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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

Worthless Woman The [Gospel](#) Reading tells the story of a woman who is worthless by the standards of Jewish society at that time.

Jesus has sent his disciples off for food, and he is sitting at a well when she comes to draw water. There is every reason why he shouldn't talk to her at all.

First, she is a woman. It is only the disciples' awe of Jesus that keeps them from asking him what he thought he was doing when they return and find him talking to her, without even a chaperone by her. Secondly, she is a Samaritan. As she herself points out to him, Jews don't talk to Samaritans. Samaritans are self-made outcasts, from the Jewish point of view; and self-respecting Jews stay away from them.

And, thirdly, this Samaritan has the sort of history that makes women pariahs even in their home communities. Jesus knows her status, and he lets her see that he does. She has had five husbands—*five* husbands!—and she is currently living with a man to whom she is not married. Even by the lax standards of our own day, this sort of history would make people look askance at her. In her village, she is undoubtedly a shamed person.

The evangelization of the whole village is her accomplishment. So, taken it all and all, she's a worthless person, isn't she? What Jew or Samaritan would want to invite her to lunch?

But, you might be thinking, the savior of the world could certainly spare a crumb even for a shamed Samaritan woman. He could preach to her that her sins are forgiven, you might be supposing, or he could offer her some other kind of pastoral help. But he doesn't, does he? No, he asks *her* to help *him*. He opens conversation with her by asking her to give him a drink.

And then look at how the story ends: she brings belief in Jesus to her village, and the villagers come to Jesus because of her.

She isn't worthless then, is she? Indeed she isn't. On the contrary, because of Jesus, she takes her rightful place among the apostles. The evangelization of the whole village is *her* accomplishment.

And so when Jesus asks her to care for him, he starts a process that brings her from being worthless to being the apostle to her village.

The remedy of love for human worthlessness is modeled for us here. Eleonore Stump

Vol 18 # 12 **Third Sunday of Lent, March 19, 2017**

CELEBRATION OF EUCHARIST

Sun	Mar	19	8:00 am	SFD	James M McCabe Fam
			10:00 am	SP	Mary Sherman
Tue	Mar	21	9 & 11 am		Shawnee & Vienna DOC
Wed	Mar	22	6:30 pm	SP	General Intention
Thr	Mar	23	11:30am, 1 pm		Marion Penitentiary
Fri	Mar	24	12:00 pm	SP	Fr Wm Rensing
Sun	Mar	26	8:00 am	SFD	Angela Skaggs
			10:00 am	SP	Helen Kubian

St Paul, Vienna

<p>Sun, Mar 19, 10 am Server: J. Bayles, R. Slife Lector: Sarah Nelson Gifts: Children Lit of Word UshersM Palmer, J Bergmann J.Slife, D Bishop E. Minister P Widowski B. Palmer, P Shallenberger Greeter: S & P Widowski</p>	<p>Sun, Mar 26, 10 am Server: A. Webb, B. Bertran Lector: Keith Felcyn Gifts: Mont, Patsy Bishop Ushers: P Kalicki, S Hupe Mt Slife, G. Tesina E. Minister F. Dueker A. Dueker, L. Stoerger Greeter: Monica Querrey</p>	<p>Sun, Apr 2, 10 am Server: J. Bayles, R. Slife Lector: Arlene Dueker Gifts: Children Liturgy Ushers C. Zmuda, D. Zmuda P Widowski, S Widowski, E. Minister S. Belske D. Bishop, B. Bishop Greeter: Cathy Kruep</p>
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St Francis DeSales, Stonefort

<p>Sun, Mar 19: 8:00 am Server: Logan Shaw Lector: Cecilia Parks Gifts: R.Drone, D. Parks Usher Myron Cole E. Min: Christine Deaton</p>	<p>Sun, Mar 26: 8 am Server: Christine Deaon Lector: LaVonne Herbert Gifts: F Deaton, M. Cole Usher: David Parks E. Min: Cecilia Parks</p>
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THIS WEEK'S SCHEDULE

Sun Mar 19 Stations of the Cross.....20 minutes before masses
 St Francis DeSales Mass8:00 am
 Resisting Happiness Book Discussion..hall.....8:30 am
 St Paul Mass and Children Liturgy of Word.....10 am
 Parish School of Religion11 am
 Vicariate CCW Mt hosted at St Paul.....1 pm
 Mon Mar 20 Community Blood Drive..Fellowship Baptist.12-6 pm
 Tue Mar 21 Shawnee and Vienna DOC Masses.....9,11am
 Resisting Happiness Book Discussion SF.....6:30 pm
 Wed Mar22 Resisting Happiness Discussion at SP.....5-6:15 pm
 Weekday Mass.....6:30 pm
 Thr Mar 23 Masses at Marion Penitentiary.....11:30am, 1 pm
 Fri Mar 24 Weekday Mass.....12 noon
 Sat Mar 25 St Paul Parish Workday.....8:00 am
 Sacrament of Reconciliation at St Paul..... 5-6 pm
 Sun Mar 26 Catholic Relief Services Collection
 Stations of the Cross.....20 minutes before masses
 Sacrament of Reconciliation at SF.....7:15-7:45am
 St Francis DeSales Mass8:00 am
 Resisting Happiness Book Discussion..hall...8:30 am
 St Paul Mass10 am
 Parish School of Religion11 am



SOUTH VICARIATE COUNCIL OF CATHOLIC WOMEN Spring meeting will be hosted at St Paul ladies beginning 1 pm this Sunday. All ladies of the parish are encouraged to participate.

