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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

**No Worries** - In the [Gospel](#) Reading, Christ tells people not to worry. Don't worry about how to get what you need for food, clothing, or shelter. In fact, don't worry about anything having to do with your body. Actually, don't worry about *anything* having to do with your life.

But why not?

Look at all the bad things that happen to human beings! Children get cancer; people die suddenly of heart attacks; the wage earners of families lose their jobs; homes are destroyed in natural disasters; the pension funds of the elderly are wiped out by fraud or mismanagement. And this is just a small sample. Why shouldn't people worry?

Look at all the bad things that happen to human beings!

These are just the things to worry about that have to do with your body. Think of all the other things that there are to worry about in your life. A wife finds out that her husband is leaving her; a man finds out that his best friend has been sleeping with his wife; a family finds out that their priest has been abusing their son. And so it goes.

So aren't there plenty of bad things to worry about?

When things get bad enough for a person, he can think that God has abandoned him. "The Lord has forsaken me," Zion says. And that really is the worst. That is the extrinsic lower limit on the scale of bad things that can happen to a person.

But it is worth seeing that the incarnate Christ suffered this worst thing, too, together with all the other bad things that he endured in his passion and death. His cry of dereliction from the cross is like the words of suffering Zion: "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" he says in his agony.

What God says to Zion is therefore true: "I will never forget you." God is right to tell Zion that he cares for her with the tenderness of a mother for her infant child. To be Emmanuel—God with us—even in our worst suffering of feeling abandoned by God, Christ endured that suffering himself. Even in this, God is with us.

Nothing about this thought takes away pain. But how could it not take away worry? If God is with us, how could the bad things we suffer not work for our good?

Eleonore Stump

Vol 18 # 9 **Eighth Sunday of the Year, February 26, 2017**

**CELEBRATION OF EUCHARIST**

Sun	Feb	26	8:00 am	SFD	Angela Skaggs
			10:00 am	SP	Mary Sherman
Tue	Feb	28	9 & 11 am	Shawnee & Vienna DOC	
Wed	Mar	1	5:00 pm	SFD	Parishioners
			7:00 pm	SP	Parishioners
Fri	Mar	3	12:00 pm	SP	General Intention
Sat	Mar	4	8:30 am	SFD	Philip Barrett
Sun	Feb	26	8:00 am	SFD	James M McCabe Fam
			10:00 am	SP	Gary Johnson

<b>Birthdays</b>	
Feb 26	Will Ashford
Feb 27	Monica Querrey
Mar 1	Geri Tesina
Mar 3	Marsha Nelson Jeremy Nelson

**St Paul, Vienna**

<p><b>Sun, Feb 26, 10 am</b>  <b>Server:</b> A. Webb, J. Bayles  <b>Lector:</b> Arlene Dueker  <b>Gifts:</b> Ron, Marilyn Beanland  <b>Ushers</b> J Slife, P Kalicki                    G Tesina, S. Hupe  <b>E. Minister</b> S Nelson,                    D. Bishop, C Webb  <b>Greeter:</b> Mike McMahan</p>	<p><b>Sun, Mar 5, 10 am</b>  <b>Server:</b> R Slife, L. Slife  <b>Lector:</b> Steve Widowski  <b>Gifts:</b> Childen Lit of Word  <b>Ushers:</b> J. Nelson, Mt Mlife                    C. Zmuda, D Zmuda Sr  <b>E. Minister</b> M. Nelson                    Dolly Hopkins, Md. Slife  <b>Greeter:</b> Bill &amp; Billie Porter</p>	<p><b>Sun, Mar 12, 10 am</b>  <b>Server:</b> R. Slife, L. Slife  <b>Lector:</b> Rhi Slife  <b>Gifts:</b> Dale, Beverly Bishop  <b>Ushers</b> M McMahan C Brown                    S Widowski, P Widowski  <b>E. Minister</b> V Anderson                    P Kalicki, K Felcyn  <b>Greeter:</b> Beth &amp; Marc Palmer</p>
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**St Francis DeSales, Stonefort**

<p><b>Sun, Feb 26: 8 am</b>  <b>Server:</b> Volunteer  <b>Lector:</b> LaVonne Herbert  <b>Gifts:</b> R. Drone, D. Parks  <b>Usher:</b> Myron Cole  <b>E. Min:</b> Christine Deaton</p>	<p><b>Sun, Mar 5: 8:00 am</b>  <b>Server:</b> Logan Shaw  <b>Lector:</b> Marietta Moore  <b>Gifts:</b> Chris &amp; Shay Deaton  <b>Usher</b> David Parks  <b>E. Min:</b> Myron Cole</p>
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**THIS WEEK'S SCHEDULE**

- Sun Feb 26 Burning of Palm for Ash Wednesday after masses  
 Lay presenters speak on Catholic Service & Ministry Appeal  
     St Francis DeSales Mass .....8:00 am  
     Resisting Happiness Book Discussion SP....8:30 am  
     St Paul Mass & Children Liturgy of Word.....10 am  
     Parish School of Religion .....11 am  
     Lenten Decorations set up in church.....after mass
- Mon Feb 27 #2 Session on Wine Making...SP hall.....7 pm
- Tue Feb 28 Shawnee and Vienna DOC Masses.....9,11am
- Wed Mar 1 Ash Wednesday Mass..SFD 5:00 pm....SP..7:00 pm
- Thr-Sat St Paul volunteers at Faith Alive.Th+Fr 9-3, Sat 9-12
- Fri Mar 3 Weekday Mass.....12 noon
- Sat Mar 4 First Saturday Mass & Devotion at SFD.....8:30 am
- Sun Mar 5 Catholic Service & Ministry Appeal Pledge Sunday  
 Stations of the Cross.....20 minutes before masses  
     St Francis DeSales Mass .....8:00 am  
     Resisting Happiness Book Discussion SP.....8:30 am  
     St Paul Mass & Children Liturgy of Word.....10 am  
     Parish School of Religion .....11 am  
     First Sunday Social + Liturgy Committee Mt..11 am



**CHILDREN LITURGY OF WORD** Youth age 3 through 4<sup>th</sup> grade are invited to participate in the Children Liturgy of Word that offers age appropriate scripture and reflection. Youth are led by an adult beginning after the opening prayer of the mass.

