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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

Serving the Lord Well

In the Gospel Reading, when Jesus comes to Peter's house, he finds that Peter's mother-in-law is sick, and he heals her.

And then look what happens. The whole town hears of her healing and they rush all their sick to Peter's house. The house is surrounded, and so is Jesus. Now, all of a sudden, Jesus seems to have become a one-man hospital.

He is so besieged that he can't even pray in the house. He has to head out secretly into the countryside in the dark of early morning.

When his absence is detected, his disciples go looking for him. "Hey," they say when they find him, "Everybody is looking for you"! They seem to think that his urgent-care clinic should be open at all hours.

Now, of course, it is a good work to heal the sick. And, of course, those who love the sick are right to want them healed.

And yet how absurd it is to suppose that prayer should take second-place to work, no matter what the work is! And how sadly and understandably absurd it is to suppose that the mission of Jesus is to be a Doctor Without Borders.

So maybe it isn't hard to figure out what Jesus was praying about in the early morning in the countryside.

Each healing Jesus does is a good thing. But good things can actually get in the way of serving God well. To serve God well, a person has to do not just any good things that others want him to do. He has to do those good things that God has called him to do. It may take prayer to figure out which good things to turn down.

Jesus' disciples feel that Jesus needs to hurry back to Peter's village to keep practicing medicine. What Jesus tells them, after his prayer, is that he is leaving Peter's village to continue his ministry—not of medicine but of preaching—in other towns. Preaching is the purpose for which he came.

What is needed to serve God well, then, is not endless good things that other people want from you. What is needed for the Lord's service is prayer first. And after that comes fidelity to just those few good things that fulfill that particular purpose to which the Lord has called you.

Eleonore Stump

Vol 22 #6 **Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time** February 7, 2021

Schedule of Masses

Sun	Feb 7	8:00am	SP	For the Parishioners
		10:00 am	SP	Jacob Overby
Tues	Feb 9	11:00 am	SP	General Intention
Wed	Feb 10	6:30 pm	SP	Fr Joe Trapp
Fri	Feb 12	12:00 pm	SP	General Intention
Sun	Feb 14	8:00am	SP	For the Parishioners
		10:00 am	SP	Wendy Bowman

Birthdays

Feb 9 Madonna Slife
Feb 11 Leslie Miller
Feb 13 Edlein Dillow

Liturgical Ministry Schedule - Lector

St Paul.....	Feb 7 , 8 am	Joe Nelson	Feb 14, 8 am open
	10am	Arlene Dueke	10 am open

STEWARDSHIP OFFERING January 31, 2021

Envelope \$ 1075.00.00 (22), Loose 20.00,

Total \$1195.00

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 7 Messenger Renewal
St Blaise Blessing
Signing Greeting Card for Care Homes (foyer)
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 9 Weekday Mass..... 11:00 am
Ministerial Alliance Mt.....1:00 pm
Wed Feb 10 Weekday Mass.....6:30 pm
Thu Feb 11 Day of Prayer for Sick
So. Vicariate Clergy Mt at St. Paul.....12:00 pm
Eucharistic Adoration.....4:00 pm to 7:30 pm
Fri Feb 12 Weekday Mass.....12:00 pm
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
PSR Class.....11:00 am



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ST BLAISE BLESSING will be offered this Sunday, but in non-contact manner. Blessing prayer will be shared communally at a proper distance.

SOCIAL/OUTREACH PROJECT A sheet of paper is available in church foyer this weekend for parishioners to sign, which will then be decorated with greeting and duplicated for distribution among residents of Care Homes as a message of thoughtfulness and concern.

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

DAY OF RECOGNITION AND PRAYER FOR SICK“The commandment of love that Jesus left to his disciples is also kept in our relationship with the sick. A society is all the more human to the degree that it cares effectively for its most frail and suffering members, in a spirit of fraternal love. Let us strive to achieve this goal so that no one will feel alone, excluded, or abandoned.” (*Message of His Holiness Pope Francis for the 29th World Day of The Sick*) Beginning with Saint Pope John Paul II, continuing with Pope Benedict and now with Pope Francis, February 11 has been a day of recognition and prayer for the sick and for the ministry of health care, both professional and familial caregivers. This year we cannot escape the ongoing effects of the worldwide coronavirus pandemic, and our prayer is offered for those most impacted by the virus.

OLD PALM will be burned following masses next 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.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS will begin 20 minutes before Sunday masses on Feb 21. Volunteers are asked to sign up on the schedule on bulletin board to lead the stations.

