

15th Sunday in Ordinary Time July 16, 2023

Isaiah 55:10-11; Psalm 65; Romans 8:18-23; Matthew 13:1-23

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 JULY 16, 2023

“The countless gravestones at Normandy American Cemetery in France stirred my heart. These brave soldiers who sacrificed their lives challenged me: Would I be willing to lay down my life, as these men did, for the Lord and his people? Long before this pivotal moment, the seeds of my vocation had been planted by family role models. My grandfather served his family and parish sacrificially for many years after his WWII duty. Likewise, my father coached me in self-discipline, and my dear mother raised me to serve others. It was at college that the Lord Jesus truly captured my heart. After graduation, I served as a missionary and met the Brotherhood of Hope. I admired the brothers and their work evangelizing students at secular universities, but I resisted the idea of celibacy and did not have the courage to explore a vocation with them until after my experience at Normandy Beach. My years with the Brothers of Hope have strengthened my conviction that Jesus Christ alone can satisfy our deepest desires.”



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Mission: Live Catholic teachings,
Participate in Sacramental and Liturgical Celebrations, Serve our Community

ST. PAUL CATHOLIC CHURCH

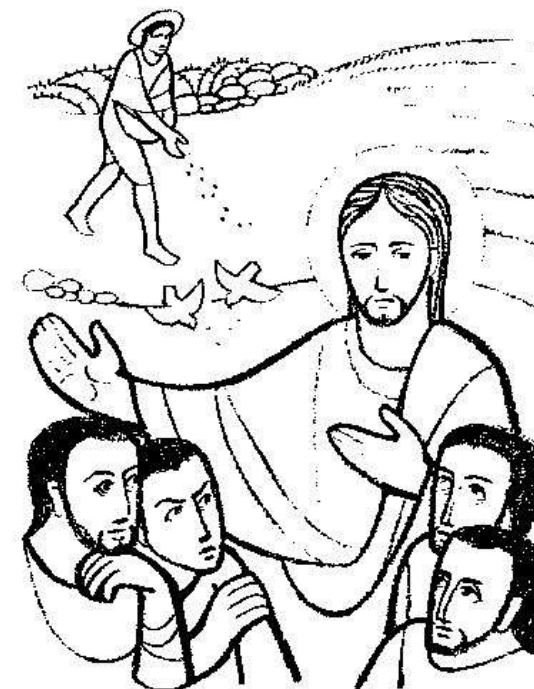
2020 State Rte. 146 E, Vienna, IL – 62995

Sundays – 8:00 am

Parish Council Chair: Becky Bowers

Weekdays – Fri 6:00 pm

Trustees: Steve Pobst, Jared Bergmann



Vol. 45 #32 July 16, 2023
15TH Sunday in Ordinary Time

BIRTHDAYS
July 16- *No Birthdays*

Schedule of Masses

July 16 8 am Mass -*CCW Meeting (After Mass)*
July 21 6 pm Mass
July 23 8 am Mass

Liturgical Ministers

	<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

	<u>Lector</u>	<u>Greeter</u>	<u>EM</u>	<u>Servers</u>	<u>Ushers</u>
July 23	S. Pobst	L. Coleman	P. Widowski X. Gruszczyk M. Nelson	M. Bergmann C. Bergmann	*M. McMahan D. Zmuda Sr.

Gift Bearers V. Anderson & G. Tesina **Cantor** J. Starratt

STEWARDSHIP OFFERING *July 9, 2023*

General	\$1105.00	(20)
Loose	\$149.00	
Dio Collection	\$250.00	(1) <i>(Peter's Pence)</i>
CSMA	\$20.00	(1)
Total	\$1524.00	

BUILDING MAINTENANCE (6) \$140.00

Total \$140.00

THIS WEEKS SCHEDULE

SUN JULY 16 8 AM Mass - *CCW Meeting (After Mass)*
SUN JULY 21 6 PM Mass
SUN JULY 23 8 AM Mass

CCW MEETING

All women of the parish are encouraged to meet over in the hall after Mass, for a St. Paul Council of Catholic Woman breakfast meeting.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

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

WELCOME NEW PARISH COUNCIL MEMBERS

Please welcome Beth Palmer who will be taking over for Zach & Vickie Anderson who recently joined the Parish Council

Beth Palmer Bio

My name is Beth Palmer and my daughter Madeline and I have been members here at St. Paul for about 11 years but I grew up in this Parish as a child. I have taught CCD here for many years. My parents are Steve and Peggy Widowski. Maddie and I live in Vienna with our dog Luna! I'm a teacher and athletic director at NSH. I love our little Parish and want to help in anyway I can.

Victoria (Vickie) Anderson Bio

My name is Victoria (Vickie) Anderson, I have been a parishioner at St. Paul Catholic Church for eight years; I live three minutes from the church with my dog Doodle. I love being a part of St. Paul's church family and want to give back to the church and community. Currently I am Captain for ladies retreats at King's House, member of the ladies CCW, Vocations coordinator for the parish, and the new CRS Parish representative. I enjoy keeping busy in my retirement doing what I love.

HEALTH FOCUS

To reduce risk of heat-related illnesses: drink plenty of liquids, such as water, juices, or liquids containing electrolytes. Avoid alcoholic or caffeinated beverages. Limit Sun and heat exposure.

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.

SAVE THE DATE

All men of the parish are invited to a *Fish Fry August 13 at 2 pm*, at the home of David Zmuda Sr.

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 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 today!

LOOKING AHEAD

July 16	<i>CCW Meeting</i>	(After Mass)
July 19	<i>Parish Council Meeting</i>	6 pm
August 3-5	<i>Faith Alive Work Days</i>	
August 13	<i>Men's Fish Fry</i>	2 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.****