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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: Steve Pobst

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

Light For the World In today's [Gospel](#) Matthew applies to Jesus the prophetic oracle of Isaiah: "The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; upon those who dwelt in the land of gloom a light has shone." In like manner, the psalmist's assertion that the Lord is my light is echoed in Jesus' words: "I am the light of the world; the man who follows me will have the light of life."

Christianity is about light. Just as Jesus is light to the world, so his church is to be light in a world of darkness. Light enables the beauty of things to be seen, and we are called to make the beauty of the world shine. But we are not to call attention to ourselves: if you are aware of the light in a room, it is too bright. Our vocation is for others, not ourselves.

Surrounded by discrimination, oppression and war, Christians are challenged to "be united in mind and judgment," and they are directed by God's love to "bring mankind to unity and peace." The light we bring to the world should lead in time to an end of all the world's darkness: the alienation and oppression of peoples, the attacks on human life and dignity, and disrespect for God's creation.

"A people living in darkness has seen a great light."

The Church ... serves as a leaven and as a kind of soul for human society as it is to be renewed in Christ and transformed into God's family. ... the Church not only communicates divine life to men, but in some way casts the reflected light of that life over the entire earth.

Vatican II, [Constitution on the Church in the Modern World](#), 1965: 40

Gerald Darring

Vol 18 # 4 **Third Sunday of the Year, January 22, 2017**

CELEBRATION OF EUCHARIST

Sun	Jan	22	8:00 am	SFD	Angela Skaggs
			10:00 am	SP	Mary Everett
Tue	Jan	24	9 & 11 am		Shawnee & Vienna DOC
Wed	Jan	25	6:30 pm	SP	General Intention
Thr	Jan	26	11:30am, 1 pm		Marion Penitentiary
Fri	Jan	27	12:00 pm	SP	Fr Peter Hsu
Sun	Jan	29	8:00 am	SFD	James M McCabe Fam
			10:00 am	SP	Mary Everett

Birthdays	
Jan 22	Macie Zmuda Joe Nelson
Jan 23	Ann Stachowiak Julie Kolb
Jan 25	Chuck Stone
Jan 27	Shay Deaton
Jan 29	Tony Kolb

St Paul, Vienna

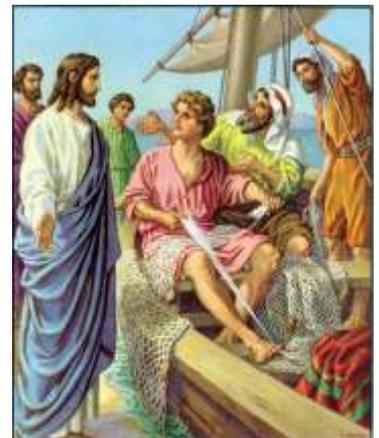
<p>Sun, Jan 22, 10 am Server: A.Webb, R.Sliffe Lector: Rhi Slife Gifts: Children Liturgy Ushers:P.Kalicki, F. Dueker Mt Slife, Geri Tesina E. Minister L. Stoerger D. Bishop, D. Hopkins, Greeter: Joan Galey</p>	<p>Sun, Jan 29, 10 am Server: J. Bayles, B. Bertran Lector: Madonna Slife Gifts: Tom, Wemdy Bowman Ushers: R & L Stoerger J. Slife, M McMahan E. Minister A. Dueker V. Anderson, C. Webb Greeter: H & X Gruszczyk</p>	<p>Sun, Feb 5, 10 am Server: R. Slife, A. Webb Lector: Joe Nelson Gifts: Childen Liturgy Ushers C Zmuda, D. Zmuda P. Widowski, S. Widowski E. Minister F. Dueker M. Nelson, K. Felcyn Greeter: Sandy Belske</p>
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St Francis DeSales, Stonefort

<p>Sun, Jan 22: 8:00 am Server: Logan Shaw Lector: Cecilia Parks Gifts: Deaton Family Usher Stan Treat E. Min: Myron Cole</p>	<p>Sun, Jan 29: 8 am Server: Mary Treat Lector: Christine Deaton Gifts: M Moore, L. Herbert Usher: Myron Cole E. Min: Cecilia Parks</p>
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THIS WEEK'S SCHEDULE

- Sun Jan 22 Day of Prayer/Penance for Dignity of Life
 - St Francis DeSales Mass8:00 am
 - St Paul Mass & Children Liturgy.....10 am
 - Parish School of Religion11 am
- Tue Jan 24 Shawnee and Vienna Dept of Correction Mass.9,11am
 February Calendar info deadline
- Wed Jan 25 Parish Patronal Feastday – St Paul
 Weekday Mass.....6:30 pm
- Thr Jan 26 Marion Prison masses.....11:30 am, 1 pm
- Fri Jan 27 Weekday Mass.....12 noon
- Sun Jan 29 St Francis DeSales Mass8:00 am
 St Paul Mass10 am
 Parish School of Religion11 am
 Altar Sodality/CCW collection & meeting...11 am



CONTRIBUTION ENVELOPES STATEMENTS are available for pick in the foyer. Any questions of omission or correction should be directed to the parish office.

DAY OF PRAYER/PENANCE FOR RESPECT OF LIFE January 22 is a designated date for prayer and penance committing ourselves to a respect for the unborn and all life.

