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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

Go Away! In the [Gospel Reading](#) Jesus says that some people will come to him confidently, but he will say to them, “I don’t know where you are from. Go away, you evildoers!”

This must be one of the most frightening passages in the Gospels.

But if we get fearful and ask, “OK, then, what do I have to do in order not to be sent away,” we are on the wrong track entirely.

Just receive the gift, open to the Lord, let the Holy Spirit of Christ in.

God does not hate anything that he has made; he loves it. (See [John 3:16](#)). So you don’t have to rush out to bring sandwiches to the poor or do anything else whose purpose is to work your way into God’s love and forgiveness. The gift of God’s love and forgiveness are already there for you.

But then why are those people in the Gospel passage sent away? If the gift is already there, then why don’t these people get it?

Well, no gift can be given unilaterally. Successful gift-giving takes two: one to offer the gift, and one to receive it. If you refuse the gift God offers you, the gift cannot be successfully given, can it?

So maybe the whole problem with these people who are sent away is their determination to do the right stuff in order to be part of the in-group. If you want to achieve for yourself what God is offering as a gift, you are in effect refusing the gift, aren’t you?

And maybe that’s why Jesus says to these people, “I don’t know where you are *from*.” If you accept God’s gift of his forgiving love, then you are in Christ; and the spirit of Christ is in you. You don’t have to come *from* anywhere to him. You are your beloved’s, and he is yours, as the Song of Songs says ([Song 6:3](#)).

So what you have to do in order not to get sent away is nothing. Just receive the gift, open to the Lord, let the Holy Spirit of Christ in. Then you might bring food to the poor, or write a book, or compose a symphony. But however you share your gifts, you will do so by first having opened to God’s love, which is his gift to you.

Eleonore Stump

Vol 17 # 34 **Twenty-First Sunday of the Year, August 21, 2016**

CELEBRATION OF EUCHARIST

Sun	Aug	21	8:00 am	SFD	Angela Skaggs
			10:00 am	SP	Helen Kubian
Tue	Aug	23	9 & 11 am	Shawnee & Vienna Corrections	
Wed	Aug	24	6:00 pm	SP	General Intention
Thr	Aug	25	11:30am, 1 pm	Marion Penitentiary	
Fri	Aug	26	12:00 pm	SP	Rev Rev Joe Schwaeg
Sat	Aug	27	5:30 pm	SP	General Intention
Sun	Aug	28	8:00 am	SFD	Mike Babick
			10:00 am	SP	For the Parishioners

Birthdays	
Aug 21	Myron Cole
Aug 22	Natalie Hooven
Aug 23	Michael McMahan
Aug 24	Amanda Widowski
	Rita Fifer
Aug 27	Michael Retz

St Paul, Vienna

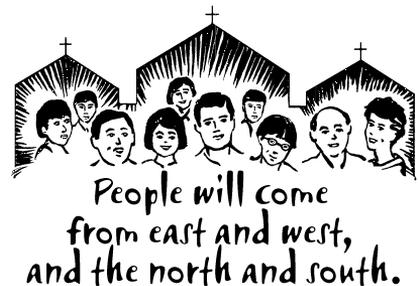
<p>Sun, Aug 21, 10 am Server: A. Webb, B. Bertran Lector: Steve Widowski Gifts: Matt, Rhi Slife Family Ushers: M. Palmer, F Dueker D. Bishop, P. Widowski E. Minister L. Stoerger P. Widowski, K. Hupe Greeter: Geri Tesina</p>	<p>Sun, Aug 28: 10 am Server: J. Bayles, R. Slife Lector: Richard DaSilva Gifts: Rick, Lynne Stoerger Ushers: M. McMahan, Mt Slife R. Stoerger, K. Felcyn E. Minister: P. Shallenberger D. Bishop, D. Hopkins Greeter: Marc, Beth Palmer</p>	<p>Sun, Sept 4, 10 am Server: A. Webb, J. Bayles Lector: Joan Galey Gifts: Chuck, Lynn Stone Ushers: J. Nelson, C. Brown S. Widowski, J. Bergmann E. Minister K. Felcyn S. Nelson, M. Nelson Greeter: Bill & Billie Porter</p>
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St Francis DeSales

<p>Sun, Aug 21, 8:00 am Server: Logan Shaw Lector: Myron Cole Gifts: L. Herbert, S. Treat Usher: Fred Deaton E. Min: Brenda Morse</p>	<p>Sun, Aug 28: 8 am Server: Cecilia Parks Lector: Marietta Moore Gifts: Morse Family Usher: David Parks E. Min: Myron Cole</p>
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THIS WEEK'S SCHEDULE

Sat	Aug 20	St Paul Mass.....	5:30 pm
Sun	Aug 21	St Francis DeSales Mass.....	8 am
		St Paul Mass	10 am
		Blood Pressure Checks before & after mass at SP	
Tues	Aug 23	Shawnee & Vienna DOC Masses.....	9, 11 am
		September Calendar info deadline	
Wed	Aug 24	Weekday Mass at SP.....	6:00 pm
Thr	Aug 25	Masses at Marion Penitentiary....	11:30 am, 1 pm
Fri	Aug 26	Weekday Mass at SP.....	12 noon
Fri-Sat		Stonefort Reunion – SF assist with meal serving	
Sat	Aug 27	St Paul Mass.....	5:30 pm
Sun	Aug 28	St Francis DeSales Mass.....	8 am
		St Paul Mass	10 am



BLOOD PRESSURE CHECKS will be offered at St Paul before and after the 10 am Sunday mass in the room off the foyer. This service is provided by the parish Wellness Committee, in addition to bringing communion to homebound, sending bulletins and cards.

