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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

Tidings of Great Joy - The first people to experience the coming of the savior were shepherds, those lowly, uneducated ones who lived among the animals. They were not the only ones, of course, but they were the first to welcome the savior.

It was no accident that such lowly people would be called in first to pay homage to the savior. It is to the lowly, after all, that Christ came first as Lord and Redeemer. The circumstances of his birth testify to that: his mother “wrapped him in swaddling clothes and laid him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the place where travelers lodged.”

Christmas is the great annual renewal of our being a Church filled with wonder at the nearness of her God. The nearer we are to our God, the nearer we should become to those lowly ones who are God’s special ones.

We are challenged at Christmas to do what Jesus and the angels did: bring the good news of redemption to the outcast and the lowly. The “tidings of great joy (are) to be shared by the whole people,” and no one is to be left out, not even the most hopeless or despicable person.

Our holy Mother (the Church does) not neglect the care of the poor or omit to provide for their necessities; but, rather, drawing them to her with a mother’s embrace, and knowing that they bear the person of Christ Himself, who regards the smallest gift to the poor as a benefit conferred on Himself, holds them in great honor.

She does all she can to help them; she provides homes and hospitals where they may be received, nourished, and cared for all the world over, and watches over these. Pope Leo XIII, *[Quod Apostolici Muneris](#)*,(1878:9

Gerald Darring

Vol 17 # 52 **Christmas Day, December 25, 2016**

CELEBRATION OF EUCHARIST

Sat	Dec	24	6:00 pm	SP	Intention of Flower Memorials
Sun	Dec	25	8:00 am	SFD	Angela Skaggs
			10:00 am	SP	For the Parishioners
Tue	Dec	27	9 & 11 am		Shawnee & Vienna DOC
Wed	Dec	28	6:30 pm	SP	General Intention
Fri	Dec	30	12:00 pm	SP	General Intention
Sun	Jan	1	8:00 am	SFD	James M McCabe Fam
			10:00 am	SP	For the Parishioners

<p>Birthdays Dec 27 Sarah Nelson Dec 29 Cecilia Parks Dec 31 Carter Bergmann Jan 1 Verna Green</p>

St Paul, Vienna

<p>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</p>	<p>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</p>	<p>Sun, Jan 1, 10 am Server: R. Slife, J. Bayles Lector: Steve Widowski Gifts: Bayles Family Ushers: J Nelson, P. Widowski C. Zmuda, D. Zmuda Sr E. Minister M. Nelson P. Shallenberger, Md Slife, Greeter: Geri Tesina</p>
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St Francis DeSales, Stonefort

<p>Sun, Dec 25, 12:00 pm Server: Mary Treat Lector: Christine Deaton Gifts: M. Moore, L. Herbert Usher Fred Deaton E. Min: Cecilia Parks</p>	<p>Sun, Jan 1: 8 am Server: Logan Shaw Lector: Marietta Moore Gifts: R. Drone, D. Parks Usher: Stan Treat E. Min: Christine Deaton</p>
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THIS WEEK'S SCHEDULE

- Sat Dec 24 Diocesan Christmas Collection for Needy
 SP Christmas Eve Carols ...5:30 pm,... Mass 6 pm
- Sun Dec 25 St Francis DeSales Mass8:00 am
 St Paul Mass10 am
- Tue Dec 27 DOC Masses at Shawnee and Vienna.....9 & 11 am
 Deadline for January calendar info
- Wed Dec 28 Weekday Mass at SP.....6:30 pm
- Fri Dec 30 Weekday Mass at SP.....12 noon
- Sun Jan 1 St Francis DeSales Mass8:00 am
 St Paul Mass10 am
 After-mass social & Liturgy Committee.hall...11 am



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.

CHRISTMAS FLOWER MEMORIALS are recognized on the program or in the bulletin this weekend.

