

23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time, September 4, 2022

Wisdom 9:13-18; Psalm 90; Philemon 9-10,12-17; Luke 14:25-33

"The good life" is an expression used to describe those who seem to have it all, at least in terms of material possessions. While there is nothing intrinsically wrong with having nice things, we know there's more to genuine living than interest rates and credit cards. Today's Scriptures teach the fullness of life in the light of God's wisdom.

The Wisdom passage shows how the human condition, by its very nature, requires divine assistance. If we are to learn the art of genuine living, God must communicate the spirit of wisdom. "Spirit" is actually a biblical category that connotes life, vitality, and closeness to God (see Ezekiel 37:9-14). Spirit-filled wisdom saves people; being wise means being alive in God.

Psalm 90 pleads for wisdom of heart as a way to combat human sinfulness and failure. This wisdom is the art of correct living, of adapting to life's problems, and of interacting with the God of Israel. God's presence makes life not a burden to be endured but a gift to be celebrated.

Luke has Jesus speak about the demands of discipleship. He gathers three sayings (Luke 14:26-27,33) and two parables (Luke 14:28-32). The second parable is a commentary on wisdom and life, explaining that to enjoy life in the kingdom the disciple must be wise enough to see the implications of his or her choices.

Both parables highlight the need to use wisdom in assessing the cost of discipleship. The tower builder and the warring king both must calculate the costs and study the risks before making a final decision. The disciple must know that following Christ requires an allegiance that will always be the highest priority. To accept the person of Christ is to accept his cross as well.

The Christian need not oppose human progress nor reject comforts and pleasures. The believer must assess these within the delicate balance of wisdom and life. Wisdom challenges: Does our happiness come from the mere acquisition of possessions or from sharing and interacting with God and neighbor?

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

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Exodus 32:7-11,13-14; Psalm 51; 1 Timothy 1:12-17; Luke 15:1-32



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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

Still Point

Dear Friends in Christ,

Recently in moving from the bishop's residence to the rectory of the Cathedral of St. Peter, I spent a few moments looking at a crucifix. This particular crucifix is made of wood and is light weight. There is nothing noteworthy about the design or the materials. Yet of all the things I own, it is one of the most important objects I possess.

You see, I purchased the crucifix from a religious good store in Chicago in August, 1990. I wanted a crucifix to place on the wall over my bed when I entered Mundelein Seminary and it has been over my bed ever since, in every place I have lived. Things like clothing, furniture and appliances have come and gone, but that simple crucifix remains and now has a new home in my room at the cathedral.

St. Bruno, who was a monk in the tenth century, wrote that the cross of Jesus is "the still point in our turning world." How true. While civilizations rise and fall, the cross of Jesus, where the Lord offered himself for the redemption of the human race, is the still point. All people, of every time and place can find security in the self-emptying love of Jesus crucified. No matter how tumultuous the events of life and history become, we can always rest in the profound realization that we are loved so much by God that he sent his Son to wash away our sins in his blood.

On September 14, the liturgy of the Church celebrates the Exultation of the Cross. Whether or not you can attend Mass that day, I encourage you to spend a few minutes praying before a crucifix in your home. Perhaps there is a story about how you acquired the crucifix or how long it has been in your home. Try to reflect on how the Lord has watched over, blessed and protected you. How has the cross of Jesus been a still point in your life? Thank Jesus for his love and redeeming sacrifice. With heartfelt gratitude join me praying: "We adore you, O Christ and we praise you, because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world."