**LENTEN GUIDELINES AND OPPORTUNITIES BULLETIN INSERT** Lent is offered by the Church to reflect on our relationship with God and renew our baptismal commitments. The insert in today's bulletin offers guidelines and resources to assist your Lenten pilgrimage.

**PALM BRANCHES** from last Palm Sunday will be burned following the mass this Sunday to become ashes for signing with the cross on Ash Wednesday. Masses on Ash Wednesday (March 1) are 5 pm at St Francis DeSales and 7 pm at St Paul.

**LENTEN CHURCH DECORATION** St Paul Liturgy Committee will be preparing the church environment for the season of Lent after the Sunday Mass, Feb 26<sup>th</sup>. They invite parishioners to participate.

**WINE MAKING CLASS** Frank Dueker will offer the second phase in wine making at St Paul hall on Monday, Feb 27<sup>th</sup>, 7 pm.

**FAITH ALIVE THRIFT STORE VOLUNTEERS** St Paul parish will operate the Ministerial Alliance Thrift Store Thursday & Friday, 9am- 3pm, and Sat, 9am-Noon. If you can assist with sorting clothes, stocking racks, or check-out, sign-up on the church bulletin board or contact Arlene Dueker (559-1405) or Madonna Slife (967-5164)

**RESISTING HAPPINESS BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP** will be offered at St Paul hall on Sunday mornings 8:30-9:45 am (with coffee and snack) beginning Feb 26<sup>th</sup> and on Wednesdays, 5:00-6:15 (with soup and sandwich) beginning March 22. Discussion Group will meet at St Francis DeSales on Tuesdays 6:30-7:45pm beginning March 7<sup>th</sup>. If you need an extra book, call the office.

**CATHOLIC SERVICE AND MINISTRY APPEAL** Next weekend, every parish in the diocese will be participating in the Catholic Service and Ministry Appeal. This annual collection supports the ministries and agencies in our diocese whose scope of service could not be duplicated by an individual parish. Our parish participation goal is \$2900.00 asking all parishioners to assist as they are able, with no gift being too great or too small. If you do not receive a pledge card in the mail or forget to bring it, please use one of the in-pew envelopes that will be available. Checks should be made payable to St Paul with notation for CS&MA.

**HEALTH FOCUS** Did you know that heart disease is the leading cause of death for men and women in the United States? Nearly 1 in 4 people will succumb to it. Heart disease greatly increases ones' risk of heart attack and/or stroke. Risk factors for heart disease include, obesity, elevated cholesterol, a diet high in processed foods, excessive alcohol intake, diabetes, hypertension, and physical inactivity. The best treatment is prevention. Moderate exercise 30 minutes a day, five days a week greatly reduces the risk of heart disease, as does incorporating a diet which is low in sodium, saturated, and trans-fats. If lifestyle changes are not effective, other treatment options include medications and/or surgical procedures.

## Eighth Sunday of the Year

Isaiah 49:14-15; Psalm 62; 1 Corinthians 4:1-5; Matthew 6:24-34

Security, in human eyes, is like money -- you can't have too much of it. People provide for future contingencies through IRAs, health and life insurance, social security, and so forth. These are reasonable measures because they indicate caring for others. But when all our energy is invested in such ventures, then God is reduced to the chief executive officer of our nest eggs.

Today's readings talk about trust. They demand that we view our God not only as a safety valve for salvation but as a truly concerned parent. The common theme is trust in God.

Frustration and instability characterize the audience to which the first reading is addressed. They are in exile. Deprived of political self-determination they lament, "The LORD has forsaken me, my Lord has forgotten me" (Isaiah 49:14). Instead of a positive reply, the prophet raises a question: Is it believable that a mother would neglect or forget her child? The womb bond between mother and child makes this extremely unlikely. But even should this occur, Mother Yahweh would never forget her child. Psalm 62 meditates on the divine quality of trust. The two introductory verses set a mood of confidence with words like "rock," "salvation," and "fortress." Verses 4-5 speak of false friends and distrust, those who only talk a good game: "They bless with their mouths, but inwardly they curse" (Psalm 62:4). The psalmist concludes that truly God is our refuge.

Matthew, in this passage from the Sermon on the Mount, seeks to free his audience from slavery to physical needs. This freedom comes when we trust in God the provider. If this God is attentive to the needs of birds and flowers, will God not be more attentive to the needs of God's people?

The interest rate, the date of maturity, the list of benefits -- these are concerns that we are asked to subordinate to God our parent. In a world of big business and high-tech, do we really trust our God? Do we truly lean confidently on Yahweh?

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

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**QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION** "The Lord has forsaken me." Did Jesus say this? Did he endure it? Who can relate to such misery today? How do you think God comforts people in 2017?

Do the motives of our hearts relate to being good stewards of the gospel? What motivates your heart?

In *Laudato Si*, Pope Francis says that Jesus asked us to contemplate the lilies of the field and the birds. If every person and creature has something to say to us, what do you learn from the lilies and birds when you really look at them?

**NEXT SUNDAY SCRIPTURES: 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Lent** Genesis 2:7-9;3:1-7; Ps 51; Romans 5:12-19; Matthew 4:1-11