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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

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

Speaking in Parables In the [Gospel Reading](#), Christ explains why he speaks in parables to the crowds. The knowledge of these things has been granted to you, Christ tells his disciples, but it hasn't been granted to them.

But if God can give the gift of knowledge, why wouldn't he give it to everyone? Why would a loving God hide knowledge from some people?

To see the answer, think about gifts. If you give a gift to someone you love, then what you give is intended to do that person good. It isn't a gift if what you are giving will harm him or hurt him, and you know that it will.

The people who want more understanding are the people who count as his disciples. But knowledge can hurt rather than help if the recipient isn't ready to receive it. Good counselors are skilled in knowing the times when their clients are able to bear some knowledge, some insight into their situation and themselves. Till their clients are ready, good counselors hesitate to impart such insight for fear of making their clients worse, rather than better with it. To force knowledge on a person not ready to see it is stupid or cruel or both. It isn't loving.

And that is why Christ speaks in parables. Among those who come to him, there are some people who want to hear him but are not willing to be counted among his disciples, at least not yet. Christ's parables give those people what they can receive, given that they are not yet ready to receive him. They can learn something from the parables even so.

But to those who come to Christ ready to receive him and willing to be counted as his disciples, he can give the gift of knowledge straightforwardly. In receiving him, those people are also ready to receive the knowledge Christ can give.

And here it is worth noticing that Christ speaks in parables to everybody who comes to him. But some people care enough about him and his words to want more than they can get from those parables alone. They take him as their teacher and want to learn from him. That is why they come to him to ask him to explain the parables he was telling them as well as all the others. The people who want more understanding are the people who count as his disciples.

As Christ says, to them who have more, because they want more, more will be given.

Eleonore Stump

Vol 18 # 29 **15th Sunday of the Year, July 16, 2017**

CELEBRATION OF EUCHARIST

Sun	July	16	8:00 am	SFD	Mary Skaggs
			10:00 am	SP	For the Parishioners
Tue	July	18	9, 11 am		DOC Masses
Wed	July	19	6:30 pm	SP	General Intention
Thr	July	20	1:00 pm		Marion Penitentiary
Fri	July	21	12:00 pm	SP	Rev James Jeffrey
Sat	July	22	5:30 pm	SP	General Intention
Sun	July	23	8:00 am	SFD	Zoeth Skaggs
			10:00 am	SP	For the Parishioners

Birthdays:

- Jul 19 Brianna Bertran
- Jul 22 Cindy Webb
- Jul 23 Hilary Nelson
- Jul 23 Harper Widowski

St Paul, Vienna

<p>Sun, July 16, 10 am Server: B. Bertran, A Webb Lector: Steve Widowski Gifts: Steve, Kathy Hupe Ushers: S. Hupe, J Nelson G Tesina, K. Felcyn E. Minister L Stoerger P Widowski, S Nelson Greeter: Marc, Beth Palmer</p>	<p>Sun, Jul 23, 10 am Server: B Bertran, R. Slife Lector: Arlene Dueker Gifts: C. Johnson, C Kruep Ushers: D Zmuda , C Zmuda P. Widowski, Mt Slife E. Minister M Nelson A.Dueker, Z. Garrett Greeter: Vickie Anderson</p>	<p>Sun, Jul 30, 10 am Server: A. Webb. J. Bayles Lector: Keith Felcyn Gifts: P Kalicki, P Kinkead Ushers: D Bishop, C Brown R. Stoerger, M McMahan E. Minister C Webb B Palmer, B Bishop Greeter: S & P Widowski</p>
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St Francis DeSales, Stonefort

<p>Sun, July 16: 8 am Server: Brenda Morse Lector: Myron Cole Gifts: Parks Family Usher: Arnold Morse E. Min: Mary Treat</p>	<p>Sun, July 23: 8:00 am Server: Christine Deaton Lector: Mary Treat Gifts: M Moore, L Herbert Usher David Parks E. Min: Brenda Morse</p>
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THIS WEEK'S SCHEDULE

Sat	Jul	15	St Paul Mass.....	5:30 pm
Sun	Jul	16	St Francis DeSales Mass	8:00 am
			St Paul Mass.....	10:00 am
			Altar Sodality/CCW Meeting in hall.....	11:00 am
Mon	Jul	17	Blood Drive at Fellowship Baptist Hall..	12 – 6:00 pm
Tue	Jul	18	DOC Masses at Shawnee, Vienna.....	9 am, 11 am
Wed	Jul	19	Weekday Mass... ..	6:30 pm
			SP Parish Council Mt...hall.....	7:05 pm
Thr	Jul	20	Marion Penitentiary Mass.....	1:00 pm
			Eucharistic Adoration at SP.....	4-7:30 pm
Fri	Jul	21	Weekday Mass.....	12 pm
			SP Finance Council mt.....	5:30 pm
Sat	Jul	22	St Paul Mass.....	5:30 pm
Sun	Jul	23	St Francis DeSales Mass	8:00 am
			St Paul Mass.....	10:00 am



ALL LADIES OF PARISH! The Altar Sodality/CCW will meet Sunday following the 10 am mass in the Parish Hall. An offering will be taken up at the end of mass to support their ministry.

