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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

The Building That's God's By the time of the [First Reading](#), David is King. He has won a lot of victories, and he is rich and prosperous too. His house is built of wood and stones. But the ark of God is housed only in a tent.

David thought about the fact that God had only a tent while he, the King, had a real house; and so he made a decision to build a house for God too. He made it his responsibility to take care of God, you might say.

Like David, we can love the holy things of God, and we can give our service to God's Church. And God laughed at him. God told David, "I will build *you* a house!" And so he did. The Son of God, born of David's lineage, is that house. The kingly line of David's lineage finds its everlasting fulfillment in Christ. And every Christian finds a home there, too, in the body of Christ that is the Church.

David's son Solomon did eventually build a house for the ark of God in Jerusalem, and it was magnificent. But any earthly building, even the great temple in Jerusalem, is puny by comparison with the house that God built for David and for all God's people in Christ the Lord.

David did well to revere the ark of God, just as we do well to revere the Church. But it was foolish of David to feel that it was his responsibility to care for God. God wants our love, but he does not need our protection. Without our help, God is still himself Lord of heaven and earth.

Like David, we can love the holy things of God, and we can give our service to God's Church. But it is not our responsibility to make the Church big, strong, and successful. If we think that God's church, or anything built for God, will lose and go down without our building it up, we will be as foolish as David in the First Reading.

The building is God's.

Eleonore Stump

Vol 18 # 50 **4th Sunday of Advent, December 24, 2017**

CELEBRATION OF EUCHARIST

Sun	Dec 24	8:00 am	SFD	Richard Haase
		10:00 am	SP	Ray Nelson
		6:00 pm	SP	Christmas Memorials
Mon	Dec 25	8:00 am	SFD	Christmas Memorials
		10:00am	SP	Leola Barrett
Tue	Dec 26	9, 11 am	DOC	Masses, Shawnee, Vienna
Wed	Dec 27	6:30 pm	SP	General Intention
Thr	Dec 28	11:30 am, 1 pm		Marion Penitentiary
Fri	Dec 29	12:00pm	SP	For the Parishioners
Sun	Dec 31	8:00 am	SFD	Edward Beis
		10:00 am	SP	Philip & Leola Barrett

St Paul, Vienna

Birthdays: Dec 24 Nick Black Dec 27 Sarah Black Dec 29 Cecilia Parks Dec 31 Carter Bergmann Lori Lance
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Sun, Dec 24, 10 am
Server: R Slife A Webb
Lector: Rhi Slife
Gifts: Matt, Rhi Slife Family
Ushers: J Slife, D. Zmuda sr
 C Zmuda, Mt Slife
E. Minister D Bishop,
 M. Nelson, F Dueke
Greeter: Carolyn Johnson

Sun, Dec 24, 6 pm
Server: R Slife, B Bertran,
Lector: Joe Nelson
Gifts: Alan, Ann Stachowiak
Ushers Mt Slife, S Widowski
 S Hupe, D Bishop
E. Minister S Black
 Md Slife, Peggy Widowski

Mon, Dec 25, 10 am
Server: B Bertran, A Webb
Lector: Keith Felcyn
Gifts: Volunteers
Ushers G Tesina, F Dueker
 L Stoerger, R Stoerger
E. Minister P Kalicki
 S Moore, S Belske
Greeter: H & X Gruszczyk

St Francis DeSales, Stonefort

Sun, Dec 24: 8:00 am
Server: Christine Deaton
Lector: Marietta Moore
Gifts: R Drone, L Herbert
Usher David Parks
E. Min: Cecilia Parks

Sun, Dec 31: 8 am
Server: Mary Treat
Lector: Cecilia Parks
Gifts: Parks Family
Usher: Stan Treat
E. Min: Myron Cole

Sun, Dec 31, 10 am
Server: B Bertran, A Webb
Lector: Steve Widowski
Gifts: Rick, Lynne Stoerger
Ushers M Palmer, P Kalicki
 J Bergmann, W Widowski
E. Minister L Stoerger
 B. Palmer, S. Moore
Greeter: Cathy Kruep

THIS WEEK'S SCHEDULE

- Sun Dec 24 St Francis DeSales Mass.....8:00 am
- St Paul Mass10 am
- Christmas Eve Carols, Readings at SP.....5:30 pm
- Diocesan Needy Christmas Collection
- Christmas Eve Mass at SP.....6:00 pm
- Mon Dec 25 Christmas Day mass at St Francis DeSales.8:00 am
- Christmas Day mass at St Paul.....10:00am
- Tue Dec 26 DOC Masses.....9 & 11 am
- January calendar info deadline
- Rite of Christian Initiation Session.... 7 pm
- Wed Dec 27 Weekday Mass..... 6:30 pm
- Thr Dec 28 USP Marion masses.....11:30 am, 1 pm
- Fri Dec 29 Weekday Mass.....12:00 pm
- Sun Dec 31 St Francis DeSales Mass.....8:00 am
- St Paul Mass10 am
- Mary, Mother of God mass opportunity.SP..6:30 pm



CHRISTMAS EVE CHOIR - Just a reminder that we will practice through all the songs after church Sunday and meet at 4:45 prior to Christmas Eve Mass. The program begins at 5:30pm.

CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE Both the 4th Sunday of Advent (Dec 24) and Christmas are considered masses of obligation, fulfilled by participation in each event's mass. Mass for 4th Sunday of Advent will be Dec 24th, 10 am, and Mass for Christmas either Dec 24th, 6 pm or Dec 25th, 10 am. A service of Carols and Readings will precede the Christmas Eve Mass beginning 5:30 pm at St Paul..

CHRISTMAS COLLECTION FOR DIOCESAN NEEDY will be taken up at masses on Christmas to assist special requests for needy throughout the diocese. Funds are administered by the Catholic Urban Program.

CHRISTMAS BOOK GIFT Each household will be presented a copy of Matthew Kelly's book 'Perfectly Yourself' that you may reflect on and carry the Good News of the Love that God has for each of us to others.

LITURGICAL MINISTER SCHEDULES for January and February are available in the bulletin rack.

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES +ANNUAL SUMMARY. Copies of the Dec 20 Parish Council minutes along with some copies of annual committee summary reports are available in bulletin rack.

JANUARY CALENDAR INFO The deadline for including any information in the January calendar will be Tues, Dec 26th at the parish office.

THANK YOU...to PSR Youth and catechist for the Christmas Pageant
...to the Altar Sodality/CCW for preparing the turkey and ham for the potluck and providing treat bags for the children and arrangements for St Nick's visit
...to all who provided flowers for the church in memory of family/friends.
...to the musicians and singers who lead the music for choral presentation and masses.
...to all who decorated the church for the Christmas season
...to Confirmation candidates who represented the church in the Salvation Army toy distribution and Christmas visits to parish elderly.

HOLYDAY MASS FOR MARY, MOTHER OF GOD (Jan 1) Because this holyday occurs on Monday, it will not be an obligatory holyday. An opportunity for mass will be offered at 6:30 pm on Dec 31st (New Year's Eve). Fr Tom will be on retreat Jan 1-5.

SECRET NO MORE. What may have seemed a big secret, is made known over time by spending time with God (prayer and quiet) and faithful activity (mercy works). As with Blessed Mary long ago, the Holy Spirit is doing something in me, calling me to something important. Can I name it? Will I say "yes" to it after prayer as Mary did? What does God want me to say or do? How will the Holy Spirit help? · Will I do it?

CHRISTMAS BLESSINGS TO ALL.

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

2 Samuel 7:1-5,8-11,16; Psalm 89; Romans 16:25-27; Luke 1:26-38

Redemption would seem to be a divine enterprise. Generally we imagine ourselves as cast in a minor role on the stage of salvation history. To imagine the all-powerful God calling to say "I need you" doesn't quite fit. What could we possibly contribute to such an awe-inspiring production?

Today's readings take a different approach. We are not marionettes manipulated by a puppeteer; we are free, grace-filled participants in the drama of salvation. The Davidic king, Mary, and Paul have leading roles. God says to them "I need you."

The 2 Samuel excerpt focuses on Yahweh establishing a succession of Davidic kings to rule God's people. This is a royal gift with no strings attached -- the house will last forever. Ideally the Davidic king was to seek the welfare of the people, symbolizing God's effort to provide for the people's needs. The king would ensure justice and bring about peace. In these duties the king represented God.

The second reading is a doxology, an expression of praise that speaks of God strengthening Christians in their faith and leading Gentiles to faith. This happened because Paul proclaimed the gospel about Jesus Christ. The journey to faith was originally hidden, but it had now, through Paul's preaching, come to light.

Luke's account of the Annunciation to Mary follows a pattern found in the Hebrew Scriptures: an angelic appearance, fear in the recipient, the message and its problem, a resolution, and a sign to confirm God's intent. Mary says "yes" in total openness, the ideal disciple who hears the word and acts upon it.

God has urgent need for us, just as for the Davidic king, for Paul, and for Mary. We are God's instruments of consolation, of peace, of mercy. We announce God's saving presence! What better season than Christmas to be needed by the Messiah?

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

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QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION

Compare and contrast what David wants to give God with what God did for David. Can you relate to "receiving much more than you give"? What happens to you when you open up just a little to God?

What was the "mystery kept secret for long ages"? Do you think the "mystery" was really a secret or possibly that it was not understood till Jesus became man? What does the Incarnation reveal to you about God?

Why would an infinite God wait for a human "yes" to enter the human race? Why didn't he just come to us on his own? Can you relate to Mary's unconditional "yes" to God, or is your yes conditional? If you do say yes, will God come take up residence in your life?

NEXT SUNDAY SCRIPTURES: Holy Family Sunday: Genesis 15:1-6; 21:1-3; Ps 105; Hebrews 11:8, 11-12, 17-19 Luke 2:22-40