



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

Victory is Ours

Here is what the Readings for this week claim. By his cross, Christ conquered sin; by his resurrection, he destroyed death. At Easter, we celebrate his victory with joy.

The [Second Reading](#) affirms that Christ's victory is ours. If we have faith that Jesus is the Christ, then we are begotten by God. If we are, then we conquer the world. And if we do, then we love God, we love the children of God, and we keep God's commandments obediently. In that condition, we are victorious with Christ.

But these lines in the Second Reading look like joy-destroyers, don't they? If we don't keep God's commandments, if we don't love God's children, we don't conquer the world. And if we don't conquer the world, then we aren't begotten of God. And in that case we don't really have faith. How do we have victory then?

And it gets worse.

In another place, the same Epistle says that anyone who says he doesn't have sin is a liar ([1 John 1:8](#)). So it seems that there is a Catch-22 here. If you sin, you aren't victorious. You are a loser. But if you try claiming that you don't sin, you are guilty of lying, which is a sin; and so you aren't victorious in that case either.

It seems that whether you think you sin or think you don't sin, you lose. So what happened to our victory? Where is joy?

The solution is to notice what faith is. Faith is the belief that Jesus is the Christ, the one who—the one who what? Well, the one who conquers sin and death.

So here is the message from the Readings. For our part, we are saved from sin and death by believing that we are saved from sin and death—by Christ. There is no Catch-22. Even in our sinful state, where truth forces us to confess our disobedience and our failures in love, we are victorious—over the sin and death in ourselves—as long as we believe that Christ won the victory for us.

This faith is what God requires of us, and the Second Reading is right: this requirement isn't burdensome.

So here is our joy: As long as we believe that Christ won the victory for us, the victory of Christ is ours.

Eleonore Stump

Vol 22 #15 **Second Sunday of Easter** April 11, 2021

Schedule of Masses

Sun Apr 11	8:00 am	SP	For the Parishioners
	10:00 am	SP	Theresa Rood
Tues Apr 13	11:00 am	SP	General Intention
Wed Apr 14	6:30 pm	SP	Hattie Ruiz
Fri Apr 16	12:00 pm	SP	General Intention
Sun Apr 18	8:00 am	SP	For the Parishioners
	10:00 am	SP	Bill Kinhead

Birthdays
Apr 16 Chris Cain

Liturgical Ministry Schedule - Lector

St Paul.....	April 11, 8 am	Mary Treat	April 18, 8 am
	10 am		10 am

STEWARDSHIP OFFERING April 4, 2020

Easter \$ 1602.00 (30), Env 70.00, Holy Land 293.00 Flower Mem 50.00, Bld & M 25.00
Total \$ 2040.00

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 Apr 11	Divine Mercy Sunday	
	Sunday Mass at SP.....	8:00 am
	Sunday Mass at SP.....	10:00 am
	Liturgy Committee Meeting.....	9:00 am
	PSR Classes.....	11:00 am
(Recorded Mass available on facebook, St Paul Youtube channel)		
Tue Apr 13	Weekday Mass.....	11:00 am
	Ministerial Alliance Meeting.....	1:00 pm
Wed Apr 14	Weekday Mass.....	6:30 pm
Fri Apr 16	Weekday Mass.....	12:00 pm
Sun Apr 18	Sunday Mass at SP.....	8:00 am
	Sunday Mass at SP.....	10:00 am
	PSR Classes.....	11:00 am



DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY Encouraged by Pope John Paul II, the second Sunday of Easter inspires our confidence in God's mercy. This has further been illustrated in an image depicting an outflow of grace from Jesus' wounds. Copies of the prayer card with image are available in the foyer this weekend.

QUARTERLY PARISH FINANCE/BUDGET REPORT is included in this weekend's bulletin. Any questions may be directed to trustees, Jared Bergmann, Matt Slife, or Fr Tom

LITURGY COMMITTEE will meet at 9 am in the parish hall. Anyone with willingness to support our community liturgical celebrations is welcome.

SUNDAY MASS RESERVATIONS As long as Covid 19 restrictions are in effect, those attending Sunday mass must make a reservation by e-mail or phone either for individual dates or requesting a standing reservation. If you have standing reservation and do not plan to attend, notice is to be given to office to allow visitors or others to attend.

SEXUAL ABUSE HOTLINE Anyone wishing to report an allegation of sexual misconduct by a priest or other diocesan personnel please call the hotline: 800-640-3044.

