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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 Instruction Manual**

As the First Reading describes it, the enemies of the Jews smash Jerusalem. The walls of the city are torn down. The Temple of God is burned up, and all its holy things are destroyed. And the people are taken captive to Babylon. It's all lost, their country, their customs, their language, their cult, their Temple.

In the Psalms, there is a poignant picture of the people's heartbreak over this destruction of their home. The enemies who had wrecked Jerusalem wanted the Jews to sing Hebrew songs for them. "How can we sing the Lord's songs in a strange land," the captive people say to themselves in their grief.

The Second Reading declares that God is rich in mercy and great in love. So why doesn't God protect his people from the heartbreak that his people had when Jerusalem was destroyed?

The answer to the question lies in the Readings.

God doesn't want to destroy people and God doesn't allow suffering for the sake of hurting people either. Instead, God is looking for a remedy, as the First Reading implies. God is willing to use desperate measures, even the heartbreak of his people, to save them.

And not only that, but God is willing to use his own suffering too. As the Gospel Reading says, God gave his beloved Son to save the world. Christ was betrayed by his disciples, shamed in front of his family and friends, mocked by his community, condemned by the legal authorities, publicly flogged, and put to death by crucifixion. Any one of these things is enough for heartbreak, isn't it? And so, in the incarnate Christ, God uses his own great suffering as the final remedy to bring people from death into life, when all other remedies have been tried and failed.

Heartbreak by us, by Christ, is for life not for death.

And here is what else we need to see. Jerusalem was rebuilt and the Temple was restored, as the First Reading explains. Christ's death was followed by his resurrection. In each of these cases, heartbreak was turned into joy.

And so heartbreak is not the last word. Elsewhere (Ps 37:3-4) the Psalmist says, "put your trust in the Lord, ... and he will give you the desires of your heart." When the story is God's, heartbreak is not the end of the story.

Joy in finding your heart's desire is.

Eleonore Stump

# Vol 22 #11 **Fourth Sunday of Lent** March 14, 2021

## Schedule of Masses

Sun	Mar 14	8:00am	SP	For the Parishioners
		10:00 am	SP	Billie Anderson
Tues	Mar 16	11:00 am	SP	General Intention
Wed	Mar 17	6:30 pm	SP	Rev Joseph Trapp
Fri	Mar 19	12:00 pm	SP	General Intention
Sun	Mar 21	8:00am	SP	For the Parishioners
		10:00 am	SP	Diana Pruemmer

## Birthdays

Mar 15 MG Jones  
Christine Ross  
Mar 17 Evelyn Bergmann

## Liturgical Ministry Schedule - Lector

**St Paul..... Mar 14, 8 am** Mary Treat **Mar 21, 8 am**  
**10 am** **10 am** Arlene Dueker

## STEWARDSHIP OFFERING March 7, 2021

Envelope \$ 1540.00 (23), Loose 105.00, Bld & Maint 410.00 Mass Int 20.00 Memorial Flowers 180.00 (Gross Income from Fish Fry \$1136.00)

**Total \$2255.00**

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 Mar 14 Catholic Relief Services 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 Mar 16 Weekday Mass.....11:00 am  
Wed Mar 17 Weekday Mass.....5:30 pm  
Parish Council.....6:00 pm  
Fri Mar 19 Weekday Mass.....12:00 pm  
Day of Abstinence  
Parish Fish Fry.....4:30-6:30 pm  
Sat Mar 20 Parish Work Day.....8:30 am  
Sun Mar 21 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  
CCW meeting.....11:00 am



For God so loved  
the world that he gave  
his one and only Son.  
John 3:16

**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.

**CATHOLIC RELIEF SERVICES COLLECTION** This Sunday our parish will take up the Catholic Relief Services Collection to help Jesus in disguise. The collection helps six Catholic agencies to provide relief and support for struggling communities and to work for peace and reconciliation among our marginalized brothers and sisters here and around the world. Please prayerfully consider how you can support the collection. Learn more about the collection at [www.usccb.org/catholic-relief](http://www.usccb.org/catholic-relief).

**CATHOLIC SERVICE AND MINISTRY APPEAL**. This annual collection provides a convenient way for all of us, no matter what our time limitations, to take an active role in the mission of our diocesan Church. 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). Thanks to the fifteen households that pledged \$3,370.00 last weekend. Please assist with reaching our goal if you have not participated. Extra envelopes are in church foyer.

**PARISH COUNCIL MEETING** Parish Council members will meet this Wednesday, 6 pm in the parish hall. Please pick up agenda at this weekend mass.

