



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 – 8:00 am, 10:00 am

Weekdays – Tue 11 am, Wed

6:30 pm & Friday, 12 pm

The Rainbow and the Goodness of God

In the First Reading, God gives Noah the rainbow as a reassuring sign of God's goodness: he will never again do what he has just done. God will never again destroy everything with a flood. But why isn't it bad enough that God did it once? God brought it about that every human being, except for Noah and his small family, died by drowning in one great natural catastrophe. Where is the goodness of God in the story of the flood?

Well, here is one way to think about God's action.

Consider the medical treatment for certain fatal cancers. For those deadly diseases, doctors can try to save the patient with an autologous bone marrow transplant. The doctor takes bone marrow from the patient and hunts for any cells that are not cancerous. He saves those healthy cells, but he kills the cancerous ones. Then he clones the healthy cells and puts them back into the patient. By this painful measure, there is a chance that the doctor can save the life of his patient.

In the story of the flood, God tries the analogue of this same procedure on the human race, doomed to die because of sin. God takes a few morally healthy human beings and puts them into a new world, to reproduce there. The morally sick and destructive population of the old world dies in God's flood.

But, you might think, what dies in the treatment for cancer is only cells. What died in the flood is human beings!

True, but notice this other difference between the medical treatment and the flood. In the flood, the selection between the sick and the healthy people is made by the people themselves. Those who aren't on Noah's boat don't want to be on it. To get on the boat, they would have to acknowledge their sins and accept God's means to safety. If they repented they would be among the healthy, the righteous invited on the boat. But this is what they refuse to do.

The boat is there for those who don't refuse it. And, as the Gospel reading makes plain, that boat is always there, in Christ, who saves all those who do not reject him.

And so the rainbow *is* a sign of the goodness of God, who calls everyone to salvation.

Eleonore Stump

Vol 22 #8 **First Sunday of Lent** February 21, 2021

Schedule of Masses

Sun	Feb 21	8:00am	SP	For the Parishioners
		10:00 am	SP	Albion Scislowicz
Tues	Feb 23	11:00 am	SP	General Intention
Wed	Feb 24	5:30 pm	SP	Barrett-Waltz Family
Fri	Feb 26	12:00 pm	SP	General Intention
Sun	Feb 28	8:00am	SP	For the Parishioners
		10:00 am	SP	Theresa Rood

Birthdays

Feb 21 Megan Cain
Feb 25 Vanessa Hopkins
Feb 26 Will Ashford
Becky Bowers
Feb 27 Monica Querrey

Liturgical Ministry Schedule - Lector

St Paul.....	Feb 21 , 8 am	Joe Nelson	Feb 28, 8 am open
	10 am	open	10 am open

STEWARDSHIP OFFERING February 14, 2021

Envelope \$ 1790.00.00 (13), Loose 35.00, Messenger 25.00, Bld & Maint 100.00

Total \$1950.00

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 21 Black & Indian Mission Collection
Stations of the Cross 20 min. before Mass
Sunday Mass at SP.....8:00 am
Sunday Mass at SP.....10:00 am
PSR Class.....11:00 am
(Recorded Mass available on facebook, St Paul Youtube channel)

Tue Feb 23 Clergy-Lenten Day of Prayer-OFallon 9:45-2:30 pm

Wed Feb 24 Weekday Mass.....5:30 pm
Parish Council/Parishioner Mtg. with Bishop McGovern.....6:00 pm

Fri Feb 26 Weekday Mass.....12:00 pm
Day of Abstinence

Sun Feb 28 Stations of the Cross 20 min. before Mass
Pulpit talk on Catholic Service & Ministry Appeal
Sunday Mass at SP.....8:00 am
Sunday Mass at SP.....10:00 am
PSR Class.....11:00 am



STATIONS OF THE CROSS will begin 20 minutes before Sunday masses beginning this Sunday. 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.

This 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

LENTEN SEASON GUIDELINES AND RESOURCES. 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.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Feb 24, 6 pm 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) Desserts, helpers needed. See bulletin board

Mar 7 Pledge Sunday for Catholic Service and Ministry Appeal.

