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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

Love and Forgiveness In the [Gospel](#) reading, Peter wants to know how many times he has to forgive someone who sins against him. What is the number of times, Peter wants to know, that he has to forgive that sinner? But this question is confused. There is no such number as the one Peter is looking for. There is no limit on the number of times we have to forgive someone who has sinned against us.

What stands between us and God is only our willingness to receive the gift God is offering. We can understand the point of this Gospel story if we see the connection between love and forgiveness. Refusing to forgive is refusing to love, and it is never acceptable not to love. That is why it is never right to withhold forgiveness either.

The relation between love and forgiveness also helps us see the difference between forgiving a wrongdoer [on the one hand,] and enabling him to continue in his wrongdoing. Love wants the good for the beloved. A person who forgives a sinner loves that sinner; and because she loves him, she has a heart for his good. A wife who continues to live with a husband who beats her isn't forgiving him. She's helping him to get worse. There is nothing loving or forgiving about enabling a person to get worse. For her to forgive her husband is for her to want his good, even in the face of his bad treatment of her. But his good requires, first of all, that he stop hurting her, and then that he repent his terrible treatment of her.

If he is unrepentant, if he rejects goodness and love, then she can *want* the good for him anyway. But her forgiveness of him will be like a gift that can't be given because he won't receive it. Then the best she can do for him is to keep a distance from him, so that he doesn't get worse by continuing to hurt her.

God's love is like this, too. God's forgiveness is always there and so is God's love. Because God loves every person, God is offering the good to every person too, no matter what his sins may be.

So God does not keep a careful distance from us even when we sin. What stands between us and God is only our willingness to receive the gift God is offering. If we will only not reject it, the gift of God's love and forgiveness will be given *and* received.

Eleonore Stump

Vol 18 # 38 **24th Sunday of the Year, September 17, 2017**
CELEBRATION OF EUCHARIST

Sun	Sept	17	8:00 am	SFD	James Murray
			10:00 am	SP	Jim & Mary Anne Mudd
Tue	Sept	19	9, 11 am	DOC Masses,	Shawnee, Vienna
Wed	Sept	20	6:30 pm	SP	General Intention
Thr	Sept	21	11:30am, 1 pm		Masses, Marion BOP
Fri	Sept	22	12:00 pm	SP	General Intention
Sat	Sept	23	4:00 pm	SP	Marriage- Black & Nelson
Sun	Sept	24	8:00 am	SFD	James M McCabe Family
			10:00 am	SP	Leola Barrett

Birthdays:
 Sep 17 Bill Johnson
 Sep 20 Alex Ross

St Paul, Vienna

<p>Sun, Sept 10, 10 am Server: B Bertran, J Bayles Lector: Keith Felcyn Gifts: Bill, Billie Porter Ushers: M Palmer, Jon Slife J. Bergmann, Joe Nelson E. Minister P Kalicki L Stoerger, Madonna Slife Greeter: H, X Gruszczyk</p>	<p>Sun, Sept 17, 10 am Server: B Bertran, R Slife Lector: Joe Nelson Gifts: Children Liturgy Ushers:S Hupe, P Kalicki G Tesina, R Stoerger E. Minister P Shallenberger D Bishop, M. Nelson Greeter: Bill & Billie Porter</p>	<p>Sun, Sept 24, 10 am Server: A Webb, J Bayles Lector: Steve Widowski Gifts:Chuck, Monica Querrey Ushers: D Zmuda, C Zmuda, P Widowski, M. McMahan E. Minister D Hopkins B Palmer, P Widowski Greeter: Keith Felcyn</p>
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St Francis DeSales, Stonefort

<p>Sun, Sept 17: 8:00 am Server: Brenda Morse Lector: LaVonne Herbert Gifts: D Parks, M Cole Usher Fred Deaton E. Min: Mary Treat</p>	<p>Sun, Sept 24: 8 am Server: Mary Treat Lector: Marietta Moore Gifts: L Herbert, R Drone Usher: Myron Cole E. Min: Christine Deaton</p>
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THIS WEEK'S SCHEDULE

- Sun Sept 17 Retired Diocesan Priest Collection at weekend mass
 - St Francis DeSales Mass8:00 am
 - St Paul Mass & Children Liturgy of Word...10:00 am
 - Early Bird DrawDown drawing.....after mass
 - PSR Parent Meeting in church.....10 min after mass
 - CCW/Altar Sodality Col & Mt in11:00am
- Mon Sept 18 Blood Drive at Fellowship Baptist hall.....1-6:00pm
- Tue Sept 19 DOC Masses.....9 & 11 am
 - RCIA opening session in hall meeting room.....7 pm
- Wed Sept 20 Ministerial Alliance Mt.....12:00 pm
 - Weekday mass.....6:30 pm
 - SP Parish Council Mt..hall meeting room....7:05 pm
- Thr Sept 21 Marion Penitentiary Masses.....11:30am, 1 pm
- Fri Sept 22 Weekday Mass.....12 pm
- Sat Sept 23 Marriage of Nick Black & Sarah Nelson.....4 pm
- Sun Sept 24 St Francis DeSales Mass8:00 am
 - St Paul Mass.....10:00 am
 - South Vicariate Fall CCW Mt, Elizabethtown.1:00pm



RETIRED DIOCESAN PRIESTS COLLECTION Our Belleville Diocese currently has 55 diocesan priests of retirement age – 35 who are currently retired and 20 who remain in active ministry; in five years that number will increase to 64! With this large number of retirement-age priests and escalating health care costs, the Retired Diocesan Priests Collection on September 16-17 will help provide the resources needed for their care now and in the future. All monies will be used only for long-term nursing care, Medicare supplemental insurance and prescription medications for our retired diocesan priests.

