



Pastor : Rev Thomas Barrett
Phone (618) 658 – 4501
E-mail: spccil@frontier.com
Web: www.stpaulvienna.org



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

Left Behind In the [Gospel Reading](#), Christ gives a warning about his coming again. Stay awake and wait for me, he says, or else it will be for you the way it was for the people left behind in Noah's time.

Those people watched Noah build his big boat on dry land, and they must have laughed at him. *They weren't worried.* They ate their dinners and held their weddings just as always. And then the flood came. In one day, it swept them all away.

Physical death is the end of the line as far as chances for salvation go. And here is what Christ says: It will be like this when I come again; those who weren't waiting for me will be left behind when I return.

These are puzzling words. Are we supposed to expect Armageddon any day now, for every day of our lives? Will we be left behind if we don't?

Well, look at Noah's flood. Human beings had gotten so evil that it began to look as if God had made a mistake in creating them. So, in the flood, God did something like an autologous bone marrow transplant on the human race. God sifted through the bad cancerous lump of humanity and found a few human beings who looked morally and spiritually healthy. The idea was to reproduce those spiritually healthy human beings after the flood, when the evil people were gone. By this means, the human race could have a rebirth.

The people who laughed at Noah's boat were so evil that they could be waked up to their spiritual peril only when the water rose. Their only chance of salvation came in the catastrophe of the flood when the fear of death may have prompted them to turn to the Lord for salvation. There are things much worse than physical death.

But physical death is the end of the line as far as chances for salvation go. Those who will not turn to the Lord before they die will just be left behind, without the Lord, as Christ says. They will have missed the boat permanently.

So Christ isn't directing us to keep an anxious eye out for Armageddon's advent. Any day now—who knows when?—we may die. What we need to be waiting for while we live is *Christ*. If we live in expectation of the Lord's coming for us, we will not be left behind on that day.

Eleonore Stump

Vol 17 # 48 **First Sunday of Advent, November 27, 2016**
CELEBRATION OF EUCHARIST

Sun	Nov	27	8:00 am	SFD	Angela Skaggs
			10:00 am	SP	Stanley Belske
			6:30 pm	SP	For the Parishioners
Mon	Nov	28	6:30 pm	SP	General Intention
Tue	Nov	29	9 & 11 am	Shawnee & Vienna DOC	
			6:30 pm		Reconciliation Service
Wed	Nov	30	6:30 pm	SP	General Intention
Fri	Dec	2	12:00 pm	SP	General Intention
Sat	Dec	3	2:00 pm	SFD	Alfred Murphy
Sun	Dec	4	8:00 am	SFD	James M McCabe Fam
			10:00 am	SP	For the Parishioners

Birthdays	
Nov 30	Anna Haase Craig Levesque
Dec 2	Keith Felcyn

St Paul, Vienna

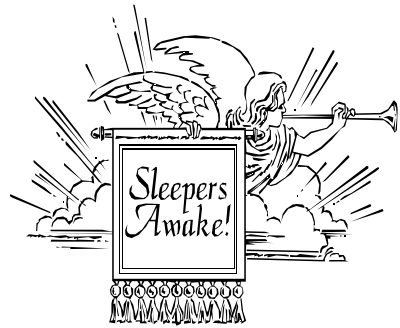
<p>Sun, Nov 27, 10 am Server: B. Bertran, J. Bayles Lector: Sabra Moore Gifts: David, Amanda Zmuda Ushers: P Kalicki, F Dueker D Bishop, R Stoerger E. Minister S Nelson B. Palmer, P Shallenberger Greeter: JoAnn Brown</p>	<p>Sun, Dec 4, 10 am Server: R. Slife, J. Bayles Lector: tba Gifts: Children Lit of Word Ushers Caryn, David Zmuda J. Nelson, S.Widowski E. Minister S. Belske C. Webb, P. Widowski Greeter: Bill & Billie Porter</p>	<p>Sun, Dec 11: 10 am Server: B. Bertran, A. Webb Lector: PSR Youth Gifts: PSR Youth Ushers M McMahan, C Brown, Geri Tesina, Mt Slife E. Minister: A. Dueker Md Slife, D. Hopkins Greeter: Marc & Beth Palmer</p>
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St Francis DeSales, Stonefort

<p>Sun, Nov 27, 8:00 am Server: Christine Deaton Lector: Marietta Moore Gifts: Stan, Mary Treat Usher Fred Deaton E. Min: Cecilia Parks</p>	<p>Sun, Dec 4: 8 am Server: Mary Treat Lector: Cecilia Parks Gifts: R.Drone, L. Herbert Usher: Myron Cole E. Min: Christine Deaton</p>
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THIS WEEK'S SCHEDULE

Sun Nov 27 Fr Bill Rhinehart CM speaks at weekend masses
Advent Angel name selection from tree
St Francis DeSales Mass.....8 am
St Paul Mass10 am
Parish Mission Mass/Message/Social6:30 pm
Mon Nov28 Parish Mission Mass/Message/Social.....6:30 pm
Tue Nov 29 Mission Reconciliation Service/Message....6:30 pm
Wed Nov30 Parish Mission Mass/Message/Social.....6:30 pm
Fri Dec 2 Weekday Mass at SP.....12 noon
Sat Dec 3 Alfred Murphy Funeral Mass at SF.....2:00 pm
Sun Dec 4 St Francis DeSales Mass.....8 am
St Paul Mass & Children Liturgy of Word.....10 am
First Sunday Social/ Liturgy Committee Mt...11 am
PSR Classes.....11 am



