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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

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

A Little is a Lot - In the [Gospel Reading](#), Jesus says that if you have faith even as big as a mustard seed, you could command trees and they would obey you. A mustard seed is very small. But none of us can get trees to obey our commands. And so, from this, it is clear that the faith any of us has is not even a very small amount.

That’s not the only disheartening thought in the Gospel Reading. It gets worse. No matter how much faith you have, as the Gospel Reading makes plain, you are still highly unsatisfactory. Jesus says that, however hard you work in the service of the Lord, at the end of the day, recognizing all your sins in the day, you should say to yourself, I am an unprofitable servant of the Lord’s.

This isn’t a good thought to have before going to bed, is it? And it does make it hard to get out of bed in the morning, too. Who wants to wake up with this thought: “Oh boy, another day for me to be my sinful self! At the end of this day, I will be inadequate, unsatisfactory, and unprofitable!”

You can see why the prophet in the First Reading would say to the Lord, “How long, O Lord!” The prophet thinks it is hard to wait for the Lord to do something about the sins of other people. But it can be hard to wait for the Lord to take care of our own sins too. How long indeed!

If we live in the Lord, then we can also rejoice in the Lord. But the [First Reading](#) also says that the just will live by faith. Now real living is joyous, not depressive. And here’s another thing to see. The First Reading doesn’t mention how much faith you need in order to live. So, apparently, any amount is enough. Your faith doesn’t have to be even mustard seed size. You will still live, really live, as long as you have any faith at all.

And so we can wait for the Lord to do something about our sins. It doesn’t take even as much faith as a mustard seed for us to live. And if we live in the Lord, then we can also rejoice in the Lord, even if we are also still unprofitable servants.

And if it brings a life of joy in the Lord, then however little our faith is, it is a lot, isn’t it? And that is itself a joyful thought.

Eleonore Stump

Vol 17 # 40 **Twenty-Seventh Sunday of the Year, October 2, 2016**
CELEBRATION OF EUCHARIST

Birthdays Oct 7 Marietta Moore Ruth Brown
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Sun	Oct	2	8:00 am	SFD	Angela Skaggs
			10:00 am	SP	For the Parishioners
Tue	Oct	4	9 & 11 am		Shawnee & Vienna DOC
Wed	Oct	5	6:30 pm	SP	Philip Barrett
Fri	Oct	7	12:00 pm	SP	General Intention
Sun	Oct	9	8:00 am	SFD	James M McCabe Family
			10:00 am	SP	Charles & Mary Querrey

St Paul, Vienna

<p>Sun, Oct 2, 10 am Server: J. Bayles, B. Bertran Lector: Rhi Slife Gifts: A. Street, G Tesina Ushers: J. Slife, P. Kalicki J. Nelson, S. Widowski E. Minister S. Moore L. Stoerger, V. Anderson Greeter: Sandy Belske</p>	<p>Sun, Oct 9: 10 am Server: R. Slife, A. Webb Lector: Steve Widowski Gifts: Children Liturgy Word Ushers J Bergmann, C. Brown G. Tesina, Mt Slife E. Minister: D. Bishop S. Nelson, M. Nelson Greeter: Pat Kalicki</p>	<p>Sun, Oct 16, 10 am Server: A. Webb, B. Bertran Lector: Keith Felcyn Gifts: Children Ministries Ushers: M. Palmer, F. Dueker M McMahan, P. Widowski E. Minister P. Shallenberger B. Palmer, Md Slife Greeter: Joan Galey</p>
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St Francis DeSales, Stonefort

<p>Sun, Oct 2, 8:00 am Server: Logan Shaw Lector: Mary Treat Gifts: M Cole, S. Treat Usher David Parks E. Min: Cecilia Parks</p>	<p>Sun, Oct 9: 8 am Server: Cecilia Parks Lector: Myron Cole Gifts: R. Drone, L. Herbert Usher: Arnold Morse E. Min: Mary Treat</p>
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THIS WEEK'S SCHEDULE

- Sun Oct 2 Rosary 20 minutes before masses in October
 St Francis DeSales Mass.....8 am
 St Paul Mass10 am
 Parish School of Religion.....11 am
 SP First Sunday social in hall.....11 am
- Mon Oct 3 SF Parish Council Mt.....5:30 pm
- Tue Oct 4 DOC Masses at Shawnee & Vienna...9am, 11 am
- Wed Oct 5 Weekday mass at SP.....6:30 pm
- Fri Oct 7 Weekday Mass at SP.....12 noon
- Sat Oct 8 Courageous Parish Workshop (O'Fallon)...8:30 am
- Sun Oct 9 Rosary 20 minutes before masses in October
 St Francis DeSales Mass.....8 am
 St Paul Mass & Children Liturgy of Word10 am
 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.

OCTOBER COUNT Each year, a count of mass attendance during October is made to be submitted to the diocese. Ushers are reminded to record # on the attendance sheet.

