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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

He Who Is To Come From his cell in prison John the Baptist had heard stories about Jesus, and he sent some of his followers to find out if Jesus is the messiah. Are you 'He who is to come' or do we look for another? they asked Jesus.

Jesus had to reply in such a way that John would have no doubt about the genuineness of his messianic activity, and the message he sent back to John was about the blind receiving their sight, the lame walking, the lepers being cleansed, the deaf hearing, the dead being raised, and the poor having good news brought to them.

He did not say a word about people praying more or going to the synagogue or making God the center of their lives: The age of the messiah, as expressed in this report, does not concern "religion" in the traditional sense of the word.

One knows that the messiah has come because a real change has taken place in society, a change that involves the liberation of those who have always been cut off from the 'main branch' of society.

Jesus is the messiah because those who are blind, crippled, diseased, and poor have been liberated from the things which make them the victims of injustice.

We can turn the statement around to say that if the dregs of society do not experience liberation, then Jesus is not the messiah.

But Jesus is the messiah, and so the dead have come to life: those who have been unable to 'live' in a society that has written them off, are now alive with hope.

The Gospel has truly been a leaven of liberty and progress in human history, even in its temporal sphere, and always proves itself a leaven of brotherhood, of unity, and of peace. Therefore, not without cause is Christ hailed by the faithful as 'the expected of the nations, and their Savior' (*Antiphon O* for Dec. 23).

Vatican II, [Decree on the Missionary Activity of the Church](#), section 8

Gerald Darring

Vol 17 # 50 **Third Sunday of Advent, December 11, 2016**

CELEBRATION OF EUCHARIST

Sun	Dec	11	10:00 am	SP	For the parishioners
			12:00 pm	SFD	Angela Skaggs
Tue	Dec	13	9 & 11 am	Shawnee & Vienna DOC	
Wed	Dec	14	6:30 pm	SFD	General Intention
Fri	Dec	16	12:00 pm	SP	General Intention
Sun	Dec	18	8:00 am	SFD	James M McCabe Fam
			10:00 am	SP	For the Parishioners

Birthdays	
Dec 11	Gabriel Ross Laurie Coleman Kathy Hupe Brody Deaton
Dec 14	Amanda Zmuda Caryn Zmuda Frank Dueker
Dec 15	Ethan Morse
Dec 18	Kaylee Hooven

St Paul, Vienna

<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>	<p>Sun, Nov 18, 10 am Server: B. Bertran, J. Bayles Lector: Joan Galey Gifts: Children Lit of Word Ushers: M. Palmer, F. Dueker P. Widowski, J. Bergmann E. Minister K. Felcyn P. Kalicki, D. Bishop Greeter: Monica Querrey</p>	<p>Sun, Dec 25, 10 am Server: B. Bertran, J. Bayles Lector: Keith Felcyn Gifts: Volunteers Ushers P. Kalicki, Z. Garrett R. Stoerger, L. Stoerger E. Minister A. Dueker V. Anderson, F. Dueker Greeter: Mike McMahan</p>
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St Francis DeSales, Stonefort

<p>Sun, Dec 11, 12:00 pm Server: Logan Shaw Lector: Mary Treat Gifts: R Drone, D Parks Usher Stan Treat E. Min: Myron Cole</p>	<p>Sun, Dec 18: 8 am Server: Cecilia Park Lector: Lavonne Herbert Gifts: Deaton Family Usher: David Parks E. Min: Mary Treat</p>
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THIS WEEK'S SCHEDULE

- Sun Dec 11 Collection for Retired Religious
 - St Paul Mass10 am
 - PSR Classes.....11 am
 - SP Christmas Eve Choir practice.....11 am
 - St Francis Noon Mass, potluck, Caroling.....12 pm
- Tue Dec 13 DOC Masses at Shawnee and Vienna.....9 & 11 am
 Parish Reconciliation Service. St Mary, Anna. 6:00pm
- Wed Dec 14 Weekday Mass at SP.....6:30 pm
- Thr Dec 15 Kitchen cleaning at SP.....9:30 am
- Fri Dec 16 Weekday Mass at SP.....12 noon
 Sacrament of Reconciliation at SP.....5-6:00 pm
- Sun Dec 18 Sacrament of Reconciliation at SF.....7-7:45 am
 St Francis DeSales Mass & decorating.....8:00 am
 St Paul Mass & Children Liturgy of Word.....10 am
 SP Christmas Program and potluck meal.....11 am



AGING RELIGIOUS NEED YOUR HELP Senior Catholic sisters, brothers, and religious order priests have offered their lives in service to others – educating the young, comforting the sick, seeking justice for the oppressed. Today, many are frail, elderly, and in need of assistance. Your gift to the Retirement Fund for Religious helps to furnish medications, nursing care, and other necessities. Please give generously to today's special collection.

