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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

### **Sacrifice**

In the First Reading, Abraham offers his beloved son as a sacrifice to God. The Gospel Reading identifies Jesus as God's beloved Son. The two readings together remind us that God offers his beloved Son as our sacrifice to God. Christ, our Passover lamb, is sacrificed for us. (1 Cor. 5:7).

And so the First Reading and the Gospel invite us to reflect on sacrifice. What is a sacrifice? And why would God want one, from Abraham or from us through Christ?

The first thing to see is that a sacrifice is a peculiar kind of gift.

In the case of ordinary gifts, which aren't sacrifices, the person who *gets* the gift is the one who benefits from the gift-giving. That person has the thing given; and if that thing was good enough to give, it is a good thing to get too. So the gift-receiver is the primary beneficiary of ordinary gift-giving.

But a sacrifice is a different kind of gift. When one person gives something as a sacrifice, however great his gift is, in the giving of it he himself receives something of very great value. In sacrifice the gift-giver is the primary beneficiary of gift-giving.

To see this point, consider Maximilian Kolbe, who sacrificed his life for Franciszek Gajowniczek at Auschwitz.

The Nazis had randomly selected 10 prisoners to die, and Franciszek Gajowniczek was one of them. When he was picked, he cried out, "Oh, my poor wife! My poor children! I will never see them again!" But Maximilian Kolbe stepped forward and offered to take Franciszek's place. Kolbe knew that the selected prisoners would be slowly starved to death in a dark and airless bunker. But Kolbe offered his life for that of his fellow prisoner anyway. Witnesses reported afterwards that Kolbe prayed and sang hymns until the end when his voice failed.

In his sacrifice, Kolbe became a person in whom the beauty of love shone so brightly that his story now illumines all who hear about it. He gave his life to give life to Franciszek, but he himself received far more than he gave. Who would not want to be as lovely a soul as Kolbe was?

And so, God, who lacks for nothing, is glad to have the gift of our sacrifices, not because he gets something great from them, but because we do.

Eleonore Stump

# Vol 22 #9 Second Sunday of Lent February 28, 2021

## Schedule of Masses

Sun	Feb 28	8:00am	SP	For the Parishioners
		10:00 am	SP	Theresa Rood
Tues	Mar 2	11:00 am	SP	General Intention
Wed	Mar 3	6:30 pm	SP	Chris Ray
Fri	Mar 5	12:00 pm	SP	General Intention
Sat	Mar 6	8:30 am	SP	Reparation of Sin
Sun	Mar 7	8:00am	SP	For the Parishioners
		10:00 am	SP	Joan Klenk

## Birthdays

Mar 1 Geri Tesina  
Mar 3 Marsha Nelson  
Jeremy Nelson  
Mar 6 Beth Palmer

## Liturgical Ministry Schedule - Lector

St Paul..... Feb 28 , 8 am Mary Treat Mar 7, 8 am  
10 am Arlene Dueker 10 am

## STEWARDSHIP OFFERING February 21, 2021

Envelope \$ 1160.00 (21), Loose 20.00, Bl & Native Am 168.00, Bld & Maint 95.00

**Total \$ 1443.00**

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 28 Pulpit talk on Catholic Service & Ministry Appeal  
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 Mar 2 Weekday Mass.....11:00 am  
Wed Mar 3 Weekday Mass.....6:30 pm  
Fri Mar 5 Weekday Mass.....12:00 pm  
Day of Abstinence  
Sat Mar 6 First Saturday Mass & Devotion.....8:30 am  
Faith Alive Board Mt.....10:00 am  
Sun Mar 7 Catholic Services & Ministry Pledge Weekend  
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



**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.

**WELCOME** As positivity rates continue to decline and Covid vaccinations are more prevalent, St Paul continues the safe practices of hand sanitizing, wearing masks, social distancing and disinfecting after each mass for everyone's safety. We invite those who haven't been able to attend mass in person to consider joining in the full experience of Eucharist at either the 8 am or 10 am Sunday mass. There is room, though participants are asked to make reservations (phone call or e-mail) to assure maximum limits are practiced.

**PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES** from Feb 24<sup>th</sup> Mt are available on bulletin table.