REMEMBER IN PRAYER **Billie Anderson**, husband of Vickie, who died Feb 1.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Feb 17 Ash Wednesday - Mass at 7:00 pm

Start of Food Drive for DayStar in Cairo

Feb 24 Parish Council Mtg with Bishop McGovern

VOCATION CORNER We should consider this as a day to say “**THANK YOU**” to those who serve us in our daily living which certainly includes our religious life. World Day for Consecrated Life is celebrated February 2nd, Candlemas Day. It is observed in our Parishes this weekend. Let us make it a point to begin saying “**THANK YOU**” to our Sisters and Brothers who have made sacrifices for us by accepting God’s call. Let them know how important they are in the life of your church and how they help you to honor and pray to our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ

Fifth Sunday of Ordinary Time

Job 7:1-4, 6-7. Psalm 147:1-2, 3-4, 5-6. 1 Corinthians 9:16-19, 22-23. Mark 1:29-39.

Today's readings show us that people are not defined by their vocation or by their financial success or by their power. People are defined by their willingness to reach out to others. These are the "real" people who put aside preoccupation with self and set out to repair a hurting world.

Paul considers the question of financial aid in preaching the gospel. He is rebutting some Corinthians who maintain that nonacceptance of compensation implied denial of apostleship. In reply, Paul observes that he has no choice but to preach the Good News. God commissioned him to undertake the task. Financial independence enables Paul to be of service without pressure and to identify with the weak. To become all things for all people is another way of saying that service makes the person. For Mark, Jesus' teaching in the synagogue provides a picture of a typical day in the Lord's early ministry. There is the exorcism of the man with an unclean spirit, the healing of Peter's mother-in-law, and the evening cures. Miracles manifest the advent of the kingdom; through Jesus, God is providing for those who hurt. Jesus' mission is not to show power or to satisfy curiosity, his call is to serve.

Service is a concern of the modern Christian family. Husband and wife support each other. Parents take responsibility as first teachers of their children. Children must respond to family obligations. Service is a concern of the extended family as well. Parishioners, citizens, elected officials, and nations must provide an environment where peace and justice grow and prosper.

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

Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time – 7 February 2021

Job 7:1-4, 6-7. Psalm 147:1-2, 3-4, 5-6. 1 Corinthians 9:16-19, 22-23. Mark 1:29-39.

Pursuing Jesus. After curing Simon's mother-in-law, Jesus, standing at the door, is teaching, healing, and casting out demons. Then, leaving at dawn, he goes off alone. Simon and the boys, pursuing him, find him praying and plead: "Everyone is looking for you."

- ◆ Since I am looking, where will I find Jesus this week?
- ◆ What teaching of his do I need to hear? What healing?
- ◆ Where and when will I make time for praying?

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

2 Summary Reflection on I Heard God Laugh [Covers pages 8-16]

Matthew Kelly concludes Part One of I Heard God Laugh with an invitation to consider why we ought to pray. The very act of questioning itself – asking why – tells us so much about who we are as humans. We're the only creatures on earth who inquire beyond our immediate necessities and crave answers to the biggest mysteries of the universe. Perhaps this is why we should pray; communion with God is the only place to look for answers to God-sized questions. However, prayer doesn't happen once. In life, we experience the greatest changes when we develop positive habits, not just isolated positive behaviors. As the Christian essayist Donald Miller observed recently, love is not like a fairy tale, "but like farming...getting up early and tilling the soil and then praying for rain". Likewise with prayer. I Heard God Laugh provides an accessible path to begin the rewarding work of developing the habit of prayer.

#3 Summary Covers pages 19-24

In *I Heard God Laugh*, Matthew Kelly describes his "conversion" to Christianity. However, he didn't convert from Islam or Hinduism, but "secular consumerism". It may surprise you to think of "secular consumerism" as a religion, but if "religion" describes the beliefs and practices that reflect the object of a person's deepest trust, then Kelly's religion before his conversion is truly the most commonly practiced faith in America. How does this happen in a country where nearly three out of four of us identify as Christians? As Kelly explains, conversion is not merely an event; it is also a process. It is not just a being; it is a becoming. Consequently, the choices we make every day reflect our priorities, and those choices indicate that we often prioritize mammon (that is, acquisitiveness or trust in wealth) before our relationship with God (see Matthew 6:24; Luke 16:13). Kelly's life changed as a teenager when he began spending time with God in a church every day. His efforts were not perfect – these early prayers were consistently self-oriented – but God was able to use this flawed effort as a foothold to initiate great change. God doesn't need our perfection; he needs our willingness.