

5th Sunday in Ordinary Time February 5, 2023

Isaiah 58:7-10; Psalm 112; 1 Corinthians 2:1-5, Matthew 5:13-16

Specially trained individuals are often asked to shed light on areas of confusion and uncertainty. Light eliminates our darkness and eases our tension. The metaphor of light goes all the way back to the first chapter of Genesis when the creation of light means the end of chaos. This same imagery is found in today's Scriptures.

Around 500 B.C. the author of Isaiah 56-66 confronted the post-exilic community in Judah. They complained that their fasting did not have any positive results. In response the prophet points out that a genuine fast means someone has benefited. For example, if bread is shared with the hungry "then your light shall break forth like the dawn" (Isaiah 58:8). Psalm 112 is constructed around this proverb: The righteousness of the just lasts forever but the desire of the wicked is frustrated. The psalmist sees great blessing for the righteous, "They rise in the darkness as a light for the upright" (Psalm 112:4). The image of light clarifies the thrust of graciousness, mercy, and justice.

Matthew sees the persecuted as the world's benefactors. Harassed Christians are commissioned to enlighten humanity, "You are the light of the world" (Matthew 5:14). Matthew develops this dimension of Christian discipleship by comparing Christ's followers to a city perched on a hill, clear and visible. Disciples shed light on darkness; to renege on this task would be to hide a lamp under a bushel basket.

The narrow constraints of ego often focus the spotlight on one's self. Society encourages this kind of individualism. Light is made into a personal commodity. The sacred writers today urge us to reassess our gifts and talents -- our lights -- as property of the community. Our sisters and brothers are truly human subjects within range of our generosity and compassion. To enlighten the path of these fellow humans is to magnify God's presence. Darkness cedes to light, and chaos gives way to order.

-- John Craghan, Th.D., S.S.L.

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VOCATION CORNER FEB 5, 2023

In 1997, Pope Saint John Paul II instituted a day of prayer for women and men in consecrated life. This celebration is attached to the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord on February 2nd (Candlemas Day).

Let us make it a point to begin saying "THANK YOU" to our Sisters and Brothers who have made sacrifices for us by accepting God's call. Let them know how important they are in the life of your church and how they help you to honor and pray to our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.



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Mission: Live Catholic teachings,
Participate in Sacramental and Liturgical Celebrations, Serve our Community

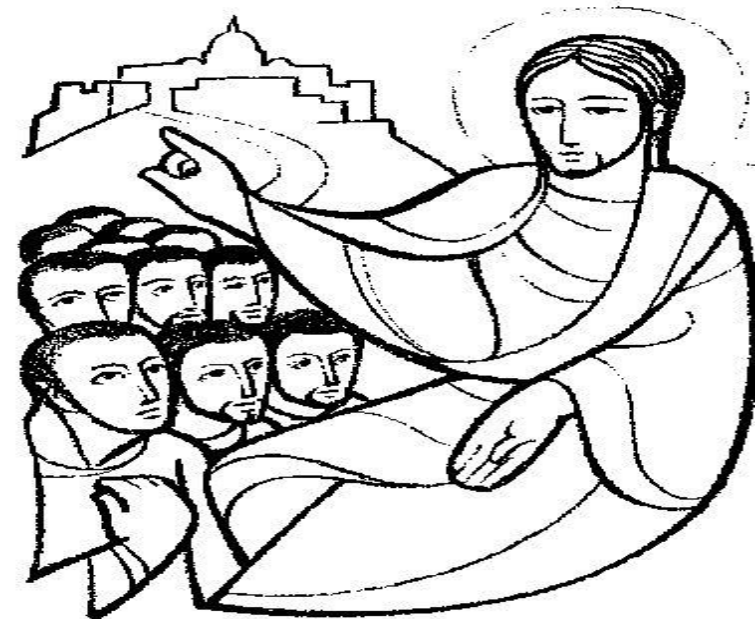
ST. PAUL CATHOLIC CHURCH

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



Vol . 24 #10 February 5, 2023

5th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Schedule of Masses

Sun Feb 5 8:00 am Mass

Fri Feb 10 5:30 pm Mass

Sun Feb 12 8:00 am Mass

Wed Feb 15 5:30 pm Mass

Fri Feb 17 5:30 pm Mass

Sun Feb 19 8:00 am Mass

BIRTHDAYS

Ron Beanland 2/5

Kenneth Retz 2/7

Madonna Slife 2/9

Leslie Miller 2/11

Liturgical Ministers

Lector

Greeter

EM

Servers

Usher

Feb 5 J. Nelson D. Irby V. Anderson M.Bergmann *S. Widowski

C. Bergmann Ryan Weeks

Gift Bearers Bergmann Family

Cantor C. Ross

Lector

Greeter

EM

Servers

Ushers

Feb 12 A. Dueker K. Pobst S. Widowski Vol

*F. Dueker

D.Zmuda Sr.

Gift Bearers J&B Bowers

Cantor S. Pobst

THIS WEEKS SCHEDULE

SUN FEB 5 8 am Mass- Billie Anderson

TUE FEB 7 6 pm Council Meeting

FRI FEB 10 5:30 pm Mass

SUN FEB 12 8 am Mass- Billie Anderson/Karen Reid

SAT FEB 21 6pm Wellness Committee

BULLETIN ANNOUNCEMENTS

Deadlines for announcements are Wednesday at noon. Contact Theresa via email and or phone/text at spccil@frontier.com or 331-234-0658.

CONTRIBUTIONS

2022 Annual Statements are available in the church foyer.

ENEVELOPES

Weekly envelopes for February are available. Hopefully our boxed envelopes will be here for March and the rest of the year.

HEALTH FOCUS FROM THE WELLNESS COMITTEE

January is National Blood Donor month. This month is usually a period of critical blood shortages. People stop donating blood during the holidays, due to illness like colds, flu, etc. Blood drives can also get “snowed out” Every 2 seconds, someone in the U.S. needs blood. There is no substitute for human blood!

KINGS HOUSE RETREAT ANNOUNCEMENT

Ladies of St. Paul we are participating in a women's silent retreat on April 28th thru the 30th at King's House in Belleville, Illinois if interested call Vickie Anderson at 618-579-3748 ASAP

LOOKING AHEAD

Feb 7 6pm Council Meeting

Feb 21 Wellness Committee 6pm

Feb 22 Ash Wednesday Mass at 6pm

CONFIRMATION

Confirmation will be on Sunday afternoon April 30 at St. Kateri. For any adults looking to be confirmed, please let Fr. Christian know before February 28, 2023.

MESSENGER SUBSCRIPTION RENEWAL COMING FEBURARY

Make *The Messenger* a part of your New Year’s Resolution!*The Messenger* brings you the stories of real people quietly living their faith through compassion and good works. Inspirational stories|that show our Catholic faith is alive and well in southern Illinois.

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RESPECT FOR LIFE CORNER

February 7 – 14 is National Marriage Week

This year’s theme, “Marriage...one flesh, given and received” highlights the one-flesh union of husband and wife that is willed by God. It also indicates the personal self-gift of each spouse, one to the other. These concepts point to Christ who gives Himself under the appearance of bread and wine-as real flesh and blood.