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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

God With US - Sunday's liturgy is about God with us, Emmanuel. We have arrived at the moment of the celebration of God's presence within the human family.

The Emmanuel of Advent-Christmas, the God who is with us, witnesses our social life from within the community, so that God is not far away but is actually among us as we become part of each others lives (and sometimes step on them), as we work together (and sometimes against each other), as we try to support each other (and yet abandon millions of people to the miseries of destitution).

There is no childish game of hide and seek with this God, who is present to witness our good deeds and our misdeeds.

“Let the Lord enter ([Ps 24:7c](#)).” We rejoice at the prospect of having God among us, and yet we should also reflect on the awesome responsibility of living in the presence of God.

“We who have been called to belong to Jesus Christ” ([Rom 1:6](#)) should imitate Mary, who, when faced with the reality of Emmanuel, “placed her life at the service of God's plan” ([Catholic Exchange](#)).

Seeking after the glory of Christ, the Church becomes more like her exalted model, and continually progresses in faith, hope, and charity, searching out and doing the will of God in all things.

Hence the Church in her apostolic work also rightly looks to her who brought forth Christ, conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin, so that through the Church Christ may be born and grow in the hearts of the faithful also.

Vatican II, [Constituion on the Church](#), 1964:65

Gerald Darring

Vol 17 # 51 **Fourth Sunday of Advent, December 18, 2016**
CELEBRATION OF EUCHARIST

Sun	Dec	18	8:00 am	SFD	James M McCabe Fam
			10:00 am	SP	For the Parishioners
Tue	Dec	20	9 & 11 am	Shawnee & Vienna DOC	
Wed	Dec	21	6:30 pm	SFD	General Intention
Thr	Dec	22	11:30am, 1 pm	Marion Penitentiary	
Fri	Dec	23	12:00 pm	SP	General Intention
Sat	Dec	24	6:00 pm	SP	For the Parishioners
Sun	Dec	25	8:00 am	SFD	Angela Skaggs
			10:00 am	SP	For the Parishioners

<p>Birthdays Dec 18 Kaylee Hooven Dec 19 Elizabeth Zmuda Dec 23 Fred Deaton</p>

St Paul, Vienna

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

Sun, Dec 24: 6 pm
Server: A. Webb, R. Slife
Lector: Joe Nelson
Gifts: Bergmann Family
Ushers J Slife, Mt Slife
 D. Bishop, S. Hupe
E. Minister: S. Nelson
 B. Palmer, C. Webb
Greeter: Matt & Rhi Slife

Sun, Dec 25, 10 am
Server: B. Bertran, J. Bayles
Lector: Keith Felcyn
Gifts:Bill & Vickie Anderson
Ushers P. Kalicki, Z. Garrett
 R. Stoerger, L. Stoerger
E. Minister A. Dueker
 V. Anderson, F. Dueker
Greeter: Mike McMahan

St Francis DeSales, Stonefort

Sun, Dec 18: 8 am
Server: Cecilia Park
Lector: Lavonne Herbert
Gifts: Deaton Family
Usher: David Parks
E. Min: Mary Treat

Sun, Dec 25, 12:00 pm
Server: Mary Treat
Lector: Christine Deaton
Gifts: M. Moore, L. Herbert
Usher Fred Deaton
E. Min: Cecilia Parks

THIS WEEK'S SCHEDULE

- 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
 SP Church decorating.....1:30 pm
- Mon Dec 19 Reconciliation Service-St Joseph, Marion6pm
- Tue Dec 20 DOC Masses at Shawnee and Vienna...9 & 11 am
 Deadline for Memorial Flower program
- Wed Dec 21 Weekday Mass at SP.....6:30 pm
 SP Parish Council Mt....hall.....7:05 pm
- Thr Dec 22 Marion Penitentiary Masses.....11:30 am, 1 pm
- Fri Dec 23 Weekday Mass at SP.....12 noon
- Sat Dec 24 SP Christmas Eve Carols ...5:30 pm,... Mass 6 pm
- Sun Dec 25 St Francis DeSales Mass8:00 am
 St Paul Mass10 am



CHILDEN LITURGY OF THE WORD will be offered this Sunday following the opening prayer of the mass.

SP CHRISTMAS PROGRAM AND POTLUCK will be held following the Sunday mass on December 18th at St Paul. Meat provided; participants are asked to bring vegetable, salad or dessert. Santa will make an appearance for children.

CHURCH DECORATION for St Paul will follow the Christmas Program and Potluck between 1-1:30 pm. All volunteers are welcome.

