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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

**Wandering Off** In the reading from Isaiah ([Is 63:16-17](#), [19](#); [64:2-7](#)), the prophet is longing for the love of God. But what he finds instead is what he cannot bear: God angry, God gone. The experience the prophet gives voice to is familiar to all of us. God is angry and has hidden his face; he is somewhere above the heavens, and we cannot find him there.

How can this be? How can this be? Doesn't God love us? Where is he? Why isn't he here?

The prophet answers these questions, and in the saddest way. The reason lies in our sinfulness, the prophet says. God is not gone from us because he has forsaken us. Our sins—our weaknesses, our willfulness, our pride, our failure to love, our failure even to accept the love of others—all these things have made us wither. Desiccated and unclean, we have been blown away from God by the winds of life.

And so the prophet cries out to God, “Why do you let us wander, O Lord, from your ways?” But how are we supposed to be holy—clean and good—for the Lord, except by the Lord's own doing? We reject as Pelagian the thought that any one of us can make himself holy by his own efforts. Only God's grace can make a person lovely in holiness.

And so the prophet cries out to God, “Why do you let us wander, O Lord, from your ways?”

There is an answer in the Psalm. The Psalmist says, “Lord, make us turn to you!” This cry is from a person who wanders from the Lord. He wanders because he wants to—that is the sad truth. But when he can't find God in his wandering, he cries to God, “*Make me turn to you!*” Then he wants fervently not to want the very wandering he is so prone to want.

Maybe then God lets us do what we want to do, including wandering from him, until we at least want to want him. Maybe we will find him when we can cry with the Psalmist, “Lord, make me turn to you!”

Eleonore Stump

Vol 18 # 47 **1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent, December 3, 2017**

**CELEBRATION OF EUCHARIST**

Sun	Dec	3	8:00 am	SFD	James M McCabe Fam
			10:00 am	SP	Bill Kinkead
Tue	Dec	5	9, 11 am		DOC Masses, Shawnee, Vienna
Wed	Dec	6	6:30 pm		No Mass
Thr	Dec	7	7:00 pm	SFD	For the Parishioners
Fri	Dec	8	6:30 pm	SP	For the Parishioners
Sun	Dec	10	10:00 am	SP	Wendy Bowman
			12:00 pm	SFD	Thomas Murray

<p><b>Birthdays:</b> Dec 7 Derek Trovillion</p>
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**St Paul, Vienna**

<p><b>Sun, Dec 3, 10 am</b> <b>Server:</b> R Slife A Webb <b>Lector:</b> Arlene Dueker <b>Gifts:</b> Children Liturgy <b>Ushers:</b> P Widowski, J Slife, M Palmer, K Felcyn <b>E. Minister</b> P Kalicki C Webb, M Slife <b>Greeter:</b> Mike McMahan</p>	<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>
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**St Francis DeSales**

<p><b>Sun, Dec 3: 8 am</b> <b>Server:</b> Christine Deaton <b>Lector:</b> Myron Cole <b>Gifts:</b> Parks Family <b>Usher:</b> Stan Treat <b>E. Min:</b> Mary Treat</p>	<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>
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**THIS WEEK'S SCHEDULE**

- Sun Dec 3 First Sunday of Advent- advent booklets distribution  
St Francis DeSales Mass .....8:00 am  
St Paul Mass & first Sunday social.....10 am  
SP Christmas Eve Choir practice following mass  
PSR Class & Confirmation retreat.....11 am
- Mon Dec 4 SF Parish Council Mt.....4 pm
- Tue Dec 5 DOC Masses.....9 & 11 am  
Bible Study on Luke at SFD.....5 pm  
Rite of Christian Initiation Session.... .....7 pm
- Wed Dec 6 Bible Study on Luke at SP.....3 pm  
Reconciliation Service St Mary, Anna..... 6:00 pm
- Thr Dec 7 Immaculate Conception Holyday Mass at SFD..7 pm
- Fri Dec 8 Immaculate Conception Holyday Mass at SP.6:30 pm
- Sun Dec 10 Retirement Fund for Religious collection  
St Paul Mass .....10 am  
Liturgy Committee Mt at SP.....11 am  
PSR Class .....11 am  
St Francis DeSales Mass & Advent Potluck..12:00 pm



**CHILDREN LITURGY OF WORD** will be offered during the mass this Sunday for children ages 3 yrs through third grade. They leave with leader after the opening prayer.

**FIRST SUNDAY SOCIAL** will be offered in the hall following the Sunday Mass.

**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 will be available Dec 3<sup>rd</sup>, the First Sunday of Advent.