2ND QUARTER PARISH FINANCE/BUDGET REPORT is included in today's bulletin. Any questions should be directed to trustees, MatT Slife or Jared Bergmann, or to Fr Tom

SP PARISH COUNCIL OFFICERS Newly elected officers of St Paul Parish Council are Chairman: Steve Pobst; Vice-Chair: Vickie Anderson; Secretary: Arlene Dueker. The list of Parish Council members is posted on the bulletin board with contact information.

SP PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES OF JANUARY 18 MEETING are available on the bulletin board rack.

CONTRACT FOR CLEANING ST PAUL CHURCH & HALL is being offered first to any interested parishioners. If interested see Fr Tom.

ALTAR SODALITY/CCW MEETING will be held in the hall next Sunday, 11 am.

MESSENGER SUBSCRIPTION RENEWAL - Messenger renewal weekend is the first weekend in February (February 4-5, 2017). Please renew your subscription or become new subscribers to the print edition (\$25.00), the E-edition (online \$25.00) or both for \$30.00. Subscription envelopes are in the contribution envelope box.

REMEMBER IN PRAYER RECENTLY DECEASED **Mary Everett**, mother of Peggy Widowski; **Mary Sherman**, mother of Cathy Kruep.

YOU CAN HELP YOUR MARRIAGE – 25% of surveyed couples say they are “Happily Married”. For everyone else there is Retrouvaille. Are you frustrated, hurt or angry with each other? Are you constantly fighting? Or so you simply shut down? Have you thought about separation or divorce? Does talking only make it worse? For information on the Retrouvaille Program, visit the website www.HelpOurMarriage.com or call 1-800-470-2230. The next Program begins the weekend of FEBRUARY 3, 2017

MEN'S WEEKEND RETREAT -The Knights of Columbus of Carterville invite all men 18+ to a retreat held from 1:00 pm Sat., Feb. 18 to after breakfast Sun., Feb. 19. at Camp Ondessonk, St. Noel Center. A \$70 suggested donation includes accommodations, guest speaker, Mass, steak dinner, social activities and breakfast. Join us for fellowship and conversations on how we can grow in our brotherhood. You do not have to be a Knight to attend. RSVP to lizderuntz@gmail.com or 618-924-1290 by February 1.

“COME AFTER ME.” Jesus makes that call today to two pairs of brothers. They become disciples, ones who follow...follow this teacher, follow this proclaimer of Good News, follow this announcer of God's rule, follow this healer. **“No division among you.”** That is Saint Paul's plea to the Church at Corinth...and to us today. And so we have two calls: Come and be united. · Because of my own faith, who can I invite to come to Church with me? · Because of my own belief, who can I invite to RCIA inquiry? · What rivalry can I stop and what division can I break down?

Third Sunday of the Year

Isaiah 8:23--9:3; Psalm 27; 1 Corinthians 1:10-13,17; Matthew 4:12-23

"It is better to light one little candle than to curse the darkness." Light and darkness symbolize tension in human living: presence and absence, hope and despair, love and hate. Today's readings present the human and divine experience of light and darkness. They reveal a God whose first biblical words are "Let there be light" (Genesis 1:3). They challenge us to be producers of light, not architects of darkness.

Isaiah, in the passage from the Hebrew Scriptures, is preaching between 733 and 725 B.C. The prophet predicts that things will get worse before they get better. But there is also a message of hope: Yahweh will provide an ideal Davidic king. Once again there will be joy. The former captives of the neo-Assyrians who walked in darkness will now witness a great light (Isaiah 9:1). Yahweh dispels darkness and gloom.

Psalm 27 is an individual lament. Enemies are afflicting the psalmist. The author's greatest fear is the absence of God. The image of light suffuses the psalm. Yahweh is the psalmist's light who vanquishes fear. The psalmist longs for Yahweh's house where the author will gaze unimpaired on Yahweh's beauty. The psalmist is also confident about seeing God's goodness in the land of the living.

Matthew uses the text of the first reading for his own theological purposes. For example, in the first reading "sea" refers to the Mediterranean: in Matthew 4:13 it refers to the Sea of Galilee. Matthew also uncovers in today's passage the beginning of Jesus' mission to the Gentiles. This is important for Matthew because his own community is made up of both Jews and Gentiles. Matthew uses a prophetic text in which the pagans overcome

darkness by experiencing the light emanating from Jesus' message.

Darkness is a constant companion in our world. The poor, ill, hurting, and depressed lose the capacity to hope for light. Our Christian mission is to echo Genesis, entering this darkness with our personal "Let there be light."

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

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QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION "The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; upon those who dwelt in the land of gloom a light has shone." This famous saying from Isaiah is quoted again by Matthew in our Gospel passage (also in the prologue to John's Gospel and elsewhere). Can you see the darkness in the world today? How can you help bring the "light" into dark areas? Can you think of new ways or places to bring the light?

As soon as Jesus heard that John was arrested he immediately moved into Herod's territory and began an intense program teaching, healing and preaching repentance. What would cause him to make such a dangerous move? Are you able to stand up and get involved for what is right when you see that you will suffer pain or loss when you do? What do you think of Jesus when he acts like this?

NEXT SUNDAY SCRIPTURES: 4th Sunday of Year Zephaniah 2:3;3:12-13; Ps 146; 1Corinthians 1:26-31; Matthew 5:1-12a