

16th Sunday in Ordinary Time July 23, 2023

Wisdom 12:13, 16-19; Psalm 86; Romans 8:26-27; Matthew 13:24-43

Today's first reading, responsorial psalm, and gospel consider the theme of leniency. The image is of a God who chooses to demonstrate control by means of kindness and patience. This is a God who governs not by power or force but by compassion.

Writing for Alexandrian Jews in the first century B.C., the author of the Book of Wisdom emphasizes God's special care of Israel during the Exodus. He also takes up the problem of the just and the unjust. God's power does not result in blind rage but in clemency. In this way God manages a balance between justice and mercy. We are to imitate this balance by showing strength through the exercise of leniency.

Psalm 86 presents a person who has suffered from persecution. The persecutors are intent upon taking the life of the psalmist. This bleak situation of the victim demands God's immediate action. "Show me a sign of your favor, so that those who hate me may see it and be put to shame" (vs. 17). The psalm does not speak of revenge on the persecutors but rather God's power in leniency.

The parable defines the kingdom as one that embraces both wheat and weeds, both good and evil. The owner confronts two problems: (1) how to save the wheat and (2) how to outwit the enemy. He resolves the first by permitting the wheat and weeds to grow together until harvest. He resolves the second by using the weeds as fuel. The owner realizes that violence (killing the weeds) will only endanger the common good. In the kingdom, the common good demands patience and forgiveness.

Swift action plus compassion make the owner a symbol of the kingdom: strength through leniency. Power is given to help others. Power, if destructive rather than constructive, must be carefully examined.

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

VOCATION CORNER JULY 23, 2023

"I'll never forget the first time I saw a nun. I was 5 years old, and my family had gone to a convent for Mass. Seeing a woman in a habit, I asked, 'Mama, why is she wearing those clothes?' Her reply captivated me: 'She's married to Jesus.' I thought, 'I want to marry Jesus, too.' Christ was my first love, and I've never gotten over Him. Growing up in Catholic school, I struggled with academic and social pressures like any girl, but the desire to radically serve Christ kept burning within me. The idea that he could be calling me to be his bride was exciting. Continuing to discern in college, I was open to marriage, but I felt that I had too much love to give to one family. I wanted to be a spiritual mother and adopt the world. My decision to follow Christ came in adoration. After an hour of silence, I heard him say, 'Be crucified with me.' I knew he was asking me to give my life to him completely. My greatest joy was returning to my first love."

Sr. Mary Gianna Casino; Leaven of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, Hanceville, AL;
Columbia Magazine Aug. 2021



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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. 46 #32 July 23, 2023
16TH Sunday in Ordinary Time

Schedule of Masses

July 23 8 am Mass
July 28 6 pm Mass
July 30 8 am Mass

BIRTHDAYS
*July 23- Harper
Widowski, Steve
Widowski, Riley Slife*

Liturgical Ministers

| | <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

| | <u>Lector</u> | <u>Greeter</u> | <u>EM</u> | <u>Servers</u> | <u>Ushers</u> |
|---------|---------------|----------------|------------------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------|
| July 30 | S. Widowski | G. Tesina | A. Dueker M. Slife B. Palmer | M. Bergmann C. Bergmann | *M. Slife J. Bergmann |

Gift Bearers Joe & Marsha Nelson Cantor S. Pobst

STEWARDSHIP OFFERING July 16, 2023
General \$713.00
Loose \$30.00
Dio Collection \$70.00 (Lost & Found)
Total \$813.00

BUILDING MAINTENANCE (2) \$40.00
Total \$40.00

THIS WEEKS SCHEDULE
SUN JULY 23 8 AM Mass
FRI JULY 28 6 PM Mass
SUN JULY 30 8 AM Mass

QUARTERLY DISASTER TALK
Mike McMahon will give quarterly Disaster talk today on Tornados.

SPECIAL THANKS TO ST. PAUL CHURCH
On behalf of the agencies, ministries and departments that are supported through The Catholic Service and Ministry Appeal and those they serve, please accept my heartfelt gratitude for so generously supporting this year’s Appeal. Also, congratulations on exceeding your parish’s CSMA financial goal. It is your Christian caring and generosity that gives help and hope to those in need. Thank you again so much. God’s richest blessings to each of you and your families.
*Most Reverend Michael McGovern
Bishop of Belleville*

FAITH ALIVE
Besides hosting Faith Alive on August 3 through 5, we are also having a workday there from 9-3 on August 1 to sort donated items, move merchandise, etc. Whether you can volunteer an hour of time, a morning, an afternoon, or all day, your help will be appreciated. You can even make it a family affair. There’s a sign-up sheet on bulletin board or let Madonna or Arlene know. There’s also a sign-up sheet posted for help hosting on the 3rd, 4th, and 5th.

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
August 3-5 Faith Alive Work Days
August 13 Men’s Fish Fry 2 pm
August 16 Parish Council Meeting 6 pm
August 19 Ladies Luncheon at Kitchen on Lafayette Anna 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.****