

Weekly Bulletin

April 11 to April 18, 2009

The Meaning of Life

We have lots of questions about various things, but there is always the really big one lurking in the background: what is life itself all about? To look at the world around us with open eyes and an open mind points us to a spiritual level. There are things that simply cannot be explained on the physical level. Intellectually, we can see that the order of creation seems like it must be more than the result of a random process. This helps us to understand that there is a spiritual “higher being” who created us. Personally, we can ask why certain types of music or beautiful sunsets affect us as they do. Those experiences speak to a spiritual aspect within us. Logically, we discover that the spiritual part of me is seeking the spiritual being who created me... and that physical things will never be able to fulfill the spiritual part of me. Universally recognized concepts of “fairness,” right/wrong, and justice acknowledge that my spiritual quest is not simply a personal adventure. My choices have positive and negative consequences on those around me.

That far, I can arrive on my own powers of deduction. This should be enough to guide a person in decent conduct—at least the ancient Greek philosophers thought so—but it still doesn’t answer the big question. This answer cannot be discovered by us, it must be revealed to us. God reveals Himself not as an abstract or remote “higher being.” The Word of God speaks to us of His Merciful Love. Jesus Christ brings that Love to us in person through the Incarnation. But then we must address the question of suffering which seems to argue against God’s presence or at least against His Love. How could God stand by idly as we suffer? Answer: He couldn’t!

The Passion of Jesus is the response to our suffering as well as the answer to the big question about the meaning of life. Jesus shared in our suffering—caused by sin’s disruption of creation’s original harmony—so that we would know ourselves not to be alone in that darkness. He brings the light of Love even into the wreckage His plan for our world and the shadows of our personal pain. He forgives our sins but why didn’t He fix everything? If He is all-powerful, why didn’t He wave a magic wand and make everything better? Because the meaning of life is not contained in a sense of well-being here on earth. Life is meant to be a journey to Heaven where we enter into the fullness of God’s Love. The wounds of Jesus both prove His Love and show how our wounds should keep us from becoming overly attached to this passing world.



**St. Vincent de
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Church**

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CLERGY

† Fr. Joseph Johnson,
Pastor
† Fr. James Adams,
Associate Pastor
† Fr. Andrew Cozzens,
Associate Pastor
† Dc. Nao Kao Yang

SCHEDULES

Masses:

Saturday 5:00 PM
Sunday 9:00 AM

Confession:

Sunday 8:00AM-8:45AM

Eucharistic Adoration:

Friday 7:00PM-8:00PM

Religious Education:

Sunday 10:30AM-
12:00PM

1st Sat. of Month:

- Mass at 8:30AM
- Altar & Rosary Society Meeting

To know, love and serve Jesus Christ

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday 4/11
8:00 PM People of the Parish

Sunday 4/12
9:00 AM People of the Parish

Saturday 4/18
5:00 PM Mary Call

Sunday 4/19
9:00 AM People of the Parish

GOSPEL READING AT MASS

Saturday 4/11(Vigil)
Luke 24: 13-35

Sunday 4/12
Luke 24: 13-35

Monday 4/13
Matthew 28: 8-15

Tuesday 4/14
John 20: 11-18

Wednesday 4/15
Luke 24: 13-35

Thursday 4/16
Luke 24: 35-48

Friday 4/17
John 21: 1-14

Saturday 4/18 (Vigil)
Mark 16: 9-15

Saturday Confession

Saturday Confession will be at the **Cathedral of Saint Paul** from 3:30PM-5:00PM

Lus ceeb toom

Vim tsis muaj tus teb xov tooj hauv peb lub Tsev teev Ntuj lawm, mas yog nej hu tuaj, tus yuav teb xov tooj yog tus khiav hauj lwm nyob pem lub niam Tsev teev Ntuj (Cathedral). Tso nej npe thiab xov tooj, Txiv Plig mam li hu rov rau nej.

St. Vincent de Paul,
Pray for us!

The Resurrection of Jesus reminds us to connect everything good we experience now with what awaits us in Heaven. The greatest joys we experience now are just a foretaste of what is to come. To authentically celebrate Easter means through good times and bad to direct our desires and actions towards the eternal life that Jesus won for us on the Cross.

Father Joseph

Easter Raffle

Thank you to Val Weber and Mary Brinker who organized this fundraiser and to everyone who participated. The winners are:

- Wreath - Warren Lauderville
- Basket - Choua Yang
- Basket - Andre Yang
- Basket - Ying Xiong
- Bowl - Therese Yang

Pathways is coming to St. Vincent de Paul!

Pathways is an organization at the Cathedral of Saint Paul that provides faith education and spiritual formation opportunities for all adults. St. Vincent de Paul parish is hosting a Pathways Bible study beginning on May 11th. This will be a 5-week DVD study on Saint Paul's letters to the Corinthians. Each session will be held on Monday evenings at 7:00 PM in Wellisch Hall. There is no charge to attend the study sessions but free will donations are gratefully accepted. All St. Vincent de Paul parishioners are welcome!