SP CHRISTMAS EVE CHOIR – will lead a program of carols and readings before the Christmas Eve Mass at St Paul beginning 5:30 pm.

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

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 Sun, Dec 18, 7-7:45 am at St Francis; Mon, Dec 19, 6 pm at St Joseph, Marion.

SP PARISH COUNCIL St Paul Parish Council will have the December Mt this Wed, 7:05 pm in the parish hall.

DIOCESAN COLLECTION FOR NEEDY AT CHRISTMAS A special collection is annually taken up in parishes of the diocese on Christmas to provide resources to assist requests of needy households in the diocese. The distribution of the funds are managed through the Catholic Urban Program supervised by Joe Hubbard. Envelopes for the collection are in the boxed set.

THANK YOU....parish ladies who cleaned and organized kitchen and storage
...to all who provided Christmas presents to children through the Angel Tree program
...to those who have provided Christmas Flowers through the Memorial offering.

THE CATHOLIC SERVICE AND MINISTRY APPEAL... bringing God's mercy to those who need it most The true joy of Christmas is in the everlasting love of Christ. May you find His peace, love and joy now and in the coming New Year. With deepest gratitude for your prayers and generosity, -Ministries and Programs Funded by The Catholic Service and Ministry Appeal

PAYING ATTENTION TO DREAMS. When we get to be of a certain age, we do not always sleep through the night. We are awakened by dreams, by concerns not yet resolved, by other needs. (I am less peeved by this now. I want to be like Joseph in today's story of the pending birth of Jesus.) Joseph has a problem. He wants to be righteous. He does not want to shame another. He sleeps on it. He dreams. And God speaks. What might God be telling me in the quiet of the night? · How will my prayer, my concern be answered? · What will I choose to do?

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 7:10-14; Psalm 24; Romans 1:1-7; Matthew 1:18-24

To believe is to accept and acknowledge the presence of God in one's life. How often we assume that faith is primarily doctrine and law, a list of dos and don'ts to which we must subscribe. We thus fail to see that faith involves a person.

Today's readings deal with the reality of faith. Isaiah gives us a negative example, Matthew a positive one. Paul develops the notion of personal commitment as the underpinnings of faith. All three see belief as acceptance of God's presence.

Ahaz, the Judean king, realizes that the Israelite and Aramean kings are seeking to overthrow him. Isaiah urges Ahaz to remain calm, to ask for a sign from Yahweh. The ruler rejects this notion and so reveals his impiety. Isaiah gives a sign anyway: The wife of Ahaz will bear a child to ensure the integrity of the Davidic dynasty. The child's symbolic name defines faith -- "Immanuel," that is, "God is with us."

Paul addresses the Christian community of Rome. He speaks about Christ who has conferred on him the office of apostle. Paul views his task this way: "To bring about the obedience of faith among all the Gentiles for the sake of his name" (Romans 1:5). For Paul, acceptance of salvation is marked by faith-filled obedience.

The gospel passage intends to explain the irregular genealogy of Jesus (Matthew 1:1-17). If Jesus does not have a human father, how can he be called "son of David"? Matthew's solution is to have Joseph accept legal paternity for the Child, ensuring his Davidic ancestry. Joseph's openness to God's will makes possible the "God with us" that is at the heart of all belief.

Our celebration of this time must reflect a deep and total acceptance of Christ and his message of peace on earth and goodwill toward all people. As Advent closes and Christmas dawns, we look to the Person born again in our hearts, the Person who is "God with us."

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

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QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION

God gave a sign to Ahaz, who hadn't even asked for one. Does God give signs that aren't requested? Give some examples. Do you think you ever miss any of God's signs for you? Why? Can the "grace of apostleship" be different for everyone? Could everyone be "called to be holy"? Name some ways that you can take Christ into your work, home, parish—today. List the obstacles God encountered in bringing Jesus into the world. Is anything in this world obstacle-free? How can good come out of obstructions? John Shea made a statement about Joseph's hesitancy to take Mary into his home. Discuss that statement: "This foreshadows the tension of all who will be drawn to Jesus. Is he a scandal to be rejected, or a manifestation of the Spirit to be welcomed?" ([Shea, 45](#))

NEXT SUNDAY SCRIPTURES: (Christmas Eve) Isaiah 9:1-6; Ps 96; Titus 2:11-14; Luke 2:1-4;
(Christmas Day) Isaiah 52:7-10; PS 98; Hebrews 1:1-6; John 1: 1-18