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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

In the Service of the Lord The problem reported in the [First Reading](#) has to do with food for widows. The Greeks thought that their widows were being neglected and that the widows among the Jews were getting the best of things, and so the Greeks complained to the Apostles. The Apostles said, sensibly enough, that they couldn't be expected to handle food distribution. Their job was to evangelize and spread the Gospel. And so they picked some people to do the small job of supervising food handouts for them. Stephen was one of those picked.

Who would have wanted to be in that group with Stephen? The people in Stephen's group were chosen to do a job that was not nearly as important as the work the Apostles were doing. That's why the Apostles wanted somebody else to do it. By comparison with important things, like spreading the Gospel, or anything else great and admirable, watching over food distribution is a very small job.

In his witness and his martyrdom, he was not small. He was glorious. But Stephen didn't complain that the job was beneath his talents and abilities. He didn't insist on being given a role in the great work of the Apostles. He just took the small job he had been offered, and he served the Lord whole-heartedly in it.

Later in the book of Acts ([Acts 7](#)), we learn what came of Stephen's humility. His whole-hearted service of the Lord in food distribution attracted the attention, and the hatred, of those outside the growing Church; and they went after him. In the worst of circumstances, with his life at stake, he gave a powerful witness to the Lord he loved, and the surrounding crowd stoned him to death.

In his witness and his martyrdom, he was not small. He was glorious. His life and work for the Lord became part of Scripture itself, and for over two thousand years all Christians have honored and admired him.

And so his whole-hearted service of the Lord in the little job of food distribution, the job that was not worthy of being compared with the job of the Apostles, made Stephen a participant in the great work the Apostles did. In the witness of his death he became a partner in the gospel-spreading of the Apostles and more than worthy of being in their company.

Eleonore Stump

Vol 18 # 20 **Fifth Sunday of Easter, May 14, 2017**

CELEBRATION OF EUCHARIST

Sun	May	14	8:00 am	SFD	James M McCabe Fam
			10:00 am	SP	Eleanor Felcyn
Tue	May	16	9, 11 am	DOC	Masses Shawnee, Vienna
Wed	May	17	6:30 pm	SP	General Intention
Thr	May	18	11:30am, 1 pm	Marion	Penitentiary Masses
Fri	May	19	12:00 pm	SP	General Intentions
Sun	May	21	8:00 am	SFD	Angela Skaggs
			10:00 am	SP	Mary Sherman

Birthdays:
 May 14 Cody Taylor
 May 17 Rose Lewis
 May 20 Collin Brown

St Paul, Vienna

<p>Sun, May 14, 10 am Server: R.Sliffe, B Bertran Lector: Sarah Nelson Gifts: S. Belske, L Coleman Ushers:M Palmer, J. Slife J Bergmann, D. Bishop E. Minister K Felcyn P. Kalicki, S. Moore Greeter: JoAnn Brown</p>	<p>Sun, May 21, 10 am Server: J Bayles, A Webb Lector: Arlene Dueker Gifts: R Brown, J Galey Ushers:S.Hupe, C Brown G. Tesina, K. Felcyn E. Minister V Anderson B. Bishop, S. Belske Greeter:H & X Gruszczuk</p>	<p>Sun, May 28, 10 am Server: R. Sliffe, B. Bertran Lector: Steve Widowski Gifts: J Brown, L Coleman Ushers:D. Zmuda, C Zmuda, P Widowski, R. Stoerger E. Minister L Stoerger D. Hopkins, F. Dueker Greeter: Geri Tesina</p>
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St Francis DeSales, Stonefort

<p>Sun, May 14: 8:00 am Server: Christine Deaton Lector: LaVonne Herbert Gifts: Parks Family Usher Fred Deaton E. Min: Myron Cole</p>	<p>Sun, May 21: 8 am Server: Cecilia Parks Lector: Christine Deaton Gifts: Morse Family Usher: Myron Cole E. Min: Mary Treat</p>
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THIS WEEK'S SCHEDULE

- Sun May 14 Mothers' Day Recognition
 - St Francis DeSales Mass8:00 am
 - St Paul Mass & May Crowning.....10 am
- Mon May15 Blood Drive at Fellowship Baptist Church.12-6:00 pm
- Tue May 16 Masses at Shawnee, Vienna DOC.....9 am, 11 am
- Wed May17 Vienna Area Ministerial Alliance Mt.....12 pm
 - Weekday Mass.....6:30 pm
 - St Paul Parish Council Meeting..hall.....7:05 pm
- Thr May 18 Masses at Marion Penitentiary.....11:30 am,1 pm
- Fri May 19 Weekday Mass.....12 pm
- Sun May 21 Women's Gifts Recognition
 - St Francis DeSales Mass8:00 am
 - St Paul Mass & May Crowning.....10 am
 - SP Altar Sodality/CCW collection & meeting..11 am



MAY CROWNING Along with recognition of our mothers, Mary, Mother of the Church, will be honored with the May Crowning preceding this Sunday's mass at St Paul.