THANK YOU...to all who generously supported the Lenten food drive for DayStar
...to those who made donations to the Rice Bowl Lenten program
...to Zach Garrett who has provided summary reflections for I Heard God Laugh

UPCOMING EVENTS

...April 21..Parish Council Mtg at 6 pm
April 22..So. Vicariate Clergy Meeting at 12 pm
...April 22-24..St Paul Parish volunteers operates Faith Alive Thrift Store – volunteer sign-up
...April 25..Catholic Home Mission Appeal
..Emergency Talk-Earthquake

7 Reflection - I Heard God Laugh At his trial, Socrates reportedly explained that "the unexamined life is not worth living" in defense of his pursuit of virtue, which he followed even to death. The second step in the "Prayer Process" in Matthew Kelly's I Heard God Laugh is "awareness", following gratitude. In the spirit of taking life day by day ("...let the day's own trouble be sufficient for the day", Matthew 6:34), we are asked to look back on the past twenty-four hours and consider those moments when we were and were not our "best version". Our best version, of course, is that which conforms to God's will for us. Since we are active participants in the manifestation of God's will in the world, awareness is necessary to make informed changes in our lives. We will not make change – or sustain change – in those areas where we lack awareness. We can lead ourselves to believe we are doing what we ought to do when in fact we are not. Even worse, lack of awareness can leave us unaware of God's mercy, which exceeds his ire. This is why the practice of sacramental reconciliation often involves an examination of conscience: so we can properly repent and accept mercy when it is given. Awareness, in the Prayer Process, is a daily practice that keeps our trajectory always at the forefront.

VOCATION CORNER Today's readings offer so many lessons on our Call to Holiness. The reading from Acts tells of the community being one in sharing their possessions with everyone. What a wonderful response to the call. The Gospel tells of Thomas' doubt in the Risen Christ. This doubt can creep into our lives with us wondering if God is really present in our daily lives. It is even more challenging for those discerning a religious vocation. Let us pray for our proper response to community and for the discerners' doubt to be relieved.

Second Sunday of Easter

Acts 4:32-35; Psalm 118; 1 John 5:1-6; John 20:19-31

We usually put down the doubting Thomas. For him and his followers, seeing is believing. On the contrary, we like to think that we believe without seeing the evidence. But do we perhaps fail in another direction? Is our believing such that it impels us to act on behalf of others?

Today's readings remind us that faith involves movement from the world of God into the world of God's people. Here, doing is believing.

In Acts, Luke brings together two different but interrelated notions: He states that the earliest Christians owned all things in common; and he depicts individuals selling their property and making the proceeds available to the needy of the community. Here the basis for giving is faith. It is such faith-filled charity that Luke suggests as the ideal Christian response.

The author of First John, writing about A.D. 100, addresses the members of his community. There has been serious disagreement within the community, and some have broken away. Today's epistle passage is linked to 1 John 4:20-21, where we are told that to love God means to love one's brothers and sisters. Such love is a corollary of faith. In today's reading, the believer who loves God must also love God's children.

Jesus then makes his relationship with God the model for the disciples' mission. Jesus' life-giving breath is the gift of the Spirit of Pentecost that jump-starts that mission. The disciples are to continue Jesus' mission, offering life to all believers.

Today's readings remind us that we must carry our professions of faith and signs of peace into settings outside of church. The messages insist that we see our gift of faith as precisely that -- a gift -- and thus something to be shared in wider community. They also make clear that sharing our faith (mission) means more than merely religious instruction or a theology lecture. Sharing our faith means seeing the image of God in all those persons who make up the fabric of our lives. Seeing the image of God means revering and imitating God in our words and works -- whether at work or at play, whether at home or away. Doing is believing.

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

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Second Sunday of Easter – 11 April 2021

Acts 4:32-35; Psalm 118; 1 John 5:1-6; John 20:19-31

So Many Catch Phrases Today. “The doors were locked.” “Peace be with you.” “There was no needy person among them.” “His mercy endures for ever.” “His commandments are not burdensome.” Locked doors cannot keep Jesus away. He speaks peace to us, even in these COVID-19 days. Because he **is** peace among us – no one has need. Because he is full and overflowing with mercy – nothing is a burden.

- ◆ How will I manifest peace, be peace this Easter week?
- ◆ How will I show mercy, be mercy this week?
- ◆ Whose burden will I ease?

Third Sunday of Easter – 18 April 2021

Acts 3:13-15,17-19; Psalm 4; 1 John 2:1-5; Luke 24:35-48