**SCRIPTURE STUDY OF LUKE** will be offered at St Paul and St Francis beginning Dec 5<sup>th</sup>, 5 pm at SF and Dec 6<sup>th</sup>, 3 pm and Dec 7<sup>th</sup>, 7 pm at SP. Sign up sheet on bulletin board. Study will be led by Arlene Dueker if at least five people sign up..

**PARISH RECONCILIATION SERVICE** Fr Tom will be assisting with a Parish Reconciliation Service at St Mary, Anna at 6 pm, Wed, Dec 6<sup>th</sup>. There will be no Wednesday evening mass at St Paul.

**HOLYDAY OF IMMACULATE CONCEPTION** Holyday Mass at St Francis DeSales will be 7:00 pm on Dec 7, Thursday, and at St Paul 6:30 pm Dec 8<sup>th</sup> on Friday.

**ANGEL GIFTS TREE** for youth of the area is available in the foyer. Please return a gift with the tag to the tree area by December 10<sup>th</sup>.

**RETIREMENT FUND FOR RELIGIOUS Help care for elders.** “Thanks to support from the Retirement Fund for Religious, we are now in a much better position to care for our elders,” writes a religious sister. Your donation helps her religious community and hundreds of others provide for aging members and plan for long-term needs. Please give to next week’s Retirement Fund for Religious collection.

**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>.

**PARISH COUNCIL NOMINATION FORM** Parishioners are asked to submit names (another or your own) of eligible people to serve the parish. Please use the form (extra copies on the bulletin rack) and return to the marked canister.

**VOCATION CORNER** On this First Sunday of Advent we are called to prepare our interior life for Jesus’ coming. The birth of Christ wasn’t just something that happened in history 2000 years ago, but must take place every day for us to be true disciples. Our preparation is necessary to receive Jesus and allow Him to flourish within us. In the same way, a vocation is our encounter with God who comes down not only to earth, but into our hearts.

**CONFIRMATION CANDIDATES** Five young members of the parish have began their preparation for the Sacrament of Confirmation. They will have a initial retreat this Sunday. Please remember their in prayer.

**THANK YOU....**to all who contributed to the Food Drive in November and to Pat Kalicki and Roger Webb who delivered it to the Vienna Food Pantry at the Baptist Church.

**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. A sign up sheet is on the bulletin board to sign up for salad, vegetable or dessert. 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.

# FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Isaiah 63:16-17,19;64:2-7; Psalm 80; 1 Corinthians 1:3-9; Mark 13:33-37

The season of Advent focuses on the Parousia, the Second Coming of Jesus. We may be tempted to regard this event as some distant final chapter in the history of salvation. Today's Scripture speaks of God's return, not as fantasy for tomorrow but as a call to action. The Parousia has significance today because the Lord's coming in glory calls us to involvement with all believers. To wait for the Lord is to wait on God's people.

Today's passage from Isaiah was written around 500 B.C. when Jerusalem was in ruins and God seemed all too absent. The author looks forward to the return of Yahweh: "Turn back for the sake of your servants, for the sake of the tribes that are your heritage" (Isaiah 63:17). Waiting implies that the people must look to the needs of others. For example, the leaders are blind watchmen who seek only personal gain (see Isaiah 56:10-12). God's presence means that their efforts should provide for the common good.

Writing around A.D. 57, Paul addresses a divided, self-seeking Corinthian community. Paul links the Christian way of life with the Second Coming. He deliberately refers to fellowship and adds that God will strengthen them to the end "so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ" (1 Corinthians 1:8). For Paul, this day of the Lord is not a harmless theological concept but a reality that demands daily concern and interest in the needs of others.

The gospel addresses the age-old question, "When will the Second Coming take place?" Jesus warns that only God knows the exact time. In the time prior to the Parousia, vigilance is required. Mark cites the parable of the Doorkeeper in order to make this point (see Mark 13:33-37). Vigilance is service.

The opportunities for Parousia service are many. Sharing food with the poor identifies with Third Isaiah, sharing talents with the community imitates Paul, exercising authority with kindness and justice echoes Mark's message.

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

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## QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION

Is there a veil that keeps you from seeing God's presence at work in your life and in your world? How can you use Advent to lift that veil, to get more in touch with God in and around you?

St. Paul's concern here is to make sure you are ready for life with God after death. Is there life with God before your death? Explain. If you feel sometimes that, indeed, "you are ... lacking in ... spiritual gifts," what could you do during Advent to restart, to recover the goals of your existence?

As vigilant gatekeepers watching for the Lord of the house, what signs do you observe that tell you God is present in the world and in your life?

**NEXT SUNDAY SCRIPTURES: 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent** Isaiah 40:1-5, 9-11; Ps 85; 2 Peter 3:8-14  
Mark 1:1-8