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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

**The Blind Man who Wanted for Nothing-** The Psalm says, “The Lord is my Shepherd. There is nothing I shall want.”

But the [Gospel](#) Reading tells the story of a man born blind. How is the Psalm supposed to be made consonant with the Gospel Reading? Doesn't the man born blind have something that he lacks?

The disciples of Jesus are anxious about this blind man too, and they try to allay their anxiety by finding some explanation for his blindness. “Why was this man born blind?” they ask Jesus. “Did this man sin or was it his parents?” If it was *anybody's* sin, then they can reasonably hope that such suffering won't come to their families, at least if they all try hard not to sin.

But this is an appalling way to think about suffering, isn't it? It is terrible to suppose that all suffering is punishment for sin. What kind of God inflicts blindness on a newborn as a punishment for sin?

Jesus dismisses their attitude entirely. This man's blindness has nothing to do with the sins of anyone, Jesus says. It's something about the future, not something about the past, that explains his blindness. God let this man be born blind that the works of God might be manifest through him.

But Jesus' explanation looks at least as bad as the thought of the disciples, doesn't it? What kind of God inflicts blindness on a newborn so that the works of God can be manifest in him later?

But think about that blind man himself.

At the outset of the story, he is an impoverished, outcast nobody of a beggar. Then the mighty works of God are manifest in him, and he takes the Lord as his Shepherd. The result is that he himself becomes glorious. When the story ends, he has become an icon of faith and courage. He has stood up to the worldly power of the leaders of his community and witnessed to the goodness of God in very challenging circumstances. He has become an example to us all.

Who would not want to be like him?

And that is why it was true for him that the Lord was his shepherd, even though he was born blind. In the end, the Lord was his Shepherd, and there was nothing the blind man lacked, just as the Psalmist says.

Eleonore Stump

Vol 18 # 13 **Fourth Sunday of Lent, March 26, 2017**  
**CELEBRATION OF EUCHARIST**

Sun	Mar	26	8:00 am	SFD	Angela Skaggs
			10:00 am	SP	Helen Kubian
Tue	Mar	28	9 & 11 am		Shawnee & Vienna DOC
Wed	Mar	29	6:30 pm	SP	General Intention
Fri	Mar	30	12:00 pm	SP	Fr Wm Rensing
Sat	Apr	1	8:30 am	SFD	Reparation of Sin
Sun	Apr	2	8:00 am	SFD	James M McCabe Fam
			10:00 am	SP	Mary Everett

<b>Birthdays</b> Mar 28 Chris Deaton Lynn McMahan Mar 31 Curtner Bergmann
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**St Paul, Vienna**

<p><b>Sun, Mar 26, 10 am</b>  <b>Server:</b> A. Webb, B. Bertran  <b>Lector:</b> Keith Felcyn  <b>Gifts:</b> Mont, Patsy Bishop  <b>Ushers:</b> P Kalicki, S Hupe                    Mt Slife, G. Tesina  <b>E. Minister</b> F. Dueker                    A. Dueker, L. Stoerger  <b>Greeter:</b> Monica Querrey</p>	<p><b>Sun, Apr 2, 10 am</b>  <b>Server:</b> J. Bayles, R. Slife  <b>Lector:</b> Madonna Slife  <b>Gifts:</b> Children Liturgy  <b>Ushers</b> C. Zmuda, D. Zmuda                    P Widowski, S Widowski,  <b>E. Minister</b> S. Belske                    D. Bishop, B. Bishop  <b>Greeter:</b> Cathy Kruep</p>	<p><b>Sun, Apr 9, 10 am</b>  <b>Server:</b> B. Bertran, A. Webb  <b>Lector:</b>S.Widowski,K Felcyn  <b>Gifts:</b> Tom,Wendy Bowman  <b>Ushers</b>M McMahan, J Nelson                    Mt. Slife, F. Dueker  <b>E. Minister</b> V. Anderson                    Z. Garrett, C. Webb  <b>Greeter:</b> Matt &amp; Rhi Slife</p>
<p><b>St Francis DeSales, Stonefort</b></p>	<p><b>Sun, Mar 26: 8 am</b>  <b>Server:</b> Christine Deaon  <b>Lector:</b> LaVonne Herbert  <b>Gifts:</b> F Deaton, M. Cole  <b>Usher:</b> David Parks  <b>E. Min:</b> Cecilia Parks</p>	<p><b>Sun, April 2: 8:00 am</b>  <b>Server:</b> Cecilia Parks  <b>Lector:</b> Marietta Moore  <b>Gifts:</b> L Herbert, R Drone  <b>Usher</b> Fred Deaton  <b>E. Min:</b> Myron Cole</p>

**THIS WEEK'S SCHEDULE**

- 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 Mass .....8:00 am
  - Resisting Happiness Book Discussion..hall...8:30 am
  - St Paul Mass .....10 am
  - Parish School of Religion .....11 am
  - Liturgy Committee Mt in hall.....11 am
- Tue Mar 28 Shawnee and Vienna DOC Masses.....9,11am
  - Resisting Happiness Book Discussion SF.....6:30 pm
- Wed Mar29 Weekday Mass.....6:30 pm
- Fri Mar 31 Weekday Mass.....12 noon
  - Begin Women's Retreat at King's House.B'ville
  - Fish Fry at St Paul Hall.....5-7 pm
- Sat Apr 1 First Saturday Mass at SF.....8:30 am
  - Faith Alive Board Mt..... 10:00 am
- Sun Apr 2 Stations of the Cross.....20 minutes before masses
  - St Francis DeSales Mass .....8:00 am
  - Resisting Happiness Book Discussion..hall...8:30 am
  - St Paul Mass & Children Liturgy of Word.....10 am
  - Parish School of Religion .....11 am
  - First Sunday of Month Social ...in hall.....11 am



