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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

Only Say the Word, and My Soul Shall Be Healed

In the Gospel Reading, Jesus reaches out to touch a leper; and, by touching him heals him.

Leprosy is a disease worth fearing. It disfigures and disables a person. The ancient world thought it could be transmitted by touch. For the sake of the health of the community, the law made lepers outcasts; but, even without the law, nobody wanted to touch a leper. The leper healed by Jesus must have lived without the touch of another human being for a long time.

How welcome the touch of Jesus must have been to that leper! And how overjoyed he must have been when he found himself healed!

Leprosy is not the only thing that severely disfigures and disables a person. Sin does so too. And the touch of Jesus that heals leprosy heals sin as well. That is why, at mass, we pray, “Only say the word, and my soul shall be healed.” Forego touch, Lord! We would be so overjoyed if you just said the word! Your healing would be so welcome to us!

But we say those words at every mass, week after week, year after year. And still we struggle with our sins. Somewhere Nietzsche says, unkindly, about Christians, “They don’t even look like the redeemed!” That is a painful accusation, isn’t it? Why aren’t we healed, by word or by touch, as the leper was? Why do we have to keep asking for the Lord’s healing touch at every mass?

But think about it this way: how would Nietzsche know what the redeemed look like? For that matter, how would we? Why should we think that we are in a position to see the healing that the Lord does in our lives? Why would we think that we are in a position to judge how far we have come in conquering the sin in ourselves? The Lord tells us not to judge others (Mt 7:1). Why should we think we are able to judge ourselves?

So we do not have to see the effects of the healing touch of the Lord in order for it to do its work. The touch of the Word, for whose healing word we pray at every mass, does its healing deep within. Our job is to be open to that touch.

Eleonore Stump

Vol 22 #7 **Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time** February 14, 2021

Schedule of Masses

Sun	Feb 14	8:00am	SP	For the Parishioners
		10:00 am	SP	Wendy Bowman
Tues	Feb 16	11:00 am	SP	General Intention
Wed	Feb 17	7:00 pm	SP	For the Parishioners
Fri	Feb 19	12:00 pm	SP	General Intention
Sun	Feb 21	8:00am	SP	For the Parishioners
		10:00 am	SP	Albion Scislowicz

Birthdays

Feb 16 Doug Jones
Feb 18 Lynn Stoerger
Jared Bergmann
Feb 21 Megan Cain

Liturgical Ministry Schedule - Lector

St Paul..... Feb 14 , 8 am Mary Treat Feb 17, 7 pm Feb 21, 8 am open
10 am open open 10 am open

STEWARDSHIP OFFERING February 7, 2021

Envelope \$ 1165.00 (18), Loose 45.00, Messenger 125.00, Mass Int 35, Funeral 100.00
Building & Maintenance 45.00

Total \$1515.00

Note: No offering basket is passed around at masses due to the Covid-19 restrictions. Instead a canister marked 'Envelopes' is on the gifts table for the collection or envelopes may be delivered through the mail. Thank you to all who have faithfully continued your envelope contributions.

THIS WEEK'S SCHEDULE

Sun Feb 14 Burning of Palm for Ash Wednesday after masses
Sunday Mass at SP.....8:00 am
Sunday Mass at SP.....10:00 am
Set up church for Lent.....11:00 am
PSR Class.....11:00 am
(Recorded Mass available on facebook, St Paul Youtube channel)
Tue Feb 16 Weekday Mass.....11:00 am
Wed Feb 17 Ash Wednesday Mass & Distribution of
Ashes...7:00 pm
Day of Fast & Abstinence
Lent Food Drive for Daystar begins
Fri Feb 19 Weekday Mass.....12:00 pm
Day of Abstinence
Sun Feb 21 Stations of the Cross 20 min. before Mass
Black & Indian Mission Collection
Sunday Mass at SP.....8:00 am
Sunday Mass at SP.....10:00 am
PSR Class.....11:00 am



ASH WEDNESDAY, the opening of Lenten Season will begin 7:00 pm mass and distribution of ashes Feb 17th. Old palm will be burned following masses this Sunday to become the ashes we use at the beginning of Lent. You are encouraged to bring your old palm to add to the fire.

LENTEN SEASON GUIDELINES AND RESOURCES are included in insert in today's bulletin. Additional booklets for individual prayer and reflection are available on table in foyer. Rice Bows to share products of Lenten fast with enriching those in need in other parts of the world are available. Also a tub in foyer is available for food collection for DayStar Ministry in Cairo during Lent.

