

2nd Sunday of Easter April 16, 2023

Acts 2:42-47; Psalm 118; 1 Peter 1:3-9; John 20:19-31

We may prefer to speak of our God as omnipotent. We may focus on titles such as Creator and Redeemer. But have we ever considered ourselves as the daughters and sons of God the Farmer? Today's readings speak of the divine farmer. This image challenges us to exhibit the qualities of fidelity, involvement, and perseverance. This God is concerned and interested.

Concluding his message of consolation to the despairing exiles, Second Isaiah takes up the theme of God's Word again. To demonstrate the fidelity of God, the author describes God as a farmer, the giver of fertility. God sends the rain and the snow from the heavens. Thereafter they reach back to the heavens in the form of bushes, trees, and crops. This God is faithful even in the face of Israel's infidelity.

Psalm 65 presents three images of the God of Israel. God is the God of Zion, the one who resides in the Jerusalem Temple. God is the Lord of the universe and history. Finally, God is the Farmer. The valleys decked with grain eloquently testify to the concern of this farmer for the day to day needs of the people.

The parable in today's gospel suggests a period in the ministry of Jesus when he meets with lack of response. The impasse raises the question of loss and gain in the kingdom. Jesus adopts the stance of the farmer: In sowing there will be failure and loss. Jesus offers three stages of loss: immediate (the footpath), the gradual (the rocky ground), and ultimate (the thorns). He offers three stages of growth: a hundred-, sixty-, or thirty-fold. Jesus perseveres in accomplishing his mission.

God is faithful, challenging our fidelity. God does not hesitate to become involved, motivating our willingness to invest. God perseveres even in the face of significant loss. Do we persevere in faith by not dwelling on our mistakes?

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

VOCATION CORNER APRIL 16, 2023

Today's reading offers so many lessons on our Call to Holiness. The reading from Acts tells of the community being one in sharing their possessions with everyone. What a wonderful response to the call. The Gospel tells of Thomas' doubt in the Risen Christ. This doubt can creep into our lives with us wondering if God is really present in our daily lives. It is even more challenging for those discerning a religious vocation. Let us pray for our proper response to community and for the discerners' doubt to be relieved.



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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

Sundays – 8:00 am

Parish Council Chair: Becky Bowers

Weekdays – Fri 6:00 pm

Trustees: Matthew Slife, Jared Bergmann



*Nathan, Nolan & Macie present
holy oils.*



*Zmuda children and Steve Pobst on
Holy Thursday.*

Vol. 32 #20 April 16, 2023
15th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Schedule of Masses

April 16 8 am Mass
April 21 5:30 pm Mass
April 23 8 am Mass – *Doc Maier*

BIRTHDAYS

Donna Irby 4/23
 Dolly Hopkins 4/23

Liturgical Ministers

Apr 16 Lector A. Dueker Greeter V. Anderson EM P. Widowski Servers VOL Ushers *Steve Widowski
 J. Bergmann

Gift Bearers C. Kruep & J. Starratt **Cantor** Z. Garrett

Apr 23 Lector J. Nelson Greeter D. Irby EM B. Palmer Servers M. Palmer E. Zmuda Ushers * Mike McMahan D. Zmuda Sr.

Gift Bearers Stan & Mary Treat **Cantor** J. Starratt

STEWARDSHIP OFFERING *April 9, 2023*

General (21)	\$1165.00
Good Friday	\$55.00
Loose	\$21.00
Dio Collection	\$20.00 (CRS) (1)
	\$425.00 (CSMA) (3)
Other	\$30.00 (Flowers)
	\$30.00 (Messenger)

Total \$1746.00

BUILDING MAINTENANCE (8) \$215.00

Total \$215.00

THIS WEEKS SCHEDULE

SUN	APR	16	8 AM	Mass
FRI	APR	21	5:30 PM	Mass
SUN	APR	23	8 AM	Mass- <i>Doc Maier</i>
FRI	APR	28	5:30 PM	Mass
SUN	APR	30	8 AM	Mass
SUN	APR	30	12 PM	<i>Confirmation St. Kateris</i>

THANK YOU

Thank you, *Marsha Nelson*, for the donating the *T.V.* to the Hall.
 Thank you, *Father Tom*, for all the *Masses* this past *Holy Week*.

Thank you, *Slife Family & Nelson Family*, for setting church up for *Holy Week* and *Easter*.
 Thank you to all who donated to *Daystar*. The items were delivered and accepted by *Amy Conoway*, the interim Director.

CATFISH

We have 20lbs of catfish from the fish fry at \$5.50/lb. for sale. See Joe Nelson or Matt Slife.

REMINDER

Parish Council Meeting 4/19/23 at 6pm.

CSMA

The initial mailing of envelopes for the 2023 Catholic Service and Ministry Appeal was February 18th, if you haven't received your envelope there will be envelopes on the table at the back of the church for your convenience in making your donation.

CATHOLIC HOME MISSIONS APPEAL

There will be a special collection on April 30th for the *Catholic Home Missions Appeal*.

PRAYER CARDS

Vickie will have prayer cards for 4/30 before and after mass.

JOURNEY FOR JUSTICE RETREAT

4/22/23 9am-2:30 pm

(Continental Breakfast Available at 8:30 a.m.) **Cabrini Hall Family Room** 104 N 17th St., Herrin

Developed by the *Catholic Campaign for Human Development*, Sponsored by the *Belleville Diocesan Racial Justice and Equity Committee*

Cost: \$15 (Includes Lunch and Continental Breakfast)

Register at: forms.gle/WgyqHfly239zhMoz7 Or email: cchddiobelle@gmail.com

CONFIRMATION

Confirmation will be on April 30, 2023 at St. Kateris Church starting at 10:30 AM. Dinner will follow in the gym. Please contact St. Mary Church office ASAP if you plan to attend the dinner in order to make sure there will be enough food.

LOOKING AHEAD

April 19	<i>Parish Council Meeting</i>	6pm
April 28-29	<i>Kings House Retreat</i>	
April 22	<i>Journey to Justice Retreat</i>	9 am- 2:30 pm
April 30	<i>Confirmation at St. Kateris</i>	12:00 pm
April 30	<i>World Prayer Day</i>	
May 7	<i>Seminarian Education Drive</i>	