

## 24th Sunday in Ordinary Time, September 11, 2022

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

Sin is a reality that cannot be denied. Occasionally people will say that sin isn't spoken of much anymore. Perhaps today we simply talk about the reality with a different vocabulary. All three readings today confront sinfulness: Israel sinfully worshiping the golden calf, Paul confessing his former blasphemy and arrogance, and the scribes and Pharisees murmuring that Jesus welcomes sinners and eats with them.

Exodus tells of the Israelites' impatience with Moses' prolonged absence on Mount Sinai. Angry at God, they persuade Aaron to make them another god, the golden calf. An emotionally charged bargaining session follows. Moses presents reasons why Yahweh should not destroy this "stiff-necked people": They are Yahweh's people; the Egyptians would mock a God who destroyed the very people God had just saved; destruction would break God's own promise of a great nation and many descendants.

God's mercy is bestowed, the same mercy that is highlighted in the second reading. Paul speaks of the great sinner he was before his conversion; yet in Jesus he received overflowing grace. Paul is an example for every Christian. Conversion is Christ's doing, not ours. It is an ongoing process rather than something completed at baptism. If there had been any doubt about God's patience, there can be none remaining with the gift of Jesus as Savior.

When the gospel says there is more joy in heaven over one repentant sinner than over ninety-nine righteous persons, it does not mean we might as well go out and sin. The point is that those who are ever faithful to the Lord experience a joy that overflows onto the one returning from the exile of sin.

Sin is a reality, but the Church wants to proclaim salvation. All three readings speak of separation from God and ultimate reunion. This is the heart of the gospel of Jesus: those lost and found, those strayed and returned, those who have sinned and been forgiven.

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

## 25<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time- Sept. 18, 2022

Amos 8:4-7; Psalm 113; 1 Timothy 2:1-8; Luke 16:1-13

### PRAYER FOR OUR PSR SCHOOL CHILDREN

Lord our God, in your wisdom and love

you surround us with the mysteries of the universe.

Send your Spirit upon these students and fill them with your wisdom and blessings.

Grant that they may devote themselves to their studies

and draw ever closer to you, the source of all knowledge.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

R/. Amen.



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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

### **Prodigal Father, Two Lost Sons**

The fact that Jesus “ate around” with people the authorities considered unclean clearly annoyed those officials. Indeed such behavior rendered Jesus suspect in their eyes. A careful, Torah-keeping Jew was not expected to share the table with those who did not eat according to the Law’s prescriptions.

In defense of his behavior, Jesus tells parables. Luke lines up three here, each of them intentionally jarring. Jesus compares his table fellowship first with the typical behavior of a shepherd seeking a lost sheep and then with a woman looking for a lost coin. In each case, the finding is cause for community celebration. Similarly, Jesus says, the return of repentant sinners is a matter of heavenly joy. Implication: Jesus’ table fellowship is the occasion of welcoming the return of sinners, and the Pharisees and scribes refuse to recognize what is happening and to join the celebration of this manifestation of the kingdom of God.

But these two similitudes are simply warm-ups for the full-blown parable that follows, what might be titled “The Two Lost Sons.” Here the tax collectors are represented by the runaway wastrel son, who realizes that his greediness has taken him away from his real source of life and security—his father—and he comes home to a surprising welcome.

The Pharisees and scribes are portrayed as the stay-at-home elder son, who is also, in his own way, lost. He was able neither to confront the shameful initiative of his kid brother nor will he join his father’s celebration of the runaway’s return. He has failed to appreciate that his dad is a father, not a slave master (Luke 15:29, translates literally as, “all these years I slaved for you and never disobeyed one of your commands”). And the father, of course, symbolizes a compassionate God who forgives repentant sinners even as he challenges those who think they have no need to repent.

-- By Dennis Hamm, SJ from SLU Sunday site

Vol. 23 # 46- 24th Sunday in Ordinary Time September 11, 2022

Schedule of Masses

Sun Sep 11 8:00 am Sunday Mass Heather Fred  
9:00 am 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday Social  
Fri Sep 16 6:00 pm Mass  
Sun Sep 18 8:00 am Sunday Mass

Birthdays:  
Sept 16 Carolyn Johnson  
Sept 17 Bill Johnson

Liturgical Ministers

<u>Lector</u>	<u>Greeter</u>	<u>EM</u>	<u>Servers</u>	<u>Ushers</u>
Sep 11 PSR student	B Bowers	V Anderson	M & C Bergmann	*A Irby, F Dueker
	<u>Cantor</u>	S Pobst		
<u>Lector</u>	<u>Greeter</u>	<u>EM</u>	<u>Servers</u>	<u>Ushers</u>
Sep 18 J Nelson	J Hacker	B Palmer	M Palmer, E Zmuda	*M McMahan, R Weeks
	<u>Cantor</u>	S Pobst		

STEWARDSHIP OFFERING

September 4, 2021

General (17) \$1065.00

Loose \$137.00

Total \$1202.00

THIS WEEK’S SCHEDULE

Sun Sep 11 8:00 am Sunday Mass Heather Fred  
9:00 am 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday Social  
Fri Sep 16 6:00 pm Mass  
Sun Sep 18 10:00 am Sunday Mass  
11:00 am Early Bird Drawing  
11:00 am Parish Picnic

RETIRED DIOCESAN PRIESTS COLLECTION SEPTEMBER TODAY

Show Your Gratitude to Our Priests

Today you will have an opportunity to contribute to the Annual Retired Diocesan Priests Collection. All monies collected will be used only for longterm nursing care, Medicare supplemental insurance and prescriptions for our retired diocesan priests. Your gift is a wonderful way to show your gratitude to the priests who have and continue to serve us so faithfully. Please be as generous as you are able.

TODAY WE HONOR OUR SCHOOL CHILDREN.

Some of them will assist with Mass today. As we celebrate Catechetical Sunday, we also

Want to thank our PSR teachers, religious education coordinator and the children’s parents for their efforts to provide our parish children a Catholic faith formation experience

ST. PAUL'S PARISH PICNIC IS SEPTEMBER 18 – NEXT WEEK!!!

Please come 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. If you are not a cook: chips and dip are always welcome. If you get to church and forgot your food, come. We always have enough for all.

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

\*\*\*\*\*REMEMBER NEXT WEEK, SEPTEMBER 18 MASS IS 10:00 AM

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.

HEALTH FOCUS FOR SEPTEMBER FROM YOUR WELLNESS COMMITTEE

Cholesterol is needed by the body to develop healthy cells. High levels of Cholesterol can increase your risk for heart and vascular disease. To control your cholesterol, get your level checked at least every 2 years. Try to eat a more plant-based diet and less red meat. Read the food labels and keep your daily cholesterol intake under 200mg and try to walk at least 3 times a week.

LOOKING AHEAD

September 18 Parish Picnic following 10:00 am Mass  
Early Bird winner for Draw-Down

September 21 Parish Council Meeting

September 27 BDCCW early registration deadline for Oct 12 convention in Pinckneyville.

September 30 Box of Joy Deadline for return of boxes

October 9 Adult Bible Study meets

October 15 Draw-Down Party and raffle fundraiser

RESPECT LIFE CORNER

“By our baptism, we are members of Christ’s body and sharers in his mission. Imitating Christ, we must care for all members of our communities, honoring each person as unique, sacred, and created in the image of God.”  
USCCB, “Open Wide Our Hearts”

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