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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

The Gifts of the Holy Spirit The [First Reading](#) is the source for the Christian tradition about the gifts of the Holy Spirit. There are seven of them: *pietas*, fortitude or courage, fear of the Lord, wisdom, understanding, counsel, and knowledge. The last six are all listed in this Reading ([Isaiah 11: 2](#)). The first one, *pietas*, is the spiritual virtue described in the verse about taking care of the poor and afflicted.

There is a version of all these virtues that you can get for yourself. You can practice being brave, for example, and your practice will build a kind of habit in you. There is also a kind of courage that the Lord can put into a person. The apostle Peter wasn't a particularly brave person, as you can see in his denial of the Lord, but the Lord gave him such courage when he had to face the Jewish authorities after Christ's resurrection that they marveled at him ([Acts 4:13](#)).

But the gifts of the Holy Spirit are different from both these kinds of virtues, the acquired ones and the ones God infuses. You can see the difference clearly if you look at *pietas*.

In Roman times, *pietas* was a virtue having to do with fathers and sons. A son owed his father reverence, and a father owed his son care. There is also *pietas* towards your community or country. This is still a virtue having to do with fathers. The idea is that every citizen owes reverence and care toward his fatherland.

Paul says that if any person does not take care of his own, he is worse than an infidel. In Christian times, *pietas* as a virtue infused by God had to do with taking care of your own, your own parents, your own children, your own community, your own country. Paul says that if any person does not take care of his own, he is worse than an infidel. ([1 Tim. 5:8](#)).

But that *pietas* is still not the same as the *pietas* that is a gift of the Holy Spirit.

Pietas that is a gift is the love of God as our Father in heaven, and it includes the recognition that every human being who crosses our path—every one without exception—is the beloved child of our Father. And so every human being—the sinful, the annoyingly stupid, the derelict, the afflicted—is one of our own. And *this* is *pietas* as a gift of the Holy Spirit.

And all the gifts of the Holy Spirit are like this. If we do not refuse them, they kindle the fire of love for God and his people in us.

Eleonore Stump

Vol 17 # 49 **Second Sunday of Advent, December 4, 2016**

CELEBRATION OF EUCHARIST

Sun	Dec	4	8:00 am	SFD	James M McCabe Fam
			10:00 am	SP	Bill Kinkead
Tue	Dec	6	9 & 11 am	Shawnee & Vienna DOC	
Wed	Dec	7	7:00 pm	SFD	General Intention
Thr	Dec	8	11:30 am, 1 pm	USP Marion	
			6:30 pm	SP	General Intention
Fri	Dec	9	12:00 pm	SP	General Intention
Sun	Dec	11	10:00 am	SP	Bill Kinkead
			12:00 pm	SFD	Angela Skaggs

Birthdays	
Dec 7	Derek Trovillion
Dec 11	Gabriel Ross
	Laurie Coleman
	Kathy Hupe
	Brody Deaton

St Paul, Vienna

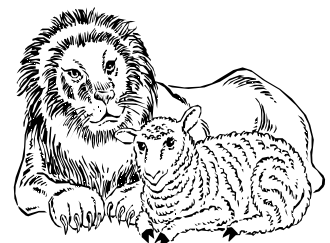
<p>Sun, Dec 4, 10 am Server: R. Slife, J. Bayles Lector: Rhi Slife Gifts: Children Lit of Word Ushers Caryn, David Zmuda J. Nelson, S.Widowski E. Minister S. Belske C. Webb, P. Widowski Greeter: Bill & Billie Porter</p>	<p>Sun, Dec 11: 10 am Server: B. Bertran, A. Webb Lector: PSR Youth Gifts: PSR Youth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

<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>	<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>
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THIS WEEK'S SCHEDULE

- Sun Dec 4 St Francis DeSales Mass.....8 am
- St Paul Mass & Children Liturgy of Word.....10 am
- First Sunday Social/ Christmas Eve Choir.....11 am
- PSR Classes.....11 am
- Mon Dec 5 SF Parish Council Mt.....5:30 pm
- Tue Dec 6 DOC Masses at Shawnee and Vienna.....9 & 11 am
- Wed Dec 7 Immaculate Conception Holyday Mass/.SF..7:00 pm
- Thr Dec 8 USP Masses at Marion.....11:30 am,1 pm
- Eucharistic Adoration.....4 – 6:15 pm
- Immaculate Conception Holyday Mass SP..6:30 pm
- Fri Dec 9 Weekday Mass at SP.....12 noon
- Sun Dec 11 Collection for Retired Religious
- St Paul Mass10 am
- PSR Classes.....11 am
- St Francis Noon Mass, potluck, Caroling.....12 pm



BLESSING OF EXPECTANT MOTHER The Wellness Committee this Sunday sponsors a blessing of Jenny Bergmann with child and the placement of a rose at the Blessed Mother statue to petition a safe pregnancy and birth. The rose will remain as our reminder of prayer till the child is baptized.