CATHOLIC SERVICE AND MINISTRY APPEAL Thank You to the 24 households that have already pledged \$4435.00 to support the mission of the Church to teach, preach, minister and serve in the name of Jesus through their financial support of the Catholic Service and Ministry Appeal. If you have not responded, please make every effort to do so. Additional Pledge envelopes are available in the church foyer..

STATIONS OF THE CROSS will be prayed beginning 20 minutes before Sunday masses during Lent. Consider an intentional participation; arrive to participate at the beginning.

RICE BOWLS FOR CRS The Rice Bowls on the Lenten table assist efforts to fast and live simply with purpose by making contributions to Catholic Relief Services which uses funds for distribution of food to famine area, refugee camps and nutrition programs for youth. Take a cardboard box for your Lenten reminder.

COMMUNITY BLOOD DRIVE will be held at Fellowship Baptist Church, Senior Dr, Vienna this Monday, noon to 6 pm. Consider a gift that sustains the life of another.

RESISTING HAPPINESS BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP will be offered at St Paul hall on Sunday mornings 8:30-9:45 am (with coffee and snack) 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 7th. Participation can begin at any session.

SP PARISH WORKDAY will be held on Saturday, March 25th beginning 8 am. Projects include mulching trees and flower beds, installing rock on driveway ditch bank, downspout protectors, landscaping dirt over drain tile outlet, install tabernacle shelf, window washing.

24 HOURS FOR THE LORD Begun in 2015 by Pope Francis, *24 Hours for the Lord* is a celebration held in proximity to the Fourth Sunday of Lent. "The Sacrament of Reconciliation must regain its central place in the Christian life. This requires priests capable of putting their lives at the service of the "ministry of reconciliation" (2 Cor 5:18), in such a way that, while no sincerely repentant sinner is prevented from drawing near to the love of the Father who awaits his return, everyone is afforded the opportunity of experiencing the liberating power of forgiveness. This initiative will be supported at St Paul with opportunity for Reconciliation on Saturday 5-6 pm and at St Francis on Sunday, 7:15-7:45 am.

CATHOLIC RELIEF SERVICES COLLECTION Next weekend, our parish will take up the Catholic Relief Services Collection. Funds from this collection help provide food to the hungry, support to displaced refugees, and Christ's love and respect to all people here at home and abroad. Please give generously to the CRSC and help Jesus in disguise. Learn more about the collection at www.usccb.org/catholic-relief

THANK YOU...to all who donated, worked and attended St Paul Fish Fry. Profits will be shared with the Food Pantries at Vienna and DayStar.

Third Sunday of Lent

Exodus 17:3-7; Psalm 95; Romans 5:1-2,5-8; John 4:5-42

We live in a world of progress reports, work evaluations, and periodic reassessments. We hope to get a higher wage or a better position because of our improved output or more efficient management. Today's readings tell of a God whose graciousness does not depend on our work ethic or our desire to succeed. God's desire to promote our cause is based solely on God's love for the sake of loving. For our God, love is its own reward.

The Exodus passage speaks of a place called Massah and Meribah. Yahweh tends to the needs of Yahweh's people in the desert. Nevertheless the people attack the very purpose of the Exodus: "Why did you bring us out of Egypt?" (Exodus 17:3). Israel seems to reject God's plan of salvation, yet the Lord will continue meeting their needs because it is the nature of God to do so.

Paul writes today about the peace that comes from being right with God. Through the ups and downs of life, the Christian knows God in Jesus. Paul insists that Christ freely chose to die for godless humans. The self-giving of Christ seems so incomprehensible; his death is the great proof of God's love.

John writes that the sending of the Son is grounded in God's love for the world (see John 3:16). Jesus brings the living water, God's revelation, to the Samaritans -- who were considered renegade or second-class by the Jews. Jesus talks not only with a Samaritan but with a Samaritan woman, a reversal of acceptable practice in first-century Judaism in Palestine. The woman brings the message of Jesus to her people who then accept Jesus as the Savior of the world. For John this is the fulfillment of Jesus' mission: "God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him" (John 3:17).

Love is to be given unconditionally in the manner of our God whose very essence is to look to the welfare of others. In a pragmatic world the gospel's message is: Love is its own reward.

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

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QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION Think of all the ways water is important to your life. The name of the mountain where Moses struck the rock was Horeb, which means "dry" or "desolate." What is the significance of this and of the water imagery in salvation history?

Paul says, "The Holy Spirit has been given to us." What do these words mean to you? Do you rely on the Holy Spirit to come to your aid when you need help? How often do you call on this Spirit?

"Jews use nothing in common with Samaritans," the Gospel says. And the woman at the well was a Samaritan. How did Jesus handle this barrier, and the gender issue at the well? When was the only other time Jesus mentions his thirst?

NEXT SUNDAY SCRIPTURES: 4th Sunday of Lent 1Samuel 16:1b, 6-7,10-13a; Ps 23; Ephesians 5:8-14; John 9:1-41