

## Eighteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time – 01 August 2021

Exodus 16:2-4, 12-15. Psalm 78:3-4, 23-24, 25, 54. Ephesians 4:17, 20-24. John 6:24-35

Today's readings deal with conflicting values -- the believer and the nonbeliever assessing the same events. Which view will we choose?

Manna and quail are part of the Israelites' wilderness experience. Manna is a sticky secretion of two insects that live on the tamarisk tree in central Sinai. Quail are birds that return to the Sinai coast from Europe in autumn. A person can easily catch these birds after their long journey. This passage contrasts the nonbeliever (who grumbles that the manna and quail are meager nourishment) with the believer (who sees these as God's generous gifts to the hungry).

The reading from Ephesians compares the pagan and Christian value systems. Paul portrays the pagan system as ignorant and resistant. The basic cause of this system's malaise is its refusal to acknowledge the truth. Paul describes the Christian system as a rite of passage, an analogy borrowed from the baptismal liturgy. Christians discard pagan values and plunge themselves into Christ through faith. New clothes symbolize a new life, re-created in the image of God.

For John, the nonbeliever regards the loaves and fish as nothing more than perishable food. For the believer, Jesus is much more than a miracle worker; he himself is heavenly food. The believer will never again experience hunger or thirst.

In our visual society, believers are confronted each day with a variety of views about human life, violence, peace, and justice -- to name just a few. The Christian must be involved in the quest for truth and express that truth by voting, writing, and speaking out. Christian values are at stake!

-- John Craghan, Th.D., S.S.L. Copyright (c) Liguori Publications, All Rights Reserved.

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**More Than Manna, More Than Bread and Fish.** During the Exodus, the LORD rained down bread (manna) each day to feed those in flight. Last Sunday, after being filled with bread and fish, the crowd pursued Jesus for more food. Rightly exasperated, Jesus patiently shifts the conversation from bread from heaven to true bread. He ends by saying: "I Am the bread of life." What looks like bread is more than bread. More than we can imagine!

1. What do I believe Communion to be?
2. Why do I believe this?
3. Why do I come in procession each Sunday to eat this bread, this Communion, this Christ?

## Nineteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time – 08 August 2021

1 Kings 19:4-8. Psalm 34:2-3, 4-5, 6-7, 8-9. Ephesians 4:30-5:2. John 6:41-51.



**Pastor: Rev Christian Iwuagwu**

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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

Weekdays – Wed 6:00 pm

Fri 6:00 pm

## **Fed by the Lord**

In the First Reading, the Israelites, who are marching through the desert, are hungry and angry. God should have killed us in Egypt, they say; then at least we would have died with food in our bellies.

In response, God feeds them with bread from heaven. Manna falls from the sky during the night, and in the morning they can pick the manna up off the ground. It seems to have been a specially wonderful analogue to bread. Scripture says that it was small, and white, and mildly sweet, like honey with coriander (Ex 16:31); and it was greatly sustaining, too. Tolkien's Elven bread *lembas*, so prized for its taste and nourishment, must have been modeled on manna.

This is a story to shake your head over. In my world, if you want bread, you have to go to the store for what you need, and you have to pay for what you get there, too. And if you grumble against God angrily, you get a guilty conscience; you don't get bread falling from the sky. With or without stores and money, we get no Elven bread at all.

Why are these Israelites so lucky? Why doesn't God make bread fall from heaven for us too?

Here, by way of answer, is what the story makes clear. God is a God of history. He intervenes in human affairs in particular ways at particular times to provide for his people what will do them good at that time. The only ones who got to eat manna were those grumbling Israelites. And even they got to eat it only for a while. When they crossed the Jordan River, the manna stopped. All they got then was the parched corn from the previous harvest.

These thoughts can prompt a painful yearning. Who would not want to be among those who got to taste that honey-sweet manna? Who would not want to have been one of the people hand-fed by the Lord?

And, yet in God's love, every yearning has its fulfillment. We too are fed with the bread from heaven; and, in the Eucharist, we taste the goodness of the Lord, which is sweeter than honey (Ps 19:10). We too are hand-fed by the Lord.

Although God is a God of history, for each one of us it is true that we will want for nothing.

