

Twenty First Sunday in Ordinary time– 22 August 2021

Joshua 24:1-2a, 15-17, 18b. Psalm 34:2-3, 16-17, 18-19, 20-21. Ephesians 5:21-32. John 6:60-69.

Loyalty is demanding. Husbands and wives test their vows of loyalty in moments of tension; the best of friends are tempted to gossip in moments of envy; members of the parish are committed to unity yet fall into division over issues of minor importance. Today's readings show that loyalty is a virtue that cannot be taken for granted.

The final chapter of Joshua is the hero's farewell speech to his people -- a speech that describes covenant making. Settled in the Promised Land, the tribes of Israel must now decide to whom they will pledge their loyalty. To reawaken the audience's sense of loyalty, the author has Joshua recount Yahweh's wholehearted concern for Israel during the Exodus, the journey in the desert, and the conquest. Yahweh is the only choice; to be Israelite is to be faithful.

The author of Ephesians addresses the duties of a Christian household by listing each member's obligations. Loyalty is the underlying quality that motivates love. This virtue is a power to support the other with one's whole heart. This is a covenant relationship requiring total self-giving.

The author of John records the mixed reactions of Jesus' audience to the Bread of Life discourse. Many refuse to take Jesus seriously. Because they are unwilling to believe that he is the bread come down from heaven, they revoke their loyalty. The second reaction is that of the Twelve. Peter calls Jesus both Lord and God's holy one. This answer in faith is the apostles' response to Jesus' poignant question: "Do you want to leave me too?"

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

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One Last Bread of Life Story. The gospel today is filled with doubt, murmuring, shock, and disbelief. So much so, that many stopped following Jesus, returning to their former lives. Jesus, thus, asked the Twelve: "What about you?" Peter answers for them: "To whom shall we go? We are convinced you are the Holy One of God."

1. Why do I still follow Jesus?
2. Of what am I convinced about him?
3. Bread of life. Communion. What do I believe?

Twenty-Second Sunday in Ordinary Time – 29 August 2021

Deuteronomy 4:1-2, 6-8. Psalm 15:2-3, 3-4, 4-5. James 1:17-18, 21b-22, 27. Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23.



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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 – Fri 6:00 pm



Tasting in Order to See

The readings this week highlight the importance of wisdom. But what is wisdom? And how do you get it?

In the world of Nazi Germany, everyone in the Nazi party got a party badge. Hitler's own party badge was made of gold. To the Nazis, Hitler's badge symbolized all the things in the world most worth having. At the end of his life, Hitler gave his gold badge as a gift to Magda Goebbels; and she said that it was the proudest moment of her life when he did. But he gave her that gold badge in the bunker under Berlin as Germany was losing the war. In that bunker in the last days of the war, Magda killed all six of her children and herself in an appallingly misguided act of loyalty to Hitler. When the invading soldiers of the Allied armies conquered Berlin and found her body, one of them took that little bit of a gold badge from her dress and pocketed it as a souvenir.

Magda shows us what folly is, doesn't she? She couldn't tell the real goods, the real gold, from the fake goods, the things that glitter but are worthless. The gold badge that symbolized what Magda Goebbels lived and died for is a fitting symbol of the terrible foolishness of her life.

Wisdom is the very opposite. It is the ability to discern between the real goods and the shiny fakes. But among the very best of the really good things is the goodness of God. And so wisdom is the ability to see the goodness of God wherever it is to be found in the world.

The [Psalm](#) tells us how we get the capacity for seeing the goodness of God, so important for us if we are to live our lives wisely and not foolishly, like Magda Goebbels. We get this capacity by tasting! Taste and see that the Lord is good, the Psalm says.

Taste *what*?

The Gospel gives us the answer: Christ is the bread from heaven, and every person who tastes this bread will live. He will have the real goods, not the worthless fake goods; and he will see the difference between the two, because he will see God's goodness in Christ.

Here is the end of the story then: Taste the bread from heaven and see the goodness of the Lord. Wisdom lies in this!

