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ST. PAUL'S CATHOLIC CHURCH

2020 State Rte 146 E, Vienna, IL – 62995

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

Mercy In the [First Reading](#), the Israelites have made molten metal into the statue of a calf and declared that the calf is their God who brought them out of Egypt.

In consequence, God is very angry at the people. They are hopeless, God says to Moses; I ought to destroy them and make a new Israelite people out of you, Moses. But God means to be merciful to the Israelites, and he is inviting Moses to be merciful by first showing Moses the evil of the people. If you don't see the evil in what others are doing, you aren't merciful. You are just a moral idiot.

In response to God's anger at the Israelites, Moses is merciful; and he wants God to be merciful too. And so the reply of Moses to God's anger teaches us something about mercy.

Paul obtained mercy from God anyways, Paul says. Moses does not try to see what the Israelites are doing as not so bad, as somehow acceptable or excusable. If he did, then Moses really would be a moral idiot. But he doesn't. Rather, Moses entreats God to be merciful by reminding God of the past history of the Israelites. Don't you remember Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, Moses asks God? They were your servants and so pleasing to you! For the sake of what the Israelite people were in the past, have mercy on them now!

The [Second Reading](#) is about mercy too. Paul explains that he once was a persecutor of God's people. He doesn't gloss over his own evil then or make himself a moral idiot, any more than Moses did. But Paul obtained mercy from God anyway, Paul says, because God could see the man Paul could become. For the sake of the man Paul could be in the future, God had mercy on him.

Here is one moral of the readings then. You must not be a moral idiot. When you look at the conduct of your father, or your friend, or your boss, if that person is being sinful, then you need to see clearly that he is. But what you see when he is evil is not all there is to him. There is what he was in the past, the small boy his mother loved, for example. He wasn't always the sinner he is now. And then there is what he could become. Maybe like Paul, who once was the chief of sinners, your sinning friend could become glorious in the service of the Lord in the future.

So see clearly the evil in your neighbor now, but remember that what you see is not all there is to him. Like the Lord in the Readings, have mercy on him, for the sake of all the rest of him, the person that he once was and the person that he can still be.

Eleonore Stump

Vol 17 # 37 **Twenty-Fourth Sunday of the Year, September 11, 2016**
CELEBRATION OF EUCHARIST

Sun	Sept	11	8:00 am	SFD	Britney Deaton
			10:00 am	SP	For the Parishioners
Tue	Sept	13	9 & 11 am		No Mass
Wed	Sept	14	6:30 pm	SP	No Mass
Fri	Sept	16	12:00 pm	SP	General Intention
Sun	Sept	18	8:00 am	SFD	Angela Skaggs
			10:00 am	SP	Raymond Levesque

Birthdays	
Sept 14	Kaden Shaw
Sept 16	Carolyn Johnson
Sept 17	Bill Johnson

St Paul, Vienna

<p>Sun, Sept 11, 10 am Server: R. Slife, B. Bertran Lector: Joe Nelson Gifts: Children Lit of Word Ushers: F Dueker, G. Tesina D Zmuda, C. Zmuda E. Minister S. Belske B. Bishop, B. Palmer Greeter: S & P Widowski</p>	<p>Sun, Sept 18: 10 am Server: B. Bertran, J.Bayles Lector: Zachary Garrett Gifts: Catechists Ushers: M.McMahan,Mt Slife D. Bishop, K. Felcyn E. Minister: C. Webb P. Kalicki, F. Dueker Greeter: Marc, Beth Palmer</p>	<p>Sun, Sept 25, 10 am Server: A. Webb, R. Slife Lector: Sabra Moore Gifts: Children Lit of Word Ushers: R. & L. Stoerger, M. Palmer, P. Widowski E. Minister P. Widowski A. Dueker, D. Hopkins Greeter: Keith Felcyn</p>
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St Francis DeSales, Stonefort

<p>Sun, Sept 11: 8 am Server: Mary Treat Lector: Christine Deaton Gifts: L Herbert, M. Moore Usher: Arnold Morse E. Min: Brenda Morse</p>	<p>Sun, Sept 18, 8:00 am Server: Logan Shaw Lector: Cecilia Parks Gifts: Morse Family Usher Fred Deaton E. Min: Christine Deaton</p>
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THIS WEEK'S SCHEDULE

- Sun Sept 11 St Francis DeSales Mass.....8 am
- St Paul Mass & Children Liturgy of Word.10 am
- Parish Picnic & activities.....11 am
- Mon-Thr Fr Tom attending Priest Convocation
- Fri Sept 16 Weekday Mass at SP.....12 noon
- Sun Sept 18 Retired Diocesan Priest Collection
- St Francis DeSales Mass.....8 am
- St Paul Mass10 am
- Early Bird Draw-Down drawing-following mass
- Opening Session- Parish School of Religion...11 am
- Altar Sodality Collection and Meeting.hall.....11 am



COLLECTION FOR SUPPORT OF LOUISIANA FLOOD VICTIMS The United States Bishop Conference has asked a nationwide assistance for flood victims whose homes, business, and churches have been devastated by recent floods. Funds will be distributed by Catholic Charities USA and affected dioceses. Collection will be Sept 11th.

