

14th Sunday in Ordinary Time July 9, 2023

Zechariah 9:9-10; Psalm 145; Romans 8:9,11-13; Matthew 11:25-30

How often we live by "production is the name of the game" and "business is business." This ethic means that only those who meet our standards, goals, and expectations are worth our time and energy; others are expendable. This mind-set attaches very little value to compassion. Today's readings contrast pragmatic business mentality with God's goals.

The excerpt from Zechariah is often dated after the arrival of Alexander the Great in Palestine in 332 B.C. The author offers a message of consolation now that Israel is subject to yet another conqueror. The author longs for a return of the Davidic kingdom, but in the form of a humble king riding an ass (an animal linked to the anointing of kings) rather than a horse (an animal linked to warfare). Now will be a time of peace during which North and South will be unified and Israel's borders will extend to all the civilized world.

The responsorial psalm extols God for God's ongoing care. The psalmist announces that this God "is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love" (Psalm 145:8). The words "merciful" and "compassionate" derive from the Hebrew word for womb. Divine maternal compassion lifts up the bowed down.

Matthew develops the image of Jesus after the manner of Lady Wisdom (see Proverbs 8-9). Like Lady Wisdom, Jesus invites the disciple to learn his message by accepting his person. He directs that message to the religious outcasts of his day. Jesus speaks of "rest," that is, the peace associated with the Messiah.

The opportunity for compassion is everywhere. Zechariah suggests that we break into joy only when we give over and above the minimum to the indigent. The psalmist recommends that we show maternal concern by not counting the extra cost. The Matthean Jesus urges us to make the yoke of suffering lighter by becoming involved. Compassion is the hallmark of the Christian.

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

VOCATION CORNER JULY 9, 2023

"I grew up loving two things: our family farm and sports. There was a basketball hoop in the haymow of our barn, and during breaks from working with the cattle, I would play pickup games with my brothers and cousins. I grew to love football, too, and was even blessed to play quarterback at the collegiate level for a year. But over time, another love quietly grew in my heart: a love for Christ and his Church. My parents instilled in me a strong work ethic and an unswerving trust in the Lord. My parish priest provided an example of real eucharistic amazement, an intense prayer life and filial devotion to our Blessed Mother. Through their influence, I discovered that the greatest joy of my life was when I could draw others closer to our Savior. To all those discerning their vocations: Let His love conquer!"

Fr. Thomas J. Haan; Diocese of Lafayette, Ind. *Columbia, September 2022*



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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



Zach & Erin Garrett being thanked by Father Christian.

Vol. 44 #31 July 9, 2023
 14TH Sunday in Ordinary Time
 Schedule of Masses

July 9 8 am Mass
 July 14 6 pm Mass
 July 16 8 am Mass -CCW Meeting (After Mass)

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| BIRTHDAYS NO BIRTHDAYS |
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Liturgical Ministers

| | <u>Lector</u> | <u>Greeter</u> | <u>EM</u> | <u>Servers</u> | <u>Ushers</u> |
|--------|---------------|----------------|--|----------------|--------------------------|
| July 9 | J. Nelson | J. Hacker | A. Dueker P. Widowski X. Gruszczuk | C. Levesque | *Allen Irby F. Dueker |

Gift Bearers Joe & Becky Bowers **Cantor** J. Starratt

| | <u>Lector</u> | <u>Greeter</u> | <u>EM</u> | <u>Servers</u> | <u>Ushers</u> |
|---------|---------------|----------------|--------------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------------|
| July 16 | A. Dueker | D. Irby | V. Anderson B. Palmer M. Slife | E. Zmuda M. Palmer | *Steve Widowski J. Slife |

Gift Bearers Steve & Peggy Widowski **Cantor** S. Pobst

STEWARDSHIP OFFERING July 2, 2023

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|----------------|---------------------------|
| General | \$1127.00 (18) |
| Loose | \$51.00 |
| Dio Collection | \$295.00 (9) Peters Pence |
| Total | \$1473.00 |

BUILDING MAINTENANCE (6) \$140.00

Total \$140.00

THIS WEEKS SCHEDULE

SUN JULY 9 8 AM Mass
 FRI JULY 14 6 PM Mass
 SUN JULY 16 8 AM Mass - CCW Meeting (After Mass)

THANK YOU

Thank you Donna Irby and Ladies for coordinating the *First Social Sunday* in honor of Zach, Erin and Peter Garrett.

CCW MEETING

St. Paul ladies *Council of Catholic Women* will be meeting after Mass next Sunday. We'll enjoy breakfast as we chat about a possible late summer outing and plan how to help out at our parish *September Picnic* and *October 21 Draw Down*.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Faith Alive needs volunteers for *August 3-5*. There is a signup sheet on the bulletin board in the church.

SAVE THE DATE

All men of the parish are invited to a *Fish Fry August 13 at 12 pm*, at the home of David Zmuda Sr.

RESPECT FOR LIFE

"O God our Creator... through the power and working of your Holy Spirit, you call us to live out our faith in the midst of the world, bringing the light and the saving truth of the Gospel to every corner of society."

United States Conference of Catholic Bishops "Prayer for Religious Liberty"

FAITH AND POVERTY: A GLOBAL RESPONSE

Faith and Poverty: A Global Response was developed in partnership with *Catholic Relief Services (CRS)* and explores God's call to respond to poverty in the global community, equipping participants to take action in solidarity with those whose lives are affected by severe poverty around the world. **This program will be held on zoom on Fridays from September 8-November 3 from 10 a.m.-noon CDT. To participate go to this link to register. <https://justfaith.org/faith-poverty-a-global-response-st-louis-fall-2023-small-group/>.** For more information about the program go to <https://justfaith.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/07/JustFaith-Catholic-Global-Program-Booklet.pdf> or email crsdiobelle@gmail.com.

STONEFORT FOOD DRIVE

Stonefort will be holding a *Food Drive 7/2-7/30*. We will have a bin for donations in the church foyer.

LOOKING AHEAD

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|------------|------------------------|--------------|
| July 16 | CCW Meeting | (After Mass) |
| July 19 | Parish Council Meeting | 6 pm |
| August 3-5 | Faith Alive Work Days | |
| August 5 | Liturgy Meeting | (After Mass) |
| August 13 | Mens Fish Fry | 12 pm |

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