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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

**Comfort** In the [First Reading](#), the prophet reports the command of the Lord: “Comfort, give comfort to my people says your God!” In the sorrows of life, who does not long for comfort? Who would not melt with gratitude at the tender comfort of God?

Yet what is comfort?

When we want it, sometimes what we want is just what the good shepherd gives his lost sheep. We don't want to walk along the road of our life to the Lord. We want God to carry us.

But a child that is carried all the time will never learn to walk, to leap and run. That child, weak enough already to be carried, will get only weaker as the carrying goes on.

If God is for us, even within us, who can be against us? And comfort isn't a matter of giving weakness. It's a matter of giving strength—strength for walking, even over very rough roads.

In fact, the “-fort” in “comfort” comes from the Latin word for “strong.” The “com-” in “comfort” is from the Latin word for “with.” To give comfort to someone is to lend him some of your strength. He is more able to stand on his own feet and walk because you are with him.

But what is the comfort of God? Where is it? How do we find it?

The [Gospel](#) says that Christ baptizes his own with the Holy Spirit. Because of this baptism, the Holy Spirit comes to dwell within each person who comes to Christ.

And so any one who comes to Christ and receives his baptism will not walk the wild and rocky road of life alone. God is so much with him that, in the person of the Holy Spirit, God is within him. If God is for us, even within us, who can be against us? This is strength indeed.

And so no wonder that the other name for the Holy Spirit is “the Comforter.”

Eleonore Stump

Vol 18 # 48 **2<sup>ND</sup> Sunday of Advent, December 10, 2017**

**CELEBRATION OF EUCHARIST**

Sun	Dec 10	10:00 am	SP	Wendy Bowman
		12:00 pm	SFD	Thomas Murray
Tue	Dec 12	9, 11 am	DOC Masses, Shawnee, Vienna	
Wed	Dec 13	6:30 pm	SP	General Intention
Thr	Dec 14	11:30 am, 1 pm	Marion BOP Masses	
Fri	Dec 15	12:00pm	SP	For the Parishioners
Sun	Dec 17	8:00 am	SFD	Rev Vito Lopardo
		10:00 am	SP	Dwayne Bowman

<b>Birthdays:</b>	
Dec 11	Gabriel Ross Laurie Coleman Brody Deaton Kathy Hupe
Dec 14	Frank Dueker Amanda Zmuda Caryn Zmuda
Dec 15	Ethan Morse

**St Paul, Vienna**

<p><b>Sun, Dec 10, 10 am</b>  <b>Server:</b> A Webb, B Bertran,  <b>Lector:</b> Sarah Black  <b>Gifts:</b> Jon, Madonna Slife  <b>Ushers:</b> F Dueker, Mt Slife                  J Bergmann, D Bishop  <b>E. Minister</b> D Hopkins,                  K Felcyn, P Shallenberger  <b>Greeter</b> Sandy Belske</p>	<p><b>Sun, Dec 17, 10 am</b>  <b>Server:</b> B Bertran, R Slife ,  <b>Lector:</b> Steve Pobst  <b>Gifts:</b> Children Liturgy  <b>Ushers:</b> G Tesina, M McMahan                  R Stoerger, S Hupe  <b>E. Minister</b> A Dueker                  S. Belske, B Bishop  <b>Greeter:</b> Bill &amp; Billie Porter</p>	<p><b>Sun, Dec 24, 10 am</b>  <b>Server:</b> R Slife A Webb  <b>Lector:</b> Steve Widowski  <b>Gifts:</b> Matt, Rhi Slife Family  <b>Ushers:</b> J Slife, D. Zmuda sr                  C Zmuda, Mt Slife  <b>E. Minister</b> D Bishop,                  M. Nelson, F Dueke  <b>Greeter:</b> Carolyn Johnson</p>
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**St Francis DeSales, Stonefort**

<p><b>Sun, Dec 10: 8:00 am</b>  <b>Server:</b> Mary Treat  <b>Lector:</b> Christine Deaton  <b>Gifts:</b> L Herbert, M Moore  <b>Usher</b> Fred Deaton  <b>E. Min:</b> Myron Cole</p>	<p><b>Sun, Dec 17: 8 am</b>  <b>Server:</b> Cecilia Parks  <b>Lector:</b> LaVonne Herbert  <b>Gifts:</b> Treat Family  <b>Usher:</b> Myron Cole  <b>E. Min:</b> Christine Deaton</p>
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**THIS WEEK'S SCHEDULE**

Sun Dec 10	Retirement Fund for Religious collection
	St Paul Mass .....10 am
	Return Angel Tree gifts at SP
	Liturgy Committee Mt at SP.....11 am
	PSR Class .....11 am
	St Francis DeSales Mass & Advent Potluck..12:00 pm
Tue Dec 12	DOC Masses.....9 & 11 am
	Bible Study on Luke at SFD.....5 pm
	Rite of Christian Initiation Session.... 7 pm
Wed Dec 13	Bible Study on Luke at SP.....3 pm
	Weekday Mass..... 12:00 pm
Thr Dec 14	Marion BOP Masses.....11:30 am, 1 pm
	Eucharistic Adoration at SP.....4:00 – 7:30 pm
Fri Dec 15	Weekday Mass.....12:00 pm
Sun Dec 17	St Francis DeSales Mass.....8:00 am
	St Paul Mass & Children Liturgy.....10 am
	Christmas Pageant, Potluck at SP.....11 am



**RETIREMENT FUND FOR RELIGIOUS Help religious communities** "Your generous contribution helps us to care for our retired sisters and enables our younger sisters to continue in active ministry," writes a religious sister. Your gift to today's collection for the Retirement Fund for Religious helps provide medications, nursing care, and more for thousands of senior sisters, brothers, and religious order priests. It also helps ensure younger members can continue the good works of their elders!