VOCATION CORNER "Life is about saying "yes" to the things that help you to grow in holiness and "no" to the things that don't. Life is about searching for the best version of yourself. Today's culture doesn't have a vision for the human person. The goal of today's culture is consumption as we no longer are the consumers---we are being consumed. It is time for us to start thinking about where our lives are leading and to where God is calling us. The ways of the world lead to confusion. God's way leads to clarity, order and to a meaningful living with joy. Life is a choice we all have to make. So, fulfill God's vision for you and answer his call with a "yes"." The Four Signs of a Dynamic Catholic. Pg. 79-81.

Mark your calendars for **Camp Ondessonk's Virtual Homecoming Gala**, Saturday, March 6th, beginning at 6 PM CST! Online Silent Auction bidding opens up Sunday, February 28th, at 8AM CST. The live streamed event will kick-off with pre-program entertainment, and then shift into the program portion with a live virtual auction, fund-a-need, presentations of awards, and more. For additional information, ondessonk.com/gala.

I Heard God Laugh book reflection: pages 24-33 #4

When Matthew Kelly had a guided prayer experience in church as a teenager - when he set forth on the path toward really learning how to pray - he was led by a family friend named John. Sometimes, we feel like building a relationship with God is supposed to be "natural", that it should spring forth spontaneously from within. Unfortunately, this is a recipe for stagnation. The Christian life is meant to be lived in community, and community includes those mature followers of Christ who know both the crests and valleys of the way toward God. Even superheroes of the early church like Saint Paul often had a period of development as they grew in maturity. If you read in tandem the accounts in Acts of Paul's conversion and Paul's own account in the first chapter of Galatians, it appears that, while he "proclaimed Jesus" shortly after his conversion, he developed in faith for three years before gaining the trust of the other church leaders in Jerusalem. In the same way, we must rely on the instruction of others as we develop habits of prayer and communion with God, whether in the form of friendships or reading the insights of others (or both, ideally). Consider as you read this section of *I Heard God Laugh*; do you have a "John" in your life to assist in your formation of faith? If not, what would it take for you to find people like this in your life?

First Sunday of Lent

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

A new age began when Jesus introduced the kingdom some nineteen hundred years ago. We believe this, but somehow the newness has worn off; the present lifestyle has become "good enough."

Today's readings recall sweeping changes in the history of Israel and the Church and the radical shifts in living that resulted.

The Genesis passage offers a message of hope to the despairing exiled community. The flood brought chaos (see Genesis 7:11), but God's covenant with Noah ushers in a new age. When the Israelites beheld the rainbow in the sky, they remembered God's promise that the waters of chaos would never return (Genesis 9:11,15).

Writing from Rome some eighty years after Christ's death and resurrection, Peter's first letter seeks to strengthen the faith of believers in the northern part of present-day Turkey. Peter emphasizes that the new age inaugurated by Christ brings baptism, which is not a mere removal of physical stain but an initiation that requires personal transformation.

Mark links the temptation of Jesus with the baptism of John. In his baptism, Jesus accepts the messianic mission from God. In his temptation, Jesus begins to grapple with the way of achieving that mission. Death and resurrection will be required. Jesus challenges his followers to reform their lives in imitation of his own life and death experience.

The beginning of Lent is the traditional time for making Lenten resolutions. Based on today's readings you might examine those areas in your life most in need of change before determining this season's commitments. Changes will result in a new you and a better reflection of the new kingdom of Jesus.

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

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1st Sunday of Lent– 21 February 2021

Genesis 9:8-15; Psalm 25; 1 Peter 3:18-22; Mark 1:12-15

Why do you think God chose a rainbow to be a sign of this covenant? Was it a sign for future generations, us included, as well as Noah's family?

Baptism is about dying and rising. Do you have any Lenten plans that might impact your dying to self or, figuratively speaking, rising from the dead?

“The Spirit drove Jesus into the desert and he remained in the desert for forty days.” Pope Francis calls the forty days of Lent an invitation to conversion. Do you need some kind of conversion? Is there something new within or around you waiting to be created?

Second Sunday of Lent –February 28, 2021

Genesis 22:1-2,9,10-13,15-18; Psalm 116; Romans 8:31-34; Mark 9:2-10