CHILDREN LITURGY OF WORD for youth age 3 through 4th grade will be offered following the opening prayer at this Sunday's Eucharist at St Paul..

PARISH ADDRESS DIRECTORY AND EMERGENCY CONTACT UPDATES Everyone is asked to review your address and contact information on the sheets in the church entrance, putting a check mark if no change is needed, or updating information if it has changed. If you are not included on the list, please complete info in a blank space.

DRAW DOWN TICKETS for the October 14 fundraiser are available after masses 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.

PSR PARENT MEETING PSR class beginning has been postponed. A meeting for parents of PSR students and other interested parishioners will be held in the church ten minutes after the end of mass this Sunday.

LADIES SODALIT/CCW MEETING A collection for the undertakings of the Altar Sodality will be taken at the church entrance and a meeting for ladies of the parish will follow in the Parish hall.

BLOOD DRIVE sponsored by the Red Cross will be held at the Fellowship Baptist Hall on Senior Dr, Vienna on Monday, Sept 18, 1-6 pm. Consider sharing a gift of life.

CHRISTIAN INITIATION The opening session of the RCIA for anyone interested in learning about the Catholic Church with the option of become a member will be held in the Hall meeting room, Tuesday, Sept 19th, 7 pm. If you have questions, contact 658-4501.

SP PARISH COUNCIL MT will be this Wednesday, following the 6:30 pm mass in the parish meeting room. Members are asked to pick up the agenda this weekend.

SUPPORT IN PRAYER Nickalaus Black and Sarah Nelson who will celebrate their marriage on Saturday, Sept 23 at St Paul Church.

THANK YOU....to Jared Bergmann for set up and cooking picnic meat, Madonna Slife for purchasing meat and setting up hall, Cathy Kruep for coordinating activities, Arlene Dueker for hospitality, name tags and attendance, to Marsha Nelson for organizing games for the youth, to all who brought food and all who participated, go God for a beautiful day.
...to Faith Alive Volunteers, ..to all who covered ministries while Fr Tom was gone.

FALL VICARIATE CCW MT All ladies are invited to the Fall South Vicariate Council of Catholic Women Meeting at St Joseph Parish, Elizabethtown on September 24th. Registration begins at 1:00 pm (\$3.00) with light refreshments included. Speaker will be from the Victory ministries/ Victory House, Paducah. Also sharing about local activities by parish groups. Rosary will be recited to end the meeting. Info Pat Chantos 618-314-0363..

UPCOMING EVENTS AT ST FRANCIS DESALES

Oct 2, 4 pm - SF Parish Council Mt

Oct 5, 6:30 pm – Beginning Adult Education Sessions, 'Grab Your Catechism'

Oct 28, 4 pm - St Francis hosts joint Halloween Hayride, Hot Dog roast

24th Sunday of the Year

Sirach 27:30--28:7; Psalm 103; Romans 14:7-9; Matthew 18:21-35

Hurt is not easily forgiven. Our impulse very often is to strike back, if not directly, then in more subtle ways -- denying forgiveness, giving the silent treatment. Reconciliation is today's theme. If we are to imitate divine mercy, then the challenge is to look beyond ourselves and our hurt to a God who never ceases to say, "I love you and, therefore, I forgive you."

At the beginning of the second century B.C., Ben Sira compiled a compendium of Israel's wisdom, commonly known as the Book of Sirach. In this section, especially Chapter 28:2-7, he considers the theme of forgiveness. He argues that forgiveness of neighbor brings God's forgiveness of our own sins. Two more motives for mercy are the thought of death and God's covenant.

The gospel passage is part of Matthew's discourse on Church order. Problems in community are presumed. The issue is whether or not there are limits to forgiveness. Peter's suggestion of the number of times the Christian should forgive appears generous, but it is short of Jesus' view for the kingdom. For Jesus, forgiveness is more than generous, it is boundless.

Ben Sira reminds us that the wrongdoer is our brother or sister and thus vindictiveness is unacceptable. The psalmist writes that the God of Israel rejects human estimates for pardon and therefore a less than genuine forgiveness is wrong. Jesus teaches limitless mercy as the norm rather than the exception. We should forgive, not like the first official in his parable, but like the king.

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

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QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION

Is it harder for you to forgive someone or to ask for forgiveness? How good are you at overlooking the faults of others as Sirach suggests? Do you forgive yourself?

"For if we live, we live for the Lord." Sometimes God asks people to do extraordinary things. But most of the time not. How do you live your ordinary life for the Lord? Can you find God in the ordinary moments? If you did that regularly, would your life be extraordinary?

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NEXT SUNDAY SCRIPTURES: 25th SUNDAY OF YEAR Isaiah 55:6-9; Ps 145; Philippians 1:20c-24, 27a; Matthew 20:1-16a