CHILDREN LITURGY OF WORD will be offered Sun, Sept 11, 10 am at St Paul. Children ages 3yrs – 4th grade are invited to go with an adult after the opening prayer to read and reflect on the Scripture message in age appropriate language.

LAY LEADERS OF PRAYER BLESSING will be conferred on Madonna Slife and Keith Felcyn during the Sept 11th Sunday mass after training and diocesan appointment. See insert in today's bulletin for more information on the Lay Leaders role.

PARISH ADDRESS DIRECTORY In preparation for a new address directory, please review, and correct or put check mark by family information on sheets in church entrance.

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, after the mass. Participants are asked to bring a covered dish of vegetable, salad or dessert.

DRAW-DOWN FUNDRAISER Grand Prize of \$4,000, 11- \$100 prizes, plus consolation prizes for all ticket holders. Tickets are \$100 (may be shared by up to ten people) and must be purchased by Sept 18th to be eligible for Early Bird Drawing. Tickets are available after masses or from Matt Slife, Dolly Hopkins, Steve & Peggy Widowski, Madonna Slife.

PRIEST CONVOCATION- Fr Tom will participate in the annual Clergy Convocation this week from Monday through Thursday. In urgent need he can be reached at 759-1707

RETIRED PRIESTS COLLECTION September 17-18 Our Belleville Diocese currently has 61 diocesan priests of retirement age – 38 who are currently retired and 23 who remain in active ministry; in five years that number will increase to 67! With this large number of retirement-age priests and escalating health care costs, the Retired Diocesan Priests Collection on September 17-18 will help provide the resources needed for their care now and in the future. All monies will be used only for long-term nursing care, Medicare supplemental insurance and prescription medications for our retired diocesan priests. Show your appreciation to the priests who have walked with you on your life's journey with a generous gift to this special collection. Note: Our diocesan priests do not receive any funding from the Retirement Fund for Religious collection which is held in December.

BCCW CONFERENCE Oct 12 The Belleville Diocesan Council of Catholic Women annual Convention with the theme - Mercy, A Bridge Connecting God, Ourselves, and others will be at St Joseph, Marion 8am-3:30 pm Oct 12. Registration forms are on bulletin table in church or contact Madonna Slife with Altar Sodality. Early Registration by Sept 30

THANK YOU....for prayer, cards and mass offerings at the death of my father. Craig Levesque

Twenty-Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Exodus 32:7-11,13-14; Psalm 51; 1 Timothy 1:12-17; Luke 15:1-32

Sin is a reality that cannot be denied. Occasionally people will say that sin isn't spoken of much anymore. Perhaps today we simply talk about the reality with a different vocabulary. All three readings today confront sinfulness: Israel sinfully worshiping the golden calf, Paul confessing his former blasphemy and arrogance, and the scribes and Pharisees murmuring that Jesus welcomes sinners and eats with them.

Exodus tells of the Israelites' impatience with Moses' prolonged absence on Mount Sinai. Angry at God, they persuade Aaron to make them another god, the golden calf. An emotionally charged bargaining session follows. Moses presents reasons why Yahweh should not destroy this "stiff-necked people": They are Yahweh's people; the Egyptians would mock a God who destroyed the very people God had just saved; destruction would break God's own promise of a great nation and many descendants.

God's mercy is bestowed, the same mercy that is highlighted in the second reading. Paul speaks of the great sinner he was before his conversion; yet in Jesus he received overflowing grace. Paul is an example for every Christian. Conversion is Christ's doing, not ours. It is an ongoing process rather than something completed at baptism. If there had been any doubt about God's patience, there can be none remaining with the gift of Jesus as Savior.

When the gospel says there is more joy in heaven over one repentant sinner than over ninety-nine righteous persons, it does not mean we might as well go out and sin. The point is that those who are ever faithful to the Lord experience a joy that overflows onto the one returning from the exile of sin.

Sin is a reality, but the Church wants to proclaim salvation. All three readings speak of separation from God and ultimate reunion. This is the heart of the gospel of Jesus: those lost and found, those strayed and returned, those who have sinned and been forgiven.

-- Daniel Welte

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QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION

God was faithful to the covenant even though the Israelites were not. How does that relate to you? Does anything change your understanding that God loved you into being and loves you more than you could ever ask or imagine?

Paul tells of going from foremost sinner to foremost preacher. How does his conversion demonstrate God's forgiveness and mercy? Is God patient today with whole countries? With the Church? With you?

In the story of the prodigal son was the father thinking about his son everyday and waiting for him to come home? Was the son hoping for a warm bed and food or of sorrow, having hurt his father? Does the father's forgiveness depend on the son's repentance?

NEXT SUNDAY SCRIPTURES: Amos 8:4-7; Ps 113; 1 Timothy 2:1-8; Luke 16:1-13