**SECOND FISH FRY** To make the next fish fry as successful as the first, we need assistance with desserts (delivered to hall before 4 pm on March 19), volunteers for kitchen, fish frying, and carry outs. You can indicate your availability with the sign-up sheet on church bulletin board. You're also encouraged to publicize the event with distributing flyers and reposting ad on parish facebook page.

**PARISH WORKDAY** is scheduled for Sat, March 20<sup>th</sup>, 8:30 am. Projects include trimming low tree branches, removing branches from yard, mulching tree leaves, cleaning leaves from driveway ditch, buffing oxidation on hall doors, apply patch to parking lot, wash windows.

**CHURCH WEEK**, Supporting Christian Organizations. Rural King will donate 10% of purchases made there between March 14 and March 27<sup>th</sup> to the Christian Organization of your choice (consider St Paul). Receipts must be uploaded to [www.ruralking.com/churchweek](http://www.ruralking.com/churchweek) by April 1, 2021. St Paul received \$110 last year.

**CHRISM MASS** One parish representative will be permitted to attend and receive the blessed oils at the Chrism Mass in Belleville on March 30, 2 pm. Anyone who is interested should contact Fr Tom.

In Part 3 of **I Heard God Laugh** by Matthew Kelly, we are introduced to the "Prayer Process". As the Church has explored the "Our Father" throughout the ages, we have sought to not just repeat the words Jesus gave to us, but to think of it as a pattern for edifying prayer: exalting God, invoking his will, and seeking reconciliation among humans and between humans and God. In a similar way, Kelly provides a "Prayer Process" that scaffolds good habits of prayer. Our impulsive, unreflective prayers are often self-centered as we seek immediate comfort ("Oh God!") and ask God to resolve our irritations. There is nothing wrong with praying for one's self, but the Prayer Process seeks to ensure those self-directed prayers are aimed toward bringing us closer to God. The process also prompts us to contemplate what is going on in our lives and strive to direct those experiences toward holiness. The following reflections will explore the steps of the Prayer Process one-by-one. (Reflection covers pages 35-41)

## **Fourth Sunday of Lent**

2 Chronicles 36:14-16, 19-23. Psalm 137:1-2, 3, 4-5, 6. Ephesians 2:4-10. John 3:14-21.

We applaud the successes of the strong and accomplishments of the fit, but how do we react to the failures of the weak and unfit? Today's readings reveal a God who chooses to identify with the weak -- a God who refuses to make success the ultimate criterion for election.

The first reading paints a dismal picture of the events surrounding the destruction of Jerusalem in 586 B.C. and the subsequent exile. God's people rejected the prophets in spite of God's divine compassion. Destruction, however, is not the final word. The return to Jerusalem is an example of God's relentless relationship with the people of Israel.

The author of Ephesians begins this chapter by mentioning sinfulness, which he regards as a form of death. In the face of these weaknesses, the author notes God's reaction is mercy. He refers to participation in the mystery of Christ. Christ brings people to live together, raises them up together, and enthrones them together. Such compassion is God's gift.

The gospel passage is part of Jesus' conversation with Nicodemus (John 3:1-21). Jesus' words point out that for us to be begotten of the Spirit we depend on Jesus' passion / death / resurrection experience. John's gospel also accentuates compassion. Just as Abraham did, God too was willing to sacrifice his only son. Such giving makes eternal life possible for the believer.

It's easy for us to refer those less fortunate to some government or charitable organization. The gospel suggests that we give of ourselves and share the problems of the poor. Such giving links us to the Trinity. Be compassionate -- it's a family trait.

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

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## **Fourth Sunday of Lent—March 14, 2021**

2 Chronicles 36:14-16, 19-23. Psalm 137:1-2, 3, 4-5, 6. Ephesians 2:4-10. John 3:14-21.

**This Is the Verdict.** The gospel declares the Light of Christ came into the world. The choice is either to prefer darkness or live by the truth revealed by that Light. The Letter to the Ephesians declares that we are saved not by our own works (though good works we still need do), but by God's gift and grace.

- What darkness will I move out of so I may stand in the Light?
- What good works will I continue doing to acknowledge God's gift and grace to me and to all?
- How can I live this truth: we are saved as a people by God's grace?

## **5th Sunday of Lent —March 21, 2021**

Jeremiah 31:31-34. Psalm 51:3-4, 12-13, 14-15. Hebrews 5:7-9. John 12:20-33