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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

God's Gifts Solomon was distinguished from all other kings in the Old Testament by God's gifts to him. The first gift was that God appeared to Solomon and told him to ask for a gift. Not many kings in Israel were honored by God in this way!

Solomon responded to God so beautifully! He asked for a gift all right, but not a worldly gift. He did not ask God for riches or long life. Instead, he asked God for wisdom to govern God's people well.

And so Solomon received God's first gift, which was the opportunity to ask God for something, in such a way that his asking made him worthy of the next gift.

Because Solomon pleased God by what he asked of God, he gave Solomon the wisdom asked for. And with that wisdom God gave him even more gifts, the gifts Solomon had not asked for, worthy of kings. In the text that continues the [First Reading](#), God promised Solomon the very worldly things Solomon hadn't asked for—namely, riches and long life—in addition to the wisdom he wanted.

There is an inestimable spiritual richness in these gifts, more than Solomon knew to ask for. So Solomon was very great among the kings of the ancient Israel.

And yet what Christ gives to each one of his own people is greater than the gifts God gave Solomon. To each person who opens to Christ, Christ gives the indwelling Holy Spirit.

And with the Holy Spirit, he gives the seven gifts of the Spirit, too. The wisdom Solomon asked for is only the first of these. There are six more: understanding, counsel, knowledge, piety, fortitude, and fear of the Lord. There is an inestimable spiritual richness in these gifts, more than Solomon knew to ask for.

Furthermore, anyone who has these gifts has not just *long* life, like Solomon, but *everlasting* life, with the Lord. And even among the sorrows of this life, the consolations of the indwelling Spirit are present too in the love, joy, and peace that are among the fruits of the Spirit that God gives in addition to the gifts.

And so Christ offers now to each one who will accept it from him something greater than the greatness of Solomon, not just wisdom but all the gifts and fruits of the Holy Spirit, and with them unending life in the kingdom of heaven.

As Christ says in the [Gospel](#) reading, this is treasure indeed.

Eleonore Stump

Vol 18 # 31 **17th Sunday of the Year, July 30, 2017**

CELEBRATION OF EUCHARIST

Sun	July	30	8:00 am	SFD	Vito Lopardo
			10:00 am	SP	Emma Kinkead
Tue	Aug	1	9, 11 am	DOC Masses	
Wed	Aug	2	6:30 pm	SP	General Intention
Fri	Aug	4	12:00 pm	SP	Leola Barrett
Sat	Aug	5	8:30 am	SFD	Reparation of Sin
			5:30 pm	SP	For the Parishioners
Sun	Aug	6	8:00 am	SFD	Paul Skaggs
			10:00 am	SP	Jeanette Smolinski

St Paul, Vienna

Birthdays:
 Jul 31 David Zmuda Sr
 Aug 3 Melanie Knupp
 Talon Bishop

<p>Sun, Jul 30, 10 am Server: A. Webb, J. Bayles Lector: Joan Galey 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>	<p>Sun, Aug 6, 10 am Server: B. Bertran, A Webb Lector: Sabra Moore Gifts: M McMahan, S Moore Ushers: P Kalicki, J Nelson M Palmer, S Widowski E. Minister V Anderson P Shallenberger, D Bishop Greeter: Geri Tesina</p>	<p>Sun, Aug 13, 10 am Server: J. Bayles, R Slife Lector: Joan Galey Gifts: Mitch, Leslie Miller Ushers: M Slife, J Bergmann S Hupe, D Bishop E. Minister K Felcyn D Hopkins, F Dueker Greeter: Monica Querrey</p>
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St Francis DeSales, Stonefort

<p>Sun, July 30: 8 am Server: Brenda Morse Lector: LaVonne Herbert Gifts: Deaton Family Usher: Stan Treat E. Min: Myron Cole</p>	<p>Sun, Aug 6: 8:00 am Server: Cecilia Parks Lector: Marietta Moore Gifts: R Drone, D Parks Usher: Fred Deaton E. Min: Mary Treat</p>
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THIS WEEK'S SCHEDULE

Sat	Jul 29	St Paul Mass.....	5:30 pm
Sun	Jul 30	St Francis DeSales Mass	8:00 am
		St Paul Mass.....	10:00 am
		SP Blood Pressure Cks before, after mass	
Tue	Aug 1	DOC Masses at Shawnee, Vienna.	9 am, 11 am
Wed	Aug 2	Weekday Mass... ..	6:30 pm
Fri	Aug 4	Weekday Mass.....	12 pm
Sat	Aug 5	SF First Saturday mass, devotions.....	8:30 am
		Faith Alive Board Mt.....	10:00 am
		St Paul Mass.....	5:30 pm
Sun	Aug 6	St Francis DeSales Mass	8:00 am
		St Paul Mass.....	10:00 am
		First Sunday Social, Liturgy Committee Mt	11:00 am



BLOOD PRESSURE CHECKS will be offered before and after the Sunday mass this weekend. Check with Peggy Widowski.