**CATHOLIC RELIEF SERVICES COLLECTION** This weekend, our parish will take up the Catholic Relief Services Collection to respond to Jesus in disguise. This collection helps six Catholic agencies to provide relief and support to struggling communities and to work toward peace and reconciliation among our marginalized brothers and sisters here and around the world. Please prayerfully consider how you can support the collection. Learn more about the collection at [www.usccb.org/catholic-relief](http://www.usccb.org/catholic-relief)

**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.

**FOOD COLLECTION FOR DAYSTAR & KITCHEN TABLE** in Cairo during Lent. Please consider sharing food items to support the Church's ministry to those seeking assistance. Suggested items include pasta/sauce, cereal, peanut butter, jelly, canned meats, mac and cheese, pancake mix/syrup, ramen noodles, canned vegetables, fruit, soups, crackers

**LITURGY COMMITTEE MEETING** The Liturgy Committee will meet in the hall at 11 am this Sunday

**RESISTING HAPPINESS BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP** will be offered at St Paul hall on Sunday mornings 8:30-9:45 am (with coffee and snack). Discussion Group will meet at St Francis DeSales on Tuesdays 6:30-7:45pm beginning March 7<sup>th</sup>. Participation can begin at any session.

**ST PAUL FISH FRY** will be held Friday, March 31, 5-7 pm. A worker schedule is posted on the bulletin board, and request for donation of desserts. Profits go to local cancer victims

**WALK FOR LIFE** to benefit Pregnancy Matters, Sat, Apr 8, 8 am, Grand Court at University Mall in Carbondale. Sponsor forms available in church foyer.

**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 and return at Easter..

**PARISH COUNCIL** A seat is open on St Paul Parish Council. If interested, contact Fr Tom

**HEALTH FOCUS** Seniors need vaccinations, just like young children. The schedule of vaccines for seniors includes Influenza (flu), Shingles (Herpes Zoster), Diphtheria, Tetanus, Pertussis (whooping Cough) and pneumococcal disease (Pneumonia). Check with your health care provider at your next visit and make sure you are up to date!

**VOCATION CORNER** Today's first reading from the Book of Samuel recounts one of the great "calls" in our Church history – the anointing of King David. He was the youngest son of Jesse, tending the sheep during Samuel's visit. But He is the one the Lord wanted anointed. Jesse sent for his son to fulfill God's plan. God has a call for each of us to follow, even the youngest. Encourage everyone to be attentive to their vocation – their call - for it is from the Lord

### **UPCOMING EVENTS**

...Seder Meal and Potluck at St Paul Sunday, April 9, 11:30 am in parish hall

...Chrism Mass and reception of Blessed Oils, Tues, April 11, 11:30 am at Belleville..

## Fourth Sunday of Lent

1 Samuel 16:1,6-7,10-13; Psalm 23; Ephesians 5:8-14; John 9:1-41

Each day we are bombarded with facts about local, national, and international events. The media tell of murders, revolutions, natural disasters. All of this fashions our world view. Today's Scripture also confronts us with reality and provides an opportunity to reassess our priorities and retest our standards. Are the decisions we make really Christian decisions?

David's rise to royalty is described in the first reading. The story of Israel's youthful hero teaches that we should not judge by mere appearances. Samuel, in reviewing the sons of Jesse, must have regarded David as the least likely candidate. Yet the shepherd boy is ultimately chosen, proving again that God's Spirit can also rush on the lowly. David's good looks were not the decisive factor: humans "look on the outward appearance, but the Lord looks on the heart" (vs. 7).

Ephesians uses images of light and darkness to contrast pagan and Christian ways. Believers are light in the Lord, they are to live as children of light. Such an existence produces goodness, justice, and truth.

The same imagery carries into the gospel passage from John. The blind man progresses from darkness to light: He regards Jesus as a man, then a prophet, and finally confesses that he is the son of God. The Pharisees first appear to accept the blind man's healing but then begin to doubt and finally deny Jesus' heavenly origins. They end up refusing to see -- rendering themselves blind.

Christians look beyond appearances. Only eyes of faith will see the helpless, the indigent, and the derelict as brothers and sisters in Jesus. Those who radiate the light of Christ will see the good in wayward members of the family. Faith's vision enables us to evaluate the policies and programs of both church and state: Are they right because they have the endorsement of authority or do they genuinely benefit all God's people? It all depends on your point of view. -- John Craghan, Th.D., S.S.L.

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**QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION** Does the right grace come along with the call? What in this reading tells you that? When you feel you have been summoned to perform some task for God, what do you do? Assume that God will give you what you need to get the job done? Or back down at the thought of obstacles?

Is the Church present in every dark place that you think Christ would be if he were physically present in the world today? In which of those dark places can you find your parish working to bring light?

In the beginning of the Gospel, the blind man was simply a man on the street. By the end of the Gospel he was thrown out of the synagogue for defending Jesus. What changed him into a disciple? Which of these titles fits you: passer-by, believer, confessor, challenger or disciple?

**NEXT SUNDAY SCRIPTURES: 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent** Ezekiel 37:12-14; Ps 130; Romans 8:8-11; John 11:1-45