

17th Sunday in Ordinary Time, July 24 2022

Genesis 18:20-32; Psalm 138; Colossians 2:12:14; Luke 11:1-13

If God seems far away, who moved? This question, however many times we've heard it, confronts us with a basic truth. Ours is a God always near and always ready to answer our call. If there seems a distance, then it must be either our perception or our choosing. The readings today bring home the familial atmosphere possible in prayer. We are invited to call God by name and to enter a relationship where every need is embraced.

The Genesis author gives us a picture of partnership. Yahweh respects Abraham as a partner in the covenant relationship. God doesn't hide God's intentions; God explains the impending destruction to Abraham. God communicates interest, concern, and a boundless openness to listening.

Abraham responds like the shopkeeper skilled at negotiation. Shrewdly Abraham asks the Lord, "Will you indeed sweep away the righteous with the wicked?" (Genesis 18:23). Pocketing the Lord's agreement to spare the city for the sake of the innocent, Abraham whittles down their number from fifty to ten. Abraham is family; God sees his maneuvering and respects his motives.

Psalm 138 is one of thanksgiving, announcing the Lord's deliverance. This is a God who is exalted but not aloof or indifferent. God is concerned with the needs of God's family and especially those who are most down-and-out. The psalmist trusts in God's care as an enduring gift. Because the psalmist is the work of God's own hands, the psalmist's prayer is sure to be answered.

Luke believes in the love of human fathers for their children. He reasons from this that God must be infinitely solicitous, never to be outdone in kindness and mercy. Naturally the disciples experience God as Father because they sense this Father and Son relationship in Jesus' prayer to and love for God in heaven. The parable of the unexpected guest teaches that we reach out to God as friend and this bond never fails, especially for those who are persistent! -- John Craghan, Th.D., S.S.L.

About Praying. Abraham is persistent in his pleading with the LORD. And the LORD listens and relents. A disciple asks Jesus, after seeing him pray, how to pray. Jesus gives a form that we use at every Mass and that we hand on to the elect each Lent. He then goes on about persistence in our praying.

- ◆ How does my prayer plead for the Kingdom of God to come?
- ◆ How does my prayer ask for what I need to do God's mercy work?
- ◆ How does my prayer seek and offer forgiveness?

18th Sunday in Ordinary Time- July 31, 2022

Ecclesiastes 1:2; 2:21-23; Psalm 95; Colossians 3:1-5,9-11; Luke 12:13-21



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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

On Behalf of Justice

We as a Church are dedicated to the search for a better world, but today's liturgy challenges us to push that dedication to its limit. Ask for a better world, Jesus says, and you shall receive; seek a better world and you shall find; knock at the door of a better world and it shall be opened to you. "For whoever asks, receives; whoever seeks, finds; whoever knocks, is admitted."

The problem is in part lack of faith in the God who "gives power and strength to his people." The problem is also a lack of Christians personally committed to the pursuit of justice and peace.

What if there were only fifty people working for justice? God would not let us be destroyed. What if there were only thirty people working for peace? God would not let us be destroyed. What if only ten were working for justice and peace? God would not let us be destroyed. The problem is that there are not even those ten.

"Should not the judge of all the world act with justice?" He will indeed, and those who do not join in that 'action with justice' will suffer the fate of Sodom and Gomorrah.

Action on behalf of justice and participation in the transformation of the world fully appear to us as a constitutive dimension of the preaching of the Gospel, or, in other words, of the Church's mission for the redemption of the human race and its liberation from every oppressive situation.

Synod of Bishops, Justice in the World: 1971:6

---Gerald Darring from SLU Sunday Website

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Schedule of Masses

Sun Jul 24 8:00 am Mass Ed Dougherty
Fri Jul 29 6:00 pm Mass
Sun Jul 34 8:00 am Mass Billie Anderson

Birthdays
Jul 26 Steve Widowski
Chuck Querrey
Jul 29 Riley Slife

THANK YOU FOR THE VOLUNTEERS WHO OPERATED THE FAITH ALAIVE THRIFT STORE.

CATHOLIC WOMEN’S COUNCIL MEETS TODAY following Mass. All Parish ladies are welcome.

Liturgical Ministers

	<u>Lector</u>	<u>Greeter</u>	<u>EM</u>	<u>Servers</u>	<u>Ushers</u>
July 24	M Slife	Bill Hooks	P Widowski <u>Cantor</u> J Starrett	E Zmuda, M Paler	*M McMahan, D Zmuda Sr

	<u>Lector</u>	<u>Greeter</u>	<u>EM</u>	<u>Servers</u>	<u>Ushers</u>
July 31	J Nelson	J Hacker	Z Garrett <u>Cantor</u> J Starrett	M &C Bergmann	*M Slife, J Slife

STEWARDSHIP OFFERING July 17, 2022

Envelope (24) \$1597.00
Loose \$24.00
Peter’s Pence \$110.00
Total: \$1731.00
Bldg & Maint. (4)\$ 2290.00
Total \$2290.00

THIS WEEK’S SCHEDULE

Sun Jul 24 8:00 am Mass Ed Dougherty
9:00 am CCW meeting
Fri Jul 29 6:00 pm Mass
Sun Jul 31 8:00 am Mass Billie Anderson
9:99 am Adult Bible Study

VOCATION CORNER July 24:

“Growing up, I had steadfast examples of always putting family and faith first. My father suggested that perhaps one day I would become a priest. At 15, I met the Oblates of the Virgin Mary at their parish near my home in Long Beach, Calif. I was attracted to their passion for preaching God’s mercy and making the sacraments available around the clock. I maintained spiritual direction through the remainder of high school and a university program in computer science. Finally, only 10 days after my younger sister joined a Dominican congregation, I entered the seminary in Boston. I had embarked on an adventure that would take me to three continents on the path to ministry as an Oblate priest, just like those who had captivated me at 15 - and I love it!”

Fr. Paul M. Nguyen, O.M.V.’ Oblates of the Virgin Mary, Alton IL; Columbia Feb. 2019, pg 34

ST PAUL PARISH IS INVITED TO ST MARY’S HARRISBURG” SUMMER FEST”

on August 7 following 10:30 Mass. Potluck with meat furnished by the Knights of Columbus.
Bingo and children activities are part of the Fest. Please consider coming.