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ST. PAUL'S CATHOLIC CHURCH

2020 State Rte 146 E, Vienna, IL – 62995

Sat – 5:30 pm, Sun - 10:00 a.m.

Weekdays – Wed 6:30 pm & Fri 12 pm

Parish Council Chair: Joe Nelson

Trustees: Matthew Slife, Jared Bergmann

ST. FRANCIS DE SALES CHURCH

Mulberry Street, Stonefort, IL – 62987

Sunday - 8:00 a.m.

& First Saturday – 8:30 am

Parish Council Chair: Mary Treat

Trustees: Myron Cole, Stan Treat

Who Cares? Everything is vanity, the reading from Ecclesiastes says. You toil in the day; you're anxious in the night. And it's all just vanity. Who cares? No wonder many people think Ecclesiastes is a depressing book!

But notice that Jesus says something similar in the Gospel reading. The rich man was thinking about building bigger barns. But, in the parable God says to him, "You fool! This night your soul will be required of you, and somebody else will get all your stuff." What will the rich man care about his barns then?

And that's the problem with many of the things we care about in this life, barns or material goods of any kind: you lose them when you die.

Ecclesiastes is a consoling book, not a depressing one. The transience of earthly goods should be comforting to us. The same thing is true of a lot of what we spend our lives on. Those things don't amount to anything in the long run; and, like the rich man, we waste the part of our lives that we used up on them. There is time spent struggling for the next honor or the next accomplishment. There is time consumed on sorrowing over not getting the next honor or accomplishment. For that matter, there is time frittered away watching TV or "doing nothing" in any other way. Picture yourself as you come before God at your death, returning to God the talents he entrusted to you. Will you care about any of those things then?

That's why Ecclesiastes says they are vanity. Whatever good is in them is transient; they die when you do.

In the long run, then, who cares about them? You can't take any of them with you when you die, any more than the rich man could take his barns with him. When you come before the face of God, you won't care about them then either.

Ecclesiastes is a consoling book, not a depressing one. The transience of earthly goods should be comforting to us. Barns may be good, but, in the long run, getting them—or losing them—is not of overwhelming importance. We can do our work in quiet, and we can suffer our reverses in quiet too, because none of these things last.

Love lasts. Work done in love, for love of the Lord, lasts. And the Lord is ever-lasting.

What is worth caring about is what lasts.

Eleonore Stump

Vol 17 # 31 **Eighteenth Sunday of the Year, July 31, 2016**
CELEBRATION OF EUCHARIST

Sun	Jul	31	8:00 am	SFD	Angela Skaggs
			10:00 am	SP	Helen Kubian
Tue	Aug	2	9 & 11 am		No Masses
Wed	Aug	3	6:30 pm	SP	No Mass
Fri	Aug	5	12:00 pm	SP	No Mass
Sat	Aug	6	8:30 am	SFD	For Healing
			5:30 pm	SP	For the Parishioner
Sun	Aug	7	8:00 am	SFD	Bill McCabe
			10:00 am	SP	Mike Moore

St Paul, Vienna

Birthdays	
Jul 31	David Zmuda Sr
Aug 3	Talon Bishop Melanie Knupp
Aug 7	Emma Hustedde

<p>Sun, July 31, 10 am Server: J. Bayles, R. Slife, Lector: Keith Felcyn Gifts: K. Retz, D. Hopkins Ushers: Z. Garrett, M. Palmer S. Widowski, P. Widowski E. Minister: B. Bishop, B. Palmer, C. Webb Greeter: Cathy Kruep</p>	<p>Sun, Aug 7: 10 am Server: A. Webb, B. Bertran Lector: Sarah Nelson Gifts: C. Ross, P. Shallenberger Ushers: D. Zmuda, C. Zmuda C. Brown, J. Bergmann E. Minister: S. Moore Z. Garrett, A. Dueker Greeter: Janet Hacker</p>	<p>Sun, Aug 14, 10 am Server: R. Slife, J. Bayles Lector: Rhi Slife Gifts: Jon & Madonna Slife Ushers: J. Nelson, A. Dueker G. Tesina, Mt Slife E. Minister: V. Anderson, L. Stoerger, F. Dueker Greeter: Mike McMahan</p>
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St Francis DeSales, Stonefort

<p>Sun, July 31: 8 am Server: Cecilia Parks Lector: LaVonne Herbert Gifts: M. Moore, C. Deaton Usher: Stan Treat E. Min: Myron Cole</p>	<p>Sun, Aug 7, 8:00 am Server: Logan Shaw Lector: Cecilia Parks Gifts: S. Treat, A. Morse Usher: Myron Cole E. Min: Mary Treat</p>
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THIS WEEK'S SCHEDULE