SP FOURTH QTR FINANCE-BUDGET REPORT was included in last week's bulletin. If you missed a copy, check the bulletin rack or request copy from office.

INTO MY VINEYARD Your Pastor (and your future Pastors) will need the help of well-trained LAY men and women to serve alongside the priest in your Parish and Partnership. *INTO MY VINEYARD* is a two-year, once-a-month program for "Lay Ecclesial (Church) Ministers" in the Diocese of Belleville. It begins in September 2017. The Lord needs you to help nourish the Catholic Faith here in southern Illinois. If interested, talk with your Pastor -- and for more information, schedule and application, go to the diocesan website:
<http://www.diobelle.org/offices/into-my-vineyard>

FIRST SUNDAY SOCIAL will be hosted in the hall following next Sunday's mass. Members of the Liturgy Committee are asked to participate in a meeting following the social.

THANK YOU...to volunteers who worked at the Faith Alive Thrift Store last week
...to Cathy Kruep who coordinated the parish night at the ball park for a Miners game.
...to all the Liturgical ministers who faithfully practice their commitment to attend or seek a replacement for the weekend liturgies
...to the people who volunteered to host the First Sunday socials in upcoming months.

VOCATION CORNER Every day Jesus asks us, "Who is the center of your life?" Are you living under my rule or under yours? If we live under our own rule it can move us to ignore our weaknesses as we take all the credit for our goodness. Of course, it is humbling to say, "Jesus I want you to be the center of my life." Yet the more we begin each day by praying these words, the more we will find ourselves filled with an incredible peace. We will also find every thought and every action under Jesus' rule so that we can give Him glory. Let us treat Him like the royal Guest that He is and allow Him to guide us in tending His flock towards eternal life." **THE WORD AMONG US, JULY 2016, PG.80.**

Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time -- **All things work for good.** This is a fundamental belief of disciples – all things working for good –because it is a fundamental attribute of God. Creation is good and human beings are very good – made in God's very image. The kingdom of heaven – of which we already are a part – likened to found-treasure, searched-for-pearl, and a thrown-net – is also good. · What do I seek, what do I treasure? · What, who do I love? · How am I conforming myself to Jesus?

TAX PREPARATION TRAINING Anyone seeking part time employment preparing taxes for H&R Block is welcome to view sheet on bulletin board offering training sessions.

UPCOMING EVENTS

....SF Parish Council Mt, Monday, August 7th, 4 pm

....Parish representatives of SF and SP partnership meeting with Bishop Braxton on review of Diocesan Pastoral Plan of Renewal and Restructuring Aug 11, 7 pm.

....Joint Parish Council meeting Aug 16, 6 pm at St Paul church.

17th Sunday of the Year

1 Kings 3:5,7-12; Psalm 119; Romans 8:28-30; Matthew 13:44-52

All of us have role models for planning and managing our lives. Those who aspire to beauty and glamour look to Hollywood; those who are attracted to power emulate business executives or politicians; those who are sports-minded look to the superstars of professional athletics. Disciples also need role models.

Solomon passes over desire for long life, wealth, and victory over enemies in favor of "an understanding mind to govern your people, able to discern between good and evil" (vs. 9). This is a request to govern well and provide for the people, especially the disenfranchised. As a matter of fact Solomon did not live up to this expectation (see 1 Kings 11:28), and hence is not a role model for just government.

Paul speaks of that plan for humans whereby they can arrive at the destiny God intended from the beginning. He uses five verbs (foreknew, predestined, called, justified, glorified) that capture God's benefits on behalf of Israel. But now humans who respond in faith can also share in those benefits. After "predestined," Paul adds a qualification: "to be conformed to the image of his Son" (vs. 29). The risen Lord is the exemplar of God's destiny for humanity. To be fully human is to be one with the lifestyle and death-style of Jesus.

In the parable of the buried treasure, Matthew offers a role model of how growth in the kingdom takes place. The first stage is normalcy, the day to day routine of the farmer. The second stage is the discovery of the treasure that opens a whole new world. The third stage is the overturning of the past -- the farmer sells all his possessions to purchase the field. The fourth stage is the new world that Jesus offers the disciple. Matthew calls for a radical commitment to the person of Jesus.

Solomon challenges our use of power. Matthew's true disciple reminds us of ultimate values. The Jesus role model of Paul urges us to make those values the guideposts for our living.
-- John Craghan, Th.D., S.S.L.

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QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION

Would anyone's life change for the better if you had more of an understanding heart?

How do you think you might improve your skills in this area?

The New American Bible translation is "All things work together for those who love God." Suffering is inevitable in human life. Even so, can all things work together for those who love God?

Did the pearlfinder and the merchant have to be shrewd about obtaining their treasures?

What about you? Are you shrewd about recognizing the "treasure" or the kingdom of God in your life? Do you find God, or at least look for God, in all things in your life? Do you notice when God is "whispering," or just when God is "shouting" in your life?

NEXT SUNDAY SCRIPTURES: 18th SUNDAY OF YEAR Isaiah 55:1-3; Ps 145; Romans 8:35, 37-39; Matthew 14:13-21