

17th Sunday in Ordinary Time July 30, 2023

1 Kings 3:5, 7-12; Psalm 119; Romans 8:28-30; Matthew 13:44-52

All of us have role models for planning and managing our lives. Those who aspire to beauty and glamour look to Hollywood; those who are attracted to power emulate business executives or politicians; those who are sports-minded look to the superstars of professional athletics. Disciples also need role models.

Solomon passes over desire for long life, wealth, and victory over enemies in favor of "an understanding mind to govern your people, able to discern between good and evil" (vs. 9). This is a request to govern well and provide for the people, especially the disenfranchised. As a matter of fact Solomon did not live up to this expectation (see 1 Kings 11:28), and hence is not a role model for just government.

Paul speaks of that plan for humans whereby they can arrive at the destiny God intended from the beginning. He uses five verbs (foreknew, predestined, called, justified, glorified) that capture God's benefits on behalf of Israel. But now humans who respond in faith can also share in those benefits. After "predestined," Paul adds a qualification: "to be conformed to the image of his Son" (vs. 29). The risen Lord is the exemplar of God's destiny for humanity. To be fully human is to be one with the lifestyle and death-style of Jesus.

In the parable of the buried treasure, Matthew offers a role model of how growth in the kingdom takes place. The first stage is normalcy, the day to day routine of the farmer. The second stage is the discovery of the treasure that opens a whole new world. The third stage is the overturning of the past -- the farmer sells all his possessions to purchase the field. The fourth stage is the new world that Jesus offers the disciple. Matthew calls for a radical commitment to the person of Jesus.

Solomon challenges our use of power. Matthew's true disciple reminds us of ultimate values. The Jesus role model of Paul urges us to make those values the guideposts for our living.

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

VOCATION CORNER JULY 30, 2023

"Growing up, I had a lot of misconceptions about nuns. Primarily, I assumed women became nuns only if they couldn't find a boyfriend. Why else would a woman give up the joys -- marriage and family -- as celibate priests, with none of the "superpowers"? Then, in college, I actually *met* nuns and I was stunned. They were beautiful! And smart! And had personalities! I opened the door of my heart. Not much- just a crack. But it was a crack big enough for Jesus to get his toe in and open it a lot wider. I often recalled the words of my spiritual director: "We all have a natural call to marriage, but some of us have a supernatural call to celibacy." My desire for a spouse helps me lean into Christ as my Bridegroom. And my desire for children molds me into a spiritual mother to many more children than I could otherwise have."

Mother Natalia; Christ the Bridegroom Monastery, Burton, Ohio. *Columbia Magazine*
April 2022



Pastor: Rev Christian Iwuagwu
Phone (618)658-4501
E-mail: spccil@frontier.com
Website: www.stpaulvienna.org



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. 47 #33 July 23, 2023
16TH Sunday in Ordinary Time

Schedule of Masses

July	30	8 am	Mass
Aug	4	6 pm	Eucharistic Adoration
Aug	5	8: 30 am	1 st Saturday Mass
Aug	6	8 am	Mass

BIRTHDAYS
*July 30- David Zmuda
Sr. & Talon Bishop*

Liturgical Ministers

	<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

	<u>Lector</u>	<u>Greeter</u>	<u>EM</u>	<u>Servers</u>	<u>Ushers</u>
Aug 6	J. Nelson	K. Post	V. Anderson P. Widowski M. Slife	E. Zmuda M. Palmer	*Frank Dueker R. Weeks

Gift Bearers Bergmann Family Cantor J. Starratt

STEWARDSHIP OFFERING	July 23, 2023
General	\$710.00 (18)
Loose	\$90.00
Total	\$800.00

BUILDING MAINTENANCE (1)	\$10.00
Total	\$10.00

THIS WEEKS SCHEDULE			
SUN JULY	30	8 AM	Mass
FRI AUG	4	6 PM	Eucharistic Adoration
SAT AUG	5	8: 30 AM	1 st Saturday Mass
SUN AUG	6	8 AM	Mass

QUARTERLY DISASTER TALK
Mike McMahon will give quarterly Disaster talk today 7/30/23 on Tornados.

MEN’S FISH FRY
All men of the parish are invited to a *Fish Fry* on **August 13 at 2pm** at *David Zmuda’s home, 885 Elkin’s Lane off Mt. Zion Road west of Vienna*. It will be BYOB and any side dish will be appreciated. There is a sign-up sheet on bulletin board. David’s contact number is **618-658-0767**.

LADIES TEA
All ladies of the parish are invited to come together to enjoy morning shopping in downtown *Anna* and **High Tea at the Kitchen on Lafayette at noon on Saturday, August 19**. The cost is \$15. Please sign up on bulletin board if interested. Kitchen on Lafayette is owned by parishioner Jamie Starratt. Questions? Contact Pam at **217-714-4568**.

BOX OF JOY BEGINS
Box of Joy collection is for Christmas gifts that will fit in a shoebox for kids in the Caribbean.

PLEASE JOIN US!!
If you or a friend or family member is interested in learning more about the catholic faith, *Fr. Christian* will be starting **RCIA classes September 5th**. Please call or see Fr. for more information.

WE NEED YOUR IDEAS!
If you have an idea or something you would enjoy in a 6 week Adult catechesis program please see Fr or any of your parish council members and offer your suggestion. It will be greatly appreciated.

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.

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
August 20	Box of Joy Collection Begins	

****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.****