CHRISTMAS BOOK GIFT Each household will be presented a copy of Matthew Kelly's book 'Resisting Happiness' that you may reflect on and carry the Good News of the Love that God has for each of us to others.

LITURGICAL MINISTERS SCHEDULE for the months of January and February are available on the bulletin board racks.

WORDS OF GRACE Daily Scripture reflection booklets for Jan-Mar are available in the church foyer.

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

DVD Video and CD audio of the Parish Mission talks are available on the CD rack in the foyer for anyone who missed a presentation or would like to listen again. They are marked by topic and day of the presentation.

WELCOME NEWLY REGISTERED PARISHIONERS Mitch & Leslie Miller residing in Goreville area, and Lori Bravin, living in Tunnel Hill area.

THANK YOU....

...to the PSR students and catechists for the Christmas Pageant presentation

...to all who provided food for the Potluck, and Altar Sodality for children's treats

...to the Christmas Eve choir, musicians and all who worked on the music

...to the volunteers who decorated the church for Christmas

...to those who have provided Christmas Flowers through the Memorial offering.

MONTHLY HEALTH FOCUS -Managing Holiday Stress: It should be no surprise that many of the holiday stressors include gift giving obligations, Expenses out of budget, lack of time and ability to pick out that perfect gift! Stress itself doesn't hurt us but its how we respond to it does. Some signals that will alert you to excessive stress can be inability to sleep, clammy/sweaty hands, headaches , moodiness and other discomforts. How to keep stress in line- take care of yourself, eat healthy foods and getting plenty of rest will help maintain your body's resistance to the physical symptoms of stress!

CHRISTMAS BLESSINGS ON ALL!

Christmas: Celebrating God's Love

Theologians tell us that Easter is the most important feast of the Church year. In some ways that is true. However, people, believers and nonbelievers alike, celebrate Christmas far more widely and with far greater joy.

Is this simply because Christmas is about motherhood, the birth of a child, innocence, and love? After all, these are at the heart of human life. Yet most of us would find it hard to identify with rising from the darkness of the tomb. Maybe that is the difference. But perhaps there is more, a lot more. Perhaps we are more deeply in touch with an abstract idea we call the Incarnation than we realize. It could be that something deep inside us knows what "the Word made Flesh" really means.

From the moment God breathed God's life-giving spirit over the darkness of the void and brought creation to life, God spoke to people. Through giants like Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Moses, Deborah, Jeremiah, Isaiah, the psalmists, God gave us the words of life.

But, on Christmas day, the living Word of God came into the world. Mary gave birth to the Son of God. In this Jesus, God communicated most eloquently with God's people. In this Jesus, God held children. God met with skeptics and dined with outcasts. In this Jesus, God talked, and God listened. God wept over the dead Lazarus. God touched the leper. God put mud and spittle on the blind man's eyes and healed him. Through Jesus, God entered the cycle of human life and unswervingly walked its path to the end.

Perhaps Christmas is so touching because God skipped nothing, not the frantic eruption of birth nor the numbing moment of death. God came to be one of us.

Perhaps the gift-giving of Christmas, the outpouring of love we lavish on one another, echoes the final message this God-Made-Man spoke through human flesh: "This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you." (John 15:12).

Maybe this feast opens the door to some inner cell of our hearts where we imprison the Word that tells us that now we must be the arms of God surrounding the little ones; that we must be God's voice to speak and God's ears to listen; that we must weep God's tears; that we must be God's healing hands; that we must be Jesus in our times and in our culture. The power of this truth escapes and, at least for a few moments, warms up the coldness of our world.

It is indeed up to the twentieth-century Christians to give birth to Jesus in their own time, their own culture, their own families. This is the heart of faith and life. And deep within us, we know it. We feel it and so we celebrate.

-- Father Robert Earl, C.S.S.R.

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NEXT SUNDAY SCRIPTURES: Mary, Holy Mother of God Numbers 6:22-27; Ps 67; Galatians 4:4-7; Luke 2:16-21;