



**Pastor : Rev Thomas Barrett**  
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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

**Does God Want Us to Be Happy?** Does God want us to be happy? How could anyone answer ‘no’? How could anyone suppose God is loving if it is not true that he wants us to be happy?

And yet look at Christ’s line in the [Gospel](#) Reading. Deny yourself, Jesus tells his faithful followers; take up your cross and follow me.

Denying yourself seems the opposite of going for happiness, doesn’t it? And the cross is an instrument of torture. Why would God want these things for his people? Does God want us to be *unhappy*?

A man divorcing his dowdy wife to marry a much younger, prettier woman explained his decision to his devastated wife this way: “God wants me to be happy,” he told her, “and I can’t be happy with *you*. I *will* be happy with her.”

No one can be happy whose heart has deep within it a willingness to crush others to get what he wants. It seems never to have crossed the mind of this man that God might have any care for the happiness of his wife. As far as his wife was concerned, the husband’s full view of the matter could be put this way: “God wants *me* to be happy, but God doesn’t give a damn about *you*.”

This little story is common in its selfishness. But we should not let our familiarity with its callous disregard for the suffering of others blind us. Whether it is these familiar evils or the terrible shocking evils we see in the news, these evils show us the sickness of the post-fall human condition. We are willing to privilege our own power or pleasure over any greater goods, even at the cost of cruelty to others.

We can’t be happy in *this* condition. No one can be happy whose heart has deep within it a willingness to crush others to get what he wants.

Well, then, what is to be done with us? What *will* make us happy? What will save us from the evil that infects us and leaves us so willing to afflict others?

This is where Christ’s cross comes into the story. Christ is the Way, the Truth, and the Life. ([Jn 14:6](#)) The cross of Christ is our only route to the happiness God does want for us.

Taking up our cross with Christ is healing for our sinful condition. It is the way to life, and to true joy.

Eleonore Stump

Vol 18 # 36 **22<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of the Year, September 3, 2017**  
**CELEBRATION OF EUCHARIST**

Sun	Sept	3	8:00 am	SFD	Rev Vito Lopardo
			10:00 am	SP	For the Parish
Tue	Sept	5	9, 11 am		DOC Masses
Wed	Sept	6	6:30 pm	SP	General Intention
Thr	Sept	7	11:30am, 1 pm		Marion Penitentiary
Fri	Sept	8	12:00 pm	SP	General Intention
Sun	Sept	10	8:00 am	SFD	Leola Barrett
			10:00 am	SP	Nancy Truedson

<p><b>Birthdays:</b>          Sep 4 Peggy Widowski          Lynn Stone          Sep 5 Thomas Pruemer          Mary Treat          Sep 6 Mason Bishop          Sep 7 Irene Kojder          Sep 9 Steve Hupe</p>
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**St Paul, Vienna**

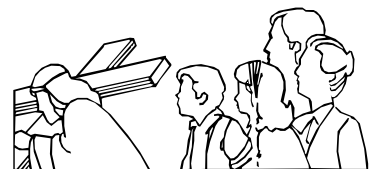
<p><b>Sun, Sept 3, 10 am</b>  <b>Server:</b> R Slife, A Webb  <b>Lector:</b> Sarah Nelson  <b>Gifts:</b> Steve, Katie Pobst  <b>Ushers:</b> F. Dueker, M Slife,          S Widowski, D Bishop  <b>E. Minister</b> S. Moore          C. Webb, B. Bishop  <b>Greeter:</b> Cathy Kruep</p>	<p><b>Sun, Sept 10, 10 am</b>  <b>Server:</b> B Bertran, J Bayles  <b>Lector:</b> Keith Felcyn  <b>Gifts:</b> Bill, Billie Porter  <b>Ushers:</b> M Palmer, Jon Slife          J. Bergmann, Joe Nelson  <b>E. Minister</b> P Kalicki          L Stoerger, Madonna Slife  <b>Greeter:</b> H, X Gruszczyk</p>	<p><b>Sun, Sept 17, 10 am</b>  <b>Server:</b> B Bertran, R Slife  <b>Lector:</b> Joe Nelson  <b>Gifts:</b> Children Liturgy  <b>Ushers:</b>S Hupe, P Kalicki          G Tesina, R Stoerger  <b>E. Minister</b> P Shallenberger          D Bishop, M. Nelson  <b>Greeter:</b> Bill &amp; Billie Porter</p>
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**St Francis DeSales, Stonefort**

<p><b>Sun, Sept 3: 8:00 am</b>  <b>Server:</b> Cecilia Parks  <b>Lector:</b> Christine Deaton  <b>Gifts:</b> M Moore, M Cole  <b>Usher</b> Stan Treat  <b>E. Min:</b> Brenda Morse</p>	<p><b>Sun, Sept 10: 8 am</b>  <b>Server:</b> Cecilia Parks  <b>Lector:</b> Christine Deaton  <b>Gifts:</b> L Herbert, M Moore  <b>Usher:</b> David Parks  <b>E. Min:</b> Brenda Morse</p>
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**THIS WEEK'S SCHEDULE**

- Sun Sept 3 St Francis DeSales Mass .....8:00 am
- St Paul Mass.....10:00 am
- First Sunday Social at SP.....11:00 am
- Tue Sept 5 DOC Masses at Shawnee, Vienna...9 am, 11 am
- Wed Sept 6 Weekday Mass... .....5:30 pm
- Thr Sept 7 Mass at Marion Penitentiary.....11:30am, 1 pm
- Fri Sept 8 Weekday Mass.....12 pm
- Sun Sept 10 St Francis DeSales Mass .....8:00 am
- St Paul Mass.....10:00 am
- Joint Parish Picnic & Activity at SP.....11:00 am



**FIRST SUNDAY SOCIAL** Everyone is invited to the hall following mass today for light refreshments and community sharing.

