL Participants are encouraged to bring samples of harvest for blessing and a canned food item to be shared with pantry.

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION will be offered this Thursday, Nov 12 at St Paul, 4-7:30 pm. Participants are encouraged to sign the time schedule on the bulletin board.

ST ANDREW DINNER An opportunity for high school and college age young men to meet with Bishop McGovern and priests in the diocese to enjoy a meal, pray, discuss priestly vocations and whatever else is on your mind. Nov 14, 4 pm at Newman Student Center, Carbondale. For information or to RSVP, contact Rev Nicholas Junker 618-722-5035 or njunker08@hotmail.com

CALLING ALL MOTHERS & GRANDMOTHERS! The Catholic Moms Summit is a FREE online event this Nov 13-15. Join women from all around the world for this unprecedented gathering! Over 80 presentations and live events will get into the real issues moms and grandmothers face on a day to day basis. Come and be inspired and refreshed! Register for FREE at CatholicMomsSummit.com

CATHOLIC CAMPAIGN FOR HUMAN DEVELOPMENT (CCHD). In the United States, one in six people lives in poverty. With this collection on Nov 15, you support programs in our diocese and throughout the country that address the causes of poverty and provide a sustainable future for those who struggle. Envelopes are in boxed set.

COMMUNITY THANKSGIVING SERVICE sponsored by the Ministerial Alliance will be hosted at Gilead Cumberland Presbyterian Church, 6 pm, Sunday Nov 15th.

Thirty-second Sunday in Ordinary Time

Wisdom 6:12-16; Psalm 63; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18; Matthew 25:1-13

Patience is a challenge in our world today. We expect instant replays. What used to cook slowly in the oven now takes seconds in the microwave. We may transfer our impatience to our neighbor, even to God. Everyone should respond to our demands. The message of today's readings is the opposite: watching and waiting. Vigilance is needed in seeking God and one another.

In the middle of the first century B.C., the author of the Book of Wisdom exhorted his Jewish audience in Alexandria to seek wisdom. In this passage, he describes their quest by speaking of God's creature, Lady Wisdom. The believer is to watch for her at dawn, to think about her, and to keep vigil for her (vs. 14-15). Wisdom is a gift that people must seek.

The Matthew passage concerns the Parousia, the Second Coming of Jesus. Prudence and perpetual readiness are urged. According to the marriage customs of the time, the bridegroom returned with his bride from the home of his in-laws. The bridesmaids were an escort of honor who awaited the arrival of the couple. Since they never knew the time of their arrival, they had to be prudent in their allotment of oil for the lamps. None wanted to miss the joyous procession when the time came. Since the Christian community does not know the exact time that Jesus will return, it must be prepared to wait and keep watch. Vigilance, therefore, is the price of victory.

Watching and waiting is easier when it is to our advantage. A watchfulness on behalf of others is more challenging. The author of Wisdom suggests we seek wisdom so that we can share our insights with others. The psalm implies that we seek the Lord patiently in those around us so that we might bind up their wounds and hurts. Matthew urges us to uncover the vision of the Bridegroom in the faces of his hurting sisters and brothers.

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

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Thirty-Second Sunday in Ordinary Time – 08 November 2020

Wisdom 6:12-16. Psalm 63:2, 3-4, 5-6, 7-8. 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18. Matthew 25:1-13.

Being with Jesus – or Not. The parable today of the ten lamp bearers is about vigilance. Not an idle standing by merely looking and waiting. No, a waiting that is prepared (extra oil!) for all that comes, a waiting filled with activity ready to accompany those who journey through doorways to heaven.

- How can I focus on the bridegroom, on Jesus, and all those he loves?
- How will I ready myself to do Kingdom of Heaven work this week?
- What will that work be? For whom will I do it?

Thirty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time – 15 November 2020 and World Day of the Poor

Proverbs 31:10-13, 19-20, 30-31. Psalm 128:1-2, 3, 4-5. 1 Thessalonians 5:1-6. Matthew 25:14-30.