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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

Mary, the Mother of God In his moving musical composition *Like Winter Waiting*, John Foley, SJ, has Joseph sing about Mary, “Who is this woman?” For many people (and, of course, maybe for Joseph too) the question is really, “Who is this woman to me?” These two questions are very different in character.

Consider the first one. The traditional answer to it is that Mary is the Mother of God.

What Mary is to you depends on you. This can be hard to understand. All Christians agree that God is without beginning. It seems that a God without beginning can't be born. And so it seems that God can't have a mother either.

But Jesus is fully human *and* fully divine. As man, God can be born. And so, after all, God can have and did have a human mother.

That mother is Mary.

And that is why, if it is taken theologically, the answer to the question Joseph sings in John Foley's music, “Who is this woman?” is this: Mary is the Mother of God.

But the more pressing question remains: “Who is this woman to me?”

The answer to this question depends on the life and love of each person who answers it, doesn't it?

Think about it this way. For every person who reads this, John Foley is the Jesuit priest who is the editor and the composer of very influential liturgical music. But the answer to the question, “Who is John Foley to me?” depends on the person answering the question. To me, he is a dear friend. But that is because the history of my life includes care for him and commitment to him.

And this is how it is for each person and Mary too. What Mary is to you depends on you, on your own care for her and commitment to her.

But, you might think, how much care and commitment should I have for Mary?

Isn't that a backwards way to think about relationship with any person, though, Mary included? Maybe this is a better way. Elizabeth said to Mary, “who am I that the mother of my Lord should come to me?” ([Luke 1:43](#)) Maybe what we should ask is, “What are we that the mother of our Lord should come to us?”
Eleonore Stump

Vol 18 # 1 **Mary, Mother of God, January 1, 2017**
CELEBRATION OF EUCHARIST

Sun	Jan	1	8:00 am	SFD	James M McCabe Fam
			10:00 am	SP	For the Parishioners
Tue	Jan	3	9 & 11 am		No Masses
Wed	Jan	4	6:30 pm	SP	No Mass
Fri	Jan	6	12:00 pm	SP	No Mass
Sat	Jan	7	8:30 am	SFD	General Intention
Sun	Jan	8	8:00 am	SFD	Angela Skaggs
			10:00 am	SP	Doris Murphy

Birthdays Jan 1 Verna Green Jan 5 Morgan Bishop Jan 6 Ruby Widowski

St Paul, Vienna

<p>Sun, Jan 1, 10 am Server: R.Sliffe, 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 Sliffe, Greeter: Geri Tesina</p>	<p>Sun, Jan 8, 10 am Server: A. Webb, B. Bertran Lector: Arlene Dueker Gifts: Children Liturgy Ushers:MMcMahan,C Brown S. Widowski, S. Hupe E. Minister P Widowski B. Bishop, S. Belske Greeter: Janet Hacker</p>	<p>Sun, Jan 15, 10 am Server: J. Bayles, B. Bertran Lector: Rhi Sliffe Gifts: Dale, Beverly Bishop UshersM Palmer,J Bergmann K Felcyn, D. Bishop E. Minister B. Palmer P. Kalicki, S. Nelson Greeter: Cathy Kruep</p>
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St Francis DeSales, Stonefort

<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>	<p>Sun, Jan 8: 8:00 am Server: Christine Deaton Lector: Myron Cole Gifts: M. Moore, L. Herbert Usher David Parks E. Min: Mary Treat</p>
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THIS WEEK'S SCHEDULE

- Sun Jan 1 St Francis DeSales Mass8:00 am
- St Paul Mass10 am
- After-mass social& Liturgy Committee.hall...11 am
- Mon-Fri 2-6 Fr Tom on Clergy Retreat – Belleville
- Thr-Sat 5-7 St Paul Faith Alive Volunteers at Thrift Store 9-3 pm
- Sat Jan 7 First Saturday Mass & Devotion at SF.....8:30 am
- Faith Alive Board Meeting.....10:00 am
- Sun Jan 8 Remove Christmas Decorations
- St Francis DeSales Mass8:00 am
- St Paul Mass & Children Liturgy of Word.....10 am
- Parish School of Religion resumes.....11 am
- Liturgy Committee Meeting in hall.....11 am



CHRISTMAS BOOK GIFT Each household at Christmas was 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. If you weren't here for Christmas your copy is waiting to be picked up in the foyer.

