



**Pastor : Rev Thomas Barrett**  
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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

**Lifting Up the Poor** Today's liturgy contains a double-barreled attack on the rich. The [Gospel](#) warns us that "you cannot give yourself to God and money." We cannot serve two masters, trying to worship at the altars of both God and wealth.

The [First Reading](#) is harsher. It contains Amos' diatribe against the wealthy "who trample upon the needy and destroy the poor of the land!"

Contrasting this image of rich people at war with the poor is the image of God lifting up the poor and of Christ becoming poor to make us rich out of his poverty.

"I am the Savior of all people, says the Lord. Whatever their troubles, I will answer their cry." God saves both rich and poor and answers the cry of both rich and poor.

The important thing to notice is that in God's world, unlike the world we have created, the poor are heard and they are lifted up. In God's world, it isn't just the rich who have it all.

If we worship the true God, and if we want to enter the world that God rules, then we will do as God does, hearing the cry of the poor and lifting them up. To ignore and mistreat the poor is to invite God's justice: "Never will I forget a thing they have done."

We ought to sharpen the awareness of our duty of solidarity with the poor, to which charity leads us. This solidarity means that we make ours their problems and their struggles, that we know how to speak with them. This has to be concretized in criticism of injustice and oppression, in the struggle against the intolerable situation which a poor person often has to tolerate, in the willingness to dialogue with the groups responsible for that situation in order to make them understand their obligations."

Latin American Bishops, Medellin Documents, [Poverty of the Church](#), 1968:10  
Gerald Darring

Vol 17 # 38 **Twenty-Fifth Sunday of the Year, September 18, 2016**  
**CELEBRATION OF EUCHARIST**

**Birthdays**  
 Sept 20 Alex Ross

Sun	Sept	18	8:00 am	SFD	Angela Skaggs
			10:00 am	SP	Raymond Levesque
Tue	Sept	20	9 & 11 am	Shawnee & Vienna DOC	
Wed	Sept	21	6:00 pm	SP	General Intention
Thr	Sept	22	11:30am, 1 pm	USP Marion	
Fri	Sept	23	12:00 pm	SP	General Intention
Sun	Sept	25	8:00 am	SFD	James M McCabe Fam
			10:00 am	SP	Jim & Mary Ann Mudd

**St Paul, Vienna**

<p><b>Sun, Sept 18: 10 am</b>  <b>Server:</b> B. Bertran, J. Bayles  <b>Lector:</b> Zachary Garrett  <b>Gifts:</b> Catechists  <b>Ushers:</b> M. McMahan, Mt Slife                  D. Bishop, K. Felcyn  <b>E. Minister:</b> C. Webb                  P. Kalicki, F. Dueker  <b>Greeter:</b> Marc, Beth Palmer</p>	<p><b>Sun, Sept 25, 10 am</b>  <b>Server:</b> A. Webb, R. Slife  <b>Lector:</b> Sabra Moore  <b>Gifts:</b> Children Lit of Word  <b>Ushers:</b> R. &amp; L. Stoerger,                  M. Palmer, P. Widowski  <b>E. Minister</b> P. Widowski                  A. Dueker, D. Hopkins  <b>Greeter:</b> Keith Felcyn</p>	<p><b>Sun, Oct 2, 10 am</b>  <b>Server:</b> J. Bayles, B. Bertran  <b>Lector:</b> Rhi Slife  <b>Gifts:</b> A. Street, G Tesina  <b>Ushers:</b> J. Slife, P. Kalicki                  J. Nelson, S. Widowski  <b>E. Minister</b> S. Moore                  L. Stoerger, V. Anderson  <b>Greeter:</b> Sandy Belske</p>
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**St Francis DeSales, Stonefort**

<p><b>Sun, Sept 18, 8:00 am</b>  <b>Server:</b> Logan Shaw  <b>Lector:</b> Cecilia Parks  <b>Gifts:</b> Morse Family  <b>Usher</b> Fred Deaton  <b>E. Min:</b> Christine Deaton</p>	<p><b>Sun, Sept 25: 8 am</b>  <b>Server:</b> Cecilia Parks  <b>Lector:</b> Marietta Moore  <b>Gifts:</b> D Parks, R. Drone  <b>Usher:</b> Stan Treat  <b>E. Min:</b> Myron Cole</p>
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**THIS WEEK'S SCHEDULE**

- Sun Sept 18 Retired Diocesan Priest Collection
  - St Francis DeSales Mass.....8 am
  - St Paul Mass .....10 am
  - Early Bird Draw-Down drawing-following mass
  - Opening Session- Parish School of Religion...11 am
  - Altar Sodality Collection and Meeting.hall.....11 am
- Mon Sept 19 Blood Drive – Fellowship Baptist HallVienna12-6pm
- Parish Mission Planning Mt..SP hall.....6:30 pm
- Tue Sept 20 October calendar info deadline
- Wed Sep 21 Weekday mass at SP.....6:00 pm
  - Joint Parish Council Mt, SP hall.....6:30 pm
- Thr-Sat St Paul Volunteers -Faith Alive Thrift Store.9am-3pm
- Fri Sept 23 Weekday Mass at SP.....12 noon
- Sun Sept 25 St Francis DeSales Mass.....8 am
  - St Paul Mass .....10 am
  - Parish School of Religion.....11 am