SP PARISH COUNCIL will meet this Wednesday, 7:05 pm in the hall. Members are asked to pick up the agenda this weekend.

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION The July Eucharistic Adoration is this week, Thursday, July 20th, 4-7:30 pm. Please consider indicating on the bulletin board schedule if you can participate for a 30 minute period.

SP FINANCE COUNCIL'S meeting will be on Friday, July 21, 5:30 pm.

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. An interview with Bishop Braxton in the June 29th Messenger also provides information and goals.

NEW CD! Mary: the Indispensable Mother of God. Tim Staples explains the incredible impact that the Church's understanding of Mary has on our spiritual lives, and the profound way that Marian doctrines and dogmas safeguard what we believe about her Son. Using penetrating insights and humor, Tim shows how correct knowledge of our humble Mother reveals our own identity in Christ, and empowers us to say "Yes" to God!

VOCATION CORNER "I learned from working in summer catechetical programs that I loved sharing the faith and that community prayer was a great source of strength. As I taught children about being open to the different vocations and God's plan for their life, I began to take this advice to heart. I soon visited a Convent and fell in love with the charism: bringing Christ to the young and the young to Christ. Through the generosity of fellow parishioners I was able to pay off my student loans before entering the convent. This is truly a blessing and their prayerful support gives me the courage to keep saying 'YES'." *Sister April Hoffman, Novice, Salesian Sisters, Newton, N.J. Columbia, "Keep the Faith Alive", October 2015, pg. 50*

MESSENGER NEWSPAPER Like many newspapers today, our diocesan newspaper, the Messenger, is struggling to meet its ever-increasing production and postage costs and is asking for your help. If you don't presently subscribe to the newspaper, please consider being a *Friend of the Messenger* by taking a subscription. If you already subscribe, why not provide a family member or friend with a gift subscription. A full year's subscription- 26 issues- is only \$25, delivered to your mailbox; or the print and online edition are available for \$30.

THANK YOU Family members and myself express a sincere appreciation for the prayers, presence, and support during the visitation mass and burial of Leola Barrett Fr Tom.

15th Sunday of the Year

Isaiah 55:10-11; Psalm 65; Romans 8:18-23; Matthew 13:1-23

We may prefer to speak of our God as omnipotent. We may focus on titles such as Creator and Redeemer. But have we ever considered ourselves as the daughters and sons of God the Farmer? Today's readings speak of the divine farmer. This image challenges us to exhibit the qualities of fidelity, involvement, and perseverance. This God is concerned and interested.

Concluding his message of consolation to the despairing exiles, Second Isaiah takes up the theme of God's Word again. To demonstrate the fidelity of God, the author describes God as a farmer, the giver of fertility. God sends the rain and the snow from the heavens. Thereafter they reach back to the heavens in the form of bushes, trees, and crops. This God is faithful even in the face of Israel's infidelity.

Psalm 65 presents three images of the God of Israel. God is the God of Zion, the one who resides in the Jerusalem Temple. God is the Lord of the universe and history. Finally God is the Farmer. The valleys decked with grain eloquently testify to the concern of this farmer for the day to day needs of the people.

The parable in today's gospel suggests a period in the ministry of Jesus when he meets with lack of response. The impasse raises the question of loss and gain in the kingdom. Jesus adopts the stance of the farmer: In sowing there will be failure and loss. Jesus offers three stages of loss: immediate (the footpath), the gradual (the rocky ground), and ultimate (the thorns). He offers three stages of growth: a hundred-, sixty-, or thirty-fold. Jesus perseveres in accomplishing his mission.

God is faithful, challenging our fidelity. God does not hesitate to become involved, motivating our willingness to invest. God perseveres even in the face of significant loss. Do we persevere in faith by not dwelling on our mistakes?

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

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QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION

Rain makes the seed germinate and grow. Apply this to God's grace. Now apply it to God's grace in your life. Discuss.

Can you help redeem the world? Suffering is not necessarily a good thing, but what can make it good? Do you readily offer your suffering? How do you handle the pain you can't avoid?

Jesus mentions "cares of the world and lure of wealth" as rocky ground and thorns that keep the seed from taking root. What is your "rocky ground"? Are you a busy pathway where the Word is sown but then is trampled? And can the thorns of worldly anxiety choke the Word when it comes to you?

NEXT SUNDAY SCRIPTURES: 16th SUNDAY OF YEAR Wisdom 12:13,16-19; Ps 86; Romans 8:26-27; Matthew 13:24-43