

Fourth Sunday of Lent–March 27, 2022

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

Homecomings should be warm and joyful experiences. What happens, however, if the one returning has hurt us? Our humanness might declare a boycott against the festivities. Today's readings suggest that Christians are called to the parade, no matter what.

The Book of Joshua describes the Israelites' arrival in the Promised Land. Despite sin and failure in the desert, God still welcomes the people to their new homes. Produce from the land replaces desert manna, symbolizing God's forgiveness and love.

Scripture's most famous homecoming is the parable of the Prodigal Son. Luke's account underscores God's infinite capacity to forgive. What about us? Are we closer to the forgiving father or to the pouting son? The father parties over the return, the elder son wants an accounting of credits and debits.

Pain, hurt, betrayal, and suffering are part of human experience. A Christian puts aside revenge and self-pity and is thankful for a God who throws parties for prodigals. To worship this God is to embrace those who may offend us. The Christian offers reconciliation because the offender is a new creation.

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

4th Sunday of Lent–March 27, 2022

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

Reflecting on a Spendthrift Father. We know this story by heart. A greedy son, an extravagant father, a big party, and an indignant second son. The first son comes to his senses. The father never loses his senses. The second son, after grumbling, remains a mystery.

- ◆ How do I, like the first son, come to my senses about God's perpetual love and care for me?
- ◆ How is God, like the spendthrift father, extravagant with me?
- ◆ How will I be generous to others? Works of Mercy may be a place to start.

5th Sunday of Lent Sunday, April 3, 2022

Isaiah 43:16-21; Psalm 126; Philippians 3:8-14; John 8:1-11



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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

Metanoia

We are prodigal children. We have in many ways squandered our Father's inheritance. Provided with a wonderful garden to live in, we poison its air, we pollute its water, we erode its topsoil.

Provided with a wonderful family with whom to share our lives, we condemn many of our family members to survival-level existence, we refuse to associate with many of them, and we contribute to the death of many of them.

Lent is a time to 'pass over,' to pass from the world of injustice we have created over to a world of reconciliation. It is a time to "turn hatred to love, conflict to peace, death to eternal life."

We know that such a turn can take place because we have a Father who sees us while we are still a long way off, who catches sight of us and is deeply moved, who will run out to meet us, throw his arms around our necks and kiss us.

We know that such a turn can take place because Jesus Christ brought mankind the gift of reconciliation by the suffering and death he endured.

The message of Lent, therefore, is clear: "we implore you, in Christ's name: be reconciled to God."

The first step, of course, is to do what the younger son did: "I will break away and return to my father, and say to him, 'Father, I have sinned against you.'"

Such a confession will enable us to "hasten toward Easter with the eagerness of faith and love," and it will make possible the rejoicing which today's liturgy foretells and encourages.

This kingdom and this salvation ... are available to every human being as grace and mercy, and yet at the same time each individual must gain them ... through toil and suffering, through a life lived according to the gospel, through abnegation and the cross, through the spirit of the beatitudes. But above all each individual gains them through a total interior renewal which the gospel calls metanoia; it is a radical conversion, a profound change of mind and heart.--Pope Paul VI, *Evangelii Nuntiandi*, 10, 1975.

--Gerald Darring from SLU Sunday Site

Vol. 23 # 13, Fourth Sunday of Lent March 27, 2022

Schedule of Masses

Sun Mar 27 8:00 am Mass Heather Fred

Sat Apr 2 8:30 am 1st Saturday Mass Pat Kincaid

Sun Apr 3 8:00 am Mass Martina Battreal

Liturgical Ministers

Mar 27 Lector Greeter EM Servers

J Galey V Anderson B Palmer Vol.
Cantor Z Garrett

Apr 3 Lector Greeter EM Servers

E Garrett J Hacker S Widowski M & C Bergmann
Cantor J Starrett

STEWARDSHIP OFFERING March 20, 2022

Envelope (18) \$795.00

Loose \$55.00

Flowers (12) \$223.00

Total: \$1073

Building & Maint. (3) \$25.00 Total \$25.00

CSMA(1) \$20.00

THIS WEEK’S SCHEDULE

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
Mon Mar 28 6:00 pm Retreat at St Mary Eldorado
Tue Mar 29 6:00 pm Retreat at St Paul
Fri Apr 1 4:30-6:30 Fish Fry
Sat Apr 2 8:30 am 1st Saturday Mass
9:30 am Parish Work Day
Sun Apr 3 8:00 am Mass
9:00 am 1st Sunday Social
Synod Listening Session

Birthdays
Mar 28 Lynn McMahan
Mar 31 Curtner Bergmann

Ushers
*D Zmuda Sr, M Slife

Ushers
*SWidowski, PWidowski

SYNOD-WHAT IS IT?

Synod is a Greek word (synodos) meaning a meeting or assembly. The two Greek words that make up Synod are *syn* meaning together, and *hodos* meaning way or journey. The entire Catholic Church is called to participate in the upcoming Synod of Bishops! The upcoming Synod is entitled: “For a Synodal Church: Communion, Participation, and Mission. St. Paul Church is hosting a Synod Listening Session during the social gathering in the hall after Mass on April 3. For more information go to <https://www.diobelle.org>. If you need more information on our St. Paul local listening session contact Zach Garrett at zach.garrett@outlook.com or 618 922-1787

PARISH DIRECTORY SOON AVAILABLE.

Our new parish directory will be combined of members from our parish, St. Mary, Harrisburg and St. Mary Eldorado. (Separate sections for each parish) Look for it in the church foyer. Our separate St. Paul photo directory (with pictures of parishioners who posed or sent pictures) will soon be available. Phone numbers will be listed with these pictures.

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.

SAVE THESE DATES:

April 1 St Paul Fish Fry
April 2 Parish work day following 1st Saturday Mass
April 7-9 St. Paul turns to operate Faith Alive Thrift Store
April 8 Reconciliation Service (no Friday Mass)

PART 2- HEALTH FOCUS WELLNESS COMMITTEE

You can help prevent colorectal cancer by having a colonoscopy screening starting at age 45 or sooner per your doctor’s advice. You can lower your risk by eating less red meat and processed foods, Keeping a healthy weight, eat more fiber, drink less alcohol, and stop smoking and be physically active.