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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

What Matters In the [Gospel](#) Reading, Jesus and his disciples have walked all the way into Gentile territory, and one Gentile woman cries out to him repeatedly to heal her daughter.

The disciples of Jesus urge Jesus to send her away. The way the disciples see her, she's just a woman, she isn't Jewish, and she doesn't look like an important person even among the Gentiles. So, from the point of view of the disciples, she is a person who does not matter. They want Jesus to get rid of her.

In response, Jesus tells his disciples, "I am sent only to the lost sheep of Israel."

And this is an odd thing for him to say, isn't it He is in Gentile territory now. Why did he go there if he has no mission to the Gentiles?

And if he was sent only to the lost sheep of Israel, as he says, then why doesn't he just send this Gentile woman away, as the disciples want him to do? Why does he let her keep crying out to him?

If he was sent only to the lost sheep of Israel, as he says, then why doesn't he just send this Gentile woman away? Because he doesn't send her away, she comes closer to him and pleads with him for help. In reply, he says to her one of the most insulting things he says to anyone in the Gospels: "it is not right to take the bread of the children and give it to the dogs."

How could she matter less than this?

The solution to the perplexity of this story comes in the final exchange between the two of them. Jesus' treatment of her elicits from her one of the most pert responses to Jesus from anyone anywhere: "Even the dogs eat the crumbs of the children's bread," she says. And Jesus loves her for that pertness and the persistence behind it. "Great is your faith!" he says to her in praise.

It is the way Jesus deals with her that brings her to this point, isn't it?

But here is the most important thing to notice. To have faith *is* to be one of the sheep of Israel. Because he was sent only to the lost sheep of Israel, Jesus went to Gentile territory for her.

Gentile, female, or whatever else makes her seem a person who doesn't matter, she has the one thing that really does matter: she won't let go of Jesus.

And now we can understand why Jesus went into Gentile territory. He was looking for her. And we can also see that what Jesus says to his disciples is after all true: he is sent only to the lost sheep of Israel.

All those who cleave to Jesus, Gentile or Jew, are his sheep. Eleonore Stump

Vol 18 # 34 **20th Sunday of the Year, August 20, 2017**
CELEBRATION OF EUCHARIST

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|-----|-----|----|---------------|---------------------|-------------------|
| Sun | Aug | 20 | 8:00 am | SFD | Agnes Murray |
| | | | 10:00 am | SP | Mary Everett |
| Tue | Aug | 22 | 9, 11 am | DOC Masses | |
| Wed | Aug | 23 | 6:30 pm | SP | General Intention |
| Thr | Aug | 24 | 11:30am, 1 pm | Marion Penitentiary | |
| Fri | Aug | 25 | 12:00 pm | SP | Fr Gerry Miriani |
| Sat | Aug | 26 | 5:30 pm | SP | Leola Barrett |
| Sun | Aug | 27 | 8:00 am | SFD | James M McCabe |
| | | | 10:00 am | SP | For the Parish |

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| Birthdays: |
| Aug 21 Myron Cole |
| Aug 22 Natalie Hooven Wyatt Ashford |
| Aug 23 Michael McMahan |
| Aug 24 Rita Fifer Amanda Widowski |
| Aug 27 Michael Retz |

St Paul, Vienna

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| <p>Sun, Aug 20, 10 am Server: R. Slife, B Bertran Lector: Rhi Slife Gifts: Joe, Marsha Nelson Ushers: G Tesina, K Felcyn R. Stoerger, L Stoerger E. Minister S Belske P Widowski, M Nelson Greeter: Mike McMahan</p> | <p>Sun, Aug 27, 10 am Server: A Webb, J Bayles Lector: Steve Pobst Gifts: Marc Palmer Family Ushers:D Zmuda, C Zmuda P Widowski, M McMahan E. Minister B Palmer S. Nelson, A. Dueker Greeter: Sandy Belske</p> | <p>Sun, Sept 3, 10 am Server: R Slife, A Webb Lector: Sarah Nelson Gifts: Steve, Katie Pobst Ushers: F. Dueker, M Slife, S Widowski, D Bishop E. Minister S. Moore C. Webb, B. Bishop Greeter: Cathy Kruep</p> |
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St Francis DeSales, Stonefort

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| <p>Sun, Aug 20: 8:00 am Server: Christine Deaton Lector: Cecilia Parks Gifts: M Moore, L Herbert Usher Myron Cole E. Min: Brenda Morse</p> | <p>Sun, Aug 27: 8 am Server: Brenda Morse Lector: Mary Treat Gifts: R Drone, D Parks Usher: Arnold Morse E. Min: Christine Deaton</p> |
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THIS WEEK'S SCHEDULE

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|-----|--------|---|----------------|
| Sat | Aug 19 | St Paul Mass..... | 5:30 pm |
| Sun | Aug 20 | St Francis DeSales Mass | 8:00 am |
| | | St Paul Mass..... | 10:00 am |
| Mon | Aug 21 | Happy & Safe Eclipse experience | |
| Tue | Aug 22 | DOC Masses at Shawnee, Vienna..... | 9 am, 11 am |
| | | September Calendar Info deadline | |
| Wed | Aug 23 | South Vicariate Pastoral Leader Mt.ETown. | 12:00 pm |
| | | Weekday Mass... .. | 5:30 pm |
| | | SP Parish Council Meeting..... | 7:05 pm |
| Thr | Aug 24 | Masses at Marion Penitentiary..... | 11:30 am, 1 pm |
| Fri | Aug 25 | Weekday Mass..... | 12 pm |
| Sat | Aug 26 | St Paul Mass..... | 5:30 pm |
| Sun | Aug 27 | St Francis DeSales Mass | 8:00 am |
| | | St Paul Mass..... | 10:00 am |



BLOOD PRESSURE CHECKS will be offered before and after mass this weekend sponsored by the Parish Wellness Committee.

