

1st Sunday of Lent February 26, 2023

Isaiah 49:14-15; Psalm 62; 1 Corinthians 4:1-5; Matthew 6:24-34

Security, in human eyes, is like money -- you can't have too much of it. People provide for future contingencies through IRAs, health and life insurance, social security, and so forth. These are reasonable measures because they indicate caring for others. But when all our energy is invested in such ventures, then God is reduced to the chief executive officer of our nest eggs.

Today's readings talk about trust. They demand that we view our God not only as a safety valve for salvation but as a truly concerned parent. The common theme is trust in God.

Frustration and instability characterize the audience to which the first reading is addressed. They are in exile. Deprived of political self-determination they lament, "The LORD has forsaken me, my Lord has forgotten me" (Isaiah 49:14). Instead of a positive reply, the prophet raises a question: Is it believable that a mother would neglect or forget her child? The womb bond between mother and child makes this extremely unlikely. But even should this occur, Mother Yahweh would never forget her child. Psalm 62 meditates on the divine quality of trust. The two introductory verses set a mood of confidence with words like "rock," "salvation," and "fortress." Verses 4-5 speak of false friends and distrust, those who only talk a good game: "They bless with their mouths, but inwardly they curse" (Psalm 62:4). The psalmist concludes that truly God is our refuge.

Matthew, in this passage from the Sermon on the Mount, seeks to free his audience from slavery to physical needs. This freedom comes when we trust in God the provider. If this God is attentive to the needs of birds and flowers, will God not be more attentive to the needs of God's people?

The interest rate, the date of maturity, the list of benefits -- these are concerns that we are asked to subordinate to God our parent. In a world of big business and high-tech, do we really trust our God? Do we truly lean confidently on Yahweh?

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

VOCATION CORNER FEB 26, 2023

"During my younger years, the Lord allowed a lot of loneliness in my life. I was quiet and shy, and the church became my refuge; I always felt cared for by the priests and religious sisters there. I was intrigued by their joy and the presence of God so visible in them. This was something I wanted. I started going to adoration, where my faith and relationship with Jesus became my own. When I finished high school, I served as a missionary for a year and then decided to seriously discern religious life. Honestly, that time was hard; I didn't know anyone else discerning or how to go about it. ...God continued to affirm my desire for this vocation. When I learned about the Benedictine way of life, I felt as if I were reading my own journal.



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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 . 25 #13 February 26, 2023

8th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Schedule of Masses

Sun	Feb 26	8:00am	Mass- <i>Clement & Helen Kuban</i>
Fri	Mar 3	5:00 pm	Eucharistic Adoration
Sat	Mar 4	8:30 am	First Saturday Mass
Sun	Mar 5	7:30 am	Stations of the Cross
Sun	Mar 5	8:00 am	Mass- <i>Carol Simmons</i>

BIRTHDAYS

Becky Bowers	2/26
Monica Querrey	2/27
Geri Tesina	3/1
Marsha Nelson	3/3
Jeremy Nelson	3/3

Liturgical Ministers

	<u>Lector</u>	<u>Greeter</u>	<u>EM</u>	<u>Servers</u>	<u>Ushers</u>
<i>Feb 26</i>	E. Garrett	J. Hacker	M. Nelson	M. Bergmann C. Bergmann	* Joe Nelson J. Nelson

Gift Bearers E. Speletich & C. Johnson **Cantor** J. Starratt

	<u>Lector</u>	<u>Greeter</u>	<u>EM</u>	<u>Servers</u>	<u>Ushers</u>
<i>Mar 5</i>	S. Pobst	C. Johnson	B. Palmer	M. Bergmann C. Bergmann	* Matt Slife J. Bergmann

Gift Bearers Zach & Erin Garrett **Cantor** J. Starratt

STEWARDSHIP OFFERING *Feb 19, 2023*

General (21)	\$2107.00
Loose	\$100.00
Dio Collection	\$30.00 (Messenger)
	\$120.00 (CSMA)

Total \$2377.00

BUILDING MAINTENANCE (5) \$70.00

Total \$70.00

THIS WEEKS SCHEDULE

SUN	FEB 26	8am	Mass- <i>Clement & Helen Kubian</i>
SUN	FEB 26	9am	Last Session Adult Bible Study
FRI	MAR 3	5pm	Eucharistic Adoration
SAT	MAR 5	8:30am	First Saturday Mass
SUN	MAR 5	7:30am	Stations of the Cross
SUN	MAR 5	8am	Mass- <i>Carol Simmons</i>

*****VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR STATIONS OF THE CROSS EACH SUNDAY*****

Sign up sheet is on the bulletin board.

CATHOLIC SERVICE AND MINISTRY APPEAL HAS STARTED

Many of you have received a renewal in the mail to your personal address. Additional pledge forms are available on the church foyer table.

KOC & KCLA LENTEN FISH FRY IS BACK

St. Mary Harrisburg Parish Hall. Fridays Feb 24th thru Mar 31st 4:30 PM to 7 PM Dine in or Carry out (no need to phone in orders) **\$12.00 per Dinner Which Includes: Fish, Home Style Potatoes, Hush Puppies, Corn Nuggets, Cole Slaw and Beverages.**

UPCOMING PARISH WORK DAY MARCH 4 9AM

Parish work day with a rain out date of March 11 at 9am. We will be cleaning gutters, picking up sticks, rake/blowing leaves and trim trees as needed. **Contact Jared or Matt**

HEALTH FOCUS BY WELLNESS COMMITTEE

High Blood Pressure raises your risk for serious medical problems. Many people don't know they have it. The wellness committee checks Blood Pressures one Sunday a month. Have yours checked soon.

HELP IF YOU CAN

Cairo Daystar Food Pantry begins 2/22- 4/9. Daystar is asking for household supplies such as paper towels, laundry and dish detergents, sponges, toilet paper, etc. **There will be a tub in the entryway.**

BLACK AND INDIAN MISSION

Today our parish will take up the 139th annual National Black and Indian Mission Collection. Our support of this collection helps build the Church in African American, Native American, and Alaska native communities from coast to coast. Schools, parish religious education programs, and diocesan ministries depend on your generosity to help them spread the Gospel of Jesus Christ! You can help meet unmet needs with a generous contribution today. Thank you for your support.

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 26	Last Session Adult Bible Study	9am
Mar 9-11	Faith Alive Work Days	9am-3pm
Mar 25	CCW South Vicariate Meeting (St. Paul Hall)	10am
Mar 30	Reconciliation	6pm

MESSENGER SUBSCRIPTION RENEWAL IS HERE

****RENEWAL COST IS \$25 EMAIL EDITION; \$30 MAILED; \$55 FOR BOTH****

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