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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

Sat – 5:30 pm Sun - 10:00 a.m.

Weekdays – Wed 6:30 pm & Fri 12 pm

Parish Council Chair: Steve Pobst

Trustees: Matthew Slife, Jared Bergmann

KEEP MY COMMANDMENTS The [Second Reading](#) commands Christians to keep their conscience clear. But this commandment is hard to hear, isn't it? If we are honest with ourselves, we know how unclear our consciences are.

Of course, we might think, confusedly, we do not need to be too worried about our unclear consciences, because, after all, no one is saved by doing good works or keeping one's conscience clear. Our contribution to our salvation is not to try to do the works of the law. Our contribution to our salvation is just to love the Lord.

And this thought might be comforting to us when our unclear conscience hurts us, except for this uncomfortable, nagging question: what is love of the Lord?

In the [Gospel](#) Reading, the Lord himself explains the answer to this question: "Whoever has my commandments and observes them is the one who loves me."

And now, unfortunately, we have come full circle. Christians are commanded to keep their consciences clear. To do so, they need to love the Lord. To love the Lord they need to keep his commandments. And to keep his commandments they apparently need to keep their consciences clear. What sense can be made of this?

The first and great commandment is to love the Lord. Here it helps to consider Peter himself, who is the author of the [Second Reading](#). Peter had betrayed the Lord in the Lord's great hour of need. Is this keeping one's conscience clear? Is this keeping the commandments of the Lord?

But, in the days after his Resurrection, when the Lord asks Peter, "Do you love me," what does Peter answer? He says, "Yes, Lord, you know I love you."

In spite of his betrayal of the Lord, Peter does not let go of Christ. He is willing to affirm his commitment to Christ in spite of his own failings.

So here is the thing to notice. In saying that he loves Christ, Peter *is* keeping the commandment of the Lord. The first and great commandment is to love the Lord.

And this is why Peter, the rock on which the church is founded, is the pattern for all Christians. The way to keep one's conscience clear is to cleave to the Lord in love, when one's conscience is not clear.

Eleonore Stump

Vol 18 # 21 **Sixth Sunday of Easter, May 21, 2017**

CELEBRATION OF EUCHARIST

Sun	May	21	8:00 am	SFD	Angela Skaggs
			10:00 am	SP	Mary Sherman
Tue	May	23	9, 11 am	DOC	Masses Shawnee, Vienna
Wed	May	24	6:30 pm	SP	General Intention
Fri	May	26	12:00 pm	SP	General Intentions
Sat	May	27	5:30 pm	SP	For the Parishioners
Sun	May	28	8:00 am	SFD	James M McCabe Fa
			10:00 am	SP	Shawn Saltzman

Birthdays: May 22 Gabe Starrick May 25 Cameron Hustedde May 26 Jenny Bergmann May 27 Mike Ross

St Paul, Vienna

<p>Sun, May 21, 10 am Server: J Bayles, A Webb Lector: Arlene Dueker Gifts: R Brown, J Gale 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. Slife, B. Bertran Lector: Steve Widowski Gifts: J Brown, Teresa Carr Ushers:D. Zmuda, C Zmuda, P Widowski, R. Stoerger E. Minister L Stoerger D. Hopkins, F. Dueker Greeter: Geri Tesina</p>	<p>Sun, June 4, 10 am Server: B Bertran, A Webb Lector: Keith Felcy Gifts: J. Cecchi, K. Felcyn Ushers:P Kalicki, J Nelson M Palmer, S Widowski E. Minister S Nelson D. Bishop, P Widowski Greeter: Bill & Billie Porter</p>
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St Francis DeSales, Stonefort

<p>Sun, May 21: 8 am Server: Cecilia Parks Lector: Christine Deaton Gifts: Morse Family Usher: Myron Cole E. Min: Mary Treat</p>	<p>Sun, May 28: 8:00 am Server: Logan Shaw Lector: Marietta Moore Gifts: L Herbert, R Drone Usher Arnold Morse E. Min: Brenda Morse</p>
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THIS WEEK'S SCHEDULE

- Sun May 21 Seminarian Education Collection
 - Women's Gifts Recognition
 - St Francis DeSales Mass8:00 am
 - St Paul Mass ..& Blood Pressure cks.....10:00 am
 - Altar Sodality/CCW collection and meeting 11:00am
- Tue May 23 Masses at Shawnee, Vienna DOC.....9 am, 11 am
 - June calendar info deadline
- Wed May 24 Weekday Mass.....6:30 pm
- Fri May 26 Weekday Mass.....12 pm
- Sat May 27 St Paul Mass.....5:30 pm
- Sun May 28 Catholic Communications Collection
 - St Francis DeSales Mass8:00 am
 - St Paul Mass.....10:00 am
 - Catholic Relief Services highlight



SEMINARIAN EDUCATION COLLECTION This 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. The insert in today's bulletin invites your spiritual support as well as the material support.

