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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

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

HELP The readings for this Sunday contain a kind of instruction manual for life. When a person gets to the *LAST STEP*, Step 4, of the instructions, he has completed the process for being united to God, for seeing God.

Here is that last step:

STEP 4: Those who are pure of heart will see God, Jesus says.

But how is one supposed to become pure of heart?

STEP 3: No one can boast that he is pure of heart by his own efforts, Paul says. Human righteousness is God's work in a person.

So what does one do to get God's righteousness in one's heart

STEP 2: Seek God.

And how is one supposed to do this?

STEP 1: Observe God's law. Those who seek the Lord need to observe God's law, the prophet says.

But here the instruction manual for life seems to have become as confusing as the instruction manual for some electronic gadget. Step 1 has to be completed before Step 2. Step 2 has to be completed before Step 3. Step 3 has to be completed before Step 4.— Except it seems that Step 4 has to be completed before Step 1. If one has to observe the law in order even to seek for God, then it seems that only those who have already found God can begin the process of seeking for God.

When the instruction manual looks as hopelessly confusing as this, people tend to throw it down and yell for help. "I can't do this!" they yell. "I need help!"

And *this* is seeking the Lord.

As long as this calling for help goes on, the longed-for seeing of God will follow.

Eleonore Stump

Vol 18 # 5 **Fourth Sunday of the Year, January 29, 2017**
CELEBRATION OF EUCHARIST

Sun	Jan	29	8:00 am	SFD	James M McCabe Fam
			10:00 am	SP	Mary Everett
Tue	Jan	31	9 & 11 am		Shawnee & Vienna DOC
Wed	Feb	1	6:30 pm	SP	General Intention
Fri	Feb	3	12:00 pm	SP	Fr Peter Hsu
Sat	Feb	4	8:30 am	SFD	Reparation for sin
Sun	Feb	5	8:00 am	SFD	Larry Haase Sr
			10:00 am	SP	Mary Sherman

Birthdays	
Jan 29	Tony Kolb Arnold Morse
Feb 2	Susan Ward
Feb 3	Paul Widowski Deborah Retz

St Paul, Vienna

<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: Debby Brown Fam Ushers C Zmuda, D. Zmuda P. Widowski, S. Widowski E. Minister F. Dueker M. Nelson, K. Felcyn Greeter: Sandy Belske</p>	<p>Sun, Feb 12, 10 am Server: B. Bertran, J. Bayles Lector: Joan Galey Gifts: Childen Liturgy Ushers: Mt Mlife, C Brown M McMahan, D. Bishop E. Minister P Shallenberger P Kalicki, B Bishop, Greeter: JoAnn Brown</p>
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St Francis DeSales, Stonefort

<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>	<p>Sun, Feb 5: 8:00 am Server: Christine Deaton Lector: Marietta Moore Gifts: R. Drone, M Cole Usher David Parks E. Min: Mary Treat</p>
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THIS WEEK'S SCHEDULE

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
Tue Jan 31	Shawnee and Vienna Dept of Correction Mass.9,11am
Wed Feb 1	South Vicariate Pastors Mt..Royalton.....12 pm
	Weekday Mass.....6:30 pm
Fri Feb 3	Weekday Mass.....12 noon
Sat Feb 4	First Saturday Mass & Devotion at SF.....8:30 am
	Faith Alive Board Mt.....10 am
Sun Feb 5	St Francis DeSales Mass8:00 am
	St Paul Mass10 am
	Parish School of Religion11 am
	1 st Sunday Social + Liturgy Committee Mt.... .11am



ALTAR SODALITY/CCW MEETING will be held in the hall this Sunday, 11 am. All ladies of the parish are invited. According to custom, a collection for their ministries will be taken up following the mass.

PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS to highlight an individual seminarian next weekend.

MESSENGER SUBSCRIPTION RENEWAL - Messenger renewal weekend is the first weekend in February (February 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.

