

## 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Lent March 5, 2023

Genesis 12:1-4a; Psalm 33; 2 Timothy 1:8b10; Matthew 17:1-9

### *The Promises of God*

When God told Abraham to leave home, God was asking a lot of him. The world was not a global village then. Travel wasn't easy; there were no planes, taxis, or hotels. Furthermore, leaving home was a decisive break with all the good of home, because going back for a visit was difficult or just out of the question entirely. So leaving home then was a loss that we can't imagine well anymore, in our era of video calls and texting.

Still, when God told Abraham to leave, Abraham went.

Maybe Abraham is the father of faith because he was willing to stake his life on a promise.

Why did he go? Presumably because he wanted what God offered him. If Abraham left, God told him, then he would become a great nation, and all the communities of the earth would find blessing in him. That is a fairly stunning reward.

So Abraham, who had a great desire for that reward, obeyed God, left what was familiar and beloved to him, and wandered off as a stranger in a strange land.

And then notice what happened.

Abraham lived a very long time after this promise of God's and he stayed faithful to God's commands his whole life. But by the time Abraham died, this is all Abraham had: one son to carry on his posterity under this promise and two grandchildren. By anybody's estimation, this is a very small family. Certainly, one son and two grandsons is not a great nation.

Furthermore, hardly any communities knew Abraham at all, let alone found a blessing in him. The idea that all the communities of the earth would find blessing in Abraham really would have been completely laughable at that time, wouldn't it? Of course, as we now see it, all Jews, Christians, and Muslims are the Abrahamic peoples. Many great nations are included among the Abrahamic peoples. All of them know Abraham and think that they find blessing in Abraham. And so God's stunning promise to Abraham has been completely fulfilled.

But Abraham did not live to see it. He had to take the fulfillment of God's promise to him on faith. So maybe Abraham is the father of faith because he was willing to stake his life on a promise whose fulfillment did not come in his lifetime on earth. In this, he is not only the patriarch of the family of faith but also a pattern to follow for all those in his family.

Eleonore Stump from SLU Sunday Website

### **VOCATION CORNER MAR 5, 2023**

As we continue our Lenten season, we witness in the Gospel Jesus "transfiguring" Himself to the Apostles. "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased; listen to him." Those powerful words remind each of us to "listen" to our call of vocation in life. Encourage each other to live our vocation, especially those considering a choice of religious life.



**Pastor: Rev Christian Iwuagwu**  
**Phone (618)658-4501**

**E-mail: [spccil@frontier.com](mailto:spccil@frontier.com)**  
**Website: [www.stpaulvienna.org](http://www.stpaulvienna.org)**



Mission: Live Catholic teachings,

Participate in Sacramental and Liturgical Celebrations, Serve our Community

### **ST. PAUL CATHOLIC CHURCH**

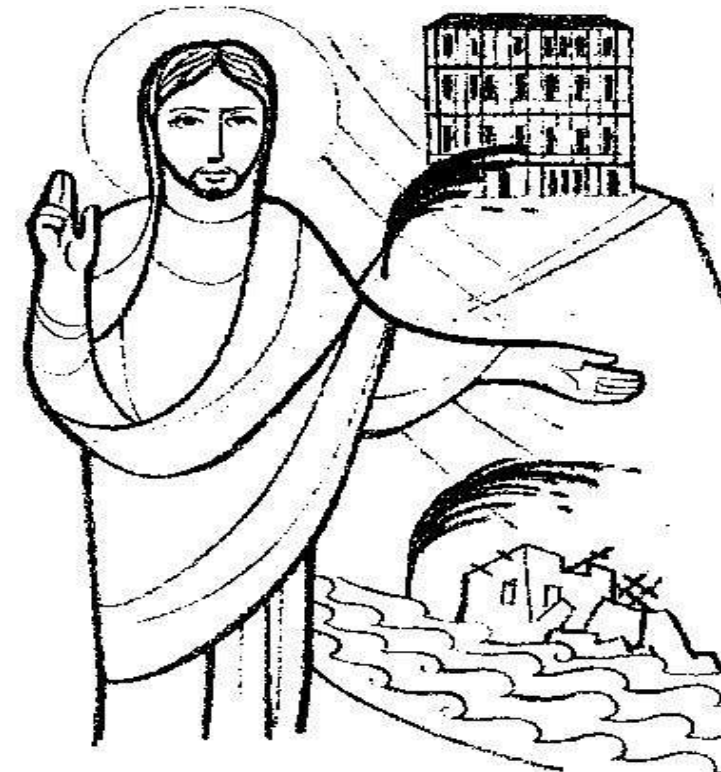
2020 State Rte. 146 E, Vienna, IL – 62995

