

## 20<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time August 20, 2023

Isaiah 56:1, 6-7; Psalm 67; Romans 11:13-15,29-32; Matthew 15:21-28

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 AUGUST 20, 2023

“Our faith formation begins through the faith of others, and my Maronite parents were instrumental in teaching me to do God’s will. Still, religious life was not something I considered until I attended a discussion about vocations as a teenager. After the talk, the thought came “I guess it’s possible God is calling me to become a sister.” Immediately, however, came a quick “No, I don’t think so.” Yet God gradually opened my heart as I grew in knowledge of Him and His merciful love for me. His invitation persisted, and through prayer and the sacraments – the mysteries, as Maronites call them – I came to realize His will and my vocation with much joy. When I met the Religious Sisters of Mercy toward the end of my fourth year of medical school, I knew I had found the community where God was Calling me to love and serve Him.”

**Sr. Mary Rafqa Boulos**; Religious Sisters of Mercy. *Columbia Magazine* May 2023



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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



*St. Paul Men's Club*

**Vol. 49 #35 August 20, 2023**  
**20<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time**

**Schedule of Masses**

**Aug 20** 8 am Mass  
**Aug 25** 6 pm Mass  
**Aug 27** 8 am Mass

**BIRTHDAYS**

*August 20- Myron Cole, Wyatt  
 Ashford, Mike McMahan,  
 Amanda Widowski*

**Liturgical Ministers**

	<b><u>Lector</u></b>	<b><u>Greeter</u></b>	<b><u>EM</u></b>	<b><u>Servers</u></b>	<b><u>Ushers</u></b>
<i>Aug 20</i>	A. Dueker	C. Johnson	V. Anderson B. Palmer P. Widowski	M. Bergmann C. Bergmann	*Steve Widoswki J. Bergmann

**Gift Bearers** Frank & Arlene Dueker      **Cantor** S. Pobst

	<b><u>Lector</u></b>	<b><u>Greeter</u></b>	<b><u>EM</u></b>	<b><u>Servers</u></b>	<b><u>Ushers</u></b>
<i>Aug 27</i>	S. Widowski	J. Hacker	X. Gruszczyk M. Nelson M. Slife	M. Palmer E. Zmuda	*Mike McMahan D. Zmuda Sr.

**Gift Bearers** L. Coleman & G. Tesina      **Cantor** J. Starratt

**STEWARDSHIP OFFERING** *August 13, 2023*

General	\$694.00 (16)
Loose	\$120.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$814.00</b>

**BUILDING MAINTENANCE (3)** \$55.00

**Total** \$55.00

**THIS WEEKS SCHEDULE**

<b>SUN</b>	<b>AUG</b>	<b>20</b>	8 am	Mass
<b>FRI</b>	<b>AUG</b>	<b>25</b>	6pm	Mass
<b>SUN</b>	<b>AUG</b>	<b>26</b>	8am	Mass

**PRAYERS NEEDED**

Charlie Koester is in the hospital recovering from gall bladder surgery. Please remember him in your prayers.

**PSR TEACHER & HELPERS NEEDED**

Anyone who is interested in helping out with our PSR program this year please reach out to **Madonna** or **Marsha**.

**DRAW DOWN PARTY**

Our *Draw Down Fundraiser* will be **October 21<sup>st</sup>** with the “*Early Bird*” being held on **September 17<sup>th</sup>**. Tickets can be purchased from *Madonna, Steve & Peggy, or Joe & Marsha*. Sign-Up for prize ideas is on the bulletin board.

**BOX OF JOY BEGINS**

If you wish to contribute to **Box of Joy** for children in the Caribbean's Christmas, you may want to catch school sales now. Items purchased need to fit in a shoe box. We'll have tub available in church entrance for items, and/or Box of Joy boxes for individuals and families to fill on their own, beginning **August 27**.

**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 5<sup>th</sup>**. 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. or Arlene know. There's also a sign-up sheet posted for help hosting on the 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, and 5<sup>th</sup>.

**THE 2023 CATHOLIC SERVICE AND MINISTRY APPEAL**

The one who does justice will live in the presence of the Lord - Psalm 1  
 The Society of St. Vincent de Paul truly serves the poorest of the poor through its Cosgrove's Soup Kitchen, SVDP Thrift Store, Help Center and Night Drop-In Center. Men, women and children are provided the basic necessities of life – food, clothing and shelter – and the hope and the tools they need for a better tomorrow. Help St. Vincent de Paul serve those who have no place else to turn. Please make your gift to The Catholic Service and Ministry Appeal today.

**LOOKING AHEAD**

<b>August 20</b>	<i>Box of Joy Collection Begin</i>	
<b>September 17</b>	<i>St. Paul Parish Picnic after Mass</i>	10am

**\*\*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.\*\***