

## Twenty Fifth Sunday in Ordinary time– 19 September 2021

Wisdom 2:12,17-20; Psalm 54; James 3:16--4:3; Mark 9:30-37

Children aren't the only ones who have role models. We all have people whose lifestyles intrigue us. The media constantly hold out for our emulation the rich and the beautiful. These capture our attention, if not necessarily our respect. Today's Scripture provides alternative models, models of wisdom. These biblical heroes see fidelity and service, though sometimes difficult, as a truly rewarding lifestyle.

Around the middle of the first century B.C., the author of the Book of Wisdom sought to provide role models for his Jewish community in Egypt. In this effort he contrasts the pious (wise) Jew and the rebellious (foolish) Jew. The just one is attacked because his lifestyle is a condemnation of the wicked: "He reproaches us for sins against the law" (Wisdom 2:12). The just one's fidelity is vindicated. He does not die because he shares community with God. The author of James defines wisdom as being docile, lenient, and peaceful. He then points out some causes of unrest in the community, such as the conflicts and disputes that spring from passion. Christian wisdom is dedicated to others; jealousy and strife are self-centered. This passage makes it clear that we should imitate wisdom rather than fame and wealth. The gospel excerpt is Mark's second passion prediction. We find the same pattern as in last week's passage -- the prediction, misunderstanding, and instruction on the nature of discipleship. For Mark, these scenes contain all the ingredients of Christian wisdom. The child is an apt symbol for powerlessness and total reliance on others. Mark teaches us to welcome the powerless and the disenfranchised.

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

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## Twenty-Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time – 19 September 2021

Wisdom 2:12,17-20; Psalm 54; James 3:16--4:3; Mark 9:30-37

**“I’m Better Than You.”** Our lives are filled with all manner of put down, one upmanship, top dog behavior. When the disciples were caught in a similar conversation by Jesus, their response was silence. Perhaps, from embarrassment, even shame – especially after his teaching. He says to them and to us, be last not first, be of service, be open to receive.

1. Who needs to be first at something this week rather than me?
2. Whom can I serve because they need some help?
3. Whom will I receive with joy as I would a child or grandchild?

## Twenty-Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time – 26 September 2021

Numbers 11:25-29; Psalm 19; James 5:1-6; Mark 9:38-43,45,47-48



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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

### **Trying to Be First**

In the [Gospel](#) Reading, Jesus rebukes his disciples for arguing about who among them was first and greatest. But how do we suppose their argument went?

There are two possibilities.

*First Possibility:* Each disciple was saying, “I am the greatest!” while the others were saying, “Oh no, you’re not! I am!”

*Second Possibility:* Each disciple was saying to one of the others, “*You* are the greatest among us!” and that person was saying, “Oh no, I’m not. *You* are.”

On the first possibility, each disciple is trying to put himself ahead of all the others. On the second possibility, each disciple is trying to be small by putting some other disciple ahead of himself.

We are naturally inclined to think that the right possibility must be the first one. That is because Jesus rebukes the disciples, and we unreflectively suppose that Jesus wouldn’t want to rebuke them if each one was trying to be small.

But notice that if we adopt the first possibility, then Jesus’ rebuke doesn’t make sense. On the first possibility, what is wrong with the disciples is that each one is trying to be first. And so Jesus should rebuke them for trying to be first.

But that is not what Jesus rebukes the disciples for. On the contrary, Jesus gives the disciples a short instruction manual for how to get to be first. If you want to be first, he tells them, you have to be the servant of all. Would Jesus have explained to them how to get to be first if he thought that trying to be first was wrong?

So the second possibility is the right one. Each disciple was trying to be small in order to seem humble. But there is no true humility in trying to be small.

As the parable about the talents (cf. [Mt.25:24-28](#)) shows, each person is called to strive for greatness by accepting the gifts God gives him and using them to the full. True humility lies in understanding that everything is gift; and everything is meant to be given back, in service of others.

When each person strives for greatness in this way, there is no competition. No one is ahead of the others, no matter how much greatness he achieves. Rather, all together are one in the Lord, and he is Lord over all ([Rom. 9:5](#)). This is the way in which being the servant of all makes you first.

