

## 13<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time, June 26, 2022

1 Kings 19:16b, 19-21. Psalm 16:1-2, 5, 7-8, 9-10, 11. Galatians 5:1, 13-18. Luke 9:51-62.

Most of us have known, at one time or another, the fear of being replaced. A firstborn child wonders if the new baby will take over Mom's affection; teens are anxious over losing special friends; husbands and wives become fearful when the spouse seems distant. Transition is inevitable and usually challenging.

The first reading today dramatizes a transition that is not fearful but even gracious. With complete trust, Elijah anoints Elisha as his successor, just as the Lord had asked. Elisha does not push aside the older prophet, but shows him reverence, "Then he set out and followed Elijah, and became his servant" (1 Kings 19:21).

The prophets' mutual respect is echoed in Galatians: "Through love become slaves to one another" (Galatians 5:13). Paul teaches today that the Christian's ability to serve is based on freedom. The fundamental freedom won by Christ is found not around us but within us. This gift is chosen when we free ourselves from selfishness by taking responsibility for our decisions, by reaching beyond ourselves to others in love. "The whole law is summed up in a single commandment: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself'" (Galatians 5:14).

Discipleship requires a wholehearted commitment to the Lord and a generous spirit of service toward his people. The demands are severe. Jesus, in today's gospel, says, "No one who puts a hand to the plow and looks back is fit for the kingdom of God" (Luke 9:62). The people of Jesus' time understood this agrarian imagery. The farmer has to keep his eyes fixed straight ahead, otherwise the neatly organized field required for planting would be turned into a chaotic nightmare at harvesting time.

The demand sounds harsh, especially when Jesus says, "Let the dead bury their own dead." This is not disrespect for our deceased, but simply a realization that we must live without regret over the past. If we keep our eye on the present, then the fields of our lives will have the grace and order of newly plowed spring fields. Our lives will hold great promise for a rich harvest.

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

**About Our Journey.** After his ministry in Galilee, Jesus sets his face for Jerusalem. Many disciples follow him to this destination, his destiny – as should we. For following Jesus is our call. It is our central task. It is our salvation. We do this not alone but with others.

- ◆ In following Jesus, what am I called to leave behind?
- ◆ In following Jesus, what must I pick up and take with me?
- ◆ In following Jesus, what salvation will this bring about?

## 14<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time, July 3 2022

Isaiah 66:10-14c. Psalm 66:1-3, 4-5, 6-7, 16, 20. Galatians 6:14-18. Luke 10:1-12, 17-20.



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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

### **Temporizing**

In the First Reading, Elisha is called by the Lord to be the helper and successor of the prophet Elijah. When in response to God's call the prophet Elijah comes to get Elisha, the latter really wants to follow the prophet. Only he wants to kiss his mother and father goodbye first.

The prophet responds negatively to Elisha's desire to go home first. "Go back!" the prophet says to him—and he seems to mean, "who wants you anyway?"

Why does the prophet take such a stern attitude?

Well, it is not actually the prophet who is calling Elisha. It is God. So think of it this way. If the Pope were to call you and ask you to meet him, would you pause for anything? Wouldn't you race out in excitement? Pausing before going indicates that you don't really understand or don't really care who it is that is calling you.

And, then, too, if you don't care very much about who is calling you, you might in the end fail to answer his call. It is undeniably easier to stay at home in the midst of what is small and familiar than to hazard the perils that come with answering a great call.

In Elisha's case, Elijah's dismissive response to Elisha's temporizing puts the fire of God in Elisha. He kills all his family's oxen; then he uses their yokes for firewood to roast the oxen, and he gives the flesh to his servants to eat. Elisha is making sure that he *can't* go home now, isn't he? How could he, after what he did to the family oxen and their yokes?

So here is the moral of the story: there isn't room for hanging back when the Lord calls you. If you hesitate, if you think of an excuse to postpone answering the call, you aren't really hearing the Lord calling; and so you aren't really going to follow him either, not now, not later. That is why in the Gospel Reading Jesus says that no one who sets his hand to the plow and looks back is fit for the kingdom of heaven.