DRAW DOWN TICKETS for the October 14 fundraiser are available after masses or from parishioners Steve & Peggy Widowski, Matt & Rhi Slife, Marsha & Joe Nelson, Madonna Slife and Dolly Hopkins. Cost \$100 (may be shared by up six people). Early bird drawing for \$100 is September 17th. Grand prize of \$4,000. All 110 ticket owners win a prize.

NATURAL PHENOMENON-ECLIPSE Much excitement has been generated over the eclipse through our area for locals and visitors coming from afar. It is an occasion for reflection. We haven't created the eclipse. In ways we have been privileged to have and share the opportunity with others. Our response to this situation might make us aware of attitudes towards the gift of Faith. When we recognize that we have been blessed, are we eager to share that invitation and opportunity with others?

SP PARISH COUNCIL MEETING St Paul Parish Council will meet this Wednesday. The agenda is available to be picked up at masses this weekend..

RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS SESSIONS will begin the third week of September for anyone who is interested in learning about the Catholic Faith with opportunity to participate fully in the Church. An information session will be held at St Paul Tues, Aug 29, 7 pm. If interested, contact the rectory office or Fr Tom.

PARISH SCHOOL OF RELIGION REGISTRATION The opening date for the Parish School of Religion classes is slightly over a month away (September 17th, 11 am). To provide books and supplies, registration forms for youth are being distributed at mass this weekend and additional copies are available in the bulletin rack. Forms due by August 27th.

PREPARATION SESSIONS FOR SERVERS, LECTORS, EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS Times for orientation and training of newly interested parishioners in serving, lectoring and special ministers of the eucharist are being set. If you indicated an interest on the Time & Talent Survey, you will be contacted. Anyone else who is interested is asked to contact Fr Tom to assure the schedule will accommodate you.

IT IS TRULY RIGHT AND JUST. We can get used to private clubs, to closed groups, to in-crowds, to members-only. But both Isaiah and Jesus make room for the foreigner this day. When there is similar belief and great faith, we are all alike. Outsiders can become insiders. Everyone can belong. And in God's house, God's kingdom, that is absolutely true. It is right. It is just. · Of whom do I say, they do not belong? · How can I widen my circle to include more people? How can I do what is truly right and just?

REMEMBER IN PRAYER...**Bernice Corrigan** of Vienna who died Aug 18th. There are no services and remains will be interned in Michigan. **Nancy Truedson**, the mother of Caryn Zmuda, who died Aug 17th. A cemetery service will be held Aug 26, 11am at Cypress cemetery.

UPCOMING EVENTS **Parish Picnic for St Paul and St Francis DeSales Sept 10, 11:30am at St Paul.** Meat provided, Vegetable, salad or dessert welcome. Activities follow.

20th Sunday of the Year

Isaiah 56:1,6-7; Psalm 67; Romans 11:13-15,29-32; Matthew 15:21-28

How big is the kingdom? Today's readings challenge us to widen the boundaries. Rather than see ourselves as elitist or exclusive, we imagine the possibilities that God imagines. We are building bridges rather than castles.

The prophet we call Third Isaiah (chapters 56-66) wrote today's passage some 500 years before Christ. He says that God's salvation is near, and he describes the goodness of God's dwelling. Those who had been rejected are now full-fledged members of God's community.

Paul revels in the divine paradox: The Jewish rejection of the Christian message has meant salvation for the Gentiles. Paul insists that God shows mercy to all, and Paul glories in his mission to the Gentiles. Paul imagines the all-inclusive nature of God's kingdom.

Matthew's gospel passage shows Jesus in contact with a Gentile for a second time (see also 8:5-13). The evangelist elaborates the good news -- that qualification for discipleship is not of ethnic origin but a persistent faith in Jesus. Matthew foreshadows that moment at gospel's end when Jesus will command the eleven: "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations" (28:19). Matthew began in the same way: with the wise men who anticipated the Church's mission to the Gentiles (Matthew 2:1-12).

Baptism commissions the Christian to share the message of Jesus of Nazareth. Rather than being elitist, the Christian reflects the presence of Jesus through word and action to all the world. Christians heal division and thus build bridges.

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

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QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION

God offers saving mercy to all people. Do you find yourself included in this mercy, or among those who ignore it?

"The gifts and the call of God are irrevocable." According to St. Paul's statement, will God ever have a change of mind and stop loving us? "Even if we are faithless he is faithful, because he cannot deny himself" ([2 Tim. 2:13](#)). Explain.

What is it about her statement, "Please, Lord, for even the dogs eat the scraps that fall from the table of their masters," that prompts Jesus to grant her request? Do you think Jesus might have understood his mission from his Father better, during this conversation?

NEXT SUNDAY SCRIPTURES: 21st SUNDAY OF YEAR Isaiah 22:19-23; Ps 138; Romans 11:33-36; Matthew 16:13-20