**RETIRED PRIESTS COLLECTION** Show Your Gratitude to Our Priests -Retired Diocesan Priests Collection September 17-18: On both ordinary and extraordinary days, our priests have been there for us.... at baptisms, weddings, First Communion and Confirmation, at times of sickness and sorrow...dedicating their lives to bring us closer to Christ. Now it is our turn to be there for them during their retirement years through a gift to the Retired Diocesan Priests Collection. All funds will be used only for long-term nursing care, Medicare supplemental insurance and prescription medications. Note: Our diocesan priests do not receive any funding from the Retirement Fund for Religious collection which is held in December. Show your appreciation with a generous gift this weekend -- Thank you so much!

**PARISH SCHOOL OF RELIGION CATECHISTS** We support with prayer and commitment Marsha Nelson, Beth Palmer, Rhi Slife and Sarah Nelson who will serve as the catechist in the PSR Program this year. The PSR program has its opening session this Sunday at 11am in the Religious Education wing of the hall.

**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.

**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 18<sup>th</sup> to be eligible for Early Bird Drawing. Tickets are available after masses or from Matt Slife, Dolly Hopkins, Steve & Peggy Widowski, Madonna Slife.

**ALTAR SODALITY MT** will be held in the parish hall following the mass this weekend. A collection for their projects will be taken up following the mass.

**PARISH MISSION PLANNING MT** A planning meeting for the scheduled Parish Mission November 27-30<sup>th</sup> at St Paul will be held this Monday, Sept 19, 6:30 pm in the hall.

**JOINT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING** between St Paul and St Francis DeSales will be at St Paul hall this Wednesday, 6:30 pm. Minutes of the last meeting are on the BB.

**ST PAUL FAITH ALIVE THRIFT STORE VOLUNTEERS** St Paul is assigned to operate the Thrift Store this Thursday thru Saturday, 9am – 3pm. If you can assist during any of the time, contact Madonna Slife 967-5164 or Arlene Dueker 559-7803.

**BCCW VICARIATE FALL MEETING** will be hosted at St Mary, Sesser beginning with registration on Sunday, Sept 25<sup>th</sup>. All ladies are encouraged to participate.

**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 board in church or contact Madonna Slife. Early Registration by Sept 30

**THANK YOU....**to Jared Bergmann as chief cook for Picnic Pork Steaks & chicken  
...to Arlene Dueker for piñata, Madonna Slife for food purchases, all who brought cakes  
for the cake walk and all who shared their food and time with others for the afternoon.

## Twenty-Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Amos 8:4-7; Psalm 113; 1 Timothy 2:1-8; Luke 16:1-13

The God of our Sunday liturgy should also be the God of our Monday workplace. Christian tradition maintains that justice is a principal quality of the kingdom. Today's readings see the proper use of material possessions as an essential ingredient in the life of faith. Justice and financial success go hand in hand.

In the first half of the eighth century B.C., the kingdoms of Judah and Israel experienced enormous economic prosperity. Unfortunately, not all of Yahweh's people shared in this wealth. The poor became poorer, oppressed by the powerful minority. Amos attacks the rich who are eager for the end of liturgical celebrations (the new moon and the Sabbath) so that they can return to the business of selling their grain. They defraud the poor by cheating with the scales; they reduce persons to things.

Psalm 113 describes God's embrace of the poor: "He raises the poor from the dust, and lifts the needy from the ash heap, to make them sit with princes ... " (verses 7-8).

The gospel tells of an enterprising manager who realizes he is about to be fired. The manager calls in those who owe a debt to his master, telling each to alter the figures on the invoice. The master actually seems to take some delight in his manager's devious methods, admiring the clever way in which he arranges his own employment compensation! The lesson is this: Just as people in business use prudence to secure their passing advantage, so too the followers of Jesus must use prudence to secure lasting advantage with God.

Amos, the psalmist, and Luke touch our everyday lives. Our wealth is not really our own; resources are to be shared with our brothers and sisters. The message of God's kingdom is radical: The needs of all people are our own. Justice is one virtue we must practice in this life if we wish to experience happiness in the life to come.

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

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### QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION

Israel's covenant mandated love of the neighbor. Was it on a collision course with the people's behavior in this reading? What drives people to be oppressive and exploitive? Compare and contrast greed with love of neighbor. Is money evil, or is it the love of money that is, to the exclusion of everything else, including love of neighbor? Give examples from today.

Paul was appointed preacher and apostle to take the Good News to the Gentiles. How can you take Christ's message beyond the sphere of the Church?

Was the unjust steward dishonest or just clever? How would the kingdom of God benefit if you were more resourceful about promoting it here on earth? Can you think of one way you can be more resourceful or even clever in your spiritual life?

**NEXT SUNDAY SCRIPTURES:** Amos 6:1a, 4-7; Ps 146; 1 Timothy 6:11-16; Luke 16:19-31