A PARISH MISSION is . . . ~ a time of special grace when God calls each of us into a deeper relationship with Him ~ a time for personal growth, ~ a time to refresh and refocus our spiritual life. The Parish Mission will be led by Father Bill Rhinehart, C.M. of the Vincentian Parish Missions. The schedule is ---Weekend Masses - November 27 -*Introduction and Invitation to the Mission.* Sunday, November 27, 6:30 p.m: Mass & Topic: *Being Chosen-Trust in God* ; Monday, November 28, 6:30 p.m: Mass & Topic: *Reflections on the Past and Moving Forward*; Tuesday, November 29, 6:30 p.m: Reconciliation Service & Topic: *Mercy of God/Mercy of Me*; Wednesday, November 30, 6:30 p.m: Mass & Topic: *Perserverance with Prayer/Service to Others.* Presented at : 2020 State Route 146 E, Vienna, IL



JOINT PARISH MISSION Please check the bulletin board for reminder if you volunteered to assist with a liturgical ministry during Mission or bring treats for the social following each evening of the Mission. Everyone is needed to complete our Eucharistic Community. There will be a gift of a booklet *FROM MASS TO MISSION* presented to each household during the Mission, supporting follow up response to Fr. Rhinehart's message. An offering to support the ministry of Fr Rhinehart and the Vincentian Religious Community will be take up on Wednesday. Donations given later will be forwarded.

FOOD COLLECTION FOR VIENNA FOOD PANTRY A container is available in the church foyer for donations to assist people in need through the Vienna Food Pantry.

ANGEL TREE Names for Christmas gifts to needy persons are available on the tree in the church foyer. Gifts should be returned by December 13 in church or prayer room, wrapped with the tag attached.

NOMINEES FOR PARISH COUNCIL SOLICITATION In preparation for upcoming Parish Council Election, we ask parishioners to submit their own or the names of others who could be good candidates for serving on the Parish Council. Please return the form (additional blanks available) to the canister on the prayer intentions table.

THANK YOU....to the Altar Sodality, Pat Kalicki and Pat Kinkead for providing dinner rolls for Eagle House Thanksgiving Dinner.

....to the Parish Mission committee and Madonna Slife, coordinator, for work to prepare this special spiritual renewal opportunity for parishioners and guests.

....to all who have shared your concern and food donations for the Vienna Food Pantry

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT - Beginning where we left off. Each year, the new season of Advent begins where we left the old liturgical year. We ponder the coming (*parousia*) of Jesus Christ the Second Time. We do this in prayer, in action, in anticipation. We wait for this unknown time, but not in fear. So, how do we stay ready? By **not** doing the bad things listed in the Second Reading (Romans 13:11-14). By doing the list of merciful things we practiced all last year. The Jubilee Year of Mercy is not a "one and done" year. It was rehearsal for this new year of grace. · Let us resolve to hear the Gospel of Matthew attending to compassion, justice, and mercy. · Let us keep before us the works of mercy. · Let us "put on the Lord Jesus Christ."

UPCOMING SF Dec 5, 5:30pm SF Parish Council **Dec 11, 12 noon** SF Mass & Potluck

First Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 2:1-5; Psalm 122; Romans 13:11-14; Matthew 24:37-44

Time is central to the Christian celebration of Advent. This season reminds us that the mystery of faith is not complete until Jesus' Second Coming (the Parousia). We are in-between people, caught between the time of Resurrection / Ascension / Pentecost and the time of the Parousia. How do we deal with the issue of time?

Isaiah says that future security comes from following divine wisdom today; success will not be found in our own designs. This reading pictures a pilgrimage of nations. They are asking Yahweh to settle their disputes once and for all. The instruments of war will be refashioned into peacetime implements of agriculture -- swords into plowshares. The renouncing of war and aggression will take time, but the believer knows that tomorrow must begin today.

The Romans must give daily witness to their faith. Paul says that it's time to wake up, the dawn of salvation draws near. An urgency about time moves Paul to confront those living in darkness, challenging them to "put on the armor of light."

The question of the Parousia also comes up in the excerpt from Matthew's gospel. Vigilance is demanded because the Second Coming has no "estimated time of arrival." Lest anyone become indifferent about the need to prepare, three short parables are offered.

Noah's contemporaries were so caught up in everyday affairs that they failed to take precautions against the flood. The two pairs of workers appear the same, but the Final Judgment will bring out such great differences that one will be chosen and the other left behind. The thief does not announce his arrival; in the same way the Parousia will be sudden and unexpected.

The readings challenge us to adopt a timetable in which the seemingly distant Parousia impinges on the present moment. Be aware of responsibilities and see to their fulfillment! Attend to relationships, reach out to the needy, and make time for prayer. The Second Coming thus becomes an event that gives purpose and energy to our every breath and pulse now.

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

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QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION

What words come to your mind when you think of "swords" and "spears"? or "plowshares," as in this wonderful reading? Do you have the equivalent of swords and spears in your office, parish, or your own life? How does, "They shall beat their swords into plowshares" relate to you?

In Advent we look forward once more to Christ's coming at Christmas, and anticipate his next coming. Does Christ come now also, every day? How? When?

Advent is about Christ coming to us. How can you become more aware of all the ways he comes to you everyday? Did you find Christ today? Do you ask yourself this every night?

NEXT SUNDAY SCRIPTURES: Isaiah 11:1-10; Ps 72; Romans 15:4-9; Matthew 3:1-12