MOTHERS DAY We express gratefulness to all mothers and this weekend express thanks to all of you. A token of appreciation will be presented to mothers following the mass.

HOPE UNLIMITED BABY BOTTLE COLLECTION supports pregnancy testing, support and empowerment of parents and families in our local area. The Baby Bottle fundraiser kicks off Mothers' Day (May 14) and concludes Fathers' Day (June 18). There is a challenge to put \$30 in each Bottle (coin, bills, check). Bottles are available in foyer.

TIME AND TALENT SURVEY Parishioners are asked to review their giftedness and indicate ways they are open to serving the parish community and beyond on the annual Time and Talent Survey. If you were unable to submit a survey last weekend, please participate this weekend. Forms are by worship book stand.

ST PAUL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING for May will be on this Wednesday, 7:05 pm following the mass. Agenda and minutes are available to be picked up this weekend.

COUNCIL OF CATHOLIC WOMEN RECOGNITION Next Sunday the church thanks Catholic Women for their contribution to church and community by recognizing their giftedness. With the organization of the Council of Catholic Women, there is an invitation to not only act individually, but to find support and opportunity of development in spirituality, leadership, and service with other women. Women of the parish will host many of the liturgical ministries at the Sunday mass and welcome all ladies of the parish to attend the Council of Catholic Women meeting in the hall following the mass.

SEMINARIAN EDUCATION COLLECTION Next weekend our parish will participate in the Seminarian Education Collection. Our diocese is currently blessed with **seven seminarians** and we are asking for your help in meeting the needs of their formation. The cost for tuition, books, room and board and other expenses is **\$46,700 per year for each seminarian**. Please join these young men on their journey to the priesthood. Your contribution to the Seminarian Education Collection is truly an investment in our faith and the life of the Church here in southern Illinois. Thank you for your prayerful consideration.

NEGLECTING NO ONE. Musicians tell this joke and this truth: How do you get to Carnegie Hall? Practice, practice, practice. For Christians: How do we get to heaven? And how do we know the Father? By these practices: remaining a chosen one, relishing baptismal grace, living the Gospel, staying close to Jesus. We do this in many ways. Today's first reading from Acts gives us one: neglect no one – care for the widow – attend to the poor. · At the end of Mass, the celebrant tells us: Go and announce the Gospel of the Lord. Where will I go to do this?

Fifth Sunday of Sunday Easter

Acts 6:1-7; Psalm 33; 1 Peter 2:4-9; John 14:1-12

Promises are meaningless unless the assurances are followed by deeds. We've all known people who talk a good game but never produce results. We ourselves must admit to times of making commitments, only to default when payment was due. Today's readings challenge our commitment to Christ. Christianity is a way of life in which actions speak louder than words.

Luke, in the passage from Acts, offers an example of how the painful reality of discrimination can become the occasion for community growth. The discrimination resulted from the unfair distribution of food between the Hellenist widows and the Hebrew widows. The two groups were separated not only by language but also by cultural and religious differences. The apostles, with community approval, chose seven assistants to solve the problem.

The second reading opens with an invitation to come to the Lord, a living stone. The Christians are called "living stones." The community is a temple and, as such, is required to lead a life of service. The result of their holiness must not be their departure to a sacred place but their involvement in action. Verse 9 describes the royal and priestly status of Christians: "a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people"

Maturity in faith is much more demanding than simply mouthing the words of our baptismal promises. To reject Satan, to believe in the forgiveness of sins and life everlasting -- these vows demand action. The gospel passage from John provides the course we are to follow: "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me" (John 14:6).

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

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QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION What was the Hellenists' complaint against the Hebrews? Did the twelve decide to neglect prayer and ministry of the word in order to help them? What do you do when you see neglected people? How did the good works of this community build faith?

St. Peter says that you are "a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people of his own." Do you therefore "announce the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light"? Do you do this regularly? Sometimes? With words? With works?

The disciples didn't know where Jesus was going and certainly did not want him to leave. Can you relate to this desire to be with the people you love? How is human love a reflection of divine love or a participation in it?

NEXT SUNDAY SCRIPTURES: 6th Sunday of Easter Acts 8:5-8, 14-17; Ps 66; 1Peter 3:15-18; John 14:15-21

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