

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.

"One of these days," or "I should look into that," or "We'll get together sometime" are all forms of lip service. Today's liturgy challenges the believer to formulate a plan of concrete action. Tomorrow may never come. The serious acceptance of duty means a commitment to timetables. Only real service, not mere lip service, will be sufficient in living out the words of Jesus.

Psalm 15 is an entrance liturgy. The faithful, before moving into actual worship, first pause and examine their consciences. The awareness of unfulfilled obligations precedes the ceremonies in the temple. The psalm implies a link between formal worship and everyday affairs. Interpersonal relationships are actually emphasized over cultic requirements such as praying and fasting. Divine services must reflect human service.

There are different theories as to who actually wrote the Letter of James. Whoever the author, he wants us to understand that the vibrant message of Christianity must be translated into deeds. Listening to the Word without action is self-deception.

In the gospel passage, Jesus abolishes the practice of ritual purity and the distinction between clean and unclean foods. Jesus rejects the Pharisees' and the scribes' notion of sin. For Jesus, sin is the human spirit gone wrong, not a failure to distinguish between types of food. Jesus' attitude toward sin is consistent with his views regarding the sabbath. The institution is for the people, not the other way around (Mark 2:27). The letter of the law without compassion is dehumanizing -- John Craghan, Th.D., S.S.L.

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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.

Call to Holiness. Sometimes law and custom can be so onerous, so heavy that we can lose focus on right behavior. That is part of the conversation today as we return to the Gospel of Mark. Observing traditions is good and right. But avoiding oppressing thoughts, words, and deeds is better. In the Second Reading, Saint James says: "Be doers of the word and not hearers only." In short, be holy.

1. What unholy words and deeds can I avoid?
2. What holy words and deeds shall I do this week?
3. Whom can I invite to holy behavior with me?

Twenty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time – 5 September 2021

Isaiah 35:4-7a. Psalm 146:7, 8-9, 9-10. James 2:1-5. Mark 7:31-37.



Pastor: Rev Christian Iwuagwu
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

Weekdays – Fri 6:00 pm

Washing Your Hands Before Dinner

In the [Gospel](#) Reading, Jesus and the Pharisees have a public fight about the Jewish tradition of washing your hands before dinner. Jesus puts the Pharisees and their tradition down with a scathing denunciation. He calls the Pharisees "hypocrites," who have God on their lips but not in their hearts.

So, what does this story say about tradition?

Well, we might think, if cleaving to tradition gets the Pharisees the denunciation of the Lord, then so much the worse for tradition!

And yet where would we be without tradition? Our whole religious understanding and practice, even our creeds, are shaped by tradition.

The solution to the perplexity lies in the story. When the Pharisees ask Jesus why his disciples don't keep the tradition of hand-washing, their question isn't a request for information. It is a challenge to his whole ministry. From the point of view of the Pharisees, a person couldn't be from God and not wash his hands before dinner in accordance with the tradition.

A tradition hands on something precious from one generation to another. But the tradition the Pharisees cling to does not in fact convey the God of Moses, does it? What kind of God would make his total acceptance or rejection of a person dependent on whether or not he washed his hands before dinner? Where is the righteous, merciful, loving God of Moses in this view of the Pharisees?

In the [First Reading](#), Moses orders the people to communicate God's commands without adding or subtracting *anything* from them. The Nicene creed, which is part of the tradition that structures our faith, does not violate this order of Moses, because the Nicene creed does not change biblical teachings. It only unfolds them and gives deeper insight into them.

But when the Pharisees privilege hand-washing above the true goodness of Christ, they don't transmit what Moses gave them. They wreck it, in the name of tradition. And that is why Jesus says the tradition of the Pharisees is the tradition *of men*. These defenders of religious tradition have lost their grip on the very thing they were supposed to pass on, God's goodness and love. That is why Jesus calls them 'hypocrites.'

It is a cautionary tale for all of us, isn't it? ---- Eleonore Stump SLU Sunday Site.

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Schedule of Masses

Sun	Aug 29	8:00 am	James Goss
Fri	Sep 3	No mass	Eucharistic Adoration 5-6:30 pm
Sat	Sep 4	8:30 am	Carol Simmons
Sun	Sep 5	8:00 am	Billie Anderson

Birthdays
Sep 4 Peggy Widowski
Lynn Stone

Liturgical Ministers

	<u>Lector</u>	<u>Greeter</u>	<u>EM</u>	<u>Servers</u>	<u>Ushers</u>
Aug 29 8 am	S Widowski	K Pobst	V Anderson	Vol	*Matt Slife, J Bergmann
	<u>Cantor</u>	Steve Pobst			
Sep 5 8 am	Erin Garrett	J Hacker	P Widowski	Vol	*M McMahan, R Weeks
	<u>Cantor</u>	Steve Pobst			

STEWARDSHIP OFFERING Aug 22, 2021

Envelope \$ 1150.00 (28), Loose 58.00

Total \$ 1208.00 (collection counters are needed to continue this church ministry – see Laurie Coleman)

THIS WEEK’S SCHEDULE

Sun	Aug 29	Sunday Mass at SP.....	8:00 am
Fri	Sep 3	Eucharistic Adoration.....	5:00 pm -6:30 pm
Sat	Sep 4	1 st Saturday Mass.....	8:30 pm
Sat	Sep 5	Sunday Mass at SP.....	8:00 am
		Stonefort Food Pantry Drive begins	



“CARING FOR OUR COMMON HOME” DIOCESAN CONFERENCE FOR WOMEN is coming on Wednesday, Oct 13, 2021 at Camp Ondessonk. More information on this event and how to register is coming soon. Rather than purchase conference tote bags for this event we are going to “recycle” unused clean tote bags we picked up from other fairs, conferences or events we attended. If you have any clean cloth tote bags to re-share for this conference please contact Arlene, Pam or Madonna or bring them to church on Sunday.

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

PREPARATIONS FOR DRAWDOWN. The goal for our annual Draw Down is that everybody wins something. Your donations of basket items and gift certificates are appreciated. Madonna has a sign-up sheet of ideas for baskets and gift certificates posted on the church foyer bulletin board. Please commit to either a basket or gift card for this event.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS:

- September 9 -Wellness Committee Mtg. 6 pm in Parish Hal
- September 12- Mass moved to 11 am and followed by Parish Picnic
- September 12 Fr. Christian’s 25th Jubilee celebration at St. Mary’s Harrisburg
- September 19- Catechetical Sunday -Opening PSR
 - Early Bird Drawdown ticket
 - CCW meeting 9 am in parish Hall

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.

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

VOCATION CORNER – “I was born in a small town in Michoacan, Mexico. My mother, a woman of great faith, instilled in me and my five siblings trust in God and kindness toward others. When I turned 15, my family moved to California. It was difficult to leave home, but I soon got used to the new school, friends, and culture. One afternoon, I accompanied a friend to church, more out of duty than desire, and Jesus reminded me that had been waiting for me. I realized how much I had been moving away from him, how much I needed him, and I went to confession. I later encountered the Servants of Mary, Ministers of the Sick, who were visiting the parish. I began to discern, and after high school, I entered my postulancy. I am now a professed junior sister.