**LENTEN 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.

**FISH FRY** The first Fish Fry sponsored by St Paul is Friday, March 5<sup>th</sup>, serving 4:30 – 6:30 pm. This year will be Carry-out Only. Orders are to be placed between 4 pm, March 4 and 1 pm on March 5 calling 697-1694 or 217-714-4568. Pick ups are on 15 minute intervals between 4:30 and 6:30 pm. Menu is Hand Battered Fish, hushpuppies, scalloped potatoes, vegetarian baked beans, coleslaw and dessert. Cost of meal is \$10.00. We are in need of donated desserts by 4 pm on Friday. Volunteers are needed (bulletin board sign-up). The Parish Council agreed to donate profits to Heather Treat Memorial Fund (Cancer victims assistance), Blessings in a Backpack (student food) and Vienna Baptist Food Pantry.

**CATHOLIC SERVICE AND MINISTRY APPEAL** Next weekend, every parish in the diocese will be participating in the CS & MA. This annual collection supports the ministries and agencies in our diocese whose scope of service could not be duplicated by an individual parish. Our parish goal for the appeal is \$5403.00 with needed participation of each family of the parish helping as able (no contribution is too small). You are asked to bring the pledge card received in the mail or use an envelope available at church to make your pledge as mass next Sunday. Please be as generous as you can.

### **UPCOMING EVENTS**

Mar 11-13 St. Paul volunteers needed to operate Faith Alive Thrift Store. Signup sheet in foyer or call Arlene Dueker at 618 559-7803

Mar 11 Eucharistic Adoration at St Paul, 4 – 7:30 pm. Sign up on bulletin board

Mar 19 2<sup>nd</sup> Parish Fish Fry 4:30- 6:30 pm

Mar 21 CCW meeting after 10:00 Mass

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](http://ondessonk.com/gala).

**VOCATION** "The rule of St. Benedict asks 'Is there anyone who yearns for life?' It was this desire for life that led me to truly encounter Christ as a teenager. At first, I thought Jesus was calling me to be a missionary, and I followed that path while I finished studies in social work and theology in Madrid. Gradually, he helped me understand that he simply wanted ME – more than anything I could do for him. In discerning my vocation, I discovered my true self in Christ. He showed me that my greatest longing was to bring each person into the heart of God. By going deep into prayer, in union with my sisters, I would join Christ in his work of salvation." *Sister Maria Gonzalo, OCSO;*

## Second Sunday of Lent

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

How easy we bandy about the word "love". We love pizza, we love our city, we love our friends. Today's readings see love not as a momentary emotion but as a lifelong commitment. Nothing is too demanding to show one's profound dedication.

The Genesis account of the sacrifice of Isaac is dramatic. God has been promising Abraham a host of descendants and possession of a great land. The promise now seems jeopardized when God asks Abraham to sacrifice Isaac. Yet Abraham will go to even this extent. Abraham's love of God means letting go, even of Isaac.

"If God is for us, who is against us?" (Romans 8:31). To dramatize the extent of God's willingness to assist us, Paul appeals to a specific kind of love. "He who did not withhold his own Son, but gave him up for all of us, will he not with him also give us everything else?" (Romans 8:32). Thus God and Abraham both refuse to set limits on their capacity to love.

Mark's account of the Transfiguration is part of his disclosure of Jesus' messianic identity. Jesus has informed the twelve that he must suffer, die, and only then rise again (see Mark 8:31). The Lord of Easter Sunday must first be the servant of Good Friday. The same is true for all Christians. To follow Jesus, one must deny self, find self, and then lose oneself again (see Mark 8:35). Thus the Transfiguration relates both to Jesus' transfiguration and to the Christian's transformation through self-giving -- letting go.

Letting go takes many forms. Life may call us to let go of a career that is damaging to self and family, of a habit that is destroying health or relationships, of purely selfish interests. These are but a few examples of that central reality in life -- that loving means letting go.

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

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## 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

**Listen to Him.** One week into Lent, we are simply told by the voice from the cloud: Listen to Jesus. He told us last Sunday to "believe in the gospel." What does belief in this Good News look and sound like this Lent, this year?

- Since we are descendants of Abraham, how am I to behave with my cousins (that is, everyone)?
- Since we are sisters and brothers in the Lord Jesus Christ, to whom do I listen? What am I told?
- Since I am also "beloved", what will I do?

## Third Sunday of Lent—March 7, 2021

Exodus 20:1-17. Psalm 19:8, 9, 10, 11. 1 Corinthians 1:22-25. John 2:13-25