-- Eleonore Stump from SLU Sunday website

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Schedule of Masses

Sun	Aug 22	8:00 am	SP	Butch Balchunas
Fri	Aug 27	6:00 pm	SP	General Intention
Sun	Aug 29	8:00 am	SP	James Goss

Liturgical Ministers

	<u>Lector</u>	<u>Greeter</u>	<u>EM</u>	<u>Servers</u>	<u>Ushers</u>
Aug 22 8 am	S Pobst	A Dueker	B Palmer	Vol	*Joe Nelson, Jeremy Nelson
Aug 29 8 am	S Widowski	K Pobst	V Anderson	Vol	*Matt Slife, J Bergmann

STEWARDSHIP OFFERING Aug 15, 2021

Envelope \$ 1116.00 (23), Loose 0.00 Bld. & Maint. \$135
Total \$ 1251.00 (collection counters are needed to continue this church ministry – see Laurie Coleman)

THIS WEEK’S SCHEDULE

Sun Aug 22	Sunday Mass at SP.....	8:00 am
Fri Aug 27	Mass.....	6:00 pm
Sun Aug 29	Sunday Mass at SP.....	8:00 am

Birthdays
Aug 22 Wyatt Ashford Marilyn Beanland
Aug 23 Michael McMahan
Aug 24 Amanda Widowski
Aug 27 Mary Chappel Michael Retz



REMEMBER NEW ST. PAUL URGENT NEED 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

NO 6:00 PM MASS ON WEDNESDAY. Friday Mass will continue except the 1st Friday when Eucharistic Adoration will be offered instead from 5:00-6:30 pm.

CONGRATULATIONS FATHER CHRISTIAN ON YOUR 25TH JUBILEE to be celebrated at St. Mary’s Harrisburg on September 12 at 10:00 am Mass. A reception will follow with lunch being served at noon at St. Mary’s Church Hall. If you wish to attend please RSVP to the parish office at 618-253-7408 or Stmaryhb@frontier.com. Cards and well wishes would also be appreciated and sent via St. Mary’s Harrisburg address.

NEW AED (AUTOMATED EXTERNAL DEFIBRILLATOR) has been received thru a grant from SIH and is now available on the church foyer wall. Peggy Widowski is available to answer any questions about our AED.

DRAWDOWN RAFFLE TICKETS are now available for sale before and after Sunday m Early bird drawing will be September 19 for \$100.

URGENTLY NEEDED: Parish School of Religion (PSR) teachers to provide instruction to St. Paul parish children. Please contact Matt Slife 618 534-6978 to volunteer. Our parish children are our church’s future! Sharing your gifts and interest in teaching is a precious gift. PSR classes start September 12 with our Parish Picnic. Matt will be contacting our children’s parents about registration information.

PICTURE TIME WITH GERI TESINA. Geri Tesina is taking pictures of parishioners after Mass each Sunday. If you haven’t taken a picture please stop a moment after Mass and have your picture taken.

FOOD DRIVE FOR STONEFORT FOOD PANTRY WILL START SEPT. 5 A collection box for donations will be in the church foyer.

SACRISTAN VOLUNTEERS FOR A MONTH to open and close church and set up for Mass are urgently needed. Training can be provided. We need only 12 volunteers. Please contact Arlene Dueker at 618 559-7803, We are covered thru August 2021 only.

VOCATION CORNER – August 22 “My vocation was born during a painful time. When I was 15, my mom was abducted and held for ransom in Haiti. In the confusion and despair that followed, I prayed “Lord, your Son died on a Friday and rose on a Sunday. My mother was taken this Friday – would you return her this Sunday? In exchange, I will give you my life.” Thanks be to God, she was returned to us. I believe this experience was the moment when God began to prepare me for my vocation. He brought many people into my life along the way to teach me how to pray and form me in my faith. I eventually said yes to his call and entered seminary. The rest of the journey wasn’t without its challenges, but by then I had learned to turn to the Lord and trust in his guidance.
Fr. Ronald Angervil; Diocese of Catharine, Ontario; *Columbia Magazine* May 2021