

## Third Sunday in Ordinary Time – January 23, 2022

Nehemiah 8:2-4,5-6,8-10; Psalm 19; 1 Corinthians 12:12-30; Luke 1:1-4,4:14-21

What most characterizes a true believer? Some would say acceptance of teachings and adherence to rules; others would argue for positive deeds that prove allegiance through actions. Today's readings indicate that both dimensions are critical: The believer listens to God's Word and lives that Word each day.

Ezra, in the first reading, proclaims the Word to the people of Jerusalem; the year is 458 B.C. The people clearly experienced the power of God as the words reduced them to tears. In response to what they heard there was a decision to reform their lives.

In today's gospel, Luke defines Jesus' mission in terms of bringing Good News to the poor and announcing a year of favor from the Lord. Luke insists frequently that one must not only hear the Word but also act upon it. The seed in good soil "are the ones who, when they hear the word, hold it fast in an honest and good heart, and bear fruit with patient endurance" (Luke 8:15).

.- John Craghan, Th.D., S.S.L. Copyright 1997, Liguori Publications / Liguori, MO 63057-9999

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**Believing the Word of God.** We are the Body of Christ (Corinthians) assembling as the graced community of believers (Nehemiah) each week to give thanks and praise, to share in Communion, and then sent to serve. We are part of the great Communion of Saints to whom is handed down the living Word of God – both the Scriptures and the Tradition as well as the very person of Christ who is the spoken Word of God (Luke). During the first Mass in a brand-new church building, the bishop shows the *Lectionary* to the assembly and says: “May the word of God resound always in this building, to open for you the mystery of Christ and to bring about your salvation in the Church.”

- How will I set aside a few minutes each day to read/reread Scripture? What is a good time?
- How will I look for the unfolding mystery of Christ in little and big ways today?
- How will I be “good news” this week by what I say and do?

## Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time -January 30, 2022

Jeremiah 1:4-5,17-19; Psalm 71; 1 Corinthians 12:31--13:13; Luke 4:21-30



Isaiah 62:1-5; Psalm 96; 1  
Corinthians 12:4-11; John 2:1-12

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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

### **Being Strong**

As First Reading describes it, when the Jews, newly returned to Jerusalem from captivity in Babylon, listened to Ezra read God's word, they were minded to weep. Who can blame them? Everything around them was so far from what it ought to be, from what God planned it to be, from what they themselves wanted it to be. All around them lay the ruins of what Israel and Jerusalem and the Temple and God's people had once been and were meant to be.

And who among us fails to understand their attitude?

We look at the mess we have made of the earth, and we are so discouraged. We see the unspeakable suffering of the afflicted, and we groan inwardly for our world. We look at the Church itself, which ought to be the light of the whole broken world; and we are tempted to despair. We turn inward to our own hearts and what we see there makes us want to be invisible to others. In safe and quiet moments we are minded to weep too, like the Jews of Ezra's time.

so the last line of the First Reading is more than a little surprising: the joy of the Lord is our strength!

It is, of course, not surprising to hear that we must be strong. When everything lies in ruins around you, you can't afford not to be strong.

But being strong is a matter of grim determination and hard work, isn't it? Not according to the First Reading! It tells us that our strength lies in joy.

In fact, joy is one of the fruits of the Holy Spirit. When a person opens to God and the Holy Spirit comes to dwell in him, then that person becomes fruitful; and joy is one of the fruits he bears. Because the God he loves is present in him, he has joy in the presence of his beloved Lord.

But if the Lord himself is with us and for us, what can be against us?

And so the prayer of St Patrick makes sense: Christ with me, Christ before me, Christ behind me, Christ in me. ... I arise today through the mighty strength of the Lord.

Who would not rejoice surrounded in this way by the Lord? This is strength indeed

--Eleonore Stump from SLU Sunday Site.