In Christ,
Bishop Michael McGovern

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Schedule of Masses

Sun Sep 4 8:00 am Sunday Mass for parishioners
9:00 am 1st Sunday Social
Fri Sep 7 6:00 pm Mass
Sun Sep 11 8:00 am Sunday Mass Heather Fred

Birthdays:
Sept 4 Peggy Widowski,
Lynn Stone
Sept 5 Thomas Pruemer
Mary Treat

Liturgical Ministers

	<u>Lector</u>	<u>Greeter</u>	<u>EM</u>	<u>Servers</u>	<u>Ushers</u>
Sep 4	E Garrett	D Irby	P Widowski <u>Cantor</u> S Pobst	M Palmer, E Zmuda	*P Widowski, D Zmuda
	<u>Lector</u>	<u>Greeter</u>	<u>EM</u>	<u>Servers</u>	<u>Ushers</u>
Sep 11	PSR student	B Bowers	V Anderson <u>Cantor</u> S Pobst	M & C Bergmann	*A Irby, F Dueker

STEWARDSHIP OFFERING

August 28 2022

General (15) \$635

Loose \$75.00

PSR registration (1) \$20.00

Total \$730.00

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Sun Sep 11 8:00 am Sunday Mass Heather Fred

RETIRED DIOCESAN PRIESTS COLLECTION SEPTEMBER 10-11

Show Your Gratitude to Our Priests

On both ordinary and extraordinary days, our priests have been there for us.... at baptisms, weddings, First Communion and Confirmation, at times of sickness and sorrow...dedicating their lives to bring us closer to Christ. Now it is our turn to be there for them during their retirement years through a gift to the Retired Diocesan Priests Collection. All funds will be used only for long-term nursing care, Medicare supplemental insurance and prescription medications. *Note: Our diocesan priests do not receive any funding from the Retirement Fund for Religious collection which is held in December.* Show your appreciation with a generous gift next weekend -- September 10-11. Thank you so much!

FOOD DRIVE FOR STONEFORT FOOD PANTRY STARTS TODAY

Please be generous with donations of canned, bagged or boxed food items. A tub is available in the church foyer or you can drop off donations in the parish hall chapel.

ST. PAUL'S PARISH PICNIC IS SEPTEMBER 18

Plans are underway for an enjoyable day of fun, games, food and fellowship for the whole family. The picnic will be held after 10:00 Mass on September 18. St. Paul's will provide Pork Steaks, Chicken, Hotdogs and Drinks. There will be a Potluck Sign Up Sheet on the bulletin board, so please sign up to bring your family’s favorite dish. You won't want to miss this so please mark your calendars. Any questions please feel free to call me, Donna @ 618-691-8223. Thank You

BABY BOTTLE CAMPAIGN FOR HOPE UNLIMITED YIELDS \$507.22
DONATED BY ST. PAUL!

Well done parishioners! Hope Unlimited thanks us for our support in their efforts to provide pregnancy support including ultrasounds, pre-natal care, counseling and supplies to support pregnancy women and their families. They are based in Metropolis and Paducah.

VOCATION CORNER SEPT 4, 2022 – As our country honors Labor this weekend, we can rejoice in the goodness of work for the Lord. We are each called to spread the Word and promote our Catholic Church. This is the vocation of ALL of us. We can do this effectively in following the exhortation of Jesus in today’s Gospel. We need to forgo everything and put Jesus first in our lives. We have our role in praising our God, in sharing our Faith and in educating our families in the ways of the Lord. We need to encourage our family members to be attentive to their call – maybe even to the priesthood or religious life.

DIOCESE OF BELLEVILLE ANNOUNCES FINDINGS OF THE SYNOD
PROCESS.

Bishop McGovern reports at this diocesan website: <https://www.diobelle.org/news/1971-diocese-of-belleville-announces-findings-of-the-synod-process>. A print version can be found in **The Messenger** for August 18, 2022.

RELAX, READ AND PONDER,
the words of **Bishop Robert Barron** and **Fr. Ron Rolheiser OMI** in **The Messenger!** To subscribe online for our Paper or the E-edition go to www.bellevillemessenger.org or **Call 618-233-8670.**

LOOKING AHEAD

September 18 Parish Picnic following 10:00 am Mass
Early Bird winner for Draw-Down
September 27 BDCCW early registration deadline for Oct 12 convention in Pinckneyville.
September 30 Box of Joy Deadline for return of boxes