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

LADIES RETREAT Ladies of St. Paul Parish are you over-due for a relaxing weekend of peace, quiet, great food, and spiritual nourishment? Take some time for a women's retreat on April 7-9 at King's House in Belleville, Illinois. For information, contact Vickie Anderson at 658-1576.

THE "FOUR SIGNS OF A DYNAMIC CATHOLIC" PRESENTATION Saturday, March 4, 2017, featuring Jonathan Fanning, will be held on the 1st Saturday of Lent, March 4th at St. Joseph Church in Marion from 9:00 a.m. to 1:30 P.M. and everyone is invited to attend. Tickets are available at St. Joseph and any of the co-hosting parishes as well as online at dynamiccatholic.com at a cost of \$20/ticket. For questions or registration, contact Cindy Yong at cpmsjm@frontier.com.

RESISTING HAPPINESS, the parish Christmas gift book, will be used as the basis for a discussion group during the season of Lent. You're encouraged to read and be familiar with the various topics in preparation for the discussions.

THANK YOU....

....to Craig Levesque for a special donation to cover costs of additional stained glass windows for the north side of church.

UPCOMING EVENTS Chili and Dessert Cook-off, Sun, Feb 12, 11am at St Paul. (See sign-up sheet on church bulletin board).

WE CANNOT AVOID MERCY! Right in the middle of the nine "Blesseds", these beatitudes at the start of the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus says: Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy.

Mercy! Right in the middle. Yet mercy is preceded and followed by blessed righteousness, that is, by relationships that are right with God, with other people, and with all creation. What I do and what I say, by blessed words and actions, help bring on the Kingdom of Heaven (Saint Matthew's phrase for being in the presence of God). · How will I seek justice by what I do today? · How will I seek humility by what I say this week? · How will I show mercy, be merciful?

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Fourth Sunday of the Year

Zephaniah 2:3;3:12-13; Psalm 146; 1 Corinthians 1:26-31; Matthew 5:1-12

Will my real values please stand up? The communications barrage we face each day is more than willing to define values. Happiness is in the latest fad, the newest beverage, in looking out for number one. Today's readings present another challenge: Can I run the risk of being different? Look deep within to identify a personal value system.

Zephaniah preached in Jerusalem during the seventh century B.C. He addressed an audience reeling from the effects of paganism. Idolatry was rampant, violence and fraud were commonplace. The prophet believed that Yahweh had to punish Judah so that a purified people would turn again to the Lord.

Zephaniah is able to single out one group whose values have not eroded. The "humble of the land" (Zephaniah 2:3) are those who choose to obey Yahweh and practice justice. They are a remnant of loyal people whom God will spare and even defend.

Paul points out that most of his community cannot boast about their pedigree or prestige. God actually chooses those less wise, less influential, less wellborn -- in this way God confounds the rich and powerful. There is only one genuine value, namely life in Christ Jesus.

In Matthew's account of the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus presents the basic plan of God's kingdom. The qualities that make for happiness in God's reign are identified. Matthew lists nine beatitudes: four stressing a passive attitude (vs. 3-6); four emphasizing an active attitude (vs. 7-10); and a final and longer one focusing on persecution (vs. 11-12).

Zephaniah, Paul, and Jesus call for an abrupt move away from the pursuit of self to concentration on the community. They suggest that we examine our values against the background of ego versus others. This trio presses us to pose an unsettling question: Will my real values please stand up?

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

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QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION Was the faithful "remnant" in this reading practicing the Beatitudes from today's Gospel ("Seek justice, seek humility")? These are not easy to acquire, but could there be something innate to human nature that allows us to receive such qualities from God?

This reading begins with "Consider your calling. . . ." How is a "calling" different from a commandment? Are such qualities as "foolish, weak, lowly" commandments or gifts for the heart to be sought and prayed for?

Can the Beatitudes become a way of life for you? If one of them becomes important to you, might the others follow?

NEXT SUNDAY SCRIPTURES: 5th Sunday of Year Isaiah 58:7-10; Ps 112; 1Corinthians 2:1-5; Matthew 5:13-16