

Third Sunday of Lent—March 20, 2022

Exodus 3:1-8, 13-15; Psalm 103; 1 Corinthians 10:1-6,10-12; Luke 13:1-9

The Christian life requires constant vigilance and effort. No coasting is allowed, and little should be taken for granted.

The burning bush, in the first reading from Exodus, is a reminder of the covenant. God appeared on Sinai (see Exodus 19:18), and now again, in the form of fire. Moses removes his sandals as an act of purification. Israel would require constant purification; allegiance to God requires continuing conversion.

Paul, in today's second reading, writes to a Corinthian community experiencing division. Paul challenges the Christians of Corinth to learn from the experiences of Israel, which are recorded as a warning to us. Israel failed in the wilderness wanderings that followed the Exodus. The same thing will happen to the Corinthians unless they stay awake and alert. "So if you think you are standing, watch out that you do not fall!" (1 Corinthians 10:12).

Some Jewish authorities taught that God rewards and punishes in this life. Thus they saw the absence of suffering as meaning the presence of righteousness. Jesus, in the gospel parable, rejects that view. Only God's mercy prevents the fig tree from being chopped down. Hearing and keeping God's Word is a daily task.

Moses leads us to Sinai and Jesus leads us to Calvary. Both places call for our daily allegiance. The Christian life is not a layaway plan permitting a down payment with hope of making the final installment sometime in the future. Vigilance is the price of victory -- John Craghan, Th.D., S.S.L. Copyright 1997, Liguori Publications / Liguori, MO 63057-9999

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Reflecting on a Tree and a Bush. In Luke's parable, the gardener wants to give the unproductive fig tree a second chance. Here is an image of God's tending to all of us -- always wanting the opportunity for second (and third and fourth and...) chances. In the Exodus account, God, in an unconsumed burning bush, speaks to Moses. Both vineyard and Horeb are holy ground, places for God's saving activity.

- ◆ How will I work the holy ground of my life this week, this Lent?
- ◆ What fruit will my life bear?
- ◆ How will I listen and respond to what God calls out to me?

4th Sunday of Lent Sunday, March 27, 2022

Joshua 5:9,10-12; Psalm 34; 2 Corinthians 5:17-21; Luke 15:1-3,11-32



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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: Becky Bowers

Trustees: Matthew Slife, Jared Bergmann

Sundays – 8:00 am

Weekdays – Fri 6:00 pm

The Prime Sin

Moses encountered on Mount Sinai the one God, the God of his ancestors, the God whose name is *I am*. A covenant was to be made with the people of Israel, one based on their recognition of Yhwh as the one God. The Israelites would stray from that covenant from time to time, turning away from the one God and worshipping false gods.

Their prophets would repeatedly call them back to the covenant worship of the one God.

We, too, turn away from the one God to worship false gods. We make an idol of money, worshipping at the altar of the almighty dollar. We make an idol of power, worshipping at the altar of political domination and economic oppression. We make an idol of pleasure, worshipping at the altar of sex and luxurious comfort.

Our prophets call us back to the one God, but we ignore or kill them.

Lent is a season to turn away from our false idols and call on the merciful and gracious Lord, who is "slow to anger and abounding in kindness." We are called in Lent "to prayer, fasting and works of mercy" because, as Jesus tells us in the Gospel, "you will all come to the same end unless you begin to reform."

We are called to abandon our false gods of money, power and pleasure and return to the one God, "who secures justice and the rights of all the oppressed."

The prime sin in so much of the biblical tradition is idolatry: service of the creature rather than of the creator, and the attempt to overturn creation by making God in human likeness. The Bible castigates not only the worship of idols, but also manifestations of idolatry, such as the quest for unrestrained power and the desire for great wealth.