**SPECIAL COLLECTION FOR HURRICANE HARVEY RELIEF** this weekend. The funds collected in this one-time special appeal for Hurricane Harvey Relief will be used to support the efforts of Catholic Charities USA, the official domestic relief agency of the U.S. Catholic Church, as they and their member agencies respond to immediate emergency needs for necessities such as water, food, shelter, and medical care as well as to the long term needs to rebuild and recover after widespread destruction, and of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops for pastoral and reconstruction aid to the Church.

**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 17<sup>th</sup>. Grand prize of \$4,000. All 110 ticket owners win a prize.

**PARISH PICNIC FOR ST PAUL AND ST FRANCIS DESALES** The annual Parish Picnic is set for Sun, Sept 10, beginning 11 am. Grilled Pork Steaks with option of chicken or hot dog will be provided. Participants are invited to bring vegetable, salad or dessert. Various activities for adults and children will be offered following the dinner. See bulletin board to indicate type of covered dish.

**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.

**FAITH ALIVE THRIFT STORE VOLUNTEERS** are needed for Sept 14-16<sup>th</sup>, 9am-3 pm. If you can offer assistance please sign up on the church bulletin board.

**EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION** will be offered Thr, Sept 14, 4-7:30 pm. Share in a time of prayer for the Church and have some time of meditation before the Blessed Sacrament. A sheet to assure that someone is present all the time is available on the bulletin board.

**VOCATION CORNER** Today we are called to deny ourselves and follow after Jesus. We're told that the measure of obtaining the entire world is nothing compared to our immortal soul. That's exactly where vocation comes in because a vocation is always drawing us to the service of others and isn't looking for our own reward. It's through our vocation that we deny ourselves and at the same time find our deepest fulfillment and identity in Christ.

**OBSTACLES.** Peter, who last week was called the rock, the steady one, is called an obstacle, a stumbling stone today. Sometimes we let our timid nature, our fears get the best of us, don't we? Doing the Lord's work, living the Christian life, can bring on laughter and scorn. But that does not keep us from doing what must be done. What am I called to do?.

# 22<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of the Year

Jeremiah 20:7-9; Psalm 63; Romans 12:1-2; Matthew 16:21-27

Has Gallup ever surveyed God's opinion? The Scripture for this weekend has to do with God's point of view. These passages respect human opinion yet challenge us to discern and act in accord with God's will.

The Jeremiah excerpt is one of the so-called "confessions." Jeremiah resents his role as messenger of exclusively bad news. He is tempted to abandon his prophetic career, but the Word of God is an all-consuming fire (see Jeremiah 5:14); thus he will continue to preach.

Paul urges the Romans to think and act beyond the world's pragmatic views: "Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds" (Romans 2:2). They, too, must attempt to think as God would think.

Peter, by God's revelation, understands that Jesus is the Messiah (Matthew 16:16). On the other hand, Jesus' mission as a suffering Messiah is too much for Peter to comprehend. Suffering and death should not be the path to glory. Peter suggests an easier way to fulfill God's will and thus becomes an obstacle to the mission. Jesus says, "You are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things" (Matthew 16:23). Jesus knows that to lose oneself for God's sake is to find oneself.

We are practical people. We seek the opinions of physicians, lawyers, business consultants, and friends. These are reasonable paths; clearly, God is able to speak to us through other people, especially through the Christian community. Our task is to constantly monitor God's counsel. Like Jesus, we assume that God may have a bigger and better way to accomplish God's plan!

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

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## QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION

Jeremiah couldn't ignore the call to prophecy even though it brought him much ridicule. Who today speaks out about injustice in human trafficking, police profiling and child immigration? What social or economic structure of oppression would you like so much to transform that you can't keep quiet about it?

How do you discern God's will? Does certainty about the will of God come suddenly? Can it emerge gradually? Do you imagine you have made the decision and then check for feelings of consolation or desolation?

Which of these situations fit "Lose your life for my sake and find it"? Dads and Moms making sacrifices for the good of the family; Priests, brothers and sisters generously serving others; Young people daring to follow their consciences, unafraid to go against the current; People renouncing their own interests to work with immigrants, elderly, disabled, trafficked?

**NEXT SUNDAY SCRIPTURES: 23<sup>rd</sup> SUNDAY OF YEAR** Ezekiel 33:7-9; Ps 95; Romans 13:8-10; Matthew 18:15-20