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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

All Scripture Inspired by God The Second Reading says that all Scripture is inspired by God and useful for training in righteousness. And this line sounds wonderful until it bumps up against the First Reading. In the First Reading, Moses avails himself of the special power of God to help Joshua destroy the Amalekites in a war.

This story about the Amalekites is a good example of Scriptural stories that prompt outrage in many contemporary readers. It presents God as helping the Israelites to slaughter their enemies. Why shouldn't we reject this story as morally repellant? And if we do, then what happens to the line that all Scripture is inspired of God?

Well, here is one way to accept the story of the Amalekites as part of God's inspired revelation.

In fact, the process of dying can be an important part of the journey of spiritual healing. Human beings are meant to live in everlasting joyful union with their Creator, who loves them. But it is possible for human beings instead to become seriously spiritually sick. If that sickness is bad enough, it is possible for people to become the living dead, still functioning in some sense but spiritually dead, lost to love and union forever.

To ward off this worst thing for human beings, a loving God will go to great lengths.

So will we. Just think about what we will let our children suffer in hospitals in the hope of healing them and you will see the point. God will endure even appalling suffering on the part of the human beings he loves if that suffering holds a chance of a spiritual cure.

In fact, the process of dying can be an important part of the journey of spiritual healing, as anyone knows who has worked with the dying in hospitals.

Maybe the terrible things that happen when a people loses a war are like this too. Think about it this way: would Germany have been better off if it had won the Second World War? Wasn't it a blessing for the Germans that they lost it?

And so we can think about the First Reading this way. God's love encompasses the Amalekites too. His great love for them, his hope for their salvation, underlies his willingness to let them suffer even the terrible devastation that comes to them in the loss of the war with the Israelites.

And that is the beginning of an explanation for why it is possible to accept even the First Reading as divinely inspired Scripture.

Eleonore Stump

Vol 17 # 42 **Twenty-Ninth Sunday of the Year, October 16, 2016**

CELEBRATION OF EUCHARIST

Sun	Oct	16	8:00 am	SFD	Angela Skaggs
			10:00 am	SP	Raymond Levesque
Tue	Oct	18	9 & 11 am	Shawnee & Vienna DOC	
Wed	Oct	19	6:30 pm	SP	General Intention
Fri	Oct	21	12:00 pm	SP	General Intention
Sun	Oct	23	8:00 am	SFD	James M McCabe Fam
			10:00 am	SP	For the Parishioners

Birthdays
Oct 18 Jon Slife
Oct 19 Rick Stoerger Madeline Bergmann
Oct 21 Rosemarie Zawacki
Oct 22 Sandy Belske Zach Garrett

St Paul, Vienna

<p>Sun, Oct 16, 10 am Server: A. Webb, B. Bertran Lector: PSR Children Gifts: Children Ministries Ushers: M. Palmer, F. Dueker M McMahan, P. Widowski E. Minister P. Shallenberger B. Palmer, Md Slife Greeter: Joan Galey</p>

<p>Sun, Oct 23, 10 am Server: J. Bayles, R. Slife Lector: Sarah Nelson Gifts: R & C Webb Family Ushers L Stoerger, R Stoerger D. Bishop, K. Felcyn E. Minister Z, Garrett S. Belske, C. Webb Greeter: Cathy Kruep</p>
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<p>Sun, Oct 30: 10 am Server: A. Webb, J. Bayles Lector: Madonna Slife Gifts: Paul Widowski Fam Ushers J Bergmann, M Palmer J. Slife, Mt Slife E. Minister: A. Dueker B. Bishop, P Widowski Greeter: Mike McMahan</p>
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St Francis DeSales, Stonefort

<p>Sun, Oct 16, 8:00 am Server: Brenda Morse Lector: LaVonne Herbert Gifts: A. Morse, M. Cole Usher Fred Deaton E. Min: Christine Deaton</p>

<p>Sun, Oct 9: 8 am Server: Christine Deaton Lector: Marietta Moore Gifts: Parks Family Usher: Stan Treat E. Min: Brenda Morse</p>

THIS WEEK'S SCHEDULE

- Sun Oct 16 Rosary 20 minutes before masses in October
World Mission Sunday Collection
Parish Mission Letter, folder handout
St Francis DeSales Mass.....8 am
St Paul Mass & Children Liturgical Ministry...10 am
Parish School of Religion.....11 am
- Tue Oct 18 DOC Masses at Shawnee & Vienna.....9am, 11 am
- Wed Oct 19 Ministerial Alliance Mt.....11:45 am
Weekday mass at SP.....6:30 pm
SP Parish Council Meeting...hall.....7:05 pm
- Thr-Sat St Paul Faith Alive Store Volunteers... ..9am-3pm
- Fri Oct 21 Weekday Mass at SP.....12 noon
- Sun Oct 23 Rosary 20 minutes before masses in October
St Francis DeSales Mass.....8 am
St Paul Mass & Children Liturgy of Word.....10 am
SP Blood Pressure checks before and after mass
Parish School of Religion.....11 am



COMMUNAL RECITATION OF ROSARY During the month of October, the rosary will be prayed 20 minutes before Sunday masses.