U.S. Bishops, [Economic Justice for All](#), 1986: 33

--Gerald Darring from SLU Sunday Site

Vol. 23 # 12, Third Sunday of Lent March 20, 2022

Schedule of Masses

Sun Mar 20 8:00 am Mass Ralph & Maria Koester
Family
Fri Mar 25 6:00 pm Mass
Sun Mar 27 8:00 am Mass Heather Fred

Birthdays No Birthdays this week

Liturgical Ministers

Mar 20 Lector A Dueker Greeter K Pobst EM F Dueker Servers M Bergmann, M Palmer Ushers *MMcMahan, R Weeks
Cantor Z Garrett
Mar 27 Lector J Galey Greeter V Anderson EM B Palmer Servers Vol. Ushers *D Zmuda Sr, M Slife
Cantor Z Garrett

STEWARDSHIP OFFERING March 13, 2022

Envelope (23) \$1135.00
Loose \$85.00
Masses (2) \$20.00
Total: \$1240.00
Building & Maint. (14) \$265.00 **Total \$265.00**
CSMA \$340.00 now **\$1560.00 subtotal**
with \$2350 in pledges our subtotal is now \$3910.00

THIS WEEK’S SCHEDULE

Sun Mar 20 8:00 am Mass
9:00 am PSR class
9:00 am CCW Mtg
Fri Mar 25 6:00 pm Mass
Sat Mar 26 9:00 am SouthVicariate CCW at St. Joseph Elizabethtown
Sun Mar 27 8:00 am Mass
Catholic Relief Services
9:00 am PSR class
9:00 am Adult Bible Study
5:00 Retreat at St Mary Harrisburg

THREE DAY LENTEN RETREAT OPPORTUNITY FOR US ON MARCH 27, 28, 29. Father Sal Gonzalez, OMI, from King’s House in Belleville is the presenter. Retreat starts at St. Mary in Harrisburg at 5 p.m. Sunday, March 27. Monday March 28 the retreat begins at 6 pm at St. Mary’s in Eldorado. Tuesday, March 29 the retreat begins at 6 pm at St. Paul, Vienna. Light refreshments will be served afterward at each parish. Carpools to St. Mary Harrisburg or to St. Mary Eldorado can be arranged. Contact Arlene Dueker at 618 559 7803 for carpool.

INFORMATION ABOUT OUR FORTHCOMING RETREAT

Lent is a Holy Season in which our God in Jesus Christ is closer to us than we think. In the business of our lives we fail to notice just how close God is to us. We are called to enter into the desert with Jesus in order to take stock of what it is we are feeding our lives with. There are three scenes in which we can discover again the closeness of our Lord Jesus Christ in our lives. The desert and its temptations; The Passion; and the Cross of Jesus. During this parish mission we will spend each night of the parish mission on each one of these scenes. A flyer with more information is in this week’s bulletin..

THANKS TO ALL PARISHIONERS WHO WORKED TO MAKE OUR FIRST 2022 FISH FRY SUCCESSFUL.

CATHOLIC WOMEN’S COUNCIL (CCW) MEETING IS TODAY. A collection will be taken up after Mass. All parish ladies are welcome to come.

SOUTH VICARIATE SPRING MEETING ON SATURDAY MARCH 26, 2022

FROM 9 UNTIL NOON AT ST. JOSEPH PARISH IN ELIZABETHTOWN. Our theme will focus on the corporal works of mercy and we plan on praying the Stations of the Cross outdoors if weather permits. Registration fee of \$5 will cover snacks and a light lunch. Carpooling from St. Paul will be available for this event. Contact Arlene Dueker at 618 559 7803 or Vickie Anderson at 618 579-3748.

SAVE THESE DATES:

April 1 St Paul Fish Fry
April 2 Parish work day following 1st Saturday Mass
April 7-9 St. Paul turn to operate Faith Alive Thrift Store

PART 1- HEALTH FOCUS WELLNESS COMMITTEE

March is colorectal cancer month. It is the second leading cause of cancer deaths. Colonoscopy is the best way to detect polyps or tumors. For those of average risk colonoscopy screening should start age 45 or sooner if you have family history of colorectal cancer. Talk to your doctor about when you should be screened.