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.

FIRST SUNDAY AFTER MASS SOCIAL will be held in hall following today's mass.

CONTRIBUTION ENVELOPES STATEMENTS will be prepared for distribution on January 15th. Any envelope or contributions for 2016 must be submitted by Jan 8 to be included.

DVD Video 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. All talks on same DVD.

PASTOR RETREAT Fr Tom will attend clergy retreat in Belleville Monday through Friday of this week. For emergency contact – 618-759-1707

FAITH ALIVE THRIFT STORE VOLUNTEERS St Paul will be operating the Ministerial Alliance Thrift Store Thursday thru Saturday of this week. If you can assist, please contact Madonna Slife 967-5164

CHILDREN LITURGY OF WORD and PARISH SCHOOL OF RELIGION will resume next Sunday.

EPIPHANY CELEBRATION next Sunday will be the close of the Christmas season. Volunteers to remove Christmas decorations following mass are welcome.

PARISH COUNCIL ELECTION will be held Jan 15 before and after mass. Candidates for the four seats are Vickie Anderson, Joan Galey, Cathy Kruep and Steven Pobst.

NOTE: Altar Sodality/CCW meeting has been rescheduled from next Sunday to Jan 29th.

REMEMBER IN PRAYER: Shirley (Garrett) Treloggen; Don Harper (former trustee)

THANK YOU....

...to parishioners for Christmas gift to Fr Tom.

Do We Know Our Faith? – In an age when Church instruction is being rejected and replaced by secular values, it is not hard to understand why. It is easy to ignore what you do not know. It is also easy to discard what is misunderstood. If you do not know your faith, how do you live it? Learn, Act, Connect, Pray: First, make a commitment to learning. Second, overcome the fear of the truth. Third, seek out the opportunities to learn. Fourth, leaders come forward. Paul tells us, "Do not conform yourself to this age but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and pleasing and perfect. (Rom 12:2).

Mary, Mother of God

People who do not understand Catholic teaching about Mary sometimes become offended by our displaying her picture or by our praying to her. They do not understand how Catholics see Mary: She leads us to her Son Jesus.

As Saint Alphonsus Liguori, who also wrote a beautiful book extolling The Glories of Mary, once noted in a letter to a friend: "The greatest pleasure you can give to Mary is to love Jesus devotedly."

Perhaps the confusion that some non-Catholic Christians have over Mary stems from Catholics who, themselves, do not understand Mary's role in our faith. It would almost appear that some Catholics put more emphasis on the alleged appearances of Mary in various parts of the world today than they put on the revelation of Jesus himself who entered our history 2,000 years ago.

To that point, Saint John of the Cross imagines God speaking to souls who ask for heavenly visions and apparitions: "If I have spoken all things to you in my Word, who is my Son, and I have no other word, ... what could I reveal to you which is greater than this? ... For you ask locutions and revelations, which can reveal only part of the truth. If you set your eyes on him, you shall find the whole Truth" (The Ascent of Mount Carmel, Bk II, XXII, 5).

In our own time, the bishops at the Second Vatican Council reiterate what we believe to be the place of Mary in the Church: " ... when she is being preached and venerated, she summons the faithful to her Son and his sacrifice, and to love for the Father" (Lumen Gentium, VIII, 65).

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QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION - The word "peace" is a translation of the word "shalom," which means "every good thing in good measure." These are God's own words in this blessing: "The Lord look upon you kindly and give you peace!" What does this tell you about God's love for you?

What did God do for us that moved us from the status of slaves to that of children of God? What kind of sense would you make of shepherds and messages from angels and mangers? Did Mary get any final answers from Gabriel or the shepherds? Can you make sense of everything in your life? What do you mull over in your heart? What do you treasure and remember and preserve?

NEXT SUNDAY SCRIPTURES: Epiphany of the Lord Isaiah 60:1-6; Ps 72; Ephesians 3:2-3a,5-6; Matthew 2:1-12