Parish Council Chair: Becky Bowers

Trustees: Matthew Slife, Jared Bergmann

Sundays – 8:00 am

Weekdays – Fri 6:00 pm



**9<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

**Schedule of Masses**

**Sun** Mar 5 7:30 am Stations of the Cross  
**Sun** Mar 5 8:00 am Mass- *Carol Simmons & Evelyn Ross*  
**Sun** Mar 12 8:00 am Mass- *Robert Morgan*

<b>BIRTHDAYS</b>	
Beth Palmer	3/6
Ella Bergmann	3/8
Bill Porter	3/9
Beverly Bishop	3/10
Nathan Zmuda Jr.	3/10

**Liturgical Ministers**

	<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	* <b>Matt Slife</b> J. Bergmann

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

	<u>Lector</u>	<u>Greeter</u>	<u>EM</u>	<u>Servers</u>	<u>Ushers</u>
<i>Mar 12</i>	PSR Students	PSR Students	A. Dueker	Vol	PSR Students

**Gift Bearers** PSR Students    **Cantor** Z. Garrett

**STEWARDSHIP OFFERING Feb 26, 2023**

General (20)	\$1780.00
Loose	\$217.00
Dio Collection	\$217.00 (Black & Indian Mission)
	\$280.00 (CSMA)

**Total \$2504.00**

**THIS WEEKS SCHEDULE**

<b>SUN</b>	MAR 5	7:30am	<b>Stations of the Cross</b>
<b>SUN</b>	MAR 5	8am	Mass- <i>Carol Simmons &amp; Evelyn Ross</i>
<b>THU</b>	MAR 9	9am-3pm	Faith Alive Workday
<b>FRI</b>	MAR 10	9am-3pm	Faith Alive Workday
<b>SAT</b>	MAR 11	9am-3pm	Faith Alive Workday
<b>SUN</b>	MAR 12	7:30 am	<b>Stations of the Cross</b>
<b>SUN</b>	MAR 12	8am	Mass- <i>Robert Morgan</i>

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

Sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board.

**ST. PAUL FISH FRY**

**March 17 & March 31 4:30-6:30 pm**

Place your Carry Out/ Dine-In Order Reservations the Thursday before. Call **217-714-4568 or 618-697-1694**

*Hand battered fish, baked potato, vegetarian baked beans, coleslaw, hush puppies, dessert & drink \$12*

Children 8 years and under (**children under 3 eat free**) *Fish, bag, drink & dessert or grilled cheese w/ bag of chips, drink & dessert \$5*

**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR FISH FRY**

Sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board.

**CSMA**

Our parishes along with all other parishes in the diocese are conducting our Catholic Service and Ministry Appeal for 2023. The CSMA provides a convenient way for all of us, no matter what our time limitations, to take an active role in the mission of our diocesan Church. If you did not receive a pledge card in the mail or forgot to bring it, please use one of the reply envelopes that are available. Please be as generous as you are able.

**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**

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

**MESSENGER SUBSCRIPTION RENEWAL IS HERE**

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

Subscribe to The Messenger at 618-233-8670 Subscribe online at [www.bellevillemessenger.org](http://www.bellevillemessenger.org)