-- Eleonore Stump at SLU Sunday Site.



Vol. 22 #38 24<sup>st</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time—September 19, 2021

Schedule of Masses

Sun	Sep 19	8:00 am	SP	Virgil Arado
Fri	Sep 24	6:00 pm	SP	General Intention
Sun	Sep 26	8:00 am	SP	Delmar Schwartz

<b>Birthdays</b>
Sep 20 Alex Ross
Sep 25 Andy Chappell

Liturgical Ministers

	<u>Lector</u>	<u>Greeter</u>	<u>EM</u>	<u>Servers</u>	<u>Ushers</u>
Sep 19 8 am	M Miller	L Coleman	S Widowski	Vol	*Matt Slife, P Widowski
	<u>Cantor</u> Z Garrett				
Sep 26 8 am	J Galey	B Bowers	S Pobst	Vol	*J Slife, D Zmuda, Sr
	<u>Cantor</u> Z Garrett				

STEWARDSHIP OFFERING Sep 12, 2021

Envelope \$ 685.00 (23), Loose \$ 52.00 Bld. & Maint. \$ 230.00  
Retired Priests \$ 245.00 People of Haiti \$ 50.00  
PSR Reg. \$ 40.00 **Total \$ 1302.00** (collection counters are needed to continue this church ministry – see Laurie Coleman)

THIS WEEK’S SCHEDULE

Sun Sep 19	Mass.....	8:00 am
	Catechetical Sunday/Opening PSR	
	CCW Meeting .....	9:00 a,
	Drawdown “Early Bird Drawing”	
Fri Sep 24	Mass.....	6:00 pm
Sun Sep 26	Mass.....	8:00 am



ST PAUL CCW is Meeting after Mass in the Parish Hall today. All ladies are invited to attend.

REMEMBER THE HAITIANS. At the request of Bishop McGovern, our churches are being asked to have an additional collection thru the month of September for the Haitian people. Our donations will be sent to the Emergency Disaster Fund of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops for their relief. Thank you for your donation.

DRAWDOWN RAFFLE TICKETS Early Bird Drawing is today following Mass, We still have several tickets available if you know of someone who hasn’t purchased their ticket yet or if you wish to sell a ticket to a non-parishioner.

GIFT CARDS OR THEME BASKETS FOR DRAWDOWN ARE NEEDED. A sign up sheet is on the church foyer bulletin board. We need baskets and gift cards for prizes, please try to help out by signing up or letting Madonna know what you can do. Thank you.

PARISH PICNIC – Thank you to Jared Bergmann for cooking, Matt & Rhi Slife for organizing the games, Craig Levesque for cleaning the tables and the ladies for all the kitchen duties. And to everyone who brought side dishes.

THANK YOU – to Joan Galey for taking care of the September first Sunday social.

“CARING FOR OUR COMMON HOME” WOMEN’S CONFERENCE sponsored by the Belleville Diocese CCW is Wednesday, October 13, 2021 at Camp Ondessonk. Speakers, programs, exhibits, a mass by Bishop McGovern raffle and silent auction are all part of a great day. Registration includes early morning social and lunch and is \$18 if registered by September 27. Registration after or at door is \$20.00. For more information contact, Pam, Vickie, Madonna or Arlene. They will have registration forms or you can access a registration form from [BDCCW Convention Registration Form.docx - Google Docs](#) . Carpooling from St. Paul can also be arranged.

VOCATION CORNER September 19 – “There can be no promotion of vocations or Christian mission apart from constant contemplative prayer. The Christian life needs to be nourished by attentive listening to God’s word and, above all, by the cultivation of a personal relationship with the Lord in Eucharistic adoration, the privileged “place” for our encounter with God...Mary Most Holy, the Mother of our Savior, had the courage to embrace this ideal, placing her youth and her enthusiasm in God’s hands. Through her intercession, may we be granted that same openness of heart, that same readiness to respond, “Here I am”, to the Lord’s call, and that same joy in setting out (cf. *Lk* 1:39), like her, to proclaim Him to the whole world.” – *Pope Francis, November 26, 2016*