But each human person is called to follow the Lord, to turn his back on his own sins, to live a life of love and holiness. Answering that call can't wait for later; there is nothing more important that needs to happen first. There is no place for temporizing when the Lord calls. The Lord's call has to be answered *now*. —Elonore Stump from SLU Sunday Site

Vol. 23 # 26 13<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time June 26, 2022

Schedule of Masses

Sun Jun 26 Peter’s pence Collection  
8:00 am Mass Billie Anderson  
Fri Jul 1 6:00 pm Eucharistic Adoration  
Sat Jul 2 8:30 am Mass Anna Mae Street  
Sun Jul 3 8:00 am Mass Pat Kinhead

Birthdays
June 27 Nathaniel Ross

Liturgical Ministers

<u>Lector</u>	<u>Greeter</u>	<u>EM</u>	<u>Servers</u>	<u>Ushers</u>
Jun 26 Z Garret	B Porter	B Palmer	M Palmer, E Zmuda	*M McMahan, M Slife
<u>Lector</u>	<u>Greeter</u>	<u>EM</u>	<u>Servers</u>	<u>Ushers</u>
July 03 M Slife	X Gruszczyk	S Widowski	M Bergmann, M Palmer	*S Widowski, R Weeks

STEWARDSHIP OFFERING June 19, 2022

Envelope (14) \$545.00  
Loose \$5>00  
Total: \$550.00

THIS WEEK’S SCHEDULE

Sun Jun 26 Peter’s Pence Collection  
8:00 am Mass Billie Anderson  
Fri Jul 1 6:00 pm Eucharistic Adoration  
Sat Jul 2 8:30 am Mass Anna Mae Street  
Sun Jul 3 8:00 am Mass Pat Kinhead  
9:00 am 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday Social  
Adult Bible Study

TODAY WE WILL TAKE UP THE PETER’S PENCE COLLECTION which unites us and Catholics around the world more closely with the Holy Father in two ways: it supports the structures of the Holy See through which the Pope governs the Church as well as his charitable efforts to assist victims of war, oppression, natural disasters and others most in need.

IMPORTANT DATES:

--Sunday June 19 Corpus Christi Sunday—Procession and Benediction with Mass  
Happy Father’s Day  
Adult Bible Study  
--Sunday July 3 Adult Bible Study  
1<sup>st</sup> Sunday Social  
--Tuesday July 12 Wellness Committee mtg at 6 pm  
--Sunday July 17 Adult Bible Study  
--Sunday July 24 Catholic Women’s Council meeting after Mass

WELLNESS COMMISSION HEALTH FOCUS-CATARACTS

This is a clouding of the lens. There is no proven method to prevent cataracts, as they are part of the natural aging process. Some of the risk factors include smoking, extended steroid use, and diabetes. Regular eye exams are important!

VOCATION CORNER June 26:

“When I was 15, my father died suddenly; it’s a low point in my life, but also a turning point. My mom, who had converted to Catholicism several years earlier, encouraged me to speak to our parish priest. I quickly saw a transformation within myself and began to think, “If God is helping me through this Catholic priest, there must be something to this Catholic Church.” After my confirmation, the Lord said to me in prayer, “Anthony, you see what I’ve done for you through the priesthood; now go and do likewise.” I was ordained in June 2018 and I wake up every morning thanking God for allowing me to be his servant.  
Fr. Anthony Stewart; Diocese of Nashville; *Columbia Magazine Feb. 2021*

SOUTHEASTERN Illinois ELECTRI COOPERATIVE, INC., HAS NOTIFIED US THAT ROLLING BLACKOUTS COULD OCCUR THIS SUMMER. Every effort will be made to notify our church and your household (if you are a member of the co-op) of any planned outages. All electric consumers are asked to conserve as much energy as possible and implement any emergency plans, if needed.