COUNCIL OF CATHOLIC WOMEN RECOGNITION Today the church thanks Catholic Women for their contribution to church and community by recognizing their giftedness. 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.

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 MINUTES for May are available on bulletin rack.

SATURDAY MASS The summer Saturday mass schedule at St Paul begins Sat, May 27.

CONGRATULATIONS TO GRADUATES We offer recognition to Logan Shaw (son of Natalie Hooven) of St Francis DeSales who graduated from High School. Also to Dominick Tedeschi (son of Cindy Webb) who graduated from college.

INTO MY VINEYARD formation for Lay Ecclesial (Church) Ministers in the Belleville Diocese will begin in September 2017. **NOW is a time of inquiry for both *interested parishioners* and *individuals identified by Parish and Partnership leaders*.**

The shortage of priests means that each parish must raise up men and women who will assist their Pastors in parish ministry -- as servant/leaders. Your parish needs YOU to step forward! For more information, contact your Pastor and go to the *INTO MY VINEYARD* info / application page at the diocesan website: <http://www.diobelle.org/offices/into-my-vineyard>. Check the bulletin board for a FAQ sheet with more details.

UPCOMING Camp Ondessonk Annual Homecoming and Open House Sat, Jun 3, 11-4 pm offering short experience of camp life. Free. For info or registration. Call 695-2489
St Francis DeSales Noon Mass & Picnic, June 11 at Fred & Christine Deaton Home...

Fifth Sunday of Sunday Easter

Acts 8:5-8,14-17; Psalm 66; 1 Peter 3:15-18; John 14:15-21

Christianity is more than Sunday Mass and an envelope for the collection basket. The follower of Jesus is present to the world in many ways other than just on Sunday morning. Today's readings broaden our vision about Christian presence.

In Acts, Luke speaks of Christianity's spread from the confines of Jerusalem to Judea and Samaria. The Samaritans accepted the first five books of the Hebrew Scriptures and believed in a messiah, but they were nonetheless regarded as non-Jews. Luke has Philip proclaim the Messiah and perform miracles for these outsiders. Since missionary expansion must be rooted in the mother church of Jerusalem, Peter and John incorporate the Samaritans into that community by conferring the Holy Spirit. For Luke, such missionary activity is a dramatic example of Christian presence.

The author of First Peter takes up the issue of persecution. Christians may at times have to suffer for the presence they seek to establish. If suffering is the price, then the persecutors will be ashamed because the good deeds of Jesus' followers are so clear. Gentleness and respect, not brute force, are the Christian response. Jesus is the ultimate example of the just suffering for the unjust; his death means for us a new relationship with God.

John brings up the logical question: What is our relationship with Jesus once he has returned to the Father? The answer is equally logical: Keeping Jesus' commands binds the believer to him. The Spirit also sustains Christ's presence; the Paraclete is not only with but also within the disciple. The believer must release the Spirit so that consolation, teaching, and witnessing will occur.

All of us are missionaries. Each day we meet those who need to hear good news about themselves and their basic human dignity. When we bring consolation, teaching, and direction then we are releasers of the Spirit. The exercise of our God-given gifts and talents creates an infinite variety of Christian presence around the world.

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

/ Liguori, MO 63057-9999

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION The Samaritans saw many signs and were filled with "great joy." What are the signs of the presence of God in your life? Do any signs fill you with joy? Could you think of these signs as "everyday miracles"?

How do you indicate by your life that the Spirit inspires you? How do you "sanctify Christ as Lord" in all of life's arena: home, government, Church, world, and all creation?

"Whoever loves me will be loved by my Father, and I will love him and reveal myself to him." If studying or reading or discussing are your only approaches to God, what else is needed, according to this reading? How does love impact knowledge and understanding in any friendship?

NEXT SUNDAY SCRIPTURES: Ascension of the Lord Acts 1:1-11; Ps 47; Ephesians 1:17-23; Matthew 28:16-20