**ANGEL TREE GIFTS** for youth of the area should be returned with the tag to the tree area by December 10<sup>th</sup>.

**CONTRIBUTION ENVELOPES AND CHURCH CALENDARS FOR 2018** are available to be picked in the church entrance this weekend.

**SP CHRISTMAS EVE CHOIR** will practice following the Sunday masses til Christmas.

**LITURGY COMMITTEE** will have meeting in the parish hall at 11 am following today's mass.

**NOON MASS AND ADVENT POTLUCK AT ST FRANCIS** Our parish Advent Potluck with noon mass will be December 10<sup>th</sup>. Chicken and Ham will be provided. Salads, vegetable, and dessert needed. A gift of approx \$2 value is also requested for the game at the party. Participants are also asked to plan to visit and sing songs at the Care Home in Carrier Mills following the party.

**ADVENT PREPARATION** For a free e-mail daily advent meditation and video option, sign up at BestAdventEver.com/YoureInvited. Booklets to support a prayerful Advent season are available in the foyer.

**SCRIPTURE STUDY OF LUKE** will be offered at St Paul and St Francis Dec 12<sup>th</sup> , 5 pm at SF and Dec 13<sup>th</sup> ,3 pm at SP. Study will be led by Arlene Dueker .

**EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION** is scheduled for Thursday, Dec 14, 4-7:30 pm this week. Parishioners are encouraged to use a time for prayer. A sign-up list on the bulletin board assures that someone is present at all times.

**A CHRISTMAS PAGEANT AND POTLUCK** involving PSR students will be offered next Sunday, Dec 17<sup>th</sup> following the Sunday mass in St Paul Hall. All parishioners are encouraged to participate. Meat will be provided. Covered dishes are needed.

**CHRISTMAS MEMORIAL FLOWERS** Flower memorials in the name of families and deceased members can be made using the Flower Memorial collection envelope. A list of the Memorials insert will include all memorials made by December 19<sup>th</sup>.

**CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE** Both the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent (Dec 24) and Christmas are considered masses of obligation, fulfilled by participation in each event's mass. Mass for 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent will be Dec 24<sup>th</sup> , 10 am, and Mass for Christmas either Dec 24<sup>th</sup> , 6 pm or Dec 25<sup>th</sup> , 10 am..

**UNTIL CHRIST RETURNS** Who shall we be and what shall we do while awaiting this Second Coming? Surely not standing around being idle. No – at work! The Bible readings early in Advent urge us to be at these works: giving comfort, straightening out pathways (both figurative and real), repenting, living without spot or blemish. · Saint Paul asks, What sort of person ought I be? · How does my life point to the Second Coming of Jesus Christ? What one act of mercy will I do this week?

## SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Isaiah 40:1-5,9-11; Psalm 85; 2 Peter 3:8-14; Mark 1:1-8

At times, the hurried pace of our lives may obscure even the most dramatic reality -- for example, the gift-giving presence of our God. Today's readings speak of God's nearness in our daily lives. The Scriptures capture moments when people were challenged to react to God's presence. First they had to become aware of God's gifts, then they had to respond.

Around 540 B.C., Second Isaiah, the anonymous prophet of the exile, spoke to his despairing community. His opening words of comfort and tenderness reveal a God who, forgetting the past, offers the grace of the present moment. There had to be a march through the desert to the land of Israel; this trek would manifest God's presence, to the utter amazement of the people. Even then, the people had to become aware of the moment!

In Psalm 85, the community asks for God's presence. Putting aside all hesitation the psalmist announces that God proclaims peace to the people. To enjoy God's gift of peace, however, the community must keep its covenant with Yahweh. It is just such a response, culminating in kindness, truth, and justice, that ushers in the blessing of the harvest.

Mark begins his gospel with the image of the desert. He quotes Second Isaiah to tell us that John the Baptist announces God's unexpected gift of salvation in the desert. Like the ninth-century prophet Elijah, John wears a garment of camel's hair and a leather belt (see 2 Kings 1:8). God's presence in the Baptist demands a response of radical conversion and of repentance.

God's gifts appear not only in extraordinary events such as a return from exile or the coming of Jesus but also in ordinary, day to day occurrences. The grace of friendship, the devotion of a spouse, the comfort of co-workers -- all these manifest God's gifts. Our awareness of giftedness moves us to a personal response where love, support, and consolation is given as well as received.

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

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### QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION

Left to human management, world history can seem to be a wasteland, or at best a rough road. What about your personal history? Has it been it smooth all the time? Could this reading help to smooth out rough spots? How?

This reading says that the Lord "is patient with you." Granting this, are you patient with others? For instance, how do you react when a car cuts you off, or when you are blamed falsely? With holy anger or with forgiveness? Is there a line between holy anger and patience? Are you patient with yourself?

How do you share John the Baptist's mission to proclaim Christ's coming into the world? Do you do this with words or by the way you live? How is John's message of repentance and judgment different from that of Jesus?

**NEXT SUNDAY SCRIPTURES: 3<sup>RD</sup> Sunday of Advent** Isaiah 61:1-2a, 10-11; Lk 1:6-48;  
1Thessalonians 5:16-24 John 1:6-8, 19-28