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.

CHRISTMAS EVE CHOIR - people who are interested in singing and/or playing that evening are asked to meet around piano after Dec.4 Mass or call or text Pam Shallenberger 217-714-4568 to express interest or for questions.

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

FIRST SUNDAY SOCIAL will follow in the parish hall following this Sunday's mass.

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION HOLYDAY Mass for the obligatory holyday will be 7 pm on Wednesday at St Francis, and 6:30 pm on Thursday at St Paul.

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION this Thursday 4pm to 6:15 pm before Holyday mass.

VOLUNTEERS AT FAITH ALIVE An appreciation meal and party will be on Friday, Dec 11 beginning 4:30 pm at the basement of the Vienna Public Library sponsored by the Ministerial Alliance for volunteers who work at the Faith Alive Store.

YOUR DONATION WORKS FOR AGING RELIGIOUS "I read that roughly 95 percent of donations to the Retirement Fund for Religious aid senior religious," a donor writes. "That's wonderful when we truly want our donations to work." Your gift works for elderly religious by helping to furnish medications, nursing care, and more. Please support next week's collection for the Retirement Fund for Religious, and give to those who have given a lifetime.

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.

THANK YOU....to Fr Bill Rhinehart CM for leading the Parish Mission, to all who made the effort to participate, to the music leadership, and liturgical ministries, to the social hosts and all who provided food for the socials, to the planning committee and printing of flyers.

IMAGES SHOW US THE WAY. Isaiah's image – new sprout from an old stump. From Jesse's stump (the father of King David) comes Jesse's flower (Jesus the Christ). Matthew's image – it hints at new people from baptismal waters. From the font comes new Christians bathed in Christ, clothed in Christ, and illumined by Christ. Like Christ and claimed by him. On this Second Sunday of Advent – as we wait for Christ to come again – John the Baptizer does not mince words. Behavior is far more important than pedigree, than lineage, than ancestors. We are called to live in faithful harmony, to be the brood of the baptized. · How will I "be justice" this week, giving to others what they are due? · How will I be faithful? · How will I do what is right?

ST FRANCIS DESALES NOON MASS, CHRISTMAS POTLUCK & CAROLING will be next Sunday. Meat will be provided. Participants are asked to bring vegetable, salad or dessert dish and wrapped prize (\$2-3 value). Caroling at the Care Home in Carrier Mills will follow..

Second Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 11:1-10; Psalm 72; Romans 15:4-9; Matthew 3:1-12

Leadership is solidarity with those who are led, a focus on the needs of the governed. The readings today address the challenges inherent in the exercise of authority.

The first nine verses of Chapter 11 of the Book of Isaiah may come from a coronation ceremony. The crowning of a new king gives people hope that this leader will be genuinely interested in their plight. The reading pleads for peace. The king's zeal for peace is so great that even predatory animals are no threat. Such a ruler could bring international security in place of military oppression.

Psalm 72 was probably recited on the occasion of a coronation or its anniversary. Borrowing from the court style of the ancient Near East, it emphasizes justice, peace, long life, and a worldwide kingdom. Like the first reading, it expresses the deep aspirations of the governed that the king will be concerned about their problems. Peace is much more than the cessation of hostilities. It embraces the celebration of life because people's needs are met.

Matthew presents John the Baptist as the first Christian preacher. Wearing the clothes of a latter-day Elijah (see 2 Kings 1:8), John solemnly proclaims that God is undertaking a new involvement with humankind.

John's is a baptism of repentance requiring the convert to adopt a new way of thinking and acting. The unlikely combination of Pharisees and Sadducees in this passage is evidence of this desire to reform. Calling upon Abraham is not enough; one must live according to the demands of the coming King. This King embraces the hurting: "Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest" (Matthew 11:28).

Baptism is a share in the royal messianic mission of Jesus. Anyone who shares this mantle also shares royal responsibilities, in particular, care for the afflicted and the hurting.

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

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QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION

"The earth shall be filled with knowledge of the Lord," Von Balthazar says this is "the drenching of the entire being with the inner understanding of what God is." Discuss this idea. How does this relate to peace in the reading?

There are people with whom you disagree. How easy is it to "think in harmony" with them? Why would you think this way instead of just going along with such people, or being nice, or acting like you agree with them?

Judging by John's appearance, would you guess his cry was lukewarm or a cry from the heart calling for life-altering change? How would you respond to him? Is the fire within you a conflagration or does it look more like a pilot light? How can you gather some kindling for your fire during Advent?

NEXT SUNDAY SCRIPTURES: Isaiah 35:1-6, 10; Ps 146; James 5:7-10; Matthew 11:2-11