WORLD MISSION SUNDAY Today is World Mission Sunday. In announcing his decision to declare a Holy Year of Mercy, Pope Francis said, "Dear brothers and sisters, I have often thought about how the Church might make clear its mission of being a witness to mercy." Supporting the young churches throughout the world with your payers and generous gifts is indeed a merciful witness of this mission. The collection today will help missionaries offer the poor of these areas practical help as they share the mercy of God. It will ensure the development of local dioceses, and support the work of priests, religious and lay leaders who serve those on the margins and in most need. Extend your merciful witness to the whole world through your gift in today's collection for the Society for the Propagation of the Faith.

1ST QUARTER FINANCE/BUDGET REPORT is included in today's bulletin. Any questions should be directed to Matt Slife, Jared Bergmann or Fr Tom.

ST FRANCIS DESALES TOWN HALL MT ON PASTORAL PLAN A Town-Hall style meeting will follow the Mass on Oct 16th to obtain feedback for representatives before meeting with the Diocesan Committee and bishop on the Pastoral Plan Restructuring and Renewal.

FIVE WISHES, a short presentation with guidebooks on Medical Directives and end of life planning will be given by Frank Dueker at St Francis next weekend at the end of mass.

JOINT HALLOWEEN PARTY St Francis DeSales will host the joint parish halloween on Sat, Oct 29th beginning 4 pm at St Francis Church. Hay ride, Hot Dog and Marshmallow roast. Participants are asked to bring chips or cookies

SP PARISH COUNCIL MEETING St Paul Parish Council will meet at the parish hall this Wednesday, 7:05 pm.

SP VOLUNTEERS AT FAITH ALIVE THRIFT STORE Parishioners are invited to assist with operation of the Ministerial Alliance sponsored Faith Alive Thrift Store as representatives of St Paul this Thursday and Friday, 9 am to 3 pm, and Saturday, 9 am to Noon. If you can offer a three hour time, check with Madonna Slife 967-5164 or Arlene Dueker 559-7803

REGIONAL MISSION OF STORY AND SONG On **November 6, 7, and 8 at 7:00 PM**, please join the Church of Southern Illinois in a mission celebrating the Mercy of God with the talented ValLimar Jansen leading the assembly. This grace-filled event will be held at St. Mary Immaculate Conception in Mt. Vernon. Each evening presentation beginning 7 pm should last just over an hour followed by opportunity for fellowship. Plan on attending this regional mission of story and song.

THANK YOU...to all Draw-Down ticket holders, gift basket donors, prize donors, food preparation assistance, ticket sellers, all those who set up, decorated and assisted with the Draw-Down, the Altar Sodality as sponsor and Madonna Slife as coordinator..

RESPECT LIFE CORNER - Moved by Mercy – Struggling to Understand Suicide – Sadly, today, there are many deaths by suicide and many people have been deeply affected by the suicide of a loved one. And yet, suicide remains widely misunderstood and generally leaves those who are left behind with a particularly devastating kind of grief. Learn, Act, Connect, Pray: Understanding suicide more compassionately will not take away its sting, nothing will, except time. Read the article by Father Ron Rolheiser "Struggling to Understand Suicide" (<http://ronrolheiser.com>) to find comforting words when we find ourselves helpless in dealing with a suicide of a loved one or speaking with others in their time of confusion and loss. Pray that those who remain find strength in our Lord's mercy

Twenty-Ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Exodus 17:8-13; Psalm 121; 2 Timothy 3:14--4:2; Luke 18:1-8

Perseverance is the price of victory. Human growth and success are not instantly accessible like information from our computers. The readings today recall the need for unceasing human diligence, even in the face of frequent failure.

The Exodus passage pits a heroic Moses against Israel's implacable enemy, the Amalekites. In a book filled with divine exploits, we see here the significant difference made by the human accomplishments of Moses. The hero's steadfastness wins the day. The steady hands in Exodus 17:12 demonstrate Moses' faithfulness in carrying out an official task.

Psalm 121 says that we are able to trust in God's divine care but also admits that sometimes our human trust crumbles under tensions and pressures. The psalmist, for example, worries about the danger of one's foot slipping and the possibility that Yahweh might fall asleep (verse 3). The psalm does finally affirm that the Lord is a constantly vigilant guardian and that believers must be persistent in calling out to Yahweh.

The psalmist's theme is found also in Luke's parable of the dishonest judge: Pray always and never give up. If a dishonest judge eventually yields to the pressure of a persistent widow, then naturally God will act upon the prayer of his persevering people. Even better, God does not procrastinate like the judge; if we cry out day and night, the Lord will act promptly. Luke concludes that God expects this pleading from us; at the time of the Second Coming, Christ will examine our persistence in prayer.

The Exodus account of Moses' greatness and Luke's parable on persistent prayer clearly define our human neediness. We need to begin anew each day, to work hard every day at building loving and trusting relationships with one another and with God. We need persevering prayer as our source of strength and hope. We need to admit that perseverance is the price of success.

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

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QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION

Could Moses have kept his hands raised (or "prayed constantly") without the help of his friends? Can you relate to this story in any way? Discuss ways you can let friends help you when you can't manage it by yourself. And how about you—whom do you support spiritually? Is proclaiming the Word of God central to all the activities of the Church? To your parish? To your life? How do you proclaim the Word of God in your work? In your life? What does Jesus' injunction, "Pray always ..." mean to you? Do you think Jesus means only prayers of petition? What does Jesus want to make clear to you about petitioning God? Discuss this statement: "When you pray for rain, take an umbrella."

NEXT SUNDAY SCRIPTURES: Sirach 35:12-14,16-18; Ps 34; 2 Timothy 4:6-8, 16-18; Luke 18:9-14