-Eleonore Stump, from SLU Sunday Site <https://liturgy.slu.edu/>

Vol. 22 #31 18<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Ordinary Time-Aug 1, 2021

Schedule of Masses

Sun	Aug 1	8:00 am	SP	Billie Anderson
Wed	Aug 4	6:00 pm	SP	General Intention
Fri	Aug 6	6:00 pm	SP	General Intention
Sat	Aug 7	8:30 am	SP	General Intention
Sun	Aug 8	8:00 am	SP	Virgil Arado

Birthdays

Aug 3 Melanie McHugh  
Talon Bishop  
Aug 8 Patsy Bishop

Liturgical Ministers		Lector	Greeter	EM	Servers	Ushers
Aug 1	8 am	J Nelson	B Bowers	L Miller	M Palmer	*M McMahan, D Zmuda
Aug 8	8 am	J Galey	B Morse	P Widowski	Vol	*S Pobst, R Weeks

STEWARDSHIP OFFERING July 25, 2021

Envelope \$ 1115.00 (19), Loose 146.00

Total \$ 1261.00 (collection counters are needed to continue this church ministry – see Laurie Coleman)

THIS WEEK’S SCHEDULE

Sun Aug 1 Sunday Mass at SP.....8:00 am  
1<sup>st</sup> Sunday Social in parish hall following Mass  
Box of Joy Kickoff”  
Drawdown raffle ticket sales begin  
(Recorded Mass available on Facebook, St Paul YouTube channel)  
Wed Aug 4 Mass.....6:00 pm  
Fri Aug 6 Mass.....6:00 pm  
Sat Aug 7 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday Mass/Devotions.....8:30 am  
Sun Aug 8 Sunday Mass at SP.....8:00 am



Prayer for a new Pastor

Thank you, Dear Lord, for Your gift of Father Christian this day. You have sent him into our midst to be Your presence to us. Help us to become more worthy. As we are called to see Your image and likeness in him, help us to become Your image and likeness for him. Please help us to love him. Please help us to see beyond our differences and embrace them as still more facets in Your diamond of universal You. Please help us to surrender our individual wants and needs to more truly help him serve the wants and needs of us all. Please help us to work together with him to more truly bring about Your Kingdom. Help us to enter into his loneliness to provide Your companionship. Help us to extend Your hospitality to him and offer him our gifts – the talents You have given us that his work may be carried out successfully. Please give us the grace to receive his hospitality and the gifts he offers us. Help us to bring relief and true joy into the routine, mundane, sometimes tedious work he must do in service of You. In the weeks and months and years to come, help us to be open and receptive to Your gift of Father Christian that time may find us more Your perfect body. Please help Father Christian see You in us as we see You in him. Amen -- from  
National Council of Catholic Women prayer for new pastor

REMEMBER NEW ST. PAUL CONTACT INFORMATION

Contact with Fr Christian for urgent needs is phone 618-303-4997 or at the parish office at Harrisburg, 618-253-7408. The phone in the office at St Paul at 618 658-4501 will be monitored for messages or requests, as well as our e-mail [spccil@frontier.com](mailto:spccil@frontier.com)

**TODAY IS OUR FIRST SUNDAY SOCIAL.** Please join the Parish Council and CCW who are hosting; and welcome our new pastor, Fr. Christian Iwuagwu in our parish hall.

**TODAY IS ALSO THE ST. PAUL KICKOFF FOR BOX OF JOY.** This is a Cross Catholic initiative promoted by the Belleville Diocese Council of Catholic Women. You may either take a box to fill with items for children in the Caribbean and Central America or donate items in the designated container in church entrance. Feel free to pick up a flyer and sheet of suggested items. Please return any filled boxes by the last Sunday of October

**DRAWDOWN RAFFLE TICKETS** are now available for sale before and after Sunday Mass.

**1<sup>ST</sup> SATURDAY MASS /DEVOTIONS** will be available August 7 at 8:30 AM.

**IMPORTANT NOTICE:** Our St. Paul’s Faith Alive work weekend has been changed to **August 12-14**. It was originally scheduled for the following week. Volunteers are appreciated. Contact Madonna Slife at 618 967-5164 or Arlene Dueker at 618 5597803

**EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION** will be Thursday August 12 from 4:00 to 7:30 pm.

**IN CASE YOU MISSED IT:** Fr Tom’s has retired and if you like to stay in touch, you can reach him at 595 Country Acres Ln, Eldorado, IL 62930. His personal phone remains 618-759-1707 or e-mail [tmbarrett1@juno.com](mailto:tmbarrett1@juno.com)

**VOCATION CORNER** “As the son of Polish immigrants, I grew up in a good Catholic home. But it wasn’t until I began participating in our parish youth group that I embraced the faith as my own and fell in love with our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament. A girl I was dating went to daily Mass, and I began going with her. It didn’t take long for my focus to shift from her to what took place in the sanctuary - God coming down to be with his people. I found myself with thoughts like, ‘how would I preach on that Gospel’. I wrestled with the idea of becoming a priest often.... Following high school graduation, I entered seminary and eight years later I was ordained a priest. If God calls you to the priesthood, nothing on earth will give you greater joy.”

Fr. Michael Niemczak; Archdiocese of Santa Fe, N.M. *Columbia Magazine* January, 2020