PARISH SCHOOL OF RELIGION REGISTRATION The PSR Classes will begin at St Paul on Sept 18th, 11 am. To order textbooks, parents are asked to register participants by August 28th. An envelope for families registered last year will be passed out. Additional registration forms are on the bulletin board table.

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.

RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS (RCIA) A series of sessions beginning with Inquiry—questions about God, Faith, search for meaning in life- and leading to an understanding of the Catholic Church, teachings and practices, potentially arriving at becoming a member of the Church, will begin at St Paul in September. An information meeting for any interested individuals will be offered Tues, Aug 30, 7 pm at St Paul parish center. If there is interest, but there's conflict with date, call rectory 658-4501.

PARISH PICNIC St Paul Parish will be hosting a Parish Picnic with Pork Steak and chicken meal (potluck vegetable, salad or dessert) followed by games and activities on Sunday, Sept 11th, 11:30 am. All St Francis DeSales parishioners are invited to take part.

HEALTH FOCUS According to American Nurse Today, mistakes involving medications are among the most common healthcare errors. Mistakes increase inpatient expenses and lead up to 7000 deaths annually in the U.S. Know your medications! Keep your medication list in your purse or wallet. Update this list after each doctor's visit. If you are to be admitted to a health care facility, always take this list and for Medicare patients, take your actual medication bottles with you. Review all your medications including, over the counter medications, with staff to insure you are given correct medications and doses as directed by your physician. Knowing your medications is one of the most important things you can do for your own health. Stay healthy today and every day.

YOU CAN HELP YOUR MARRIAGE – 25% of surveyed couples say they are “Happily Married”. For everyone else there is Retrouvaille. Are you frustrated, hurt or angry with each other? Are you constantly fighting? Or so you simply shut down? Have you thought about separation or divorce? Does talking only make it worse? For information on the Retrouvaille Program, visit the website www.HelpOurMarriage.com or call 1-800-470-2230. **The next Program begins the weekend of September 16-18, 2016.**

THE CATHOLIC SERVICE AND MINISTRY APPEAL...bringing God's mercy to those who need it most Holy Angels Shelter provides not only food, clothing and shelter for homeless women, children and intact families but also gives ongoing support so clients may become self-supporting, productive members of their community in a home of their own. You can help Holy Angels make dreams come true through your gift to this year's Catholic Service and Ministry Appeal.

Twenty-First Sunday in Ordinary Time

Isaiah 66:18-21; Psalm 117; Hebrews 12:5-7,11-13; Luke 13:22-30

A major credit card company has built an ad campaign on the slogan "membership has its privileges." Like it or not, the image portrayed is one having to do with exclusivity; everyone may be equal, but some are more equal than others. Ours is a class conscious world. There's even a clothing line called "Members Only". Nationality, creed, color, gender, and age count.

The Scriptures for this weekend confront us with the problem of exclusivity. The challenge is to embrace as God embraces. God is an unconditional God and universal in love.

The verses found in today's first reading are later additions to that part of Isaiah called Third Isaiah (Chapters 56-66), composed about 500 B.C. This excerpt proclaims God's all-inclusive vision: "I am coming to gather all nations and tongues" (66:18). Not only does God welcome the Gentiles (non-Jews) but actually invites them to be missionaries on God's behalf, "... and they shall declare my glory among the nations" (Isaiah 66:19). The Gentiles are even entitled to be priests and Levites.

Luke, in both his gospel and Acts of the Apostles, insists that Jesus' message encompasses Jews and Gentiles alike. Matthew limits the genealogy of Jesus to Israel (Matthew 1:1-16); Luke extends it to make Jesus a son of Adam (Luke 3:23-38).

Jesus explains that association with him is not enough. The narrow door makes the point that salvation comes through more than talk; committed action is required. The closing lines of today's gospel again emphasize universalism: "People will come from east and west, from north and south, and will eat in the kingdom of God" (Luke 13:29). Watchfulness, not election, is the basis for entrance into the kingdom.

Access to God is unrestricted. The Lord yearns to be shared with all people. Our lifestyle must testify to the dignity and worth of each individual as the handiwork of the Creator.

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

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QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION

From the beginning it was God's plan to save all humankind. Can you help others in this plan? Are people being excluded? Can you think of anything your parish or the Church as a whole could do to be more inclusive?

The Second Reading tells us to "strengthen your drooping hands and your weak knees." What happens to athletes who don't exercise? Can you become spiritually "flabby"? Do you ever "work out" spiritually on your own? How? What good does St. Paul say will come from such "discipline"?

"We ate and drank in your company." Is membership in a particular church an automatic "opening" of the narrow gate? Is the narrow gate open to all of humankind? Can people of all religions receive grace? God is always creating you, moment to moment; do you think God ever stops offering you moments of grace?

NEXT SUNDAY SCRIPTURES: Sirach 3:17-18,20, 28-29; Ps 68; Hebrews 12:18-19,22-24a; Luke 14:1, 7-14