

## 7<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter May 21, 2023

Acts 1:12-14; Psalm 27; 1 Peter 4:13-16; John 17:1-11a

How big is the kingdom? Today's readings challenge us to widen the boundaries. Rather than see ourselves as elitist or exclusive, we imagine the possibilities that God imagines. We are building bridges rather than castles.

The prophet we call Third Isaiah (chapters 56-66) wrote today's passage some 500 years before Christ. He says that God's salvation is near, and he describes the goodness of God's dwelling. Those who had been rejected are now full-fledged members of God's community.

Paul revels in the divine paradox: The Jewish rejection of the Christian message has meant salvation for the Gentiles. Paul insists that God shows mercy to all, and Paul glories in his mission to the Gentiles. Paul imagines the all-inclusive nature of God's kingdom.

Matthew's gospel passage shows Jesus in contact with a Gentile for a second time (see also 8:5-13). The evangelist elaborates the good news -- that qualification for discipleship is not of ethnic origin but a persistent faith in Jesus. Matthew foreshadows that moment at gospel's end when Jesus will command the eleven: "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations" (28:19). Matthew began in the same way: with the wise men who anticipated the Church's mission to the Gentiles (Matthew 2:1-12).

Baptism commissions the Christian to share the message of Jesus of Nazareth. Rather than being elitist, the Christian reflects the presence of Jesus through word and action to all the world. Christians heal division and thus build bridges.

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

### VOCATION CORNER MAY 21, 2023

"There was never a dull moment growing up with seven siblings. Little did I know that this experience would prepare me well for Benedictine life, a life of stability in a community that lived in the enclosure of the monastery. Would I have become a monk if my grandmother had not prayed that one of her grandsons would become a priest; if my dad had not told me, "It doesn't hurt to give God the first option"; Nothing is more beautiful than encountering Christ. I didn't lose my family when I entered the monastery; I joined a family much larger than 10. I belong to God's family."

*Fr. Caesarius Marple, OSB; Westminster Abbey, Mission, British Columbia; Columbia Magazine April 2020*



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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: Steve Pobst, Jared Bergmann



Vol. 37 #24 MAY 21, 2023  
7<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY OF EASTER

**Schedule of Masses**

**May 21** 8am Mass- *Ascension of the Lord*  
**May 26** 6pm Mass  
**May 28** 8am Mass- *Pentecost*

**Liturgical Ministers**

	<u>Lector</u>	<u>Greeter</u>	<u>EM</u>	<u>Servers</u>	<u>Ushers</u>
<b>May 21</b>	X. Gruszczuk	B. Bowers	V. Anderson M. Slife M. Nelson	M. Bergmann C. Bergmann	*Frank Dueker J. Bergmann

**Gift Bearers** G. Tesina & J. Hacker      **Cantor** C. Ross

	<u>Lector</u>	<u>Greeter</u>	<u>EM</u>	<u>Servers</u>	<u>Ushers</u>
<b>May 28</b>	J. Nelson	J. Hacker	P. Widowski B. Palmer A. Dueker	M. Palmer E. Zmuda	* M. McMahan D. Zmuda Sr.

**Gift Bearers** L. Coleman & P. Shallenberger      **Cantor** C. Ross

**STEWARDSHIP OFFERING** *May 14, 2023*

General	\$885.00
Loose	\$90.00
Dio Collection	\$399.98 (LED Light Refund)
	\$90.00 (Fish Purchase)

**Total \$1464.98**

**BUILDING MAINTENANCE (7)** \$85.00

**Total \$85.00**

**THIS WEEKS SCHEDULE**

**SUN MAY 21** 8am Mass- *Ascension of the Lord*  
**FRI MAY 26** 6pm Mass  
**SUN MAY 28** 8am Mass- *Pentecost*

**BIRTHDAYS**

Jenni Bergmann	5/26
Fr. Christian Iwaugu	5/27
Mike Ross	5/27

**THE BABY BOTTLE CAMPAIGN**

Help support the programs of the *Metropolis Crisis Pregnancy Center* and *Hope Unlimited*. Please take a bottle home to fill with change and return it to church by **June 18**.

**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED**

*Faith Alive* needs volunteers for *May 25, 26 & 27*. There is a signup sheet on the bulletin board in the church.

**MEMORIAL DAY MASS**

A Memorial Day Mass remembering the deceased will be celebrated in the shade at *St Francis DeSales Cemetery, New Burnside, on Monday, May 29th, 5 pm*. Worship aid will be supplied. Bring a lawn chair or seat. **Cemetery directions:** *From intersection of US Route 45 and Rte 166, go west on Rte 166 to first road on left. Follow Maple Street through New Burnside, veer to left at Mill St after crossing bike trail (follow cemetery signs), then approximately 1/3 mile, turn left, and follow blacktop to its end. The cemetery is also final resting place of a number of founding members of St Paul Church.*

**FEAST OF THE VISITATION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY**

Mass for the *Feast of the Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary, will be May 31, at 6:00pm* at *St. Clare Church in O'Fallon*. The Visitation celebrates the meeting of the Blessed Mother with her cousin St. Elizabeth as recorded in the Gospel of Luke (1:39-56). This beautiful encounter of two women, each expecting a child, moves us to marvel with them at the gracious goodness of God who is the Author of all life.

Please join us at *St. Clare on May 31 at 6:00pm* Bishop Michael McGovern, **Diocese of Belleville**

**DIOCESAN PRO-LIFE SERVICES**

Would you like a way to put your pro-life beliefs into action? St. Paul Parish needs volunteers to keep us informed of Diocesan Pro-Life Services and events. If interested, please let *Father Christian* or parish council member know.

**THE 2023 CATHOLIC SERVICE AND MINISTRY APPEAL**

*The one who does justice will live in the presence of the Lord - Psalm 15*

Did you know **YOUR GIFT** to the 2023 *Catholic Service and Ministry Appeal* can be made online? Visit your Belleville Diocese's website at [www.diobelle.org](http://www.diobelle.org) and click on "Giving". It's that simple! Every donation – large or small – is needed to continue our diocesan ministry to those in need. We are counting on YOU. Please visit [www.diobelle.org](http://www.diobelle.org)

**LOOKING AHEAD**

**May 14- Jun 18** *Baby Bottle Campaign*  
**May 25-27** *Faith Alive Workdays*  
**May 31** *Feast of the Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary 6pm*

**\*\*Office Hours to contact Theresa are M-F 8am-4pm at the rectory (618) 658-4501 or via email [spccil@frontier.com](mailto:spccil@frontier.com). Wednesday at 12pm is the deadline for any bulletin changes or additions. Wednesdays Theresa will be at the rectory 11am- 1pm.\*\***

\*\*\* There will be a collection today 5/21/23 to support the *Catholic Communication Campaign*\*\*\*