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

SP CHRISTMAS EVE CHOIR - people who are interested in singing and/or playing Christmas Eve are asked to attend a practice following mass this Sunday at St Paul..

2017 CHURCH CALENDARS & CONTRIBUTION ENVELOPES are available for households in the church entrance this weekend.

SP KITCHEN CLEANING After carpet cleaning of the parish center, Parish ladies have scheduled a Kitchen organizing and cleaning to begin 9:30 am on Thursday, Dec 15th.

SP CHRISTMAS PROGRAM AND POTLUCK will be held following the Sunday mass on December 18th. Meat provided; participants are asked to bring vegetable, salad or dessert

CHRISTMAS FLOWER MEMORIALS You are encouraged to remember a deceased family member by a donation for the Christmas flowers. Deadline for Memorial flyer is Dec 20th. An envelope for intention and offering is in envelope box or use plain envelope.

RECONCILIATION OPPORTUNITIES Tues, Dec 13, 6 pm at St Mary, Anna; Sat, Dec 17, 5-6 pm at St Paul; Sun, Dec 18, 7-7:45 am at St Francis; Mon, Dec 19, 6 pm at St Joseph, Marion.

THANK YOU May Christ's peace be with you this day! I wish to extend my thanks for your invitation to bring a Vincentian Parish Mission to your Parish community. It was not only enjoyable for me personally but I pray that God's spirit was present for all of us and may continue to touch and guide your parish family. You have great energy & spirit within your parish & mission. May you continue to touch their lives with your guidance & pastoral care! As I continue to travel sharing Parish Missions across the United States I will carry you all in my prayers. Please do keep me in yours. I will also hold your diocese in prayer that you may continue to grow with religious vocations. Would love to return someday for another Mission.....Thank you once again. God's blessings!!!! Fr. Bill Rhinehart, c.m.

COME TO SAVE US That is our prayer. It is God's promise. How do we know? Our own eyes will show us. Our own ears will tell us. The feeble are made strong. The frightened do not fear. The blind see. The sick are healed. The poor are cared for. Jesus' ministry of healing and mercy is evident everywhere. At this mid-point of Advent, this time of waiting for the Second Coming of Christ is not a passive waiting in easy chairs. It is active. It is robust. It is filled with behavior as if Jesus is right here, right now. Because he is! In what ways can his ministry of healing and mercy be my own? Who needs a ride to doctor or grocery? Who needs a visit to ease loneliness or fear? And let me recite Psalm 146:6-10 all week – it sings of mercy works.

Third Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 35:1-6,10; Psalm 146; James 5:7-10; Matthew 11:2-11

Amos preached social justice. Hosea demonstrated compassion. Jeremiah was undaunted in the pursuit of truth. The Hebrew Scriptures prophetic books challenge us to witness these values in our own time. Prophets are deeply involved in society's concerns.

The author of Isaiah 35, in the sixth century B.C., encounters a dispirited community of exiles. Defeated in battle and driven from their homeland, they are without hope. The prophet responds by recalling the joyous memories of the exodus from Egypt. A second exodus is in store, symbolized by the healing granted to the blind, the dead, the lame, and the mute.

The author of James tells the suffering Christians to be like the Palestinian farmer who eagerly anticipates the winter and spring rains. Suffering demands patience. This was the case for the Hebrew Scriptures prophets who spoke out in spite of persecution. Modern prophets must be equally strong.

Matthew initially describes John the Baptist as a fiery preacher of judgment and reform. Now he addresses the Baptist's dilemma during his imprisonment. John learns that Jesus is not preaching fire and brimstone but curing the sick, raising the dead, and consoling the poor. John must have wrestled with this seeming contradiction, yet he remained true to his personal call. As a result, John found himself not in Herod's palace but in Herod's prison.

Baptism is a call to a prophetic career. The expression may vary with each individual: speaking out against injustice; denouncing leaders interested only in personal gain; offering hope to the distraught; embracing the lonely and the sick. These examples may not seem as dramatic as the adventures of an Isaiah or a John the Baptist, yet they are in that same great prophetic tradition. To be prophetic is to become involved.

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

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QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION

Isaiah said God would give signs to tell the Israelites of their delivery from slavery. What were these signs? Are there signs of God's loving presence in your life? What about in the world of medicine and social justice today?

"See how the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth." How does this statement relate to Advent? What part does nature play? What is the farmer doing? What do you do? What does God do in you during this time? Is patience involved in both situations?

John the Baptist might have expected a mighty one and was confused at the gentle, healing Jesus. We peer into the cell of John the Baptist to look into his soul, which was weighed down not only by chains, but by "the shackles of doubt." Does God always come into your life the way you expect?

NEXT SUNDAY SCRIPTURES: Isaiah 7:10-14; Ps 24; Romans 1:1-7; Matthew 1:18-24