Sat	Jul	30	St Paul Mass.....	5:30 pm
Sun	Jul	31	St Francis DeSales Mass.....	8 am
			St Paul Mass	10 am
Mon	Aug	1- Fri	Aug 5	Fr Tom on vacation
Sat	Aug	6	First Saturday mass & devotions at SF....	8:30 am
			Faith Alive Board Mt.....	10:00 am
			St Paul Mass.....	5:30 pm
Sun	Aug	7	St Francis DeSales Mass.....	8 am
			St Paul Mass	10 am
			First Sunday social at SP.....	11 am



**Guard
 against
 all kinds
 of greed.**

DRAW-DOWN FUNDRAISER is scheduled Oct 15, 6 pm. Tickets are now available for \$100.00 which may be shared by more than one person. In addition to baskets, your assistance to collect gift certificates, food gift cards, services (car oil change, hair care, car wash, etc) for all players will be appreciated. A more complete list of suggestions is on the bulletin board.

FR TOM ON VACATION from Monday through Friday of this week. If there is an emergency he can be reached at 759-1707.

PARISH MISSION OR RETREAT presented by the Vincentian Community has been scheduled on November 27-30th, 2016. A planning committee to work on publicity, liturgical celebration preparation, food and hosts for socials, phone contacting, outreach to non practicing, preparatory prayers, etc. will be gathered soon. If you would be willing to assist, contact Madonna Slife or Fr Tom.

CREMATION of the deceased has become a frequent choice. Extra copies of a printed paper on the bulletin table gives an overview of the church's regulation regarding cremation and burial.

AFTER MASS SOCIAL will be held next Sunday after the 10 am Mass. Plan to spend a few minutes of your time to informally share with other parishioners.

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION will be offered a week from this Thursday, Aug 11th. If you can participate, signing the schedule on the bulletin board will assure all the times are covered.

PARTNERSHIP JOINT PARISH COUNCIL MT will be held at St Paul on Aug 17th at 6:30 pm. We will finalize Updated Pastoral Plan for Renewal and Restructuring in preparation for meeting with Bishop Braxton and committee.

YOU DID IT FOR ME CRS THRIVE is helping thousands of children under 5 in Tanzania, Kenya, and Malawi receive high-quality health care and nutrition so their bodies and minds can reach their full potential. CRS partners have trained over 3,750 community-based volunteers to educate 19,000 caregivers of young children with materials and knowledge to help children in their early development stage.

RESPECT LIFE CORNER- Hope After Abortion - "There is no grief like the grief that does not speak." Henry Longfellow. The grief over an abortion experience is often so deep that it seems to be silent. **Women and men** may bear this burden for years thinking that there is no hope of forgiveness or peace. **Learn, Act, Connect, Pray:** Project Rachel and Project Joseph provide healing and hope to women and men wounded by abortion. To learn more, go to ProjectRachel@archstl.org or ProjectJoseph@archstl.org. All inquiries are kept confidential. Pray that all those wounded by abortion can begin the journey of healing and reconciliation.

Eighteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Ecclesiastes 1:2; 2:21-23; Psalm 95; Colossians 3:1-5,9-11; Luke 12:13-21

Jerry was not as proud of his 25-foot powerboat as usual because a luxurious yacht had docked next to him. Jerry wished the yacht were his. Then he saw a man in a little bass boat admiring Jerry's craft. Jerry then noticed the yacht's owners gazing with envy at children playing on the beach!

Jerry thought, "If we keep looking for what is bigger and better, we'll never be happy with what we have. And we'll eventually end up wishing for what we could have had all along!"

"Vanity of vanities," says today's first reading, "All is vanity!" If we think that material possessions will make us happy, we will spend half our time trying to acquire them and the other half trying to protect them. And in the end they must all be left behind!

The gospel shows even more forcefully the foolishness of making material things our top priority. Jesus refuses to arbitrate a family quarrel over a will. He points out in a dramatic parable the folly of counting on wealth for security.

"Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth," admonishes Paul (Colossians 3:2). Material things are good, but they are not God!

-- Father Oscar Lukefahr, C.M.

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QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION

This reading is about priorities. Do yours occasionally need to be checked and rearranged? Do you take time to pray? Work? Be with family and friends? Read? Laugh? Play? Do you neglect any of these areas? Why?

The second line of this reading says, "Seek what is above." What do you seek? Where do you look, or will you look, for what you seek? How important is it to you to take off the "old self with its practices and put on the new self"?

Many would determine your worth as a person by the greatness of your house or your portfolio or the make of your car. How do you determine a person's worth? Is it possible for a person to have much and still give much?

NEXT SUNDAY SCRIPTURES- Wisdom 18:6-9; Psalm 33; Hebrews 11:1-2, 8-19; Luke 12:32-