# Vol. 23 # 4 Second Sunday in Ordinary Time – January 23, 2022

## Schedule of Masses

Sun Jan 23 8:00 am Mass Virgil Arado  
 Fri Jan 28 6:00 pm Mass  
 Sun Jan 30 8:00 am Mass

## Liturgical Ministers

|        | <u>Lector</u> | <u>Greeter</u> | <u>EM</u>                 | <u>Servers</u>         | <u>Ushers</u>           |
|--------|---------------|----------------|---------------------------|------------------------|-------------------------|
| Jan 23 | A Dueker      | X Gruszczyck   | M Slife<br><u>Cantor</u>  | Vol<br>S Pobst         | M Slife, J Bergmann     |
|        | <u>Lector</u> | <u>Greeter</u> | <u>EM</u>                 | <u>Servers</u>         | <u>Ushers</u>           |
| Jan 30 | Z Garrett     | K Post         | M Nelson<br><u>Cantor</u> | M Palmer<br>M Bergmann | *S Widowski, P Widowski |

## STEWARDSHIP OFFERING Jan 16, 2022

Envelope (25) \$1005.00  
 Loose \$60.00  
 Masses \$15.00  
 Reimbursement \$129.13  
 Initial Offering (2) \$20.00  
**Total: \$1229.13**  
 Bldg. & Maint. (4) \$75.00  
**Total: \$75.00**

## THIS WEEK’S SCHEDULE

Sun Jan 23 Mass.....8:00 am  
                   PSR classes.....9:00 am  
 Fri Jan 21 Mass.....6:00 pm  
 Sun Jan 30 Mass.....8:00 am  
                   PSR classes.....9:00 am

| <b>Birthdays</b>                                      |
|---|
| Jan 23 Ann<br>Stachowiak, Julie<br>Kolb               |
| Jan 25 Chuck Stone<br>29 Arnold Morse<br>Anthony Kolb |

## PARISH DIRECTORY. PLEASE REVIEW YOUR INFORMATION

located on the table in the church foyer. This information with the photos that Geri Tesina took will be combined into a new parish directory and distributed. If you missed the photo opportunity offered by Geri than please call Arlene Dueker at 618 559 7803 and we will arrange to get your photo in the new directory.

**FREE FEDERAL AND STATE TAX PREPARATION** by certified Volunteer IRS preparers will be available every Thursday and Friday mornings at various area locations, including some dates at St. Paul parish Hall starting Feb 3. For more information contacts Pat Kalicki at 618 658 1500.

**WORLD WIDE MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER** will be hosting a weekend of March 18-20 at the Villa Maria Catholic Life Center in Springfield, IL. For more information about this weekend go to wwme.org. Terry & Eric Engholm are also available at 314 649 7317 to answer questions about this weekend opportunity.

**AN ADULT BIBLE STUDY GROUP** is forming at St. Paul Church. The Bible timeline program- a 24 session series to study the Bible as a whole in its own context, so we can grow in our understanding of our role in the story of people seeking God throughout history, will be offered. If you missed the survey posted by Zach Garrett by email on January 19, contact him at 618 922-1787 for more information.

**NEED A RIDE TO CHURCH OR NEED COMMUNION BROUGHT TO YOUR HOME?** Contact Frank Dueker at 618 559 1405. If volunteers are already bringing you communion, no need to re-register.

## VOCATION CORNER January 23:

My parents gave me and my siblings a joyful and loving childhood where the beauty of the Catholic faith shone brightly. They sent us to a school in Madrid operated by the sisters of the Company of the Savior, whose charism is to cooperate with parents by providing a strong education in a faithful catholic environment. The joy, devotion and dedication of the sisters immediately attracted me. During my last years of high school and my first year of college, I was tempted by new experiences and friendships based on different ideals than those of my youth. It was Mary who opened my eyes to see deeper. She brought me back to the heart of Jesus. Eventually, I embraced His loving call to be only his and joined the Sisters of the Company of the Savior.  
*Sr. Maria Alguacil; Sisters of the Company of the Savior; Columbia, Sept.2021*