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CHILI & DESSERT COOKOFF, normally enjoyed this weekend is a victim of Covid-19. As a pale substitute, a Chili meal recipe that received a thumbs-up at a recent parish council meeting is being shared so you can practice to be a future winner. Add following to large crock pot; 2 lb hamburger, browned and drained, add 2 large cans crushed tomatoes, 2 cans diced tomatoes, 1 cup catsup, 4 cans Chili beans (Aldi), 1 packet Stonemill Hot Chili Seasoning Mix, 5 tablespoons Brown Sugar. Cook on high 90 minutes, then low for at least 3 hours. Share, enjoy..

STATIONS OF THE CROSS will begin 20 minutes before Sunday masses beginning on Feb 21. Volunteers are asked to sign up on the schedule on bulletin board to lead the stations. Booklets will be available at the bulletin table. Please return them to 'Quarantine Box' after mass.

Next Sunday, our parish will take up the 137th annual **NATIONAL BLACK AND INDIAN MISSION COLLECTION**. Our support of this collection helps build the Church in African American, Native American, and Alaska Native communities from coast to coast, Schools, parish religious education programs, and diocesan ministries depend on your generosity to help them spread the Gospel of Jesus Christ! You can help meet unmet needs with a generous contribution.. Thank you for your support.

THANK YOU....to Chris Cain for work in removing ice from church sidewalks.
...to cantors and musicians for doubling up to offer music at all of our Sunday Masses.
...to those who have lifted the needs of the whole church in prayer at Eucharistic Adoration

UPCOMING EVENTS

Feb 24 Parish Council and parishioner Meeting with Bishop McGovern on future pastoral leadership of St Paul Parish

Mar 5 First St Paul Fish Fry (Take out only)

Mar 7 Pledge Sunday for Catholic Service and Ministry Appeal.

VOCATION CORNER On this 2nd Sunday in February, we celebrate the Vocation of Marriage with the observance of World Marriage Day. World Marriage Day (WMD) honors husband and wife as the foundation of the family, the basic unit of society. It salutes the beauty of their faithfulness, sacrifice and joy in daily married life. Today provides an opportunity to focus on building a culture of life and love that begins with supporting and promoting marriage and the family. .

Sixth Sunday of Ordinary Time

Leviticus 13:1-2, 44-46. Psalm 32:1-2, 5, 11. 1 Corinthians 10:31–11:1. Mark 1:40-45.

We seem happy with the status quo. We resist the impulse to share our religious heritage with outsiders. In so doing, we espouse the position that outsiders should remain outsiders. Today's readings challenge us to see community as a reality that seeks to welcome, not reject, outsiders. Leviticus 13 is a collection of originally distinct laws that now come under the general rubric of malignant skin diseases, not actual leprosy. A person diagnosed with such a disease was prevented from worshiping and was cut off from the community. In cases where the disease was healed, Leviticus 14 provides for the reintroduction of the outcast into the community.

In the second reading, Paul says that whatever Christians do they should do it for the glory of God. By "glory" Paul means that Christians are to manifest God's presence in all their activities. Paul extends this manifestation to the point of bringing about the conversion of outsiders. Christians are to build up the Church, the body of believers.

In the gospel, the cure of the leper clearly shows that the kingdom of God is open to all. This in turn implies the rejection of everything that prevents true community. The reaction of the cured leper is a proclamation. Like the leper we have been cleansed, in baptism. Hence we too are called upon to proclaim the Word to outsiders.

Our first reaction to outsiders is to be defensive or to crusade against them. Perhaps it is more practical to heed Paul's advice. No matter what Christians do, they are to manifest the glory of God. Justice in the marketplace, politeness on the road, charity in neighborhood conversation, concern for community needs, and a contagious smile are but a few of the myriad ways of manifesting God's glory to make outsiders insiders.

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

6th Sunday in Ordinary Time – 14 February 2021

Leviticus 13:1-2, 44-46. Psalm 32:1-2, 5, 11. 1 Corinthians 10:31–11:1. Mark 1:40-45

Making Clean. Jesus was not afraid to touch the untouchable leper today. Jesus was unafraid to be cleaning and healing and teaching – right and good behaviors. Saint Paul makes a clear implication for all of us. Our task: imitating Christ. Our task: doing all things for the glory of God.

- ◆ What mercy works of cleaning and healing can I do this week?
- ◆ What will I do, seeking not my own benefit but that of another?
- ◆ How will I be like Christ today? Tomorrow? Next Week?

First Sunday of Lent –February 21, 2021

Gn 9:8-15 Psalm 25: 4-5,6-7,8-9 1Pt 3:18-22 Mk 1:12-15