FIRST SUNDAY SOCIAL will be hosted in the parish hall following mass this Sunday. If not for yourself, think of sharing yourself with other parishioners.

FACES OF MERCY MISSION Church of the Holy Spirit, 300 Pine St., Carterville, invites you to a mission for the Year of Mercy. Join Sister Linda Hatton and Mrs. Judy Bumbul as they present The Faces of Mercy, a three evening event on Sunday, October 2 at 6:00 pm, Monday, October 3 and Tuesday, October 4 at 7:00 pm. Explore the corporal, spiritual and cosmic Works of Mercy through presentation and prayer. Come to any or all nights as your schedule allows. On Sunday evening, you are invited to a potluck at 5:00 pm. Bring a dish to share. Light refreshments will be served the other evenings. Questions? Call 985 – 2900.

FLU SHOT CLINIC will be offered at Buncombe Community Building this Thursday, Oct 6th, 9am – 12 pm.

DRAW-DOWN FUNDRAISER Less than ten tickets available. 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) Tickets are available after masses or from Matt Slife, Dolly Hopkins, Steve & Peggy Widowski, Madonna Slife. Basket donations are due by Oct 10, 4 pm in the parish hall.

In observance of **PRIESTHOOD SUNDAY**, *The Messenger*, the Belleville Diocesan Catholic newspaper, will publish a special section in the October 20 issue to recognize all of our priests: active and retired, pastors, administrators, associate pastors and sacramental ministers. This is your opportunity to tell us briefly some of their best qualities. Please email your remarks to cathnews@bellevillemessenger.org, fax 618-235-9605 or mail to: The Messenger, 2620 Lebanon Avenue, Belleville, IL 62221. **Deadline to submit remarks on or before October 6.**

THANK YOU...to catechists and PSR students who represented St Paul in the Parade

RESPECT LIFE CORNER Moved by Mercy – As we mark the month of October as Respect Life Month and today, celebrate Respect Life Sunday, let us remember that, “We are called to show mercy because mercy has first been shown to us.” Pope Francis. **Learn, Act, Connect, Pray:** We have all sinned against each other. But God expresses his love for each of us through his limitless mercy, revealed in Jesus’ death on the Cross. Our care for one another is care for Jesus himself. The Lord has given us a roadmap with the Spiritual and Corporal Works of Mercy. Are we following His direction?

Twenty-Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

Habakkuk 1:2-3; 2:2-4; Psalm 95; 2 Timothy 1:6-8,13-14; Luke 17:5-10

Today's readings take up the demands of faith. They present a God who takes us seriously and wishes to be taken seriously. The verses offer no foolproof formula for relating to this God in all times and circumstances. Rather, they are glimpses of people who demonstrated that belief entails developing a dynamic relationship with God.

The opening verses of Habakkuk are a dialogue between God and the prophet about the perennial problem of evil. The people had suffered ruthless domination under one government; now a new power, neo-Babylonia, was emerging after the battle of Carchemish in 605 B.C. King Nebuchadnezzar was to be no improvement. The frustration is clear, "O Lord, how long shall I cry for help, and you will not listen?" (Habakkuk 1:2). God's answer is this: Vindication and relief will come to those who wait patiently in faith.

In today's second reading, Timothy and his community are called to live out the Good News ("the good treasure") in their own day and hand it on for future generations. Luke 17:1-10 gathers sayings of Jesus describing the faith required of disciples. The disciple must not be an occasion of sin (17:1-2) but must be willing to forgive those who have sinned (17:3-4). The apostles plead for the strength required to do these things; Jesus replies that faith (17:6) even as tiny as a mustard seed will make incredible accomplishments possible.

Service to the community characterizes the true believer. Reward must not be demanded or even expected, "When you have done all you were ordered to do, say, 'We are worthless slaves; we have done only what we ought to have done!'" (Luke 17:10).

Dialogue with God is required, even when the reply is in the form of a vision as yet unfulfilled. Courage is needed to apply the Christian message to our time without benefit of a vision. The God of the Bible is present yet hidden, compassionate yet demanding, just yet merciful, powerful yet gentle.

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

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QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION

Habakkuk speaks of misery and violence. What helps you survive the misery in your life? In a tough situation can your faith sustain you? Do you need to exercise your faith in lesser matters in order to be ready?

Discuss authoritarianism, empathy and openness. Are they signs of strength or weakness? Of love or cowardice?

Do you know people who, with incredibly strong faith, have moved mountains, or as this reading suggests, "uprooted mulberry trees"? Who are they? What have they accomplished? Can your faith help you do the kinds of things they did? Can it help you overcome obstacles?

NEXT SUNDAY SCRIPTURES: 2 Kings 5:14-17; Ps 98; 2 Timothy 2:8-13; Luke 17:11-19